

United States Virgin Islands

COMMERCIAL & RECREATIONAL FISHER'S INFORMATION HANDBOOK



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

AND

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

July 2016

This booklet summarizes the rules and regulations for recreational and commercial fishing in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) and adjacent Federal waters.

As these are only summaries and as regulations can change, fishers **MUST** watch newspapers, listen to news broadcasts for notice of changes, and/or contact the Division of Environmental Enforcement (see back cover) for current and specific USVI fishing regulations. For current and specific regulations for fishing in Federal waters, fishers **MUST** contact NOAA Fisheries Service at 727-824-5326 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

If you have any questions concerning fishery matters other than regulations, please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife (see back cover).

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STATEMENT FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Office of the Commissioner

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To the Fishing Community of the U.S.V.I.:

Whether you are a commercial or recreational fisher, I am sure that you recognize how fortunate we are to live in these beautiful islands with such excellent marine and fisheries resources. These resources play an important role in our daily lives, providing employment opportunities and food for our families. Locals and visitors alike enjoy the benefits of these resources through recreational fishing, snorkeling, diving, and tourism. Not only are marine resources part of our tradition here in the U.S. Virgin Islands, but our economy depends on them. Therefore, we must ensure that they continue to be available for many years to come.

This booklet provides you with a summary of the various conservation measures taken to preserve the marine and fisheries resources of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Regulations vary depending on how threatened each species is. Endangered species such as sea turtles cannot be harvested under any circumstances. For some other species, there are limitations on harvest such as closed seasons, catch quotas, size limits, or gear restrictions. These regulations are intended to increase species reproduction and stocks so future generations will also be able to participate in commercial and recreational fishing.

With your cooperation and assistance, we can enhance fishing opportunities while protecting our marine and fisheries resources for generations to come.

I wish you all good fishing!

Sincerely,


Alicia Barnes
Commissioner

TO ALL FISHERS OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) is responsible for the conservation and management of our fisheries and enforcement of boating and fisheries regulations (*V.I. Code Title 12 Conservation, Title 25 Navigation, and the Boating Safety Act of 1972*).

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) handles the scientific side of the fishery. DFW monitors the commercial and recreational fisheries and provides advice and guidance to the Commissioner of DPNR on matters pertaining to management of the fisheries. Working with fishers to obtain accurate catch reports is a large component of our job. Accurate and truthful reports are essential to help us ensure that the fishery resources of the U.S. Virgin Islands will remain sustainable for future generations.

The Division of Environmental Enforcement is responsible for the explanation and enforcement of regulations in matters relating to boating, fishing, and the environment in general.

RECREATIONAL FISHING (PERSONAL USE)

All recreational anglers fishing in the exclusive economic zone, from 3 to 200 miles offshore from land are required to register with NOAA Fisheries at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov. “Recreational anglers” refers to persons who fish for the sole purpose of providing food for themselves or their families and those who catch and release fish. **Sale, barter, or trade of catch by recreational fishers is prohibited.** The following gear types are considered commercial gear and may **not** be used by recreational fishers: pots, traps, haul seines, and set-nets (a type of net consisting of a wall of fine mesh held up by a float line and anchored on the sea floor). Additionally, anglers are required to have permits to fish in the following locations:

1. **Altona Lagoon and Great Pond, St. Croix.** No commercial fishing is permitted in Altona Lagoon and Great Pond, St. Croix. A recreational shrimp fishing permit is required for the harvesting of shrimp (see page 17). A \$10 one-year permit is available at the Division of Environmental Enforcement’s St. Croix office (contact information on back cover).
2. **St. James Reserve (Section C, see Appendix 1 map).** A permit is required to collect baitfish with a cast net within 50 feet of the shoreline or to fish with a hook and line. All other fishing and harvest of other animals and plants is prohibited in this area (see page 16). The line fishing permit is \$2.00 a month, and the bait fishing permit is \$5.00 a month. Both permits may be purchased for a maximum of two months from the Division of Environmental Enforcement’s St. Thomas office (contact information on back cover). The permits may be renewed at the end of the two-month period.
3. **Cas Cay/Mangrove Lagoon Marine Reserves.** A permit is required to collect baitfish using only a cast net within 50 ft of the north and west shorelines of Cas Cay, St. Thomas. All other fishing and harvest of other animals and plants is prohibited in this area (see page 16). The bait fishing permit is \$5.00 a month and may be purchased for a maximum of two months from the Division of Environmental Enforcement’s St. Thomas office. All fishing is prohibited in the **Inner Mangrove Lagoon** (see pages 16 and 37).

COMMERCIAL FISHING

WHO NEEDS A COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE?

1. All commercial fishers.
2. Any person who uses a pot, trap, set-net, or haul seine, even for personal consumption.
3. Any person who sells, trades, or barter any part of their catch, **including charter boat operators who sell or trade their catch.**
4. Commercial fishing “helpers” must obtain a helper’s permit (\$20.00) to assist a licensed commercial fisher. The licensed commercial fisher **must be onboard** when the helper is fishing. No special permission will be granted for helpers to operate a boat in the absence of the licensed commercial fisher.

Commercial fishing licenses are issued to U.S. citizens who are permanent residents of the USVI for at least one year. No license shall be issued to a minor under 17 years old, except with the written consent of his or her parent or guardian. All vessels used for commercial fishing, which are owned in whole or in part by a resident of the Territory, shall pay a registration tax of \$25 to \$200 depending on the length of boat.

Commercial fishers are exempt from boat registration fees, provided they possess a valid Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) business license (\$1.00 license). Fishers must first have a commercial fishing license before obtaining a DLCA business license to sell their catch. The Division of Environmental Enforcement provides picture ID cards for commercial fishers and helpers. Fishers not in receipt of valid DLCA business license are subject to standard vessel registration fees.

On August 24, 2001, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources implemented a moratorium on issuance of new commercial fishing licenses. License renewals will only be issued to fishers who have held a commercial fishing license within 3 years of June 2001 and have complied with catch reporting requirements.

THREE EASY STEPS TO RENEW A COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS:

1. Register in person at the DPNR and obtain a copy of this handbook, catch report forms (see Commercial Fisher Catch Report Forms, page 4), and Fishers Certification of Eligibility form (required for commercial fishers who plan to sell their catch).
2. Commercial fishers who plan to sell their catch must also complete a Fishermen’s Certificate of Eligibility. The applications for these certificates can be obtained at the Division of Fish and Wildlife (contact information on back cover) or the Department of Agriculture (#7944 Estate Dorothea Office, St. Thomas; or Estate Lower Love, St. Croix). Submit the completed and notarized application to the Commissioner of Agriculture for signature. **Please allow 48 hours for approval prior to pickup.**

3. In order to sell your catch to the public, you must also obtain a business license (a \$1 fee is charged) from the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) (St. Thomas (340) 774-3130 or St. Croix (340) 773-2226). This is a special license **only** for registered commercial fishers permitting the sale of fish on the roadside, fish market, or landing sites. You should have your scale certified by DLCA as well. Individuals who purchase fish from a commercial fisher for resale are still required to go to DLCA to get certified as a vendor.

Commercial fishers who possess a business license for fishing, issued by the DLCA, are entitled to special fee waivers and tax exemptions. As an example, boat registration fees are waived provided the vessel is used to conduct commercial fishing and all catch reports are turned in on time (bi-weekly).

TRANSFER OF LICENSES

Commercial fishing licenses are transferable. *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §312(c)* as amended by Bill number 29-0329, allows the transferability of fishing licenses to family members and fishers' helpers. License transfer requests are reviewed by the Director of Fish and Wildlife and the Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC), and are approved or denied by the Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

COMMERCIAL CATCH REPORT FORMS (CCRs)

The Division of Fish & Wildlife monitors the health of fishery resources in the U.S. Virgin Islands through the use of commercial catch report forms (CCRs) (see **Appendix 2** for examples of CCRs). From the CCRs, information is collected about fishing activity and is maintained in a confidential database. The validity of this information depends upon the cooperation of all commercial fishers. All CCRs are strictly confidential, so please take the time to accurately and completely record all of your fishing activities (see **Appendix 3** for instructions on how to properly fill out CCRs). Accurate CCRs are essential to fisheries management. Inaccurate or incomplete CCRs provide misleading data that may generate undue concern over a fishery resource. Please see **Appendix 4** for commonly misidentified fish.

Each year, commercial fishers will receive a stack of catch report forms and instructions. If you have any questions about completing the CCRs, or need additional forms, please call or visit your local Division of Fish and Wildlife office (contact information on back cover). The CCRs must reach the Division of Fish & Wildlife within two weeks after every fishing trip or within two weeks after the close of the month if no fishing took place. CCRs may be mailed, submitted in person, or dropped in one of the drop boxes around each island. Current locations of the drop boxes include the Frenchtown fish house in St. Thomas and the Division of Environmental Enforcement office in St. Croix. Please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife offices for updated information on the location of the CCR drop boxes, as new boxes may be added.

All USVI commercial catch report forms must be completely filled out. Even if you do not catch any fish, lobster, conch, or whelk on a fishing trip, your trip information and effort must still be reported. If CCRs are not completely filled out, they do not fulfill the reporting requirement. CCRs submitted in person will immediately be reviewed for completeness. All received CCRs

will be stamped with a date and the data will be entered into our confidential database. When CCRs are submitted, a receipt will be given to you to keep for your records.

If you do not fish during a calendar month, a CCR must still be submitted for each month that you did not fish. Simply put your name, vessel number, and ID number on the top of the form, and the month and year you did not fish. If you do not plan to fish for an extended period (4 months or more), you are eligible to apply for “sleeper status”. Sleeper status, if granted, allows you to retain your license, however you do not need to submit CCRs. **If all required CCRs are not submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, you may not be able to re-register your fishing license and you may be subject to penalties** (see page 11).

Any fisher at any time may request a certified summary of his/her own catch records on file. Requests must be made in person because catch records are strictly confidential and may not be revealed to anyone other than the person reporting them. Photo identification must be presented prior to release of any information. If anyone besides the fisher wants information, a notarized letter from the fisher must be submitted before release of any information.

LOST OR DESTROYED LICENSES AND ID CARDS

If a license or ID card is lost, misplaced, or destroyed, the licensed fisher or helper may apply to the Division of Environmental Enforcement to receive a replacement. There is a \$2.00 fee for replacing a lost license and a \$20.00 fee for replacing a fisher or helper ID card. The ID card is valid for three years.

FISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The remainder of this booklet summarizes the rules and regulations for fishing in the U.S. Virgin Islands and adjacent Federal waters. **Unless otherwise stated, these rules and regulations apply to both commercial and recreational (personal use) fishers.** As these are only summaries and as regulations can change, fishers are responsible for remaining current with changes to regulations. For current and specific regulations for fishing in Territorial waters, fishers may contact the Division of Environmental Enforcement (contact information on back cover). For current and specific regulations for fishing in Federal waters, fishers may contact the NOAA-Fisheries at (727) 824-5344 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

If you have any questions concerning fishery matters other than regulations, please contact your local Division of Fish and Wildlife office (contact information may be found on the back cover).

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL FISHERS

1. **No poison, drug, explosive, or other chemical may be used to fish.**
2. **Boat registration number** (*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, § 311 & 312(d)*) - All motorboats must be registered and must properly display the registration number. Annual registration is required during the month of July. DEE conducts boat registration for commercial fishers at the same time as commercial fishing license renewal in July.

3. **Boat safety standards** - All motorboats must meet the safety standards of the Virgin Islands Code and the Federal Boating Safety Act of 1972.
4. **Fishing in BVI/Puerto Rico** -The British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico each have their own fishing laws and regulations. Your USVI fishing license does not permit you to fish in either the British VI or Puerto Rican waters.
5. **V.I. Marine Reserve System** - For information on the rules and regulations of the Virgin Islands Marine Reserve System, contact the Division of Environmental Enforcement at (340) 774-3320. For information on the St. Croix East End Marine Park, contact the Marine Park Coordinator at (340) 718-3367. Also see page 12 (Figure 4), page 16, Appendix 1, and Appendix 5.
6. **Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument** – Anchoring is prohibited and all fishing is prohibited in VICRNM, except for bait fishing in Hurricane Hole and fishing for blue runner (hard nose). Both activities require a special permit from the National Park Service. For up-to-date information and regulations regarding the V.I. Coral Reef National Monument (south and northeast sides of St. John, see Figure 1), please contact the U.S. National Park Service’s St. John office at (340) 776-6201 x 254. **The rules and regulations for the V.I. Coral Reef National Monument are different from those of the V.I. National Park waters** (see #7, below).

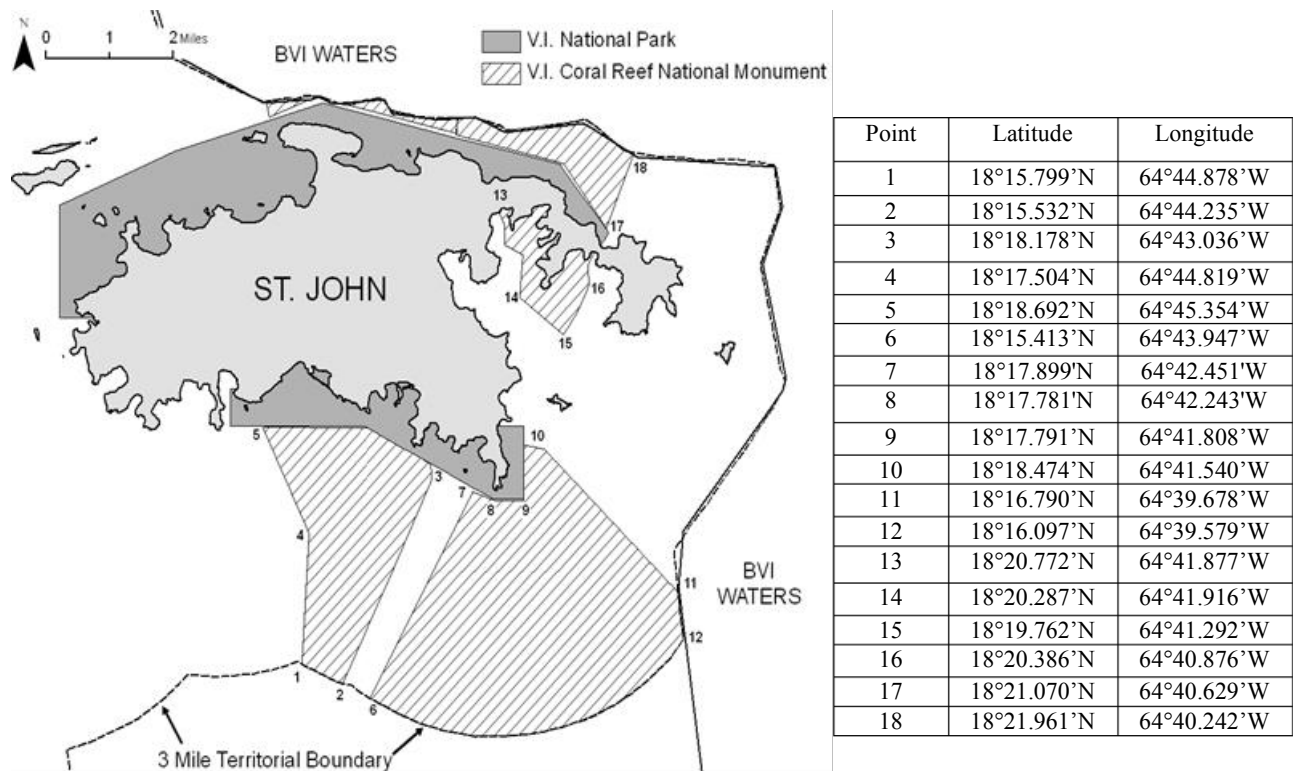


Figure 1. Virgin Islands National Park and the V.I. Coral Reef National Monument

7. **Virgin Islands National Park** – The Virgin Islands National Park on St. John (see Figure 1) has separate and specific regulations on fishing. Fishing using rod and reel, handline, traps, and bait fish nets is permitted. However, there are restrictions on gear such as trap size and baitfish net size. In addition, there are regulations and limits on the harvest of lobsters, conch, and whelk. The current regulations allow for the harvest of two lobsters and/or conch per person per day, and one gallon of whelk in the shell. The use and possession of spearfishing equipment within the park is prohibited. There are three area fishing closures within the V.I. National Park: (1) Red Hook Dock, (2) Cruz Bay Finger Pier and Bulkhead, and (3) all boat exclusion areas. For up-to-date information on fishing regulations within the Virgin Islands National Park, contact the National Park Service on St. John at (340) 776-6201 x 254.
8. **Buck Island Reef National Monument** (36 CFR part 7, 57.73) – All anchoring and fishing are prohibited except in areas designated by the Nation Park Service. For up-to-date information regarding rules and regulations in the Buck Island Reef National Monument, St. Croix (see Figure 2), please contact the U.S. National Park Service’s St. Croix office at (340) 773-1460 x 234. Marker buoys are located at points 2 thru 9 on Figure 2 below.

