

New Jersey Bans Horseshoe Crab Take to Help Red Knot Population Recovery

Don & Judy Koch let 3RBC President Jack Solomon know that on Sat, 15 Mar 2008 the following news was posted on the Ohio-birds Listserv (the news release is followed by a sample of the kind of thank-you note that Don & Judy provided, lightly edited by Jack:

From yesterday's Atlantic City paper:

TRENTON - The state Assembly voted 70-6 Thursday evening for a moratorium on the harvesting of horseshoe crabs until the red knot shorebirds have replenished their population, the Office of Legislative Services said. The bill, sponsored by Assemblymen John McKeon, D-Essex, Reed Gusciora, D-Mercer, and Douglas Fisher, D-Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, calls for a \$10,000 fine for the first offense and \$25,000 for subsequent offenses of possession or harvesting of horseshoe crabs. The moratorium will stay in place until the red knot population increases to 240,000. The Senate Environmental Committee passed a separate bill Monday.

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Assemblymen John McKeon, D-Essex AsmMcKeon@njleg.org

Reed Gusciora, D-Mercer AsmGusciora@njleg.org

Douglas Fisher, D-Cumberland <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/selectrep.asp> (not sure if he has a direct email as the other 2 or not, we did not find one for him)...this site gives you a "contact form" (very easy to complete).

Sample Thank You Note:

We are birders who learned of your recent work on helping to sponsor and pass legislation to stop the over-harvesting of the horseshoe crab in New Jersey, which will, we're sure, impact positively the Red Knot's chance for survival. Bringing any pro-environmental issue to the forefront in the current political climate, let alone actually being able to pass the legislation at any level, is a valuable accomplishment on your part. Although long overdue, this is certainly welcome news!

Thanks you for your very note-worthy efforts. We believe that there can and must be a balance between environment and profit. We expect that New Jersey will no doubt, thanks to your strong leadership, benefit financially from an ever-growing trend toward eco-tourism, not to mention myriad other benefits. We applaud you for your willingness to show strong leadership in protecting your eco-system!