



BELIZE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, FORESTRY, THE
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Press Release

March 23rd, 2020

The Belize Fisheries Department hereby informs all fishers and the Public that in accordance with Statutory Instrument No. 54 of 2012, the Honorable Dr. Omar Figueroa, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development will declare the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) fishery closed at the close of business on **March 27th, 2020**. This is necessary due to the realization of the Queen Conch Production Quota for the 2019-2020 Fishing Season.

The fishing community is advised that all conch fishing activities shall cease as of this date until the opening of the next fishing season on October 1st, 2020.

The Belize Fisheries Department further advises Restauranters and the Public to use, consume and dispose of all Queen Conch meat in their possession on or before March 27th, 2020.

Any person or establishment found in possession of the Queen Conch meat after March 27th, 2020 will be charged and prosecuted in a Court of Law in accordance with the Fisheries Regulations.

The Fisheries Department advises the Public to report any illegal fisheries activity by calling telephone numbers: 224-4552 or 223-2623.

END

The Mission of the Department is to provide the country and the people of Belize with the best possible management of aquatic and fisheries resources, with a view to optimize the present and future benefits through efficient and sustainable management