

## Mitigating the Risks of Aquatic Invasive Species in Commerce

### Legal Case Study: Red-Eared Slider



#### **Introduction**

The introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species pose a threat to aquatic systems. One primary pathway aquatic invasive species are moved and introduced to new ecosystems is via commerce - the plant and animal trade. Reducing the risks of harmful aquatic invasive species in trade requires the cooperation and collaboration of each party in the supply chain, including producers, retailers, importers, buyers, and state and federal agencies. The National Sea Grant Law Center developed a case study series to explore the current legal framework governing commercial trade in several popular species and challenges to mitigating risks from this pathway.

#### **Species Background**

The red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) is considered one of the world's worst invasive species.<sup>1</sup> Red-eared sliders are native to a large portion of the United States, primarily along the Mississippi River Valley.<sup>2</sup> Turtle hatchlings became popular pets in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s, and exports to other countries significantly increased in the late 1980s - due in part to the prominence of turtles in pop culture. Researchers estimate that more than 52 million individual sliders were exported from the United States to international markets between 1989 and 1997.<sup>3</sup> As a result of this trade, red-eared sliders are the most introduced turtle species in the world.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN, Global Invasive Species Database.

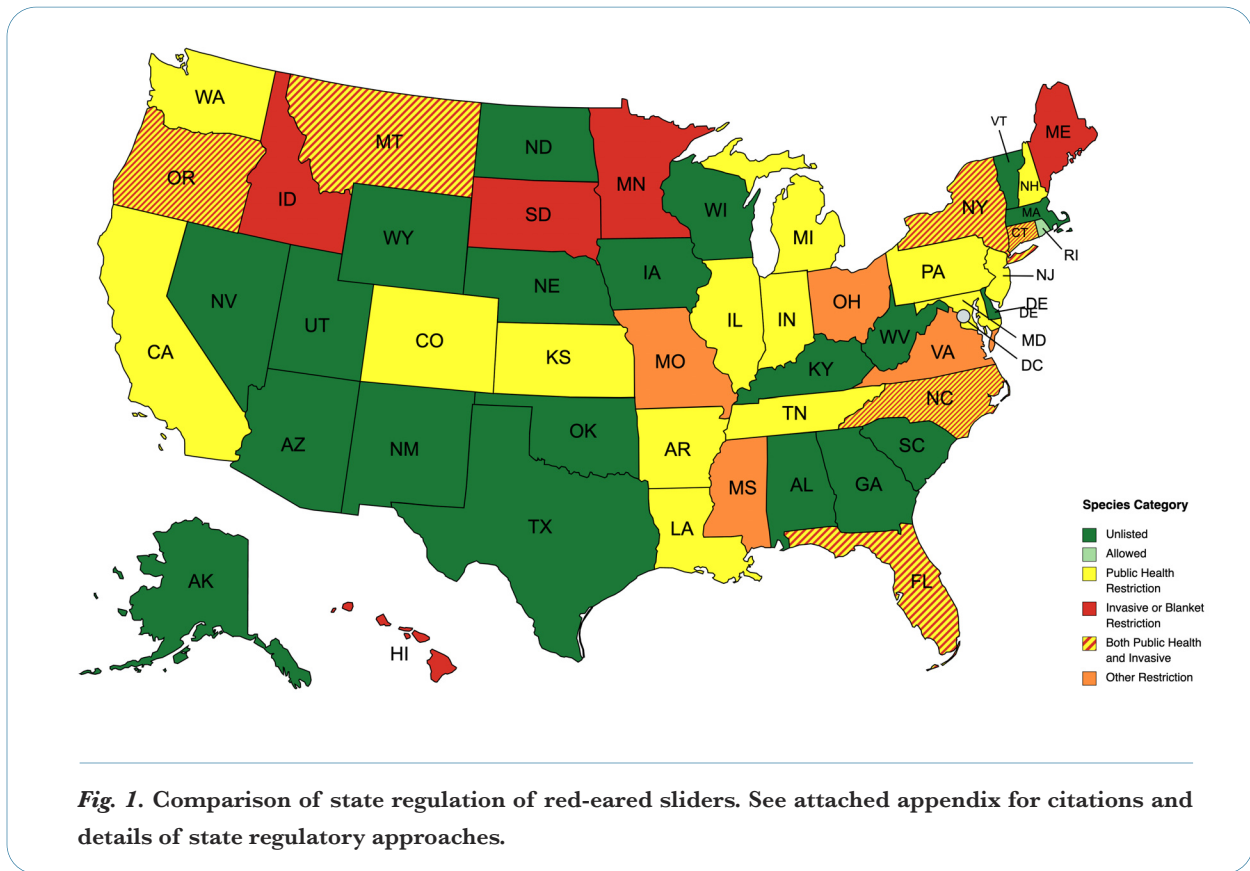
<sup>2</sup> USGS, Red-eared Slider.

