



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

---

*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 15, 2021

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### **ASMFC Schedules Peer Review for the Horseshoe Crab ARM Framework for November 16-18, 2021**

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Horseshoe Crab Adaptive Resource (ARM) Framework will be peer-reviewed on November 16-18, 2021, via webinar. The ARM Framework incorporates both shorebird and horseshoe crab abundance levels to set optimized harvest limits for horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay-origin. Since 2013, it has been used by the Commission’s Horseshoe Crab Management Board to set annual specifications for the Delaware Bay region.

The Delaware Bay is home to both the largest staging area for migratory shorebirds in the Atlantic Flyway and the largest population of horseshoe crabs in the world. An estimated 425,000 to one million migratory shorebirds including the threatened Rufa red knot converge on the Delaware Bay to feed and rebuild energy reserves prior to completing their northward migration, with horseshoe crab eggs providing an important component of the shorebirds’ diet. To address this interrelationship, the Commission adopted use of the ARM Framework in 2012 to ensure that horseshoe crab harvest within the Delaware Bay region took into account the forage needs of migratory shorebirds. Nearly 10 years since its development and use, and with more available data, the Horseshoe Crab ARM Committee has been exploring revisions to the Framework. The peer review will evaluate the appropriateness of these revisions for use in management.

The peer review is open to the public, except for the Peer Review Panel’s final deliberations, when the public and all other workshop participants will be asked to exit the webinar. The link to the webinar follows: <https://www.gotomeet.me/ASMFCStaff2/horseshoe-crab-arm-review>. Please note participants do not need to register in advance of the meeting, simply click on the webinar link the day of the meeting. A copy of the peer review agenda can be found at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/Meetings/HSC\\_ARM\\_ReviewWorkshopAgenda\\_Nov2021.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/Meetings/HSC_ARM_ReviewWorkshopAgenda_Nov2021.pdf).

It’s anticipated that the revised ARM Framework and peer review report will be considered by the Horseshoe Crab Management Board in January 2022. For more information, please contact Patrick Campfield, Fisheries Science Director, at [pcampfield@asmfc.org](mailto:pcampfield@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

###

PR21-24

---

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201  
703.842.0740 (phone) 703.842.0741 (fax) [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)