Abstract Draft

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In the Northeastern U.S., turtles are routinely confiscated from trade routes after being illegally harvested from their natural habitats. The origins, health and genetic make-up of these turtles are often unknown, which makes returning individuals to their original population difficult. To determine what would the best thing to do with these turtles once they are in our possession, I used structured decision to conduct my research. I performed many informative interviews with stakeholders to gain perspective and to construct the decision tree. This tree linked the decisions made from all these stakeholders that a turtle may encounter as it makes its way through the trade like State law enforcement, postal workers and Zoos. Each choice the person makes effects the next and so on. I want to link their decisions to see which route leads to the ultimate survival of the turtles.