

Ecology and Conservation of Maine's Freshwater Turtles

Derek T. Yorks

Reptile, Amphibian, and Invertebrate Group

Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bangor, ME



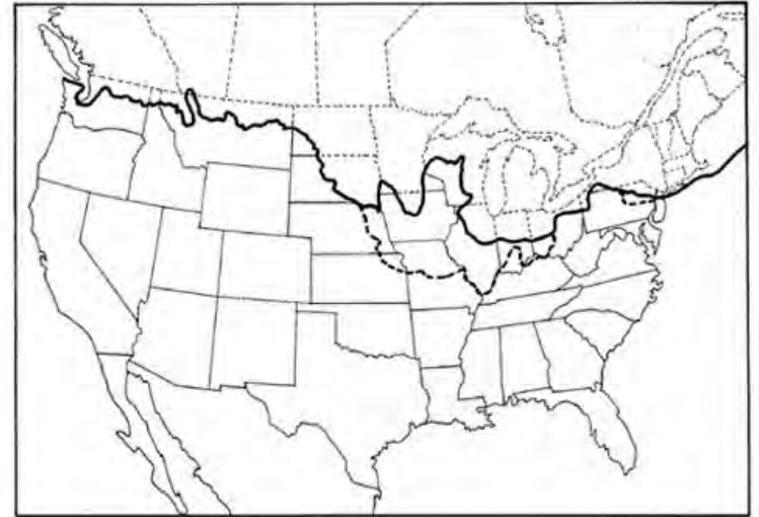
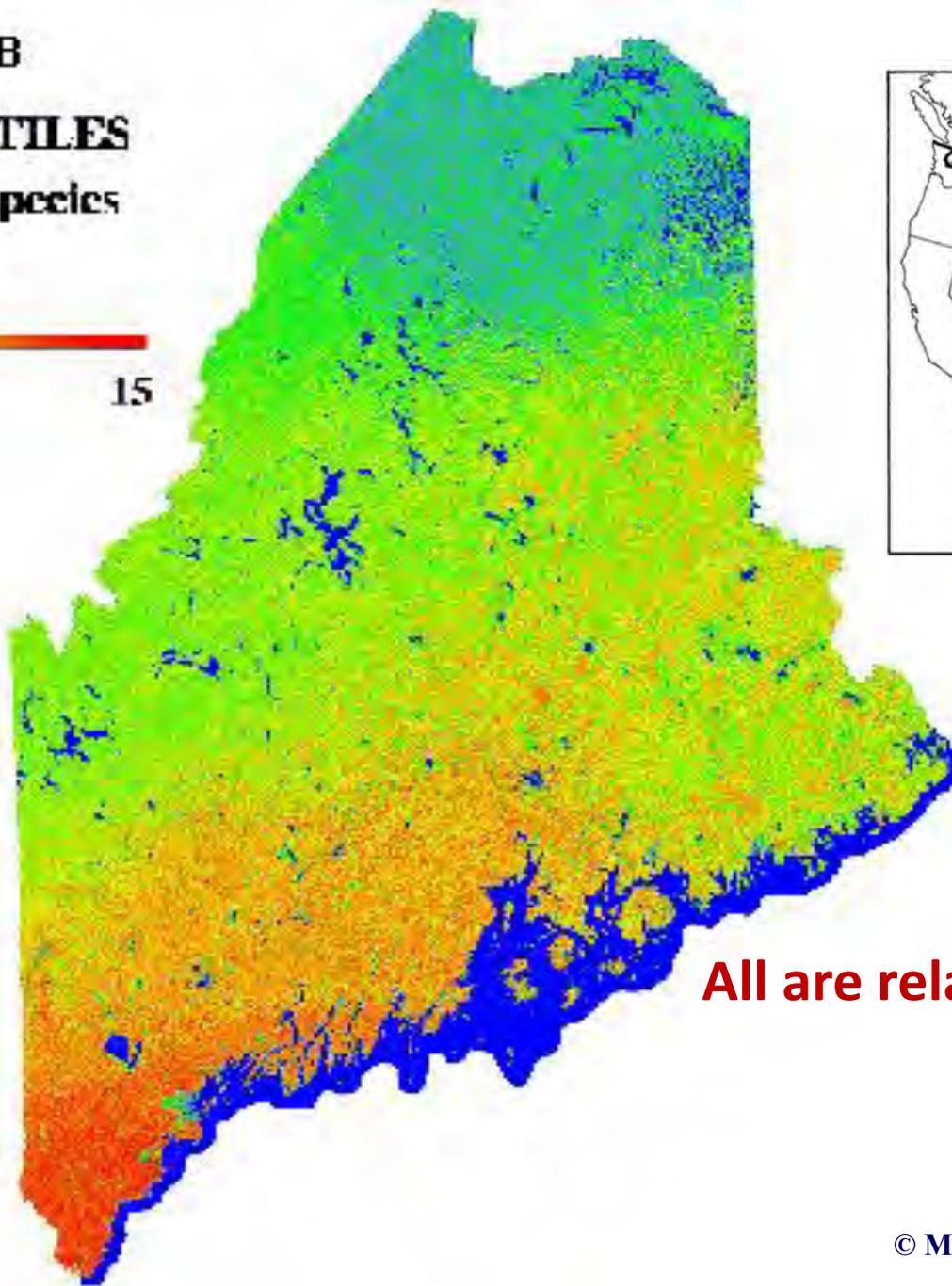
B