<sup>3</sup> J. Franke and T.M. Telecky, Reptiles as Pets: An Examination of the Trade in Live Reptiles in the United States (2001).

<sup>4</sup> Steven Pearson, Harold Avery, and James Spotila, Juvenile invasive red-eared slider turtles negatively impact the growth of native turtles: Implications for global freshwater turtle populations, *Biological Conservation* 186: 115-121 (2015).

In the United States, the commercial trade in red-eared sliders has resulted in introductions beyond their native range. Their presence has been observed in almost every state. In states along the East and West coasts, introduced populations are reproducing and thriving, out-competing native species for food and basking sites and diminishing biodiversity.

## Regulatory Context



In 1975, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned the sale of all turtles with shells less than 4 inches long (about 100 mm), except for educational or research purposes. This regulatory action was taken to prevent the spread of salmonellosis in children. Although anyone may be at risk of salmonella exposure when handling turtles, young children seem most at risk due to their hand-to-mouth behavior. At the time, the FDA estimated that 14% of all salmonellosis cases were turtle-related.<sup>5</sup> Outbreaks have continued to be linked to pet turtles as recently as 2022.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> 39 Fed. Reg. 18463 (May 28, 1974).

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control, Salmonella Investigative Details.

The FDA's regulation states that "viable turtle eggs and live turtles with a carapace length of less than 4 inches shall not be sold, held for sale, or offered for any other type of commercial or public distribution."<sup>7</sup> However, there are exceptions for:

- Sale and distribution of live turtles and eggs for "bona fide scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes, other than use as pets."
- Sale and distribution of live turtles and eggs not in connection with a business.
- Sale and distribution for export only.

Twenty states followed the FDA's lead and banned or placed restrictions on the sale of small turtles under state law: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Washington. A 2010 legal challenge to the FDA regulation filed by the Louisiana Turtle Farmers failed, and the regulation remains in place.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to federal and state prohibitions on the sale of small turtles to protect public health, eleven states restrict the sale of red-eared sliders due to invasive risk. However, these state laws often have exceptions for research and educational purposes or particular varieties and therefore are not complete prohibitions on commercial trade.

- Connecticut, for example, prohibits the purchase, sale, or exchange (and possession with intent to conduct any of those transactions) of red-eared slider turtles.<sup>9</sup> This prohibition does not apply to the purchase, sale, or exchange of "any red-eared slider turtle with distinctive aberrant color patterns, including albino or amelanistic specimens" provided the seller retains a record of the name and address of the purchaser and the turtle is not released into the environment.
- North Carolina prohibits the "import, transport, export, purchase, possess, [sale], transfer, or release" of red-eared sliders.<sup>10</sup> However, businesses providing scientific supplies for research may engage in these activities if allowed under a permit issued by the North Carolina Wildlife Commission.

Thus, red-eared sliders can legally be bought and sold in these states as long as certain conditions are met. Further, trade in red-eared sliders is unrestricted or allowed by law in twenty-three states.

Interestingly, four states - Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, and Virginia - place some restrictions on the sale or possession of red-eared sliders due to the classification of the species as native or naturalized in the state. The fact that several states in the species' native range have restricted trade because of declining wild populations while many states prohibit or restrict the species from coming into their states underscores the policy complexities of red-eared slider management.

