Protocol- reTURN the Favor

To save stranded horseshoe crabs, we ask that you follow these simple guidelines:

1. Hold crabs by their sides, not the tail – crabs are harmless!
2. Gently place crabs on their feet pointing towards the water.
3. Leave crabs where you find them – do not remove live or dead crabs from the beach.
4. If you encounter shorebirds please do not disturb them – walk well away from flocks to allow them to feed and roost undisturbed – or end your walk.
5. Do not enter a closed beach unless you are on a sanctioned reTURN the Favor walk, and only from sunset - sunrise.
6. On open beaches, plan your outing around a falling or low tide.
7. Obtain permission before entering private property.

Rescue Walk Datasheet Instructions

Date: Day, month, year the walk occurred.

 # in Group: List the total number of people present in your group at the start of the walk (including group leader).

Beach Name and Section: List the beach area you have been assigned to monitor and circle whether it is an "open", "closed", or "partially closed" beach. Closed or partially closed beaches include: Villas Beach, Sunray Beach, Norburys Landing, Rutgers Beach, Highs Beach, Pierces Point, Kimbles Beach, Cooks Beach, Reeds Beach, Thompsons Beach, Moores Beach, Raybins Beach, Fortescue Beach, Money Island. For beach section, refer to the fact sheet for your beach.

Start Time/ End Time: Time you enter onto the beach to rescue crabs/ the time you walk off the beach.

Distance Traveled (km): Estimate or utilize a smart phone device or Google Earth to calculate the total distance covered (one-way) during a walk in kilometers.

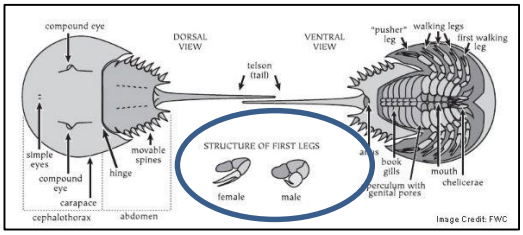
Tidal Stage: Please record the tidal stage occurring at the **start** of your walk. It is encouraged to conduct these walks during a falling or low tide.

Water Conditions: Calm- glassy to ripples; Moderate- slight chop; Rough- white caps/ large waves

Wind Speed: 0-5 mph- no wind to a slight rustle; 5-10 mph- wind felt on face and tree leaves move; 10-20 mph- small trees begin to sway and dust is raised up from the ground; 20-35 mph- entire trees sway/ large branches move

Comments: Record any additional notes such as unique weather conditions (e.g., high winds, precipitation) or wildlife sightings, to explain why a walk was not completed (e.g., time limitations, shorebird presence), or other pertinent information.

Rescued Horseshoe Cabs: Use tick marks to record **live** Horseshoe Crabs rescued during the complete walk. Tally tick marks for each category to determine total. Use 'Extra Data Forms' if more room is needed. To distinguish male and female crabs, examine the front-most pair of claws. In male crabs, they are modified into "claspers" that resemble boxing gloves.



Overturned Crabs: Crabs overturned most likely due to wave action. Does not include crabs dug into sand.

Impinged Crabs-Type: Please circle each impingement structure you rescue crabs from, and tally the males and females rescued from each type.

Location/Notes: If you have the capability, please take GPS coordinates of formidable impingement hazards. If not, please provide a detailed description of the hazard and location.

Other: Crabs that are stranded in conditions they would not be able to remove themselves from e.g. buried for long period at great distance from water. Record these crabs separately in the 'Extra Data Forms' section, and provide description in comments section.

Tag Identification: Record the information on the tag. Tags may be from LIVE or DEAD crabs. Please report tag numbers on the datasheet/online reTURN the Favor data form - all tag data reported from reTURN the Favor volunteers will be batch reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Tags may be removed from dead crabs.

If you experience any issues or notice suspicious activities, please contact a NJ Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer: **877-WARNDEP**

Data may be entered online at returnthefavornj.org or submitted directly to the program. Please check box after data has been submitted online, if appropriate.

For more information, please email info@returnthefavornj.org.

Impingement Definitions

Bin blocks: Concrete, rectangular blocks used in building and retention structures.

Riprap: A structured, stone or concrete wall running parallel to the beach (as opposed to a jetty or groin, which runs perpendicular to the shoreline).

Rubble: Broken up pieces of concrete, rebar, or metal, remaining from construction projects, often found in the tideline or upper beach.

Outfall pipes: a pipe running perpendicular to the tideline, used to carry wastewater or from storm drains. Includes the wooden support structures that surround the pipe.

Jetty/groin: A stone or concrete structure that runs perpendicular to the tideline. This structure usually goes at least partway into the water.

Boat ramp: All structures associated with a currently used or out-of-use boat ramp- including the posts and pilings to the side, the ground layer of concrete, wooden sides, etc.

House: Anything associated with an intact home structure- including deck pilings, stairs, seawalls and bulkheads used to stabilize the home and property.

Marine Debris: Any trash, litter, or object that can catch crabs. Examples include monofilament, sandbags, tires, rope, or fencing materials.

Natural Impingements: Anything organic or biotic, such as wrack, peat accumulation, phragmites, mud, or vegetation.

Other: Anything that doesn't fall into the above definitions. This also includes crabs right-side up, but in the high beach that would not make it until the next high tide due to beach structure or heat outside.

Rubble

Outfall pipes

House Structures

Boat Ramp

Bin blocks