STATE OF NEW YORK

9437

IN ASSEMBLY

January 6, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. GLICK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the department of environmental conservation's regulation of crabs; and to amend a chapter of the laws of 2025, amending the environmental conservation law relating to extending certain provisions relating to the department of environmental conservation's regulation of crabs, and to prohibiting the taking of horseshoe crabs for commercial and biomedical purposes, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4289 and A. 4997, in relation to the effectiveness thereof; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 7 of section 13-0331 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by section 1 of a chapter of the laws of 2025, amending the environmental conservation law relating to extending certain provisions relating to the department of environmental conservation's regulation of crabs, and to prohibiting the taking of horseshoe crabs for commercial and biomedical purposes, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4289 and A. 4997, is amended to read as follows:

7. The department may, until December thirty-first, two thousand [~~twenty-seven~~] twenty-nine, fix by regulation measures for the management of crabs of any kind including horseshoe crabs (Limulus sp.), including minimum and maximum size limits, catch and possession limits, open and closed seasons including lunar closures, closed areas, restrictions on the manner of taking and landing including a prohibition on the harvest of crabs in amplexus, requirements for permits and eligibility therefor, recordkeeping requirements, requirements on the amount and type of fishing effort and gear, and requirements relating to transportation, possession and sale, provided that such regulations are no less restrictive than requirements set forth in this chapter and provided further that such regulations are consistent with the compliance requirements of applicable fishery management plans adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and with applicable

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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provisions of fishery management plans adopted pursuant to the Federal Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1800 et seq.).

§ 2. Subdivision 7 of section 13-0331 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by section 2 of a chapter of the laws of 2025, amending the environmental conservation law relating to extending certain provisions relating to the department of environmental conservation's regulation of crabs, and to prohibiting the taking of horseshoe crabs for commercial and biomedical purposes, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4289 and A. 4997, is amended to read as follows:

7. The department may, until December thirty-first, two thousand [~~twenty-seven~~] twenty-nine, fix by regulation measures for the management of crabs of any kind, excluding horseshoe crabs (Limulus sp.), including minimum and maximum size limits, catch and possession limits, open and closed seasons including lunar closures, closed areas, restrictions on the manner of taking and landing including a prohibition on the harvest of crabs in amplexus, requirements for permits and eligibility therefor, recordkeeping requirements, requirements on the amount and type of fishing effort and gear, and requirements relating to transportation, possession and sale, provided that such regulations are no less restrictive than requirements set forth in this chapter and provided further that such regulations are consistent with the compliance requirements of applicable fishery management plans adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and with applicable provisions of fishery management plans adopted pursuant to the Federal Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1800 et seq.).

§ 3. The department of environmental conservation is hereby authorized and directed to take any actions necessary to ensure that any quota limiting the taking of horseshoe crabs (Limulus sp.) pursuant to section 13-0331 of the environmental conservation law shall:

(1) in 2026, not exceed seventy-five percent of the annual commercial horseshoe crab quota established by the department of environmental conservation in the 2025 Horseshoe Crab Quota Distribution Plan, developed pursuant to 6 NYCRR 44.3 (b);

(2) in 2027, not exceed fifty percent of the annual commercial horseshoe crab quota established by the department of environmental conservation in the 2025 Horseshoe Crab Quota Distribution Plan developed pursuant to 6 NYCRR 44.3 (b); and

(3) in 2028, not exceed twenty-five percent of the annual commercial horseshoe crab quota established by the department of environmental conservation in the 2025 Horseshoe Crab Quota Distribution Plan, developed pursuant to 6 NYCRR 44.3 (b).

§ 4. Section 3 of a chapter of the laws of 2025, amending the environmental conservation law relating to extending certain provisions relating to the department of environmental conservation's regulation of crabs, and to prohibiting the taking of horseshoe crabs for commercial and biomedical purposes, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4289 and A. 4997, is amended to read as follows:

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the provisions of section two of this act shall take effect January 1, [~~2026~~] 2029.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the provisions of sections one and two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2025, amending the environmental conservation law relating to extending certain provisions relating to the department of environmental conservation's regulation of crabs, and to prohibiting the taking of horseshoe

crabs for commercial and biomedical purposes, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4289 and A. 4997, takes effect; and provided, however, that the provisions of section three of this act shall expire and be deemed repealed January 1, 2029.