

*American Bird Conservancy • Citizens Campaign for the Environment  
Defenders of Wildlife • Delaware Audubon Society  
National Audubon Society • New Jersey Audubon Society  
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CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS ENCOURAGED BY ACTIONS TAKEN TO  
PROTECT RED KNOTS AND HORSESHOE CRABS  
ACTION BY NJ, DE, MD, & NY CRITICAL TO PROGRESS AGAINST THE BIRD'S  
EXTINCTION

Conservation organizations were encouraged by the action of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to consider a moratorium on the take of horseshoe crabs in New Jersey and Delaware for two years and restrictions on other states to prevent the take of Delaware Bay horseshoe crabs in order to protect the Red Knot.

“The leadership of Acting-Governor Codey and Governor Minner was essential in getting the Commission to move forward to protect the Red Knot and the horseshoe crab”, said Perry Plumart, Director of Conservation Advocacy for American Bird Conservancy. “Delaware and New Jersey came together on the tough decision to propose the horseshoe crab moratorium.”

“We appreciate the support Governor Erlich showed for the Red Knot and the horseshoe crab,” said Caroline Kennedy, Director of Conservation Incentives for Defenders of Wildlife. Maryland’s action at the Commission advanced the conservation of the crab and the bird.”

The organizations have called for increased regulation of the take of horseshoe crabs. Overfishing of the horseshoe crab has caused a decline in horseshoe crab eggs which provide needed food for the shorebirds during their migration. The Red Knot population has declined to the point where shorebird scientists believe it could be facing extinction.

“New York played a key role in moving the protections of the Red Knot and the horseshoe crab forward,” said Bill Cooke, Government Relations Director for the Citizens Campaign for the Environment. “We thank Governor Pataki for his help on this important bird conservation issue.”

“Commissioner Campbell (NJ) and Secretary Hughes (DE) did a great job working together to increase the protections for the Red Knot and the horseshoe crab,” said Eric Stiles Vice President for Conservation and Stewardship New Jersey Audubon Society. Commissioner Campbell rose to the challenge on this tough conservation issue.”

“I am proud of Delaware under the leadership Governor Minner and Secretary Hughes to work for the protection of the red knot and the horseshoe crab”, said Nick DiPasquale Delaware Audubon Conservation Chair. We look forward to the implementation of these important conservation measures.”

“On behalf of the Red Knot and the horseshoe crab, thank you Acting Governor Codey, Governor Minner, Governor Erlich and Governor Pataki for moving these conservation measures ahead,” said Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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