

# Minnesota

# Commercial Turtle Harvest



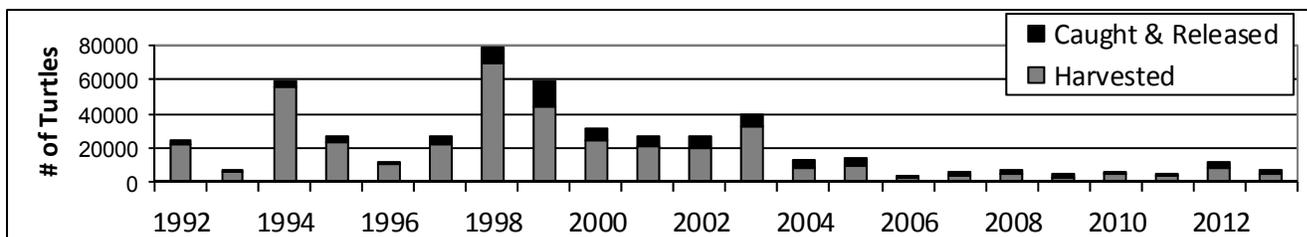
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2012 & 2013, 27 Minnesotans were awarded commercial turtle harvest licenses. Of these, 16 (59%) reported harvesting turtles. In 2012, 10,075 turtles (painted, snapping, and spiny softshell) were reported harvested, and 4,444 turtles were reported caught and released. In 2013, 6,132 turtles (painted, snapping, and spiny softshell) were reported harvested, and 3,091 turtles were reported caught and released.

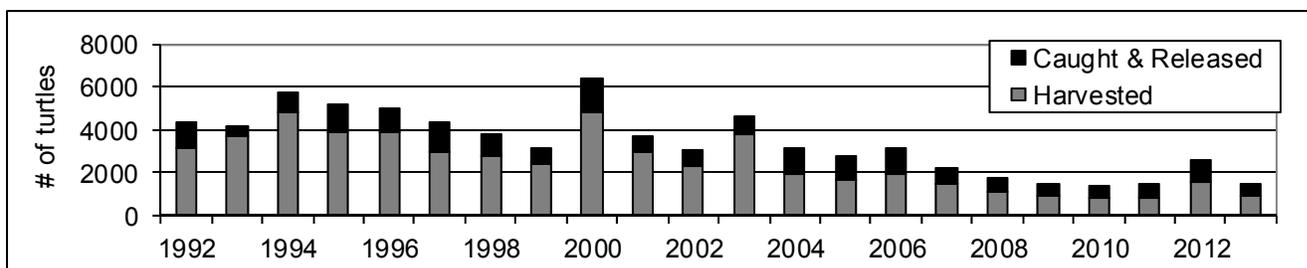
## Summary of 2012-2013 commercial turtle harvest

Species	Harvested		Caught & Released		# of Harvesters		# of Counties Trapped	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
<b>Painted</b> ( <i>Chrysemys picta</i> )	8,285	5,102	3,255	2,605	13	8	22	21
<b>Snapping</b> ( <i>Chelydra serpentina</i> )	1,588	881	985	571	14	16	31	32
<b>Spiny Softshell</b> ( <i>Apalone spinifera</i> )	202	163	203	131	2	4	9	13
<b>Map Turtle</b> ( <i>Graptemys</i> species)	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
<b>Blanding's</b> ( <i>Emydoidea blandingii</i> )	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,075</b>	<b>6,146</b>	<b>4,444</b>	<b>3,308</b>	<b>16</b> <i>(duplicates assessed)</i>	<b>16</b> <i>(duplicates assessed)</i>	<b>36</b> <i>(duplicates assessed)</i>	<b>33</b> <i>(duplicates assessed)</i>

