

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Commercial Horseshoe Crab Fishery — Effective 5/1/2023

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces the quota, season, and catch limits for the 2023 — 2024 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						
Date	Area Open to Harvest	Permit Type				
		No Permit	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
May 1, 2023 through July 9, 2023	Atlantic Ocean between 1 and 3 miles from the coast Maryland's coastal bays and their tidal tributaries	25	150	150	150	150
July 10, 2023 through November 30, 2023	All Maryland waters	25	150	200	1500	2500
December 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024	Closed	No Harvest Allowed				

WHY THIS IS 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, 2023.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.10.01

Josh Kurtz
Secretary of Natural Resources