

FO-224.16

Regulations on the Take of Reptiles and Amphibians

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, it is ordered on October 14, 2016, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows:

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:

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*)
Queen Snake (*Regina septemvittata*)
Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)
Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)
Black Rat Snake (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*) – Exception: albino color variations of this species commonly bred in the pet trade may be possessed without permit
Boreal Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata maculata*)
Western Lesser Siren (*Siren intermedia nettingi*)
Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*)
Fowler' toad (*Bufo woodhousii fowleri*)
Pickerel frog (*Rana palustris* or *Lithobates palustris*)
Butler's Garter Snake (*Sirtalis butleri*)
Smooth Green Snake (*Liochlorophis vernalis*)

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:

Kirtland's Snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*)
Copper-bellied Water Snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*)
Eastern Fox Snake (*Elaphe gloydi*)
Six-lined racerunner (*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*)
Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*)
Marbled Salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*)
Small-mouthed Salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*)
Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*)

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 as defined in section 48703 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48703.
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. As provided by section 45501 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.45501, 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), bow and arrow, or crossbow.

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, mudpuppies	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-224.16, 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, 2013, and is assigned number FO-224.13.

This Order shall take immediate effect on October 14, 2016 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.