Marine Management Area Science

The vision of Conservation International's Marine Management Area Science Program is to provide the scientific tools for a return to a prosperous ocean through a consolidated strategy of research and practice for achieving management goals. This brochure was produced as a result of the "Enforcement Chain Analysis" study which found that many registered fishers were not fully aware of all fisheries regulations. It was developed through the collaboration of the Fisheries Department, Conservation International, Healthy Reefs for Healthy People, Wildlife Conservation Society and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Report any illegal activity to the Belize Fisheries Department at:

Fisheries Tels: 203-2623, 223-2187, 224-4552
Fax: 203-2983

Glover's Reef Marine Reserve: **603-0277**
South Water Caye Marine Reserve**: 602-7821**
Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve: **667-2887**
Caye Caulker Marine Reserve: **226-0300**
Hunting Caye / Sapodilla Caye: **603-5566**
Fisheries Office Punta Gorda: **702-2660**
Hol Chan Marine Reserve: **226-2247**

Email: species@btl.net or the nearest Marine Reserve Station or the Police Station

Remember that infractions can result in fines, penalties and/or incarceration

Sponsored by

SCIENCETOACTION

BELIZE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Healthy Reefs for healthy people

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Fisheries Regulations

"To provide the country and people of Belize with the best possible management of its aquatic and fisheries resources, with a view to optimize the present and future benefits through efficient and sustainable management"

Regulaciones de Pesca

"Proveer a el país y a el pueblo de Belice con el mejor manejo posible de los recursos acuáticos y pesqueros con la visión de optimizar el presente y los futuros beneficios atraves del manejo eficiente y sostenible"

Fisher folk & Fishing Vessel Licensing Requirements

All persons on board a commercial fishing vessel are required to be a holder of a valid fisher folk license. When applying for a fisherman license a fisher should present the following:

- Proof of age (must be 18 years or older)
- Proof that he/she sells marine products in Belize
- Proof of residency or nationality (must be Belizean or Permanent resident with valid passport, voter ID or Permanent Resident Card)
- Proof that he/she has been residing in Belize for the past six (6) months prior to date of application (residents only)
- Must complete a Fisher folk Application form
- Must pay a fee of BZ$25.00

Any vessels employed in commercial fishing should be licensed at the Fisheries Department. When applying for a fishing vessel license one must present the following:

- Valid fisher folk license (inspection of vessel by Fisheries officers are required for first insurance)
- Valid Port Authority Vessel Certificate
- Must pay a fee of BZ$ 25.00 for vessel of 20 feet or greater and BZ$ 15.00 for vessel less than 20 feet.

Fisher folk and Vessels Licenses expire the 31 of December

Requisitos para obtener licencias de Pescador y Embarcación de pesca

Toda persona abordo de una embarcación comercial de pesca debe de tener consigo una licencia de pesca valida. Al solicitar una licencia de pesca todo pescador debe proveer los siguientes requisitos:

- Documentos que prueben la edad, nacionalidad o estado de residencia del solicitante. Los solicitantes deberán ser Beliceños o Residentes Permanentes de Belice (Pasaporte, Carnet Electoral, Carnet de Residencia Permanente).
- Documentos de venta que comprueben que el producto es vendido en Belice o que haya sido exportado legalmente
- Documentos que comprueben que el solicitante haya residido en Belice por lo menos 6 meses antes de la fecha de aplicación. (Recibo de Luz, Agua, Renta etc.)(residentes solamente)
- Deberá llenar un formulario de aplicación.
- Deberá pagar BZ$ 25.00 por la licencia.

Toda embarcación de pesca comercial deberá obtener una licencia de embarcacion otorgado por el Departamento de Pesca. Al solicitar una licencia para embarcación los pescadores deberán presentar lo siguiente:

- Licencia de pescador valido.
- Certificado de Capitania de Puerto Valido
- Deberá pagar BZ$ 25.00 para barcos de 20 pies o mas de largo y BZ$15.00 para barcos menores de 20 pies de largo.

