

Terrapin Regulation

Maryland Dept of Natural Resources

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Diamondback Terrapin Regulatory and Legislative History Handout 6-19-06

Legislative History:

§4-902 – requires a person catching terrapin to have a commercial license

§4-903 – authorizes the Department to adopt to regulations governing the catching of terrapin and conservation of terrapin resources, especially taking into consideration the establishment of a season and legal size

HB 980 – passed in 2006 session, effective 10/1/06 – requires Department to adopt regulations consistent with the 2001 Maryland Diamondback Terrapin Task Force

Regulatory History:

COMAR 08.02.06.02 – originally adopted in 1975 amended in 1977, 1983 and 1992

Currently provides that minimum size is 6 inches, may not possess or destroy eggs, closed season May 1 – July 31 and a person may keep 3 terrapins as pets.

Department Actions:

2001 - Maryland Diamondback Terrapin Task Force issues its final report

Emergency & Proposed Regulation:

June 19, 2006 – Department submits an identical emergency and proposed permanent regulatory package to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Committee (the emergency was submitted so that the new regulations could be effective by the August 1 start of the terrapin season).

July 10, 2006 – a public meeting will be held to discuss the emergency regulation

July 17, 2006 – deadline for comment on the emergency regulation

July 21, 2006 - August 21, 2006 – official public comment for proposed permanent regulation (the July 10 public meeting will be held in lieu of a public hearing during the public comment period for the permanent regulation)

Diamondback Terrapin Management Plan:

-A management plan for diamondback terrapins will be created. Timetable to be developed

Future Plans:

- Creation of a project within Fisheries Service to coordinate scientific studies assessing the terrapin population and to provide management recommendations.

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