



Turtles

Turtles are beneficial scavengers that feed primarily on aquatic plants and dying fish. Turtles are not harmful to fish populations and can actually improve fishing by removing unhealthy fish. Of the 18 species of turtle found in Virginia, only the snapping turtle can become a nuisance by occasionally stealing fish bait or eating ducklings. Turtles seldom cause problems and should not be indiscriminately killed. Snapping turtles can be caught with trot lines, large minnow-type traps, rat traps, or box traps baited with fish heads, fresh meat, or watermelon rind. Snapping turtle meat is considered a delicacy if properly prepared.
