

Introduction: Generally, well written and relevant

Line 60: ...European and eastern North American freshwater turtles

Line 77: Many freshwater turtles including... Additionally, RES tend to shift towards Herbivory as adults.

Methods: Lacking some details and would benefit from some reorganization

Line 110 – 121; add information about measurement taken and how including equipment make and model and , Also discuss marking system in this section. Additionally, add information about 2012 trapping here.

Line 117 – 119: The model described sounds as if it is a harvest model first described by Leslie and Davis (1939) and further described by DeLury (1947) and Ricker (1975). These models are discussed in Ecological Methodology by Charles Krebs (1989). A citation is needed.

Line 121: Citation for this method.

Line 123: If all analyses were performed in Program R a citation is needed. Statistical software and packages should be properly cited.

Line 126 – Provide the details on body condition calculation and citation. Why did you choose to calculate body condition in this way as opposed to other calculations of body condition? How do the other methods compare?

How may seasonality have impacted BCI? Trapping occurred at different months in 2012 than in 2011. Add this to the discussion.

Line 131: Information about marking would be better upfront alongside information about capture technique and measurement.

Line 131 – 135: Citation for the statistical approach needed.

Line 142: Provide a brief synopsis of survey methods

Results: Well written. At times discussion is included which should be removed and placed in the discussion.

Line 174: What does (or re-marked) mean? I suggest removing

Line 177 – 179: This is not a result and may be better stated in the discussion.

Line 191: How does this compare with natural growth rates for WPT? Should be part of discussion.

Line 197: Population size estimation techniques should be described in the methods.

Line 200: Provide the result of the pre-removal estimate here.

Line 201 – 203: Not a result. Should be argued in the discussion.

Line 218: was the warmer winter warm enough to allow these turtles to feed throughout the winter leading to the increase in BCI? Add this to the discussion

Discussion: Overall this is well written and tackles many of the questions posed by the researchers. A more in-depth discussion about potential other causes for the increased body condition should be included in a revised draft.

Line 298: Further explain the statement "...water was warm enough for maximal basking activity". With may freshwater turtles warm water reduces the aerial basking time due to a reduced need to elevate body temperature for increasing metabolic rates. In warm water basking aquatically at the surface can often be enough to raise body temperature.

Possibly rephrase to something like ...suggest that water temperature during our basking surveys would support maximal basking activity.

Line 328: You provide details on the effort that went into the control effort. Adding and economic cost of control to this statement would better define the effort to many readers.

References:

Line 421 (Italicize Genus species)

Figures:

Figure 1: I printed in black and white. It may be a good idea to alter the color scheme so that color printing is not necessary.

Figure 2: Also printed in black and white. So, it would be good to show sex with different shapes.

It looks as though 9/25 individuals either decreased BCI or remained stable and that the remainders had high increases in BCI. Does this vary by sex, capture site or any other variable that you looked at?

It may be good to show the average Body condition change as well in a smaller inset figure.

Figure 3: I suggest stacking these figures above one another to increase the size. Also, you should either put both figures on the same y axis scale or point out in the legend that the scales are different.

Figure 4: I suggest changing the line types to a solid and dashed line. This will make it clear even in grey scale.

Figure 5: I suggest changing the line types to a solid and dashed line. This will make it clear even in grey scale.

Supplemental Data:

Body Condition: Are any of the changes in body size significant? Several individuals lost plastron length but increased in mass (e.g. 0,14). Did the same individual person measure all turtles each year using the same type of caliper? What is the likelihood that PL decreased over time (seems unlikely)? There are also at least one individual that grew a large amount between years (e.g. 3,18). Should these individuals be removed from the data? Would it make any difference? Additionally, the data are reported in mm but there are 2 significant figures in many cases, explain?

Basking data: AirT and WaterT column headings add (C)