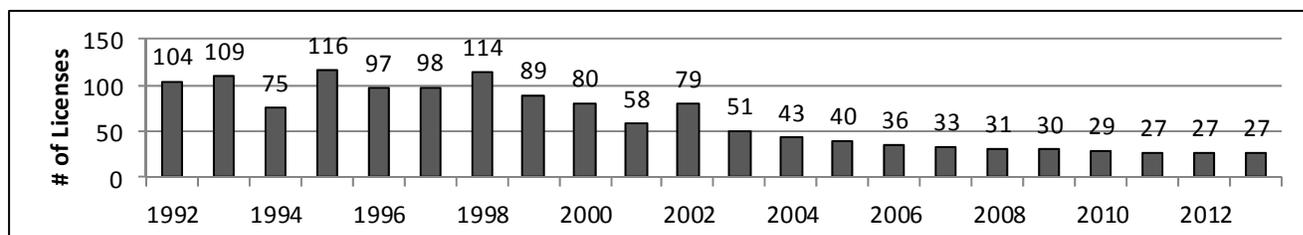
## Painted turtle harvest 1992—2013



## Snapping turtle harvest 1992—2013



## Number of commercial licenses issued 1992—2013

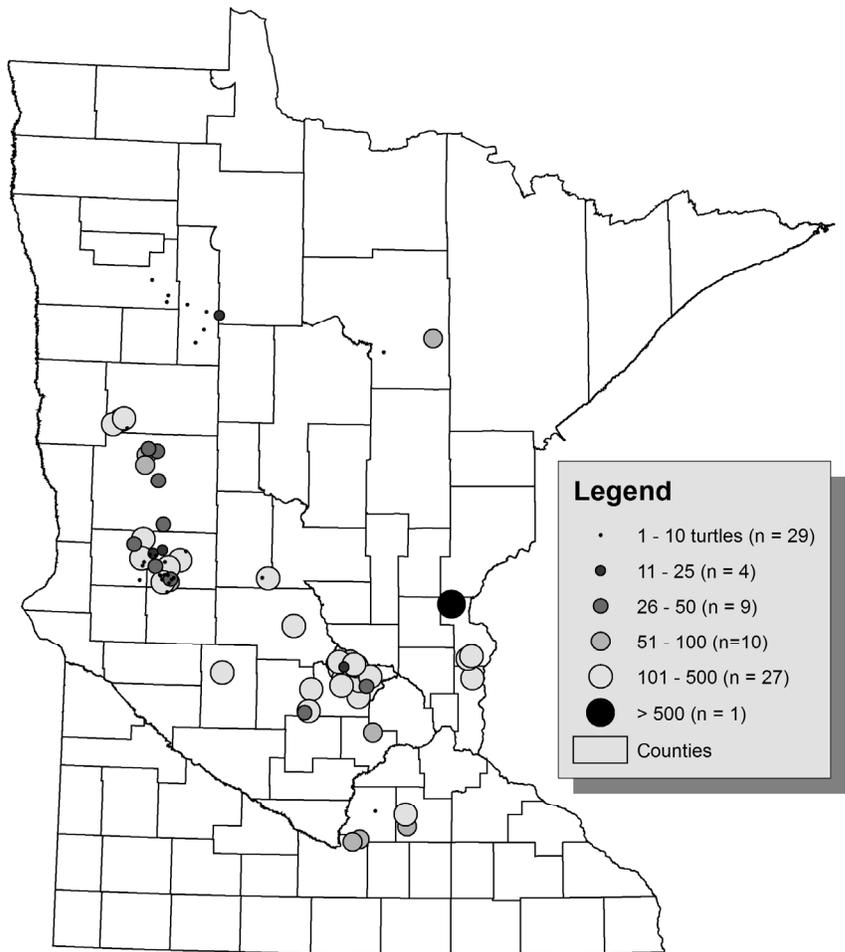


Note: except for renewals, commercial licenses stopped being issued in 2002.

# Painted Turtles: 2012 harvest

## Overview

14 of the 27 (52%) licensed harvesters reported trapping painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*), the species with highest harvest numbers by commercial licensees. 8,285 painted turtles were reported to have been harvested, an 150% increase over the 2011 harvest level of 3,319. An additional 3,255 turtles were caught and released. The painted turtle catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2012 averaged 1.8 turtles per trap per day (based on floating traps only).



