Building on the success of the 2007 International Symposium on the Science and Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs held at Dowling College, New York, USA, a second International Workshop on the Science and Conservation of Asian Horseshoe Crabs has been organized in Hong Kong.

Asian horseshoe crabs represent an urgent conservation challenge. The status of horseshoe crabs in Asia is uncertain due to sparse data, but it is clear that there are multiple stressors that have caused declines in virtually all populations. Thus, there is an acute and urgent need for a conservation strategy focused on Asian species that will help guide scientific and conservation agendas into the future. Given this limited, but challenging objective, we have organized a workshop to develop a conservation strategy for Asian horseshoe crabs.

The workshop program will mix capstone oral presentations addressing current knowledge and state-of-the-science methods, poster presentations, and breakout sessions to develop and begin to write the conservation strategy. The program includes a balance of Asian and North American scientists and conservationists who can contribute to one or more of the workshop themes.

**PROGRAM SESSIONS:** A series of presentations by international participants have been organized under the following themes:

1. Conservation of Asian horseshoe crabs: Challenges and Opportunities
2. Populations: Status, assessment methods, and management approaches
3. Habitats: Status, assessment methods, and management approaches
4. Exploitation: managing sources of mortality
5. Public consensus: Building public consensus for conservation action through education, outreach, and cooperation

**CALL FOR POSTERS:** You are invited to submit abstracts for contributed posters. Instructions for preparation of abstracts are on the following page or can be found by visiting the workshop web page [http://www.cityu.edu.hk/bch/iwscahc2011](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/bch/iwscahc2011) or can be requested from Dr. Mark Botton, Poster Session Chairman ([BOTTON@FORDHAM.EDU](mailto:BOTTON@FORDHAM.EDU)).

Deadline for abstract submission is 1 March 2011.

TO REGISTER AND FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Visit the workshop’s web site at [http://www.cityu.edu.hk/bch/iwscahc2011](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/bch/iwscahc2011)
The Hong Kong Wetland Park, Hong Kong
13 -16 June 2011

Call for Contributed Posters
Instructions for Preparation of Abstracts
Deadline for Abstract Submission is 1 March 2011

1. Provide contact information for corresponding author.
2. Titles are limited to 25 words.
3. The name of the author presenting the poster should be capitalized.
4. The body of the abstract is limited to 250 words. Use italics for Latin names.
5. The official language of the meeting is English. We encourage the submission of abstracts from International authors, but these will be edited for clarity, if necessary.
6. Abstracts must be sent as a MS-Word or RTF attachment to Dr. Mark Botton, Poster Session Chairman (BOTTON@FORDHAM.EDU).
8. Please follow the style guidelines in the sample abstract below:

EXAMPLE ABSTRACT

Author Contact Information: Dr. Mark L. Botton
Fordham University
113 West 60th Street
New York, NY 10023 USA
(212) 636-6327
botton@fordham.edu

Title (25 words or less): Impacts of an Intensive Fishery on the Reproductive Biology of Horseshoe Crabs in the Delaware Bay Area

Authors’ Names and Affiliations (Presenter in CAPS): M. L. BOTTON (Fordham Univ., New York, NY, USA) and R. E. Loveland (Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ, USA)

Body of Abstract (250 words or less): Since the mid-1990’s, horseshoe crabs (Limulus polyphemus) have been the basis of significant commercial fisheries for bait (eels and whelks) and biomedical use (extraction of blood for Limulus amoebocyte lysate). We compared the sex ratio, size structure, and condition index of the horseshoe crab population in Delaware Bay, New Jersey before and after the expansion of the fishery in the mid-1990’s to evaluate some possible impacts of the fishery on reproductive biology. Both sexes have experienced population declines, but females have declined more rapidly than males. Consequently, the sex ratio in the spawning population in Delaware Bay has become more skewed towards males, which is consistent with the preferential harvesting of females for the eel bait fishery. We did not observe significant changes in the size structure of the population, despite the reported preference of the bait and biomedical industries for larger animals. Similarly, we saw no temporal shift in the carapace condition index, suggesting that fishing was not selective for “younger” individuals within the population. We recommend continued monitoring of the carapace condition index as a means of detecting new recruits into the adult population.