

U.S. Turtle Exports and Federal Trade Regulation: A Snapshot

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
International Wildlife Trade Program
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CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 175 Parties (member countries)

To ensure that international trade in
animals and plants
does not threaten species survival in the wild.



CITES as a Conservation Tool

- ▶ Ensure that international trade is conducted **legally** and in a **non-detrimental, sustainable** manner.
- ▶ CITES establishes an **international legal framework** for trade with **common procedures and mechanisms**.

The logo for CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) is displayed in a stylized, bold, black font. The letters are interconnected, with the 'C' and 'I' being particularly prominent.

CITES Appendices

▶ Appendix I

Species threatened with extinction, no commercial trade, import & export permit required - 2/3 majority vote at a CITES CoP
(953 taxa & populations)

▶ Appendix II

Currently not at risk of extinction, may be due to similarity of appearance, trade allowed with monitoring, export permit required - 2/3 majority vote at a CITES CoP
(33,078 taxa & populations)

▶ Appendix III

Unilateral listing, legally acquired/non-biological finding, export certificate only - no voting/unilateral listing by Parties
(171 taxa & populations)

The logo for CITES, featuring the word "CITES" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "C" is significantly larger and partially overlaps the "I".

CITES FAQs

- ┌ *Does CITES regulate domestic use or domestic trade?* **No**
 - CITES **does not apply to purely domestic activities**, but regulatory coverage extends to activities with an international component.
- ┌ *Does CITES ban trade in listed species?* **No**
 - CITES **regulates** international trade in listed species through a permit system.

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Misconceptions about CITES

Listing species on the CITES Appendices should be done sequentially

e.g. Appendix III -- II -- I **FALSE**

- ▭ Each Appendix offers a **different mechanism** for trade control.
- ▭ Which Appendix is used should reflect **species status, trade levels, and legal protections.**



CITES FAQs

Does CITES support sustainable use ? **YES**

- CITES Appendix-II species **may be traded** internationally if accompanied by the appropriate **permits.**

Example: CITES Appendix II - American Alligator



U.S. Turtles: Federal Status

- ▶ **Tortoises** – All CITES and some/full ESA protection
- ▶ **Marine Turtles** – All CITES Appendix I and ESA-listed
- ▶ **Terrestrial & Freshwater Turtles**
 - Bog turtle - Appendix I
 - Box & Wood turtles - Appendix II
 - Alligator snapper & map turtles - Appendix III
 - Alabama red-bellied, Bog, Flattened musk, Plymouth red-bellied, Ringed map & Yellow-blotched map - ESA
 - **Remaining ~31 species have no Federal status**



Gary Stoltz



U.S. Turtle Species Subject to the April 20, 2010 Endangered Species Act Petition

<i>Deirochelys reticularia miaria</i>	Western Chicken Turtle
<i>Graptemys barbouri</i> *	Barbour's Map Turtle
<i>Graptemys ernsti</i> *	Escambia Map Turtle
<i>Graptemys gibbonsi</i> *	Pascagoula Map Turtle
<i>Graptemys nigrinoda</i> *	Black-knobbed Map Turtle
<i>Graptemys pulchra</i> *	Alabama Map Turtle
<i>Kinosternon baurii</i> (pop. 1)	Striped Mud Turtle – Lower FL Keys
<i>Pseudemys nelsoni</i> (pop. 1)	Florida Red-bellied Turtle – FL Panhandle
<i>Pseudemys rubiventris</i>	Northern Red-bellied Cooter

* CITES Appendix III

**U.S. exports of certain live freshwater turtles:
Selected years**

Species	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009
Common snapping turtle <i>(Chelydra serpentina)</i>	3,122	17,495	129,499 (2003)	320,940	497,107	655,541
<i>Apalone</i> spp.	3,256	38,611	36,749	(see below)		
Smooth softshell <i>(A. mutica)</i>	Not available	0	3,618	3,511	839	200
Spiny softshell <i>(A. spinifera)</i>	Not available	702	4,635	36,704	70,809	46,117
Florida softshell <i>(A. ferox)</i>	Not available	1,900*	20,138	87,216	318,265	158,704
Diamondback terrapin <i>(Malaclemys terrapin)</i>	5	821 (1996)	846	2,399	3,581	3,353
Spotted turtle <i>(Clemmys gutatta)</i>	Not available	259	617	638	943	1,442

* Likely under-reported due to non-specific record keeping and confusion with Trionyx.

**U.S. exports of certain live freshwater turtles:
Selected years**

Species	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009
Eastern box turtle (<i>Terrapene carolina</i>)*	3,056	7,998	11	12	2	6
Ornate box turtle (<i>Terrapene ornata</i>)*	Not available	14,889 (2004)	41	0	0	0
<i>Chrysemys/Pseudemys</i> spp. (no <i>T. s. elegans</i>)	7,381	154,934	55,119	66,511	15,463	25,112
River cooter (<i>C. [=Pseudemys]</i> <i>concinna</i>)	Not available	6,110	25,458	61,271	32,251	29,557
Florida red-bellied (<i>C.[=Pseudemys]</i> <i>nelsoni</i>)	Not available	16,648	61,007	80,668	62,658	112,819
Painted turtle (<i>C. picta</i>)	Not available	3,750	23,963	16,907	6,371	14,380
Common cooter (<i>P. floridiana</i>)	Not available	3,192	5,446	7,250	5,685	13,699

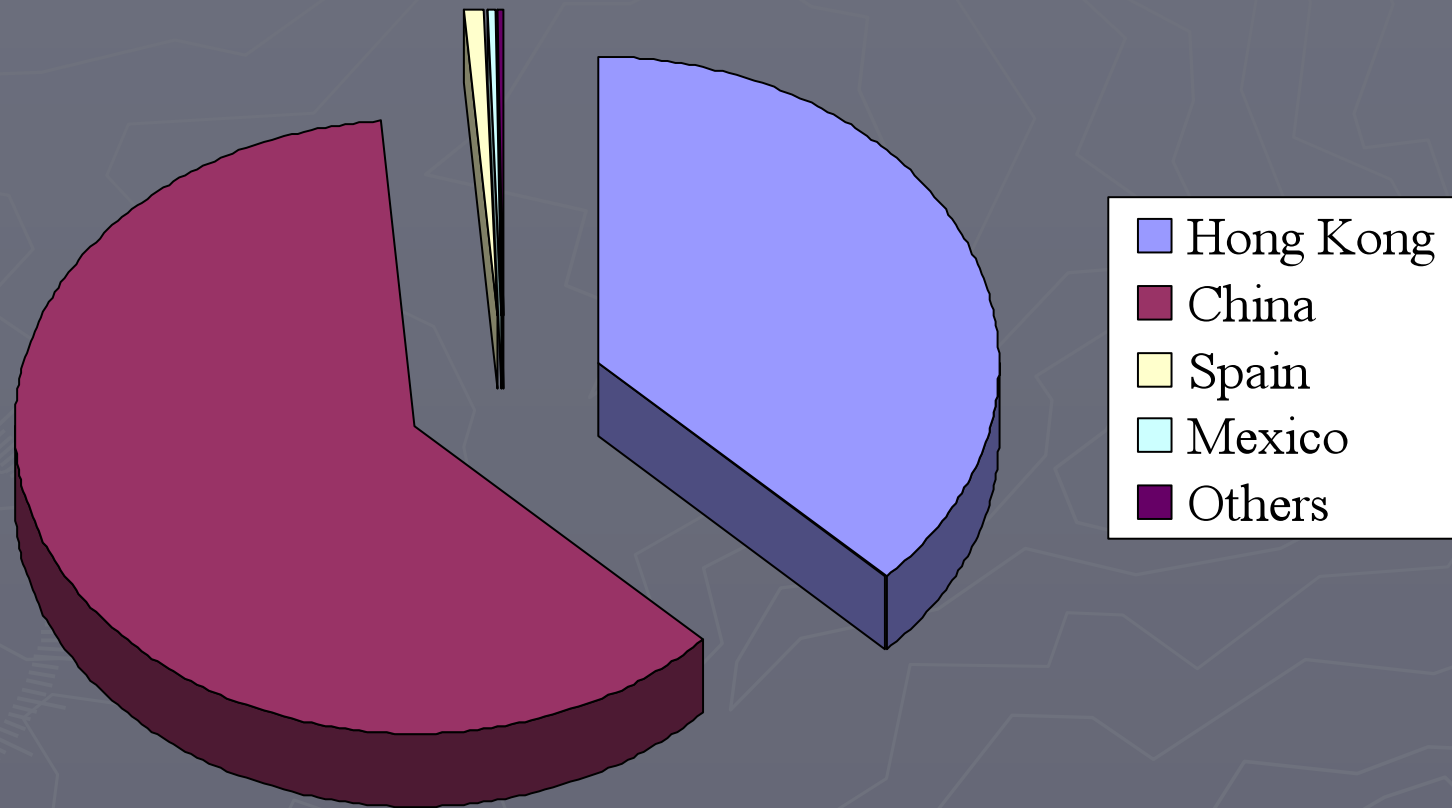
* CITES Appendix II as of 1994

U.S. exports of live Map and Alligator snapping turtles: Select years

Species	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2009*
<i>Graptemys</i> spp.	6,994	84,564	181,199	183,605	-----	36,101
Barbour's map turtle (<i>G. barbouri</i>)	-----	-----	232	78	0	0
Cagle's map turtle (<i>G. caglei</i>)	-----	-----	79	29	0	0
