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MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND  
AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

P. O. BOX GP 630  
ACCRA - GHANA

15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016

ALL INDUSTRIAL TRAWLER OPERATORS

## **MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE**

### **RE: - IMPLEMENTATION OF CLOSED SEASONS FOR INDUSTRIAL TRAWLERS UNDER THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN OF GHANA (2015 – 2019)**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) and the Fisheries Commission (FC) has prepared a Fisheries Management Plan of Ghana (Marine Fisheries Sector, 2015 – 2019) in accordance with sections 42 – 44 of the Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625). The Fisheries Management Plan was granted Cabinet approval on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 and Gazetted on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The key objectives of the Fisheries Management Plan are as follows:

- (i) To reduce the excessive pressure on fish stocks;
- (ii) To ensure that fish stocks within the marine waters of Ghana are exploited within the biologically acceptable levels;
- (iii) To protect marine habitats and bio-diversity;
- (iv) To contribute to enhancing export opportunities and strengthening value addition; and

(v) To meet Ghana's regional and international obligations in fisheries management.

One of the strategies for achieving the aforementioned key objectives of the Fisheries Management Plan is the implementation of closed seasons for fishing in Ghanaian waters. In accordance with sections 76(3) and 84 of the Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625), the Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development wishes to inform all industrial trawler operators that the Ministry and the Fisheries Commission has declared closed seasons for all industrial trawlers for the periods **1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and 1<sup>st</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**.

The Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development hereby directs owners, operators and masters of industrial trawlers to comply with the declared closed seasons.

#### **Sanctions for Violation**

Sanctions for violation of the closed seasons shall be in accordance with section 84(4) of the Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625). The prescribe fine for violating the closed seasons ranges from US\$500,000 and US\$2 million and in addition may forfeit to the State the catch, the fishing gear or vessel.

  
**HON. HANNY-SHERRY AYITTEY**  
**MINISTER**

**Cc CHIEF DIRECTOR**  
**MOFAD, ACCRA**

**DIRECTOR**  
**FISHERIES COMMISSION, ACCRA**

**PRESIDENT,**  
**GHANA INDUSTRIAL TRAWLERS**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**TEMA**

**PRESIDENT,**  
**NAFAG**  
**TEMA**

**NATIONAL COORDINATOR**

**FEU**

**TEMA**

**HEAD**

**MCS DIVISION**

**TEMA**

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