

Protect the Fishing Industry and Marine Life of Belize



CORAL

- It is illegal for any person to buy, sell, take, or have in his possession any type of coral. An exception is made in the case of Black Coral (order Anthozoa) which may only be bought, sold or exported with a license from the Fisheries Administrator.

CONCH (*Strombus gigas*)

- Shell length should exceed 7 inches.
- Market clean weight should exceed 3 ounces.
- Fillet weight should exceed 2.75 ounces.
- Closed season is from July 1st to September 30th.
- No fisherman shall buy, sell or have fillet or diced conch meat at sea other than market clean conch (except under special permit issued by the Fisheries Administrator).

LOBSTER (*Panulirus argus*)

- Minimum carapace length is 3 inches.
- Minimum tail weight is 4 ounces.
- Closed season is from February 15th to June 14th.
- No fisherman should have in his possession fillet or diced lobster tail meat (except under special permit issued by the Fisheries Administrator).

SHRIMP

- Closed season is from July 1st to September 30th inclusive of any year for trawling.

BONE FISH (*Albula vulpes*)

- Locally known as MACABI.
- No person shall buy or sell any Bone Fish.

GRAZERS

- No person shall take from the waters of Belize, buy, sell or have in his possession any grazer from the following family:
- Scaridae (of the genus *Scarus* and *sparsoma*, and are commonly known as Parrot Fish).
- Acanthuridae (and are commonly known as Blue Tang, Surgeon Fish, and Doctor Fish).

NASSAU GROUPER (*Epinephelus striatus*)

- No person shall take in the waters of Belize, buy, sell or have in his possession any Nassau Grouper between December 1st and March 31st of the following year. Except from Maugre Caye at Turneffe Islands and Northern Two Caye at Lighthouse Reef Atoll. At these two places a special license is granted to traditional fishers.
- No person shall take, buy, sell or have in his possession any Nassau Grouper which is less than 20 inches and greater than 30 inches.
- All Nassau Grouper are to be landed whole.

WHALE SHARK (*Rhincodon typus*)

- No shark of this species commonly known as the Whale Shark shall be caught or killed in the waters of Belize.

HICATEE (*Dermatemys mawii*)

- No person shall have in his possession more than three such turtles.
- No person shall transport in any vehicle more than five such turtles.
- No person shall fish for female Hicatee that are smaller than 38cm (15.2 inches) and greater than 43cm (17.2 inches).
- Closed season is from May 1st to May 31st inclusive of any year.

MARINE TURTLE

- No person should interfere with any turtle nest.
- No person may take turtle unless with a license from the Fisheries Administrator (traditional use only).
- No person shall buy, sell or have in his possession any articles made of turtle shell.

SEA CUCUMBER

- Fishing or harvesting requires a special permit issued by the Fisheries Administrator.

All fish fillet shall have a skin patch of at least 2 inches by 1 inch.

No spear fishing within any marine reserve.

No fishing without a valid Fisher Folk License or Fishing vessel license.



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