

Minnesota Commercial Turtle Harvest



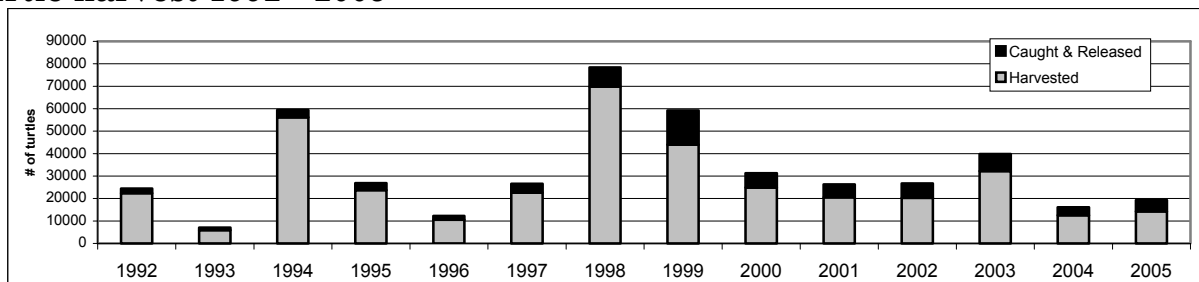
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2005, 40 Minnesotans were awarded commercial turtle harvest licenses. Of these, 29 (73%) reported harvesting turtles in 2005. 17,189 turtles (painted, snapping, and spiny softshell) were reported harvested, and 6,195 turtles were reported caught and released.

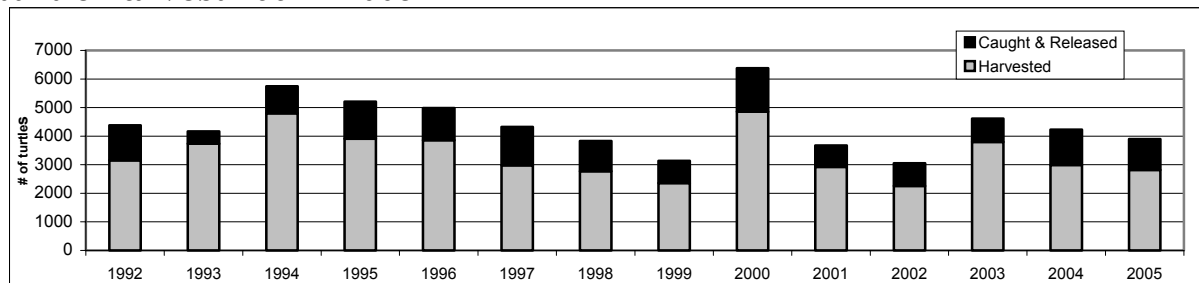
Summary of 2004-2005 commercial turtle harvest

Species	Harvested		Caught & Released		# of Harvesters		# of Counties	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Painted (<i>Chrysemys picta</i>)	12,471	14,230	3,599	5,019	25	23	32	30
Snapping (<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>)	2,986	2,737	1,242	1,052	26	25	36	33
Spiny Softshell (<i>Apalone spinifera</i>)	250	222	99	124	8	12	15	22
Common Map (<i>Graptemys geographica</i>)	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0
Blanding's (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>)	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	15,707	17,189	4,944	6,195	32	29 (duplicates assessed)	42 (duplicates assessed)	40 (duplicates assessed)