REPTILES

16 species



0 15



All are relatively recent colonizers!





Turtles of Maine

7 species



What's So Special About Turtles?



- On Earth for 200 million years
- Some may live to be greater than 100 yrs-old
- All of Europe: 5 species

In the United States: 56 species

- but nearly half of them are declining!

(4 of Maine's 7 species are State Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern)

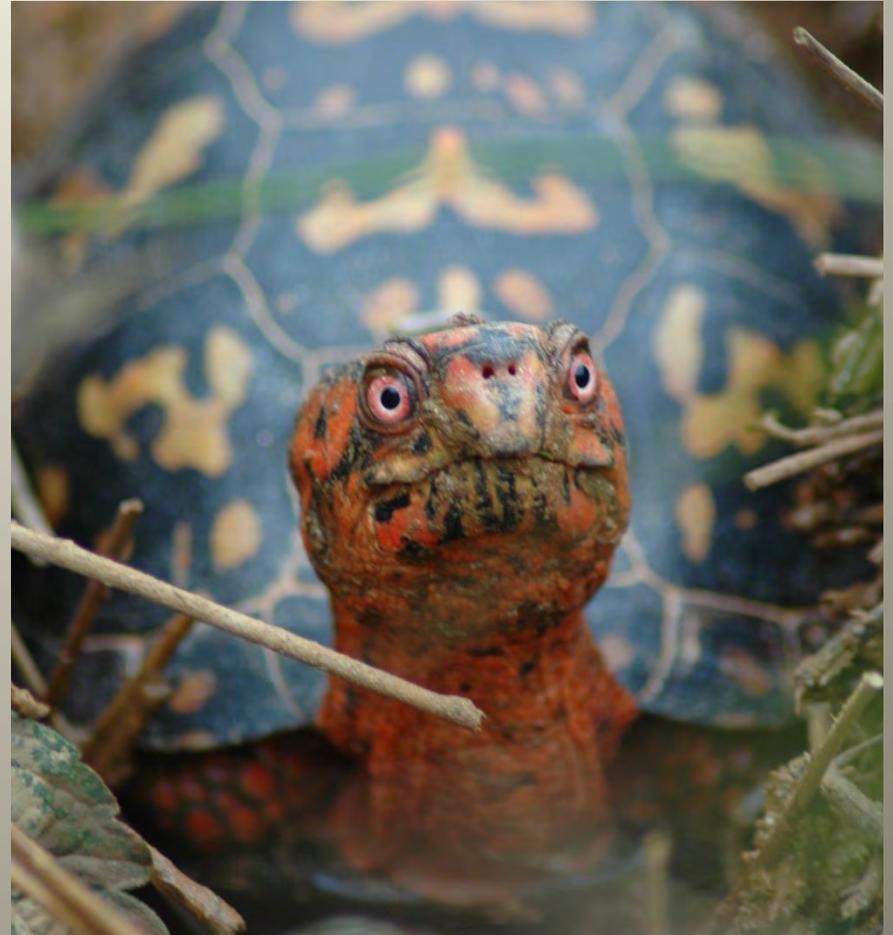
Maine's Turtles

- 7 species of turtle in Maine
 - 2 state endangered
 - 1 state threatened
 - 1 special concern



Maine's Rare Turtles

- Eastern Box Turtle –
Terrapene c. carolina
- Blanding's Turtle –
Emydoidea blandingii
- Spotted Turtle –
Clemmys guttata
- Wood Turtle –
Glyptemys insculpta



Painted turtle



Common snapping turtle



Common musk turtle



Spotted turtle



Spotted turtle



Blanding's turtle



Blanding's turtle



Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

Nest site

Foraging,
mating pools

Estivation site



Wintering wetland



0.25 to 1.5 mi / yr



© Allen Châtier

0.5 to 5 mi / yr

Wood turtle



Wood turtle



Eastern box turtle



Eastern box turtle



Red-eared slider



Threats

- Habitat loss / development
 - subsidized predators
- Roads
 - habitat fragmentation
 - increased traffic/speed
- Collection
 - pet trade
- Pollution



