

## Testudines

**AQUATIC SPECIAL** - Is aquatic habitat specialized?

Species	Common Name	Aquatic Special
<b>Cheloniidae</b>	<b>sea turtles</b>	
<i>Caretta c. caretta</i>	Atlantic loggerhead	3 - the loggerhead wanders widely throughout the marine waters of its range (Hoffman and Fritts 1982); it enters bays, lagoons, salt marshes, creeks, and the mouths of large rivers...hatchlings and juveniles are most often found along current fronts, downswells, or eddies associated with drifting mats of <i>Sargassum</i> (Caldwell 1969; Fletemeyer 1978; Pritchard and Trebbau 1984; Carr 1987)
<i>Chelonia m. mydas</i>	Atlantic green turtle	2 - migrates across the open seas but...juvenile development and adult foraging areas are typically quiet, shallow (3-5 m), well-lighted places...nearby reefs or rocky areas may provide resting or sleeping shelters (Ernst et al. 1994); once hatchlings enter the open sea they apparently associate with floating mats of <i>sargassum</i> (Frick 1976; Carr and Meylan 1980; Carr 1987)
<i>Eretmochelys i. imbricata</i>	Atlantic hawksbill	3 - characteristically a tropical inhabitant of shallow (<20 m) rocky places and coral reefs. It also occurs in shallow coastal waters, such as mangrove-bordered bays, estuaries, and lagoons with mud bottoms and little or no vegetation, and in small, narrow creeks and passes. It is occasionally found in deep waters, and juveniles accociate with floating patches of <i>Sargassum</i> weed (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Kemp's ridley or Atlantic ridley	1 - prefers shallow water, 11-409 m deep, usually less than 50 m deep (Fritts et al. 1983); young <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> may use <i>sargassum mats</i> or sea-grass mats for refugia and foraging (Manzella and Williams 1992)
<b>Dermochelyidae</b>	<b>leatherback sea turtles</b>	
<i>Dermochelys c. coriacea</i>	Atlantic leatherback	1 - pelagic, but occasionally enters the shallow waters of bays and estuaries (Ernst et al. 1994)
<b>Chelydridae</b>	<b>snapping turtles</b>	
<i>Chelydra s. serpentina</i>	eastern snapping turtle	3 - found in almost every kind of freshwater habitat within its range (Ernst et al 1994)

<b>Emydidae</b>	<b>pond turtles</b>	
<i>Chrysemys p. picta</i>	eastern painted turtle	3
<i>Chrysemys p. marginata</i>	midland painted turtle	3
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	spotted turtle	1 - shallow wetland habitats with soft substrate and some aquatic vegetation (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	wood turtle	2 - Drainages with hard sand or gravel bottoms are preferred over those with soft clay or muck bottoms. Moderate current and clear streams are also preferred (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	bog turtle	1 - clear, slow-moving rivulets or brooks with soft, highly organic substrates are required habitat features (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Deirochelys r. reticularia</i>	eastern chicken turtle	3 (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's turtle	2 - lives in productive, eutrophic habitats, with clean shallow water, a soft but firm, organic bottom, and abundant aquatic vegetation (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Graptemys geographica</i>	northern map turtle	2 (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Graptemys ouachitensis</i>	Ouachita map turtle	2 (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Malaclemys terrapin terrapin</i>	northern diamond-backed terrapin	2 (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Pseudemys c. concinna</i>	eastern river cooter	3 (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Pseudemys c. floridana</i>	coastal plain cooter	3 (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>	northern red-bellied cooter	2 (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Terrapene c. carolina</i>	eastern box turtle	
<i>Trachemys s. scripta</i>	yellow-bellied slider	3 (Ernst & Barbour 1972)
<i>Trachemys s. elegans</i>	red-eared slider	3 (Ernst & Barbour 1972)
<i>Trachemys s. troosti</i>	cumberland slider	3 (Ernst & Barbour 1972)
<b>Kinosternidae</b>	<b>mud and musk turtles</b>	
<i>Kinosternon s. subrubrum</i>	eastern mud turtle	1 - prefers slow-moving bodies of shallow water with soft bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Kinosternon baurii</i>	striped mud turtle	1 - most often found in quiet fresh waters at least 60 cm deep with a soft bottom (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Sternotherus minor peltifer</i>	stripeneck musk turtle	1 - occurs most commonly around snags and fallen trees, and it prefers a soft bottom (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	stinkpot or common musk turtle	Unk
<b>Trionychidae</b>	<b>softshell turtles</b>	
<i>Apalone m. mutica</i>	midland smooth softshell	1 - waterways with sandy bottoms and a few rocks or aquatic plants are preferred (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Apalone s. spinifera</i>	eastern spiny softshell	1 - a soft bottom with some aquatic vegetation seems essential, and sandbars and mud flats are usually present...the preferred microhabitat appears to be dominated by areas with much submerged brush, fallen trees, and other debris (Ernst et al. 1994)

**Aquatic Habitat Codes:** 1 = specialized (< 2 habitat types), 2 = moderate (3–5 habitat types), 3 = generalist (> 5 habitat types), Unk = unknown