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April 30th, 2010



NORWALK — The Maritime Aquarium is seeking volunteers to help attach census tags to horseshoe crabs as the crabs come up out of the water to spawn at Calf Pasture Beach. It is part of a census of horseshoe crabs in Long Island Sound, being led by Dr. Jennifer Mattei of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. The Maritime Aquarium is assisting with the census and tagging. The horseshoe crab population on the East Coast may be declining as the animals are harvested and ground up for use as bait in eel pots. Fewer horseshoe crabs would mean fewer horseshoe crab eggs, which are an important food source for migrating shorebirds.

Horseshoe crabs come up onto beaches to spawn on the nights of the full and new moons. To participate, volunteers should attend one of two training sessions at the Aquarium: at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19; or at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 23. Younger children can assist if working with a parent, teacher or guardian.

Tagging sessions at Calf Pasture will be held on Sun., June 13 and Sun., June 27, both beginning at 4:45 a.m.

To sign up or for more details, call The Maritime Aquarium at (203) 852-0700, ext. 2352, or e-mail jschnierlein@maritimeaquarium.org.

[To see video of last year's tagging event, click here.](#)