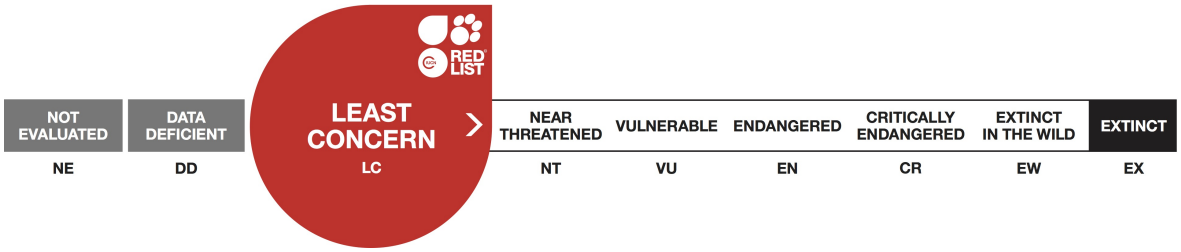
The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™
ISSN 2307-8235 (online)
IUCN 2019: T46583A3009637
Scope: Global
Language: English

Alligator mississippiensis, American Alligator

Assessment by: Elsey, R., Woodward, A. & Balaguera-Reina, S.A.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

Citation: Elsey, R., Woodward, A. & Balaguera-Reina, S.A. 2019. *Alligator mississippiensis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019: e.T46583A3009637. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

Copyright: © 2019 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale, reposting or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission from the copyright holder. For further details see Terms of Use.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the IUCN Global Species Programme, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and The IUCN Red List Partnership. The IUCN Red List Partners are: Arizona State University; BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International; NatureServe; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Texas A&M University; and Zoological Society of London.

If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with feedback so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Crocodylia	Alligatoridae

Taxon Name: *Alligator mississippiensis* (Daudin, 1802)

Synonym(s):

- *Crocodilus mississipiensis* Daudin, 1802

Common Name(s):

- English: American Alligator, Gator, Mississippi Alligator

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern ver 3.1

Year Published: 2019

Date Assessed: October 7, 2018

Justification:

The American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) occupies all of its historical range at or close to carrying capacity. The population is abundant and is currently considered to be stable (or growing) at between 0.75 and 1.06 million adults that are well protected and managed. Sustainable use programmes for this species are in place with well implemented monitoring programmes. Therefore, it remains in the Least Concern category.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

1996 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1996.RLTS.T46583A11061981.en

Geographic Range

Range Description:

The breeding range of the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) is distributed in southeastern United States of America in the states of Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Within this range, *A. mississippiensis* inhabit freshwater swamps, lakes, marshes and streams. They also inhabit brackish water habitats and, although they have a low tolerance for salt water, they will occasionally use marine environments for feeding (Rosenblatt and Heithaus 2011).

