



1           1. ~~No nets and traps used in the harvest of turtles for~~  
2 ~~commercial purposes may have a mesh size less than three (3) inches~~  
3 ~~square. Provided that a trap or net with a mesh size of two (2) by~~  
4 ~~four (4) inches shall be deemed to comply with the provisions of~~  
5 ~~this paragraph if the trap or net contains at least eight escape~~  
6 ~~holes of not less than four (4) by four (4) inches square located on~~  
7 ~~the trap which will provide unrestricted egress for immature or~~  
8 ~~small-sized turtles;~~

9           ~~2.~~ All types of traps shall have an identification tag with the  
10 owner's name and license number attached and the name and license  
11 number of all persons authorized to operate the traps or nets;

12           ~~3.~~ 2. Aquatic turtles may be harvested for commercial purposes  
13 only from private ponds, with permission of the pond owner and from  
14 municipal lakes, with written permission of the municipal authority;

15           ~~4.~~ 3. Traps and nets must be cleaned and emptied at least once  
16 every forty-eight (48) hours;

17           ~~5.~~ 4. Any game or nongame fish trapped or netted during a  
18 turtle harvesting operation shall be immediately released to the  
19 water; and

20           ~~6.~~ 5. Legally taken nongame fish and their parts may be  
21 utilized for bait in turtle harvesting operations.

22           B. No person may take for commercial purposes by any means, or  
23 assist in any such operations, turtles or aquatic turtles from any  
24 scenic river area of this state as such areas are designated

1 pursuant to Section 1452 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes or  
2 from any major river channel specifically designated by rule by the  
3 Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission to be restricted from  
4 commercial turtle or aquatic turtle harvesting.

5 C. The Commission may promulgate other rules it deems necessary  
6 to implement the provisions of this section.

7 D. Any equipment used in violation of this section shall be  
8 confiscated and become the property of the Department or disposed of  
9 according to law.

10 E. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this  
11 section shall be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred  
12 Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or by  
13 imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed thirty  
14 (30) days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

16  
17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE, dated 02/12/2015 - DO  
18 PASS, As Coauthored.