



Horseshoe Crab Public Input Deadline March 6, 2020

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (Department) recently held a public informational meeting on February 20th 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 Department requests that any individuals who would like to provide additional input on this issue do so by providing written comment by March 6, 2020** (see below for instructions on how to submit written comment). Note that this is not a formal public comment period pursuant to a formal regulatory process – the Department has not yet formally proposed any changes to horseshoe crab regulations. The department’s intent in holding the recent public informational meeting and providing this opportunity for additional comment is to give the public an opportunity to provide input prior to initiation of a formal regulation-making process.

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).

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

Any individuals or organizations that wish to provide written comment can do so by sending an e-mail to 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, 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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