Licencia de Pescador y embarcaciones de pesca expiran el 31 Diciembre

Protected Reefs Grazers (continued)

Princess Parrrotfish (Scarus taeniopterus) Juvenile

Princess Parrotfish (Scarus taeniopterus) Terminal phase

Striped Parrotfish (Scarus iserti) Initial phase

Striped Parrotfish (Scarus iserti) Terminal phase

Redband Parrotfish (Sparisoma aurofrenatum) Juvenile

Redband Parrotfish (Sparisoma aurofrenatum) Terminal phase

Greenblotch Parrotfish (Sparisoma atomarium) Juvenile

Greenblotch Parrotfish (Sparisoma atomarium) Terminal Phase

Importance of Protecting reef grazers

Grazers are animals that feed on plant life. Our reef is being overgrown with algae in many locations. It is important that we increase the abundance of reef grazers in order to promote the health of our coral reef. The following photos depict some of the important parrotfish and surgeon fish that are now protected in all waters of Belize

Blue Parrotfish
(Scarus coeruleus)
Terminal Phase

Midnight Parrotfsh
(Scarus coelestinus)

Queen Parrotfish
(Scarus vetula)
Initial phase

Queen Parrotfish
(Scarus vetula)
Terminal Phase

Stoplight parrotfish
(Sparisoma viride)
Initial phase

Stoplight Parrotfish
(Sparisoma viride)
Terminal Phase

Yellowtail Parrotfish
(Sparisoma rubripinne)

Rainbow Parrotfish
(scarus guacamaia)
Terminal phase

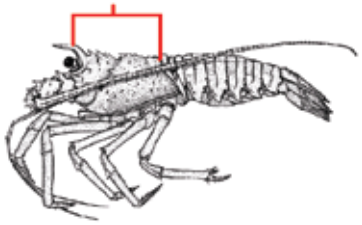
Lobster (Langosta)

- Cape length is more than 3 inches (Talla de Carapacho mas de 3 Pulgadas)
- Tail weight is more than 4 ounces (Peso de cola 4 mas de onzas)

No person shall have in his possession any fillet, diced tail, soft shell, with eggs or lobster with tar spot or that has had the spawn removed.
(Ninguna persona deberá tener en su posesión filete, picoteada, carapacho suave, con hueva o con hueva que haya sido removida,)

Closed Season is from February 15 to June 14
Veda del 15 de Febrero a 14 de Junio

Minimum 3 inches
(Talla Minima 3 pulgadas)



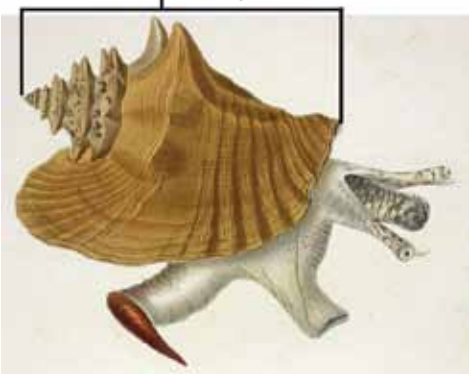
Minimum weight 4 ounces
(Peso Mínimo 4 onzas)

Conchs (Caracol)

- Shell length should be greater than 7 inches (Concha debe ser mayor de 7 pulgadas)
- Market clean weight more than 3 ounces (Peso de caracol limpio mas de 3 onzas)
- Fillet weight more than 2.75 ounces (Peso de Filete mas de 2.75 onzas.)
- No fishermen should have in his possession diced conch meat.
  (Ningún pescador deberá tener en su posesión caracol picoteado)

Closed Season is from July 1st to September 30
Veda del 1 de Junio al 30 de Septiembre

minimum 7 inches
7 pulgadas Mínimo



Market clean
Minimum weight
more than 3 ounces
(peso Caracol limpio
mas de 3 onzas)

