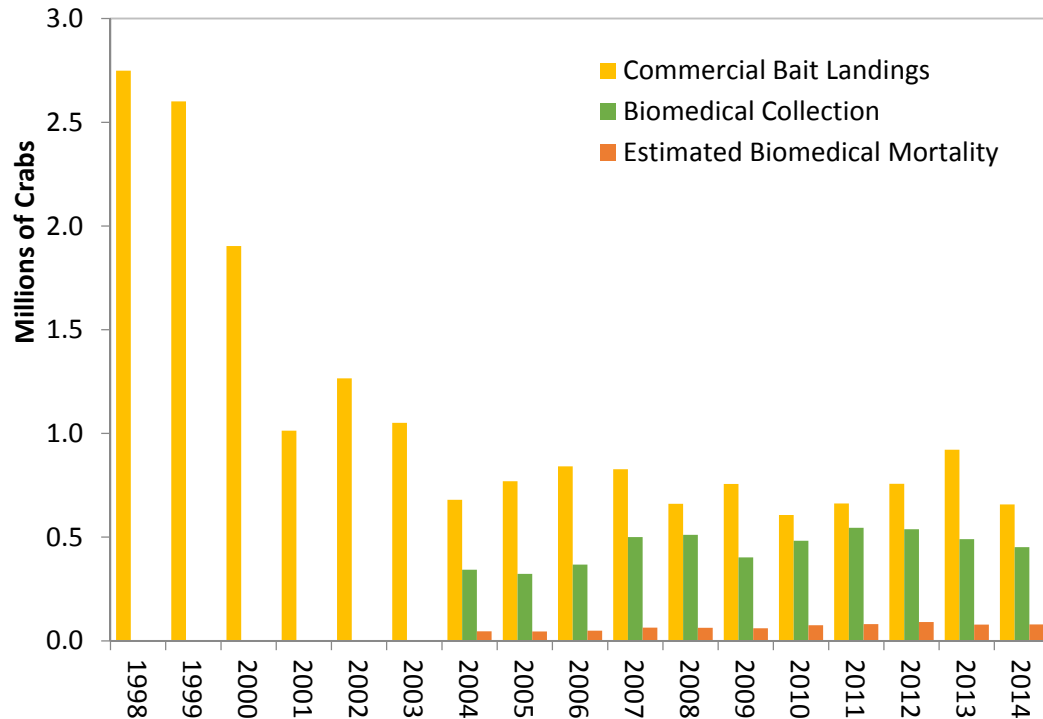


Overview of Stock Status Horseshoe Crab, *Limulus polyphemus*

Horseshoe Crab Bait Landings & Biomedical Collection

Source: ASMFC State Compliance Reports, 2015



Please note the following details regarding biomedical collection numbers:

- * Biomedical collection numbers, which are annually reported to the Commission, include all horseshoe crabs brought to bleeding facilities except those that were harvested as bait and counted against state quotas.
- * Most of the biomedical crabs collected are returned to the water after bleeding; a 15% mortality rate is estimated for all bled crabs.

Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1999); Addendum I (2000); Addendum II (2001); Addendum III (2004); Addendum IV (2006); Addendum V (2008); Addendum VI (2010); Addendum VII (2012)

Management Considerations

Condition: Unknown

FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals & Schedule: None

Regional Trends in Horseshoe Abundance		
Source: ASMFC Horseshoe Crab Stock Assessment Update, 2013		
Region	Time series duration of longest dataset	Conclusion about population change
New England	1978 - 2008	Declined
New York	1987 - 2008	Declined
Delaware Bay	1988 - 2008	Increased
Southeast	1993 - 2009	Increased

FMP Status: FMP approved in 1998 and implemented in 1999. Addendum I (2000) required states to cap harvest at 25% below the 1995-1997 levels of ~3 million crabs and encouraged states with more restrictive measures to maintain those measures. Addendum II (2001) allowed for state-to-state quota transfers. Addendum III (2004) capped annual harvest in NJ and DE at 150,000 crabs/state and set MD's annual quota at its 2001 landings level (170,653 crabs); the 3 states also prohibited harvest and landings for bait from May 1 to June 7. Addendum IV (2006) established a male-only harvest of up to 100,000 crabs annually from June 8 to December 31 through September 2008 in NJ and DE. It also set an annual closed season in MD waters from January 1 through June 7 through 2008. Addendum IV further restricted Virginia's ocean harvest to no more than 40% of its quota and required that the sex ratio of the harvest comprise at least 2 to 1 males to females. Its provisions were extended to April 2013 through Addenda V & VI. Addendum VII (2012) implements the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) framework that incorporates both shorebird and horseshoe crab abundance levels when considering the optimized horseshoe crab harvest level for the Delaware Bay area.

Primary Management Measures: Using the ARM Framework, the Board approved a 500,000 male-only crab harvest for the 2013-2015 fishing seasons. The harvest limit is allocated by state quota to the states which harvest horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin (NJ, DE, MD, VA).