

Guide for fishers, vendors and fish buyers

KIRIBATI COASTAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS



EUROPEAN UNION



Sweden

Sverige

TOO WAN WAARA



NEI TENGAINGURU



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Aid Programme



PEUMP

Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme



Pacific Community
Communauté
du Pacifique





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methods and gears. This means
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protecting where the fish live



Why this guide?

► What is the purpose of the guide?

- To provide information about regulated coastal species and fishing methods in Kiribati.
- To explain why we have such rules.

This guide is intended for the Kiribati population, especially fishers, vendors, fish buyers and exporters.

► What are the legal references?

- Fisheries Act 2010.
- Shark Sanctuary Regulations 2015.
- Fisheries (Conservation and Management of Coastal Marine Resources) Regulations 2019.

This guide is a simplified version of the coastal fisheries rules and prohibitions. It does not include all the coastal fisheries regulations. The full text of laws and regulations on coastal fisheries is available at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development.

The information reported in this guide is current at the date of printing and subject to change.



► How to get more information

Please contact the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development:
Bairiki, Kiribati – ☎ 75021099 / 75021074

► What is Monitoring Control, Surveillance and Enforcement (MCS&E)?

The MCS&E unit's role is to monitor fishing, inform, control and, where appropriate, sanction people who breach the law.

An illustration of a fish market scene. At the top, five stylized fish are shown in white outlines against a blue background. Below them, the word "FISH" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. The scene is set outdoors with several palm trees and a green building in the background. In the foreground, a man in a blue cap and orange safety vest is measuring a large blue fish with a yellow ruler. To his left, another man in a blue cap and orange safety vest is holding a smartphone and a pen. To the right, a woman in a red and white checkered top is weighing a fish on a scale. In the background, another woman in a blue top and purple skirt is holding a bowl of fish. A wooden table in the center holds several blue and yellow fish.

FISH



Say no to undersized fish. Let them grow!



► How can I take action?

- Take a look at the list of the 10 species with minimum size limits ----->
- Measure your catch to ensure you respect these minimum size limits.
- Release any undersized fish as soon as possible after you caught it.
- Do not buy, sell, share, offer, or export undersized fish.

► Why?

Minimum size limits allow fish to get big enough to breed before they are caught, so that we have more to catch, sell and eat in the future.

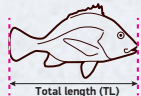
► What does the law say?



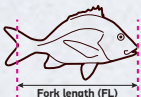
Minimum size limit

No person shall fish, sell, export, purchase, receive or have in their possession, offer or buy for sale or consignment to another person for the purpose of export or sale, any fish below the minimum size.

► How to measure the size of your catch



- Total length for the Napoleon



- Fork length for the other species



Ninimai
Silver biddy
Gerres sp.
Min.* 15 cm



Takabe
Yellow-blue sea perch
Lutjanus kasmira
Min. 15 cm



Maebo
Goatfish
Upeneus taeniopterus
Min. 20 cm



Onauti
Flying fish
Cheilopogon suttoni
Min. 20 cm



Ikanibong
Humpback red snapper
Lutjanus gibbus
Min. 25 cm



Bwawe
Red-margined sea perch
Lutjanus fulvus
Min. 25 cm



Ikarii
Bonefish
Albula glossodonta
Min. 30 cm



Aua
Mullet
Crenimugil crenilabis
Min. 35 cm



Morikoi
Spangled emperor - *Lethrinus nebulosus*
Min. 55 cm



Karon
Napoleon humphead wrasse - *Cheilinus undulatus*
Min. 65 cm



Penalties: Fine up to \$ 1,000 or 2 months' imprisonment or both.

* Min = Minimum size limits



Do not harvest the fish during breeding season. Let them breed!

► How can I take action?

3 fish species (Maebo, Onauti, Ikarii) have seasonal closures during full or new moon periods. Look at these species carefully and do not fish for them 3 days before and 3 days after the full or the new moon. ----->

► Why?

These fish reproduce during full or new moon periods. Closures give them the opportunity to breed and revive stocks.

► What does the law say?

No person may fish for any of these species during the closed season.



Seasonal closure 3 days before and 3 days after new moon



Seasonal closure 3 days before and 3 days after full moon



Penalties: Fine up to \$ 5,000 or 6 months' imprisonment or both.



Maebo
Goatfish - *Upeneus taeniopterus*



new moon



Onauti
Flying fish - *Cheilopogon suttoni*



new moon



Ikarii
Bonefish - *Albula glossodonta*



full moon



INVERTEBRATES





Say no to overexploitation of invertebrates.

► How can I take action?