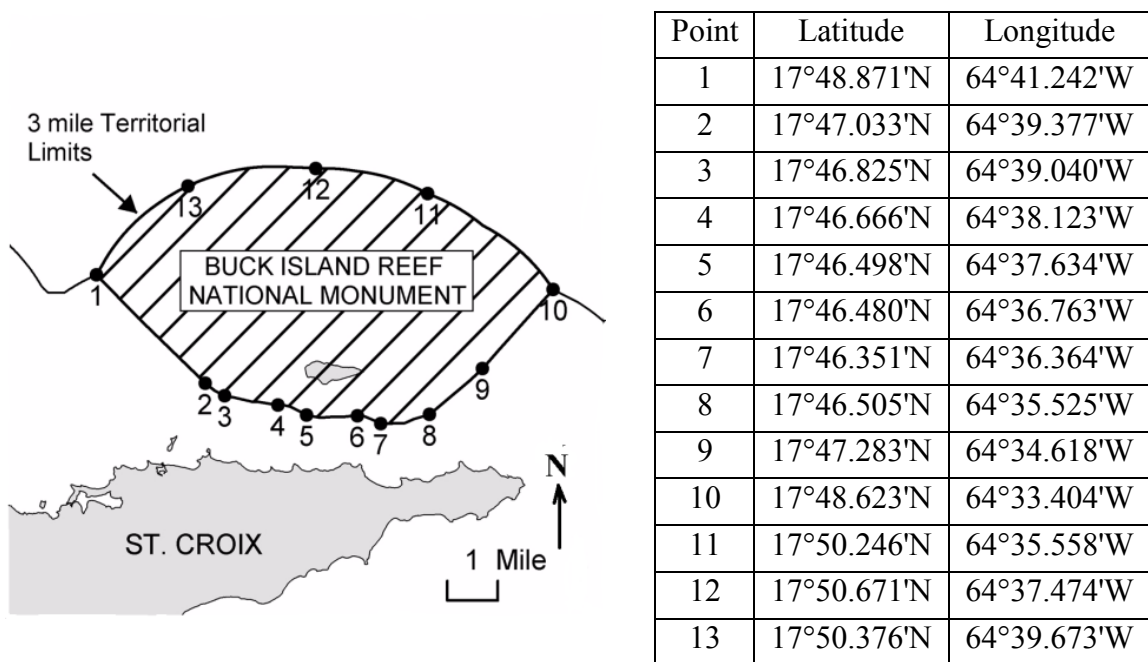


Figure 2. Buck Island Reef National Monument

9. **Limetree Bay Restricted Area, St. Croix** – Although HOVENSA no longer operates as a refinery, it still operates as a terminal. As such, access to Limetree Bay remains a Restricted Area. No vessels may enter the HOVENSA or cross channels or pass inside the fringing reef upon entering or leaving Alucroix Channel (see Figure 3). This area includes all waters two miles seaward of the HOVENSA facility waterfront. Anchoring, mooring or transiting this area is not permitted. For up-to-date information on restrictions, during normal working hours (Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm) please contact HOVENSA Marine Pilot at (340) 692-3489 or VHF Radio channel 11 or HOVENSA Command Center at (340) 692-3000. After normal working hours, please contact HOVENSA’s 24 hour line at (340) 692-3518. Please note that you can also contact the U.S. Coast Guard in St. Croix at (340) 772-5557 ext. 209 for Boat Forces, or sector San Juan at (787) 289-2041.

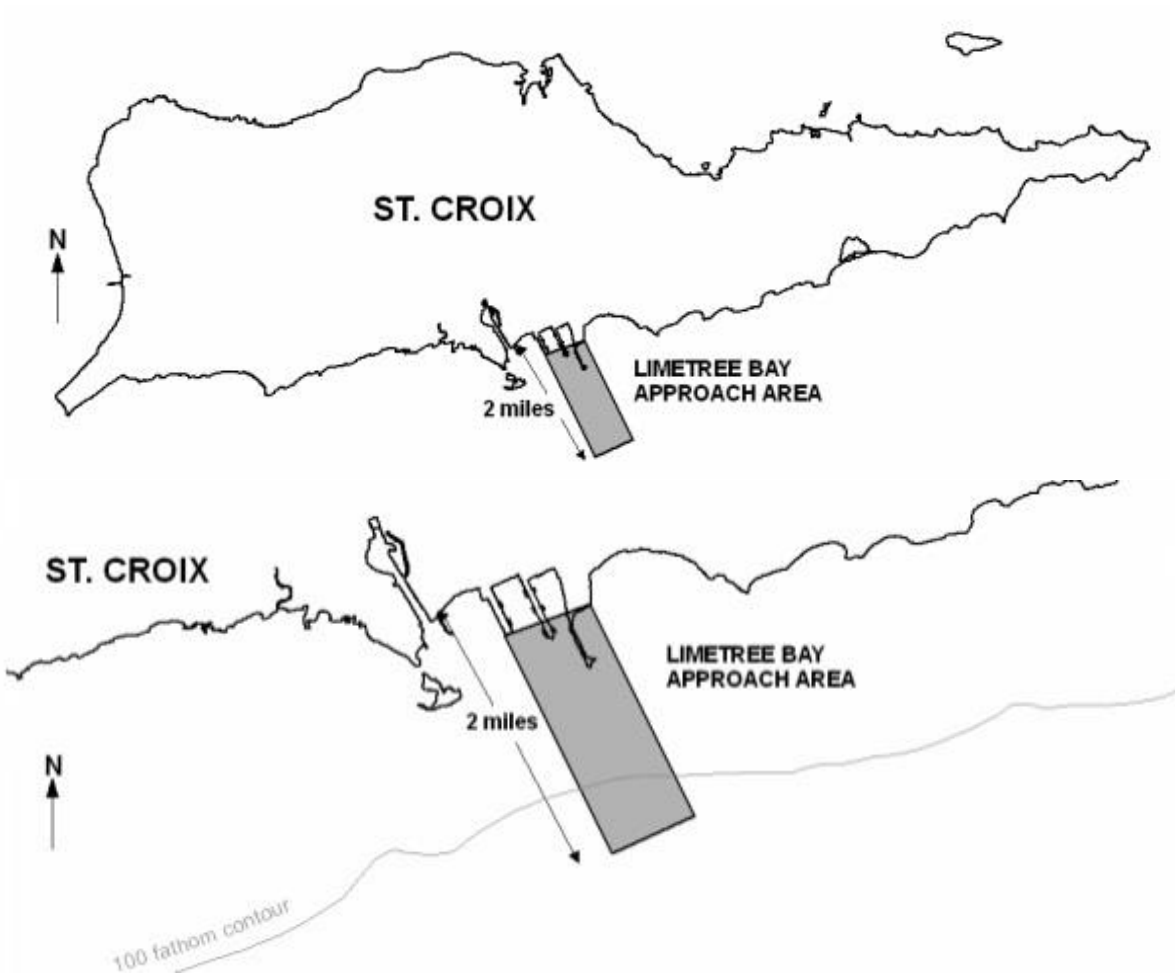


Figure 3. Limetree Bay Restricted Area

TERRITORIAL COMMERCIAL FISHING RULES

1. **Gear Compliance** – Before placing any gear in service, contact the Division of Environmental Enforcement (contact information on back cover) to make sure it complies with current regulations.
2. **Boat Marking** (*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §312g*) – All boats owned by commercial fishers must bear the buoy colors of the permitted fisher when engaged in fishing commercial activity.
3. **Marking Fishing Gear** (*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §312e*) – All fish traps and nets must be marked with the fisher’s license number. Buoys must also bear the permitted fisher’s color scheme and the license number. The number must be cut or burned into the buoy.
4. **Trap Inspection** (*V.I.R.R 3219d*) – All commercial fish traps must be inspected and tagged prior to use. Call the Division of Environmental Enforcement to have the traps inspected and tagged prior to taking them out to sea. For additional information concerning pre-fishing trap inspections and mesh regulations, call the Division of Environmental Enforcement.
5. **Commercial Fishing License** (*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §312(h)*) – Each commercial fisher is required to have a commercial fishing license. Commercial fishers must have the number of helpers indicated on their license. **The licensed fisher must be onboard and must have their commercial license with them. Both helpers and licensees must have ID cards.**
6. **Helper** – Commercial fishers’ helpers must have their own “Helpers License.” The licensed fisher must be onboard when the helpers are fishing.
7. **Commercial Catch Reports (CCRs)** (*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §315*) – For the purpose of monitoring the fisheries in the USVI, each fisher is required to submit a catch report for every fishing trip to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. CCRs must be submitted bi-weekly. If there was no fishing activity within a calendar month, a single monthly CCR must be received no later than 15 days after the end of the month for which it was prepared.
8. **Taxes** – Fishers who obtain a commercial fishing business license from the DLCA may become eligible for a number of tax and fee benefits. Please contact the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (St. Thomas (340) 774-3130; St. Croix (340) 773-2226) if you need information about these laws.
9. **Yearly Sampling of Catch / Port Sample Interviews** – Commercial fishing regulations require the submission of commercial catch reports bi-weekly as well as participation in random port samples, whereby the Division of Fish and Wildlife inspects and documents your catch. Failure to comply may result in the inability to renew your commercial fishing license.

TERRITORIAL FISH SALES REGULATIONS (Commercial Fishers Only)

1. **Fish Sales to the Public** (*V.I.C., Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter IX §342*) – The commercial sale of fish to the public requires a **business license** issued by the Dept. of Licensing & Consumer Affairs (DLCA) (St. Thomas (340) 774-3130; or St. Croix (340) 773-2226). This is a special license **only** for registered commercial fishers permitting the sale of fish by at fish markets, landing sites, or roadside. To sell fish landed in USVI, whether caught in territorial waters or the adjacent Exclusive Economic Zone, a fisher must possess **both** a commercial fishing license issued by the Division of Environmental Enforcement **and** a DLCA license to sell fish. Possession of a **federal tuna harvest permit and a dealer permit** does **not** grant authority to sell fish in the U.S. Virgin Islands without a territorial commercial fishing license and a DLCA license to sell fish.
2. **Fish/seafood vendors**, individuals who do not commercially fish but buy fish from commercial fishers to re-sell, must obtain a **Retail Shop License** from DLCA. Fish vendors are not permitted to possess a commercial fisher DLCA license and cannot sell fish or seafood to the public at fish markets, on the street, or at landing sites. Fish vendors found in violation are subject to confiscation of fish, \$500 fine, and loss of license.
3. **Local/Native Seafood** (*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §324*) – It is prohibited to sell or offer for sale any seafood designated as *local* or *native* seafood unless it was caught in territorial waters or the EEZ (Federal waters) surrounding the US Virgin Islands. There is one exception to this rule: the spiny lobster, *Panulirus argus*, can be offered for sale as *local* or *native* lobster meat, whether caught locally or imported. The meat must consist entirely of the *Panulirus argus* species in order to be called *local* or *native* lobster.
4. **Sale of seafood by non-residents** (*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §313*) – Non-residents **may not** bring their catch of fish or other seafood into the Territory to sell unless they first obtain a business license from the Commissioner of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs. Fish or other seafood caught by a foreign vessel and brought into the Territory for sale or consumption is subject to the same regulations as fish and seafood caught from a V.I. registered vessel.
5. **Seafood caught outside the Territory** (*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §313*) – Fish or other seafood caught outside the Territory, brought into the Territory, and permitted for sale or consumption is subject to the same regulations governing local species. This includes regulations pertaining to size of fish, protected species, annual catch limits, etc.
6. **Conch Imports** – Conch is protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Federal law prohibits import of conch unless: (1) the conch is accompanied by a CITES export permit from the appropriate regulatory authority of the exporting country, and (2) it is imported through a federally designated port of entry. The closest designated port to the USVI is Miami, Florida. A “Designated Port Exemption” permit is needed to import through San Juan, Puerto Rico. For information or a permit application contact U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement in Atlanta, Georgia at (404) 679-7057.
7. **Territorial Fish Sales** (*V.I.C., Title 23 Chapter 3 §342*) – The sale of fresh fish and agricultural products shall be allowed in public fish markets, butcher stalls, on public streets in areas designated by the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD), or when taken to residences.

PENALTIES

Anyone convicted of violating any fisheries law or regulation of the U.S. Virgin Islands shall have their license suspended for one month on the first offense, three months on the second offense, and one year on the third and subsequent offenses [*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §312-J*]. Fees will not be refunded for a license that has been suspended or voided.

The fishing license and/or vessel registration of any person who willfully fails to submit commercial catch reports documenting their catches (CCRs) or falsifies information on their CCRs shall be suspended, and a new fishing license shall not be issued until a valid report is made [*VIC Title 12, Chapter 9A, 315(c) and 312(j)*].

Any person violating fisheries laws and regulations of the USVI shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined [*V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §325 & V.I. Territorial Court Order Misc. No. 23/2004 STT/STJ District and Misc. No. 06/2004 STX District*]. Fines for fishing violations are up to \$500, lobster violations are up to \$600, and violations in wildlife and marine sanctuaries are up to \$5,000. For further information, please call the Division of Environmental Enforcement.

Any commercial fisher who does not comply with the mandatory requirements for participation in the fisheries data collection programs (submission of their commercial catch reports bi-weekly and participation in random port sampling of their catch by the Division of Fish and Wildlife) may be prohibited from renewal of their commercial fishing license and boat registration.

REWARD FOR CONVICTIONS

V.I.C. Title 12, Chapter 9A § 325 - Any person, other than a law enforcement officer, who furnishes evidence sufficient to convict any violator of the regulations which address marine turtles and their eggs or nests; lobsters and their eggs; fishing with explosives; or contaminating public waters shall receive a reward of \$50.00 for each conviction from the Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

REPORTING VIOLATIONS

<p style="text-align: center;">Violations in Territorial Waters (shoreline to 3 miles offshore)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">USVI Division of Environmental Enforcement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Thomas/St. John:</u> Cyril E. King Airport Terminal Building, 2nd Floor St. Thomas, VI 00802 (340) 774-3320 ext. 5106</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Croix:</u> 6003 Anna's Hope Christiansted St. Croix, VI 00821 (340) 773-5774</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Violations in Federal Waters (3 to 200 nautical miles offshore)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOAA Fisheries Enforcement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOAA in Puerto Rico:</u> Special Agent Lynn Rios (787) 890-0715 (Office) (787) 508-5403 (Cell)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOAA National Enforcement Hotline:</u> 1-800-853-1964</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOAA in St. Petersburg, Florida:</u> (727) 824-5344 (Office) (727) 824-5355 (Fax)</p>
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U.S. Virgin Islands Territorial Boundaries

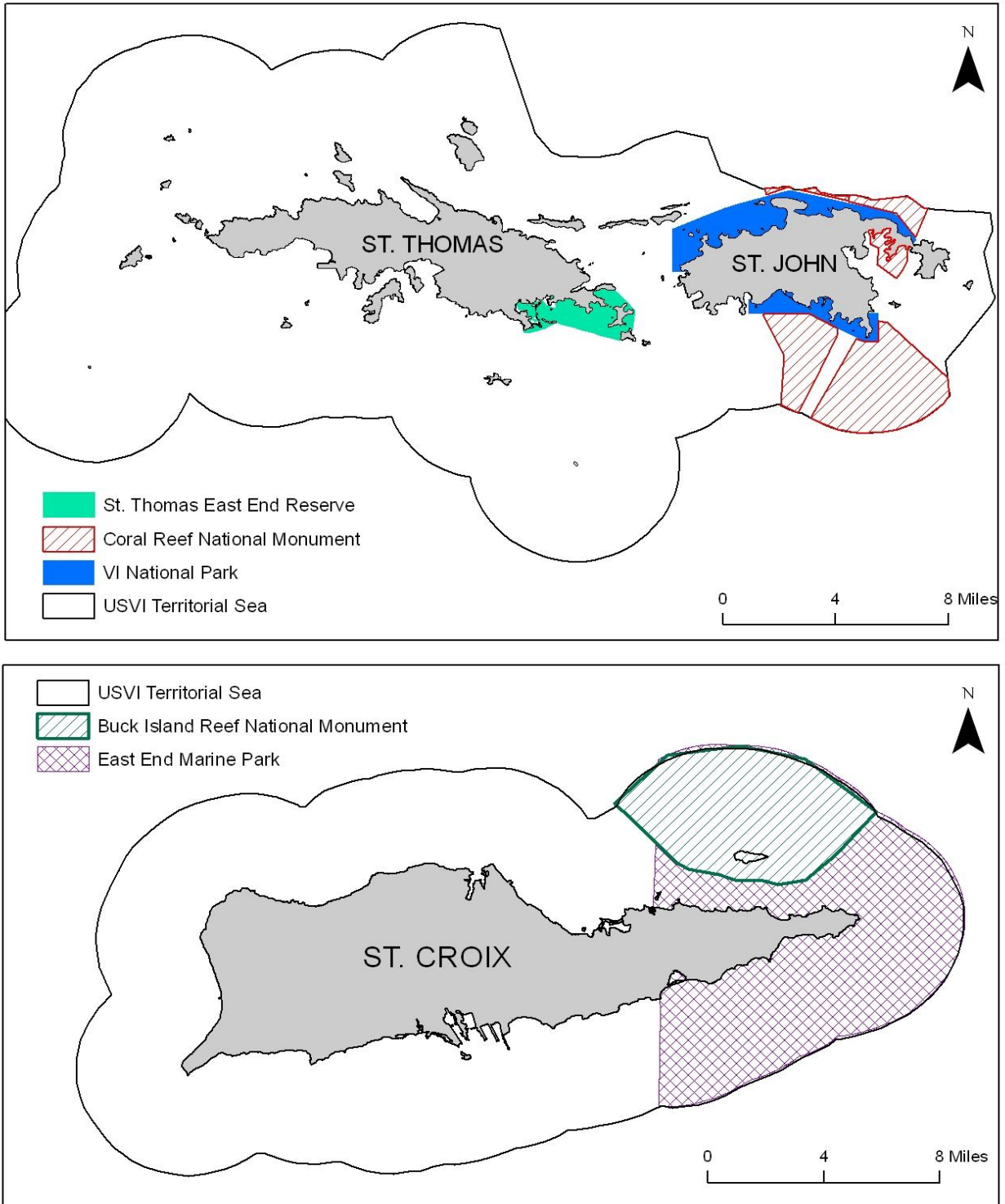


Figure 4. Maps showing the 3-mile territorial boundaries and managed areas around the U.S. Virgin Islands

SUMMARY OF FISHING REGULATIONS

TERRITORIAL WATERS EXTEND FROM SHORE TO 3 MILES OFFSHORE

- 1 **Whelk (West Indian Top Shell):** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-6 & 316-7.*
 - Size Limit: Minimum size of shell must be greater than 2 7/16 inches in diameter.
 - Landing Restriction: Must be landed whole in the shell (see Appendix 6).
 - Closed Season : **No possession April 1 through September 30.**

- 2 **Queen Conch:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-1 & 316-4.*
 - Size Limit: Minimum size of 9 inch shell length from the spire to the distal end, or 3/8 inch lip thickness (see Appendix 6).
No harvest of undersized conch.
No possession of conch meats smaller than 2 per pound (uncleaned) or 3 per pound (clean).

 - Harvest Quota: ACL = 50,000 pounds for the St. Thomas/St. John district
ACL = 50,000 pounds for the St. Croix district
Limited to 200 conch per day per registered commercial fishing vessel on which a licensed commercial fisher must be present.
Limited to 6 conch per day per recreational (personal use) fisher; not to exceed 24 per boat per day.

 - Landing Restriction: Conch must be landed and reported in the district from which they were harvested.

 - Sale Restriction: No sale of undersized conch shell or meat from undersized conch.
No sale of imported conch meat unless shipment is accompanied by a CITES export permit and shipment is cleared at the Port of Miami.
See Conch Imports, page 13 for exceptions and further information.

