



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Horseshoe Crab Workshop

Sharing Perspectives + Identifying Areas of Common Ground for Future Management Agenda

July 15-16, 2024
DNREC Lewes Field Office
901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, Delaware 19958

MEETING PURPOSE

1. Increase understanding of various stakeholder perspectives and interests.
2. Increase understanding of current horseshoe crab (HSC) modeling.
3. Identify concerns, alternatives, and areas of common ground for HSC management.

DAY 1 AGENDA

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

9:00-9:30 a.m. Coffee/Networking

9:30-10:00 a.m. Opening Remarks and Introductions

- The ASMFC Horseshoe Crab Board is very open to whatever outcomes emerge and is especially interested in understanding where stakeholders can develop common ground
- There are two groups anticipating the deliverables of this workshop:
 - Managers who need to understand the core framework and objective for HSC management
 - Scientists who need to convert management needs into adjustments to current modeling or into new modeling approaches

10:00-10:15 a.m. Overview of Dialogue Process

- Consensus-based process as a tool for surfacing areas of agreement and encouraging stakeholders to offer solutions and alternative ideas where there is disagreement.
- Guidelines for inclusive dialogue.

10:15-11:00 a.m. Presentation on the Current Model

- Overview of the issues including discussion of:
 - History of HSC management
 - Structured decision making
 - Rationale behind the current adaptive modeling framework
 - Overview of data and data issues
 - Acknowledgement of stakeholder concerns
- Clarifying questions

11:00-11:10 a.m. QUICK BREAK

11:10-11:45 a.m. Questions about the Current Model (continued)

11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. LUNCH (brought in)

12:30-1:45 p.m. Dialogue on the Issues

- What are the issues of concern for the three main stakeholder communities represented at the workshop: Scientists, NGOs, Harvester, Biomedical?
- Ask questions of one another as we gain a more comprehensive understanding of the issues.

1:45-2:00 p.m. QUICK BREAK

2:00-2:45 p.m. Revisiting the ARM Objective

- Consider the 2022 ARM Objective Statement:
 - **Manage harvest of horseshoe crabs in the Delaware Bay to maximize harvest but also to maintain ecosystem integrity, provide adequate stopover habitat for migrating shorebirds, and ensure that the abundance of horseshoe crabs is not limiting the red knot stopover population or slowing recovery.**
- Question: *Does this Objective reflect stakeholder values?*

2:45-4:00 p.m. Dialogue on Female Harvest

- Question: *In what scenario or under what conditions would stakeholders be comfortable with female harvest?*
 - Where there IS the possibility of support, what conditions would address stakeholder concerns?
 - Where there IS NOT the possibility of support, what are the implications for management?

4:00-4:30 p.m. Public Comment

4:30-5:00 p.m. Closing Day 1

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

DAY 2 AGENDA

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

8:30-8:45 a.m. Day 2 Kick-off

8:45-10:45 a.m. Developing Management Recommendations

- Questions:
 - Are there any aspects of the current modeling framework that you really want to see *preserved* moving forward?
 - For any aspects that are objectionable, what alternatives would respect broad stakeholder interests?
 - Are there other recommendations you want to make to the HSC Board?

9:45-10:00 a.m. QUICK BREAK

10:00-10:45 a.m. Developing Management Recommendations (continued)

11:30-11:45 a.m. Next Steps

11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Public Comment

12:15-12:30 p.m. Closing Comments

12:30 p.m. Adjourn