



# Application for Permit to Possess Spotted Turtles



## INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION:

South Carolina Code of Laws Section 50-15-40 requires permits for the taking and possession of spotted turtles. SC Code of Regulations Section 123-151.1(A) states a person shall not take, possess, transport, import, export, process, sell, purchase, offer for sale, trade, gift, barter, ship, or receive for shipment any spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) without a permit from the Department. Additionally, section 123-151.1(B) allows spotted turtles only to be issued by the Department for scientific and/or conservation purposes pursuant to Regulation 123-150, et seq. at the discretion of the Department.

Return completed application to: **SCDNR Wildlife Permitting, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202** or via email at [wildlifepermittng@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:wildlifepermittng@dnr.sc.gov) or fax at 803-734-3691

For questions/information about spotted turtle regulations email [herps@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:herps@dnr.sc.gov) or call 803-734-3887

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>New Application</b> <small>(Attach copy of most recent spotted turtle permit)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Renewal Application</b>

Institution Represented (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Physical location where turtles will be held (if different from address above):  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Number of spotted turtles currently in possession:

#### Wild Caught\*

#### County(s) collected

#### Captive Bred

Male \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_

Female \_\_\_\_\_

Female \_\_\_\_\_

Juvenile \_\_\_\_\_

Juvenile \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Note: the total number of wild-caught, adult turtles cannot exceed nine (9).**

**Overall Mortality:** Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Juvenile \_\_\_\_\_

SCDNR reserves the right to inspect carcasses of dead turtles before authorizing additional collections.

*We request that spotted turtles not be released back into the wild from captive populations without first consulting with SCDNR.*

**\*\*\*\*\* You must include a copy of your most recent spotted turtle possession permit with this application \*\*\*\*\***

In order to finalize your permit, you will be required to shell notch spotted turtles in your possession with SCDNR-issued numbers. This information will be provided after review of this application. Proof of shell notching will be required.

*Spotted Turtle Regulations are listed on page 2 of this application*

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
By signing this application, the applicants affirms this information to be true and accurate. SCDNR may require verification of the turtles in your possession.

## **123-151.1. Regulations for Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*).**

### **A. Spotted Turtle Protection**

1. A person shall not take, possess, transport, import, export, process, sell, purchase, offer for sale, trade, gift, barter, ship, or receive for shipment any spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) without a permit from the Department.

### **B. Spotted Turtle Permits**

1. No new permit for the possession of spotted turtles shall be issued by the Department unless for scientific and/or conservation purposes pursuant to Regulation 123-150, et seq. at the discretion of the Department.

2. Any person in possession of a Spotted Turtle Permit granted by the Department as of October 19, 2020 has 90 days from October 19, 2020 to register with the Department the current number of Spotted Turtles, both wild-caught and captive born, in their possession. Spotted turtles will be assigned a unique number and must be shell notched with the identification number provided by Department personnel.

a. Permit applicants will shell notch spotted turtles in their possession as prescribed by the Department with the Department issued identification numbers. Permit applicants must provide evidence of applied shell notches and signed affidavit confirming all individual turtles in their possession were shell notched as directed by the Department and that they understand the regulations as they pertain to spotted turtles. Upon completion, the Department will issue a permit for the registered spotted turtles.

3. Current permit holders as of October 19, 2020 may not add additional spotted turtles to their collection or allow reproduction

4. Current permit holders' permits, as of October 19, 2020, are valid for five (5) years from the date of issue; however, upon completion and certification of marking, the Department will issue a new permit valid for 1 year. Subsequent permits will be valid for 1 year and may be renewed at the discretion of the Department.

5. The Department may set permit conditions consistent with the protection of spotted turtles. Permit conditions include but are not limited to:

- a. Sale, purchase, trade, exchange, gift, or barter of any spotted turtles is prohibited.
- b. No wild-caught spotted turtles may be collected.
- c. All spotted turtles must be individually marked via shell notching with a unique identification number issued by the Department.
- d. No unmarked spotted turtles may be possessed, unless covered by a scientific collection permit.
- e. Reproduction of captive spotted turtles is prohibited unless authorized by the Department for scientific or conservation purposes. Offspring from unauthorized reproduction must be surrendered to the Department.

### **C. Permit Reporting Requirements**

1. At the time of permit renewal, spotted turtle permit holders will report to the Department the number of wild-caught and captive-bred spotted turtles in their possession and provide evidence documenting the identification number indicated by shell notch.

2. Any death or disposition of a spotted turtle must be reported to the Department immediately.