Fillet conch
weight more than
2.75 ounces
(Peso de filete
mas de
2.75 onzas)

Nassau Grouper (Mero)

- All Nassau Groupers are to be landed Whole
  (Todo mero deberá ser desembarcado a Puerto entero)
- Minimum catch size 20 inches (Caza mínima de 20 Pulgadas)
- Maximum catch size 30 inches (Caza Máxima de 30 pulgadas)

Closed season is from December 1 to March 31
Veda del 1 de Diciembre al 31 de Marzo

Minimum 20 ins.
Maximum 30 ins

Minimo 20 pulgadas
Maximo 30 pulgadas

Prohibited Equipment throughout Belize
(Arte de pesca prohibido en Belice)

No fishing using explosives or poison or chemical that stupefy fish.
- (Esta prohibido la pesca con uso de explosivos y químicas que estupefacta los peces)

No fishing with artificial breathing devices (scuba gear)
- (Esta prohibido el uso de equipo de respiración artificial así como equipo de buceo)

Prohibited equipment and activities within a marine reserve
(Actividades y artes de pesca prohibidos en Reservas Marinas)

- Spear guns (Arpones o Pistolas de lanza)
- Nets (Redes, Trasmallo)
- Long line (Palangre)
- Fish traps (Trampas)*
- Beach traps (Trampas Costeras)*
- No person shall damage, destroy or remove any species of flora or fauna from its place;
  (Ninguna persona debe de dañar, destruir, o remover cualquier flora o fauna de su lugar)
- No person shall engage in any scientific study or research without a permit;
  (Ninguna persona debe de hacer estudios científicos o colecta de información sin un Permiso)
- No person shall damage, destroy or disturb the natural beauty of such area;
  (Ninguna persona debe dañar, destruir o molestar la belleza natural de estas áreas)
- No spearfishing is allowed inside marine reserves (pending enforcement)
  (Actividades y artes de pesca prohibidos en Reservas Marinas)

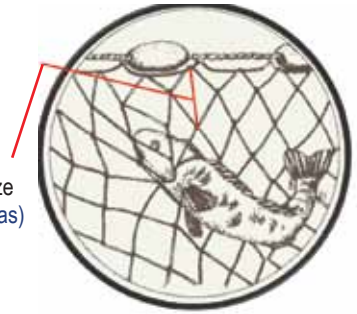
Traps and Netting (Trampas y Redes)

No person shall set traps outside the reef or within 300 feet from the barrier reef
- (Esta prohibido usar redes o trampas fuera del arrecife o a 300 pies del arrecife)

No setting of nets, beach seines within 2 miles radius of the Mouth of the Haulover Creek,
- Sibun River, Belize River or half a mile from any city, town, village or inhabited locality in Belize.
  (Esta prohibido poner redes, presas, trasmallos dentro de un radio de 2 millas de la boca del Haulover Creek, Rio Sibun, Rio De Belice o a media milla de cualquier ciudad, pueblo, aldea o sitio habitado)

Minimum mesh size for nets (except cast nets) is 3 inches.
(Mínimo tamaño de malla es de 3 pulgadas)
- No person shall close off a channel, passage, entrance, or small embayment of water with any fishing device in such manner as to restrict the free passage of boats or to wholly prevent the
- passage of fish.
  (Ninguna persona deberá cerrar el paso completo a ninguna canal, boca de rio, entrada a lagunas o pequeños estuarios de tal manera que restringa el paso libre de embarcaciones o que obstruya completamenta el paso de los peces.

3 inches minimum mesh size
(malla de 3 pulgadas mínimas)



Grazers (Herbivoros)

No person shall have in his possession, buy or sell any grazers Scaridae (Genus Scarus and sparisoma) and Acanthuridae family commonly known as parrot fish or tangs
(Ninguna persona deberá tener en su posesión, comprar o vender ningún pez herbívoro de las especies Scaridae (Genus Scarus y sparisoma) y Acanthuridae mejores conocidos como pez loro y pez lanceros .)