 - Closed Season: **No possession June 1 through October 31.** No possession or sale of fresh or preserved (frozen, salted, or treated in chemical solution) conch fifteen days after the start of the closed season.

Once the ACL or June 1st is reached the season will close until November 1st of that year. No possession or sale of fresh or preserved (frozen, salted or treated in a chemical solution) conch fifteen days after the start of the closed season.

- 3 **Caribbean Spiny Lobster:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §319.*
- Size Limit: 3 ½ inch carapace length (see Appendix 6).
Harvest Quota: ACL = 104,199 pounds St. Thomas/St. John district federal waters.
ACL = 107,307 pounds St. Croix district federal waters
Landing Restriction: Must be landed whole.
No harvest of females with eggs.
Gear Restrictions: No spearfishing, hooks, gigs, or use of chemicals.
- 4 **Shrimp:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §303 (a)(1).*
No commercial harvest in Altona Lagoon or Great Pond.
No sale.
Recreational harvest allowed only with permit (see page 2).
- 5 **Goliath Grouper (jewfish):** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14.*
The possession of Goliath Grouper is **prohibited year round** in the territory.
- 6 **Nassau Grouper:** *V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14 (e).*
The possession of Nassau grouper is **prohibited year round** in the territory.
- 7 **Other Groupers:**
Red, Black, Tiger *V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14(a).*
Yellowfin, & No possession from **February 1 through April 30** in the
Yellowedge territory.
- 8 **Snappers:**
Black, Blackfin, Silk *V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14(b).*
& Vermillion: No possession **October 1 through December 31** in St.
Thomas/St. John district. **St. Croix is exempt from the seasonal closure for these species in territorial waters.**
- Lane & Mutton: *V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14(c)(d).*
No possession from April 1 through June 30 for the territory.
- 9 **Billfish:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A.*
Federal regulations for billfish apply in territorial waters. See page 19 for specific regulations.
- 10 **Billfish, Swordfish, Tuna & Shark:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A.*
Federal regulations and federal permit requirements apply in territorial waters. See page 19 for specific regulations.

- 11 **Tarpon & Bonefish:** *V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §303(a)(1-3) and (b).*
No harvest. Catch and release using hook and line only.
- 12 **Sea Turtles:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §318; Chapter 2 §105(b).*
Endangered species. No harvest, no possession and no harassment of sea turtles or their eggs. See Appendix 7.
- 13 **Aquarium Collecting:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 2, §106(c).*
Permit required from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- 14 **Traps:**
District of St. Thomas/St. John *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §304 & 321.*
All fish traps must have minimum 2 inch square or 2 inch hexagonal mesh. All fish traps must be inspected and tagged by the Division of Environmental Enforcement prior to use.
- District of St. Croix *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §304-5, 304-6, & 321.*
All traps placed in Territorial waters must have a minimum of 1 ½ inch hexagonal mesh as the smallest mesh on two sides of the fish traps. All fish traps must be inspected and tagged by the Division of Environmental Enforcement prior to use.
- Both Districts: *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §321.*
Gear Restrictions: Each trap must have a minimum of one escape panel fastened by biodegradable material (for example, 1/8 inch untreated jute twine). Colors and license numbers must be displayed on each trap.
- 15 **Nets:**
Mesh Restrictions: *V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §321-1.*
The use of all gill and trammel nets (single or multiple wall entanglement nets) are prohibited in the territory, with the exception of single-wall surface gillnets for the baitfish ballyhoo (Family Hemiramphidae), gar (Family Belonidae) and flyingfish (Family Exocoetidae). Surface gillnets must be tended at all times, may not be more than 1,800 ft in length as measured by the float line, and may not be used within 20 ft of the bottom. Mesh size may not be smaller than ¾ inch square or 1.5 inch stretch. Only one 1,800 ft bait net is permitted per boat. Restricted gill and trammel nets may not be possessed onboard vessels in territorial waters.
- Gear Prohibition: *V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §321-1.*
The use of **trammel nets** (multiple wall entanglement) **is prohibited**. The penalties for gill and trammel net violations are a \$1,000 fine and confiscation of vessel and equipment.

- 16 **Year-Round Closures/Marine Reserves:** No fishing or collecting of any kind is allowed **except as noted below.**
- Cas Cay/Mangrove Lagoon Reserve *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1, §96-1.*
- Permitted Acts: The use of a cast net with a minimum square mesh size of ¼ inch to capture bait fish (“fry”) within 50 feet of the north and west shorelines of Cas Cay only. See Appendix 1, areas “A” and “B”.
- Fishing Permits: A special monthly permit is required to catch baitfish in the Reserves. Obtain a permit from the Division of Environmental Enforcement.
- Prohibited Acts: In the Inner Mangrove Lagoon (see Appendix 1 map, area “A”), no fishing, no traps, and no seines are permitted. In short, no take at all. Use of internal combustion engines is prohibited.
- Compass Point Marine Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, St. Thomas *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1, §96-2.*
- Designated September 24, 1992. No fishing, hunting, or taking of any plants or animals within the marine reserve and wildlife sanctuary. See Appendix 1 map, area “D”.
- Salt River Marine Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, St. Croix *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1, §96(a)(1) and (2).*
- Designated July 19, 1995. It is unlawful to (1) collect, take, or possess any fish, coral, bird, or other wildlife, or part thereof; (2) use or possess any firearm, bow and arrow, spear gun or any trap, net or other contrivance designed to be, or capable of being, used to take birds, fish, or other wildlife or to discharge any firearm or release any arrow into the sanctuary. Contact the Division of Environmental Enforcement for complete regulations.
- The Small Pond at Frank Bay Wildlife and Marine Sanctuary, St. John *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1, §96-4.*
- Designated on March 24, 2000, signed on April 11, 2001. No hunting, fishing, or harvest of fisheries or wildlife resources. The use of a motorized vessel is prohibited within Frank Bay Pond.
- 17 **Territorial Marine Parks:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1, §98.*
- St. Croix East End Marine Park Designated on January 9, 2003. Regulations designate certain restricted zones within the park boundaries. Enforcement of regulations pending establishment of park boundary markers. Contact the Division of Environmental Enforcement for regulations at (340) 773-5774 or the Marine Park Coordinator at (340) 718-3367.

18 **Altona Lagoon and Great Pond Shrimp Management**

Commissioner Prescribed Rule 1992 under V.I.C. Title 12, Chapter 9A §303(1).

- a. All seine nets, gill nets, and traps are prohibited in Altona Lagoon, Great Pond, and their respective connecting channels to the sea.
- b. All seine nets, gill nets, and traps are prohibited in Christiansted Harbor within 100 yards of the mouth of Altona Lagoon channel. All seine nets, gill nets, and traps are prohibited in Great Pond Bay within 100 yards of the mouth of Great Pond channel.
- c. No motorized vessels are allowed in Altona Lagoon, Great Pond, and their respective connecting channels to the sea.
- d. A recreational shrimp fishing permit is required to harvest shrimp on St. Croix. A permit may be obtained from the Division of Environmental Enforcement. The annual fee for this permit is \$10.00.
- e. Monofilament or nylon cast nets of 3/8 inch square mesh (3/4 inch stretch mesh) may be used to harvest shrimp in Altona Lagoon channel and Great Pond channel. Cast nets of knotless nylon netting are prohibited.
- f. Cast nets of 1 inch square mesh (2 inch stretch mesh) may be used to harvest fish in Altona Lagoon, Great Pond, and their respective connecting channels to the sea. Cast nets of knotless nylon netting are prohibited.
- g. The sale of southern pink shrimp is prohibited. Vendors selling shrimp must possess a certificate of origin for the shrimp.
- h. The use of lights to attract shrimp for harvest is prohibited.
- i. Recreational handline and rod and reel fishing are **permitted** in Altona Lagoon, Great Pond, and their respective connecting channels to the sea.

19 **General Provision:**

V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14(f).

Filleting:

The filleting of fish in Federal waters of the U.S. Caribbean is prohibited and it is required that fish captured or possessed in territorial waters be landed with heads and fins intact.

V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A §321(f)

Use of hooka gear to harvest marine resources in territorial waters is prohibited.

WEBSITE REFERENCES

Virgin Islands Code - <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/vicode/>

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) – <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

Caribbean Fisheries Management Council – <http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/>

National Marine Fisheries Service – <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

EEZ Recreational Fishers- <http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov>

FEDERAL WATERS AROUND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

SUMMARY OF FISHING REGULATIONS

FEDERAL WATERS EXTEND FROM 3 TO 200 NAUTICAL MILES OFFSHORE

- 1 **Yellowtail Snapper:** 50 CFR 622.37(a) – Minimum 12 inches total length (Appendix 6).
- 2 **Nassau Grouper:** 50 CFR 622.32(b)(1)(ii) - No harvest or possession
- 3 **Goliath Grouper (jewfish):** 50 CFR 622.32(b)(1)(ii) - No harvest or possession.
- 4 **Queen Conch:**

50 CFR 622.32(b)(1)(iv) - No person may fish for, or possess on board a fishing vessel, a Caribbean queen conch in or from the Caribbean EEZ, **except during November 1 through May 31** (or earlier depending on the ACL), in the area east of 64°34' W longitude which includes Lang Bank east of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. When the USVI closes territorial waters off St. Croix to the harvest and possession of queen conch, the EEZ in the area east of 64°34' W longitude will close concurrently.

50 CFR 622.37(g) - Minimum size of 9 inch shell length from the spire to the distal end, or 3/8 inch lip thickness (see Appendix 6). 50 CFR 622.38(f) - Queen conch in or from the Caribbean EEZ must be maintained with meat and shell intact. 50 CFR 622.39(e)(2) - The recreational bag limit for queen conch is 3 per person or, if more than 4 persons are aboard, 12 per boat. 50 CFR 622.41(f) - No person may harvest queen conch by diving while using a device that provides a continuous air supply from the surface. 50 CFR 622.44(e) - The bag limit for commercial fishers is not more than 200 queen conch per day.
- 5 **Caribbean Spiny Lobster** 50 CFR 622.2 - Caribbean spiny lobster refers to the species *Panulirus argus*. 50 CFR 622.37(b) – Minimum size 3.5 inches carapace length. 50 CFR 622.38(b) - Caribbean spiny lobster must be maintained with head and carapace intact. 50 CFR 622.32(b) (iii) - Egg-bearing spiny lobster in the Caribbean EEZ must be returned to the water unharmed. An egg-bearing spiny lobster may be retained in a trap, provided the trap is returned immediately to the water. An egg-bearing spiny lobster may not be stripped, scraped, shaved, clipped, or in any other manner molested, in order to remove the eggs. 50 CFR 622.31(j) - Spears and hooks. A spear, hook, or similar device may not be used in the Caribbean EEZ to harvest a Caribbean spiny lobster. The possession of a speared, pierced, or punctured Caribbean spiny lobster in or from the Caribbean EEZ is prima facie evidence of violation of this section.

- 6 **Aquarium Trade:** 50 CFR 622.45(b) – A live red hind or live mutton snapper may not be sold or purchased and used in the marine aquarium trade.
- 7 **Corals:** 50 CFR 622.2 – Caribbean prohibited coral includes gorgonians (Class Anthozoa, Subclass Octocorallia, Order Gorgonacea); live rock; or stony coral (Class Hydrozoa [fire corals and hydrocorals] or of the Class Anthozoa, Subclass Hexacorallia, Orders Scleractinia (stony corals) and Antipatharia (black corals)); or a part thereof. 50 CFR 622.32(b)(1)(i) - Caribbean prohibited coral may not be fished for or possessed in or from the Caribbean EEZ. 50 CFR 622.45(a) - No person may sell or purchase a Caribbean prohibited coral harvested in the Caribbean EEZ. A Caribbean prohibited coral that is sold in the U.S. Virgin Islands will be presumed to have been harvested in the Caribbean EEZ, unless it is accompanied by documentation.
- 8 **Billfish:** 50 CFR 635 – **No commercial harvest; no sale**
 Minimum Size Long Bill Spearfish – Retention is prohibited.
 Regulations: Blue Marlin – 99” Lower Jaw Fork Length (see Appendix 6);
 White Marlin – 66” Lower Jaw Fork Length (see Appendix 6);
 Sailfish – 63” Lower Jaw Fork Length (see Appendix 6);
 Swordfish – 47” Lower Jaw Fork Length (see Appendix 6 and #10 below).
- 9 **Parrotfish:** 50 CFR 622.32 (b) (1) (v) No person may fish for or possess midnight, blue, or rainbow parrotfish from the Caribbean EEZ. Such fish caught must be released without harm.
- 10 **Billfish, Swordfish, Tuna & Shark:** 50 CFR 635 – The NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Management Division regulates billfish, swordfish, tuna, and sharks in all waters of the Caribbean Sea.
 Permits: **All owners/operators of commercial and recreational vessels harvesting swordfish and certain species of tuna described below and all dealers of these species MUST obtain the required Federal permits:**
 Recreational: The NOAA Fisheries requires that all vessels involved in the recreational billfish fishery to register and purchase a Highly Migratory Species Permit (HMSP) to participate in billfish fisheries in the Caribbean. The permit also covers tuna (excluding blackfin), sharks, and swordfish. Permit holders are required to report total landings of species covered by HMSP to NOAA Fisheries.
 Commercial: Commercial fishers must obtain a federal harvest permit to catch and keep yellowfin, bigeye, bluefin, skipjack and albacore tunas. Commercial fishers must obtain a federal dealer’s permit to sell any of the above regulated tuna species. Commercial harvest permit does not allow participation in HMS recreational tournaments.
 Permit Application: Permit applications are available at the Division of Fish and Wildlife

(address on back cover). For permit information or questions regarding HMSP regulations, contact: Highly Migratory Species Management Office, NOAA Fisheries, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298, phone: (978) 281-9260 or (888) 872-8862; or Christopher Rogers, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA-Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Springs, Maryland 20910-3282, phone: (301) 713-2347.

Size Restrictions: The commercial and recreational minimum legal harvest size for yellowfin and bigeye tuna is 27" fork length (see Appendix 6). The recreational minimum for bluefin tuna is 27", however, check NOAA Fisheries for current commercial bluefin limits.

Bag Limit: Recreational bag limit (possession) is three yellowfin tuna per person per day. No limit for bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tunas. Check NOAA Fisheries for current bluefin limits.

11 **Sea Turtles:** *50 CFR 17.11* – No harvest, possession, or harassment of sea turtles or their eggs (see Appendix 7).

12 **Seabirds:** *50 CFR 10.12* – Seabirds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. To minimize injury to seabirds, do not discard fishing line at sea.

13 **Traps:**
Marking: *50 CFR 622.6(b)(1)(i)(A)* – Trap must display the official number specified for the vessel by the U.S. Virgin Islands. *50 CFR 622.6(b)(1)(ii)(A)* - All individual traps or end of trap lines require a surface buoy that must display the official number and color code.

Unmarked Traps: *50 CFR 622.6(b)(1)(iv)* – An unmarked trap or a buoy deployed is illegal and may be disposed of by an authorized officer.

Trap Tending: *50 CFR 622.40(a)(1)* – A trap may be pulled or tended only by a person (other than an authorized officer) aboard the trap owner's vessel.

Fish Traps: *50 CFR 622.40(c)(1)* – A bare-wire fish trap that has hexagonal mesh openings must have a minimum mesh size of 1.5 inches in the smallest dimension measured between centers of opposite strands. A bare-wire fish trap that has other than hexagonal mesh openings or a fish trap of other than bare wire, such as coated wire or plastic, must have a minimum mesh size of 2.0 inches in the smallest dimension measured between centers of opposite strands.

50 CFR 622.40(b)(1)(i) - A fish trap must have a panel located on one side of the trap, excluding the top, bottom, and side containing the trap entrance. The opening covered by the panel must measure not less than 8 by 8 inches. The mesh size of the panel may not be smaller than the mesh size of the trap. The panel must be attached to

the trap with untreated jute twine with a diameter not exceeding 1/8 inch. An access door may serve as the panel, provided it is on an appropriate side, it is hinged only at its bottom, its only other fastening is untreated jute twine with a diameter not exceeding 1/8 inch, and such fastening is at the top of the door so that the door will fall open when such twine degrades. Jute twine used to secure a panel may not be wrapped or overlapped.

Lobster Trap: *50 CFR 622.40(b)(1)(ii)* – A spiny lobster trap must contain on any vertical side or on the top a panel no smaller in diameter than the throat or entrance of the trap. The panel must be made of or attached by either: untreated fiber of biological origin with a diameter not exceeding 1/8 inch. This includes, but is not limited to tyre palm, hemp, jute, cotton, wool, or silk, or ungalvanized or uncoated iron wire with a diameter not exceeding 1/16 inch that is, 16 gauge wire.

14 **Year-Round**

Closures:

Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (MCD), St. Thomas:

50 CFR 622.33(b) – No fishing for any species, and no anchoring by fishing vessels. Appendix 8 provides coordinates and a map of the boundaries of the MCD.

15 **Seasonal Area**

Closures:

Grammanik Bank, St. Thomas:

50 CFR 622.33(a) – Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round in the three seasonally closed areas specified below.

50 CFR 622.33(a)(3) – February 1 through April 30, no person may fish for or possess any species of fish, except highly migratory species, in or from the Grammanik Bank closed area. **“Highly migratory species”** means bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, and skipjack tunas; swordfish; sharks, and white marlin, blue marlin, sailfish, and longbill spearfish. Appendix 8 provides coordinates and a map of the boundaries of the Grammanik Bank seasonal closure area.

Red Hind Spawning Aggregation Area, St. Croix:

50 CFR 622.33(a)(2) – December 1 through February 28, no fishing in those parts of the following areas that are in the EEZ. Appendix 9 provides coordinates and a map of the boundaries of the Red Hind Spawning Aggregation seasonal closure area.

Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation Area, St. Croix:

50 CFR 629.21 & 24 – March 1 through June 30, no fishing in that part of the following area that is in the EEZ. Appendix 10 provides coordinates and a map of the boundaries of the Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation seasonal closure area.

