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Marine Fisheries Advisory

NOTICE TO FISHERMEN AND DEALERS 2012 COMMERCIAL HORSESHOE CRAB RULES

This notice serves as the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) annual update to all horseshoe crab harvesters and dealers about the rules and regulations for the upcoming harvest season.

To promote the conservation of horseshoe, *Marine Fisheries* will close the commercial horseshoe crab fishery to harvest during lunar spawning events in the months of May and June. These closures will occur over five day periods coinciding with each new and full moon. The closures begin at 12:00 AM two days prior to the new or full moon and are lifted at 11:59 PM two days after.

2012 Lunar Closures

May 2012

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Closed to Fishing	4 Closed to Fishing	5 Closed to Fishing
6 Closed to Fishing	7 Closed to Fishing	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Closed to Fishing	19 Closed to Fishing
20 Closed to Fishing	21 Closed to Fishing	22 Closed to Fishing	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
Highlighted dates indicate spawning closures. No fishing is allowed.						

June 2012

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Closed to Fishing
3 Closed to Fishing	4 Closed to Fishing	5 Closed to Fishing	6 Closed to Fishing	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Closed to Fishing	18 Closed to Fishing	19 Closed to Fishing	20 Closed to Fishing	21 Closed to Fishing	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Highlighted dates indicate spawning closures. No fishing is allowed.						