

## Horseshoe Crab Spawning Surveys Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do I need to attend a training session to complete surveys?**  
If you want to participate in the DMF surveys conducted at Tashmoo, you must attend a training session and sign up ahead of time for a specific survey (we ask all volunteers to complete at least two). You don't however, need to attend training to complete Rapid Assessment surveys.
- **If I attended training in a previous year do I need to do it again this year?**  
No. You only have to complete training once to participate in DMF surveys and nest counts. However, all veteran volunteers are welcome and encouraged to participate in trainings each year.
- **How do I sign up for training and surveys?**  
You can sign up for **trainings** by calling Felix Neck (508-627-4850) or by going online to [www.massaudubon.org/felixneck](http://www.massaudubon.org/felixneck). To sign up for specific **surveys**, you can call the Sanctuary or stop by.
- **How long do surveys take?**  
DMF surveys take anywhere from 45 – 90 minutes, depending on the tides and the number of crabs on the beach. Nest surveys and Rapid Assessment surveys take about 30 minutes, but time depends on the length of beach surveyed.
- **Where are surveys completed?**  
We survey crabs at Tashmoo Pond in Vineyard Haven. Nest counts are completed at Sengekontacket or wherever they are found, and Rapid Assessments can be completed at a number of island beaches (see instructions for suggestions).
- **If part or the entire beach is under water, do we still survey? If the beach is inundated but we can still see the horseshoe crabs, can we still survey?**  
Our main criterion is safety for the volunteers. If it's calm and shallow and accessible, go for it. If it isn't, skip it. And usually if the water comes up over the bushes or marsh grass the crabs won't go that high, probably because they're too likely to get stranded when the tide recedes. If part of the beach is under water (can happen on moon night), you won't be able to count some or all quads. Put X in quads you can't count, don't put "0" (which means no crabs in that quad).