

**Current Status of Queen Conch  
(Strombus gigas) Stocks and  
Fisheries Regulations in the Bahamas**

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**ABSTRACT**

A shallow water fishery resources survey of the Little Bahama and Great Bahama Banks was carried out during 1983-1984. The objectives of the survey were to provide estimates of the abundance and potential annual yield for the commercially valuable fishery resources. Based on the results of the data collected, the density of queen conch was 367 kg/km<sup>2</sup> for the Little Bahama Bank and 131 kg/km<sup>2</sup> for the Great Bahama Bank. The potential yield for the Little Bahama Bank was estimated to be 152-263 kg/km<sup>2</sup> and for the Great Bahama Bank it was 54-93 kg/km<sup>2</sup>. Reported landings for 1982 represent only 6-7% of the minimum yield estimates.

Conch regulations in the Bahamas make it illegal to export conch meat for commercial purposes. Conch products, such as chowder and fritters, may, however, be exported under special license. It is also illegal to take or sell conch, the shell of which does not possess a well-formed lip.