



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



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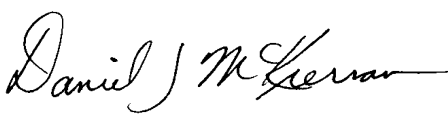
DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

### DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION:

#### Reduce the 2023 Commercial Horseshoe Crab Trip Limits for Mobile Gear Harvesters

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c. 30A, §3, and under the authority of G.L. c. 130, §§17A and 80 and 322 CMR 6.41(2)(d) and 7.01(7), the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, with the approval of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, hereby declares:

1. Effective Tuesday, July 11, 2023, the commercial horseshoe crab trip limit for mobile gear fishers with a limited entry horseshoe crab regulated fishery permit endorsement, as set forth at 322 CMR 6.34, shall be decreased from 300 horseshoe crabs to 200 horseshoe crabs.
2. Effective Tuesday, July 11, 2023, the open access mobile gear incidental horseshoe crab trip limit, as set forth at 322 CMR 6.34, shall be decreased from 75 horseshoe crabs to 50 horseshoe crabs.
3. The adjustment implemented via this declaration shall expire after December 31, 2023, or when the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries determines that 100% of the Commonwealth's 2023 horseshoe crab bait quota has been taken and the commercial fishery is closed pursuant to 322 CMR 6.34.

By: 

Dated: July 10, 2023

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director