



MINISTRY
OF
FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE

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22nd April, 2025

**NOTIFICATION OF MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CLOSED SEASON IN 2025**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture wishes to inform the Executives of various Fisheries Associations and stakeholders of the implementation of the Closed Season for fishing fleet in Ghana for the year 2025.

- In line with the existing implementation timelines and modalities, industrial trawlers will observe a two-month Closed Season from 1st July to 31st August 2025 while the semi-industrial fleet (inshore vessels) will observe a one-month closure from 1st to 31st July 2025. These measures remain consistent with Ghana's long-standing fisheries management strategy aimed at replenishing fish stocks and ensuring the sustainability of the sector.
- In accordance with the Presidential Directive on the implementation of the 2025 Closed Season, marine canoe artisanal fishers are exempted from observing the Closed Season in 2025. However, this exemption does not negate their responsibility to comply with other traditional and statutory management measures. To this end, marine artisanal fishers are required to observe traditional fishing practices such as fishing holiday on Tuesdays, under the supervision of Regional Fisheries Offices of the Fisheries Commission and the respective Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies.
- Additionally, fishers are entreated to strictly comply with existing fisheries regulations and desist from illegal practices such as light fishing and the use of harmful chemicals or explosives. These activities not only threaten the sustainability of marine resources but also pose significant risks to marine ecosystems, human health and the livelihoods of fishing communities. The Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU) will intensify its operations throughout the Closed Season period to ensure compliance and to combat all forms of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.
- The scientific community is also being actively engaged to explore additional conservation strategies, including the establishment of Marine Protected Areas to complement scientific approaches to sustainable fisheries, as well as the assessment of the biological, social, and economic impacts of the Closed Season.
- The Ministry and the Fisheries Commission will engage relevant stakeholders at the national, regional, and district levels to strategize on a feasible action plan to promote sustainable fisheries resource management.
- You may contact Prof. Benjamin Campion, Ag. Executive Director of the Fisheries Commission via email benjamin.campion@fishcom.gov.gh or telephone 0247776666 for any further enquiries and clarifications on the matter.

8. The Ministry will appreciate that National and Regional Executives, as well as Chief Fishermen, support the implementation of these measures and communicate this directive to all members to deepen the consultative process for smooth implementation.

Thank you.

**HON. MRS. EMELIA ARTHUR (MP)
MINISTER**

**THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL FISHERIES ASSOCIATION OF GHANA
TEMA**

**THE PRESIDENT
GHANA INDUSTRIAL TRAWLERS ASSOCIATION
ACCRA**

**THE PRESIDENT
GHANA INSHORE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
ACCRA**

**PRESIDENT
GHANA NATIONAL CANOE
FISHERMEN COUNCIL
ACCRA**

cc: Hon. Regional Minister, Western Region
Hon. Regional Minister, Greater Accra
Hon. Regional Minister, Volta Region
Hon. Regional Minister, Central Region
Hon. Chairperson, Parliamentary Select
Committee of Agriculture, Food and Cocoa Affairs
Chief Director, MoFA
Ag. Executive Director, FC
Administrator, NPFS