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<sup>7</sup> 21 C.F.R. § 1240.62.

<sup>8</sup> *Independent Turtle Farmers of Louisiana v. U.S.*, 703 F.Supp.2d 604 (2010).

<sup>9</sup> Conn. Stat. § 26-78.

<sup>10</sup> 15A N.C. Admin. Code 10B.0123.

## **Regulating Red-eared Sliders in Commerce – Key Takeaways**

Red-eared slider management is challenging for numerous reasons. It is difficult to achieve interstate policy consistency regarding invasive risk when the species is native to a significant portion of the United States. It is unreasonable to expect states along the Mississippi River Valley to list red-eared sliders as a prohibited species under their invasive laws or take aggressive action to prevent trade.

The varying policy priorities related to restrictions on the sale of red-eared sliders means the policy goals and objectives may be different among the states with different enforcement goals. Public health agencies and advocates want to reduce the incidence of salmonella poisoning. Environmental agencies and advocates want to preserve ecosystem health and reduce introduction of invasive species. Animal rights advocates want to reduce the number of mistreated and unwanted turtles as pets. Although these three policy goals are not incompatible—they can all be achieved by prohibiting the sale of turtles—the players and strategies are different, raising questions about which agencies should play a leadership role. Coordination among the regulatory agencies is essential to ensuring that the legal framework is designed in a way that can achieve multiple policy goals.

Further, significant confusion and enforcement difficulties can arise when species are allowed to be traded for some purposes, but not others. As a result of the research, education, and permitting exceptions, commercial trade in turtle hatchlings continues for certain purposes. This can result in consumer confusion and enforcement challenges as illegal pet sales may occur under the guise of legal uses. Proving the intent of a sale is just one of the many barriers to enforcing these inconsistent prohibitions on trade, allowing the continuing spread of the red-eared slider to new environments.

The red-eared slider is an example of an invasive species which is difficult to regulate due to its geographic range and popularity in the pet trade. Red-eared sliders are not invasive in a large portion of the United States, making it a lower regulatory priority in much of the country than species with no native range in the United States, such as the water hyacinth. Regulatory motivations for prohibiting or restricting the sale of red-eared sliders are enacted by multiple jurisdictional authorities and inconsistent among states, creating gaps in monitoring and enforcement of prohibitions. Even in states with prohibitions, there are large exceptions for possession and trade based on a buyer's intent, which further complicates efforts to prosecute violations. Until these competing interests and approaches are aligned, the red-eared slider will remain in commerce in the U.S. and abroad.

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# Appendix

## Summary of State Regulation of Red-Eared Sliders

**Alabama: *Unlisted***

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**Alaska: *Unlisted***

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**Arizona: *Unlisted***

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**Arkansas: *Public Health Restriction & Culture Allowed***

It is illegal to sell, offer for sale, or distribute at wholesale, retail, or as a gift to the public, a live turtle or turtles, tortoise, terrapin under six inches long. Code Ark. R. 007.10.25-II.

Because red-eared sliders are native to Arkansas, aquaculture of the species is allowed in Arkansas under a Commercial Aquatic Turtle Farmer/Dealer Permit from the Arkansas Fish and Game Commission. Code Ark. R. 002.01.1-J1.02.

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**California: *Public Health Restriction***

It is unlawful to import, sell or offer for sale or distribution to the public any live turtle with a carapace length of less than 4 inches. Shipments of turtles under 4 inches are permitted to a government agency, research/educational institution for research or teaching purposes, or to a zoological garden for display. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) may order the human destruction of any turtles unlawfully imported, sold, or distributed. CDFW may also quarantine turtles and take samples for the purposes of testing for Salmonella. CDFW may order the humane destruction of a lot of turtles found contaminated with Salmonella. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 17, § 2612.1.

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**Colorado: *Public Health Restriction & Trade Allowed as Unregulated Wildlife***

It is unlawful to sell, barter, exchange, or otherwise transfer, import or cause to be imported into this state any type of turtle with a straight carapace length of less than four inches. 8 Colo. Code Regs. § 1202-15:18.

