



A Horseshoe Crab Preservation and LAL Testing Timeline

- 1968** ■ After decades of research extending back to the 1800s, scientists discover that horseshoe crab blood clots when bacterial endotoxin is present.
- 1971** ■ The standard Limulus ameobocyte lysate (LAL) assay, a test for detecting the presence of endotoxin that is based on horseshoe crab blood, is developed.
- 1983** ■ The FDA approves the LAL assay, which had already replaced the rabbit test for endotoxin, as a standard test.
- 1991** ■ With Charles River's advocacy, South Carolina bans use of horseshoe crabs as fishing bait and restricts harvesting to biomedical applications.
- 1998** ■ A decline in the horseshoe crab population in other states is noted due to unregulated trawling for bait.
- 2000** ■ Trawling quotas are introduced by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), reducing harvest numbers by 80%.
- today** ■ As reported by the ASMFC in their April 2010 report, the horseshoe crab population has continued to increase and now is being found with robust juvenile populations.

Thanks to its use in biomedical research, the horseshoe crab maintains its protected status, allowing the population to continue to flourish.

Contact Us

USA Tel: +1 (877) CRIVER-1 • Email: endo-comments@crl.com
Europe Tel: 00 800 15 78 97 43 • Email: eurendo@eu.crl.com