

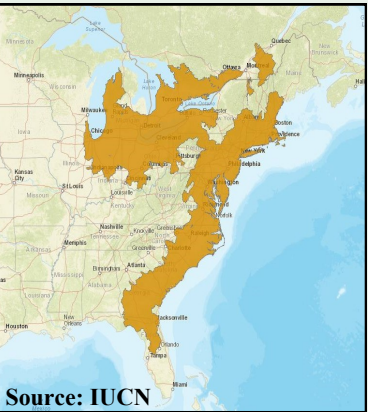
Fact Sheet **Spotted Turtles and the Department of Defense**



The Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), sometimes referred to as the "polka-dot" turtle, is a small, semi-aquatic, wetland turtle species known by its bright yellow spots on its dark shell.

Description: Adults are typically 3.5 to 4.5 inches (8.9 to 11.4 cm) in length. Spotted Turtles have a smooth black carapace (top shell) with scattered round yellow spots and a tan-to-yellow plastron (bottom shell), which may have large brown-to-black patches. The head and neck are black and may have reddish-orange to yellow blotches. The forearms may also be bright orange.

Range: Inhabits the Atlantic coastal lowlands and foothills from Maine to northern Florida. This species also occupies the Great Lakes region of Canada and the United States, occurring from the southern tip of Lake Michigan to the St. Lawrence River valley, as well as the upper reaches of the Ohio River system.



Source: IUCN

Habitat: This species occurs in a variety of wetland types, including marshes, wet pastures, drainage ditches, small streams, bogs, and flooded forests.

Behavior: Most active and encountered by military installation biologists in the spring. During the summer and winter months, most will burrow into the mud or leaf litter and remain inactive for extended periods. Spotted Turtles are omnivores, feeding on a variety of invertebrates and aquatic plants. Longevity is at least 30 years, possibly over 50 years.

Conservation Status: Spotted Turtles have declined across their range and are of conservation concern. They are designated as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in all 21 states in which they occur, considered Endangered by the IUCN, and have been petitioned for federal listing under the ESA.

Threats: Wetland habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation due to pollution, siltation, and invasive plants, road mortality, and collection for the pet trade.

Occurrence on Military Lands

Confirmed	Potential
Approximately 40 installations in the States of: DE, GA, MA, MD, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, VA	Up to 60 installations across its range.