- Look at the allowable catches and make sure your catches do not exceed the legal quantity per person (general limit for shell, meat or other product, or any combination of those).
- Do not export any prohibited species.
- Respect the minimum size limits.

► Why?

Due to continuing fishing pressure on clams, stocks are depleted and need to be protected. Catch quotas are set to guarantee enough clams are left in the water for the restocking of our reefs, so we have more to catch in the future.

► What does the law say?



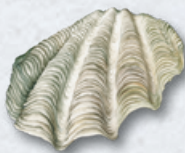
Catch quotas (allowable catch)
A person must not export shell, meat or other products of these species for any purpose other than personal consumption, which shall not be more than the legal catch quotas.

Penalties: Fine up to \$ 10,000 or 2 years' imprisonment or both.

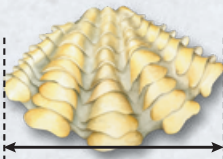


Minimum size limit
No person shall fish, sell, export, purchase, receive or have in their possession, offer or buy for sale or consignment to another person for the purpose of export or sale, any invertebrates below the minimum size.

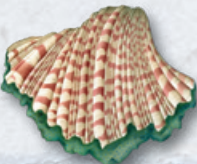
Penalties: Fine up to \$ 1,000 or 2 months' imprisonment or both.



Were
Giant clam
Tridacna maxima
Min.* 15 cm



Were
Giant clam
Tridacna squamosa
Min. 20 cm



Neitoro
Giant clam
Hippopus hippopus



Te ang
Spider conch
Lambis lambis



per person
per trip



Te bun
Ark shell
Anadara sp.
Min. 4 cm



* Min = Minimum size limits



Protect the giant clam from extinction.

► How can I take action?

- Do not fish for giant clam (kima).
- Do not buy, sell, share, offer, or export giant clam (kima).

► Why?

Studies show that there are very few giant clams (kima) in the wild due to overfishing. To protect them, a total ban has been put in place.

► What does the law say?



Total ban

A person must not fish for giant clam (*Tridacna gigas*, te kima), sell or offer to sell, purchase, possess or receive, or export shell, meat or products.



Penalties: Fine up to \$ 100,000 or 5 years' imprisonment or both.



Kima
Giant clam
Tridacna gigas





Let rock lobsters and manta shrimps have their babies.

► How can I take action?

- Measure your catch to ensure you respect the minimum size limits and release it if undersized.
- Release rock lobsters and manta shrimps if they are bearing eggs.
- Do not buy, sell, share, offer, or export undersized or egg-bearing (berried) rock lobsters and manta shrimps.

► Why?

- Minimum size limits allow invertebrates to get big enough to breed.
- The thousands of eggs carried by each berried female are needed to repopulate our reefs.

► What does the law say?



Minimum size limit

No person shall fish, sell, export, purchase, receive or have in their possession, offer or buy for sale or consignment to another person for the purpose of export or sale undersized rock lobsters and manta shrimps.

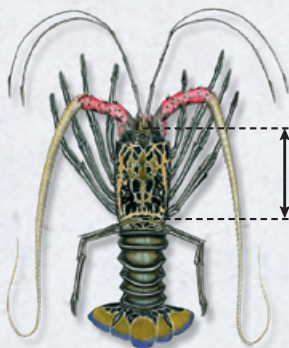
Penalties: Fine up to \$ 1,000 or 2 months' imprisonment or both.



Ban on fishing for egg-bearing (berried) species

A person must not, receive or have in their possession, buy, sell, offer for sale or consignment to another person for the purpose of sale, or export any rock lobster or mantis shrimp female bearing its eggs.

Penalties: Fine up to \$ 10,000 or 2 years' imprisonment or both.



Te nnewe
Rock lobster
Panulirus sp.
Min. 8,5 cm
(carapace)

