

PRESS RELEASE

BAN ON HARVESTING MARINE TURTLES IN THE BAHAMAS



The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources hereby announces that the fisheries Regulations governing marine turtles have been amended to give full protection to all marine turtles found in the Bahamian waters by prohibiting the harvesting, possession, purchase and sale of turtles, their parts and eggs. The new regulations also prohibit the molestation of marine turtle nests. The regulations will come into effect on Tuesday, September 1st, 2009.

The government has engaged intensive and extensive consultations with the public over the issue of the ban on harvesting and sale of marine turtles for the past twelve months. The commitment to the conservation and preservation of these species while in Bahamian waters has been demonstrated by the introduction of protective measures and safeguards the hawksbill turtle in 1986.