



## Annual Report of the Horseshoe Crab Specialist Group for 2012 Submitted 12 January 2013

The Horseshoe Crab SSG had the following achievements during 2012:

1. Establishment of the SSG. Our proposal to form the Horseshoe Crab SSG was submitted to IUCN in May, 2012 and formally approved in June, 2012. Based on the geographic distribution of the four species of horseshoe crabs, a joint Co-Chair structure was deemed to be best suited to our needs. Dr. Paul K. S. Shin (Hong Kong) is the Asian Co-Chair and Dr. Mark L. Botton (USA) is the North American Co-Chair. The Steering Committee (Appendix I) has representatives from Southeast Asia and the USA. The Steering Committee is in regular communication via Email and Facebook, and telephone conference calls have been held at approximately 6-8 week intervals.
2. Formation of Red List Review Team and Working Groups. The membership of the Red List Review Team, headed by Dr. Paul Shin, has been finalized (Appendix II).

Four working groups have been established within our SSG (complete membership is provided in Appendix III), as follows:

- A) The Southeast Asian horseshoe crabs IUCN Red List Drafting Team, led by Kevin Laurie, is charged with assessing the population status and trends for the three species residing in the Indo-Pacific, *Tachypleus tridentatus*, *T. gigas*, and *Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*. Seven nations from Southeast Asia are represented on this WG.
- B) The *Limulus polyphemus* IUCN Red List Drafting Team, headed by David Smith, will review the status of the American (or Atlantic) Horseshoe Crab. This species occurs only in the USA and Mexico, and both nations are represented on this WG.
- C) The Trade, Industry and Use WG, led by Glenn Gauvry, will synthesize available information on the fisheries and other commercial uses of all four species. Six nations are represented here, and we are especially pleased to have two members from the biomedical industry on this WG.
- D) The Education WG, led by Gary Kreamer, will be an integral part of our ongoing efforts to educate the general public and decision-makers about the importance of preserving all four species of horseshoe crabs and the habitats that they rely on. The eleven members of this WG represent nine nations.
- E) Timetable: At this point, we are in the “pre-assessment” stage. However, the WG’s are all in place and, thanks to the solid groundwork established at the 2011

International Workshop on the Science and Conservation of Asian Horseshoe Crabs in Hong Kong, we are optimistic that significant progress can be made in 2013. The SSG Co-Chairs have established a target date of 31 October 2013 for the submission of draft reports from all four WG's, with the goal of providing full documentation to the Red List Review Panel by the end of 2013.

### 3. Distribution of Information and Resources for Research and Education

- A) The complete Powerpoint presentations from the 2011 International Workshop on the Science and Conservation of Asian Horseshoe Crabs (Hong Kong) have been uploaded and can be downloaded from <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/bch/iwscahc2011/>
- B) A fully searchable database of the scientific literature on horseshoe crabs has been developed and is available from <http://horseshoecrab.org/research/>.  
We are extremely grateful to ERDG, Inc. for the design, development and hosting of this web site, to Glenn Gauvry, H. Jane Brockmann, and Carl N. Shuster for inputting and organizing this information, and to the City University of Hong Kong, the Ocean Park Foundation, and Bow Ho and Ding Jeak Ling for their support.

### 4. Future Conferences

- A) We are coordinating a Special Session entitled, “*Comparative Approaches to Horseshoe Crab Ecology and Conservation in North America and Southeast Asia*,” at the biennial meeting of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) in San Diego, California in November, 2013. By the time of this meeting, we expect to have the draft reports from all four Working Groups in hand. Thus, in addition to the invited and contributed papers, the conference will provide an opportunity for dialogue among members of our Red List Review Team and Working Groups.
- B) Initial planning is underway for the *Third International Workshop on the Science and Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs*, to be held August 2015, in Sasebo City, Japan. This conference will be hosted by the Kujukushima Aquarium and the University of Nagasaki, in association with Sasebo City.

### Goals for the Year 2013

- A) Our primary mission for the coming year is to make significant progress towards the revision of the Red List status for horseshoe crabs. To achieve this, the SSG Co-Chairs have asked the leaders of all four Working Groups to provide us with a Draft Report by 31 October 2013. If no major revisions are needed, we would anticipate distributing these documents to members of the Red List Review Team before the end of 2013.
- B) We are engaged in an effort to recruit additional members to the SSG, particularly from the Southeast Asian nations not currently represented such as Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.
- C) Members of our SSG will meet in November, 2013 as part of a Special Session at the CERF conference in San Diego. At this time, we will review the progress of the four Working Groups, and discuss other matters that may arise pertaining to the conservation of horseshoe crabs.

## Appendix I. Horseshoe Crab SSG Steering Committee (1 January 2013)

### Co-Chairs and Red List Authorities

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## Appendix III. IUCN Horseshoe Crab SSG Working Groups (1 January 2013)

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