

Horseshoe crab limit reached, fishery to close

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DOVER, Del. — Wildlife officials say Delaware's harvest limit of horseshoe crabs for 2014 has been reached, and the fishery will close.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife says the fishery for male horseshoe crabs will close at 12:01 a.m. Thursday. The harvest of female horseshoe crabs is prohibited year-round in the state.

Delaware's 2014 quota allocation was 160,435 male horseshoe crabs.

The crabs are harvested in Delaware for use as bait in the conch and American eel fisheries. Migratory shorebirds also depend on horseshoe crab eggs to fuel their migrations to arctic breeding grounds.

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