



April 3, 2017

Second Notice: Adoption of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 2951C - Commercial Turtle Harvest

To: Commercial Fish Harvesters
From: Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Starting March 22, 2017, the following rules (found in Iowa Administrative Code Rule 2951C) apply to individuals who commercially harvest turtles.

- Split Harvest Season Dates:
 - Open: December 15, 2016 – May 14, 2017
July 16, 2017 – January 10, 2018
 - Closed: **May 15, 2017 – July 15, 2017**

- Daily Catch Limits and Possession Limits:

Turtle Species	Daily Catch Limit	Possession Limit
Common Snapping Turtle	4	20
Spiny Softshell Turtle or Smooth Softshell Turtle	1	5
Painted Turtle	1	5

- You cannot harvest turtles from traps set before midnight on July 15.
- You cannot take turtle eggs from wild nests.
- You cannot sort, cull, high-grade, or otherwise replace any turtle in possession.
- You must attach an all-weather gear tag above the waterline to each piece of gear. The gear tag must plainly display the name, address, and license number of the licensee.
- Set all turtle traps with the top of the trap visible above the waterline at all times. Check each trap and empty the catch at least every 72 hours. When checked, turtles shall be taken into possession or released immediately.
- Commercial Fishers can only trap turtles on the Mississippi or Missouri Rivers.

REPORTING NOTICE:

New Monthly Reports for Commercial Fish Harvest are now required. Please see enclosed form(s). These reports are summarized and used as an index of Iowa’s fish and turtle populations. Accurate reporting is essential for proper management of Iowa’s natural resources.

You must submit a report for each month you are licensed in, including the month your license was issued and months with no activity. Reports must be received by the 15th of every month for the previous month. Reports that are not received in a timely manner may result in a simple misdemeanor, scheduled fine, and license revocation.