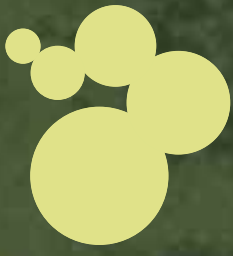


Horseshoe Crab



Eggs



In May or June, when the full moon shines bright, female Horseshoe crabs, with the slightly smaller male Horseshoe crabs behind her, crawls onto the beach above the high tide mark, digs into the wet sand and lays her eggs, which the male fertilizes.

Characteristics

Each egg, about 1.5 to 2 mm in diameter, is the size of a small pea and opaque, light green in color. Females can lay up to 4,000 eggs.



Habitat

Sandy beach

Eggs stay on the beach for two weeks, before hatching. The tidal waters and sun's warmth provide nourishment as they mature.



Interactions

Migrating birds depend on horseshoe crab eggs for food. Beach-goers, without knowing, stir up eggs when walking on the beach. Parks Department staff using machinery to rake the beaches, destroy eggs.



Conservation

Be mindful of horseshoe crab mating season when walking the beach below high tide. Ask your local parks department to minimize beach raking from late May to mid-June. Encourage people you know to learn more about horseshoe crabs and their eggs.