- 16 **Seasonal Species Closures:**
Groupers: *50 CFR 622.33(a)(4)* – February 1 through April 30, no harvest and/or possession of red, black, tiger, yellowfin, or yellowedge grouper.
- Snappers: *50 CFR 622.33(a)(6)* – October 1 through December 31, no harvest and/or possession of vermilion, black, silk, or blackfin snapper.
- 50 CFR 622.33(a)(7)* – April 1 through June 30, no harvest and/or possession of lane or mutton snapper.
- 17 **Gear Prohibition:**
Net Fishing: *50 CFR 622.31(l)* – No gillnet or trammel net may be used to fish for Caribbean reef fish or Caribbean spiny lobster. Possession of a gill or trammel net and any Caribbean reef fish or Caribbean spiny lobster is prima facie evidence of violation. A gillnet or trammel net used in the Caribbean EEZ to fish for any other species must be tended at all times.
- 18 **Recreational Bag & Possession Limits:**
Groupers, snappers & parrotfish combined: *50 CFR 622.39 (2)(i)* – 5 per person per day or, if 3 or more persons are aboard, 15 per vessel per day; but not to exceed 2 parrotfish per person per day or 6 parrotfish per vessel per day.
- Other fish combined: *50 CFR 622.39 (2)(ii)* – 5 per person per day or, if 3 or more persons are aboard, 15 per vessel per day, but not to exceed 1 surgeonfish per person per day or 4 surgeonfish per vessel per day.
- 19 **General Provision:**
Filleting: *50 CFR 622.3(a)* – Finfish must be maintained with head and fins intact. *50 CFR 622.3(c)* - Shark, swordfish, and tuna species are exempt from this requirement. *50 CFR 622.3(c)(1)* - Bait is exempt from the requirement to be maintained with head and fins intact. *50 CFR 622.3(c)(2)* - Legal-sized finfish possessed for consumption at sea on the harvesting vessel are exempt from the requirement to have head and fins intact, provided: (i) such finfish do not exceed any applicable bag limit; (ii) such finfish do not exceed 1.5 lb (680 g) of finfish parts per person aboard; and (iii) the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish on board.
- Anchoring: *50 CFR 622.41(b)* – Any fishing vessel, recreational or commercial that fishes for or possesses Caribbean reef fish must ensure that the vessel uses only an anchor retrieval system that recovers the anchor by its crown, thereby preventing the anchor from dragging along the bottom during recovery. For a grapnel hook, this could include an incorporated anchor rode reversal bar that runs parallel along the shank, which allows the rode to reverse and slip back toward the crown. For a fluke- or plow-type anchor, a trip line consisting of a line from the crown of the anchor to a surface buoy would be required.

ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS (ACLs)

An ACL is the annual catch limit for a specific species that, if met or exceeded, triggers accountability measures such as a seasonal closure or a quota closure. The reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act requires ACLs to prevent overfishing. The ACL combines both the commercial and recreational harvest. Prior to reaching the ACL of a given species, managers will notify commercial and recreational fishers when the quota is expected to be reached based on the catch rate determined from catch reports. If the ACL is exceeded during a calendar year, the fishery will be subject to closure during the following calendar year. The length of the closure is the number of days it would take to catch the amount of fish in excess of the ACL. The fishery is then reopened January 1.

Table of Annual Catch Limits, in Federal waters, for each fishing district

	St. Croix	St. Thomas / St. John
Species	<i>50 CFR 622.49 (c)(2)</i>	<i>50 CFR 622.49 (c)(3)</i>
Parrotfishes	240,000 lbs. (108,863 kg)	42,500 lbs. (19,278 kg)
Snappers	102,946 lbs. (46,696 kg)	133,775 lbs. (60,679 kg)
Groupers	30,435 lbs. (13,805 kg)	51,849 lbs. (23,518 kg)
Angelfish	305 lbs. (138 kg)	7,897 lbs. (3,582 kg)
Boxfish	8,433 lbs. (3,825 kg)	27,880 lbs. (12,646 kg)
Goatfishes	3,766 lbs. (1,708 kg)	320 lbs. (145 kg)
Grunts	36,881 lbs. (16,729 kg)	37,617 lbs. (17,063 kg)
Wrasses	7 lbs. (3 kg)	585 lbs. (265 kg)
Jacks	15,489 lbs. (7,076 kg)	52,907 lbs. (23,998 kg)
Scups and porgies, combined	4,638 lbs. (2,104 kg)	21,819 lbs. (9,897 kg)
Squirrelfish	121 lbs. (55 kg)	4,241 lbs. (1,924 kg)
Surgeonfish	33,603 lbs. (15,242 kg)	29,249 lbs. (13,267 kg)
Triggerfish and filefish, combined	24,980 lbs. (11,331 kg)	74,447 lbs. (33,769 kg)
Spiny lobster	107,307 lbs. (48,674 kg)	104,199 lbs. (47,264 kg)

Table of Annual Catch limits, in both Territorial and Federal waters for each fishing district.

	St. Croix	St. Thomas / St. John
Species	<i>50 CFR 622.49 (c)(2)</i>	<i>50 CFR 622.49 (c)(2)</i>
Queen Conch	50,000 lbs. (22,680 kg)	50,000 lbs. (22,680 kg)

Table of Annual Catch limits, for the USVI (Combined Fishing districts), in Territorial and Federal waters.

Species	USVI
Tilefish	14,642 lbs. (6,642 kg)

RESUMEN DE REGULACIONES DE PESCA DE AGUAS TERRITORIALES DE LAS ISLAS VÍRGENES ESTADOUNIDENSES

AGUAS TERRITORIALES - Hasta 3 millas mar afuera

- 1 Caracoles (Burgaos):** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-6 & 316-7.*
Límite de Tamaño: Tiene que ser más grande de 2 7/16 pulgadas de diámetro.
Restricción de Capturas: Traído entero en el casco (ver apéndice 1).
Veda Temporal: 1 de abril – 30 de septiembre
- 2 Carrucho:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-1 & 316-4.*
Límite de Tamaño: Tamaño mínimo de 9 pulgadas de largo desde la punta arriba de la concha hasta donde termina la aleta abajo de la concha o un espesor de aleta de 3/8” (vea apéndice 1).

Cuota: No se puede cosechar carruchos por debajo del tamaño reglamentado. No puede poseer carnes de carruchos que sea menor de dos por libra sin limpiar o tres por libra limpios.

Uso Personal: Máximo de 200 carruchos por día por embarcación comercial registrada, el pescador tiene que estar presente.
Máximo de 6 carruchos por día por pescador recreacional (para uso personal). No puede exceder más de 24 por embarcación por día.

Restricción de Capturas: El total de carruchos desembarcados anual no debe exceder 50,000 libras en St. Croix y 50,000 libras en St. Thomas / St. John. Si se excede se vedará la temporada de cosecha hasta el 1 de noviembre de ese año. Debe ser desembarcado vivo y entero adentro de su concha. No puede desechar la concha al mar antes de que lo desembarque. Se prohíbe llevar las conchas mar afuera a las islas o cayos para el propósito de remover la carne. Transportar la carne del carrucho fuera de la concha sobre aguas abierta es prohibido.

Restricción de Venta: No se puede vender conchas o carne de carrucho que sea de tamaño inferior al reglamentado. No se puede vender carne de carrucho importado a menos que sea acompañado por un permiso de exportación (CITES) y que el embarque sea declarado en el Puerto de Miami. (Vea importación de carrucho, página 8 para excepciones y para más información).

Veda Temporal: 1 de junio – 31 de octubre. La posesión de carrucho en la temporada de cierre es ilegal.

- 3 **Langosta:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §319.*
 Límite de Tamaño: 3 ½ pulgada tamaño de casco (ver apéndice 1).
 Restricción de Capturas: Traída entera.
 Prohibido capturar hembras con huevos.
- Restricción de Equipo: Prohibido usar arpón o escopeta de pesca ni anzuelos de ningún tipo.
- 4 **Camarones** *Commissioner Prescribed Rule, V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §303(1).*
 Ningún tipo de pesca comercial en Altona Lagoon y Great Pond.
 Prohibida la venta de camarones.
 Licencia recreativa es requerida (ver página 1).
- 5 **Mero Guasa:** *Commissioner Prescribed Rule, V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 2, §104*
 Prohibida la pesca y captura.
- 6 **Mero Nassau** *V.I.C. Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14 (e).*
 La posesión de Mero Nassau esta prohibido todo el año en las aguas territoriales.
- 7 **Otros Meros**
Rojos, Negros, Tigre, *V.I.R.R. Tile 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14 (a).*
Aleta amarilla ni filo No hay posesión desde el 1 de febrero hasta el 30 de abril,
amarillo cada año, en aguas del territorio.
- 8 **Samas:** *V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14(b).*
Black (Chopa Negra), **La posesión durante el 1 de octubre hasta el 31 de**
Blackfin (alinegra), Silk **diciembre está vedada en el distrito de St. Thomas/St.**
(Chillo Ojo Amarillo) & **John.**
Vermillion: St. Croix está exento de la veda temporal para esta especie en aguas territoriales.
- Lane (Arrayado o *V.I.R.R., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14(c)(d).*
Manchego) & Mutton La posesión durante el 1 de abril hasta el 30 de junio, para el
(Sama): territorio.
- 9 **Área de Cierre por** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §316-13.*
Temporada: No se permite la pesca de ninguna especie desde el 1 de
 Área de reproducción de marzo hasta el 30 de junio (ver apéndice 6 y 7).
 la Sama:

- 10 **Pez Espada (Aguja):** *50 CFR 635 V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A.*
Regulaciones federales Ver páginas 24-25 para reglamento específico.
- 11 **Pez Espada, el Tiburón y El Atún (Tuna):** *50 CFR 635 V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A.*
Regulaciones federales (ver Regulaciones Federales).
- 12 **Sábalo & Macaco:** *Commissioner Prescribed Rule V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §304.*
Se prohíbe la pesca; solamente se puede usar anzuelos y cordel para captura y liberación.
- 13 **Tortugas Marinas (Fanduca):** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §318.*
En Peligro de Extinción. Prohibida la pesca, captura y hostigamiento.
- 14 **Colección Acuario:** *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §106c.*
Permiso requerido a través de DPNR- División de Pesca y Vida Silvestre.
- 15 **Nasas de Pesca:**
Distrito de St. Thomas y St. John: *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §304-4 & §304-6 & 321*
Tamaño de malla: Toda nasa vieja y nueva en aguas territoriales será de 2" pulgadas hexagonal o 2 pulgadas de malla cuadrada. Todas serán inspeccionadas por la División de Cumplimiento Legal Ambiental (DCLA).
- Distrito de St. Croix: *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §304-5 & §304-6 & 321.*
Tamaño de malla: Toda nasa vieja y nueva en aguas territoriales será de 1 ½ pulgada hexagonal con la malla mas pequeña en ambos lados de la nasa. Todas las nasas serán inspeccionadas y marcadas por la DCLA.
- Ambos Distritos: *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §321.*
Restricción de equipo: Cada nasa tendrá un panel de escape que estará compuesto de material biodegradable con soga de 1/8" de yute. Colores y número de licencia deben estar visibles en cada nasa.
- 16 **Redes:**
Restricción del Equipo: *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §321.*
Tamaño de malla: Trasmallo de arrastre, mas de 1 ½ pulgada de malla estirada. Los trasmallos para la pesca de carnada pueden tener mallas más pequeñas de 1 ¼".
No deben ser sacados del agua para coger las capturas.

Prohibición del Equipo: *V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §321-1.*
El uso del trasmallo de ahorque y mallorquín son prohibidos con la excepción del trasmallo de superficie de carnada (ballyhoo, gar o volador). Estos trasmallos deben ser atendidos en todo momento. No deben ser más de 1,800 pies en tamaño y no debe utilizarse a menos de 20 pies del fondo. El tamaño de malla no debe ser menos de ¾ de pulgadas cuadradas o 1.5 pulgadas estirada. Solamente un trasmallo de carnada de 1,800 pies es permitido por embarcación. La penalidad por las violaciones de trasmallo de ahorque y mallorquín: la multa es \$1,000 por embarcación, así como la confiscación de la embarcación y equipo. Las redes y trasmallos no pueden estar presentes abordo en aguas territoriales.

17 Reservas Marinas: Ningún tipo de pesca ni captura está permitida, con la excepción de las siguientes:

Reserva de St. James:
Leyes Permitidas:

V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1 §96-3 & §96-4
El uso de una taralla de ¼ pulgada para coger carnada mijúa 50' pies de la orilla. Cow y Calf rocks ("C" en el mapa apéndice 2) están fuera de límite y no son consideradas como orillas. Para límites ver el mapa apéndice 2, área "C".

Permiso para Pescar: Un permiso especial mensual es requerido y obtenido de la División de Cumplimiento Legal Ambiental (DCLA) para pescar la carnada y para el uso de cordel en la reserva (ver página 1).

Reserva de Cas Cay y Laguna Manglar:
Permitido:

V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1 §96-5.
Esta permitido el uso de una taralla de ¼ pulgada para capturar (pescar) mijúa 50' pies de la orilla parte Norte y Oeste de Cas Cay solamente. Ver mapa apéndice 4, área "B" y "A".

Permiso para Pescar: Se requiere un permiso especial mensual para pescar carnada en la reserva, se obtiene en la DCLA (ver página 1). La carnada se puede pescar solamente 50' pies de la orilla Norte y Oeste de Cas Cay.

Prohibiciones: En la Laguna Manglar (ver mapa apéndice 4, "A" área) esta prohibido todo tipo de pesca, y el uso de motores de combustión.

Compass Point, Reserva Marina y Santuario de Vida Silvestre:

V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1 §96-2.

Designado en St. Thomas el 24 de septiembre de 1992. Todo tipo de caza, pesca, captura y recogida de plantas y animales, dentro de la reserva marina y santuario de vida silvestre está terminantemente prohibida. Ver mapa apéndice 4, área “D”.

El Santuario de Vida Silvestre y Marina de Salt River en St. Croix

V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1, § 96-12.

Designado el 19 de julio de 1995. Es ilegal que (1) colecciono o posea algún pez, coral, o pájaros y otra vida silvestre, o parte de ellos: (2) Poseer o usar y poseer armas de fuego, flechas, escopetas de pescar o cualquier trampa, y redes o cualquier artefacto diseñado que sea capaz de ser usados para atrapar pájaros, peces o cualquier vida silvestre; también se prohíbe descargar arma de fuego alguna o liberar flecha alguna en el santuario. Contacte la DCLA para mayor información.

La Laguna de Frank Bay: Reserva Marina y Santuario Marino de St. John

V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1 §96-4.

Designado en St. John el 24 de marzo del 2000. Reserva Marina y Santuario de Vida Silvestre, Frank Bay, se prohíbe totalmente todo tipo de pesca y recolección de organismos marinos en la Laguna de Frank Bay. El uso de embarcaciones motorizadas es prohibido.

18 Parque Territorial Marino:
St. Croix East End Marine park

V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1 §98.

Designado el 9 de enero de 2003. El reglamento está pendiente, ya que actualmente todavía se encuentra en proceso de revisión.

Para mas información contacte a la DCLA en el (340) 773-5774 o el coordinador del parque en el (340) 773-1082 x 2204.

19 Manejo de Camarones Altona Lagoon y Great Pond

Commissioner Prescribed Rule 1992 V.I.C. Title 12, Chapter 9A §303(1).

- a. Todo trasmallo de arrastre, trasmallo de ahorque y nasas de pesca están prohibidos en Altona Lagoon, al igual que en Great Pond y respectivos canales con conexión hacia el mar.
- b. Todo trasmallo de arrastre, trasmallo de ahorque y nasas de pesca están prohibidos en la bahía de Christiansted y dentro 100 yardas de la boca de Altona Lagoon. Todo trasmallo de arrastre, trasmallo de ahorque y nasas de pesca están prohibidos en la bahía de Great Pond y dentro de 100 yardas del canal de Great Pond.
- c. Ninguna embarcación motorizada esta permitida en Altona Lagoon, Great Pond y canales que conecten al mar.
- d. Tarrayas de hilo plástico de malla cuadrada 3/8 pulgadas y malla estirada de 3/4 pulgadas pueden ser usadas para capturar camarones en el canal de Altona Lagoon y Great Pond. Están prohibidas las tarrayas de hilo de nylon sin nudos.
- e. Tarrayas de 1 pulgada de malla cuadrada (2 pulgadas de malla estirada) pueden ser

usadas para coger peces en Altona Lagoon, Great Pond y sus respectivos canales conectando al mar. Tarrayas de hilo de nylon sin nudos están prohibidas.

- f. Una licencia recreativa para capturar camarones es necesaria en St. Croix. El coste anual para obtener esta licencia es \$10.00. Este permiso se solicita a través de la DCLA.
- g. La venta de camarones esta prohibida. Cualquier persona que tenga camarones para la venta deberá tener un certificado de origen sobre la procedencia de los camarones.
- h. El uso de luces para atraer los camarones esta terminantemente prohibido.
- i. La pesca de cordel de mano y vara esta permitido en Altona Lagoon, Great Pond y respectivos canales que conectan al mar.

20 Normativa General

Filetear:

V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316-14(f).

Esta prohibido filetear pescados en aguas del caribe estadounidense y es requerido que el pescado capturado o poseído en aguas territoriales deben ser embarcado a orilla entero con cabezas y aletas intactas.

RESUMEN DE REGULACIONES DE PESCA DE AGUAS FEDERALES DE LAS ISLAS VÍRGENES ESTADOUNIDENSES

AGUAS FEDERALES - 3 millas hasta 200 millas mar afuera

- 1 **Colirubia:** 50 CFR 622.37(a) – Mínimo de 12 pulgadas tamaño total (ver apéndice 1).
- 2 **Mero Nassau:** 50 CFR 669.22(a) - Prohibida la pesca y captura.
- 3 **Mero Guasa:** 50 CFR 669.22(a) - Prohibida la pesca y captura.
- 4 **Carruchos** 50 CFR 622.32 (b) (1)(iv) – Ninguna persona podrá pescar, poseer carruchos que vengan o que estén en la Zona Económica Exclusiva (EEZ), excepto durante los meses desde el 1 de Octubre hasta el 30 de Junio en el área al este de 64°34'W. que incluye Lang Bank al este de St. Croix, Islas Virgenes Estadounidenses. 50 CFR 622.37(g) – Tamaño mínimo de 9 pulgadas de punta a punta, o 3/8 de pulgada en el grosor del labio (ver apéndice 1). 50 CFR 622.38(f) – Los carruchos de la EEZ deberán ser mantenidos con la carne y el casco intactos. 50 CFR 622.39 (e)(2) – Para la pesca recreativa se permite un máximo de 3 carruchos por persona o, en el caso de que hayan mas de 4 personas a bordo del barco, se permitirán un máximo de 12 carruchos por barco. 50 CFR 622.41 (f) – No está permitida la pesca de carruchos con una fuente de aire que provenga de la superficie. 50 CFR 622.44(e) – El máximo de capturas por pescador comercial por día es de 150 carruchos.
- 5 **Langosta** 50 CFR 622.2 - El nombre de “langosta” se refiere a la especie *Panulirus argus*. 50 CFR 622.37(b) El carapacho debe tener una talla mínima de 3.5 pulgadas de longitud. 50 CFR 622.38(b) La langosta deberá mantenerse intacta. 50 CFR 622.32(b) (iii) – Las langostas que tengan huevos deberán ser devueltas al agua inmediatamente. No esta permitido quitar los huevos de la langosta de ninguna manera. 50 CFR 622.31(j) Los arpones y anzuelos u otras herramientas similares no están autorizadas para la pesca de la langosta en la EEZ. La posesión de una langosta que presente señales de haber sido capturada utilizando métodos no permitidos será considerado como evidencia de violación de de esta sección.
- 6 **Colección Acuarios** 50 CFR 622.45(b) – Se prohíbe la comercialización de cabrillas (*Epinephelus guttatus*) vivas para acuarios (conocidas también por meros pinto), se prohíbe además el comercio de samas (*Lutjanus analis*) vivas para acuarios.

