



NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 6, 2024

CONCH SEASON TO CLOSE AUGUST 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2025

The 2024/2025 Close Season for Queen Conch will commence on August 15, 2024, and end on February 28, 2025. The Close Season coincides with the peak breeding season of the Queen Conch, and this allows them time to freely mate, mature, and revive their population.

During the Close Season, it is illegal to possess, buy, sell, offer for sale, process or import any conch products or by-products.

Individuals must file a declaration in writing to the National Fisheries Authority, NFA, within the first twenty-one (21) days of the commencement of the Close Season; the first 21 days ending on September 4, 2024. The declarations can be sent to the NFA by email at compliance@nfa.gov.jm and must include:

- the declarant's name and address
- the quantity of conch products or by-products in the individual's possession
- owner of the conch products or by-products
- level of processing of the conch products and by-products
- location of storage of the conch products or by-products

Conch legally caught prior to the beginning of the Close Season and declared with the NFA within the first 21 days of the Close Season, may be sold or processed up to the end of those 21 days (September 4).

Any person who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and is liable to a fine of up to one million dollars or up to one year in prison.

Chief Executive Officer of the NFA, Dr. Gavin Bellamy says "I am urging our fishers and fisherfolk to comply with the laws governing the Close Season to avoid a fine or prison time. The Close Season is part of our efforts to protect our marine species and to build a sustainable fisheries sector."

Press Contact:
Abi-Gaye Smythe
Public Relations Manager
pr@nfa.gov.jm
876-948-9014

National Fisheries Authority
2C Newport East, Jamaica
Kingston 11