



# DNREC Virtual Public Hearing

**7 DE Admin. Code 3200 Horseshoe Crabs  
(Docket #2023-R-F-0001)**

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Event Number: 954 0188 4469 Passcode: 639214

Comments will be accepted using the DNREC Comment form, via email, or by USPS mail as noted on the hearing event page ([de.gov/dnrehearings](https://de.gov/dnrehearings))

# Proposed Amendments to 7 DE Admin. Code 3200 Horseshoe Crabs

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO COMPLY WITH ASMFC ADDENDUM VIII

### Background

- The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approved Addendum VIII to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crab in November 2022.
- Addendum VIII implements the revised Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) model, ‘ The objectives of the ARM revision were to address previous peer review critiques, include many new sources of data and horseshoe crab mortality, and adopt new modeling software since the old ARM software is obsolete. The new ARM represents the best and most recent information for managing horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay-origin with consideration of the needs of migrating shorebirds.’ (ASMFC 2022)

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### Implementation

- Proposed amendment requires Delaware's annual Horseshoe Crab harvest quota to be set by ASMFC through Addendum VIII.
- Addendum VIII adopts the harvest limits for 2023 generated by the revised ARM model, which for Delaware is 164,364 male Horseshoe Crabs. (Addendum VII quota was 162,136 male Horseshoe Crabs)
- **IMPORTANT** - This regulation does NOT determine either the amount or composition of Delaware's annual Horseshoe Crab quota, both of which are determined by ASMFC. Delaware is a member state of ASMFC and a full participant in the ASMFC quota-setting process.

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## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CLARIFY INTENT & PROCESSES

- Revise text regarding harvest methods to clarify actions considered hand harvest and actions considered dredge harvest.
- Change possession limits from a volume measurement (300 Feet<sup>3</sup>) to a count (3,000 HSC).
- Change to a uniform daily possession limit for hand harvest and dredge fisheries.
- Specify that a dredge fishery will only occur if quota remains after the hand harvest fishery closes.
- Change timing of dredge lottery from January to the end of the hand harvest season to allow DNREC to tally hand harvest landings and determine if the lottery is necessary.



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Thank you for joining us. We will accept comments on this matter through April 7, 2023.

Comments may be submitted in writing

via [DNREC Comment form](https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-hearings/comment-form/) - <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-hearings/comment-form/>

via [email](mailto:DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov)- [DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov](mailto:DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov)

or by USPS mail:

Theresa Newman, Hearing Officer

DNREC – Office of the Secretary

89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901

The full verbatim transcript will be posted when it becomes available.

For more information, find the event page for this hearing on the DNREC Public Hearings page

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