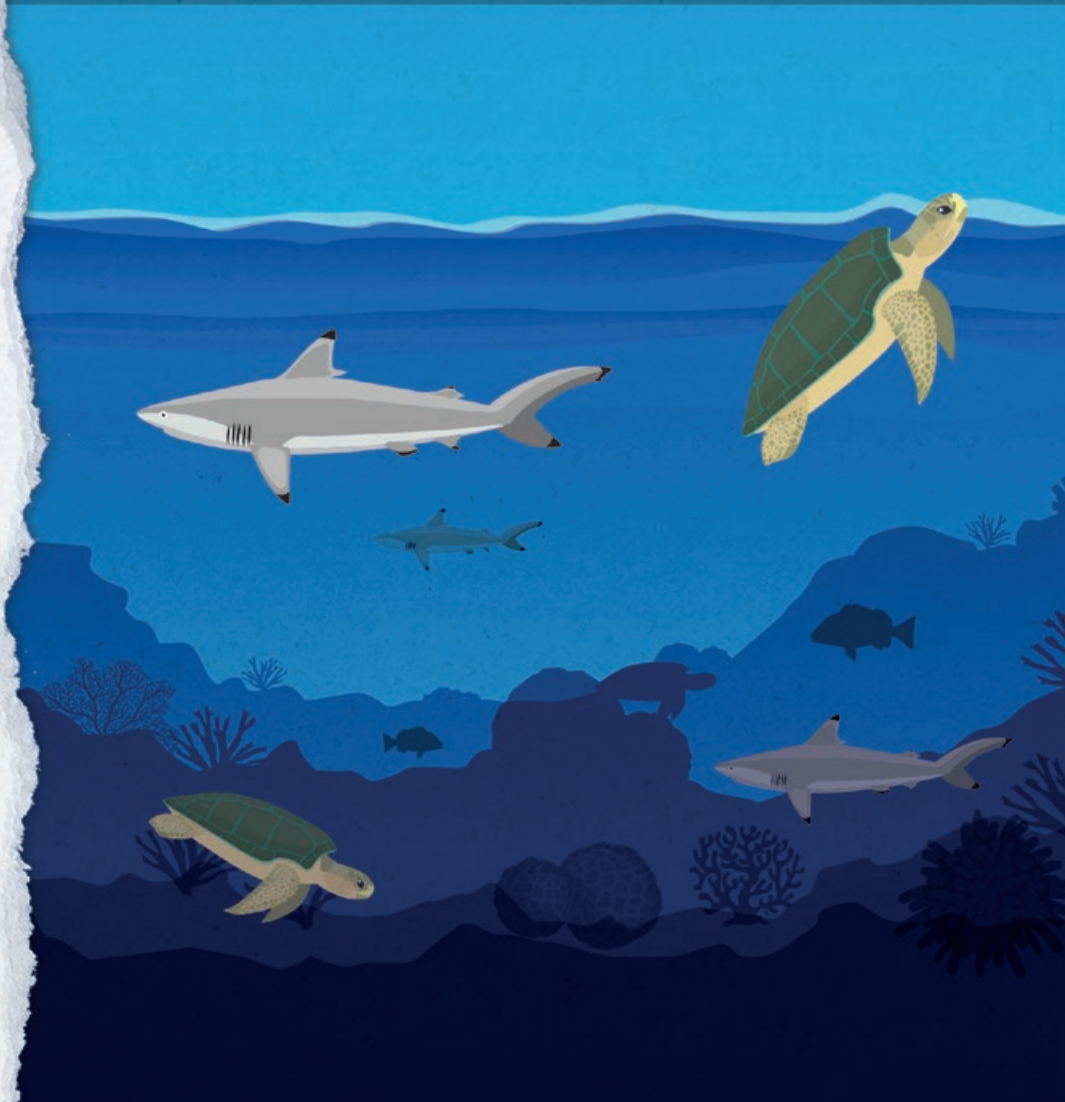


Waro
Mantis shrimp
Lysiosquilla maculata
Min. 18 cm
(eye to start of caudal fin)





SHARKS AND TURTLES





Say no to the commercial trade of sharks.

► How can I take action?

- Do not trade sharks.
- If sharks are caught or captured accidentally, immediately release them alive into the water.
- Locals can catch or capture sharks for personal consumption only (not for commercial purposes.)

► Why?

Sharks are important in reef ecosystems as they remove weak and sick fish and thereby ensure that only the healthiest individuals are left to breed. Sharks can be easily overfished because sharks take time to mature and only produce small numbers of young.

► What does the law say?



Commercial and trade ban

- No fishing for, killing, catching, capturing, mutilating sharks or removing a shark fin from an animal except for those of I-Kiribati descent with non-commercial purposes targeting non-shark warranting special protection.
- No selling, offering for sale, importing or exporting an animal or part of it.

Penalties: Fine up to \$ 10,000 or 6 months' imprisonment or both.



Utun te bakoa
Sharks



Let turtles restock our reefs.

► How can I take action?

- Catch turtles only for your own consumption: do not trade them.
- Do not fish for or sell turtle eggs.
- Let turtles breed: do not disturb turtles while they are about to release their eggs.
- Leave turtles being monitored: do not catch turtles with tags.
- Respect minimum size limits for the green turtle and the hawksbill turtle.

Why?

Sea turtles help maintain the health of seagrass beds and coral reefs that are hosts to hundreds of valuable commercial species of fish and invertebrates. Sea turtles face multiple threats caused by humans, such as overfishing for local consumption, destruction of nesting sites, bycatch in commercial fishing gear and illegal trade.