Red-eared sliders are classified as “unregulated wildlife” in Colorado. Unregulated wildlife may be imported, sold, bartered, traded, transferred, possessed, propagated and transported provided that all importation, disease requirements and any other state, local or federal requirements are met. 2 Colo. Code Regs. § 406-11:1103

**Connecticut: *Public Health Restriction and Invasive Listing***

It is unlawful to sell a turtle with a carapace length of less than four inches or with viable turtle eggs in Connecticut. Sellers of live turtles larger than 4 inches must post a caution notice warning that the transmission of salmonella disease is possible, provide the buyer with a copy of the caution notice, and the buyer must sign a form acknowledging receipt of the caution form. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture may suspend the pet shop license of any pet shop that violates this law. Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 19a-102a.

It is unlawful to import, buy, sell or exchange, or possess with intent to sell or exchange red-eared sliders in Connecticut. These prohibitions do not apply to the use of red-eared sliders for any educational or research-related purpose by any scientific or educational institution. Red-eared sliders with distinctive aberrant color patterns, including albino or amelanistic specimens, may be bought, sold, and exchanged provided (1) the seller retains a record of the name and address of the purchaser and (B) the turtle is not released upon the lands or into the waters of this state. Release of any red-eared slider turtle upon the lands or into the waters in Connecticut is prohibited. Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 26-78.

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**Delaware: *Unlisted***

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**Florida: *Public Health Prohibition and Invasive Listing***

Red-eared sliders less than four inches in carapace length may not be possessed without a permit issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC). Fla. Admin. Code Ann. r. 68-5.004.

Red-eared sliders are classified as a “conditional non-native species” in Florida. They may be possessed only by individuals or commercial import or export businesses holding a permit to do so issued by the FWC. Red-eared sliders with distinctive aberrant color patterns, including albino or amelanistic specimens, may be possessed without a permit. Fla. Admin. Code Ann. r. 68-5.004.

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**Georgia: *Unlisted***

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**Hawaii: *Invasive Listing***

All species of slider turtles (*Trachemys spp.*) are listed by Hawaii as “restricted animals.” § 4-71 Attachment 3. List of Restricted Animals (§ 4-71-6.5). A permit is required to possess or import restricted animals into the state. Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 150A-6.2(c).

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**Idaho: *Invasive Listing***

Red-eared sliders are a listed invasive species in Idaho. Idaho Admin. Code r. 02.06.09.143. No person may possess, import, ship, or transport any invasive species unless pursuant to a permit issued by the Idaho Department of Agriculture. Idaho Admin. Code r. 02.06.09.120.

**Illinois: *Public Health Protection and Native Species Protection***

It is unlawful in Illinois to possess or offer for sale a turtle or viable turtle eggs which would constitute a violation of the Food and Drug Administration regulation prohibiting the sale of turtles with carapace length less than 4 inches for that Act. Ill. Admin. Code tit. 8, § 25.110

Red-eared sliders are included on Illinois’ “Indigenous or Native Herptile Taxa List”. Ill. Admin. Code tit. 17, § 885.40. A sport fishing license is required for Illinois residents to collect or take native herptiles on private land. Non-residents may not possess or collect herptiles collected from the wild unless (1) for scientific purposes with a Herptile Scientific Collection permit or (2) for personal consumption with a nonresident sport fishing license. 17 Ill. Adm. Code 885.20.

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**Indiana: *Public Health Restriction and Native Species Protection***

It is unlawful in Indiana for any individual to sell a turtle, regardless of species or origin, with a carapace less than four (4) inches long, except for a valid scientific or educational purpose that is associated with certain listed entities, including government agencies, museums, and scientific research organizations. 312 Ind. Admin. Code 9-5-7.5

With limited exceptions, it is unlawful to sell, transport for sale, or offer to sale a reptile that is native to Indiana. The red-eared slider is listed as a reptile that is native to Indiana. Red-eared sliders with albinistic, leucistic, or xanthic color morphology are exempt from this prohibition if not collected from the wild. Sales made under a captive breeding license or to a public school are allowed. 312 Ind. Admin. Code 9-5-7.

