

**Attachment B**  
**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Quarter: (circle one)

2020 1st  
Oct 1-Dec 31 2020

2021 2nd  
Jan 1-Mar 31 2021

2021 3rd  
Apr 1-Jun 30 2021

2021 4th  
Jul 1-Sep 30 2021

**Grant Program, Number and Title:**

Subaward Number: GSA 00041

RCN Spotted Turtle Assessment in MD/DE

**Contractor:** Salisbury University

**Project Leader:** Eric Leibgold

**Abstract:**

This quarter was the start of the last season (after the extension) of the RCN. We purchased needed supplies to start off the season and set up our final two sites and schedule. The first 4-day set of sampling occurred in our two sites and we collected DNA from three of our older sites (as the requested number of tissue samples was bumped up from 7 to 20), completing sampling at one of them and coming close on two others. In this time period, we achieved our goals of starting our 2021, field season and beginning to complete our contract.

**Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?** Yes

**Progress achieved:**

In this time period, we achieved our goals of setting up our sites for 2021, purchasing supplies to start the season and collecting DNA from 3 of 5 previous sites we revisited this quarter. The two sites for 2021 were sites selected at the suggestion of/in consultation with DNREC (Trap Pond State Park, DE and Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, DE) and plot selection was discussed with DNREC as well when plot selection occurred in 2020. We surveyed and revisited selected trap locations at Prime Hook on 1/14 and 3/5 and Trap Pond on 3/8. We then trapped four plots (5 traps each) at Trap Pond for the first of the three sampling periods in the Demographic Assessment from 3/22-3/26: two in a pond/vernal pond region in the northeast of the park and two plots in the riverine area in the southeast. Despite decent weather that week (sunny and 70's) for the slightly colder than normal weather and success finding turtles at other previous locations (see below), we did not encounter or catch any spotted turtles, only other species. Likewise, we were unsuccessful at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge when we sampled three plots of 5 traps each from 3/27-3/31. During the same time period last year, we captured 2 spotted turtles at that location and it was selected due to the presence of roadkill spotted turtles, so hopefully when the weather becomes warmer, more turtles will be captured during the second and third trapping sessions of the demographic assessment. A third potential location for a demographic or rapid assessment near Hebron, MD on Chesapeake Forest land was visually surveyed on 3/31, but despite discovery of a spotted turtle in the area as we saw posted on iNaturalist, no suitable breeding ponds were found, only shallow marshy habitat and running water. There was additional habitat that was on private property and was inaccessible. In addition to the first trapping sessions at these 2021 sites, we revisited five 2018-2019 locations to attempt to increase the DNA collected, mostly for visual surveys and hand collection. We performed visual surveys for 1-3 days at four previous sites and trapped at a 5th previous site. We searched visually for spotted turtles Assawoman Wildlife Area, DE, a location that had high raccoon activity in the past on 2/24 and 3/5, capturing and collecting DNA from 3 spotted turtles. We visually surveyed for spotted turtles at Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, MD on 3/10 and trained and showed RCN trapping protocols to refuge staff (new staff as Ali Vanvorst moved on to another position) who will be conducting trapping this season. We collected DNA from one additional turtle captured on 3/10 and Blackwater staff were able to collect DNA from 6 additional turtles during their first trapping session, bringing our DNA total at Blackwater to 19 so far. Blackwater staff also shadowed us during our first trapping session at Trap Pond. We returned to Assateague Island National Seashore, MD on 3/15 with the intent to trap for a rapid assessment for four nights, but the weather precluded trapping for the week and we only searched unsuccessfully for spotted turtles on 3/15. We will return to Assateague to trap in the next quarter. We were unsuccessful when we visually surveyed Cedar Swamp Wildlife Area, DE on 3/19. We did trap for spotted turtles on 3/31 and 4/1 at Deal Island Wildlife Area, MD and were able to capture 4 spotted turtles, bringing the total to the optimal number of 20 turtles' DNA at that site.

**Difficulties encountered in meeting goals and objectives:**

We had no difficulties with our goals other than navigating some unexpectedly colder weather. That may have reduced our trap success and definitely reduced the days that we could trap or visually survey.

**Activities anticipated next quarter:**

Next quarter is the last quarter of our contract. We anticipate no problems with competing our site surveys and collecting enough DNA at previous sites. We will make some last minute purchases (like sardines) to round out our survey needs with the expectation that we will come in slightly under budget or right on target and will easily have our data entered in a timely fashion by the end of the second quarter.

**Expected End Date:** 6/30/2021

Total life to date expense (include this quarter)	<b>17,073.78</b>
Total approved budget funds:	27,447.00
Are you within the approved budget plan and categories?	Yes

The foregoing information is accurate as of the date set forth below.

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

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