PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Commercial Horseshoe Crab Fishery — Effective 5/1/2026

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES
The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces the quota, season, and catch limits for the 2026 — 2027 commercial horseshoe crab fishery.

QUOTA
The annual total allowable landings of male horseshoe crabs for the commercial fishery is 255,980. There is no female harvest permitted.

SEASON AND CATCH LIMITS
1. An individual may not land more than 25 male horseshoe crabs unless they are in possession of a valid horseshoe crab landing permit.
2. A permittee shall harvest horseshoe crabs according to the tier specified on their horseshoe crab landing permit.

Male Horseshoe Crab Season and Daily Limits by Permit Type						
Dates	Area Open to Harvest	No Permit	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
May 1, 2026 through June 7, 2026	Closed	No Harvest Allowed				
June 8, 2026 through July 5, 2026	Atlantic Ocean between 1 and 3 miles from the coast Maryland's coastal bays and their tidal tributaries	25	150	150	150	150
July 6, 2026 through November 30, 2026	All Maryland waters	25	150	200	1,500	2,500
December 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027	Closed	No Harvest Allowed				

WHY IS THIS NECESSARY
This is necessary to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crabs.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS
This applies to all individuals who catch horseshoe crabs commercially.

EFFECTIVE TIME AND DATE
This notice is effective at 12:01 a.m. May 1, 2026.

AUTHORITY
Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.10.01G.

Josh Kurtz
Secretary of Natural Resources