



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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March 25, 2022

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2022 Horseshoe Crab Lunar Spawning Closure Dates

To promote the conservation of horseshoe crabs, the commercial horseshoe crab fishery is subject to five-day lunar spawning closures during the springtime. These closures occur for five-day periods coinciding with each new and full moon occurring between April 16 and June 30. Closure periods begin at 12:00AM (midnight) two days prior to each new or full moon and end at 11:59PM two-days after each new or full moon. The exact closure for 2022 are captured in calendar below. A full text copy of the regulations relevant to horseshoe crabs is available at [322 CMR 6.34](#).

| April | | | | | | | May | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----|-----|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | | | | | | No Fishing | No Fishing | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | No Fishing |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| | | | | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| No Fishing | No Fishing | | | | | | | | | | | | No Fishing |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| | | | | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | | | | |

| June | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | No Fishing | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | No Fishing | | |

For more information please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.