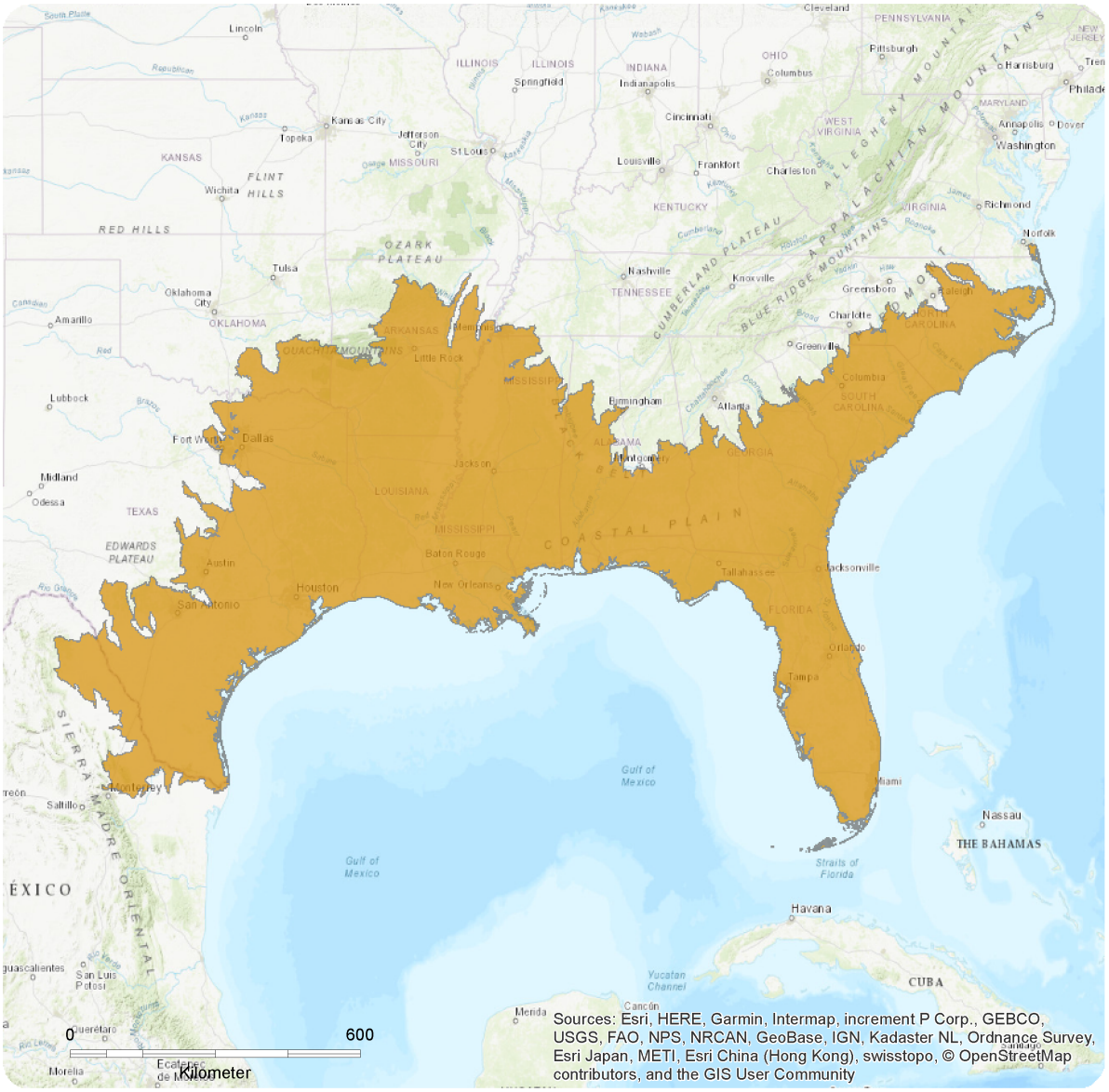
Country Occurrence:

Native: United States

© The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Alligator mississippiensis – published in 2019.
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

Distribution Map

Alligator mississippiensis

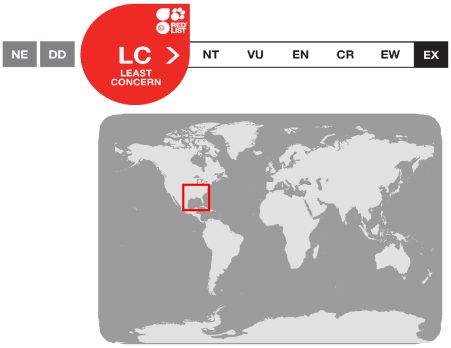


Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:

Elsey, R. & Woodward, A.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

© The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Alligator mississippiensis – published in 2019.
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