## Painted Turtle Harvest by County

County	# Turtles	County	# Turtles
Becker	651	Le Sueur	3
Beltrami	16	Meeker	513
Blue Earth	114	Otter Tail	297
Carver	65	Polk	5
Chisago	948	Pope	2
Clearwater	8	Rice	424
Douglas	975	Stearns	354
Grant	771	Todd	236
Itasca	101	Washington	335
Kandiyohi	170	Wright	2292
		(Not reported)	5

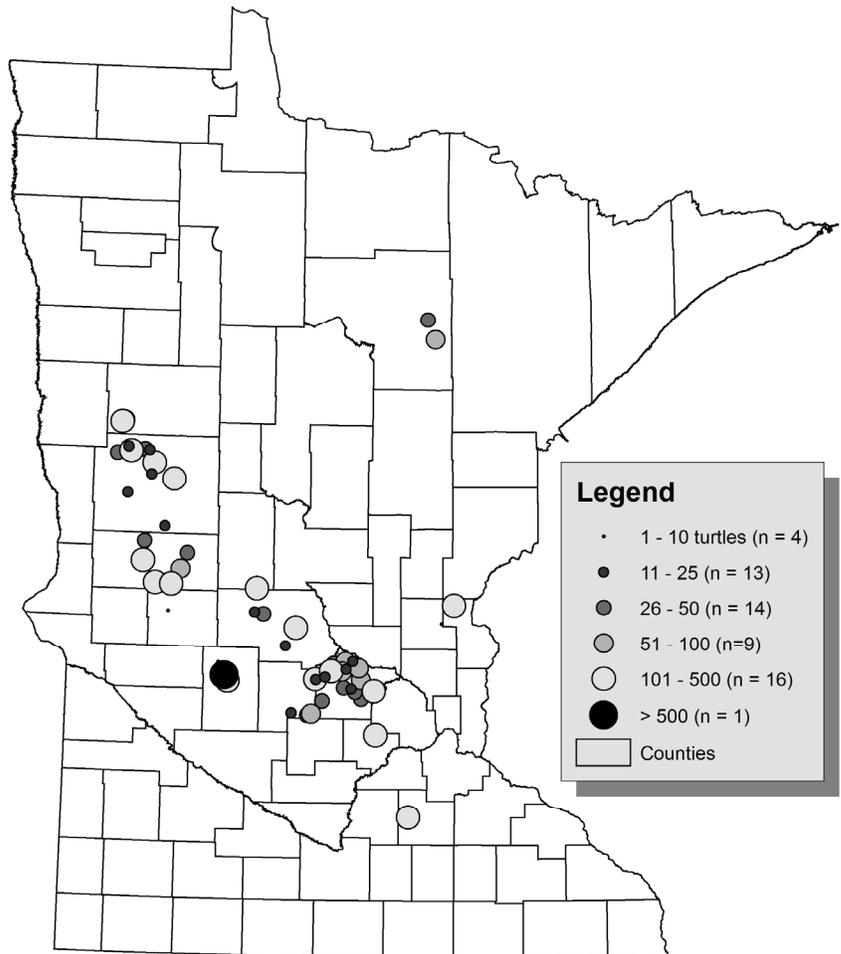
## Painted Turtle Harvest by Gear

GEAR TYPE	# of Gear	# Turtles Harvested	% of Total
Floating Trap	337	4,984	60.2%
Submerged Trap	204	1,127	13.6%
Hook	N/A	1,909	23.0%
Hand	N/A	162	2.0%
Other	Unk	103	1.2%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>8,285</b>	

# Painted Turtles: 2013 harvest

## Overview

10 of the 27 (37%) licensed harvesters reported trapping painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*), the species with highest numbers harvested by commercial licensees. 5,102 painted turtles were reported to have been harvested (a 38% decrease from the 2012 harvest level), and 2,605 were caught and released. The painted turtle catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2013 averaged 1.7 turtles per trap per day (based only on floating traps).



