

## **Notice to Horseshoe Crab Fishermen**

Section 26-159a-17 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies implemented changes to horseshoe crab fishing rules in 2022. These regulations delay the opening of the commercial horseshoe crab season until three days after the last new or full moon (whichever comes later) in May and implement a 5-day "lunar closure" centered on the first new or full moon (whichever comes first) in June.

### **2023 Commercial Horseshoe Crab Season**

For 2023, the horseshoe crab season will open on May 22<sup>nd</sup> (three days following the new moon on May 19<sup>th</sup>) and the lunar closure will be in effect from June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, inclusive (centered on the full moon on June 4<sup>th</sup>).

- The daily hand-harvest possession limit is 150 crabs.
- During the open season, no horseshoe crab shall be taken from Friday at 6:00 PM through Sunday at 6:00 PM.
- Horseshoe Crab Hand Harvest License Endorsement required.

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.

**For current commercial fishery trip limits and quota status:**

**Call 860-434-6374 24/7 for a recorded message of current possession limits, or see: [www.ct.gov/deep/TL](http://www.ct.gov/deep/TL).**

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