Population

The American alligator is an outstanding example of the application of sustainable use for the successful conservation of a crocodilian species. Although heavily exploited since the 1800s, and classified as endangered in the 1960s, populations responded well to Federal and State laws in the United States, enacted during the early 1970s to prohibit illegal trade in alligator skins. Subsequent implementation of management programmes throughout the alligator's range have further enhanced population recovery. Extensive surveys of alligator populations have been undertaken throughout the species' range. Annual monitoring of numerous localities is conducted as part of sustainable use programmes in most range states. Overall, alligator populations are healthy. Populations remain in most historical localities, and the species is widely distributed and abundant throughout its range. Populations in the majority of surveyed locations are stable or growing, even under the imposition of sustainable harvests (see accounts and references in Use and Trade section below). Oklahoma is the only State that restricts management of alligators to protection-only. Owing to increasing alligator populations and expanding human populations, programmes to control alligators that pose a threat to people or domestic animals (termed "nuisance" alligators) are an integral part of alligator management programmes (Woodward and David 1994, King and Elsey, 2014). The current total wild population is estimated to be 3-4 million non-hatchling alligators. Survey results suggest approximately 26.5% of these are adult sized (Woodward *et al*. 1992).

Current Population Trend: Increasing

Habitat and Ecology **(see Appendix for additional information)**

The ecology of *A. mississippiensis* is one of the best-known of all crocodilian species (see Joanen and McNease 1987; Mazzotti and Brandt 1994). Maximum adult sizes rarely exceed 4.5 m total length (TL) for males and 3.0 m TL for females (Woodward *et al.* 1995; Brunell *et al.* 2015). The name "alligator" presumably derives from a corruption of the Spanish word "el lagarto". The work of McIlhenny (1935) in Louisiana was among the first to document some of the remarkable aspects of the natural history of this species. Studies on alligator social behaviour have demonstrated a remarkable degree of complexity in the species' ability to communicate vocally, through bellows and headslaps, and visually through a complex series of body postures (Garrick *et al*. 1978; Vliet 1989, 2001). Females become sexually mature at 1.8-2.1 m TL and 10-16 years of age depending on climate and habitat productivity (Joanen and McNease 1989; Woodward *et al*. 1992; Wilkinson *et al.* 2016). Courtship and mating take place during the spring (April-May) warming period. Nest construction and egg-laying occur in June and early July (Joanen and McNease 1989; Woodward *et al.* 1989). Females construct a mound nest of vegetation or peat and lay an average of 30-50 eggs, depending on age and size of the female, and habitat quality. Incubation of eggs takes 63-84 days, depending on temperature (Lang and Andrews 1994), and young hatch in late August or early September. Females typically open the nest to help the young emerge, and will remain near the pod of hatchlings for up to 9 months and sometimes longer. In some cases, hatchlings overwinter with the female in dens, a burrow they excavate in thick vegetation or mud. In some habitats, alligators use dens as refuges during droughts or winter freezes for protection against severe weather conditions. In marsh ecosystems, alligators create and maintain small ponds, called "alligator holes", which play an important ecological role by providing both wetter and drier habitats for alligators and other organisms (Campbell and Mazzotti 2004). Alligators are one of the most temperate species of crocodilians, and are known to survive short spells of below-freezing weather by resting in shallow water with their snouts at the surface, thus keeping a breathing hole open in the surrounding

© The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Alligator mississippiensis – published in 2019.
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

ice (Brisbin *et al*. 1982).