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**Iowa: *Unlisted***

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**Kansas: *Public Health Restriction***

All species of slider turtles (*Trachemys spp.*) are listed by Hawaii as “restricted animals.” § 4-71 Attachment 3. List of Restricted Animals (§ 4-71-6.5). A permit is required to possess or import restricted animals into the state. Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 150A-6.2(c).

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**Idaho: *Invasive Listing***

Pet shops are prohibited from possessing, selling, offering for sale, or offering as a gift or promotional consideration any viable turtle eggs or live turtles with a carapace length of less than four inches. Kan. Admin. Regs. 9-18-25(d).

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**Kentucky: *Unlisted***

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**Louisiana: *Public Health Restriction***

Viable turtle eggs and live turtles with a carapace length of less than four inches may not be sold or offered for any commercial or public distribution within the state of Louisiana with two exceptions. Sale and distribution of viable turtles eggs and live turtles with a carapace length less than four inches is allowed (1) to a certified turtle farmer and (2) for bona fide scientific, educational, or exhibitional purposes, other than use as pets. 7 La. Admin. Code Pt XXI, § 1909.

**Maine: *Invasive Listing***

Captive bred red-eared sliders are a “Category 1 Restricted species” in Maine. Code Me. R. tit. 09-137 Ch. 7, § 7.18. A permit is required to possess, import, exhibit, propagate, or rehabilitate Category 1 Restricted Species. To possess a Category 1 Restricted Species a person must acquire either an exhibitor’s or wildlife rehabilitator’s permit or must be an accredited research facility. Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 12, § 12152.

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**Maryland: *Public Health Restriction***

Maryland prohibits the sale or public distribution of turtles with a carapace length of less than 4 inches and viable reptile eggs. This prohibition does not apply to a turtle used for agricultural, scientific, or educational purposes or public exhibitions. Sales of turtles with a carapace length greater than 4 inches is allowed if a caution notice is posted by the seller and, at the time of sale, the seller furnishes the buyer with a copy of the caution notice and the buyer signs a log or statement that the buyer has read it. Md. Code Regs. 10.06.01.22.

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**Massachusetts: *Public Health Restriction***

The sale or distribution of viable turtle eggs or live turtles with a carapace length of less than 4 inches is prohibited unless the seller provides the purchaser with a health advisory sheet describing the potential health risk to children and adults of contracting salmonellosis from turtles. Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. 287.312.

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**Michigan: *Public Health Restriction***

The sale or distribution of viable turtle eggs or live turtles with a carapace length of less than 4 inches is prohibited unless the seller provides the purchaser with a health advisory sheet describing the potential health risk to children and adults of contracting salmonellosis from turtles. Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. 287.312.

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**Minnesota: *Invasive Species Listing***

Red-eared sliders are classified as a “regulated invasive species” in Minnesota. Minnesota Rules, part 6216.0260. A person may not introduce a regulated invasive species without a permit issued by the commissioner. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 84D.07.

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**Mississippi: *Native Species Protection***

Red-eared sliders are a native species in Mississippi classified as “nongame wildlife in need of management.” Nongame wildlife taken from the wild for personal use may not be bought, sold, offered for sale, bartered, exported for sale, nor exhibited unless authorized by a hunting/fishing license, scientific collection permit, or other license/permit issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Mississippi has season and possession limits for nongame turtles. Nongame wildlife may be propagated in captivity for commercial purposes only under permit from the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. 40 Code Miss. R. Pt. 5, R. 2.3.



**Missouri: *Native Species Protection***

Red-eared sliders are native to Missouri. Any person in Missouri holding wildlife in captivity in any manner must have a permit from the Missouri Department of Conservation or evidence of exemption. Confined wildlife held under permit shall include only species listed on Approved Confined Wildlife Species List. Red-eared sliders are included on this list. Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 3, § 10-9.105. Missouri residents may take and possess alive a maximum of 5 specimens of native wildlife without a permit, but the animals may not be bought or sold. Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 3, § 10-9.110(1)(A).

