



## **Notice of Horseshoe Crab Public Informational Meeting February 20, 2020**

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (Department) is holding a public informational meeting to provide information on the current status of horseshoe crab and to gather input on **potential changes to regulation of the commercial fishery for horseshoe crab**. The meeting will be held on **February 20 at 7:00 PM** in the Boating Education Classroom ("back building") at DEEP Marine Headquarters, 333 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT.

Atlantic coast fisheries for horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) are managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), an interstate fisheries management body comprised of equal representation from each Atlantic coast state. In 2019, ASMFC completed a scientific assessment of various coastal horseshoe crab populations or "stocks", and determined that the stock in the "New York" region (Connecticut, New York, and northern New Jersey) was in poor condition. In response to the New York region finding, the ASMFC Horseshoe Crab Management Board requested that Connecticut and New York take regulatory actions to constrain their respective horseshoe crab fisheries (New Jersey's horseshoe crab fishery has been closed since 2008).

A primary purpose of this public informational meeting is to gather public input on what regulatory action the Department should take in response to the request from ASMFC to change management of the horseshoe crab fishery in Connecticut. **This is not a formal regulatory public hearing – the department has not yet formally proposed any changes to horseshoe crab regulations**. The department's intent in holding this meeting is to give the public an opportunity to provide input prior to initiation of a formal regulation-making process.

Additional information is available in a Public Information Document, available here:

[https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/commercial/CT\\_DEEP\\_Horseshoe\\_Crab\\_Public\\_Information\\_Document\\_2020.pdf](https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/commercial/CT_DEEP_Horseshoe_Crab_Public_Information_Document_2020.pdf)

**Any individuals or organizations that wish to provide written comment** can do so by sending an e-mail to [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov) or by sending a letter to DEEP Marine Fisheries at P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371.

For further information, contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program by email at [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov), by mail at P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or by telephone at 860.434.6043 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

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