

THE HICATEE LAWS OF BELIZE

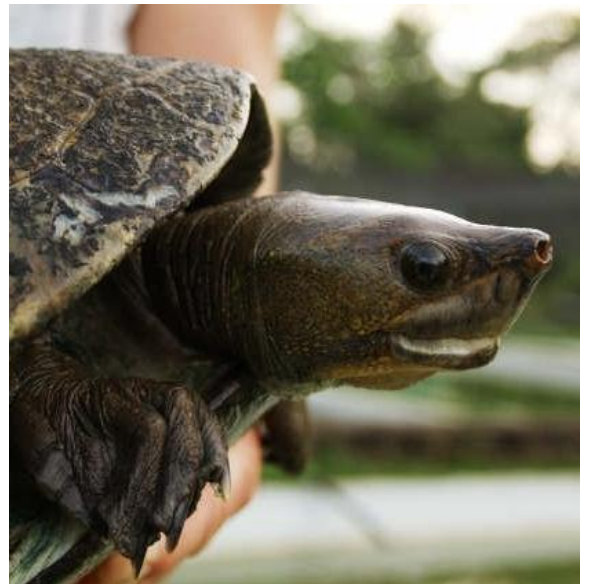


WHAT THE LAW SAYS

- IT IS **ILLEGAL** TO BUY OR SELL HICATEE
- **NO PERSON** SHALL HAVE IN HIS POSSESSION MORE THAN THREE TURTLES AT **ANY TIME**
- IT IS **ILLEGAL** TO CATCH HICATEE BETWEEN 1ST MAY AND 31ST MAY
- **NO PERSON** SHALL TRANSPORT MORE THAN FIVE TURTLES IN ANY VEHICLE
- THERE ARE **SIZE LIMITS**: CAUGHT FEMALES **MUST BE BETWEEN 15.2 INCHES AND 17.2 INCHES** (CARAPACE LENGTH)
- **NO PERSON** SHALL POSSESS OR USE A NET TO TAKE HICATEE
- IT IS **ILLEGAL** TO CAPTURE HICATEE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:
 - Belize River: *Beaver Dam Creek to Labouring Creek.*
 - New River: *Irish Creek to Water Bank.*
 - Rio Bravo: *Upstream from Dos Bocas Dam, also Booth's River.*
 - Cox and Mucklehany Lagoons, headwaters of Mussel Creek
 - Northern and Southern Lagoons and tributaries (Manatee Lagoons and Manatee River)
 - Sibun River: *between Ferguson Bank and Sibun Bar.*



The male hicatee is recognized by its bright yellow head and a longer, thicker tail.



The female hicatee has a more modest appearance compared to the male.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For questions pertaining laws and regulations on the Hicatee, contact Belize Fisheries Department. **Phone:** 203-2623 or 224-4552 **E-mail:** fisheries_department@fisheries.gov.bz

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HOW TO MEASURE A HICATEE

The female hicatee is measured from the front of the shell to the back (Carapace length). The length of the shell must be between **15.2 inches** (43 centimeters) and **17.2 inches** (38 centimeters). It is illegal to take female hicatees smaller or larger than this.



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