

# Diamondback Terrapins

## *Malaclemys terrapin*



The only North American turtle that depends exclusively on brackish waters.



Carapace is the top shell and plastron is the shell underneath.

Females are larger and mature in 8-13 years, while males mature in 4-7 years.



Maryland State Reptile



Diet consists of periwinkles and other marsh snails, roots of submerged aquatic plants, clams, crabs, and small crustaceans.



Nest temperature helps determine if hatchling will be male or female.

## in the Chesapeake Bay



Eggs are incubated 55-100 days before hatchlings emerge.



Diamondback terrapins can live to be over 35 years old.