

**Volunteer Diamondback Terrapin Land-Based Headcount Survey
2026**

State (circle one): Virginia | Maryland | Delaware | New Jersey | New York | Connecticut | Rhode Island | Massachusetts

Date: _____ Arrival time: _____

Access location name: _____

Surveyor's Full Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Weather Conditions

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Wind speed (<i>Beaufort scale, mph</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Calm (0: 0-1 mph) | <input type="checkbox"/> Light Air (1: 1-3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Light Breeze (2: 4-7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gentle Breeze (3: 8-12) |
| | Water surface smooth and mirror-like | Scaly ripples, <u>no</u> foam crests | Small wavelets, crests glassy, <u>no</u> breaking | Large wavelets, crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps |
| Using your local weather station, provide the information below. | | | | |
| We suggest using the nearest Station on NYS Mesonet (http://www.nysmesonet.org) for sustained wind speed and air temperature. | | | | |
| Station used (if applicable): _____ | | | | |
| Sustained wind speed (mph): _____ | | | | |
| Air temperature (°F): _____ Water temperature (°F) (optional): _____ | | | | |
| Cloud coverage: | <input type="checkbox"/> None/ Clear | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 25% | <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50% | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 50% |
| Is it foggy? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| Any additional weather notes (<i>changes during survey, rain, etc.</i>): _____ | | | | |
| Survey equipment used: | <input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotting Scope | <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Terrapin Observations

| Location Coordinates | | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| If a handled GPS device is not available, we suggest using Google Maps to drop a point and obtain coordinates. | | | | |
| Latitude (Decimal Degrees i.e. 41.58743): _____ | | Coordinate Source (e.g. GPS) _____ | | |
| Longitude (Decimal Degrees i.e. -73.07451): _____ | | | | |
| Please, remember to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reach your location and stand near the water's edge in a place where you have an uninterrupted 180° view of the water. <input type="checkbox"/> Face the water, perform a slow 180° sweep from left to right (should take about one minute to complete). <input type="checkbox"/> Observe up to a 100 meters from shore (approx. the length of a football field). <input type="checkbox"/> Only count over your line of sight. <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat the sweep three times. | | | | |
| Survey Period/ Sweep | Start Time | End Time | Number of Terrapins Observed* | Notes |
| 1 | | | | |
| <i>Wait 1 minute between survey periods (sweeps).</i> | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| <i>Wait 1 minute</i> | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
| <i>*If no terrapins are seen write "no turtles" or "zero" under the "Terrapins Observed" column</i> | | | | |

Additional comments or notes:

Including travel time how many hours have you dedicated to this particular survey location today (round to the nearest 15 minutes)? _____

By signing this datasheet, I agree that I completed all the data fields following the survey protocols and certify my volunteer hours.

Surveyor's signature: _____

Date: _____

*Return data sheets within 72 hours of completing surveys by **scanning and emailing** them to John Butler at, john.butler@dec.ny.gov. Then, **mail all datasheets** to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at the end of each survey month to **Attn: John Butler, NYSDEC, 47-40 21st Street, 4th floor, Long Island City, NY 11101**. Note: Please do not fax datasheets, we need originals.*