

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Marine Resources

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2025 Horseshoe Crab Quota Distribution Plan

The 2025 commercial horseshoe crab quota is 150,000 crabs pursuant to subdivision 44.3(b) of 6 NYCRR. The quota distribution plan for horseshoe crab is as follows:

2025 changes are highlighted in red

2025 Horseshoe Crab Quota Distribution				
Periods	Dates	Quota (# of crab)	Trip Limit (# of crab)	% Distribution
1	January 1 – April 15	6,000	30	4%
2	April 16 – August 31	138,000	200	92%
2-closed	May 10 – May 14	0	0	closed
2-closed	May 24 – May 28	0	0	closed
2-closed	June 9 – June 13	0	0	closed
2-closed	June 23 – June 27	0	0	closed
3	September 1 – November 30	6,000	250	4%
4	December 1 – December 31	TBD ¹	TBD ¹	TBD ¹

¹Period 4 fishery will open if there is quota remaining and 90% reporting compliance.

The Horseshoe Crab Quota Distribution Plan may be modified by DEC subject to the following criteria:

- Trip limits may be adjusted to spread quota over each period and avoid fishery closures when possible.
- Overharvest or under harvest from Period 1 and Period 2 will be deducted from or added to the next period.
- If there is quota remaining at the end of Period 3, the remaining quota may be made available in Period 4. Initial harvest limits for Period 4 will be determined by the amount of available quota remaining.
- Fixed gear may remain in-place during scheduled Period 2 fishery closures.
- If a period's quota is projected to be exceeded, that period may be closed until the next period in order to preserve quota for subsequent periods.
- DEC may adjust this quota distribution plan to ensure the maximum utilization of the horseshoe crab quota and to prevent the quota allocation from being exceeded.