



NOTICE

Open Sea Turtle Fishery Conditions for 2015

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Co-operatives and Rural Development informs that the Sea Turtle Fishery opens from **Thursday, October 01 to December 31, 2015** both days inclusive.

For harvesting of this resource, all fishers and the public are required to adhere to the following conditions:

WHO

- **Only traditional sea turtle fishers** are authorised to take part in the sea turtle fishery.

WHEN

- The Sea Turtle Fishery shall extend from October 01 to December 31, 2015. No person shall fish for, remove from the fishery waters, or at any time have in his possession, **expose for sale, sell or purchase any sea turtle from January 01, 2015.**

WHAT

- **Leatherback (“Toti anklen”; “Agalou”)** sea turtle are **NOT TO BE CAPTURED**. All leatherback sea turtles that are caught must be released.
- Only the **Green (“Toti”), Hawksbill (“Kawet”), and loggerhead (“Kawen”)** sea turtle are permitted to be captured.
- Only turtles **that meet the legal size** according to the Fisheries Act Cap. 7.15 shall be targeted. That is; Green and Loggerhead must weigh 75lbs or more; the hawksbill must weigh 60lbs or more.
- No person shall interfere with **any sea turtle nest or nesting sea turtle**.
- No person shall at any time, disturb, remove from the fishery waters, expose for sale, sell, purchase at any time or have in his possession any sea turtle eggs.

HOW

- The only gear allowed for capturing sea turtle is a **turtle net**. Nets must not be set and left over night. Nets can only be set for 4 hours and are to be operated in such a way that sub legal turtles (i.e less than the legal size) can be released alive.
- No spearing or harpooning of sea turtles is permitted
- There shall be no fishing of sea turtles within 100 metres (300 feet) of the shore.
- There shall be no fishing for sea turtles on or above coral reef areas
- Sea turtles must be landed whole and taken to a designated landing site, where sea turtle data shall be collected by the data collector or fisheries officer.
- No sea turtle shall be slaughtered or sold on beaches or in other public areas or open places. Only designated landing sites and fish markets shall be used.
- No products (meat, shell, jewellery, souvenirs, etc) are to be made from the turtle shell or their products for local sale or export.
- No sea turtle meat is to be sold at any restaurant or tourism establishment that caters primarily to tourist/non nationals.

Contravention of each offence shall result in a maximum fine of up to **five thousand dollars (EC\$5000)** as stipulated under the Fisheries Act and Regulation Cap. 7.15.

The Department of Fisheries will be conducting monitoring activities islandwide to obtain any information on sea turtles captured during the period and will be working along with the Police, Customs and other enforcement agencies to ensure that all persons abide by the harvest conditions stipulated above.

All harvesting activities must cease after the last day of the open period. No person shall be allowed to have in their possession or expose for sale any sea turtle meat or shell after the closure of the harvesting period. Fishers and the general public are hereby urged to observe and comply with the aforementioned conditions.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PRODUCTION, FISHERIES,
CO-OPERATIVES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT