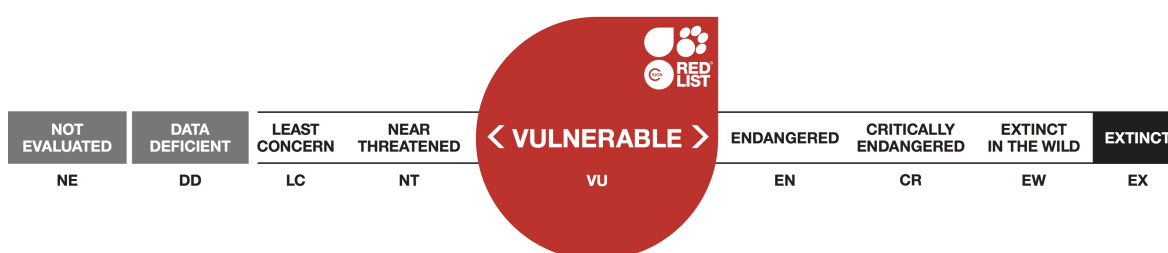


Macrochelys temminckii, Alligator Snapping Turtle

Errata version

Assessment by: Tortoise & Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group



View on www.iucnredlist.org

Citation: Tortoise & Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group. 1996. *Macrochelys temminckii*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1996: e.T12589A97272309.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1996.RLTS.T12589A3362355.en>

Copyright: © 2017 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale, reposting or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission from the copyright holder. For further details see [Terms of Use](#).

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the [IUCN Global Species Programme](#), the [IUCN Species Survival Commission \(SSC\)](#) and [The IUCN Red List Partnership](#). The IUCN Red List Partners are: [Arizona State University](#); [BirdLife International](#); [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#); [Conservation International](#); [NatureServe](#); [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#); [Sapienza University of Rome](#); [Texas A&M University](#); and [Zoological Society of London](#).

If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with [feedback](#) so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

Taxonomy

| Kingdom | Phylum | Class | Order | Family |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Animalia | Chordata | Reptilia | Testudines | Chelydridae |

Taxon Name: *Macrochelys temminckii* (Troost in Harlan, 1835)

Synonym(s):

- *Chelonura temminckii* Troost in Harlan, 1835
- *Macrolemys temminckii* (Troost in Harlan, 1835)

Common Name(s):

- English: Alligator Snapping Turtle

Taxonomic Notes:

Appeared in IUCN Red Lists prior to 2007 under the name *Macrolemys temminckii*. Was also treated by some authors under the generic name *Macrolemmys*.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Vulnerable A1cd [ver 2.3](#)

Year Published: 1996

Date Assessed: August 1, 1996

Annotations: Needs Updating

Previously Published Red List Assessments

1994 – Vulnerable (V)

1990 – Vulnerable (V)

1988 – Vulnerable (V)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

The Alligator Snapping Turtle is endemic to the US occurring in rivers that drain into the Gulf of Mexico.

Country Occurrence:

Native: United States

Population

The species range is greater than 10,000 km² but population densities are likely to be low throughout this area (Ewert 1997). It is naturally rare in northern extremes of its range. Klemens and Behler (1997) report that there is good anecdotal evidence that the species is undergoing a long-term, non cyclical decline throughout much of its range.

Habitat and Ecology

Some natural habitat has been drained and replaced by agriculture in recent years, however, actual habitat loss, in terms of loss of rivers and their banks, may be small (Ewert 1997). The turtle has been found in reservoirs throughout their range and dyking of rivers to create winter waterfowl refuges has increased potential habitat in Arkansas and the lower Mississippi Valley and may offset some of the degraded habitat (Ewert 1997).

Systems: Terrestrial, Freshwater

Threats

The main threats include habitat alteration; exploitation by trappers for a large domestic market and a growing international market for its meat; pollution and pesticide accumulation (Holt and Tolson 1993).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Take is prohibited in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee, but allowed with the necessary permit in Alabama, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

It is listed on CITES Appendix III (United States of America).

Credits

Assessor(s): Tortoise & Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group

Bibliography

Baillie, J. and Groombridge, B. (eds). 1996. *1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals*. pp. 378. International Union for Conservation of Nature, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Ewert, M. 1997. *in litt.* to IUCN Species Survival Commission, Cambridge, UK.

Groombridge, B. (ed.). 1994. *1994 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Holt, C.J. and Tolson, K.M. 1993. A Research Proposal Submitted to: The Chelonia Research Foundation. Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe.

IUCN. 1990. *1990 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals*. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

IUCN. 2016. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2016-1. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 30 June 2016).

IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre. 1988. *IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Klemens, M. and Behler, J. 1997. *in litt.* to IUCN Species Survival Commission, Cambridge, UK.

Citation

Tortoise & Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group. 1996. *Macrochelys temminckii*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1996*: e.T12589A97272309.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1996.RLTS.T12589A3362355.en>

Disclaimer

To make use of this information, please check the [Terms of Use](#).

External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

Appendix

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

| Conservation Actions in Place |
|---|
| In-Place Education |
| Included in international legislation: Yes |
| Subject to any international management/trade controls: Yes |

Errata

Errata reason: An errata assessment is required to generate a revised PDF without the range map which had been included in error; no range map was available when this assessment was originally published.

The IUCN Red List Partnership



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the [IUCN Global Species Programme](#), the [IUCN Species Survival Commission \(SSC\)](#) and [The IUCN Red List Partnership](#).

The IUCN Red List Partners are: [Arizona State University](#); [BirdLife International](#); [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#); [Conservation International](#); [NatureServe](#); [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#); [Sapienza University of Rome](#); [Texas A&M University](#); and [Zoological Society of London](#).