

Purpose of This Guide

This guide summarizes fishing regulations in the USVI and is a tool to help you identify and measure fish you catch. Regulations pertain to territorial (0-3 mi from shore) and federal waters (3-200 mi from shore) unless specified.

This guide is not comprehensive of all managed species. Fishing regulations are subject to change. It is your responsibility to become familiar with the latest regulatory updates. For current regulations, contact the Division of Environmental Enforcement or the National Marine Fisheries Service (see last panel of this guide).


If there is a discrepancy between this guide and regulations in the VI Code or Code of Federal Regulations, the regulations take precedence.

How to Use This Guide

- Use the photos and ruler to identify and measure your fish
- Note size limits, catch limits, and closed seasons for certain species
- Note managed or restricted areas
- Contact local and/or federal management agencies for questions or complete regulations

Legend

Total length (TL)

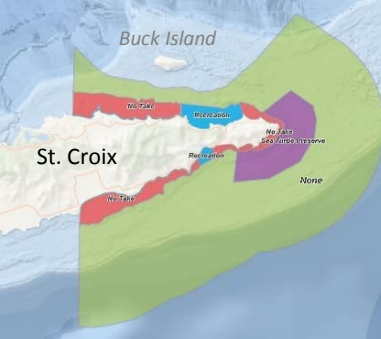


Common name
Scientific name
Regulations





General Fishing Rules

- No explosives, poisons, drugs, or other chemicals may be used to fish in territorial or federal waters.
- Only registered commercial fishers with a valid business license issued by the Dept. of Licensing & Consumer Affairs may sell locally caught seafood to the public.
- Sale, barter, or trade of catch by recreational fishers is prohibited.
- Traps, pots, and seine nets are considered commercial gear types and may not be used by recreational fishers.
- Anyone convicted of violating any fisheries law or regulation in the USVI may be subject to fines and other penalties.

St. Croix East End Marine Park

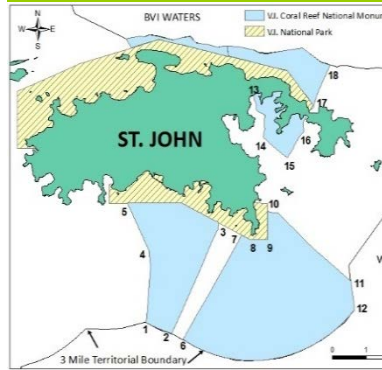


EEMP Management Zones

-  Recreation Zone
-  No Take Zone
-  Sea Turtle Preserve Zone
-  Open Zone

V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1, §98

VI National Park and Coral Reef National Monument

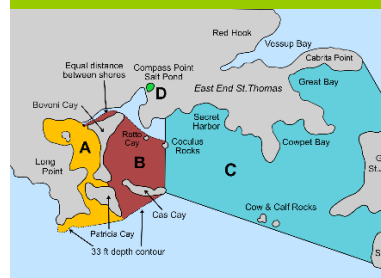


Additionally, no fishing is permitted in:




- Red Hook National Park Service Dock
- Cruz Bay Finger Pier and Bulk Head
- All boat exclusion areas




For more information on Park regulations, contact NPS (340-776-6201).
36 CFR 7.74; 36 CFR 7.46

Cas Cay/Mangrove Lagoon, St. James, and Compass Point Marine Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries




For areas A, B, C, and D:


No FishingNo HuntingNo Littering


No Take of Conch, Lobster, or Whelk
V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 1, §96

Queen Conch Regulations



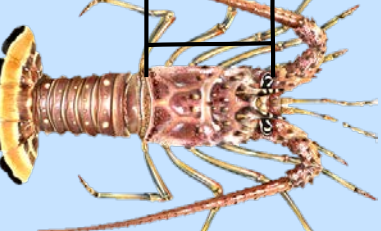
Closed Season: Jun. 1 – Oct. 31

- Must have minimum shell length of **9 in.** from the spire to the distal end, or **3/8 in.** lip thickness
- Commercial Trip Limit: **200** conch per day per registered commercial fishing vessel
- Recreational Bag Limit: **6** conch per day per recreational (personal use) fisher; not to exceed **24** per boat per day

V.I.C. Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316

Spiny Lobster Regulations

Carapace Length (CL)




It is illegal to take lobster if:

- The CL is less than **3 ½** inches
- It is egg-bearing or has been stripped of its eggs
- It has been speared, hooked, or otherwise impaled during capture

Lobster must be landed whole
V.I.C. Title 12, Chapter 9A, §319

Whelk (West Indian Top Shell) Regulations



Closed Season: April 1– Sept. 30

- Must be landed live and whole in shell
- Shell must have a diameter of **2 and 7/16** inches

V.I.C. Title 12, Chapter 9A, §316

Available Resources

The following resources are also available from the Division of Fish and Wildlife:

- Commercial & Recreational Fishers' Information Handbook
- Fish and lobster measuring gauges
- Activity and coloring books for children
- Wildlife and fish fact sheets and ID guides
- Educational posters and brochures

Important Phone Numbers

For All Emergencies: 911

Division of Fish and Wildlife
St. Thomas/St. John: 340-775-6762
St. Croix: 340-773-1082

Division of Environmental Enforcement
St. Thomas/St. John: 340-774-3320
St. Croix: 340-773-5774

U.S. Coast Guard (CH 16)
St. Thomas: 340-344-3537
St. Croix: 340-332-7008
24-Hour Emergency: 787-729-6800

National Park Service
St. Thomas/St. John: 340-776-6201
St. Croix: 340-773-1460


NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office: 727-824-5305
Highly Migratory Species: 727-824-5399

Division of Fish & Wildlife Website

<http://www.dpnr.gov/fish-and-wildlife/>

A Quick Reference Guide to Fishing Regulations of the USVI




2018



U.S. Virgin Islands

Department of Planning & Natural Resources

Division of Fish and Wildlife



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