

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2019 1st **2019 2nd** 2019 3rd 2019 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN, GSA 0042, Assessment of Spotted Turtle in New Jersey

Contractor: Jason Tesauro Consulting LLC

Project Leader: Jason Tesauro

Abstract:

Visual and trap-based rapid assessment surveys were completed in Q2 at 5 sites following the Regional Spotted Turtle Working Group Protocols. Supplemental trapping was also conducted at several of the sites for additional DNA samples. Survey efforts yielded 65 turtles and 43 DNA samples.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? YES

Progress Achieved:

VRA and TRA surveys were conducted at five sites in Q2, including four sites in which surveys were initiated in Q1. As per the direction of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered Species Program, the Spotted Turtle Working Group, and WMI, one site (Sussex County) was dropped from the project so that time could be devoted towards collecting DNA samples at the two southern NJ sites (Burlington Co. & Ocean Co.), which may be of regional genetic significance. Supplemental trapping was also conducted at the Warren County, Monmouth County, and Somerset County sites to enrich the DNA sample collection. As of 30 June 2019, field sampling was completed for all five sites, and contractual DNA sample requirements were met (or exceeded) with a total of 71 blood samples collected statewide. A breakdown of Q2 survey efforts and results is as follows:

Warren County

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Visual RA survey #3: | 1 juvenile; DNA not collected |
| Supplemental trapping (8 traps x 2d): | 6 captures, 5 DNA samples |
| TOTAL CAPTURES Q1 & Q2: | 17 |
| TOTAL DNA SAMPLES Q1 & Q2: | 11 |

Somerset County

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Visual RA survey #3: | 3 captures, 2 DNA samples |
| Supplemental trapping (5 traps set for 8h): | 7 captures, 6 DNA samples |
| Non-VRA surveys by assistant surveyors: | 2 captures, 1 carcass, 2 DNA samples |
| TOTAL CAPTURES Q1 & Q2: | 30 |
| TOTAL DNA SAMPLES Q1 & Q2: | 22 |

Monmouth County

Visual RA survey #3: 0 captures
Supplemental trapping (8 traps x 5 days): 9 captures, 5 DNA samples
Incidental (non-VRA) captures: 3 captures, 3 DNA samples
TOTAL CAPTURES Q1 & Q2: **15**
TOTAL DNA SAMPLES Q1 & Q2: **13**

Burlington County

Supplemental trapping 4/17 (5 traps x 1d): 3 captures, 1 DNA sample
Supplemental trapping 4/25 (10 traps x 1d): 12 captures, 4 DNA samples
Incidental (non-VRA) captures: 3 captures, 1 DNA sample
TOTAL CAPTURES Q1 & Q2: **38**
TOTAL DNA SAMPLES Q1 & Q2: **14**

Ocean County

TRA survey: 5 captures, 5 DNA samples
Supplemental trapping 5/17 (14 traps x 1d): 7 captures, 6 DNA samples
Incidental (non-VRA) captures: 3 captures, 3 DNA sample
TOTAL CAPTURES Q1 & Q2: **12**
TOTAL DNA SAMPLES Q1 & Q2: **11**

Difficulties Encountered in Meeting Goals and Objectives: NONE

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: Preparation of final report

Expected End Date: October 2019

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$23,333.33

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$23,333.33

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? **YES**

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

JASON TESAURO CONSULTING LLC

By: 

Name: Jason Tesauro

Title: **President**

Date: **1 July 2019**