- 7 **Corales** 50 CFR 622.2 – La cosecha de corales caribeños esta prohibida para las siguientes categorías: gorgóneas, Clase Anthozoa, Subclase Octocorallia, Orden Gorgonacea; piedra coralina, Clase Hydrozoa (corales de fuego e hidrocorales) o Clase Anthozoa, Subclase Hexacorallia, Orden Scleractinia (piedra coralina) y Antipatharia (coral negro); o partes de los mismos. Estos corales son llamados “Corales Caribeños Prohibidos”. 50 CFR 622.32(b)(1)(i) – Los corales caribeños prohibidos no podrán ser cosechados ni se podrán poseer dentro de la EEZ. 50 CFR 622.45(a) Ninguna persona podrá comercializar comprar o vender corales caribeños prohibidos que hayan sido sustraídos de la EEZ. Cualquier coral caribeño prohibido que este en venta en las Islas Vírgenes Estadounidenses. será considerado como extraído de la EEZ, a no ser que este acompañado de la documentación reglamentaria.
- 8 **Agujas** 50 CFR 635 – **Prohibida la extracción comercial; prohibida la venta de:** Aguja azul - 99” desde la mandíbula inferior a centro de cola (ver apéndice 1); Aguja blanca – 66” desde mandíbula inferior a centro de cola (ver apéndice 1); Pez Vela – 63” desde mandíbula inferior a centro de cola (ver apéndice 1); Pez Espada (Emperador) 47” desde mandíbula inferior a centro de cola (ver apéndice 1 y #9 abajo).
 Reglamento Sobre
 Tamaños
 Mínimos:
- 9 **Pez Loro** 50 CFR 622.32 (b) (1) (v) -Ninguna persona podrá pescar o poseer Pez Loro (media noche, azul o arco iris) en la Zona Económica Exclusiva del Caribe Estadounidense.
- 10 **Agujas, Pez Espada, Atunes y Tiburones** 50 CFR 635 – La División de la Gestión de Especies Altamente Migratorias, de NOAA Pesquerías, gestiona y regula las agujas, peces espada, atunes y tiburones en las aguas del caribe estadounidense.
 Permisos: **Todos los propietarios u operadores de embarcaciones de pesca, comerciales o recreativos, que extraigan alguna de estas especies DEBERAN obtener los permisos Federales requeridos:**
 Recreativo: NOAA requiere que todas las embarcaciones que de alguna manera estén involucradas en la pesca recreativa de estas especies, deberán registrarse y comprar un permiso de Especies Altamente Migratorias (HMSP). Este permiso cubre también a los atunes (excluyendo el Albacora o Bonito), tiburones y pez espada. Los titulares de los permisos están obligados a reportar el total de capturas a NOAA.
 Comercial: Los pescadores comerciales deben obtener un permiso federal para poder pescar y conservar atún de aleta amarilla, ojón, atún de aleta azul, bonito, aletas negras y albacora. También deberán obtener una licencia de venta federal para poder vender este pescado. Una licencia de pesca comercial federal de HMSP no autoriza al pescador comercial a participar en los torneos de pesca recreativa.

- Solicitud de Licencias: Los formularios para solicitar las licencias están disponibles en las oficinas de Fish & Wildlife (dirección al dorso). Para preguntas sobre HMSP, contacte: Highly Migratory Species Management Office, NOAA Fisheries, Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298, phone: (978)281-9260 o (888)872-8862; o Christopher Rogers, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA – Fisheries, 1315 East Highway, Silver Springs, Maryland 20910-3282, phone: (301)713-2347.
- Restricciones de Tamaño: Para el atún de aleta amarilla y el ojón deberán tener un tamaño mínimo de 27” de longitud desde el labio inferior al centro de la cola (ver apéndice 1). Para el atún de cola azul el tamaño mínimo es también de 27”, aunque hay que confirmar con NOAA si ha habido algún cambio reciente.
- Limite de Capturas: Para el pescador recreativo el límite es de 3 atunes de cola amarilla por persona y por día. No existe límite para el ojón, albacora ni el bonito. Para el atún de cola azul por favor consulte con NOAA.
- 11 **Tortugas Marinas (Fanduca)** *50 CFR 17.11* – No esta permitida la captura, posesión, ni molestar a las tortugas ni los huevos.
- 12 **Pájaros Marinos** *50 CFR 10.12* – Pájaros marinos están protegidos por el Acta del Pájaros Migratorios (Migratory Bird Treaty Act). Para minimizar heridas a los pájaros marinos o muerte, no desechar cordel de pesca en el mar.
- 13 **Nasas**
- Marcas: *50 CFR 622.6(b)(1)(i)(A)* – Las nasas deberán presentar el numero oficial de la embarcación especificado por las Islas Vírgenes Estadounidenses. *50 CFR 622.6(b)(1)(ii)(A)* – Todas las nasas deberán de ir acompañadas de una boya de superficie en las que se verán números y colores oficiales.
- Sin Marcas: *50 CFR 622.6(b)(1)(iv)* – Las boyas que no estén marcadas serán consideradas ilegales y podrán ser confiscadas por un oficial autorizado. *50 CFR 622.6(a)(1)* – Las nasas solo podrán ser levantadas por personas que estén a bordo de la embarcación del propietario de las nasas.
- Nasas de Pescado: *50 CFR 622.40(c)(1)* – Las nasas construidas con la malla hecha de alambre al descubierto formando agujeros hexagonales deberán tener un tamaño mínimo de 1.5 pulgadas en la parte mas pequeña del hexágono. Las que formen la malla con otras formas y no sean de alambre descubierto (plásticos, etc.) deberán tener un tamaño mínimo de 2 pulgadas medidas desde los lados mas juntos de la figura que presente el agujero de la malla.

50 CFR 622.40(b)(1)(i) – Las nasas deberán tener un panel en uno de los lados, excluyendo la cara superior e inferior y el lado donde se encuentre la entrada de la nasa. La abertura o puerta de salida estará recubierta por el panel y no podrá medir menos de 8 x 8 pulgadas. La malla del panel no podrá ser de un tamaño menor al del resto de la nasa. El panel deberá estar amarrado a la nasa con un material biodegradable que no este tratado y que no sobrepase 1/8 de pulgada. Una puerta de acceso puede servir como panel, suponiendo que sea del tamaño apropiado, esta puerta deberá tener uno de sus amarres hecho con un material biodegradable como el cáñamo, que se descomponga con el tiempo previniendo así que en el caso que la nasa se extravíe, esta con el tiempo se abra sola y no siga pescando innecesariamente.

50 CFR 622.40(b)(1)(ii) – El nasero (puerta de entrada) deberá ser de menor tamaño que el resto de las caras de la nasa.

Nasas de
Langostas:

50 CFR 622.40 (b) (1) (ii) - La trampa de la Langosta espinosa tiene que contener un panel, en cualquier lado vertical o en la parte superior, no menor en diámetro, a la entrada de la trampa. El panel tiene que estar hecho de, o adherido por fibra biológica sin tratar, con un diámetro que no exceda 1/8 de pulgada. Esto incluye, pero no se limita a caucho, cáñamo, yute, lana o seda, o cable de hierro no galvanizado o no recubierto con diámetro que no exceda 1/16 pulgadas, esto es, cable de ancho 16.

- 14 **Cierres Anuales:** 50 CFR 622.33(b) – Las actividades siguientes están prohibidas en el Distrito de Conservación Marina (DCM) de Hind Bank, St. Thomas: el Distrito de Conservación Marina (DCM) de Hind Bank: toda la pesca, el fondeo y anclaje de cualquier embarcación pesquera. El apéndice número 3 enseña las coordenadas de los límites del DCM.

- 15 **Áreas de Veda Temporal:** 50 CFR 622.33(a) – La pesca con nasas, calas, trasmallo mallorquín y trasmallo de ahorque esta prohibida durante todo el año en las tres áreas siguientes que se especifican abajo.

Grammanik Bank,
St. Thomas:

50 CFR 622.33(a)(3) – Desde el 1 de febrero hasta el 30 de abril, todos los años, ninguna persona podrá estar en posesión de ningún tipo de pescado, exceptuando aquellas especies que sean altamente migratorias, dentro del área de cierre de Grammanik Bank. El apéndice número 4 enseña las coordenadas de los límites de Grammanik Bank.

Área de
reproducción de
Cabrillas, St.
Croix:

50 CFR 622.33(a)(2) – Desde el 1 de diciembre hasta el 28 de febrero, todos los años la pesca esta prohibida en aquellas áreas dentro de la EEZ. El apéndice número 6 muestra las coordenadas del área vedada en un mapa.

Área de reproducción de las Samas, St. Croix: *50 CFR 629.21 & 24* - Desde el 1 de marzo hasta el 30 de junio, todos los años, la pesca está prohibida en las zonas dentro del área EEZ. El apéndice número 7 muestra las coordenadas del área vedada en un mapa.

16 **Especies**
Vedadas por
Temporadas

Meros: *50 CFR 622.33(a)(4)* – Desde el 1 de febrero hasta el 30 de abril de cada año, no se podrá pescar los meros rojos, negros, tigre, aleta amarilla ni filo amarillo.

Pargos: *50 CFR 622.33(a)(6)* – Desde el 1 de octubre hasta el 31 de diciembre, todos los años, ninguna persona podrá poseer o pescar besugo, negras, chopas negras ni chillos.

50 CFR 622.33(a)(7) – Desde el 1 de abril hasta el 30 de junio de cada año, no se podrán pescar ni poseer samas ni arrayaos.

17 **Equipos**
Prohibidos:

Redes: *50 CFR 622.31(l)* – El trasmallo de ahorque y el mallorquín no pueden ser utilizados para los peces de arrecife caribeños ni para la langosta. La posesión de trasmallos y de pescado de arrecife será evidencia de violación de la ley. Los trasmallos utilizados para capturar otras especies deberán ser atendidas en todo momento.

18 **Límite**
recreacional y de
posesión:

Mero, Sama y Pez loro combinado: *50 CFR 622.39 (2) (i)-5* por persona por día o, si 3 o más están abordo, 15 por día, pero que no exceda 2 Peces Cotorro por persona por día o 6 Peces Cotorro por embarcación por día.

Otro peces combinados: *50 CFR 622.39 (2) (ii)-5* por persona por día, si 3 personas o más están abordo, 15 por embarcación por día, pero no excediendo 1 pez cirujano por persona por día o 4 peces cirujano por embarcación por día.

19 **Normativa**
General

Filetear:

50 CFR 622.3(a) – El pescado deberá ser mantenido entero, no se podrán cortar las aletas colas ni cabezas. *50 CFR 622.3(c)* – Tiburones, pez espada y atunes están exentos de esta normativa. *50 CFR 622.3(c)(1)* – El pescado que se utiliza como cebo esta excluido de esta normativa. *50 CFR 622.3(c)(2)* – El pescado que se encuentre a bordo de las embarcaciones para consumo de la tripulación esta excluido de esta normativa en los casos siguientes: (i) que el pescado en cuestión no exceda el límite de las cuotas; (ii) que el pescado en cuestión no exceda 1.5 lb (680 g) en cada pedazo de pescado por persona; (iii) que la embarcación tenga equipo para cocinar el pescado a bordo.

Anclaje:

50 CRF 622.41(b) – Cualquier embarcación de pesca comercial o recreativa deberá disponer de un sistema de anclaje que asegure la recogida del ancla por la corona, de esta manera se previene contra el arrastre del ancla y la destrucción del fondo marino cuando se levanta el ancla. En el caso de un gancho “Grapnel”, se puede incluir un eslabón reversible que corra paralelo al brazo del ancla, lo que permite volver en dirección a la corona y evitar así el desgarre del fondo. Para las anclas tipo “fluke” o “plow” una línea o cabo deberá ir atado desde la corona o cabeza del ancla hasta una boya en la superficie.

20 **Límite Anual de Pesca:**

Un LAP es el Límite Anual de Pesca para especies en específico en las cuales si alcanzó o exedió, requiere la aplicación de medidas de contabilidad tales como la veda temporal o veda de cuota. La reautorizada Ley Magnuson-Stevens requiere LAPs para prevenir la sobrepesca. El LAP combina ambos, la cosecha commercial y la recreacional. Previo a alcanzar el límite de cierta especie, los manejadores tendran que notificar a los pescadores comerciales y recreativos cuando se espera que la cuota sea alcanzada, basado en la taza de pesca determiada por los reports de pesca. Si el LAP es excedido durante un año calendario, la pesca será cerrada al final del siguiente año. El período de veda es el número de días que tomaría pescar la cantidad de peces en exceso sobre el LAP. La pesquería es entonces reabierta el 1 de enero.

Tabla de Límites Anuales de Pesca en Aguas Federales por Distrito de Pesca.

	St. Croix	St. Thomas/St. John
Especies	<i>50 CFR 622.49 (c)(2)</i>	<i>50 CFR 622.49 (c)(3)</i>
Parrotfish (Pez Loro o Cotorro)	240,000 lbs. (108,863 kg)	42,500 lbs. (19,278 kg)
Snappers (Sama, Chillo, pargo,)	102,946 lbs. (46,696 kg)	133,775 lbs. (60,679 kg)
Groupers (Mero, Colirrubia, Guajil)	30,435 lbs. (13,805 kg)	51,849 lbs. (23,518 kg)
Angelfish (Copa, Pez Angel)	305 lbs. (138 kg)	7,897 lbs. (3,582 kg)
Boxfish (Chapín)	8,433 lbs. (3,825 kg)	27,880 lbs. (12,646 kg)
Goatfishes (Salmonetes)	3,766 lbs. (1,708 kg)	320 lbs. (145 kg)
Grunts (Ronco)	36,881 lbs. (16,729 kg)	37,617 lbs. (17,063 kg)
Wrasses (Capitanes)	7 lbs. (3 kg)	585 lbs. (265 kg)
Jacks (Cojinúa, Cobali, Jurel)	15,489 lbs. (7,076 kg)	52,907 lbs. (23,998 kg)
Scups and porgies, combined (Pluma)	4,638 lbs. (2,104 kg)	21,819 lbs. (9,897 kg)
Squirrelfish (Candilero)	121 lbs. (55 kg)	4,241 lbs. (1,924 kg)
Surgeonfish (Médico)	33,603 lbs. (15,242 kg)	29,249 lbs. (13,267 kg)
Triggerfish and filefish, combined (Peje Puerco)	24,980 lbs. (11,331 kg)	74,447 lbs. (33,769 kg)
Spiny Lobster (Langosta Espinosa)	107,307 lbs. (48,674 kg)	104,199 lbs. (47,264 kg)

Tabla de Límites Anuales de Pesca en Aguas Territoriales y Federales por cada Distrito de Pesca

	St. Croix	St. Thomas/St. John
Especies	<i>50 CFR 622.49 (c)(2)</i>	<i>50 CFR 622.49 (c)(2)</i>
Queen Conch (Carrucho)	50,000 lbs. (22,680 kg)	50,000 lbs. (22,680 kg)

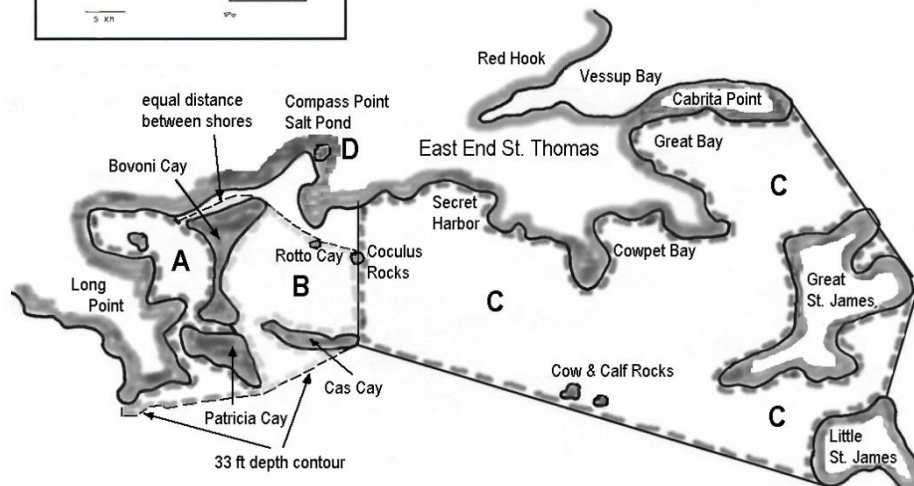
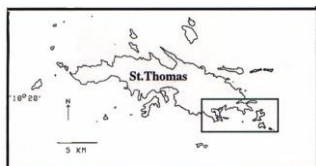
Tabla de Límites Anuales de Pesca para las Islas Virgenes Estadounidenses (combinación de Distritos) en Aguas Territoriales y Federales

Especies	Species	IVEEUU
Tilefish (Blanquillo)	Tilefish	14,642 lbs. (6,642 kg)

APPENDIX 1

Southeast St. Thomas Marine Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries

(See page 16 of this handbook for summaries of regulations pertaining to these areas)



REGULATIONS

A. Inner Mangrove Lagoon: No fishing or take of any natural resources is allowed. No internal combustion engines are allowed. Electric motors, sails or paddles are acceptable. Engines cause wakes, noise, and pollution.

