

Minutes from North Carolina Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC)
Policy, Regulation, and Trade (PRT) Working Group Meeting August 12, 2008
1-4pm North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) Centennial Campus

Chair: Dave Davenport- Ecoquest Travel, Inc.
Jeff Hall- NCWRC
John Groves- NC Zoological Park
Kendrick Weeks- NCWRC
Ann Somers- UNCG
Dennis Hermann- NCDOT
Tanith Tyrr- Cape Fear Serpentarium
Phil Bradley- NC Museum of Natural Sciences
Jane Anderson- NCWRC
Daron Barnes- NCWRC
Keith Farmer- NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher
David LaPlante- NC Parks and Recreation

Dave Davenport opened the meeting with agenda items:

1. Potentially Dangerous Reptiles
2. Boa/Python issues in Everglades
3. Rules and Regulation of reptiles and amphibians in NC

John Groves introduced outline of training manual for animal control and law enforcement. General consensus on quality of outline and proceeding with development of pages for the most commonly kept venomous reptiles. The question was raised about whether national PARC might also be interested in such a product. Jeff will inquire.

Dave reviewed recommendations of potentially dangerous reptile issue and action items from last meeting. Dave noted that the word “inherently” was definitely changed to “potentially” in the final PRT recommendations document from early 2007. Dave discussed inherently dangerous animal bill and how it is now dead in the legislature.

Jeff brought up new Federal study of importation of invasive animals; NCPARC Steering Committee wrote a letter indicating that it did not agree with the injurious classification of those animals on a nationwide scale.

BREAK

Jeff gave a PowerPoint presentation and review of reptile and amphibian rules and regulations in NC. He discussed the differences between General Statutes and Administrative Code, presented definitions (reptiles and amphibians are “Wildlife Resources”, not “animals” or “wildlife”), and reviewed the turtle rule, collection license, and possession regulations. He also reviewed salvage, rehabilitation, and import permits. General Statute Article 55 as well as additional laws were discussed as they pertain to reptiles and amphibians. Finally, Jeff presented the proposed changes in rules for 2009; spotted turtle language revised and importation clause added to possession permits. Suggestions from the group of ways to improve current regulations as well

as this PPT overview included: 1) need to clarify “native” species vs. subspecies (examples – California kingsnake, Pueblan milksnake, etc.), 2) need more information for the public pointing out that National Forests are Gamelands also, 3) need to point out that state parks do require separate permits for collection. The suggestion was also made that each of these regs be added to the NCPARC website. They could be added with a line or two from each reg followed with a summary and a link to the actual on-line document. The question also arose about whether alligator farms have to conform to the alligator captivity standards listed in WRC regs. This is unknown since NCDA actually governs these farms.

Next meeting planned for 10/3/08 at WRC HQ from 1-4.

ADJOURNED