

# Horseshoe crab ban okayed for Stratford

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Photo: Nancy Guenther Chapman / Nancy Guenther Chapman

A horseshoe crab spawning crown along the Stratford shore is the focus of a bill that passed the House on Wednesday.

HARTFORD — The House on Wednesday morning unanimously approved a ban on the harvesting or killing of horseshoe crabs along a section of the Stratford shoreline where the primitive shellfish spawn.

The bill, passed 136-0, next heads to the Senate. It would create \$90 fines for those caught killing the crabs or using them for fishing bait.

Rep. [Joe Gresko](#), D-Stratford, said the legislation, aimed at protecting the endangered species for the manufacturing of vaccines, would expand areas of Westbrook, West Haven and Milford that were previously declared no-take zones for the crabs by the [Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission](#). He said that a [Sacred Heart University](#) project on the crabs suggested that Stratford's shoreline should be added to those protected in the other communities.

“I think it’s important for people to realize these are regional issues,” said Rep. [Melissa Ziobron](#), R-East Haddam, a member of the fisheries commission. “It seems like a common-sense approach,” added Rep. [Stephen G. Harding Jr.](#), R-Brookfield, ranking member of the legislation [Environment Committee](#).

“If you ever get a vaccine, thank a horseshoe crab,” Gresko said during the floor debate. “I do see the value of protecting a medicinal-important species,” said Rep. [Charles Ferraro](#), R-West Haven.

Gresko said that if the bill becomes law, there will be signs placed along the shoreline warning people of the law and the potential penalties.

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