

RETURN the FAVOR



www.returnthefavornj.org

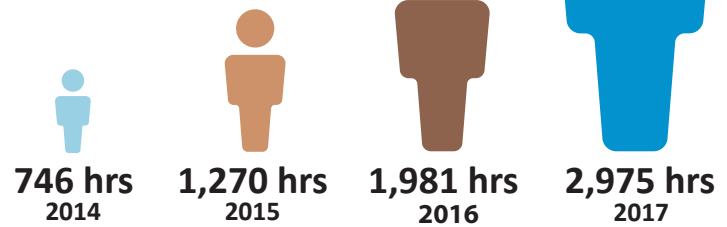
2017 Results

Every spring, Delaware Bay hosts the largest concentration spawning horseshoe crabs on the Atlantic Coast. With their population significantly reduced from overharvesting in the 1990s, thousands more die every year after being overturned by waves or becoming stuck in bulkheads or other hazards.

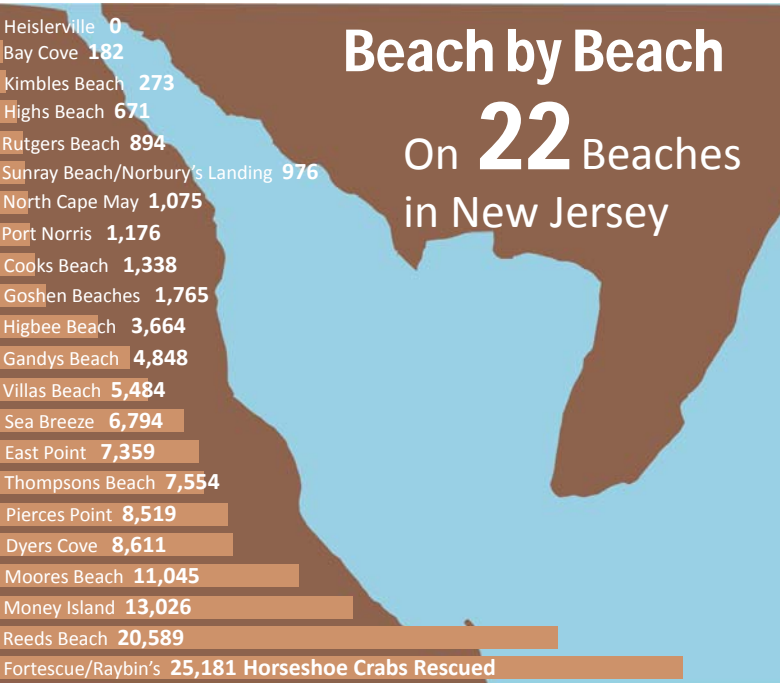
Since 2013, reTURN the Favor partners have organized volunteers to lead walks to rescue stranded crabs in New Jersey, aiding in efforts to recover the Delaware Bay horseshoe crabs.

131,024 Horseshoe Crabs Rescued
118 Walk Leaders
2,975 Volunteer Hours
847 Rescue Walks

Volunteer hours
 ↑ **4X** in four years



More people rescuing crabs = More horseshoe crabs rescued = Over 131,000 crabs rescued in 2017



Volunteers Spring into Action

On Memorial Day weekend, a perfect storm of full moon high tides, extraordinary numbers of spawning crabs, and storm surge, stranded thousands of crabs in the marsh, overwash areas, and rubble.



This extreme event highlighted hotspot areas, which led volunteers to give them extra attention the rest of the season.

Steering Committee

Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey
 New Jersey Department of Fish and Wildlife
 The Wetlands Institute
 Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network

Program Funding

New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

Partners

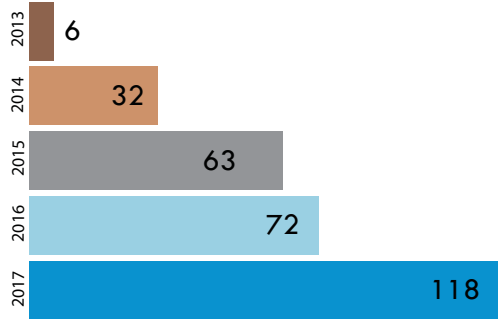
Bayshore Center at Bivalve
 Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries, Inc
 Friends of Cape May National Wildlife Refuge
 The Nature Conservancy- New Jersey Chapter
 New Jersey Audubon
 Rutgers University

Want to help save New Jersey's horseshoe crabs? Get involved at returnthefavornj.org.

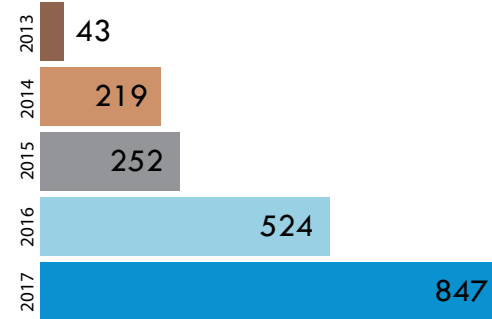
Five Years of Horseshoe Crab Rescue



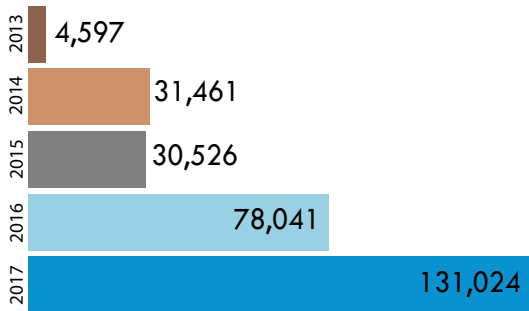
Walk Leaders



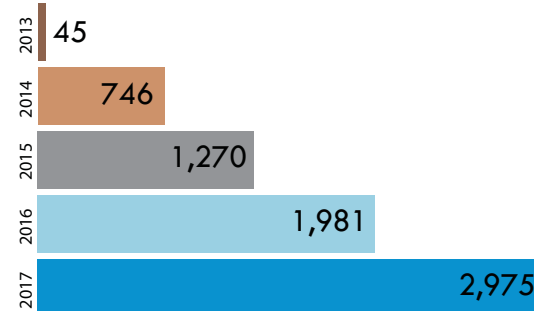
Walks Conducted



Horseshoe Crabs Rescued



Volunteers Hours



**Saving Lives.
Teaching Others.
Taking Action.**

“We love making a difference one crab at a time. We also love sharing our knowledge with others. We took our young grandchildren and they were so excited, they called themselves ‘horseshoe crab heroes’.”

— Volunteer

reTURN the Favor is founded to build a community of people rescuing horseshoe crabs on NJ’s open and closed beaches.

More partners join, now with 9 partners covering 18 beaches.

First restoration project at East Point to reduce impingements. And it’s a success! 77 crabs/walks in 2014 down to only 10 crabs/walk in 2015.

Datasheets are improved to understand impingements and target restoration activities.

1,000 walks conducted.

Facebook group is formed and community is strengthened.

5,000th hour is volunteered.

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

45 rescue walks and 4,597 crabs are conducted in the pilot year.

245 crabs/walk are rescued from man-made impingements at Fortescue Beach, highlighting the need for restoration.

Walk leaders doubled, from 32 leaders in 2014 to 63 walk leaders in 2015.

32,000 lbs of rubble removed from Moores Beach with the help of Haddonfield Memorial High School.

250,000 crabs were rescued.

Want to help save New Jersey’s horseshoe crabs? Get involved at returnthefavornj.org.