

## Closed Seasons

Closed seasons are periods within which no fishing, hunting or capture of a specified animal is allowed by law. These periods coincide with the peak breeding seasons of the species, and are so instituted to allow the animals to mature and revive its population.

Currently, two marine species have closed seasons in Jamaica, namely the: [Queen Conch](#) and [Caribbean Spiny Lobster](#)

### *Conch*



The Fisheries Division hereby informs the public that during the Close Season for conch, the fishing, selling, processing or importation of queen conch is strictly prohibited by law. The public is also hereby advised that the fishing for conch is prohibited by law unless the fisher is in possession of a specific licence to fish or cause conch to be fished.

Under the Fishing Industry (Conservation of Conch (Genus: Strombus)) Regulations, 2000 every licensed fisherman and every person in charge of commercial cold storage facilities, hotels and eating establishments, planning to have conch meat in storage during the Close Season for Conch must be aware of the following:

- A signed declaration inclusive of the quantity, description (level of processing) and the address where the product is being stored must be submitted to:

*The Licensing Authority  
Fisheries Division  
Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries  
Marcus Garvey Drive  
P.O. Box 470  
Kingston 13.*

- Fishers are required to submit their declarations at least seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the Close Season for Conch. Persons in charge of commercial cold storage facilities, hotels and eating establishments are required to submit their declarations within the first seven (7) days of the commencement of the Close Season for Conch. Therefore all written declarations specifying the level of processing and the quantity of conch meat in possession must be submitted to the Licensing Authority.

For further information, queries can be directed to a Fisheries Officer at the Fisheries Division at 967-1601/2081 or 948-9014/6933; 923-7571; Facsimile at 924-9182; or email [fisheries\\_jamaica@live.com](mailto:fisheries_jamaica@live.com) or [fisheries@micaf.gov.jm](mailto:fisheries@micaf.gov.jm)