



# BELIZE PRESS OFFICE

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Fisheries Department Office Operations and Services during COVID-19 State of Emergency**

*Belmopan. May 5, 2020. 11:45 a.m.*

In conformity with the national state of emergency and guided by Statutory Instrument No. 65 of 2020 and Circular Memorandum No. 13 of 2020, the Fisheries Department will be implementing the following measures effective Wednesday, May 6, 2020:

1. No walk-ins will be allowed, except where these services may be considered critical. Public visitations will be allowed by appointment only.
2. Applications for renewals of fisher folk and vessel licenses will be processed as follows:
  - a. Services will be provided to a maximum of 20 persons between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
  - b. Applicants must call the Fisheries Department at 224-4552 to make an appointment.
  - c. Renewal applicants must submit the following documents:
    - i. Completed application form for renewal (available for download on the Facebook page of Fisheries Department and [www.fisheries.gov.bz](http://www.fisheries.gov.bz))
    - ii. Copy of recent utility bill
    - iii. Copy of a valid photo ID (social security, passport, or voter's ID)
    - iv. Expired 2019 license

- v. Valid Port Authority Certificate (only for vessel license renewals)
  - d. No permits for minors will be issued.
3. Application for new fisherfolk license (new entrants):
- a. Applicants must submit the following documents:
    - i. Completed application form for new entrants (available for download on the Facebook page of Fisheries Department and [www.fisheries.gov.bz](http://www.fisheries.gov.bz)),
    - ii. Copy of recent utility bill
    - iii. Copy of a valid photo ID (social security, passport, or voter's ID)
    - iv. Recent 2x2 photo
  - b. Full application must be submitted via e-mail or dropped off at the security booth of the Fisheries Department. The Department will inform applicants of the status of the application thereafter.
4. Applications for seafood permits are suspended until further notice.
5. Research permit applications will be received online only.
6. All packages should be dropped off at the security booth.
7. Office hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The public is encouraged to submit their applications/queries online via the email addresses below for the following services:

<b>Contact Information (E-mail)</b>	<b>Description of Queries</b>
➤ Fisheries Department <a href="mailto:fisheries_department@fisheries.gov.bz">fisheries_department@fisheries.gov.bz</a>	All matters
➤ Senior Fisheries Officer, Mr. Rigoberto Quintana <a href="mailto:seniorfisheriesofficer@fisheries.gov.bz">seniorfisheriesofficer@fisheries.gov.bz</a>	All matters, including queries about enforcement
➤ Mr. Hampton Gamboa <a href="mailto:hampton.gamboa@fisheries.gov.bz">hampton.gamboa@fisheries.gov.bz</a>	Enforcement
➤ Mr. Lyndon Rodney <a href="mailto:lyndon.rodney@fisheries.gov.bz">lyndon.rodney@fisheries.gov.bz</a>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mr. Adriel Castañeda adriel.castaneda@fisheries.gov.bz</li> <li>➤ Mrs. Alicia Eck-Nuñez alicia.nunez@fisheries.gov.bz</li> </ul>	Marine Reserves
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Virginia Isabel Martinez isabel.martinez@fisheries.gov.bz</li> <li>➤ Mr. Gilbert Young gilberto.young@fisheries.gov.bz</li> </ul>	Managed Access & Licensing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Felicia Cruz felicia.cruz@fisheries.gov.bz</li> </ul>	Research Permits

The Fisheries Department thanks the public for its cooperation at this time and continues to encourage everyone to put precautionary measures in place to protect the health and safety of all. For additional updates, follow the Facebook Page of the Fisheries Department and website.

## Ends

For further information, please contact:  
 Belize Fisheries Department  
 Ministry of Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment & Sustainable Development  
 Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City  
 Belize City main office: 224-4552; 223-2187; 203-2623  
 Punta Gorda office: 722-2662  
 Crime Stoppers Hotline: 922  
 Email: fisheries\_department@fisheries.gov.bz  
 Website: www.fisheries.gov.bz