Systems: Terrestrial, Freshwater

Use and Trade

Sustainable harvest management programmes have been operating in Louisiana, Florida and Texas for many years. More recently, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas have implemented sustainable harvest programs for larger alligators. Louisiana, Florida and Texas allow the collection of wild eggs for captive rearing and harvest (ranching). Farming and ranching are now being carried out on a large scale, particularly in Louisiana and Florida. Stocks in over 100 commercial farms and ranches throughout the country are high, with over 923,000 alligators on farms in Louisiana alone in 2016. Captive breeding (farming) produces about 45,000 hatchlings annually. Commercial production of skins is highly regulated with a coordinated system of permits, licenses, periodic stock inventories, ranch inspections, and rigorous tagging and export permit requirements. Louisiana: Utilization is primarily in the form of egg collection for ranches and a managed hunt that utilizes seasonal habitat segregation of female alligators into less accessible parts of the range to focus the hunt on males (65-75% of the harvest; Elsey *et al*. 1994, 2004). The wild harvest typically generates 30,000-35,000 skins annually. Hunting quotas are controlled by allocating a number of tags to each licensed hunter, based on the area and quality of alligator habitat and population estimates based on aerial nest surveys. Egg collection from private and state-owned lands has typically provided 350,000-500,000 eggs annually to ranches in recent years; although ideal habitat conditions led to ranching of over 616,000 eggs in 2016. Ten percent of the animals commercially ranched (~1.2 m TL) are required to be returned to the wild. Skin production from ranches has ranged from 250,000- 300,000 per year in recent years. Florida: The Florida programme includes farming, hunting and nuisance alligator control, as well as egg and hatchling harvests for ranching. Controlled hunting and egg collection on both private and public lands are based on harvest allocations generated from annual spotlight surveys and nest counts for each area (David *et al*. 1996; Dutton *et al*. 2002). Long-term studies on harvested wetlands demonstrate that alligator populations remain stable when up to 6% of alligators >1.8 m TL are harvested annually (Woodward *et al.* 1992) or up to 50% of located nests are collected for ranching (Rice *et al.* 1999). Harvest quotas based on annual monitoring of population density is an integral part of the programme. Annual production of skins in Florida is approximately 20,000 from wild alligators and 30,000 from farming/ranching. In recent years, 50,000-100,000 eggs and hatchlings have been transferred to farms in other range states for rearing and harvest. Other states: Texas allows wild harvest of up to 2000 larger alligators per year, and egg collection for ranching, which results in an average annual production of about 15,000 skins. South Carolina's programme allows controlled hunting on private lands (Rhodes 1996, 2002) and public waters. Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama and Arkansas have also conducted successful regulated hunts in recent years. In most range states, nuisance alligator control is achieved by licensed trappers who, acting under the direction of state wildlife agencies, respond to public complaints of nuisance alligators (Woodward and David 1994, King and Elsey 2014). Nuisance alligators are captured or trapped, and in most instances killed and their skin and meat sold to defray costs. These programmes have converted an expensive animal control programme into a mostly self-financed public service that provides increased safety to the public who live or recreate in alligator habitat. Sustainable use of alligators in the USA generates more than US100 million dollars annually at the raw product level, providing a substantial incentive for the public to retain habitat and live with alligators. Fees from the regulatory system provide funding for management, regulation, enforcement, and research programmes on alligators.

© The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Alligator mississippiensis – published in 2019.
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The main threats to alligators are habitat degradation due to expanding agriculture and residential development, nutrient and chemical pollution (Woodward *et al.* 2011), saltwater intrusion and flooding, and water diversion (Mazzotti *et al.* 2009). Several hurricanes (Katrina and Rita in 2005 and Gustav and Ike in 2008) had short-term negative effects on alligators in coastal Louisiana and Texas, but this resilient species rapidly recovered to normal population distribution and abundance (Elsey *et al*. 2006, 2008). Human-alligator conflict is arguably a threat to alligator conservation efforts.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Alligators are listed on Appendix II of CITES and as Threatened on the US Endangered Species Act. International trade is regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through CITES. However, on-the-ground conservation and management is delegated to each U.S. state which sets protective and harvest regulations. The alligator benefits from a very large number of protected habitats in state and national parks and other protected areas, but a large proportion of the population occurs in unprotected habitat and on privately-owned lands. Conservation has been achieved by protecting key habitat, regulating harvest at sustainable levels and providing economic incentives for private land-owners to maintain habitat. A constituency of individuals and business interests that derive benefit from alligators support their conservation and provides funding, both directly and by use and access fees, to support conservation. Effective management of 'nuisance alligators' has also broadened public support and tolerance of alligators, despite instances of alligator predation on pets, livestock and occasionally humans. Recommendations for research and conservation to address current and future threats include:

1. **Investigations on the effects of water management in the Everglades ecosystem:** The construction of a network of canals in the greater Everglades ecosystem of Florida during the early part of the 1900s altered hydrological patterns and the long-term productivity of alligators in that ecosystem. Alligator ecology investigations, as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, have been conducted since the 1990s and are still underway to measure the long-term effects of hydrological restoration of this ecosystem (Mazzotti *et al.* 2009).

