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Governor



ASCENSION

No. 3 of 2026

Enacted..... 2 April 2026
Date of Commencement.....2 April 2026
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AN ORDINANCE

To amend the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013.

Enacted by the Governor of Ascension after consultation with the Island Council of Ascension

Citation and commencement

1. (1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2026.

(2) This Ordinance comes into force on 2 April 2026.

Amendments to the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013

2. (1) The Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013 is amended as follows.

(2) In section 2 (Interpretation), after the definition of “fishing limits”, insert—
““harass” means to disturb, damage, distress, or a cause a change in behaviour by way of touching, obstructing, making noise, exposing to light, or destruction of habitat;”.

(3) In section 3 (Protected wildlife product)—

(a) in subsection (a), for “wilfully to take, kill, trade or molest” substitute “wilfully or recklessly take, kill, trade or harass”;

(b) in subsection (b), for “molesting” substitute “harassing”.

(4) For the Schedule to the Ordinance substitute—

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SCHEDULE

(Section 2)

PROHIBITED WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

<i>Item no</i>	<i>Common name</i>	<i>Scientific name</i>
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Reptiles

1	Green turtles	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
2	Hawksbill turtles	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>

Birds

3	Ascension Island frigatebirds	<i>Fregata aquila</i>
4	Masked boobies	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>
5	Brown boobies	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
6	Red-footed boobies	<i>Sula sula</i>
7	Sooty terns, also known as Wideawake terns	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>
8	Fairy terns, also known as white terns	<i>Gygis alba</i>
9	Black noddies	<i>Anous minutus</i>
10	Brown noddies	<i>Anous stolidus</i>
11	Red-billed tropicbirds	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>
12	Yellow-billed tropicbirds	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>
13	Storm Petrels	<i>Oceanodroma spp.</i>

Mammals

14	Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
15	Pan-tropical spotted dolphin	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>
16	Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>

Fish

17	Ascension snake eel	<i>Ichthyapus insularis</i>
18	Ascension scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaena ascensionis</i>
19	St Helena deepwater scorpionfish	<i>Pontinus nigropunctatus</i>
20	Ascension red scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaenodes insularis</i>
21	Resplendent angelfish	<i>Centropyge resplendens</i>
22	Ascension hawkfish	<i>Amblycirrhites earnshawi</i>
23	Lubbock's gregory also known as yellowtail damselfish	<i>Stegastes lubbocki</i>
24	Auxillary spot cardinalfish	<i>Apogon axillaris</i>
25	St Helena wrasse	<i>Thalassoma sanctaehelenae</i>
26	Ascension wrasse	<i>Thalassoma ascensionis</i>
27	Ascension goby	<i>Priolepis ascensionis</i>
28	St Helena butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon sanctaehelenae</i>
29	Bicolour butterflyfish also known as hedgehog butterflyfish	<i>Prognathodes dichrous</i>

30	Saint Helena sharpnose pufferfish	<i>Canthigaster sanctaehelenae</i>
31	Marmalade razorfish	<i>Xyrichtys blanchardi</i>
32	Yellow razorfish	<i>Xyrichtys sanctaehelenae</i>
33	Atlantic goliath grouper	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>
34	Dog snapper	<i>Lutjanus jocu</i>
35	Mottled blenny	<i>Scartella nuchifilis</i>
36	St Helena flounder	<i>Bothus mellissi</i>
37	Island hogfish	<i>Bodianus insularis</i>
38	Strigate parrotfish	<i>Sparisoma strigatum</i>
39	St Helena sea perch	<i>Serranus sanctaehelenae</i>
40	Ascension seabream	<i>Diplodus sargus ascensionis</i>
41	Blue marlin under 251cm Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>
42	White marlin/roundscale spearfish under 168cm Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)	<i>Tetrapturus albidus/ Tetrapturus georgii</i>
43	Swordfish under 125cm Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>
44	Sailfish under 160cm Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>

Sharks & Rays

45	Whale shark	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>
46	Crocodile shark	<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>
47	Great white shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>
48	Shortfin/longfin mako shark	<i>Isurus spp.</i>
49	Porbeagle shark	<i>Lamna nasus</i>
50	Basking shark	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>
51	Bigeye Thresher shark	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>
52	Thresher shark	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>
53	Silky shark	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>
54	Galapagos shark	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>
55	Oceanic whitetip shark	<i>Cacharhinus longimanus</i>
56	Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>
57	Hammerhead shark	<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>
58	Tiger shark	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>
59	Six gill shark	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>
60	Dusky shark	<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>
61	Cookie Cutter shark	<i>Isistius brasiliensis</i>
62	Pygmy shark	<i>Eurotomiscrus bispinatus</i>
63	Pelagic stingray	<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>
64	Manta ray	<i>Manta spp.</i>
65	Devil ray	<i>Mobula spp.</i>