## Painted Turtle Harvest by County

County	# Turtles	County	# Turtles
Becker	186	Meeker	256
Carver	199	Otter Tail	673
Chisago	316	Pope	1
Douglas	371	Rice	278
Grant	398	Stearns	362
Isanti	2	Todd	131
Itasca	113	Wright	1046
Kandiyohi	770		

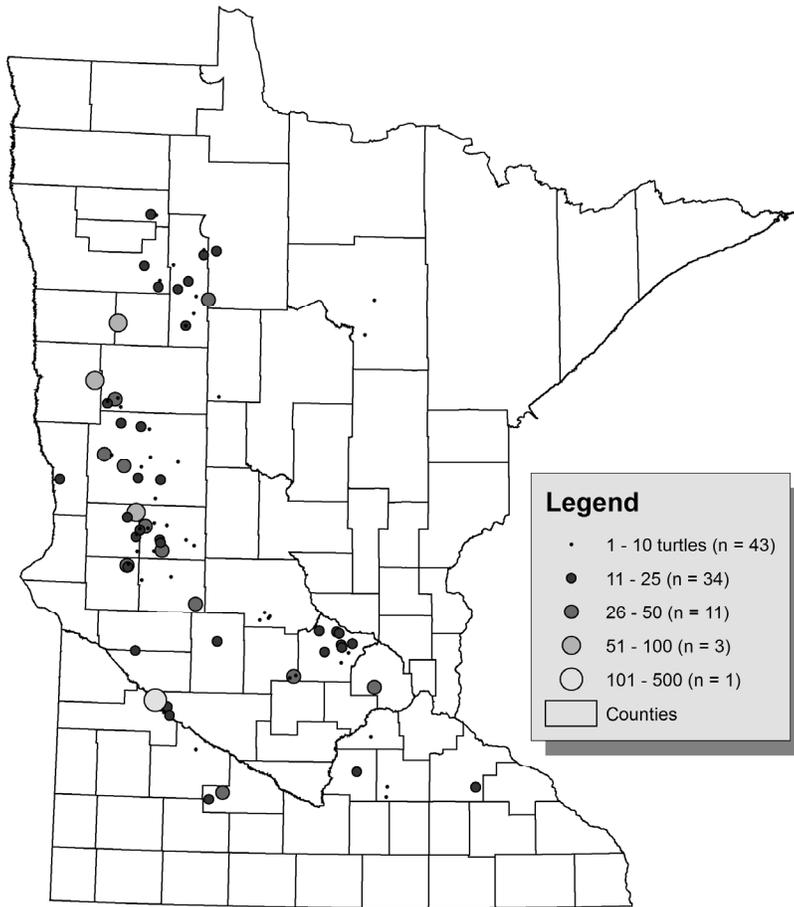
## Painted Turtle Harvest by Gear

GEAR TYPE	# of Gear	# Turtles Harvested	% of Total
Floating Trap	114	2,798	54.8%
Submerged Trap	141	171	3.4%
Hook	N/A	2,029	39.8%
Hand	N/A	1	0
Other	4	103	2.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>5,102</b>	

# Snapping Turtles: 2012 harvest

## Overview

14 of the 27 (52%) licensed harvesters reported trapping snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*), the species with the second highest numbers harvested by commercial licensees. 1,588 snapping turtles were reported to have been harvested, a 95% increase from 2011 harvest levels. An additional 985 turtles were caught and released. The snapping turtle catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2012 averaged 0.7 turtles per trap per day (based on submerged traps only).