2. **Research on human dimensions in alligator conservation**: Alligators present a bone fide safety threat to humans and their domestic animals. State alligator management programmes have been challenged in recent years with trying to maintain public safety while keeping alligator populations at levels that conserve the species and allow sustainable harvests for commercial and recreational purposes. Research into approaches to optimize the ecological, aesthetic, and economic values of alligators while maintaining public safety is needed.

3. **Investigations on population biology**: The presence of healthy alligator populations, and the availability of institutional and financial resources, have led to numerous investigations of alligator biology over many years. Although the American alligator is the most thoroughly studied of all crocodilians, we still know relatively little about its population dynamics in the wild. A better understanding of the population ecology of this species would not only benefit the management of alligators but other large crocodilian species as well. These investigations are facilitated and financed by the presence of management programmes such as cropping and ranching, and are currently underway in several states. For example, a recent long-term study on growth and reproductive lifespan demonstrated female alligators can nest for up to 46 years, and that alligators commonly live to 50 and

© The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Alligator mississippiensis – published in 2019.
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

can possibly over 70 years (Wilkinson *et al.* 2016).

4. **Research on husbandry techniques:** Because of the extensive commercial ranching and farming industry in the USA, the American alligator is a prime candidate for research on captive husbandry. Incubation and rearing techniques need to be improved to increase the efficiency of the alligator ranching industry. Extensive research on these topics is currently underway, particularly in Louisiana (Reigh and Williams 2016) and Florida.

5. **Research on international market dynamics of alligator skin prices:** The economic stability of state alligator management programmes is largely dependent on revenues generated from the sale of skins and meat from harvested alligators. Low skin prices over the past several years have constrained alligator farming, wild harvest, and nuisance control enterprises, jeopardizing the ability of states to maintain alligator management and conservation programmes at optimum levels. A better understanding of alligator skin production supply chains, as well as supply and demand dynamics. will help both government and private participants in alligator management to understand and adapt to changing economic conditions.

Credits

Assessor(s): Elsey, R., Woodward, A. & Balaguera-Reina, S.A.

Reviewer(s): Isberg, S., Ross, J.P., Manolis, C. & Webb, G.J.W.

Contributor(s): Gross, B.

Bibliography

Brisbin Jr, I.L., Standora, E.A. and Vargo, M.J. 1982. Body temperature and behavior of American alligators during cold winter weather. *American Midland Naturalist* 107: 209-218.

Brunell, A.M., Rainwater, T.R., Sievering, M. and Platt, S.G. 2015. A new record for the maximum length of the American alligator. *Southeastern Naturalist* 14: N38-N43.

Campbell, M.R. and Mazzotti, F.J. 2004. Characterization of natural and artificial alligator holes. *Southeastern Naturalist* 3: 583-594.

David, D., Brunell, D., Carbonneau, D., Dutton, H., Hord, L., Wiley, N. and Woodward, A. 1996. Florida's alligator management program, an update 1987-1995. 13th Working Meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group: 410-428. Gland, Switzerland.

Dutton, H.J., Brunell, A.M., Carbonneau, D.A., Hord, L.J., Stiegler, S.G., Visscher, C.H., White, J.H. and Woodward, A.R. 2002. Florida's alligator management program: an update 1987 to 2001. 16th Working Meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group: 23-30. Gland, Switzerland.

Elsey, R.M. and Kinler, N. 2004. Louisiana's alligator program: adapting management as populations recover and risk of unsustainable use decreases. 17th Working Meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Crocodiles: 92-101. Gland, Switzerland.

Elsey, R.M., Joanen, T. and McNease, L. 1994. Louisiana's alligator research and management program: an update. 12th Working Meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group: 199-229. Gland, Switzerland.

Elsey, R.M., Kinler, N., Lance, V. and Merchant, M. 2006. Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) in Louisana. 19th Working Meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Crocodiles: 134. Gland, Switzerland.