Common map turtle (<i>G. geographica</i>)	-----	-----	2,901	2	310	0
Pascagoula map turtle (<i>G. gibbonsi</i>)	-----	-----	198	0	0	0
Black-nobbed map turtle (<i>G. nigrinoda</i>)	-----	-----	1,194	233	0	0
Ouachita map turtle (<i>G. ouachitensis</i>)	-----	-----	0	150	315	0
False map turtle (<i>G. pseudogeographica</i>) (inc. <i>kohnii</i>)	-----	-----	19,970 (201,169)	97,073 (280,678)	219,761	104,125 (140,226)
Alabama map turtle (<i>G. pulchra</i>)	-----	-----	155	5	0	0
Texas map turtle (<i>G. versa</i>)	-----	-----	76	660	0	0
Alligator snapping turtle (<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>)	1,016	5,792	25,780	40,869	35,260	40,839

* Pending further analysis

Live Alligator Snapper Exports By Destination 2009*



* Preliminary data

CITES CoP Action - Freshwater & Terrestrial Turtles

Asian Species:

1994; 1 species downlisted to Appendix II
1997; 1 species to Appendix II
2000; 9 species to Appendix II and Resolution on trade and conservation adopted
2002; 23 species to Appendix II
2004; 5 species to Appendix II
2005; 17 species to Appendix III
2007; IUCN trade study approved
2009; IUCN trade study reviewed & forwarded for action items