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**Montana: *Public Health Restricted and Invasive Listing***

Possession or sale of turtles with a carapace or shell length of less than 4 inches is prohibited in Montana. Unless otherwise regulated, turtles in the Emydidae family (pond turtles) with a carapace or shell length greater than 4 inches that are not on the controlled or prohibited list may be possessed or sold as pets without a permit. Mont. Code Ann. § 87-5-706.

Red-eared sliders are classified as prohibited species in Montana. Mont.Admin.R. 12.6.2215. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks may issue a permit for the possession of a prohibited species only to certain entities including a licensed or accredited zoo or aquarium, a university or government agency for scientific or public health research, or a licensed business or organization for exhibit, educational, or scientific purposes. Mont. Admin. R. 12.6.2220

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**Nebraska: *Unlisted***

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**Nevada: *Unlisted***

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**New Hampshire: *Public Health Restriction***

It is unlawful in New Hampshire to sell a turtle that has a carapace less than 4 inches. N.H. Code Admin. R. Agr 1705.01.

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**New Jersey: *Public Health Restriction***

Viable turtle eggs and live turtles with a carapace length of less than four inches may not be sold, held for sale, or offered for any type of commercial or public distribution. Live turtles with a carapace length greater than four inches may not sold or distributed in New Jersey unless the person seeking to sell or distribute warrants to the satisfaction of the Department of Health and Senior Services that each shipment of turtles is free from *Salmonella* contamination. The Department may waive this warrant requirement for sale and distribution for the purposes of research, other zoological purposes, or for food. N.J. Admin. Code § 8:23-2.1.

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**New Mexico: *Unlisted***

**New York: *Public Health Restriction and Invasive Listing***

It is illegal for any person to import, sell, or offer for sale or distribution at wholesale, retail, or as gifts to the public a live turtle with a carapace length of less than four inches. A warning must be posted by sellers and distributors of turtles about the risk of salmonellosis. Turtles of any size may enter the state for teaching use in educational institutions or for delivery to research institutions. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 10, § 2.58.

Red-eared sliders are a “regulated invasive species” in New York. Regulated species are legal to possess, sell, buy, propagate, and transport, but may not be knowingly introduced. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 6, § 575.4.

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**North Carolina: *Public Health Restriction and Invasive Listing***

It is illegal for any person to import, sell, or offer for sale or distribution at wholesale, retail, or as gifts to the public a live turtle with a carapace length of less than four inches. A warning must be posted by sellers and distributors of turtles about the risk of salmonellosis. Turtles of any size may enter the state for teaching use in educational institutions or for delivery to research institutions. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 10, § 2.58.

Red-eared sliders are a “regulated invasive species” in New York. Regulated species are legal to possess, sell, buy, propagate, and transport, but may not be knowingly introduced. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 6, § 575.4.

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**North Carolina: *Public Health Restriction and Invasive Listing***

It is illegal for any person to import, sell, or offer for sale or distribution at wholesale, retail, or as gifts to the public a live turtle with a carapace length of less than four inches. A warning must be posted by sellers and distributors of turtles about the risk of salmonellosis. Turtles of any size may enter the state for teaching use in educational institutions or for delivery to research institutions. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 10, § 2.58.

Red-eared sliders are a “regulated invasive species” in New York. Regulated species are legal to possess, sell, buy, propagate, and transport, but may not be knowingly introduced. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 6, § 575.4.

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**North Carolina: *Public Health Restriction and Invasive Listing***

It is illegal for any person to import, sell, or offer for sale or distribution at wholesale, retail, or as gifts to the public a live turtle with a carapace length of less than four inches. A warning must be posted by sellers and distributors of turtles about the risk of salmonellosis. Turtles of any size may enter the state for teaching use in educational institutions or for delivery to research institutions. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 10, § 2.58.

Red-eared sliders are a “regulated invasive species” in New York. Regulated species are legal to possess, sell, buy, propagate, and transport, but may not be knowingly introduced. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 6, § 575.4.

