



Notice to Horseshoe Crab Fishermen

Changes to horseshoe crab fishing rules in Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 26-159a-17 were approved by the Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Regulation Review Committee on April 26, 2022 and were finalized by the Secretary of State on May 11, 2022. The new regulations delay the opening of the commercial horseshoe crab season (previously May 22nd) until three days after the last new or full moon (whichever comes later) in May, implement a 5-day "lunar closure" centered on the first new or full moon (whichever comes first) in June and reduce the daily hand-harvest possession limit from 500 to 150 crabs. The existing Horseshoe Crab Hand Harvest License Endorsement requirement, closed areas, season closure date of July 8th and weekend closures (6:00 PM on Friday through 6:00 PM on Sunday) remain in place.

2022 Commercial Horseshoe Crab Season

For 2022, the horseshoe crab season will open on June 2nd (three days following the new moon on May 30th) and the lunar closure will be in effect from June 12th – 16th, inclusive (centered on the full moon on June 14th). The daily hand-harvest possession limit will be 150 crabs.

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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