B. Cas Cay/Mangrove Lagoon: No fishing or take of any natural resources is allowed, except that use of a cast net for baitfish within 50 feet of the north and west shorelines of Cas Cay is allowed only with a permit from DPNR Division of Enforcement (340-774-3320).

C. St. James – No fishing or take of any natural resources is allowed, except that baitfishing using a cast net within 50 feet of the shoreline (except for Cow and Calf Rocks) and fishing by hook and line is allowed only with a permit from DPNR Division of Enforcement (340-774-3320).

D. Compass Point Salt Pond – No fishing, hunting, or take of any natural resources is allowed within this marine reserve and wildlife sanctuary.



For A, B, C, and D - No take of conch, lobster, or whelk

These areas have been protected for a variety of reasons, all of which will benefit your use and enjoyment of our marine natural resources. These marine reserves:

1. Contribute to commercial and recreational fishery resources by protecting a portion of the spawning stock from exploitation.
2. Preserve important coral reef, mangrove, and seagrass habitats for larval, juvenile, and adult fish and invertebrates, such as lobster and conch.
3. Provide coastal and marine viewing and recreation areas for the general public, snorkelers and SCUBA divers, school groups, and scientists.

For more information on these marine reserves and wildlife sanctuaries, please call DPNR Division of Fish and Wildlife at (340) 775-6762. To obtain permits or to report violations, please call the Division of Environmental Enforcement at (340) 774-3320.

APPENDIX 2

St. Thomas/St. John Non-Trap Commercial Catch Report Form

USVI COMMERCIAL NON-TRAP CATCH REPORT FORM - ST. THOMAS & ST. JOHN

A SEPARATE FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH TRIP OR MONTH OF NO FISHING

version Date : 07/11
USE BLACK INK ONLY

LAST NAME : _____ LANDED DATE: Trip Ticket # _____

FIRST NAME : _____ OR DID NOT FISH FOR MONTH OF: DFW USE ONLY

Vessel #: Total Trip Pounds:

License #: # of Helpers: Trip Landing Site: _____ Port Sampled by DFW: No Yes

HMS Species Permit #: (Town/Estate) _____ Fishing Mainly at Night: No Yes

Did other Permit Holders Split Catch: No Yes Island: ST. THOMAS Paying Customers Aboard: No Yes

Partner #1 Fished: ST. JOHN Fished 3 or more miles from Shore: No Yes

License #: Partner #2 License #: _____

Name (last,first): _____ Name (last,first): _____

HOOK & LINE / ROD & REEL

Hand Power/bandit Buoy

Lines Hooks / Line

FAD #

Hours Fished Area 1 Fished

Bottom Depth Area 2 Fished

Fathoms Feet Area 3 Fished

NETS

Surface Gill Seine Cast

Length Mesh (In)

Fathoms Feet # Nets

Hours Fished Area 1 Fished

Bottom Depth Area 2 Fished

Fathoms Feet Area 3 Fished

SPEAR OR BY HAND

Scuba Free Diving

Divers # Dives

Hours Diving Area 1 Fished

Bottom Depth Area 2 Fished

Fathoms Feet Area 3 Fished

HOOK & LINE SPECIES	WHOLE POUNDS	GUTTED POUNDS	NET SPECIES	WHOLE POUNDS	GUTTED POUNDS	SPEAR OR BY HAND	WHOLE POUNDS	GUTTED POUNDS
GROUPERS			SNAPPERS			LOBSTERS & MOLLUSCKS		
Butterfish (Coney)			Yellowtail			Spiny Lobster		
Grammanik (Yellowfin)			JACKS			Conch		
Graysby			Bar Jack			Whelk		
Hind (Red Hind)			Hardnose (Blue Runner)			GROUPERS		
Misty			Crevalle			Hind (Red Hind)		
SNAPPERS			PELAGICS			SNAPPERS		
Blackfin			Bonito (Little Tunny)			Bunt Tail (Mutton)		
Bunt Tail (Mutton)			BAIT AND OTHERS			Yellowtail		
Queen Silk (Queen)			Ballyhoo			GOO-TOO (PARROTFISHES)		
Silk Snapper (Vermillion)			Flying Fish			Queen		
Yellow Eye (Silk)			Gar			FLATFISH (ANGELFISHES)		
Yellowtail			Jacks (Bigeye Scad)			French		
TRIGGERFISHES			OTHER SPECIES write in			Gray		
Ole Wife (Queen)						Swede (Queen)		
JACKS			FISH RELEASED ALIVE			TRIGGERFISHES		
Hardnose (Blue Runner)			FISH RELEASED DEAD			Ole Wife (Queen)		
Rainbow Runner						JACKS		
PELAGICS						Hardnose (Blue Runner)		
Bigeye Tuna						Rainbow Runner		
Blackfin Tuna						PELAGICS		
Bonito (Little Tunny)						Cero Mackerel		
King Mackerel						King Mackerel		
Mahi (Dolphin)						Mahi (Dolphin)		
Skipjack Tuna						Wahoo		
Swordfish						OTHER SPECIES		
Wahoo						Margate		
Yellowfin Tuna						Shellfish (Trunkfish/Cowfish)		
SHARKS						OTHER SPECIES write in		
Great Hammerhead								
Lemon								
Scalloped Hammerhead								
Tiger								
OTHER SPECIES write in								
FISH RELEASED ALIVE								
FISH RELEASED DEAD								

Submit these forms to the USVI - DFW offices at: (1) St. Thomas and St. John: 6291 Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas, VI 00802, Phone: (340) 775-6762, Fax: (340) 775-3972. (2) St. Croix 45 Mars Hill Complex, St. Croix, VI 00840, Phone: (340) 773-1082, Fax: (340) 772-3227

APPENDIX 2 (CONT.)

St. Croix Commercial Catch Report Form

USVI COMMERCIAL CATCH REPORT FORM - ST. CROIX

A SEPARATE FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH TRIP OR MONTH OF NO FISHING version Date : 07/11
USE BLACK INK ONLY

LAST NAME : _____
 FIRST NAME : _____
 Vessel #: _____
 License #: _____ # of Helpers: _____
 HMS Species _____
 Permit #: _____
 Did other Permit Holders Split Catch: No Yes
 Partner #1 _____ License #: _____ Name (last,first): _____
 Partner #2 _____ License #: _____ Name (last,first): _____

LANDED DATE:
 OR
 DID NOT FISH FOR MONTH OF:
 Trip Landing Site: (Town/Estate) _____
 Trip Ticket #: _____
 DFW USE ONLY
 Total Trip Pounds: _____
 Total # Traps in Water: _____
 Trip Port Sampled: No Yes
 Fishing Mainly at Night: No Yes
 Paying Customers Aboard: No Yes
 Fished 3 or more miles from Shore: No Yes

HOOK & LINE / ROD & REEL	TRAPS	NETS	SPEAR or BY HAND
Hand <input type="radio"/> Power/bandit <input type="radio"/> Buoy <input type="radio"/> # Lines _____ Hooks / Line _____ FAD fished name _____ Hours Fished _____ Bottom Depth _____ Fathoms _____ Feet _____	Lobster Trap # of trap _____ Hauls _____ Days _____ Soaked _____ Hours _____ Soaked _____ Area 1 Fished _____ Bottom Depth _____ Area 2 Fished _____ Fathoms _____ Area 3 Fished _____	Fish Traps # of trap _____ Hauls _____ Days _____ Soaked _____ Hours _____ Soaked _____ Area 1 Fished _____ Bottom Depth _____ Area 2 Fished _____ Fathoms _____ Area 3 Fished _____	Surface Gill <input type="radio"/> Seine <input type="radio"/> Cast <input type="radio"/> Length _____ Mesh (In) _____ Fathoms _____ # _____ Feet _____ Nets _____ Area 1 Fished _____ Hours Fished _____ Bottom Depth _____ Area 2 Fished _____ Fathoms _____ Area 3 Fished _____ Feet _____
Scuba <input type="radio"/> Free Diving <input type="radio"/> # Divers _____ # Dives _____ Hours Diving _____ Area 1 Fished _____ Bottom Depth _____ Area 2 Fished _____ Fathoms _____ Area 3 Fished _____ Feet _____			

HOOK & LINE SPECIES	WHOLE POUNDS	GUTTED POUNDS	TRAP SPECIES	WHOLE POUNDS	GUTTED POUNDS	NET SPECIES	WHOLE POUNDS	GUTTED POUNDS	SPEAR OR BY HAND	WHOLE POUNDS	GUTTED POUNDS
GROUPERS Butterfish (Coney) Cabrilla (Red Hind) Misty Tiger Yellowfin			LOBSTERS Spiny Lobster GROUPERS Butterfish (Coney) Cabrilla (Red Hind) SNAPPERS Blackfin Dogtooth (Schoolmaster)			BLUEFISH (PARROTFISHES) Princess Queen Redband Red Belly (Stoplight) Redfin Redtail			LOBSTERS & MOLLUSCKS Spiny Lobster Conch Whelk GROUPERS Butterfish (Coney) Cabrilla (Red Hind) Yellowfin		
SNAPPERS Blackfin Cardinal Dogtooth (Schoolmaster) Lane Queen Silk Vermillion Virgin (Mutton) Wenchman Yellowtail			Lane Mahogany Silk Vermillion Virgin (Mutton) Yellowtail GRUNTS Bluestriped Ceasar French Tomtate White			BAIT AND OTHERS Ballyhoo Bigeye Scad JACKS Barjack SURGONFISHES Brown Doctor (Doctorfish) GRUNTS White Other Species Write In			SNAPPERS Mangrove (Gray) Dogtooth (Schoolmaster) Yellowtail Virgin (Mutton) GRUNTS Bluestriped French Tomtate White PARROTFISHES Princess Queen Redband Red Belly (Stoplight) Redfin		
JACKS Bar Jack Blue Runner Horse Eye Margate Lionfish			JACKS Barjack Blue Runner SURGONFISHES Blue Doctor (Blue Tang) Brown Doctor (Doctorfish) Gizzard Doctor (Ocean Surgeon)			TRAPS CONTINUED Trap Species Cont WHOLE GUTTED SHELL(BOX) FISHES Sheepshead (Trunkfish) Spotted Trunkfish Honeycomb Cowfish Scrawled Cowfish			TRIGGERFISHES Ole Wife (Queen) Filefish BLUEFISH (PARROTFISHES) Princess Queen Redband Red Belly (Stoplight) Redfin Redtail ANGELFISHES French Gray Queen TRIGGERFISHES Ole Wife (Queen) SURGONFISHES Blue Doctor (Blue Tang) Gizzard Doctor (Ocean Surgeon) SQUIRRELFINISHES Longspine Lionfish Other Species(Write In)		
PELAGICS Bigeye Tuna Blackfin Tuna Cero Mackerel Dolphin (Mahi) King Mackerel Little Tunny (bonito) Skipjack Tuna Swordfish Wahoo Yellowfin Tuna			TRIGGERFISHES Ole Wife (Queen) Filefish BLUEFISH (PARROTFISHES) Princess Queen Redband Red Belly (Stoplight) Redfin Redtail ANGELFISHES French Gray Queen			SHARKS Nurse EELS Green Moray Other Species(Write In) FISH RELEASED ALIVE FISH RELEASED DEAD LOBSTER RELEASED ALIVE LOBSTER RELEASED DEAD			SHARK Great Hammerhead Scalloped Hammerhead Tiger Other Species(Write In)		
FISH RELEASED ALIVE FISH RELEASED DEAD			GOATFISHES Spotted Yellow								

APPENDIX 3

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING COMMERCIAL CATCH REPORTS

- Please complete a catch report (CCR) for every fishing trip.
 - CCRs are due by the 15th of the following month.
 - If you did not fish for the month, submit one (1) CCR for the month indicating this.
 - Failure to submit your CCRs on time may result in suspension of your fishing license.
- If you have any questions or require help completing your commercial catch reports, contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 340-775-6762 (St. Thomas/St. John) or 340-773-1082 (St. Croix).

The following information is required on your commercial catch reports:

- **First and last name**
- **Landed Date:** Date of the trip you are reporting on OR month and year if you did not fish for the whole month.
- **Vessel #:** Please enter your boat registration number.
- **License #:** Enter the license number that has been provided to you by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- **# of Helpers:** Enter the number of registered helpers who fished with you (do not include individuals who also have a commercial fishing license).
- **HMS Permit #:** Please provide a Highly Migratory Species (HMS) federal permit number issued by NOAA Fisheries for catching billfish, swordfish, tuna, and sharks.
- **Partner License # (not helper):** If you fished with another licensed commercial fisher and split your catch with them, please enter their information as well. Check the “yes” box where it asks if other permit holders split the catch.
- **Trip Landing Site:** Name of the port where you landed your catch (e.g. Frenchtown, Hull Bay).
- **Total Trip Pounds:** Total weight of your catch from this trip.
- **Total # of Traps in Water:** Enter the total number of fish and lobster traps you have in the water, if applicable (not just the amount that you hauled on this trip).
- **Check yes or no boxes to answer the following questions:** if DFW port sampled your catch from this trip; if you fished mainly at night; if you had paying customers on this trip; and if you fished 3 or more miles from shore (fishing in federal waters).

Effort Information - Please fill in as much effort information as possible for your gear type, including:

- # of lines and hooks / # and size of nets / # of divers and dives / # of traps hauled.
- # of hours fished and soak time of traps (if applicable).
- Average bottom depth in fathoms or feet (specify units of depth).
- Area fished: please mark or highlight the grid cells on the map on the back side of the report to indicate where you fished on this trip. NOTE that the old biological grid map categories (TSW, JSE, etc.) are no longer in use.
- Pounds of fish you caught in whole pounds (uncleaned) OR gutted pounds (cleaned). Please do not provide both.
- If you caught species that are not listed, please write them in on the blank lines. Please report every species you catch.
- Enter the # of individual fish and lobster (not pounds) you release alive or dead.

APPENDIX 4
FISH LIKELY TO BE MISIDENTIFIED

BLACKFIN SNAPPER



Blackish blotch at pectoral-fin base. Pink-red in color with yellow caudal, anal, and pelvic fins. Found in deep waters.

**QUEEN SNAPPER
(QUEEN SILK)**



Eye very large, Caudal fin deeply forked. Bright red. Found in deep waters.

**VERMILION
(SILK SNAPPER)**



Pale red with blue lines or spots. Sometimes yellow streaks below the lateral line. Found offshore or in deep waters.

**SILK SNAPPER
(YELLOW EYE)**



Yellow eye. Pinkish red. Long triangular snout; anal fin sharply pointed. Found in deep waters.

**STOPLIGHT PARROTFISH
(Terminal Phase)**



Bright yellow spot at upper corner of gill cover. Yellow area at base of tail.

**STOPLIGHT PARROTFISH
(Initial Phase)**



Reddish brown, often mixed with white scales and crescent on tail.

**QUEEN PARROTFISH
(Terminal Phase)**



Blue to green markings around mouth.

**QUEEN PARROTFISH
(Initial Phase)**



Dark gray to black. Broad, white stripe down midbody.

REDBAND PARROTFISH



White spot on base of tail.

**REDFIN PARROTFISH
(Terminal Phase)**



Blue-green overall. Central tail yellow to white.

**REDFIN PARROTFISH
(Initial Phase)**



Tail pale to bright yellow.

**REDTAIL PARROTFISH
(Terminal Phase)**



Blue-green area behind pectoral fin and belly.

PRINCESS PARROTFISH



Yellow stripe down midbody. Pink orders on tail.

TRUNKFISH



Obvious hump on back. Base of tail long.

SPOTTED TRUNKFISH



White with black spots, including fins.

**HONEYCOMB
COWFISH**



Honeycomb pattern on body. Horns above eyes.

SCRAWLED COWFISH



Scrawled pattern of bluish markings covers body. Horns above eyes.

SAUCEREYE PORGY



Short, bluish saucer-shaped body. Corner of mouth yellow.

PLUMA



Blue rectangular stripe behind eye. Bluish lines below eye.

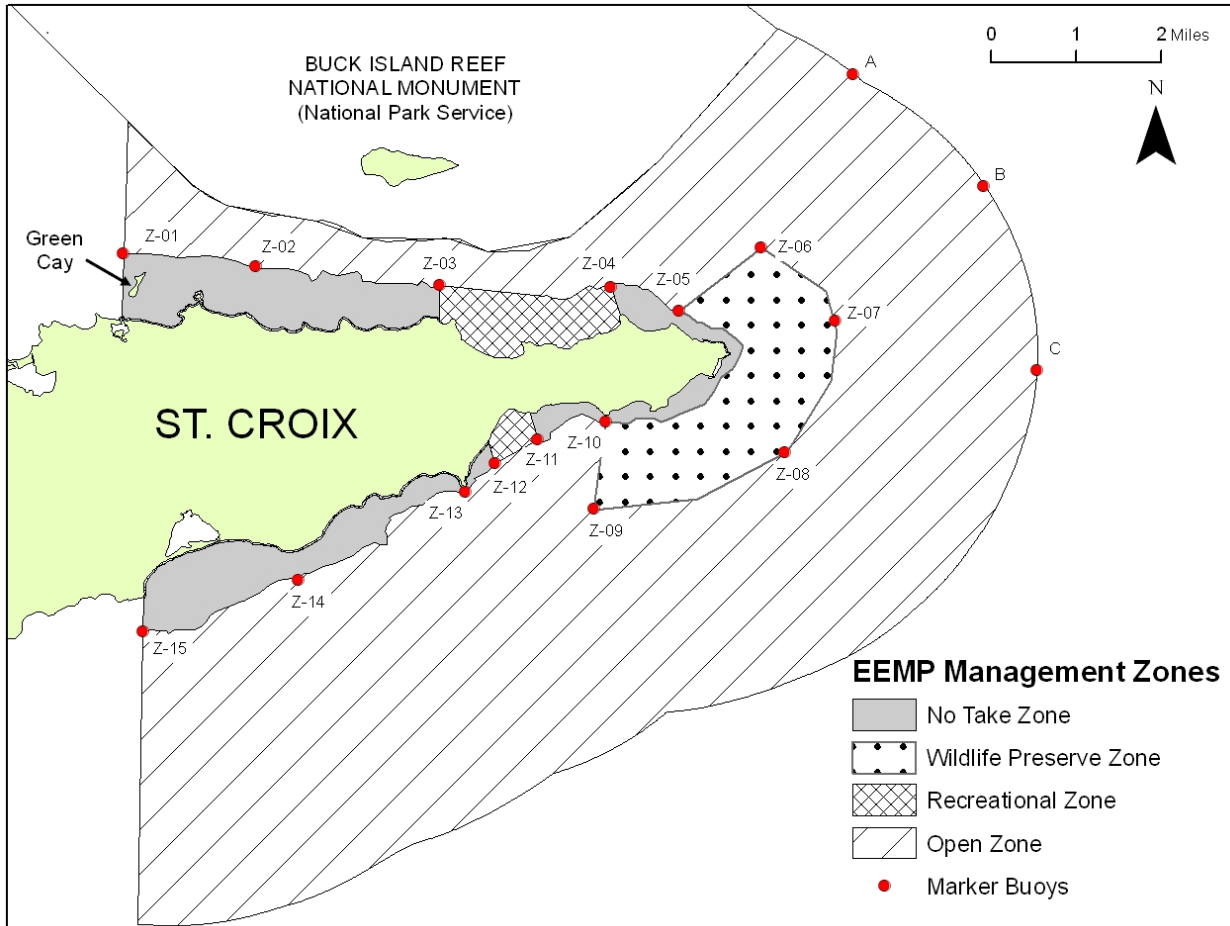
JOLTHEAD PORGY



Large eye, long sloping snout and large mouth with thick lips.

