



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



Deval Patrick
Governor
Timothy P.
Murray
Lt. Governor
Richard K.
Sullivan, Jr.
Secretary
Mary B.
Griffin
Commissioner

March 29, 2013
Marine Fisheries Advisory

April, May, and June Commercial Horseshoe Crab Spawning Closures

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) is advising commercial horseshoe crab harvesters on the rules and regulations for the upcoming season. The two-month (May-June) spawning closure period has been expanded to include the last two weeks of April. The commercial horseshoe crab fishery will be closed to harvest during the five-day lunar periods coinciding with each new and full moon between April 16 and June 30. Closures begin at 12:00 AM (midnight) two days prior to the new or full moon and end at 11:59 PM two days after. The closure dates are captured in the calendars below:

2013 Lunar Closures

April 2013								May 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		5	6	7 No Fishing	8 No Fishing	9 No Fishing	10 No Fishing	11 No Fishing
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23 No Fishing	24 No Fishing	25 No Fishing	26 No Fishing	27 No Fishing		19	20	21	22	23 No Fishing	24 No Fishing	25 No Fishing
28	29	30						26 No Fishing	27 No Fishing	28	29	30		

June 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 No Fishing	7 No Fishing	8 No Fishing
9 No Fishing	10 No Fishing	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 No Fishing	22 No Fishing
23 No Fishing	24 No Fishing	25 No Fishing	26	27	28	29
30						

Regulations pertaining to the horseshoe crab fishery can be found at 322 CMR 6.34.

For more information regarding horseshoe crab spawning closures please visit the *Marine Fisheries* website (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries) or contact Vin Malkoski in our New Bedford field office (508-910-6318 or vincent.malkoski@state.ma.us).