



Department of Fisheries

PRESS RELEASE

SEA TURTLE FISHERY CLOSED

The public is informed that the **Sea Turtle Fishery** will be **CLOSED** as of **January 1, 2019**. All harvesting, sale and consumption of sea turtle meat **must** cease at midnight on December 31, 2018.

The law prohibits the harvesting, sale, purchasing and consumption of sea turtles which includes the whole, any part or its by-products during the closed season. The closed season coincides with peak periods when sea turtles are reproducing and it is established to allow the animals to mature and replenish its population.

Anyone found in possession of a sea turtle, whole or any part or its by product will be fined a **maximum of five thousand dollars (EC\$5000.00)** as stipulated under the Fisheries Act Cap. 7.15.

The Department appeals to the general public, fishers and vendors to adhere to the closed season regulations and report to the Praedial Larceny Unit, Marine Police, the nearest Police Station or the Department of Fisheries anyone known to be in possession of sea turtles or its by-products (meat, shell or other parts) during the closed season.

For additional information contact the Department of Fisheries at telephone numbers, 468-4135 or 468-4143 or 725 1722.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

**THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, NATURAL RESOURCES &
CO-OPERATIVES**