

CHAPTER 6256
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
TURTLES

6256.0500 COMMERCIAL TAKING OF TURTLES.

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Subpart 1. **Scope.** The language of this part applies to individuals possessing turtle seller licenses.

Subp. 2. **Equipment.** Turtles may be taken by a person possessing a turtle seller's license by means of turtle traps, turtle hooks, and other authorized commercial fishing gear.

Flexible webbing turtle traps must be of mesh size not less than 3-1/2 inches bar measure or seven inches stretch measure.

Wire turtle traps must be of mesh size not less than 3-1/2 inches bar measure and must have at least one square opening in the top panel measuring at least four inches on a side and one of the same dimension near the bottom in each of the side panels.

Subp. 3. **Prohibited methods of taking turtles.** A person possessing a turtle seller's license may take turtles in any manner except by the use of explosives, drugs, poisons, lime, and other harmful substances or firearms.

Subp. 4. **Operation of turtle trap.** A turtle trap must be set in water shallow enough to place the top no deeper than one inch below the water surface. Each trap must be checked and serviced at intervals not exceeding 48 hours. A licensee may not operate more than 40 traps.

Subp. 5. **Required marking of turtle trap.** When in use, each turtle trap must have affixed on it a tag of permanent material visible from above, legibly bearing the name, address, and license number of the operator. This information must be recorded in an indelible manner on the tag. The tag must be of dimensions not less than 2-1/2 inches in length by five-eighths inch in width.

Subp. 6. **Turtles taken incidental to other operations.** Turtles taken incidental to other commercial fishing operations may be possessed, transported, and sold, provided the operator is a holder of a turtle seller's license.

Subp. 7. **Required reporting by turtle seller.** Reports must be submitted, on forms provided by the commissioner, by a holder of a turtle seller's license at the time of license renewal or March 1, whichever comes first. The forms must record the numbers and pounds of turtles taken, species of turtles taken, and other information as specified.

Subp. 8. **Report on buying turtles for resale.** A licensee who buys turtles for resale or for processing and resale must keep a correct and complete book record of all transactions and activities covered in the license, not inconsistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.425.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.605*

History: *18 SR 83*