

A Modern-day Terrapin Fishery in the Bay: Maryland's Modern-day Concern

- A terrapin fishery is not sustainable.
- The people of Maryland do not want their terrapins commercially harvested.
- DNR Fisheries does not have any data to support the idea of a sustainable fishery yet they continue to allow them to be commercially exploited.
- The market is expanding. In the last five years the demand for terrapins has increased exponentially because of growing urban Asian food markets in the United States and abroad.
- Because of this expanding market most other states have now closed their terrapin fisheries, which also increases the demand on Maryland's terrapins.
- There are a number of important humane issues associated with marketing live terrapins. These range from the way terrapins are stored and shipped to market, to the turtles being butchered or boiled alive as discussed in the Baltimore Sun paper.
- Terrapins like other turtles are a long-lived (50+ yrs), slow growing, and have a low annual reproduction output. Thereby they are extremely poor candidates for commercializing.
- Currently the Bay's terrapin population already suffers from a wide array of other problems that substantially and negatively affect these turtles.
- DNR Fisheries is keenly aware of all these issues, yet continues to support a local terrapin fishery despite formally registered concerns of scientists, conservation groups and citizens alike.
- When individuals and local conservation groups have questioned DNR Fisheries regarding their current regulations they are answered with bureaucratic double speak.

**Maryland needs to follow the lead of other states and
close down its terrapin fishery!**



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