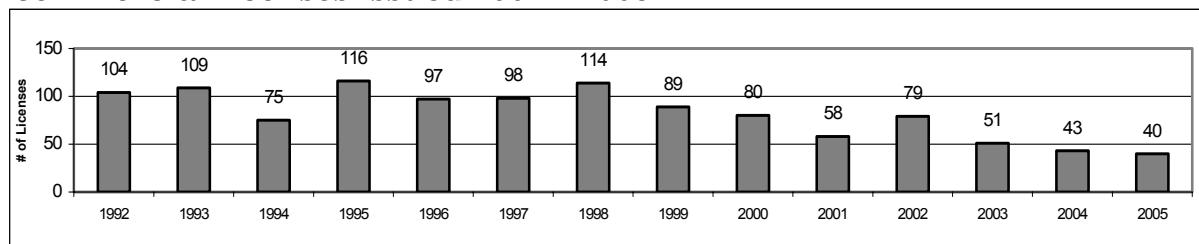
Painted turtle harvest 1992—2005



Snapping turtle harvest 1992—2005



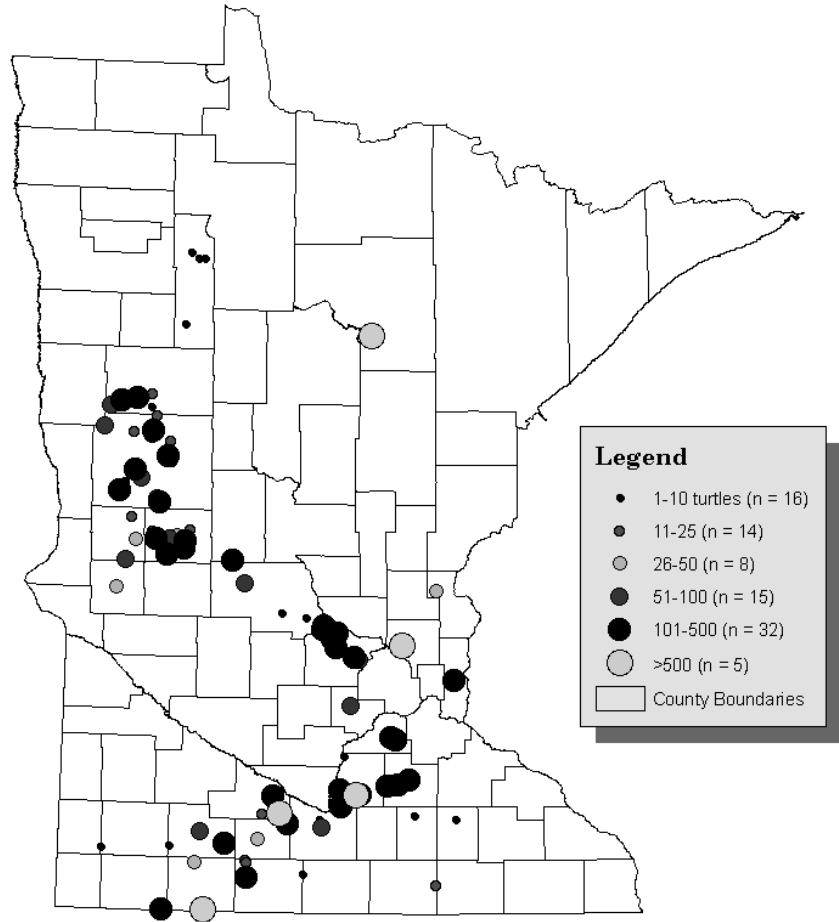
Number of commercial licenses issued 1992—2005



Painted Turtles

Overview

23 of the 40 (56%) licensed harvesters reported collecting painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*), the species with highest numbers harvested in both 2004 and 2005 by commercial licensees. 14,230 painted turtles were reported to have been harvested (a 12% increase over the 2004 harvest of 12,471), and 5,019 caught and released. The painted turtle catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2005 averaged 79.1 turtles per day of effort.



