

**481A.67 Seasons and limits — turtle harvesting restrictions.**

1. It is unlawful for a person, except as otherwise expressly provided, to take, capture, or kill fish, frogs, or turtles except during the open season established by the commission. It is unlawful during open season to take in any one day an amount in excess of the daily catch limit designated for each variety or each locality, or have in possession any variety of fish, frog, or turtle in excess of the possession limit, or have in possession any frog, fish, or turtle at any time under the minimum length or weight. The open season, possession limit, daily catch limit, and the minimum length or weight for each variety of fish, frog, or turtle shall be established by rule of the department or commission under the authority of [sections 456A.24, 481A.38, 481A.39, and 482.1](#).

2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) establishing seasons and daily catch limits for the noncommercial harvest of turtles in any waters of the state pursuant to [section 483A.28](#). Seasons established pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall not apply to the noncommercial harvest of snapping turtles.

3. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) establishing seasons and daily catch limits for the commercial harvest of turtles in any waters of the state.

[C97, §2540; SS15, §2540; C24, 27, 31, §1731, 1732, 1733; C39, §1794.029; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §109.67]

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1854; 88 Acts, ch 1216, §24](#)

[C93, §481A.67](#)

[2016 Acts, ch 1024, §1, 2](#)

Referred to in [§805.8B\(3\)\(i\)](#)

For applicable scheduled fines, see [§805.8B](#), subsection 3, paragraph i