Blue Tang
Acanthurus coeruleus

Ocean Surgeonfish
Acanthurus bahianus

Doctorfish
Acanthurus chirurgus

Marine Turtles (Tortuga Marina)

- No person should interfere with any turtle nest
  (Ninguna persona debe de interferir con un nido de tortuga)
- No person shall take any species of marine turtle
  (Ninguna persona deberá tomar ninguna tortuga marina)
- No person shall buy, sell, take or have in his possession any turtle, part of turtle or article made of any part of turtle or turtle eggs.
  (Ninguna persona deberá comprar, vender, tomar o tener en su posesión cualquier Tortuga o parte de Tortuga o artículos hechos de cualquier parte de Tortuga o huevos de tortuga.)
- Any shrimp trawler in Belize should be equipped with a preapproved functional Turtle Excluder Device (TED).
  (Cualquier barco de arrastre pescando en Belice deber tener dispositivos de excluidor de tortugas aprobados por el Departamento de Pesca)

Hicatee Turtle (Tortuga Blanca)
(Dermatemys mawii)

- No person shall have in his possession more than 3 turtles and no vehicle should transport more than 5 turtles.
  (Ninguna persona deberá tener en su posesión mas de 3 Tortugas y ningún vehículo deberá transportar mas de 5 tortugas.)
- No person shall buy or sell any such turtles.
  (Se prohíbe la compra y venta de estas Tortugas)
- Minimum catch size for female turtles is 15.2 inches and maximum 17.2 inches .
  (Se prohíbe la caza de tortugas hembras de menos de 15.2 pulgadas y mayores de 17.2 pulgadas de largos.)

Closed Season is from May 1 to May 31 (Veda es del 1 de Mayo al 30 de Mayo)

Coral (Corales)

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

(Es ilegal que cualquiera persona compre, venda, tome o tenga en su posesión cualquier tipo de coral. Hay una excepción para el coral negro que se puede comprar, vender y exportar con una licencia otorgado por la Administrador (a) de Pesca.)

Export (Exportaciones)

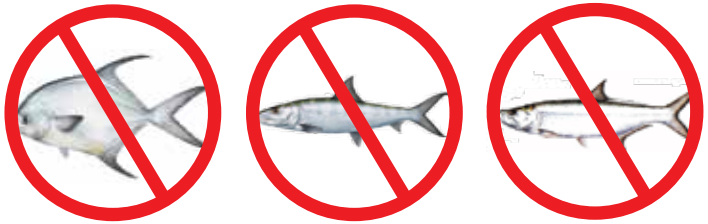
No person shall export, attempt to export or purchase with a view to export any fish unless
he is the holder of a valid fish exporter's license .

(Ninguna persona debe exportar o intentar exportar cualquier producto pesquero, comprar con intención de exportar sin un permiso de exportación de peces)

* traditional users only and only in areas authorized by Fisheries Administrator
*(Pescadores tradicionales solamente y en áreas autorizadas por el Administrador (a) de pesca

Bone Fish, Tarpon, Permit
(Macabi, Sabalo, Palometta)

No person or establishment shall have in his possession any bonefish, permit fish or tarpon or any of its product forms, save and except in the act of catch and release.
(Esta prohibido tener, comprar o vender Macabi, Sábalo y Palometa en cualquiera de sus formas. Estas especies son de pesca y liberación únicamente)



Fish Fillet (Fillete de Pescado)

All fish fillet shall have a skin patch of at least 2 inches by 1 inch.
(Todo filete deberá tener un pedazo de pellejo de 1 por 2 pulgadas)

Sea Cucumber (Pepino de Mar)

No person shall fish for sea cucumber (Donkey dung) without special permit from the Fisheries Administrator.
(La pesca de Pepino de mar solo se puede llevar acabo con un permiso de el Administrador (a) de Pesca)

Closed Season from July 1 to December 31
Veda del 1 Julio al 31 de Diciembre