► **What does the law say?**



Commercial and trade ban



Minimum size limit

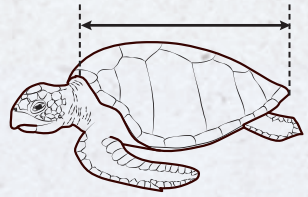


Ban on fishing for turtle eggs

Penalties: Fine up to \$ 1,000 or 2 months' imprisonment or both. 



Ban on fishing for turtles on the beach



Ban on fishing for tagged turtles



Ban on fishing for turtles with a gaff



Penalties: Fine up to \$ 10,000 or 2 years' imprisonment or both.



Te On - Tabwakea
Hawksbill turtle
Eretmochelys imbricata
Min.* 68cm (carapace)



Te On
Green turtle
Chelonia mydas
Min. 86 cm (carapace)

* Min = Minimum size limits



FISHING METHODS





Do not use destructive fishing methods and gears.

This means leaving enough fish in the sea and protecting where the fish live.

► How can I take action?

Look at the list of prohibited destructive fishing methods and do not use them.

► Why?

Some fishing gear and fishing methods are destructive, and their use must be controlled because:

- they destroy the fish habitat (coral reefs, seagrass beds, etc.), which will take many years to recover;
- they kill a large number of species in addition to the ones being targeted;
- they are so efficient that not enough fish is left to reproduce;
- they can disrupt the spawning run for some fish species.



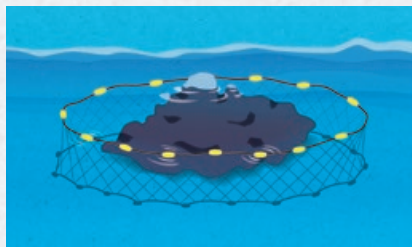


► What does the law say?

The following fishing methods and gear are prohibited:



► splash fishing "te ororo, te katang beero or te orobeero"



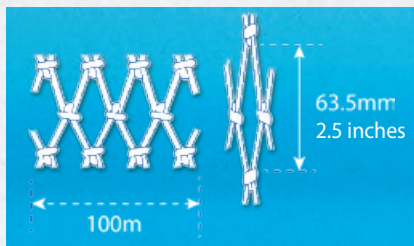
► use of a gillnet to encircle a submerged coral reef "te boorakai"



► use of beach seine "te kuaaki/ katikitiki karaun"



► use of gillnet and mesh wire as a fence/trap or fish trap (temaa bono)



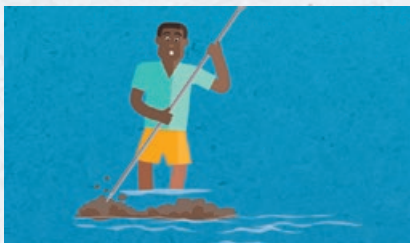
► use of gillnets: exceeding 100 meters in length for one net or when adjoined; or/and with a stretched mesh size of less than 63.5 millimetres



► use of cast net (kainikare) to harvest fish other than the goldspot herring (tarabuti)



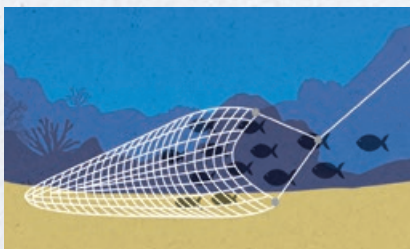
► use of a gaff to fish for turtles



► use of a crowbar or any other object to destroy and remove corals (te rai atibu)



► use of SCUBA and hookah gear, except when used to harvest aquarium fish for export and research purposes



► use of a dredge or a trawl net



► use of any torch, spotlight or lighting to spearfish at night, except for subsistence fishing purposes



► fishing using any remote control device

Penalties: Fine up to \$ 10,000 or 2.5 months' imprisonment or both.





► use of explosives



► use of any poison or other noxious substance



Penalties: Fine up to \$ 100,000 or 2 years' imprisonment or both.





Minimal size limits (certain fish and invertebrates)



Catch quotas (certain invertebrates)



Ban on destructive fishing practices



Seasonal closures during full or new moon periods (certain species)



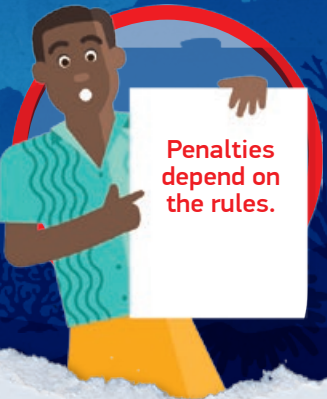
Commercial and trade ban (turtles and sharks)



Total ban (giant clam kima)



Ban on fishing foregg-bearing (berried) species



Penalties depend on the rules.