

**BELIZE:**

**FISHERIES RESOURCES (STONE CRAB) REGULATIONS, 2022**

**ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

1. Citation.
2. Interpretation.
3. Stone Crab Fishing Licence.
4. Export Licence
5. Authorization.
6. Closed season.
7. Restriction on stone crab fishing.
8. General penalty.

**SCHEDULE**

**BELIZE:**

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT**

**No. 108 of 2022**

*REGULATIONS made by the Minister responsible for fisheries in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 17 of the Fisheries Resources Act, Chapter 210 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and all power thereunto him enabling.*

*(Gazetted 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2022)*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Citation.

**FISHERIES RESOURCES (STONE CRAB)  
REGULATIONS, 2022.**

2. In these Regulations—

Interpretation.

“stone crab” means the crab *Menippe mercenaria*;

“claw” means the largest claw;

“propodus length” mean the larger immovable part of the claw measured from the base of the propodus (at the joint of the elbow) to the outer tip of the propodus.

3.—(1) A person who intends to fish for stone crab shall apply to the Fisheries Administrator for a Stone Crab Fishing Licence in the form set out as Form 1 in the Schedule.

Stone Crab  
Fishing Licence.  
Schedule.

(2) An application made under sub-regulation (1) shall be accompanied by—

- (a) a fee of \$100.00;
- (b) evidence of possession of a valid fisherman's licence, if applicable;
- (c) evidence of fishing vessel licence, if applicable; and
- (d) any other information or documentation required by the Fisheries Administrator for the purpose of considering the application.

**Schedule.**

(3) A Stone Crab Fishing License shall be issued in the form set out as Form 2 in the Schedule and shall be valid for one year.

(4) A Stone Crab Fishing License may be valid for the person whom name it is issued in and two additional persons,

provided that the additional persons possess a valid commercial fishing license and fish from the same vessel as the license holder.

**Export Licence.**

4.-(1) A person who intends to export stone crab claws shall apply to the Fisheries Administrator for an Export Licence in the form set out as Form 3 in the Schedule.

(2) An application under sub-regulation 2 shall be accompanied by-

- (a) a fee of \$300.00; and
- (b) any other documentation required by the Fisheries Administrator for the purpose of considering the application.

**Schedule.**

(3) An Export Licence shall be issued in the form set out as Form 4 of the Schedule and shall be valid for one year.

5.-(1) A person who intends to fish for stone crab using a trap shall apply to the Fisheries Administrator for authorization using Form 5 of the Schedule. Authorization.

(2) An application under sub-regulation (1) shall be accompanied by-

- (a) evidence of possession of a valid fisherman's licence, if applicable.
- (b) evidence of fishing vessel licence, if applicable;
- (c) design of the trap;
- (d) the type of materials from which the trap is made;
- (e) any other information or documentation required by the Fisheries Administrator for the purpose of considering the application.

(3) The Fisheries Administrator may issue an Authorization in the form set out as Form 6 of the Schedule.

(4) No person authorized to take stone crab using a plastic trap shall take stone crab unless the trap has-

- (a) an escape gap or apertures of not less than 2 3/8 inches along one side of the trap, other than the mouth; and
- (b) a biodegradable panel.

(5) An authorization is valid for one year but may be subject to renewal on application.

(6) The Fisheries Administrator may suspend or revoke the authorization at any time where the applicant has contravened these Regulations.

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(7) An authorization issued under sub-regulation (1) shall specify the number of traps allowed—

- (a) per fisher;
- (b) per fishing vessel; and
- (c) to be deployed in a particular fishing area.

Closed season.

6.—(1) No person shall fish, sell, display, offer for sale, buy or have in his possession any stone crab during the period 1st July to 30th September.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1), a person licensed to fish for stone crab may set a trap in the fisheries waters of Belize from the 15th of September, but is not allowed to harvest any crab.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (2), no person shall have any trap deployed immediately after the closure of the stone crab fishing season.

Restrictions  
on stone crab  
fishing.

