

Minutes from North Carolina Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC)
Policy, Regulation, and Trade (PRT) Working Group Meeting November 25, 2008
1-4pm North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) Centennial Campus

Chair: Dave Davenport- Ecoquest Travel, Inc.
Jeff Hall- NCWRC
Kendrick Weeks- NCWRC
Ann Somers- UNCG
Tanith Tyrr- Cape Fear Serpentarium
Phil Bradley- NC Museum of Natural Sciences
Keith Farmer- NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Dave Davenport opened the meeting with agenda items:

1. Approval of last meeting minutes from October 3, 2008- *Approved*
2. Kendrick Weeks agreed to be Secretary
3. Check with National Pet Shop Association- Keith has attempted contact but has not yet spoken with a representative. Phil asked Carolina Pet to attend a meeting. PETCO did not return Tanith's calls

Jeff got a call from a parent in Charlotte about a pet shop selling *Xenopus sp.* Jeff investigated to find that distributor was unaware of North Carolina regulations regarding the sale of *Xenopus sp.*

Ann suggested we should go ahead and post some regulations on the NCPARC website

4. Discussion of 15A NCAC 10B .0123 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN SPECIES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES: Red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), brown anoles (*Anolis sagrei*), and geckos (*Hemidactylus sp.*). Dave suggested that *Hemidactylus sp.* are human commensals in colonizations and not found within habitat- not a real risk.

Jeff mentioned the recent *A. sagrei* found in Wilmington. Dave thinks that *A. sagrei* is a problem in Florida. Phil described the sale of *A. sagrei* to hobbyists as live and shipped everywhere. Dave suggested a clause to require them to be frozen for importation. Keith indicated that most colonists are probably coming from horticultural imports. Ann and Dave think that *A. sagrei* should be added. Keith thinks that it would be ineffective. Kendrick suggested we don't have enough information and need to study the problem first. Jeff Hall mentioned Todd Campbell as researcher (<http://invasions.bio.utk.edu/invaders/sagrei.html>). There was discussion about the horticulture industry and Federal regulations. Kendrick thought these might only pertain to plants. Ann asked what information was available before *Xenopus sp.* was prohibited. Discussion about biological information and policy. Tanith volunteered to talk to nurserymen. Dave suggested we should see what other states are doing first and generally concluded that we need more information. Ann thinks that we should conduct literature search to justify adding *A. sagrei*. Dave suggest tabling *A. sagrei* until policy investigation and literature search. Kendrick suggested that he and Tanith could survey nurseries in Wilmington to determine *A. sagrei* occurrence. Tanith agreed.

Dave suggested *T. s. elegans* should be added because it is well known that they are invasive but we still need a literature search. Phil agreed. Jeff suggested that enforcement would be a problem. Jeff described the rule change process. Dave said that someone needed to make a motion for anything to be approved today. Ann suggested posting the issue on the NCPARC website to ask for comments. Dave suggested that we were here to make a decision. Jeff said he would check on commissioner comments about current rule changes.

BREAK

5. Began review of current rule changes. There was some confusion about the language in 15 NCAC 10H.1301(d): “No native turtles or terrapins shall be purchased or sold without a permit.” This seems to suggest that those with fewer than five native turtles (i.e. no permit) cannot sell or buy native turtles. It was indicated that this might only applied to those who possessed more than four native turtles. Jeff said he would clarify before next meeting.

Discussed 15A NCAC 10H .1302 in regards to subspecies and color morphs. Kendrick suggested that subspecies and a wild-type vs. non-wild-type designation should be included on annual permit reporting in order to limit data for analysis. Dave sugges that it might be easy to add subspecies but not wild-type coloration. Discussion of pros and cons for each. Jeff elaborated on the policy difference between protected species (delineated to subspecies) and non-protected species (delineated to species). Jeff asked Ann if there was a Wildlife Advisory Committee position. Ann said there was not one at this time. Jeff said we should approach the subspecies issue but indicating wild-type may not be necessary.

Discussed online data entry for permitting.

Discussed 15A NCAC 10H .0302(b)(4) MINIMUM STANDARDS: Alligators.

Next meeting set for Friday, December 19, 1-4 at the WRC building in Raleigh.

ADJOURNED