

STATE PERMIT



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries

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Charles River Laboratories
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Harwich, MA 02645

April 7, 2022

Horseshoe Crab Biomedical Dealer Letter of Authorization

Acting under the authority of 322 CMR 6.34 (5) and (6), permission is hereby granted to Charles River Laboratories (CRL), Massachusetts dealer (Permit ID# 183318), to accept horseshoe crabs harvested exclusively for biomedical use. A copy of this authorization letter and the dealer permit must be available for inspection when accepting and/or possessing horseshoe crabs from harvesters or other authorized dealers.

Regulations governing the horseshoe crab fishery 322 CMR 6.34 are attached. CRL must also comply with all pertinent sections of the regulations, including the following:

CRL may not accept more than 1,000 horseshoe crabs from any one permit holder authorized to take horseshoe crabs for biomedical purposes during a 24-hour period beginning at 12:00 P.M (Noon).

CRL must keep horseshoe crabs supplied by fishermen fishing under the authority of a Special Biomedical Harvest Permit separate from crabs supplied from all other sources.

Biomedical crabs may be held out of the water a maximum of 36 hours in total.

CRL must ensure that horseshoe crabs supplied by a biomedical permit holder are returned in good condition to the permit holder. The permit holder is responsible for live release of the horseshoe crabs back into the same embayment from which they were harvested.

All horseshoe crabs harvested with a biomedical permit will be marked after bleeding with a distinct marking (changing each year with the annual mark provided by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)) to avoid re-bleeding within a season. Crabs with the current year's marking shall not be re-bled during the same year.

Transport of biomedical horseshoe crabs will be in a temperature-controlled truck with the thermostat set to 50 - 60 °F. Storage of biomedical horseshoe crabs will be in an air-conditioned space with a temperature not to exceed 70 °F. Containers used for crab holding will be filled no more than approximately 2/3 full (i.e. the ledge in the Rubbermaid barrels will be used as a guide). Containers of crabs will be kept moist during transport and storage. If the transport of biomedical horseshoe crabs must be done without a temperature-controlled truck due to unforeseen circumstances, then CRL must notify the Massachusetts Environmental Police (phone 800 632-8075) prior to the transport.

On a monthly basis, CRL must report to DMF the number of crabs purchased, rejected, bled, their fate (released or bait), and the number of dead crabs received prior to bleeding, by gender.

Under the authority of MGL Chapter 130 Sections 9 and 13, agents of the Director and/or Environmental Police may search and inspect the facility where crabs are processed and stored to ensure compliance with all applicable marine fisheries statutes and regulations.

This authorization expires December 31, 2022 unless sooner revoked for cause.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director