



Midwest Turtle Workshop

Enhancing Partnerships to Combat Poaching and Trafficking

Schedule in **CST**

Thursday February 15, 2024

9:00 am- Welcome and Introductions

- Opening Remarks:
 - Chris Aldrich, Special Agent in Charge, US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 3

9:20 am- Collaborative Efforts to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtles

- Michael Ravesi, Wildlife Biologist, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Learn about the [Collaborative to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtles](#) (CCITT) and our efforts to work with a wide network of partners on the many aspects of the illegal trade. This session will also cover successes such as passing an AFWA resolution on Combating the Illegal Trade in Turtles.

9:50 am- Summary of the Illegal Turtle Trade in the United States

- Dr. Scott Buchanan, Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service, International Affairs

10:20 am- Summary of the Illegal Turtle Trade in Canada

- John Miller, A/Regional Intelligence Officer, Environment and Climate Change Canada

10:50 am- Break

11:00 am- Case Studies: Disease and Midwest Examples

- Ill-effects of Confiscation Events in Box Turtles (*Terrapene* sp.) and Possible Solutions to Combat Disease Events
 - Dr. Matt Allender, DVM, Director, Wildlife Epidemiology Lab, Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine
- Justus Nethero, Wildlife Investigator; Ohio Division of Wildlife

12:00- 1:00 pm- Virtual Lunch Break

1:00 pm- Law Enforcement Case Studies

- Missouri's Law Enforcement Case Studies
 - Darin Pettit, Sergeant Detective, MO Department of Conservation
 - Jeff Briggler, Herpetologist, MO Department of Conservation
- Federal Case Study and Turtle Trafficking Trends
 - Thomas Loring, Special Agent, US Fish and Wildlife Service

2:30 pm- Break

2:45 pm- Effectively Prosecuting Turtle Cases

- Ryan Connors, US Department of Justice

3:20 pm- Addressing State and Federal Confiscation Needs and Priorities

- Dr. JJ Apodaca, Executive Director, Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy
- Julie Slacum, Division Chief, Strategic Resource Conservation, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Dave Collins, Director of Animal Management and North American Programs, Turtle Survival Alliance, AZA SAFE: American Turtle Program Leader

What happens when you get confiscated turtles in your possession? Do you have a plan? This session will explore state and federal confiscation needs and priorities as well as explore work on genetic databases to help with repatriation.

4:20 pm- Wrap up

4:30 pm- Optional HerpyHour Trivia

Relax & test out your amphibian and reptile knowledge with a fun, online game of trivia with prizes! We'll be using the [Kahoot!](#) Platform.

Friday February 16, 2024

9:00 am- Welcome and Introductions

9:15 am- Legal Considerations for Turtle Conservation

- Lane Kisonak, Chief Legal Officer, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Gordon Batcheller, Executive Secretary, Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Dr. Thomas Leuteritz, Branch Chief, Conservation Science Policy, Division of Scientific Authority, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Carolyn Caldwell, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, CITES Technical Work Group Representative
- Kerry Wixted, Amphibian, Reptile & Invasive Species Program Manager, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Explore different legal frameworks for turtle conservation. What is and what is not working? What is needed? We'll have speakers talk about CITES, the patchwork of state regulations, and more. Afterwards, we'll jump into breakouts to discuss: what is the ideal legal framework for turtle conservation?

11:30- 12:30 pm- Virtual Lunch Break

12:30 pm- Integrating Social Science Perspectives

- Integrating Social Science to Address Illegal Turtle Trade
 - Emily Neidhardt-Gutierrez, US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Dr. Emily Horton, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- CCITT Human Dimensions and Communications Working Group Overview
 - Bridget Macdonald, US Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Communications
- Research Briefs: Human Dimensions of the Illegal Wildlife Trade
 - Dr. Rachel Boratto, Monitor Conservation Research Society
 - Elle J. Xu, University of Maryland
 - Zoie McMillian and Dr. Willandia Chaves, Virginia Tech

Addressing illegal wildlife trade requires a multi-pronged approach, including examining ecological and social aspects of the issue. Learn about human dimensions and how social sciences can help create successful interventions by exploring behaviors, understanding demand, and working to incorporate demand reduction strategies. In this session, you will hear from several researchers on their work ranging from criminological perspectives to behaviors relating to turtle ownership. We'll also use Mentimeter for interactive questions. Access it at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

2:00 pm- Research and Data Perspectives

- Dr. Nancy Karraker, Director of Applied Conservation, Center for Applied Fire and Ecosystem Science
- Dr. Jennifer Sevin, Director of Biological Instruction, University of Richmond

Our final session will explore aspects of research and data, including best practices for sharing sensitive data on turtle locations. Breakout sessions will allow for further discussion.

3:30 pm- Wrap up and Next Steps

Questions? Please contact:
Kerry Wixted (kwixted@fishwildlife.org)

