



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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March 28, 2023

Marine Fisheries Advisory

2023 Horseshoe Crab Lunar Spawning Closure Dates

While the Division of Marine Fisheries is anticipating going out to public hearing this spring on a suite of measures affecting horseshoe crab management and conservation, the existing lunar spawning closures will remain in effect this spring. To promote the conservation of horseshoe crabs, the harvest of horseshoe crabs by any person—including all commercial fishers—is prohibited during five-day closures coinciding with each new and full moon occurring between April 16 and June 30. The 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 dates for 2023 are captured in the calendar below. A full text copy of the regulations relevant to horseshoe crabs is available at [322 CMR 6.34](#).

April

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

May

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

June

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

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