Elsey, R.M., Lance, V.A., Trosclair III, P.L. and Merchant, M. 2008. Effect of Hurricane Rita and a severe drought on alligators in southwest Louisiana. 19th Working Meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Crocodiles: 134. Gland, Switzerland.

Garrick, L., Lang, J. and Herzog, H.A. 1978. Social signals of adult American alligators. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 160: 155-192.

IUCN. 2019. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2019-2. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 04 July 2019).

Joanen, T. and McNease, L. 1987. The management of alligators in Louisiana, USA. In: Webb, G.J.W., Manolis, S.C. and Whitehead, P.J. (eds), *Wildlife Management: Crocodiles and Alligators*, pp. 33-42. Surrey Beatty and Sons, Sydney.

Joanen, T. and McNease, L. 1989. Ecology and physiology of nesting and early development of the American alligator. *American Zoologist* 29: 987-998.

King, R. and R. M. Elsey. 2014. Louisiana’s nuisance alligator program. 23rd Working Meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Crocodiles: 163-181. Gland, Switzerland.

Lang, J.W. and Andrews, H.V. 1994. Temperature-dependent sex determination in crocodilians. *Journal of Experimental Zoology* 270: 28-44.

Mazzotti, F.J. and Brandt, L.A. 1994. Ecology of the American alligator in a seasonally fluctuating environment. In: S.M. Davis and J.C. Ogden (eds), *Everglades: The Ecosystem and its Restoration*, pp.

485-505. St. Lucie Press, Delray Beach, Florida.

Mazzotti, F.J., Best, G.R., Brandt, L.A., Cherkiss, M.C., Jeffery, B.M. and Rice, K.G. 2009. Alligators and crocodiles as indicators for restoration of Everglades ecosystems. *Ecological Indicators* 9S: S137-S149.

McIlhenny, E.A. 1935. *The Alligator's Life History*. The Christopher Publishing House, Boston.

Reigh, R.C. and Williams, M.B. 2016. Feed intake and length-weight relationship of captive American alligator fed a compounded diet. *World Aquaculture*: 63-65.

Rhodes, W. 1996. South Carolina alligator report. *Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter* 16(1): 20-21.

Rhodes, W.E. 2002. Differential harvest of American alligators on private lands in coastal South Carolina. Proceedings of the 16th Working Meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group: 75-80. Gland, Switzerland.

Rice, K.G., Percival, H.F., Woodward, A.R. and Jennings, M.L. 1999. Effects of egg and hatchling harvest on American alligators in Florida. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 63: 1193-1299.

Rosenblatt, A.E. and Heithaus, M.R. 2011. Does variation in movement tactics and trophic interactions among American alligators create habitat linkages? *Journal of Animal Ecology* 80: 786-798.

Vliet, K. 1989. Social displays of the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). *American Zoologist* 29: 1019-1031.

Vliet, K.A. 2001. Courtship behaviour of American alligators, *Alligator mississippiensis*. In: G.C. Grigg, F. Seebacher, and C.E. Franklin (eds), *Crocodilian Biology and Evolution*, pp. 383-408. Surrey Beatty & Sons, Chipping Norton.

Wilkinson, P.M., Rainwater, T.R., Woodward, A.R., Leone, E.H. and Carter, C. 2016. Determinate growth and reproductive lifespan in the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*): evidence from long-term recaptures. *Copeia* 104: 843-852.

Woodward, A.R. and David, D.N. 1994. Alligators. In: S.E. Hygnstrom, R.M. Timm and G.E. Larson (eds), *Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage*, pp. F1-6. University of Nebraska: Lincoln, USA.

Woodward, A.R., Jennings, M.L. and Percival, H.F. 1989. Egg collecting and hatch rates of American alligator eggs in Florida. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 17: 124-130.

Woodward, A.R., Moore, C.T. and Delany, M.F. 1992. Experimental alligator harvest. Final Report, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, USA.