P. deMaynadier

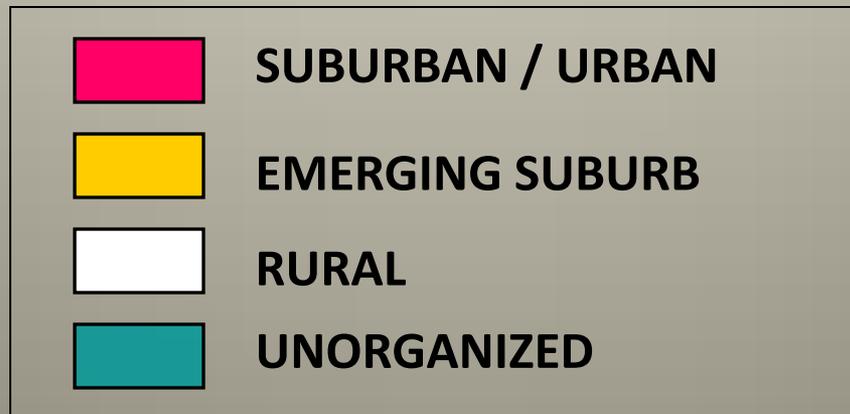
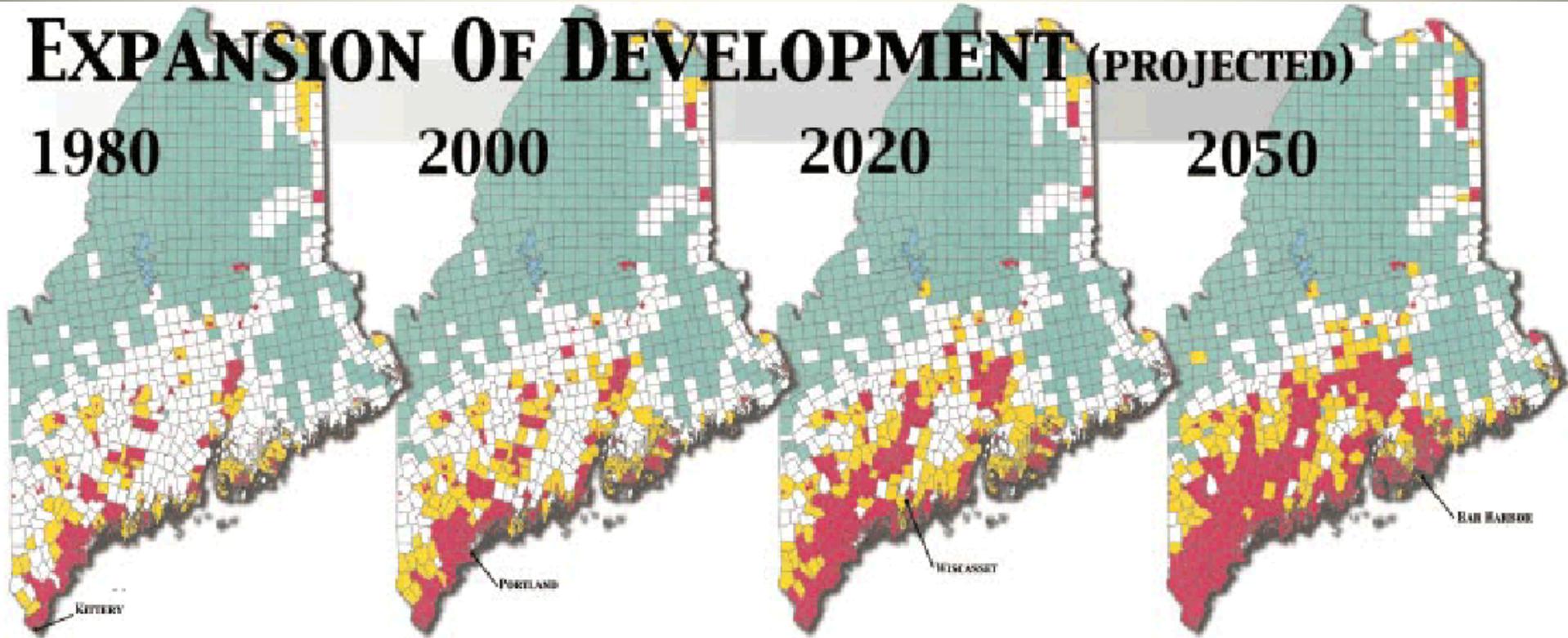
EXPANSION OF DEVELOPMENT (PROJECTED)

1980

2000

2020

20250



Current Protections

- *Maine Endangered Species Act*
- *Maine Natural Resources Protection Act & Site Location Act :*
 - known habitat
- *Significant vernal pools*



What can you do?

- Slow down & help turtles across the road
- Observe them in their habitat – and leave them there!
- Releasing pets can disrupt an ecosystem
- Support your local land trust, conservation commission, TNC, LMF, ME Audubon
 - Wetland AND upland protection



Another thing you can do... Contribute to MARAP!

- Citizen science project to document Amphibians and reptiles by township
- >10,000 records statewide
- 32 years and going strong!

Maine Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project (MARAP) Site Card

Date: Name:

Township: Address:

County: City:

Site Name: State: Zip Code: Phone:

DeLorme Map Page & Grid (e.g., 02B3): Email:

Additional Observers:

Location & Directions:
(be specific; reference mapped landmarks)

GPS Coordinates: UTM-E & Lat/lon UTM-N & Longitude datum (NAD 83 or 27)

Habitat Description:
(pipe, associated vegetation, microhabitat)

