

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6:29:10 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

Comments on 2023-R-F-0001: Horseshoe Crab Regulations

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Organization:

Comments:

We are fortunate to have a harvest method for horseshoe crabs that is very selective, has no bycatch, and does no harm to the benthic environment in the bay. Hand harvested for males is easy from the sexual dimorphism of the species and no females need to be harvested or harmed. The environment also benefits by not having males decay on the beach if they were inverted by wave action. We have destroyed so much of the benthic ecosystem of the bay allowing dredging for crabs, conch, clams, and oysters. There is no need to allow any dredging for horseshoe crabs to exist. Dredging for horseshoe crabs damages the crabs caught and crushes others. It also has a minor bycatch problem. Dredging further degrades bivalve beds, coral beds, algae beds, and other benthic communities. Please consider disallowing any dredging for horseshoe crabs. Dr Harvey Yenkinson AP member MAFMC Founder South Jersey Artificial Reef Association Advisor NJMFC