



**Paul J. Diodati**  
*Director*

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, MA 02114

(617) 626.1520

Fax (617) 626.1509



**March 10, 2006**

### Marine Fisheries Advisory

---

## ASMFC RELEASES DRAFT OF HORSESHOE CRAB ADDENDUM IV

---

The Commonwealth will not host an ASMFC hearing on Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crab but is making the following ASMFC press release on the addendum available for those interested in further details. Please see the ASMFC press releases below and visit [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) for further information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 10, 2006

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
(202) 289-6400

## Mid-Atlantic States Schedule Public Meetings on Horseshoe Crab Draft Addendum

Washington, DC – Mid-Atlantic States from Connecticut through Virginia have scheduled their public meetings to gather comment on Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Horseshoe Crab. New Jersey will also be conducting public meetings, although the details are not available yet. For more information, please contact Peter Himchak, New Jersey Fish and Wildlife, at (609) 748-2020.

The dates, times and locations of the scheduled meetings follow:

### Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006; 7:00 PM*

Marine Headquarters; Boating Education Center

333 Ferry Road

Old Lyme, Connecticut

Contact: David Simpson (860) 434-6043

### Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

*Monday, April 3, 2006; 7:00 PM*

Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium

89 Kings Highway

Dover, Delaware

Contact: Roy Miller (302) 739-3441

### New York Department of Environmental Control

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006; 7:00 PM*

Brookhaven Town Hall Auditorium

1 Independence Hill

Farmington, New York

Contact: Kim McKown (631) 444-0454

### Maryland Department of Natural Resources

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006; 6:30 PM*

Ocean Pines Library

11107 Cathell Road

Berlin, Maryland

Contact: Howard King (410) 260-8281

---

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission**

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006; 6:00 PM*

2600 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor

Newport News, Virginia

Contact: Jack Travelstead (757) 247-2247

The Draft Addendum proposes a number of options to reduce or eliminate harvest of horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin. It responds to public concern regarding the horseshoe crab populations and their ecological role in the Delaware Bay. While there are a number of scientific reviews on the status of horseshoe crabs, there is no peer-reviewed coastwide estimate of horseshoe crab abundance. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Shorebird Technical Committee has indicated that the red knot, one of many shorebird species that feed upon horseshoe crab eggs, is at low population levels. Red knots have shown no sign of recovery, despite a four-fold reduction in horseshoe crab landings since 1998. The Shorebird Technical Committee concluded a moratorium of horseshoe crab harvest could provide more eggs for the birds to feed upon. The Board initiated the addendum process to evaluate further restrictions on crab harvest in the Delaware Bay region. The area is considered the epicenter of horseshoe crab production along the coast as well as a critical stopover area for many migratory shorebirds including the red knot.

The Management Board will meet in May 2006 to review public comment, select the management measures to be contained in the Addendum, and consider its final approval. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Addendum either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of the Draft Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM on April 17, 2006** and should be forwarded to Braddock Spear, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax) or [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Horseshoe Crab). For more information, please contact Braddock Spear at (202)289-6400 or [bspear@asmfc.org](mailto:bspear@asmfc.org).

###