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REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

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My Ref. No: FA-42/134/01

Your Ref. No:.....

15TH DECEMBER 2016

ALL TUNA VESSELS OPERATORS

URGENT REMINDER

**RE: MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC
TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDATION 15 -01 ON A MULTI-ANNUAL
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR TROPICAL TUNAS**

The Ministry wishes to remind all tuna vessel operators that the Ministerial Directives on an Area/Time Closure period as part of the implementation of ICCAT Recommendation 15-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management program for tropical species issued in 2015 will again be observed in 2017.

ICCAT Recommendation 15 – 01 includes an Area/Time Closure period for the protection of juvenile bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas. The Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development hereby directs the following additional licensing conditions for compliance by the owner, operator or master of a Ghanaian tuna vessel:-

1. Prohibition of the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) for fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas during the period **1st January – 28th February 2017** in the following areas:
 - a. Southern limit: parallel 4°/South latitude
 - b. Northern limit: parallel 5°/North latitude

- c. Western limit: meridian 20°/West longitude
 - d. Eastern limit: the African coast
2. The aforementioned prohibition includes the following:-
- a. Launching any floating objects, with or without buoys;
 - b. Fishing around , under or in association with artificial objects, including vessels;
 - c. Fishing around, under or in association with natural objects; and
 - d. Towing floating objects from inside to outside the closed area.
3. No tuna vessel shall undertake fishing trip during the area/time closure period without a observer on board

The Fisheries Commission shall deploy observers on each tuna vessel for fishing trip to ensure compliance with the area/time closure period.

Sanctions For Violation

Sanctions for violation of the aforementioned additional licensing conditions shall be in accordance with Section 45A(3) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2014 (Act 880).


HON. HANNY-SHERRY AYITTEY
MINISTER

Cc : DIRECTOR
FISHERIES COMMISSION
ACCRA

CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF
GHANA NAVY
BURMA – CAMP
ACCRA

THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
OF GHANA
TEMA

THE PRESIDENT
GHANA TUNA ASSOCIATION
TEMA

NATIONAL COORDINATOR,
FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT UNIT
TEMA