APPENDIX 5

ST. CROIX EAST END MARINE PARK (STX EEMP) ZONE REGULATIONS



OPEN ZONE/PARK-WIDE– Taking or injuring coral, altering the seabed, discharging materials, groundings, anchoring on hard bottom or coral communities, and diving without dive flag ARE PROHIBITED.

RECREATIONAL ZONE - Allows snorkeling, diving, boating, and recreational shoreline fishing. Catch-and release guide fishing and cast-net bait fishing are allowed with a Marine Park Permit. ALL OTHER TRADITIONAL FISHING IS PROHIBITED (including but not limited to: fish traps; spear fishing; collection of lobster, conch, whelk).

WILDLIFE PRESERVE ZONE - Protects nesting female sea turtles using beaches in East End, Isaac, Jack, and Boiler Bays to lay eggs.

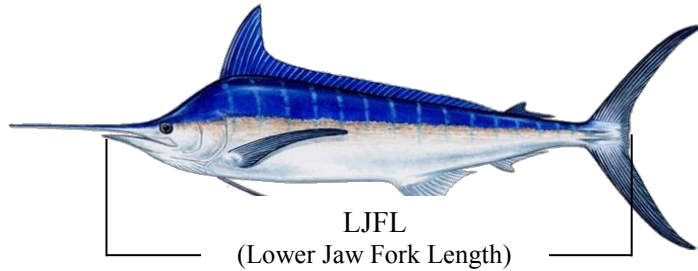
NO TAKE ZONE - Protects near shore environments including mangroves, sea grass beds, lagoon patch reefs, and linear reefs. Operating a personal watercraft is prohibited.

APPENDIX 6

Length Measurements for Billfish, Finfish, Spiny Lobster, Conch, and Whelk
Medidas de longitud para Peces de Pico, Finfish, Langostas, Burgaos, y Carruchos

BILLFISH

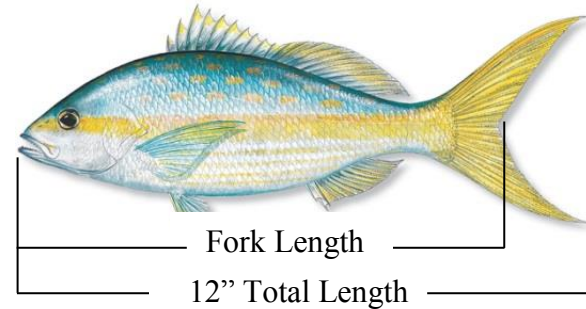
(Peces de Pico, Pez Espada, Marlin, Pez Vela)



Blue Marlin 99"; Sailfish 63"; Swordfish 47";
 White Marlin and Spearfish 66"

OTHER FINFISH

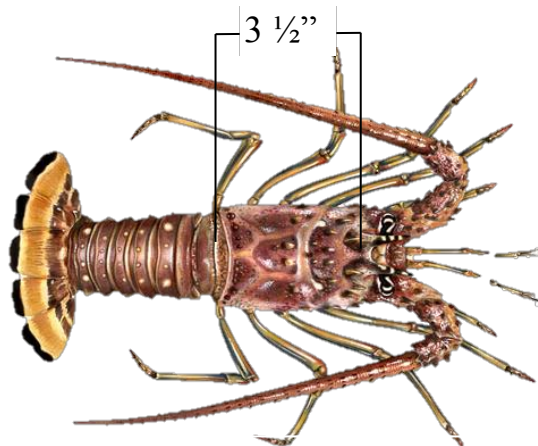
(Such as Yellowtail Snapper or Tuna/Como Colirrubias o Atunes)



Bluefin, Yellowfin and Bigeye 27"; Albacore and Skipjack no minimum size

SPINY LOBSTER
LANGOSTA

Carapace length / pulgadas de carapacho



Carapace length is measured along the midline

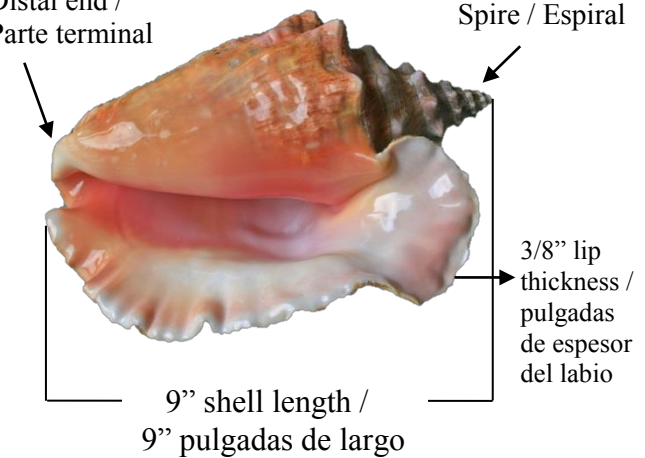
WHELK
BURGAO



CONCH
CARRUCHO

Distal end /
 Parte terminal

Spire / Espiral



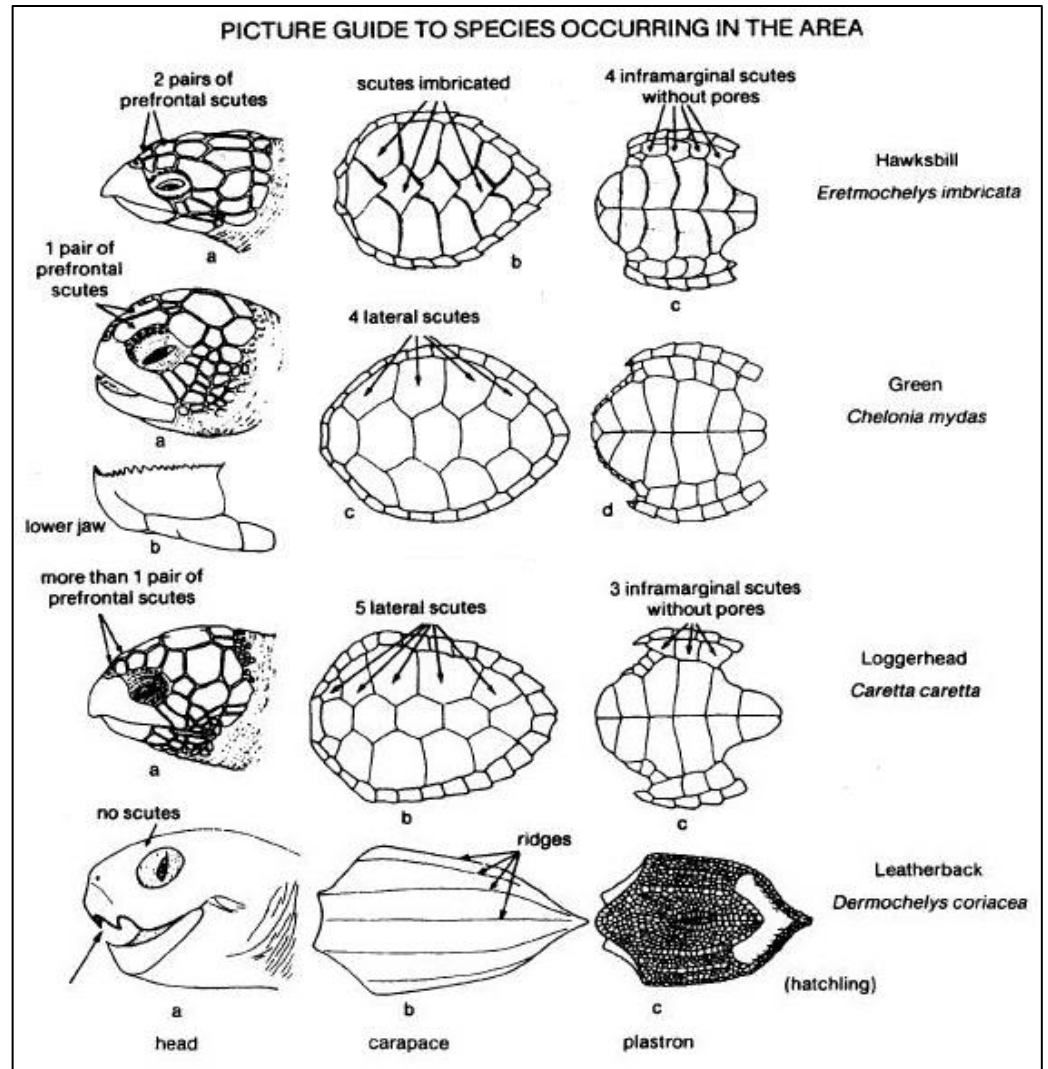
APPENDIX 7 Sea Turtles in Trouble

Boaters can reduce the chance of harming sea turtles by always operating boats at safe and responsible speeds, especially when traveling close to any shoreline, coral reef, or seagrass bed.

Stay in deep water channels when boating and avoid boating over seagrass beds and coral reefs where sea turtles might be feeding. Be aware that turtles also use deep water channels when traveling; stay alert and avoid sea turtles that are swimming or basking on the surface. Look for the head, shell, or flippers breaking the surface of the water. If you see a sea turtle when operating a powerboat, remain a safe distance away – 50 feet is the recommended minimum.

If you see a turtle that is entangled in fishing gear, injured by boat strike, or otherwise in distress, make a note of the specific location and type and extent of injuries and call the Division of Fish and Wildlife (340) 773-1082 (STX) or call the Sea Turtle Assistance and Rescue: (340) 690-0474.

All sea turtles are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act and the Territorial Endangered and Indigenous Species Act. The federal Act states that it is illegal to harass, harm, capture, or collect sea turtles or their eggs. Violators can be prosecuted under civil and criminal laws and charged heavy penalties. Members of the community are encouraged to report any suspicious activities or information about sea turtle poaching to the authorities (Division of Environmental Enforcement (340) 774-3320).



APPENDIX 8

HIND BANK MARINE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ST. THOMAS

The Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (MCD) is **closed year round**. Fishing is prohibited in the 14 square mile area south of western St. Thomas. The following points define the corners of the closed area:

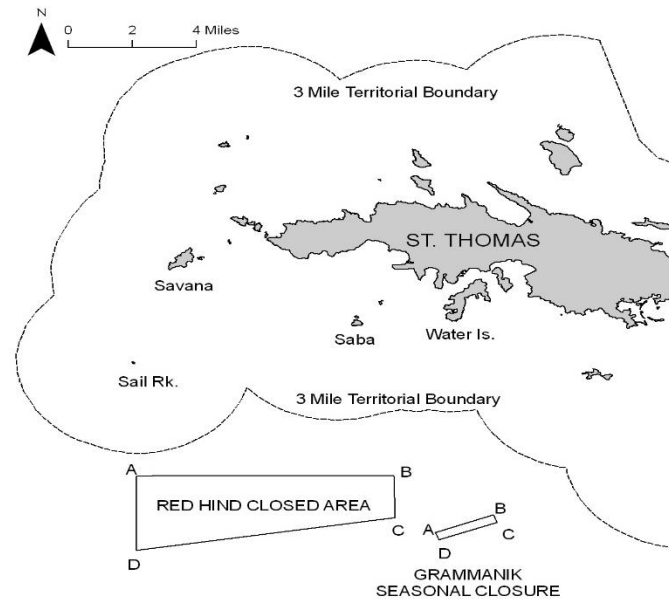
- A – 18° 13.2’N, 65° 06.0’W
- B – 18° 13.2’N, 64° 59.0’W
- C – 18° 11.8’N, 64° 59.0’W
- D – 18° 10.7’N, 65° 06.0’W

GRAMMANIK BANK SEASONAL CLOSURE, ST. THOMAS February 1 to April 30

The Grammanik Bank Seasonal Closure is from February 1 to April 30. The following points define the corners of the closed area:

- A – 18° 11.898’N, 64° 56.328’W
- B – 18° 11.645’N, 64° 56.225’W
- C – 18° 11.058’N, 64° 57.810’W
- D – 18° 11.311’N, 64° 57.913’W

Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets, or trammel nets is prohibited year-round here.



DISTRITO DE CONSERVACION MARINA HIND, ST. THOMAS, ISLAS VIRGENES ESTADOUNIDENSES

El área de desove para el Mero cabrilla esta **vedada todo el año**. Pescar está prohibido en el área de 14 millas cuadradas al sur-oeste de la isla de St. Thomas. Las coordenadas siguientes definen los límites del área vedada:

- A – 18° 13.2’N, 65° 06.0’W
- B – 18° 13.2’N, 64° 59.0’W
- C – 18° 11.8’N, 64° 59.0’W
- D – 18° 10.7’N, 65° 06.0’W

VEDA DEL BANCO GRAMMANIK, ST. THOMAS Del 1 de febrero al 30 de abril

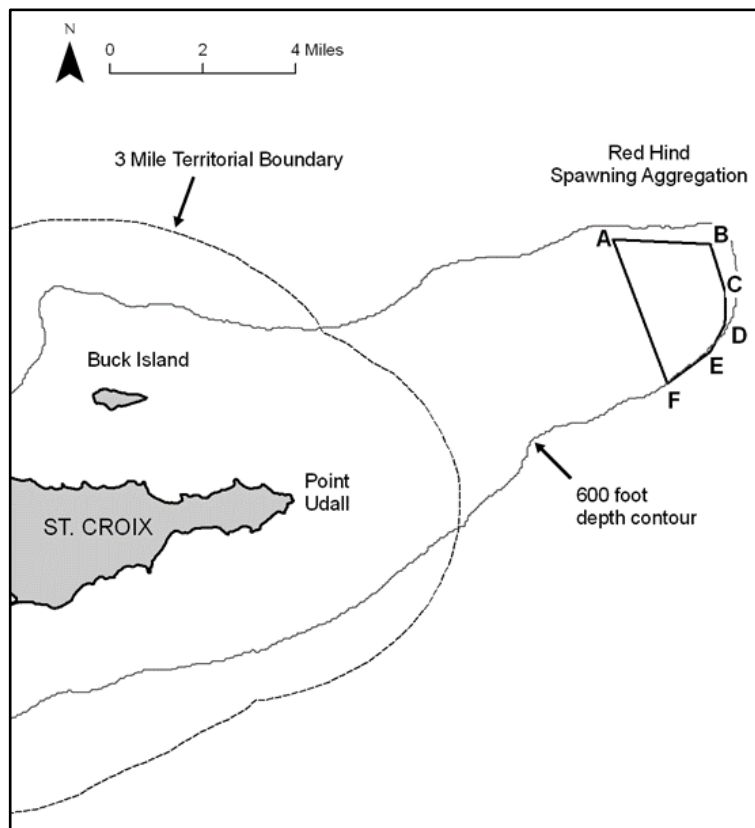
La veda temporal en el “Grammanik Bank” en St. Thomas, va desde el 1 de febrero hasta el 30 de abril. Las coordenadas siguientes designan el área de veda:

- A – 18° 11.898’N, 64° 56.328’W
- B – 18° 11.645’N, 64° 56.225’W
- C – 18° 11.058’N, 64° 57.810’W
- D – 18° 11.311’N, 64° 57.913’W

Pescar con nasa, palangres de fondo, trasmallos mallorquines y de ahorque esta prohibido durante todo el año.

APPENDIX 9

RED HIND SPAWNING AGGREGATION SEASONAL CLOSURE, ST. CROIX December 1 to February 28



The Red Hind Spawning Aggregation seasonal closure is from December 1 to February 28. Fishing is prohibited during these months. The following points define the boundaries of the closed area:

A – 17° 50.2'N, 64° 27.9'W
B – 17° 50.1'N, 64° 26.1'W
C – 17° 49.2'N, 64° 25.8'W
D – 17° 48.6'N, 64° 25.8'W
E – 17° 48.1'N, 64° 26.1'W
F – 17° 47.5'N, 64° 26.9'W

Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets, or trammel nets is prohibited year-round here.

AREA DE VEDA DEL MERO CABRILLA EN ST. CROIX, ISLAS VIRGENES, ESTADOUNIDENSES

El área de desove del Mero cabrilla estará vedada desde el 1 de diciembre hasta el 28 de febrero. Los siguientes puntos definen los límites del área vedada:

A – 17° 50.2'N, 64° 27.9'W
B – 17° 50.1'N, 64° 26.1'W
C – 17° 49.2'N, 64° 25.8'W
D – 17° 48.6'N, 64° 25.8'W
E – 17° 48.1'N, 64° 26.1'W
F – 17° 47.5'N, 64° 26.9'W

Pescar con nasa, palangres de fondo, trasmallos mallorquines y de ahorque esta prohibido todo el año.