Invertebrates

66	Land crabs	<i>Johngarthia lagostoma</i>
67	Procaris shrimps	<i>Procaris ascensionis</i>
68	Typhlatya shrimps	<i>Typhlatya rogersi</i>

69	Amphipod	<i>Melita spp.</i>
70	Amphipod	<i>Maera spp.</i>
71	Amphipod	<i>Elasmopus spp.</i>
72	Female Spiny Lobster carrying eggs (berried female)	<i>Panulirus echinatus</i>
73	Green wire coral	<i>Stichopathes occidentalis</i>
74	Black fan coral	<i>Antipathella wollastoni</i>
75	Black coral	<i>Tanacetipathes sp</i>
76	Giant pseudoscorpion	<i>Garypus titanius</i>
77	Ellick's pseudoscorpion	<i>Garypus ellickae</i>
78	Duffey's pseudoscorpion	<i>Stenowitzius duffeyi</i>
79	Ascension pseudoscorpion	<i>Withius ascensionis</i>
80	Subterranean pseudoscorpion	<i>Apocheiridium cavicola</i>
81	Ashmole's pseudoscorpion	<i>Neocheiridium ashmoleorum</i>
82	Sheet-weaver spider	<i>Catonetria caeca</i>
83	Vicky's ground spider	<i>Australoechemus vickyae</i>
84	Duffey's long-spinneret ground spider	<i>Prodidomus duffeyi</i>
85	Scaly cricket	<i>Discophallus spp.</i>
86	Gray's flightless fungus moth	<i>Erechthias grayi</i>
87	Ascension fungus moth	<i>Erechthias ascensionae</i>
88	Blind cave woodlouse	<i>Elumoides coecus</i>
89	Duffey's woodlouse	<i>Niambia duffeyi</i>
90	Long antennae woodlouse	<i>Niambia longiantennata</i>
91	Ashmole's subterranean barkfly	<i>Troglotroctes ashmoleorum</i>
92	Fragile beetle mite	<i>Cordylobates fragilis</i>
93	Ashmole's springtail	<i>Pseudosinella ashmolae</i>
94	Lava springtail	<i>Pseudosinella lava</i>
95	Beach springtail	<i>Pseudosinella miratio</i>
96	Ascension inchworm	<i>Scopula ascensionis</i>
97	Ashmole's earth centipede	<i>Tuoba ashmoleorum</i>

Plants

98	Ascension Island parsley fern	<i>Anogramma ascensionis</i>
99	Marattia fern	<i>Ptisana purpurascens</i>
100	Pteris fern	<i>Pteris adscensionis</i>
101	Stenogrammatis fern	<i>Stenogrammatis ascensionense</i>
102	Ascension Island spleenwort	<i>Asplenium ascensionis</i>
103	Ascension Island spurge	<i>Euphorbia organoides</i>
104	Sporobolus grass	<i>Sporobolus caespitosus</i>
105	Sedge	<i>Cyperus appendiculatus</i>
106	St Helena filmy fern	<i>Hymenophyllum capillaceum</i>

Made this 2nd day of April 2026.

Nigel Phillips CBE
Governor

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Ordinance)

This Ordinance amends the Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 2013 (“the Ordinance”). Section 2(2) adds a definition of “harass” to the interpretation section of the Ordinance. Section 2(3) changes the word “molest” to “harass” to broaden unlawful behaviours towards protected wildlife. Section 2(5) substitutes a new Schedule to make the following amendments to the lists of species listed as prohibited wildlife products:

The table listing fish is amended to reflect minimum landing sizes required by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), to which Ascension is a party. The table listing sharks amends the list of protected oceanic, pelagic and highly migratory species of elasmobranch as defined by ICCAT. The list of invertebrates listed as prohibited wildlife products has been amended to include recognised endemic species, most of which are either Critically Endangered or have not yet been listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species but meet the criteria for Critically Endangered. The table for plants is amended to reflect additional listings of endemic and near endemic plants.