



Patuxent Science Meeting 2004 Poster Abstract

USGS PWRC studies on the Diamondback terrapin in the Chesapeake Bay - 2003

Paula F.P. Henry, G.Michael Haramis and Daniel D. Day

The USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center is conducting large scale field studies along several fronts to collect biological data on the terrapin life history, and to evaluate factors, such as commercial crabbing, increased predator presence, shoreline development that may be contributing to terrapin decline. Beach shoreline and island habitats are being monitored for nesting and evaluating land use practices on terrapin activities and population viability. Mark-recapture studies are being conducted with terrapin retrieved in winter hibernacula, as well as caught near shore and within marsh and tidal guts throughout their mating, nesting and hatchling seasons. This information is needed to determine what the management actions should be taken to most effectively provide protection for the species long term.