FISHERIES ORDER

Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians
Order 224.25

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740, ordered on September 12, 2024, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read effective April 1, 2025, except as otherwise provided:

It shall be unlawful to kill, take, trap, possess, buy, sell, offer to buy or sell, barter, or attempt to take, trap, possess or barter any reptile or amphibian from the wild, or the eggs of any reptile or amphibian from the wild, except as provided within this order.

GENERAL

1. The following species of reptiles and amphibians shall not be taken from the wild and possessed except as authorized under a permit for scientific research, conservation, or educational purposes from the director:

   Queen snake (*Regina septemvittata*)
   Grey rat snake (*Pantherophis spiloides*) [formerly known as the Black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta)]* – Exception: albino color variations of this species commonly bred in the pet trade may be possessed without permit
   Butler's garter snake (*Thamnophis butleri*)
   Smooth green snake (*Opheodrys vernalis*) [= *Liochlorophis vernalis*}
   Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii)*
   Boreal chorus frog *(Pseudarcris maculata)*
   Mink frog (*Rana septentrionalis*)
   Pickerel frog (*Rana palustris*)
   Fowler's toad (*Bufo [Anaxyrus]fowleri*) [= *Bufo woodhousii fowleri*]
   Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*)
   Northern two-lined salamander (*Eurycea bisleneata*)
   Northern dusky salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*)
   Western lesser siren (*Siren intermedia nettingi*)

2. Reptiles and amphibians designated as endangered or threatened by the Department in R. 299.1024 and R 299.1025 under authority conferred on the Department by the Michigan Endangered Species Act, Part 365 of 1994 PA 451, shall not be taken from the wild and possessed except as authorized under a permit for scientific research, conservation, or educational purposes from the director. These include:

   Eastern massasauga rattlesnake *(Sistrurus catenatus catenatus)*
   Wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta)*
   Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina)*
   Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*)
   Copper-bellied water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*)
   Eastern fox snake (*Pantherophis gloydi*) [=*Patherophis vulpinus gloydi = Elaphe gloydi*]
   Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*)
   Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris blanchardi*) [= *Acris crepitans blanchardi*]
   Marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*)
   Small-mouthed salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*)
   Six-lined racerunner (*Aspidoscelis sexlineata*) [= *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*]

3. A person may collect reptiles and amphibians or their eggs for research studies or other special use under a permit issued by the director's designated fisheries representative. The permit shall be valid only for the species, number, manner and time specified on the permit.

4. A person may take certain species of reptiles and amphibians for personal use. See PERSONAL USE.

5. The taking of reptiles and amphibians for commercial purposes is prohibited.

6. Reptiles may be taken only by hand, trap, seines up to 12 x 4 feet overall dimension, hand net, or hook-and-line.

7. Amphibians may be taken by hand, hook-and-line, hand net or trap where not otherwise prohibited by law. In addition, frogs may be speared. Frogs shall not be speared with the aid of an artificial light.

8. Traps used or possessed in areas frequented by reptiles must have a plate or tag attached bearing the name and address of the user in legible English.

9. It is illegal to possess or transport in the field, dressed or processed reptiles or amphibians that cannot be measured or identified.

10. A person shall immediately release to the wild any reptile or amphibian that is taken during a closed season, is under the legal size, or is otherwise protected.

11. Reptile eggs may not be disturbed or removed from the wild except as authorized under a permit for scientific research, conservation, or educational purposes by the director.

12. Reptiles and amphibians shall not be taken with a firearm (including spring, air, or gas), blowgun, bow and arrow, or crossbow.

NUISANCE ANIMALS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

1. Nuisance or unwanted reptiles and amphibians on private property, around or in private homes, in private ponds, in private pools and other comparable private property situations may be non-lethally relocated and immediately released on adjacent or adjoining habitat by the property owner/resident without license or permit. If desired, persons may contact DNR Fisheries Division for relocation guidance on a case-by-case basis.
2. This section does not allow for the relocation of reptiles or amphibians from any public lands or public waters within the State except under permit by the director.
3. This section does not allow for any person, business or consulting firm to offer or perform professional reptile and amphibian removal or relocation services for hire on public or private property except under permit by the director.
4. The intentional killing or lethal removal of reptiles or amphibians is not authorized by this section and is subject to the licensing and take regulations including seasons, minimum size limits and possession limits set forth in the “Personal Use” section below.
5. Persons temporarily possessing and relocating federally listed reptiles and amphibians per this section must comply with the federal Endangered Species Act.

PERSONAL USE

1. A fishing license is required to take reptiles and amphibians for personal use.

2. Traps used for the taking of turtles shall be limited to no more than 3 traps, shall be constructed and set in a manner to allow turtles to surface and breathe, and shall be constructed of mesh at least 1 inch wide at the narrowest measurement.

3. All reptiles and amphibians taken for personal use shall not be bought, sold or offered for sale.

4. Snapping turtle carapace length: to obtain the carapace (top of shell) length, use a flexible tape to measure from the nuchal scute (the scute directly behind the turtle’s head) to the base of the notch where the two most posterior scutes meet.

5. The following table lists the regulations that apply to the taking of reptiles and amphibians for personal use:

Species	Season	Minimum Size (inches)	Daily Possession Limit	Possession Limit
frogs, toads, salamanders,	Last Sat. in May - Nov. 15	None	10 in any combination	10 in any combination
snapping turtles	July 15-Sept. 15	13 inch minimum carapace length	2 in combination (no more than 1 of either species)	4 total in combination (no more than 2 of either species)
softshell turtles		None		
All other turtles (painted, musk, map, red-eared slider); snakes and lizards	Open all year	None	3 in combination (However, no more than 2 turtles and no more than 1 of any one turtle species)	6 total in combination (However, no more than 4 turtles and no more than 2 of any one turtle species)

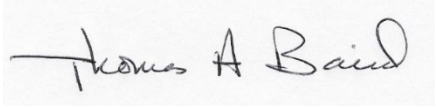
This order shall be assigned number FO-224.25, and is entitled “Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians.”

This order supersedes the order entitled “Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians,” which became effective April 1, 2021, and is assigned number FO-224.21.

This order shall take effect on April 1, 2025 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

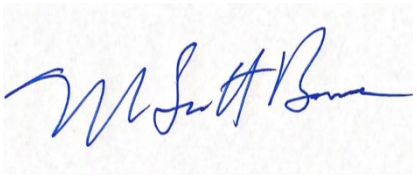
Issued on this 12th day of September 2024.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.



Thomas Baird, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.



M. Scott Bowen
Director