

75% Decline in the Patuxent



Figure 1. Change in the number of reproductive females in the Patuxent River study area during the last 19 years

Note: This population was not given special protection under the new regulations

The above graph by W. Roosenburg was presented to the Maryland House of Environmental Matters Committee and the MD DNR Fisheries Division during the hearing for the original version of the "Terrapin Bill" that sought to end the commercial harvest of terrapin, HB980 Natural Resources: Terrapin.

Fisheries revised the bill by removing the ban and continuing the commercial harvest under their authority. This version of the bill was passed by the Senate Health, Education and Environmental Matters Committee in April. Please see "The Regulations Explained" to learn about the regulations that Fisheries put into place this August.