



**David E. Pierce, PhD.**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

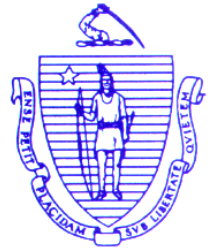
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August 30, 2019

### *Marine Fisheries Advisory*

## **2019 COMMERCIAL HORSESHOE CRAB BAIT FISHERY TO CLOSE EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019**

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Massachusetts' 2019 commercial horseshoe crab quota of 165,000 crabs is projected to be taken after Saturday, August 31, 2019. Accordingly, the Massachusetts commercial horseshoe crab bait fishery will be closed effective Sunday, September 1, 2019 ([Closure Notice](#)). The fishery will remain closed until 2020.

During the closed period, it is unlawful for fishermen to retain live horseshoe crabs or land and sell horseshoe crabs. It is also unlawful for seafood dealers or bait dealers to purchase or receive horseshoe crabs directly from fishermen. Pot fishermen may possess dead horseshoe crabs as bait, provided they have documentation that the source of the crabs is a wholesale dealer or a bait dealer. Additionally, the harvest of horseshoe crabs solely for bio-medical purposes or for research may continue unaffected by this closure.

Commercial fishermen are to submit monthly trip-level reports by the fifteenth of the following month, even if their permit as not fished. Reports should be sent to DMF Statistics Project, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Failure to submit these reports for all months of the year in a timely manner may result in the non-renewal of a commercial permit and its endorsements in 2020. Blank forms and instructions were mailed out prior to the beginning of the 2019 fishing season; additional copies can be obtained on the [Trip Level Reporting website](#).

For more information about the management of black sea bass in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617-626-1520 or visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).