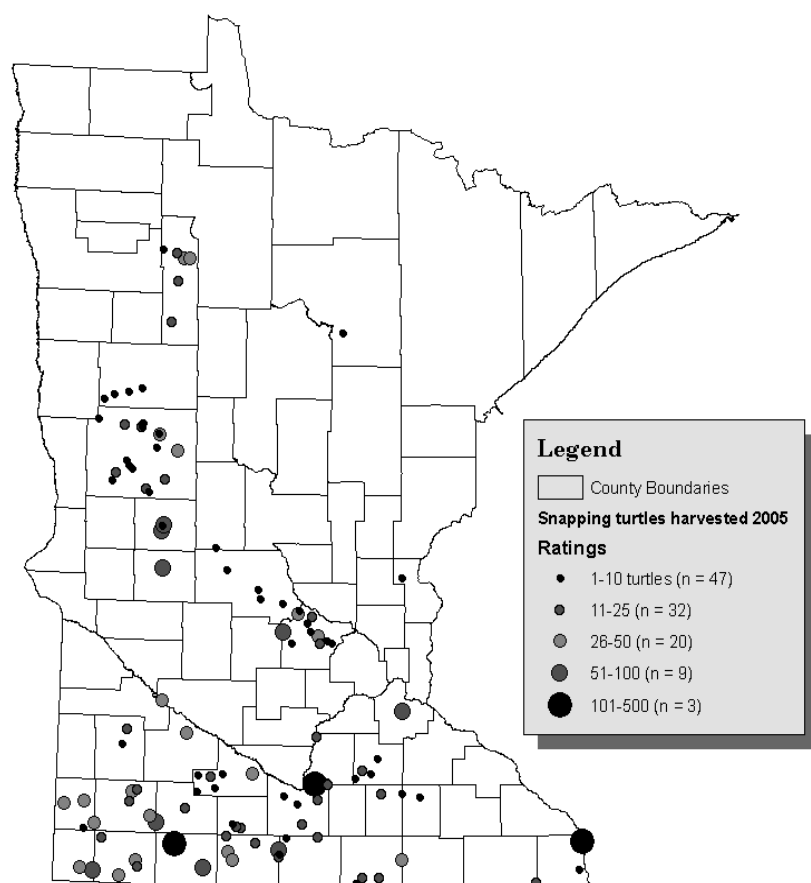
Painted Turtle Harvest by County

County	# Turtles	County	# Turtles
Anoka	810	Martin	476
Becker	567	Murray	3
Blue Earth	537	Nobles	122
Brown	910	Otter Tail	1390
Carver	69	Rice	1025
Chisago	30	Scott	855
Clearwater	26	Sibley	2
Cottonwood	326	Stearns	101
Dodge	1	Steele	1
Douglas	960	Stevens	28
Freeborn	11	Todd	200
Grant	165	Washington	400
Itasca	579	Watsonwan	157
Jackson	987	Wright	2046
Le Seuer	1446		

Painted Turtle Harvest by Gear

GEAR TYPE	# of Gear	# Turtles Harvested	% of Total
Floating Trap	332	10123	71.1%
Submerged Trap	146	100	0.7%
Hook	N/A	31	0.2%
Hand	N/A	0	0
Other	43	2048	14.4%
Unknown	N/A	1928	13.6%
TOTALS	521	14230	

Snapping Turtles



Overview

25 of the 40 (63%) licensed harvesters reported collecting snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*), the species with the second highest numbers harvested in both 2004 and 2005 by commercial licensees. 2,737 snapping turtles were reported to have been harvested (an 8% decrease over the 2004 harvest of 2,986), and 1,052 caught and released. The snapping turtle catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2005 averaged 13.2 turtles per day of effort.