## Snapping Turtle Harvest by Gear

GEAR TYPE	# of Gear	# Turtles Harvested	% of Total
Floating Trap	1	8	0.5%
Submerged Trap	757	1,253	78.9%
Hook	N/A	321	20.3%
Hand	N/A	1	0.0%
Other	1	5	0.3%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>1,588</b>	

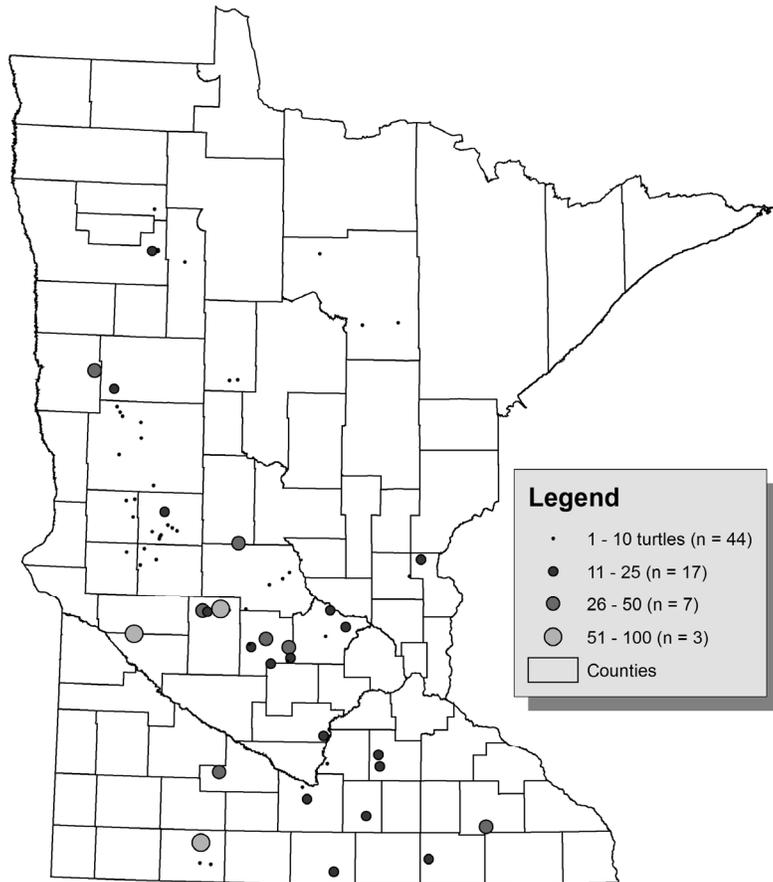
## Snapping Turtle Harvest by County

County	# Turtles	County	# Turtles
Becker	83	Meeker	59
Beltrami	54	Otter Tail	138
Brown	66	Pennington	18
Chippewa	210	Polk	48
Clay	67	Pope	62
Clearwater	85	Redwood	5
Douglas	137	Renville	21
Goodhue	12	Rice	14
Grant	140	Scott	4
Hennepin	32	Stearns	13
Hubbard	4	Stevens	52
Itasca	6	Swift	5
Kandiyohi	16	Wilkin	11
Le Sueur	18	Wright	114
Mahnomen	83	Yellow Medicine	11

# Snapping Turtles: 2013 harvest

## Overview

16 of the 27 (59%) licensed harvesters reported trapping snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*), the species with the second highest numbers harvested by commercial licensees. 881 snapping turtles were reported to have been harvested (a 45% reduction from the 2012 harvest of 1,588), and 571 turtles were caught and released. The snapping turtle catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2013 averaged 0.6 turtles per trap per day (based only on submerged traps).