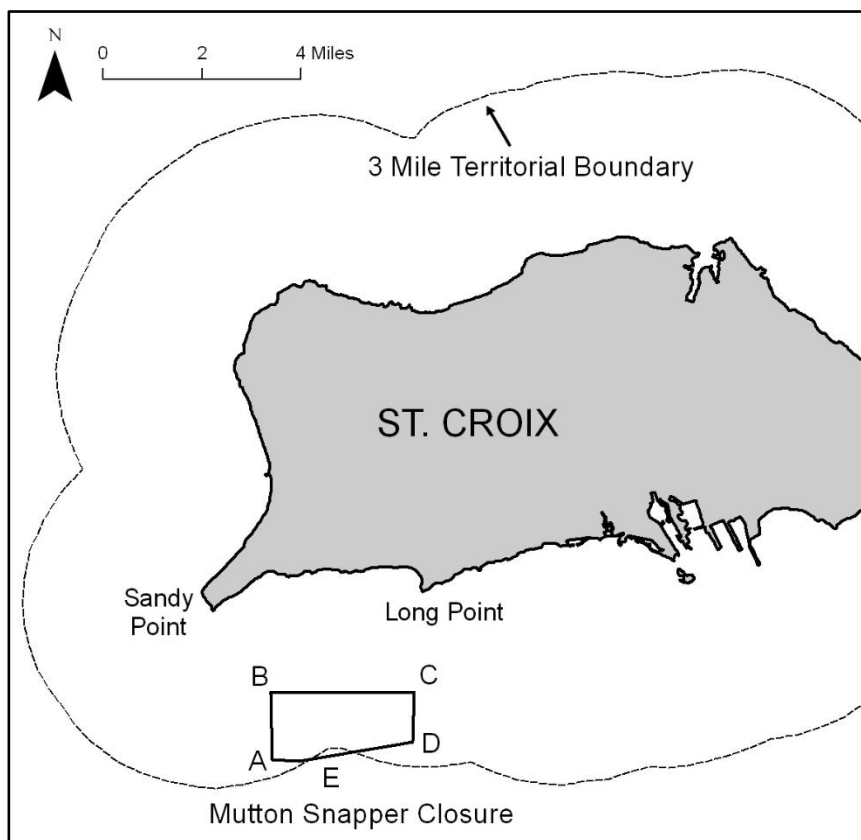
APPENDIX 10

MUTTON SNAPPER SPAWNING AGGREGATION SEASONAL CLOSURE, ST. CROIX March 1 to June 30

The Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation seasonal closure is from March 1 to June 30. The area is partly in territorial waters and partly in federal waters. The area closure is 2.5 miles in length, about 1 mile in width, and starts 2.0 miles from shore (see map). The area is defined by the following points:

- A - 17° 37.8' N, 64° 53.0' W
- B - 17° 39.0' N, 64° 53.0' W
- C - 17° 39.0' N, 64° 50.5' W
- D - 17° 38.1' N, 64° 50.5' W
- E - 17° 37.8' N, 64° 52.5' W

Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round here.



AREA DE VEDA EN LA ZONA DESOVE DE LA SAMA EN ST. CROIX, ISLAS VIRGENES, ESTADOUNIDENSES 1 de Marzo-30 de Junio

El área de veda comienza el 1 marzo y termina el 30 de junio de cada año. El área vedada es de 2.5 millas a lo largo, 1 milla de ancho empezando a 2.0 millas de distancia de la costa (ver mapa). El área de veda es la que se encuentra dentro de las siguientes coordenadas:

- A - 17° 37.8' N, 64° 53.0' W
- B - 17° 39.0' N, 64° 53.0' W
- C - 17° 39.0' N, 64° 50.5' W
- D - 17° 38.1' N, 64° 50.5' W
- E - 17° 37.8' N, 64° 52.5' W

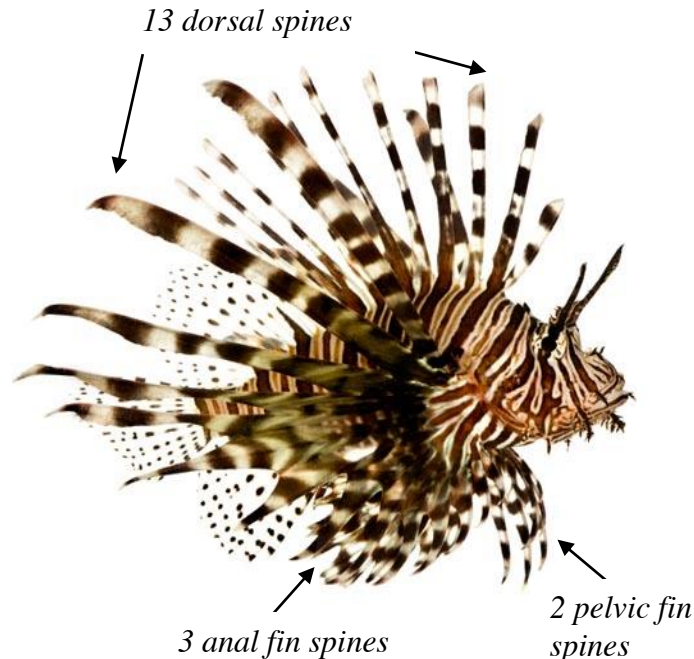
Pescar con nasa, palangres de fondo, trasmallos mallorquines y de ahorque esta prohibido durante todo el año.

APPENDIX 11

The Indo-Pacific Lionfish

The Indo-Pacific lionfish is a dangerous invasive species. It is hazardous to humans and to our fisheries and economy.

Lionfish can be safely consumed as a food fish with proper care taken in removing their spines. If pricked by a spine, immediately immerse wound in hot water. Hot water breaks down the venom found within the spines.



- Lionfish are not poisonous and may be safely eaten; however, their spines are venomous. Be very careful when handling lionfish.
 - The venom cells extend from the base of the spine towards the tip. Exposed spines are not venomous. Cutting the spines off may not make the fish safe to handle. Caution is still encouraged when handling the lionfish.
 - Since heat breaks down the venom, burning the spines will make the fish safe to handle.
 - If caught or captured do not release or return to sea alive.

Fisheries in other regions have had catastrophic declines in their juvenile recruits and their fisheries. A 2008 report showed that lionfish can cause a 79% to 85% reduction in the recruitment of native coral reef fishes on reefs due to predation by lionfish.

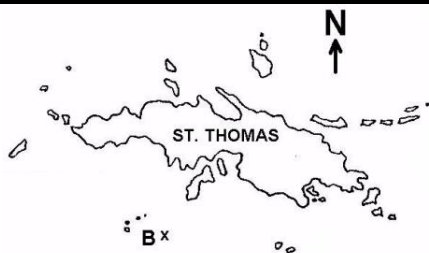
Lionfish primarily eat other fish but will also eat a large variety of crustaceans and other invertebrates. They are frequently found near lobster holes and sea urchins. They will hang upside down or on the sides of crevasses or holes so beware when reaching into a hole for a lobster or when diving in caves or wrecks. We need everyone's cooperation in removing all Indo-Pacific lionfish in our waters.

APPENDIX 12

FISH BLADDER VENTING TECHNIQUES

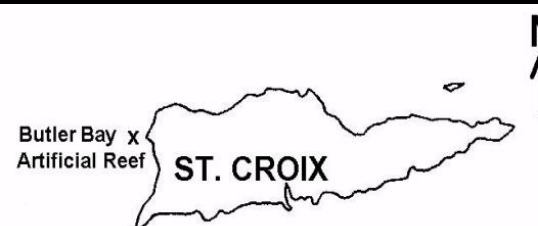
APPENDIX 13 ARTIFICIAL REEFS

ARTIFICIAL REEFS	Island	Artificial Reef No.	GPS Coordinates*	Depth (ft)	Location from Land	ARRECIFES ARTIFICIALES
The Division of Fish and Wildlife has various artificial reef sites permitted.	St. Thomas	B	18° 17.4' N 64° 59.0' W	85-100'	1 nm SE of Saba Island	La División de Pesca y Vida Silvestre del Departamento de Planificación y Recursos Naturales, ha implantado varios arrecifes artificiales alrededor de las Islas Vírgenes Estadounidenses.
	St. Croix	D	17° 45.1' N 64° 53.8' W	45-120'	Butler Bay	
	*note: The GPS coordinates identify the center point of the artificial reef site. Each site is approximately 1 square nautical mile ($\pm \frac{1}{2}$ mile from the center point listed above).					



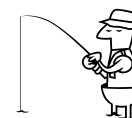
Specific Items at the St. Thomas Artificial Reef

	Geographic Coordinates		Description of Materials
1	18° 17.811'N	64° 59.501'W	Steel barge
2	18° 17.772'N	64° 59.460'W	Steel debris
3	18° 17.767'N	64° 59.433'W	Cargo ship
4	18° 17.501'N	64° 59.139'W	Steel ferry
5	18° 17.051'N	64° 58.981'W	Steel freighter
6	18° 17.393'N	64° 58.665'W	Bow section of fiberglass boat
7	18° 17.481'N	64° 58.667'W	Steel I-beams
8	18° 17.421'N	64° 58.695'W	Steel I-beams
9	18° 17.566'N	64° 58.658'W	Concrete dock slabs
10	18° 17.014'N	64° 58.593'W	Steel barge
11	18° 17.410'N	64° 58.408'W	Steel barge
12	18° 17.456'N	64° 59.618'W	Steel barge
13	18° 17.995'N	64° 58.752'W	Sailboat
14	18° 17.945'N	64° 58.708'W	Steel debris and scrap metal



Specific Items at the St. Croix Artificial Reef

	Geographic Coordinates		Description of Materials
1	17° 44.963'N	64° 53.815'W	Tires; Autos
2	17° 45.043'N	64° 53.716'W	Steel Tugboat, <i>North Wind</i>
3	17° 45.138'N	64° 53.713'W	Steel freighter; <i>Suffolk Maid</i>
4	17° 45.066'N	64° 53.073'W	Steel cylinders
5	17° 45.131'N	64° 53.731'W	Steel cargo vessel; <i>Rosa Maria</i>
6	17° 45.061'N	64° 53.755'W	Fuel barge; <i>Virgin Islander</i>
7	17° 44.899'N	64° 53.788'W	Pier debris
8	17° 45.181'N	64° 53.727'W	Steel Tugboat; <i>Coakley Bay</i>



APPENDIX 14

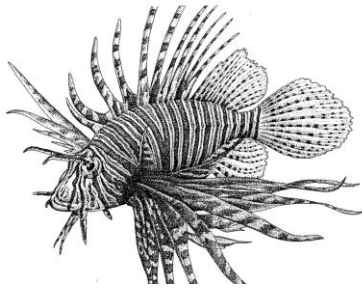
FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs)
(To be added)



Public Announcement



Marine First Aid

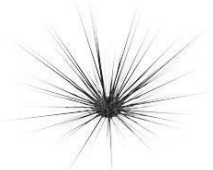


Lionfish and Scorpionfish

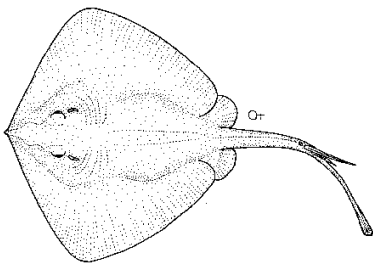
- Remove the exposed person from the water to prevent drowning.
- Immerse the wound for 30-90 min. in water as hot as the person can tolerate. Repeat as necessary to control pain. The venom is a protein toxin and degrades with heat.
- Use tweezers to remove any spines in the wound.
- Scrub the wound with soap and water, then flush the affected area with fresh water. Do not close the wound.
- If pain worsens, seek immediate medical attention.

Sea urchins

- Immerse the affected area for 30-90 min. in water as hot as the injured person can tolerate. Repeat as necessary to control pain.
- Use tweezers to remove any large spines in the wound.
- Remove the pedicellaria by applying shaving cream to the affected area and gently scrap with a razor.
- Then scrub the wound with soap and water followed by extensive with fresh water.



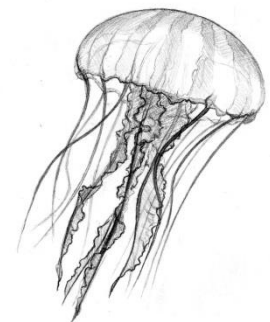
Stingrays



- While still in water, irrigate wound to remove fragments of spine and tissue. Get injured person out of the water.
- Stop bleeding: apply pressure above the wound if it is profusely bleeding.
- Soak wound in hot water until bleeding stops.
- Gently remove obvious pieces of spine. Do not remove pieces of spine from the NECK, CHEST, or ABDOMEN.
- Scrub wound clean with soap and water.
- Apply dressing. Do not tape wound close.
- Seek medical attention. A tetanus shot may be administered if necessary.

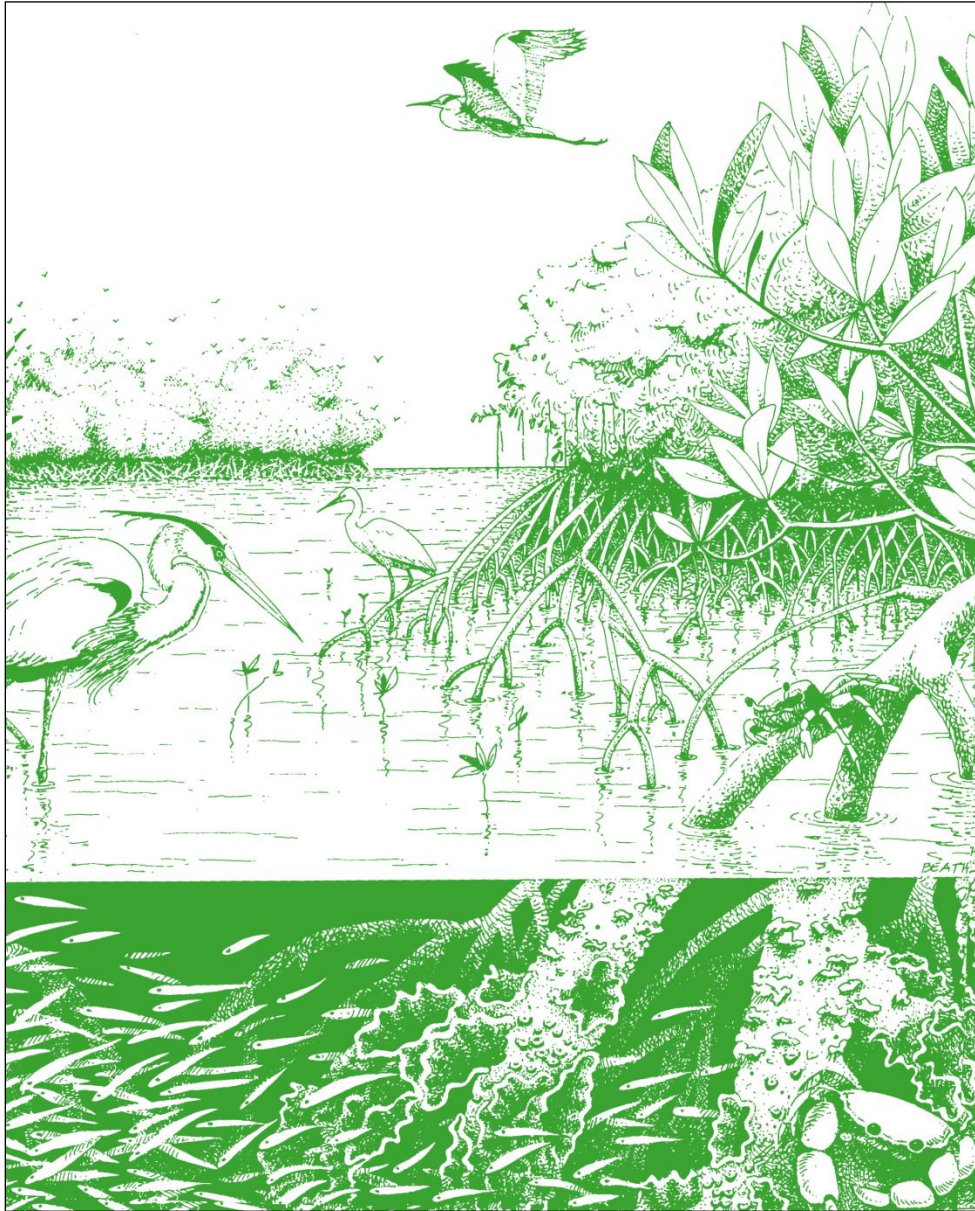
Jellyfish

- Soak or rinse the area in vinegar (acetic acid) for 15-30 min. to stop the nematocysts from releasing their toxin. If you do not have vinegar available, rinse in sea water and 70% isopropyl alcohol. **(Do not use fresh water, rub the area, or apply ice or hot water. This will cause the nematocysts to continue to release toxin.)**
- Remove tentacles with a stick or a pair of tweezers. Wear gloves if you have them available.
- Apply shaving cream or a paste of baking soda to the area. Shave the area with a razor or credit card to remove any adherent nematocysts.



Quick Reference Call Log Helpful Numbers

Medical Contacts	
Hospital (STT) Roy L. Schneider.....	(340) 776-8311
Hospital (STX) Juan F. Luis	(340) 778-6311
Morris F DeCastro Fire Department.....	(340) 776-6400
Myrah Keating Smith.....	(340) 693-8900
Poison Information.....	1-800-222-1222
SCUBA Emergencies	
STT (hyperbaric chamber).....	(340) 776-8311 (ER)
STX.....	(340) 778-6311 x 2664 (ER)
Divers Alert Network (DAN).....	(919) 684-2948/ 1-800-446-2671
U.S. Coast Guard	
STT/STJ (duty phone).....	(340) 344-3537
STX (duty phone).....	(340) 332-7008
Search and Rescue	(787) 289-2040
SeaTow.....	(340) 777-4869/1-800-473-2869
Marine Safety	
St. Thomas.....	(340) 776-3497
Puerto Rico.....	(787) 729-6770
VITEMA	
STT.....	(340) 774-2244
STJ.....	(340) 776-6444
STX.....	(340) 773-2244
USVI Port Authority	
STT.....	(340) 774-1629
STJ.....	(340) 776-6297
STX.....	(340) 778-1012
USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources	
DPNR (STT/STJ).....	(340) 774-3320
DPNR (STX).....	(340) 773-1082
<i>Division of Environmental Enforcement</i>	
STT/STJ.....	(340) 774-3320
STX.....	(340) 773-5774
<i>Coastal Zone Management</i>	
Toxic Spills.....	1-800-424-8802
St. Croix East End Marine Park	(340) 718-3367
<i>Division of Fish and Wildlife</i>	
STT/STJ.....	(340) 775-6762
STX.....	(340) 773-1082



DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

6291 Estate Nazareth
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(340) 775-6762

45 Mars Hill Complex
Frederiksted, St. Croix, VI 00840
(340) 773-1082

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Cyril E. King Airport
Terminal Building, 2nd Floor
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(340) 774-3320 ext. 5106

6003 Anna's Hope
Christiansted
St. Croix, VI 00821
(340) 773-5774