

*American Bird Conservancy • American Littoral Society • Citizens Campaign
Defenders of Wildlife • Delaware Audubon Society • Delaware Riverkeeper
National Audubon Society • NJ Audubon Society • New Jersey Environmental Federation
NJ Public Interest Research Group • Sierra Club*

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Today, New Jersey Acting Governor Richard A. Codey announced the enactment of an Emergency Rule starting tomorrow suspending horseshoe crab harvesting in Delaware Bay for 2 weeks, in order to allow the state to consider recently developed scientific information.. Leading regional and national advocates for horseshoe crab and migratory shorebird conservation released the following statement in response:

We appreciate the continuing willingness of the State of New Jersey, and that of Governor Codey to act on measures aimed at the conservation and protection of the horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebirds of Delaware Bay. The science is clear – the red knot faces extinction unless immediate conservation measures are taken to protect it and the horseshoe crabs. Available information clearly warrants a moratorium on the harvest of horseshoe crabs as the most effective conservation measure.

The State has proposed that during the temporary moratorium they will be considering recently developed information. We urge the State to also consult with international scientific experts during this time regarding needed actions.

At the end of the 2 week scientific review process , the need to institute a full moratorium on the harvest of horseshoe crabs will still be self evident. We urge quick and decisive action towards that end.

Perry Plumart, Director of Conservation Advocacy, American Bird Conservancy
Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, American Littoral Society
Bill Cooke, Director of Government Relations, Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Caroline Kennedy, Director of Conservation Initiatives, Defenders of Wildlife
Mark Martell, President, Delaware Audubon Society
Maya van Rossum, The Delaware Riverkeeper
Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation, National Audubon Society
Thomas Gilmore, President, NJ Audubon Society
David Pringle, Campaign Director, New Jersey Environmental Federation
Dena Mottola, Executive Director, NJ Public Interest Research Group
Jeff Tittel, NJ Chapter Executive Director, Sierra Club