## Snapping Turtle Harvest by Gear

GEAR TYPE	# of Gear	# Turtles Harvested	% of Total
Floating Trap	12	59	6.7%
Submerged Trap	555	650	73.8%
Hook	N/A	135	15.3%
Hand	N/A	7	0.8%
Other	7	21	2.4%
Unknown	Unk	9	1.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>881</b>	

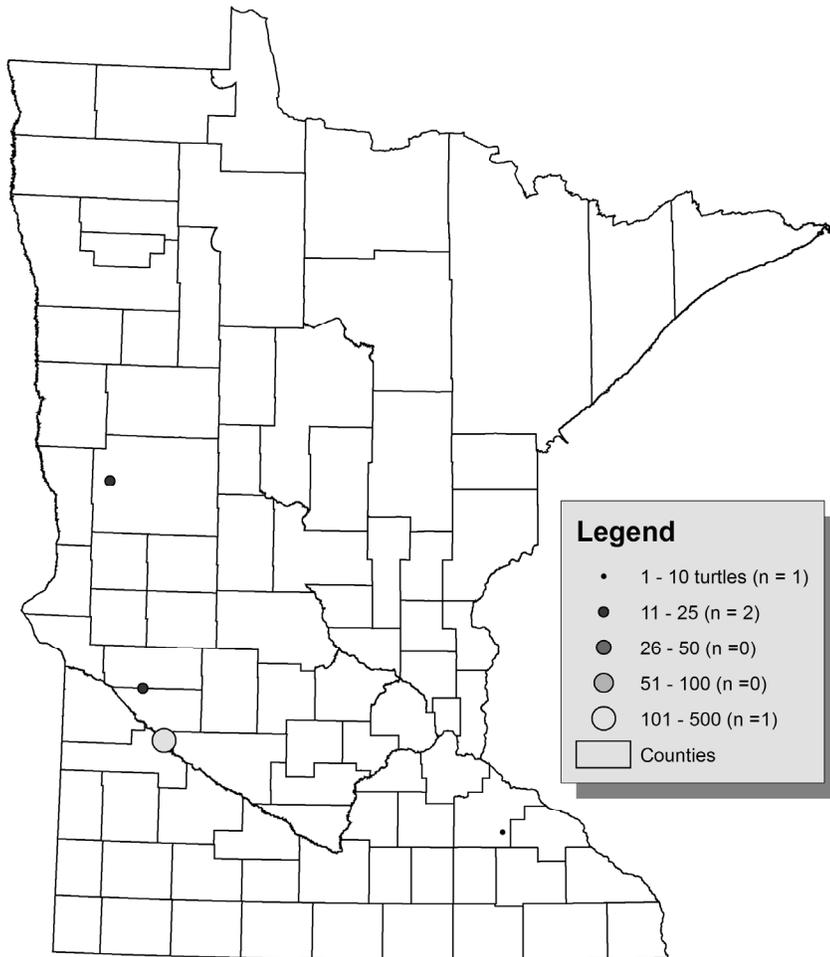
## Snapping Turtle Harvest by County

County	# Turtles	County	# Turtles
Becker	13	McLeod	23
Blue Earth	26	Meeker	132
Brown	29	Mower	15
Chippewa	18	Olmsted	37
Chisago	13	Otter Tail	29
Clay	49	Pennington	5
Clearwater	4	Polk	32
Douglas	36	Pope	23
Faribault	22	Rice	26
Grant	16	Sibley	19
Hubbard	10	Stearns	21
Isanti	4	Stevens	2
Itasca	7	Swift	17
Jackson	56	Todd	26
Kandiyohi	130	Waseca	11
Le Sueur	1	Wright	29

# Spiny Softshell Turtles: 2012 harvest

## Overview

3 of the 27 (11%) licensed harvesters reported trapping spiny softshell turtles (*Apalone spinifera*), the species with the lowest numbers harvested by commercial licensees. 202 spiny softshell turtles were reported to have been harvested, (a 10,000% increase from 2011 levels when only 2 turtles were harvested). An additional 203 turtles were caught and released. The spiny softshell turtle catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2012 averaged 0.6 turtles per trap per day (based only on submerged traps).