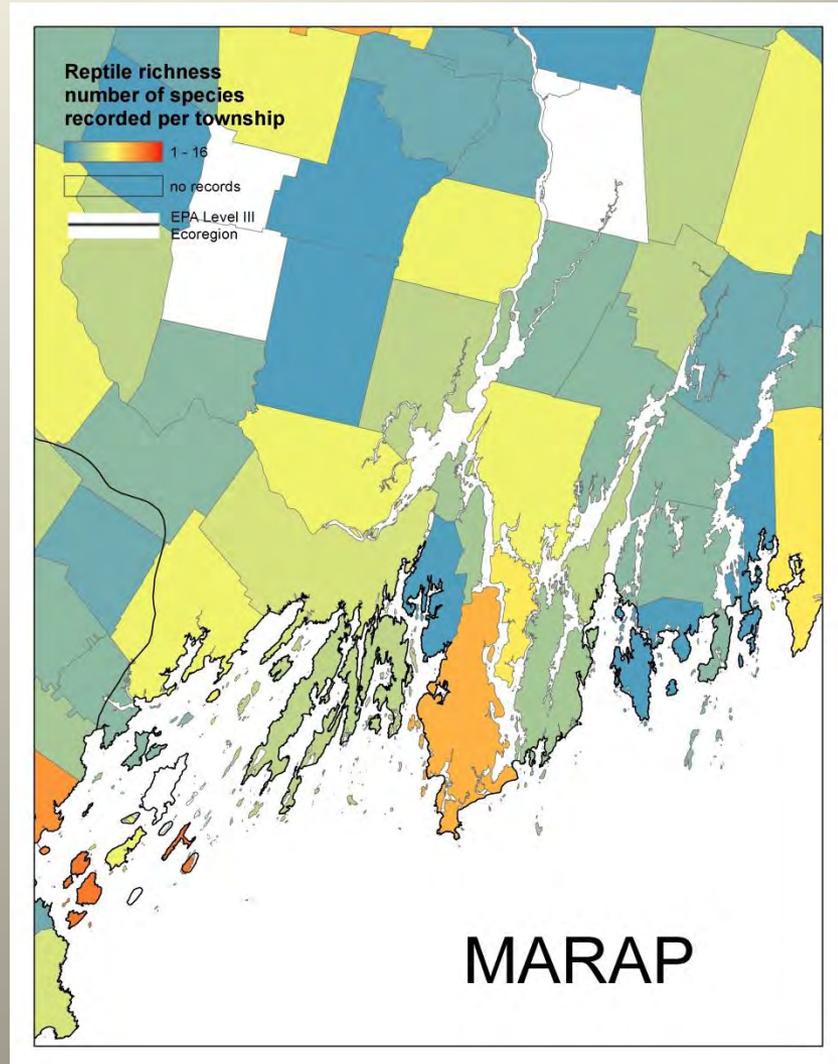
Species Name (and if observed)	Distinguishing Characteristics (that led to species identification)	Yes or No				ID Confidence (%)
		Photo*	Handled	Observed	Heard (frogs only)	
1 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Notes (Behavior, Sex, Age, Etc.)	<input type="text"/>					
2 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Notes (Behavior, Sex, Age, Etc.)	<input type="text"/>					
3 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Notes (Behavior, Sex, Age, Etc.)	<input type="text"/>					
4 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Notes (Behavior, Sex, Age, Etc.)	<input type="text"/>					
5 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Notes (Behavior, Sex, Age, Etc.)	<input type="text"/>					
6 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Notes (Behavior, Sex, Age, Etc.)	<input type="text"/>					

* When possible PLEASE provide documentation photos.

Return this form and labeled photos to:
MARAP: Reptile, Amphibian, and Invertebrate Group
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
650 State Street, Bangor, ME 04401

OR email: derek.yorks@maine.gov
or
philip.demaynadier@maine.gov

[Print Form](#)



Areas of high road mortality?



Homemade turtle crossing sign, Penobscot, ME



IFW/DOT turtle crossing sign, York, ME

MDIFW Nongame Funding



Loon License Plate (1993)



Chickadee Checkoff (1983)



Section 6 (1977) and SWG (2002)

Questions?



Derek Yorks
MDIFW, Bangor
Derek.yorks@maine.gov
941-4475

