



## Application for Commercial Harvest of Common Snapping Turtle Permit



58 Pa. Code § 79.5 requires that persons who hunt, take, catch or kill snapping turtles for the purpose of sale, barter or trade are required to obtain an annual permit for such activity from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The required permit shall be in the possession of the permittee at all times while hunting. Permittees shall comply with the terms and conditions of the permit and furnish the required reports to the Commission. Applications for snapping turtle permit will be accepted from January 1 through October 15 of each year. Applications received after October 15 will be returned. The open season for harvest of snapping turtles is from July 1 through October 31 of each year. The daily limit is 15; possession limit is 30.

It is unlawful to alter, borrow, lend or transfer a snapping turtle permit.

It is unlawful to sell, barter, trade or offer for sale a common snapping turtle, dead or alive, in whole or in parts taken from lands or waters of this Commonwealth without first procuring a snapping turtle permit.

Applicants shall complete this form in its entirety.

Permit Type (Check proper block)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Resident Permit</b> - (Permit Fee \$50.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Resident Permit</b> - (Permit Fee \$100.00)
<p><b>A check or money order made payable to Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission must accompany this application. The completed application shall be forwarded to: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Bureau of Law Enforcement, PO Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.</b></p>	

Applicant Information					
First Name		Middle Initial	Last Name		Date of Birth
Address				Phone Number	
City			State	Zip Code	
Height	Weight	Color eyes *	Color hair *	Age	Gender

(\* No abbreviations)

Did you receive a permit in prior year(s)?     YES     NO    If yes, state last year \_\_\_\_\_

Sportsman ID number \_\_\_\_\_ (CID number on fishing license or fishing license number)  
(a current, valid Pennsylvania fishing license is required)

Signature	
<p>I certify that I have read and understand the terms and conditions of the permit and agree to comply with them.</p> <p>I certify under penalty of law (18 Pa. C.S. §4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities) and 30 Pa. C.S. §908 (relating to false identification or false or fraudulent statements on reports, etc.) that the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.</p>	
Signature	Date

## Commercial Harvest of Common Snapping Turtle Permit Terms and Conditions

1. Permittee must abide by current Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws and regulations regarding reptiles and amphibians.
2. Permittee must possess and display a current Pennsylvania resident or non-resident fishing license while hunting snapping turtles.
3. The permit must be in the possession of the permittee at all times while hunting snapping turtles.
4. Permittee must comply with the season and the daily and possession limits for snapping turtles (daily limit=15, possession limit=30).
5. Permittee must complete and send an annual harvest report on the form prescribed by the Commission to the following address postmarked by **DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>** of the permit year:

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Division of Environmental Services  
Natural Diversity Section  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620

Even if the permittee does not hunt, take, catch or kill any common snapping turtles during the permit year, the permittee **must** file a report. **THE COMMISSION MAY DENY PERMITS FOR FUTURE YEARS, IF THE COMMISSION DOES NOT RECEIVE A REPORT BY THE DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> DEADLINE.**

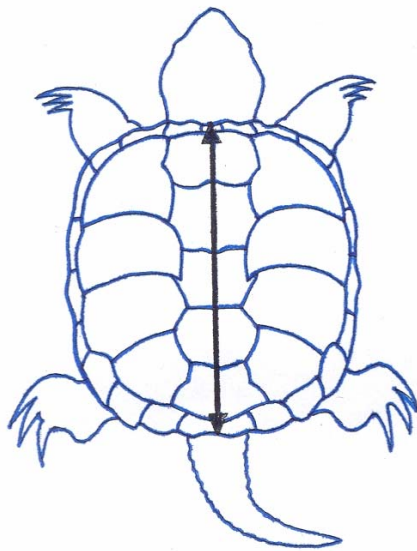
### Length and Weight Measurements, Sex Determination

The conditions of this permit require all permittees to provide an annual report of common snapping turtles seen or captured and to provide biological and location data. The total length (carapace and plastron), weight, and sex measurements are requested for snapping turtles that are actually handled.

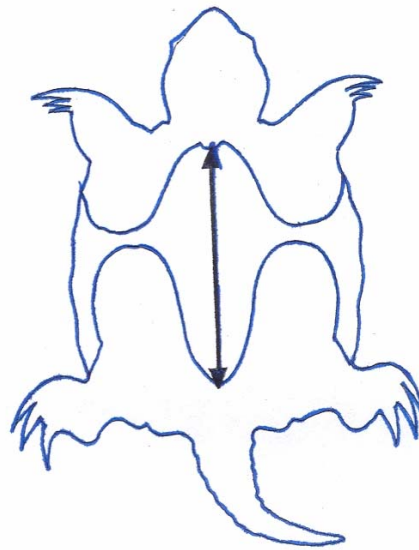
When taking these measurements on a live snapping turtle, please use the necessary precautions to prevent harming yourself or the snapping turtle. Please do not pick up a large snapping turtle by its tail because it can cause damage to the turtle's vertebrae and if done incorrectly, the turtle can be in a position to bite you. It is recommended that you use a 3½ - 4 inch diameter PVC pipe that is greater than 20 inches in length to cover the head of the snapping turtle. The PVC pipe will prevent the snapping turtle from biting you and will allow you to safely handle the turtle while taking the measurements.

#### **Procedure for Length (carapace and plastron) Measurements:**

All length measurements should be taken in inches (in). To obtain the carapace (top of the shell) length, use a flexible tape to measure from the nuchal (the scute directly behind the turtle's head) to the base of notch where the two most posterior scutes meet (See figure 1). For the plastron (bottom of the shell), measure along the centerline of the plastron.



CARAPACE LENGTH



PLASTRON LENGTH

### **Weight:**

The weight of the turtle should be recorded in pounds (lbs). If the turtle is alive when you weigh it, place the turtle in large pillowcase and using a spring scale, a digital scale, or a non-digital scale record the weight of the turtle.

### **Procedure for Sex determination:**

#### *Juveniles:*

Typically, if the carapace length of the snapping turtle is less than 10 inches then the turtle is considered a juvenile.

#### *Males and Females:*

Males grow much longer than females. The easiest way to determine the sex of a snapping turtle is to determine the placement of the cloacal opening. The cloacal opening is an opening on the turtle's tail where their intestinal, genital, and urinary tracts are located. To do this, flip the turtle over on its back so its plastron is facing towards the sky. Grasp the tail and stretch it out so the tail is straight. Males will have their cloacal opening even or past the edge of their carapace. Females will have their cloacal opening towards the base of their tail, below the edge of the carapace. Another way to determine sex in turtles is to look at the shape of the plastron. Males have concave plastrons (cup shaped) compared to females who have flat plastrons.

### **Procedure to determine if female is gravid/non-gravid:**

If the turtle is identified as a female, you will need to determine if she is gravid (pregnant). Flip the turtle over on its back and extend one of her hind legs out as far as you can. Using your freehand, place your index finger where the leg comes out and rotate your finger towards the carapace and the center of the turtle's body. If she is gravid, you will be able to feel the round eggs within her.