

## SECTION .1300 – REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

### 15A NCAC 10H .1301 COMMERCIAL TAKE OF CERTAIN TURTLES PROHIBITED

- (a) For the purposes of this Rule, "commercial taking" means the taking, possession, collection, transportation, purchase, or sale of five or more individual turtles or any turtle part, per person in a calendar year.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to engage in the commercial taking of any native turtle species in the families Emydidae or Trionychidae.
- (c) The prohibition on commercial taking in this Rule shall not apply to the following:
- (1) A licensed veterinarian when holding for purposes of medical treatment;
  - (2) A holder of a valid captivity permit for the purposes of rehabilitation;
  - (3) A publicly-financed zoo, scientific research facility or institution of higher education, or any State or federal agency;
  - (4) Any person who accidentally collects five or more turtles incidental to any lawful activity, and who immediately returns them to the wild; or
  - (5) Property owners who legally apply for and receive depredation permits from the Wildlife Resources Commission, or one of its Wildlife Damage Control Agents.
- (d) No native turtle shall be sold, except:
- (1) as authorized by 10A NCAC 41A .0302; and
  - (2) snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) with a curved carapace length of 11 inches or greater.
- (e) Violators shall be subject to a replacement cost per individual turtle that shall equal the replacement cost for "species with no open season" as set forth in 15A NCAC 10B .0117(c).

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-333(a)(6);  
Eff. May 1, 2007;  
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;  
Amended Eff. November 1, 2019.