Woodward, A.R., Percival, H.F., Rauschenberger, R.H., Gross, T.S., Rice, K.G. and Conrow, R. 2011. Abnormal alligators and organochlorine pesticides in Lake Apopka, Florida. In: J.E. Elliott, C.A. and C. Morrissey (eds), *Wildlife Ecotoxicology: Forensic Approaches, Emerging Topics in Ecotoxicology*, pp. 153-187. Springer-Verlag, New York, USA.

Woodward, A.R., White, J.H., and Linda, S.B. 1995. Maximum size of the alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). *Journal of Herpetology* 29(4): 507-513.

Citation

Elsey, R., Woodward, A. & Balaguera-Reina, S.A. 2019. *Alligator mississippiensis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019: e.T46583A3009637. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

Disclaimer

To make use of this information, please check the Terms of Use.

External Resources

For Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website.

© The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Alligator mississippiensis – published in 2019.
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

Appendix

Habitats

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.1. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	Resident	Suitable	Yes
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.2. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks	Resident	Marginal	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.4. Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands	Resident	Suitable	Yes
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.5. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	Resident	Suitable	Yes
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.6. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	Resident	Marginal	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.7. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	Resident	Suitable	Yes
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.8. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	Resident	Marginal	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.9. Wetlands (inland) - Freshwater Springs and Oases	Resident	Marginal	-
12. Marine Intertidal -> 12.5. Marine Intertidal - Salt Marshes (Emergent Grasses)	Passage	Marginal	-
13. Marine Coastal/Supratidal -> 13.4. Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes	Resident	Suitable	Yes
15. Artificial/Aquatic & Marine -> 15.1. Artificial/Aquatic - Water Storage Areas (over 8ha)	Resident	Suitable	-
15. Artificial/Aquatic & Marine -> 15.9. Artificial/Aquatic - Canals and Drainage Channels, Ditches	Resident	Suitable	-

Threats

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		

© The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Alligator mississippiensis – published in 2019.
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.2. Commercial & industrial areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.4. Storms & flooding	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.5. Other impacts	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.3. Agro-industry farming	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.3. Agro-industry grazing, ranching or farming	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.4. Marine & freshwater aquaculture -> 2.4.2. Industrial aquaculture	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.3. Persecution/control	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.2. Dams & water management/use -> 7.2.1. Abstraction of surface water (domestic use)	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.2. Dams & water management/use -> 7.2.2. Abstraction of surface water (commercial use)	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation

7. Natural system modifications -> 7.2. Dams & water management/use -> 7.2.3. Abstraction of surface water (agricultural use)	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation
9. Pollution -> 9.3. Agricultural & forestry effluents -> 9.3.3. Herbicides and pesticides	Ongoing	Minority (50%) Negligible declines Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality

Conservation Actions in Place

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: Yes
Systematic monitoring scheme: Yes
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Invasive species control or prevention: Unknown
In-Place Species Management
Harvest management plan: Yes
Successfully reintroduced or introduced beningly: No
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No
In-Place Education
Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: Yes
Included in international legislation: Yes
Subject to any international management/trade controls: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Actions Needed
2. Land/water management -> 2.3. Habitat & natural process restoration
4. Education & awareness -> 4.2. Training
4. Education & awareness -> 4.3. Awareness & communications

© The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Alligator mississippiensis – published in 2019.
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

Research Needed

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
3. Monitoring -> 3.3. Trade trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km²): 10698
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km²): 2105375
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Continuing decline in number of locations: No
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: No
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 70
Population
Number of mature individuals: 750000-1060000
Continuing decline of mature individuals: No
Extreme fluctuations: No
Population severely fragmented: No
No. of subpopulations: 1
Continuing decline in subpopulations: No
Extreme fluctuations in subpopulations: No
All individuals in one subpopulation: Yes
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: No
Generation Length (years): 25
Movement patterns: Not a Migrant

© The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Alligator mississippiensis – published in 2019.
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-2.RLTS.T46583A3009637.en

The IUCN Red List Partnership



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the IUCN Global Species Programme, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and The IUCN Red List Partnership.

The IUCN Red List Partners are: Arizona State University; BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International; NatureServe; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Texas A&M University; and Zoological Society of London.