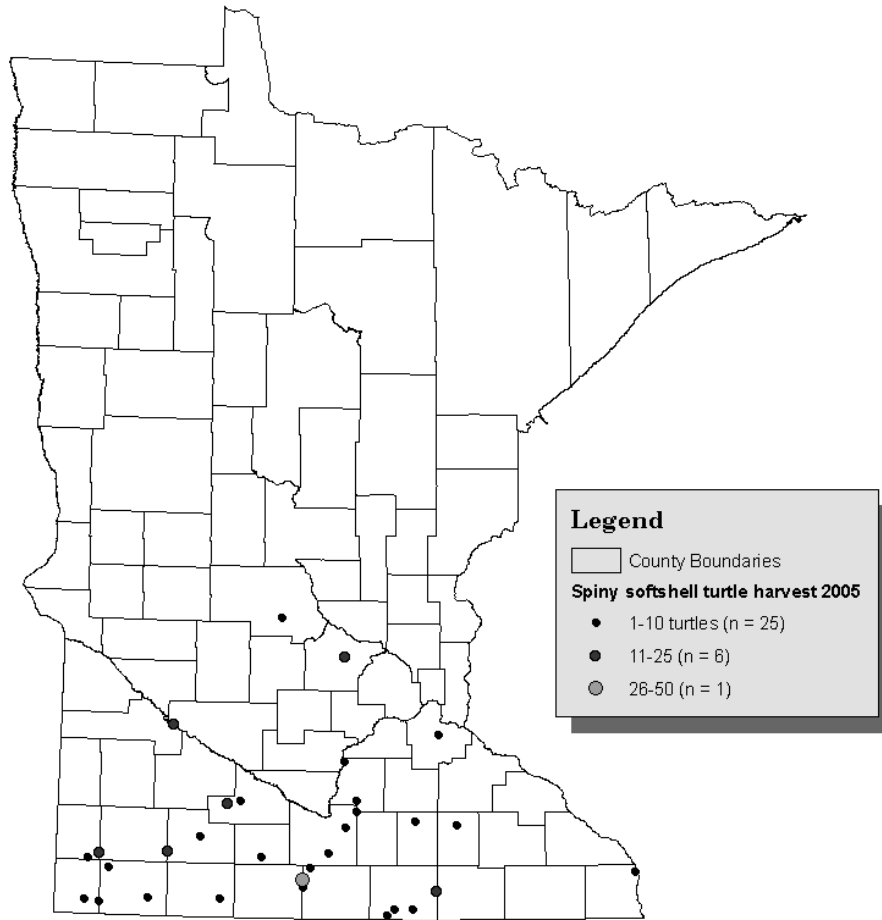
Snapping Turtle Harvest by Gear

GEAR TYPE	# of Gear	# Turtles Harvested	% of Total
Floating Trap	60	414	15.1%
Submerged Trap	919	2098	76.7%
Hook	N/A	56	2.0%
Hand	N/A	6	0.2%
Other	21	62	2.3%
Unknown	N/A	101	3.7%
TOTALS	1000	2737	

Snapping Turtle Harvest by County

County	# Turtles	County	# Turtles
Becker	25	Mower	48
Blue Earth	467	Murray	115
Brown	71	Nobles	152
Chisago	1	Otter Tail	217
Clearwater	131	Pipestone	62
Cottonwood	101	Pope	83
Dakota	85	Redwood	36
Dodge	2	Rice	33
Douglas	125	Rock	45
Faribault	44	Sibley	18
Fillmore	15	Stearns	9
Freeborn	42	Steele	23
Houston	174	Todd	6
Itasca	3	Watonwan	40
Jackson	168	Wright	195
Lyon	19	Yellow Medicine	28
Martin	154		

Spiny Softshell Turtles



Overview

12 of the 40 (30%) licensed harvesters reported collecting spiny softshell turtles (*Apalone spinifera*), the species with the lowest numbers harvested in both 2004 and 2005 by commercial licensees. 222 spiny softshell turtles were reported to have been harvested (an 11% decrease over the 2004 harvest of 250), and 124 caught and released. The spiny softshell turtle catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2005 averaged 4.8 turtles per day of effort.

Spiny Softshell Turtle Harvest by County

County	# Turtles	County	# Turtles
Blue Earth	22	Mower	16
Brown	15	Murray	14
Cottonwood	20	Nobles	8
Dakota	3	Pipestone	1
Dodge	1	Rock	4
Faribault	6	Sibley	7
Freeborn	18	Stearns	1
Houston	4	Steele	6
Jackson	9	Watonwan	3
Le Seuer	2	Wright	14
Martin	29	Yellow Medicine	19

Spiny Softshell Turtle Harvest by Gear

GEAR TYPE	# of Gear	# Turtles Harvested	% of Total
Floating Trap	12	2	0.9%
Submerged Trap	347	220	99.1%
Hook	0	0	0
Hand	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0
TOTALS	359	222	