It is unlawful to import, transport, export, purchase, possess, sell, transfer, or release live specimens of red-eared sliders in North Carolina. Such activities may be allowed under permits issued by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to government agencies, research institutions, and retail and wholesale establishments whose primary business is providing scientific supplies for research. Facilities open to the public for education may apply for a permit to collect, receive, and possess red-eared sliders. Private individuals in possession of a red-eared slider prior to August 1, 2018 may lawfully retain, transport, transfer or export the animal. 15A N.C. Admin. Code 10B.0123.

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**North Dakota: *Unlisted***

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**Ohio: *Native Species Protection***

Red-eared sliders are a native species in Ohio and classified as “collectible reptiles.” Ohio Admin. Code 1501:31-1-02. Ohio residents may take or possess up to four total individuals of a species of collectible reptiles from the wild in Ohio. Non-residents may not take collectible reptiles from the wild. It is unlawful to buy, sell, barter, or trade any reptile taken from the wild. After taking possession of a collectible reptile, the individual must apply for a propagation license from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The license allows the holder to possess the animals and captive produced offspring. Ohio Admin. Code 1501:31-25-04.

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**Oklahoma: *Unlisted***

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**Oregon: *Public Health Restriction and Invasive Listing***

No turtle with a carapace length less than four inches may be imported into Oregon except by a governmental agency, a privately financed research group, or zoos and wildlife exhibits. Or. Admin. R. 603-011-0420.

Oregon’s prohibited species list includes all species and hybrids of pond sliders. Pond sliders are listed by family (Emydidae) and genus (Pseudemys and Trachemys) and therefore include red-eared sliders. Live wildlife listed as prohibited species may not be imported, possessed, sold, purchased, exchanged or transported in the state. Or. Admin. R. 635-056-0050.

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**Pennsylvania: *Public Health Restriction***

It is unlawful in Pennsylvania for any person to sell, hold for sale, or offer for any type of commercial or public distribution any live turtle or lot of turtles if such turtle or lot is prohibited by Federal statute or regulation, including 21 CFR § 1240.62 (the FDA regulation prohibiting sales of turtles with carapace length less than 4 inches). 35 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 1071.

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**Rhode Island: *Sales and Possession Allowed with Conditions***

Red-eared sliders may only be imported by researchers or licensed pet shops and their transportation carriers. Possession of red-eared sliders is prohibited unless the turtles are kept indoors as pets in a manner that will prevent their escape into the wild. Pet shops that sell red-eared sliders must notify purchasers of this requirement and keep a record of purchases for a minimum of three years which includes the purchaser’s name, address, telephone number, and signed statement that the purchaser acknowledges that the animal must be kept indoors. 250 R.I. Code R. 40-05-3.7.

**South Carolina: *Unlisted***

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**South Dakota: *Unlisted\** (General Prohibition on Trade)**

Red-eared sliders are not listed in South Dakota. However, there is a general prohibition on the purchase, sale, barter, and trade of any species of turtle. S.D. Admin. R. 41:07:10:04.

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**Tennessee: *Public Health Restriction***

It shall be unlawful in Tennessee to import, sell, barter or otherwise exchange or distribute to the public, any live turtle with a carapace length of less than four inches. This includes offering them for adoption or for free. A warning about the risk of salmonella must be posted conspicuously at every display of turtles for retail sale or distribution. Retail sellers must issue a sales receipt at the time of sale that has the warning printed on it or is accompanied by an informational sheet with the warning. Sellers must keep a complete record of all purchases, losses, or other dispositions of turtles. Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1200-14-01-.36.

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**Texas: *Unlisted***

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**Utah: *Unlisted***

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**Vermont: *Unlisted***

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**Virginia: *Native Species Protection***

Red-eared sliders are included on the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources List of Native and Naturalized Species. Red-eared sliders are identified as a naturalized species, meaning they are not originally native to Virginia but have wild, self-sustaining populations. 4 Va. Admin. C. 15-20-50. Red-eared sliders may not be taken or possessed in any number for private use in Virginia. 4 Va. Admin. Code 15-360-10.

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**Washington: *Public Health Restriction***

Live turtles with a carapace length of less than four inches may not be sold, held for sale, or offered for sale or distribution in Washington for the purpose of being kept as a pet. Wash. Admin. Code 246-100-191.