**Total = Action on 56 species,
1 Resolution, and 1 trade
status review**

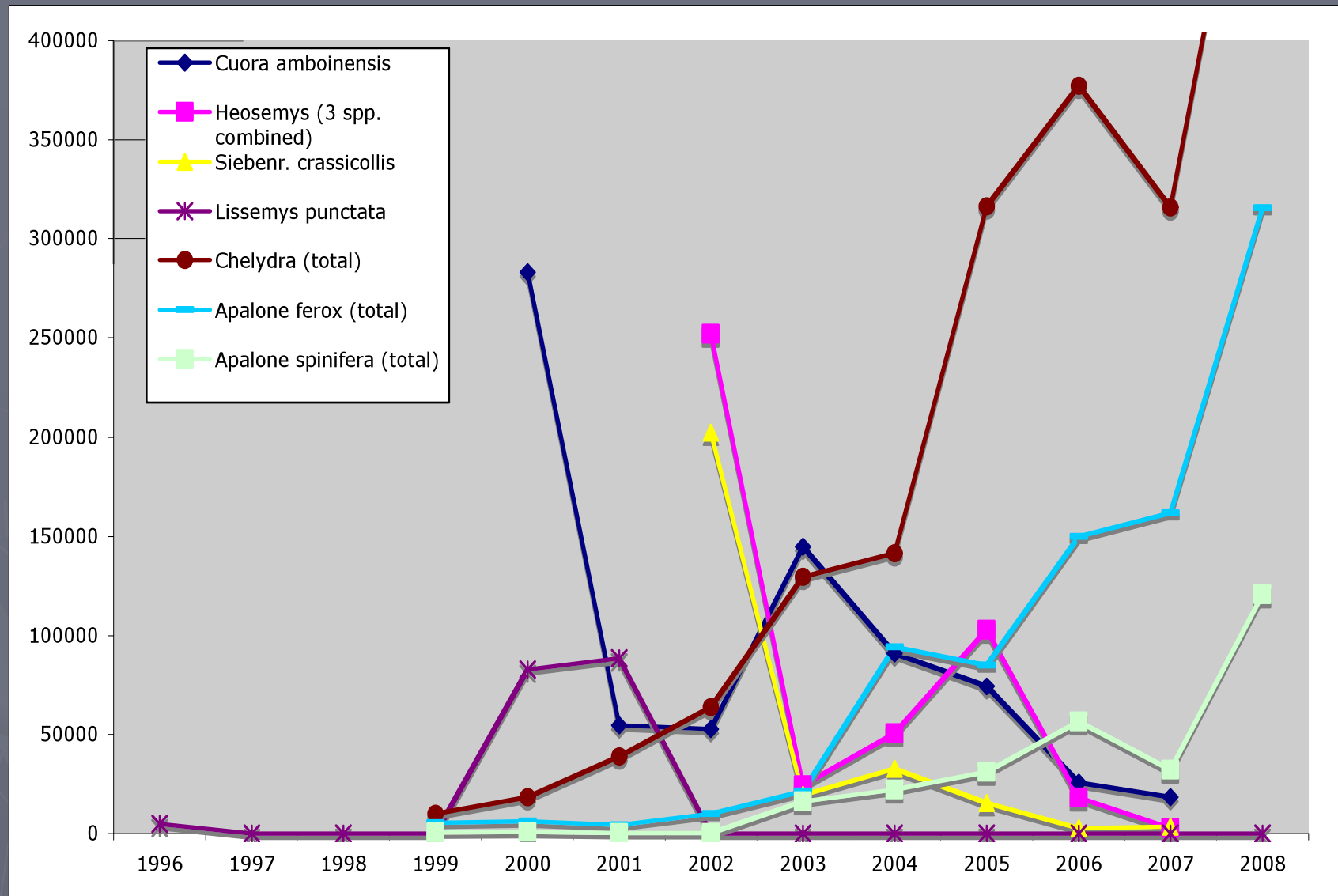
U.S. Species:

1994; 3 species to Appendix II
1997; no action
2000; no action
2002; no action
2004; no action
2006; 13 species to Appendix III
2007; no action
2010; no action

**Total = Action on 16 species,
no Resolutions or trade
status reviews**



Effects of CITES Actions: Exports by Specimen



USFWS Appendix III Turtle Implementation

Farms registered and "cloned" export permits

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*	TOTAL
Registered farms	29	25	24	22	17	----
Renewals & new registrants	29 new	25 renewals/ 0 new	23 renewals/ 1 new	22 renewals/ 0 new	18 renewals/ 1 new	-----
Export permits issued (clones)	334	353	314	253	171	1,425
Registration & permit fees	\$50/5.00	\$50/5.00	\$50/5.00	\$50/5.00	\$50/5.00	-----

* anticipated



Thank you

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