

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

**Ecological and Water Resources Division**

**NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF RULES PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT A PUBLIC HEARING  
TO THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

**Amendments to Rules Governing Taking Turtles, Minnesota Rules, parts 6256.0500,  
6256.0600, and 6256.0900; Revisor's ID Number R-4756; OAH docket number 65-9014-39998**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388, subdivision 2, this Notice is being sent to all persons who have registered their name with the agency under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.14, subdivision 1a. This notice is also posted on the website of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above-cited rules proposed for adoption will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Hearings on the date of this notice, 5/13/2024. A copy of the rule modification is enclosed with this notice.

All interested persons have five business days after the date of this notice to submit comments to the Office of Administrative Hearings via its e-comments website at <https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions> or 600 North Robert Street, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620.

Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, chapter 6, article 2, sections 75 and 76, amended Minnesota Statutes, sections 97C.605 and 97C.611 to:

- a. Prohibit the taking of turtles by using firearms and ammunition; bow and arrow or crossbow, or spears, harpoons, or any other implements that impale turtles;
- b. Add a minimum size and possession limitation for Western painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*); and
- c. Prohibit possession of spiny softshell turtles (*Apalone spinifera*) and other turtle species not specified in the statute without an aquatic farm or private fish hatchery license with a turtle endorsement.

Laws of Minnesota 2023, Regular Session, chapter 60, article 4, sections 54, 72, 73, 74, 75, and 102, amended Minnesota Statutes, sections 97A.475, 97C.605, and 97C.611 to:

- a. Prohibit commercial harvest of Western painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) and snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) in Minnesota. People will still be allowed to raise turtles for commercial purposes under an aquaculture license with a turtle endorsement.
- b. Require anglers to have both an angling license and a newly required recreational turtle license to harvest turtles. Traps will not be allowed for turtle harvest.

Individuals under 16 do not need a recreational turtle license and may still collect turtles for turtle races.

The Department is using the good cause exemption process under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388, subdivision 1(3) to adopt rule amendments to conform Minnesota Rules, parts 6256.0500, 6256.0600, and 6256.0900 to the specific changes made in Minnesota Statutes, sections 97A.475, 97C.605, and 97C.611, without further interpretation of law.

The agency contact person is:

Lacy Levine  
Ecological and Water Resources Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4020  
Telephone (651) 259-5265  
Email [lacy.levine@state.mn.us](mailto:lacy.levine@state.mn.us).

For special accommodation, you may contact agency contact person named above. Questions concerning the rules should be directed to the agency contact person.

5/13/2024

/s/Lacy Levine  
Lacy Levine  
Conservation Management and Rare Resources (CMRR)  
Unit Supervisor, Ecological and Water Resources Division