

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



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Name of Department Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Agency or Division Name Legal Division

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable _____

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable _____

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Name of Rule 34.01 Aquatic Turtle Permit Requirements

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing August 16, 17, 18, 2020 and September 13, 14, 15, 2020

Final Date for Public Comment October 15, 2020

Location and Time of Public Meeting 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock AR 72205, 9:00 a.m.

34.01 Aquatic Turtle Permit Requirements

- A. It is unlawful for a nonresident to harvest any aquatic turtles.
- B. It is unlawful for a resident to operate tackle, harvest, propagate, purchase or sell any wild-caught aquatic turtles for commercial purposes without the following permits:
 - 1. A Commercial Fisherman Permit and Sportfishing License, and either an Aquatic Turtle Harvest Permit or a Junior Aquatic Turtle Harvest Permit (for resident youths) are required to harvest and sell wild aquatic turtles.
 - 2. The bearer of an Aquatic Turtle Harvest Helper Permit may assist in the harvest or operate the properly tagged tackle of a licensed aquatic turtle harvester or dealer.
 - 3. A Commercial Fisherman Permit and Sportfishing License, and an Aquatic Turtle Dealer Permit (see Addendum J1.02 for Approved Species for Commercial Culture of Aquatic Turtles) are required to engage in the harvest, propagation, purchase, sale or export of wild-caught aquatic turtles.
 - 4. An Aquatic Turtle Farmer Permit is required to engage in the propagation, sale or export of propagated aquatic turtles. This permit does not allow for the purchase, barter, trade, exchange or sale of wild-caught turtles. See Addendum J1.02 for Approved Species for Commercial Culture of Aquatic Turtles.
 - 5. An Alligator Snapping Turtle Breeder/Dealer Permit is required to possess, buy, sell or offer to sell alligator snapping turtles or their eggs. Alligator snapping turtles longer than 5 inches curved carapace length may not be sold, bartered, traded, or transferred without written approval of the Commission. An affidavit form provided by the Commission specifying the transaction type (transfer or sale), party type (individual or business), and number of turtles, shall be submitted to the Commission. All sales of wild-caught aquatic turtles shall follow all transaction and reporting requirements (Code 34.07) in this chapter.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Fish farmer permittees may depredate or relocate aquatic turtles impacting commercial aquaculture production without a permit; however for harvest and sell sale of aquatic turtles from their aquaculture facilities they must possess a valid an Aquatic Turtle Harvest Permit or Aquatic Turtle Dealer Permit.
- B. Fish markets selling only dressed turtles for human consumption in Arkansas are not required to have an Aquatic Turtle Dealer Permit.

PENALTY: Class 3