7.—(1) No person shall retain on board, tranship, store, sell, display, offer for sale, buy or have in his possession—

- (a) claws with a propodus length of less than 3 inches; and
- (b) the carapace or body of a stone crab.

(2) Any person who catches a stone crab shall release it into the sea immediately after the claw has been removed in the area it was caught.

(3) No person shall use any device for taking stone crabs that can puncture, crush or injure the body of a stone crab.

(4) No person shall fish for stone crab unless equipped with a ruler or calliper on-board the vessel.

**8.** A person who contravenes these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to

**General  
penalty.**

- (a) a fine not less than one thousand dollars but not more than five thousand dollars;
  - (b) imprisonment for a term not less than six months but not more than one year; or
  - (c) both a fine and term of imprisonment.
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SCHEDULE  
[regulation 3(1)]

FORM 1

APPLICATION FOR  
STONE CRAB FISHING LICENCE

To: Fisheries Administrator

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fishing Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant:

\_\_\_\_\_

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_

<p>For Official Use Only</p> <p>RCR Number: _____</p> <p>Date of Application: _____</p> <p>Date of Issuance: _____</p> <p>Date of Expiry: _____</p>
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FORM 2  
[regulation 3(3)]

STONE CRAB FISHING LICENCE

ISSUED BY THE BELIZE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Licence No. ....

This licence is issued to .....

(full name)

(holder of Fisherman Licence No. .... valid until .....) )

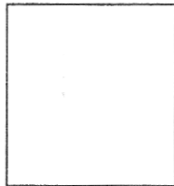
of .....

(address)

under the provision of the Fisheries Act made thereunder. This licence is not transferable and takes effect from the date of issue and remains in force unless cancelled.

Fee Paid .....

Receipt No. ....



PHOTOGRAPH

\_\_\_\_\_

(Licensing Officer's signature and Office Stamp)

**FORM 3**  
[regulation 4(1)]

**APPLICATION FOR  
STONE CRAB EXPORT LICENCE**

To: Fisheries Administrator

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fishing Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant:

\_\_\_\_\_

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_

For Official Use Only

RCR Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Issuance: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

FORM 4  
[regulation 4(4)]

STONE CRAB EXPORT LICENCE

ISSUED BY THE BELIZE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Licence No. ....

This licence is issued to .....

(full name)

(holder of Fisherman Licence No. .... valid until .....

of .....

(address)

under the provision of the Fisheries Act made thereunder. This licence is not transferable and takes effect from the date of issue and remains in force unless cancelled.

Fee Paid .....

Receipt No. ....



PHOTOGRAPH

\_\_\_\_\_

(Licensing Officer's signature and Office Stamp)

**Note: this licence may be subject to conditions attached by the Fisheries Administrator**

**FORM 5**  
[regulation 5(1)]

**APPLICATION FOR  
AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE STONE CRAB BY USE OF  
TRAPS OR POSSESSION OF TRAPS  
Belize Fisheries Department**

To: Fisheries Administrator

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fishing Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Traps: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of materials used to make trap and Make of Trap: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHMENTS:(1)evidence of possession of valid fisherman's licence

(2) evidence of possession of valid fishing vessel licence

(3)design of trap

NB: It is an offence to give false or misleading information.

Signature of Applicant

Fishing Licence #

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FORM 6**  
*[regulation 5(3)]*

**FORM OF AUTHORIZATION - TRAPS**

**ISSUED BY THE BELIZE FISHEREIS DEPARTMENT**

Date of Authorisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Trap Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Fisherman Licence Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fishing Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Traps per Fishing Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Traps per Fisher: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Traps per vessel: \_\_\_\_\_

Type and Make of Traps: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Officer  
\_\_\_\_\_

Official Stamp



**MADE** by the Minister responsible for fisheries this 11th day of July, 2022.



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**(HON. ABNER PEREZ)**

*Minister of the Blue Economy & Civil Aviation  
(Minister responsible for fisheries)*