

**R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations  
PART XV - LOBSTERS, OTHER CRUSTACEANS,  
AND HORSESHOE CRABS**

**15.24 Horseshoe Crabs** – It is illegal for any person to harvest horseshoe crabs, Limulus polyphemus, in Rhode Island for commercial purposes without a valid commercial marine fishing license and a Horseshoe Crab Harvest Permit; or to harvest horseshoe crabs for recreational purposes without a Horseshoe Crab Harvest Permit.

**15.24.3 Possession**

- A. **Commercial – Bait and biomedical fishery** – Any person issued a valid commercial marine fishing license and Horseshoe Crab Harvest Permit may possess horseshoe crabs in numbers not to exceed the established annual quota. Horseshoe crabs employed in the biomedical industry for purposes of extracting bodily fluids shall be returned to the waters from which they came within 72 hours following the completion of the intended biomedical procedure.
- B. **Recreational** – Any R.I. resident with a Horseshoe Crab Harvest Permit may possess not more than five (5) horseshoe crabs in any calendar day.
- C. **Prohibition on possession of non-indigenous horseshoe crab species - No person shall possess or attempt to possess any non-indigenous (non-native) Horseshoe Crab species in the cooked or un-cooked (frozen) state within the State of Rhode Island without prior, written authorization by the Department.**