### Spiny Softshell Turtle Harvest by County

County	# Turtles	County	# Turtles
Chippewa	161	Pope	7
Goodhue	3	Swift	6
Otter Tail	25		

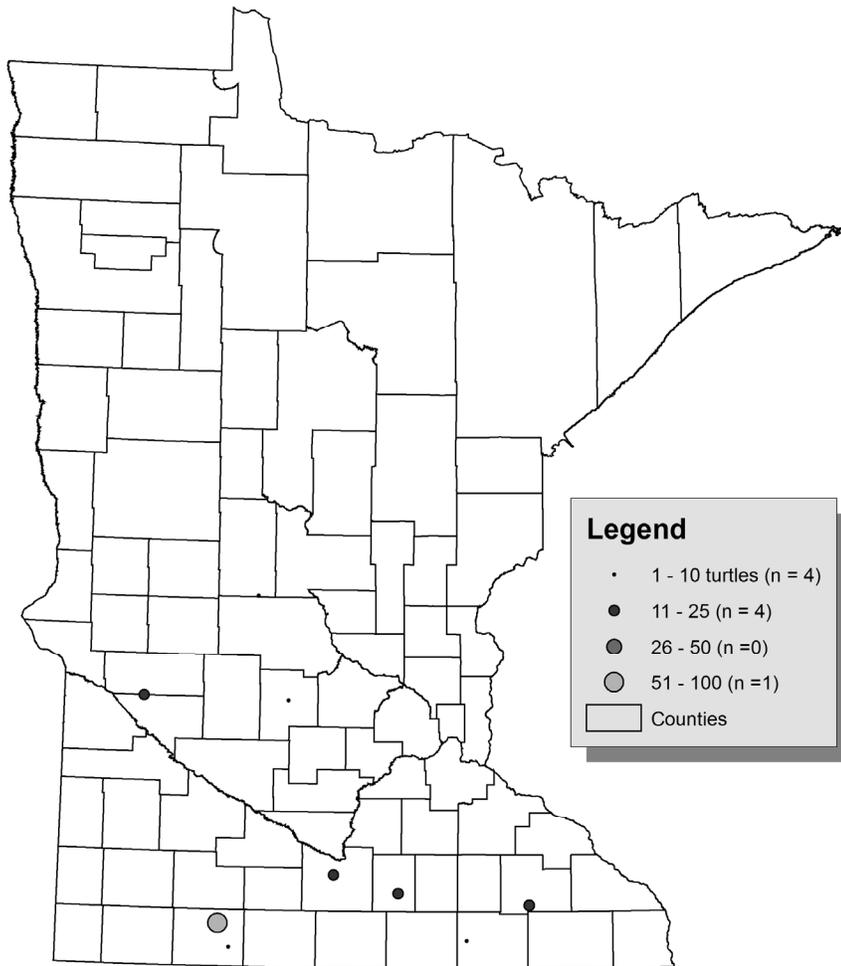
### Spiny Softshell Turtle Harvest by Gear

GEAR TYPE	# of Gear	# Turtles Harvested	% of Total
Floating Trap	0	0	0
Submerged Trap	305	202	100.0%
Hook	N/A	0	0
Hand	N/A	0	0
Other	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>202</b>	

# Spiny Softshell Turtles: 2013 harvest

## Overview

5 of the 27 (19%) licensed harvesters reported trap-ping spiny softshell turtles (*Apalone spinifera*), the species with the lowest numbers harvested by commercial licensees. 163 spiny softshell turtles were reported to have been harvested (a 19% decrease from the 2012 harvest of 202 turtles), and 131 were caught and released. The spiny softshell turtle catch per unit effort (CPUE) in 2013 averaged 0.7 turtles per trap per day of effort.



## Spiny Softshell Turtle Harvest by County

County	# Turtles	County	# Turtles
Blue Earth	23	Olmsted	15
Chippewa	7	Pope	7
Jackson	69	Swift	6
Meeker	5	Todd	9
Mower	6	Waseca	16

## Spiny Softshell Turtle Harvest by Gear

GEAR TYPE	# of Gear	# Turtles Harvested	% of Total
Floating Trap	4	0	0
Submerged Trap	215	163	100.0%
Hook	N/A	0	0
Hand	N/A	0	0
Other	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>163</b>	

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