

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF MARINE RESOURCES AND FISHERIES REGULATIONS

A. TERRITORIAL REGULATIONS

Territorial waters extend from shore to 3 nautical miles offshore.

Table A3-1. Summary of USVI Territorial Fishing Regulations		
	Subject	Summary of Regulation
1	<p><u>Whelk:</u> Size Limit:</p> <p>Landing Restriction:</p> <p>Closed Season :</p>	<p>Minimum size of shell must be greater than 2 7/16 inches in diameter.</p> <p>Must be landed whole in the shell.</p> <p>April 1-September 30.</p>
2	<p><u>Conch:</u> Size Limit:</p> <p>Harvest Quota:</p> <p>Landing Restriction:</p> <p>Sale Restriction:</p> <p>Closed Season:</p>	<p>Minimum size of 9 inch shell length from the spire to the distal end, or 3/8 inch lip thickness.</p> <p>No harvest of undersized conch. 150 conch per day per permitted commercial fisher. 6 conch per day per recreational (personal use) fisher; not to exceed 24 per boat per day.</p> <p>Must be landed alive and whole in the shell at final landing site. No disposal of shell at sea before landing. Taking conch to offshore cays and islands for purpose of removing from shell is prohibited. Transport of conch meat out of shell over open water is prohibited.</p> <p>No sale of undersized conch shell or meat from undersized conch.</p> <p>No sale of imported conch meat unless shipment is accompanied by a CITES export permit and shipment is cleared at the Port of Miami.</p> <p>July 1 - September 30.</p>

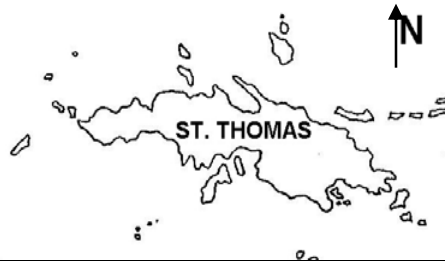
Table A3-1. Summary of USVI Territorial Fishing Regulations (continued)		
	Subject	Summary of Regulation
3	<u>Spiny Lobster:</u> Size Limit: Landing: Restrictions: Gear Restrictions:	3 ½ inch carapace length. Must be landed whole No harvest of females with eggs. No spearfishing, hooks or gigs.
4	<u>Shrimp:</u>	No commercial harvest in Altona Lagoon and Great Pond. No sale. Recreational permit is required.
5	<u>Goliath Grouper (jewfish)</u>	Endangered species. Harvest prohibited; no possession.
6	<u>Billfish:</u>	Federal regulations for billfish apply in territorial waters.
7.	<u>Billfish, Swordfish, Tuna & Shark:</u>	Federal regulations and federal permit requirements apply in territorial waters.
8	<u>Mutton Snapper (Virgin Snapper):</u> St. Croix: Area:	No harvest March 1 to June 30 within the Mutton Snapper Spawning area (see Appendix 4E map). All fishing is prohibited in the closed area during this period. Joint Territorial and Federal closure is between Long Point and the southwest tip of Sandy Point about 2 miles offshore and is 2.5 miles long and 1 mile wide (see Appendix 4E map).
9	<u>Sea Turtles:</u>	Endangered species. No harvest, no possession and no harassment of sea turtles or their eggs.
10	<u>Aquarium Collecting:</u>	Permit required from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife offices.

Table A3-1. Summary of USVI Territorial Fishing Regulations (continued)		
	Subject	Summary of Regulation
11	<p><u>Traps:</u> <u>District of St. Thomas/St. John</u></p> <p><u>District of St. Croix</u></p> <p><u>Both Districts:</u> Gear Restrictions:</p>	<p>All fish traps must have minimum 2 inch square or 2 inch hexagonal as the smallest mesh used. All fish traps must be inspected and <u>tagged</u> by the Division of Environmental Enforcement.</p> <p>All old and new 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 <u>tagged</u> by the Division of Environmental Enforcement.</p> <p>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 <u>each</u> trap.</p>
12	<p><u>Nets: Mesh Size</u> Gear Restrictions:</p>	<p>Haul seines must have mesh size greater than 1 ½ inch stretch mesh. Seines for catching baitfish must have a mesh size greater than 1 ¼ inch stretch mesh.</p> <p>Haul seines and bait seines may not be taken up to the shore or removed from the water to withdraw fish.</p>
13	<p><u>Marine Reserves:</u></p>	<p>No fishing or collecting of any kind is allowed except as noted below:</p>
	<p><u>St. James Reserve Boundary:</u></p> <p>Permitted Acts:</p> <p>Fishing Permits:</p>	<p>See Figure A3-1, area “C”.</p> <p>The use of a cast net with a minimum square mesh size of one quarter (1/4) inch to capture bait fish (“fry”) within 50 feet of the shoreline. Cow and Calf Rocks (in area “C” on Figure A3-1 map) are off-limits and are not considered as shorelines. Hook and line fishing is allowed with a permit.</p> <p>A special monthly permit obtained from the Division of Environmental Enforcement is required to catch baitfish or hook & line fish in the Reserve.</p>

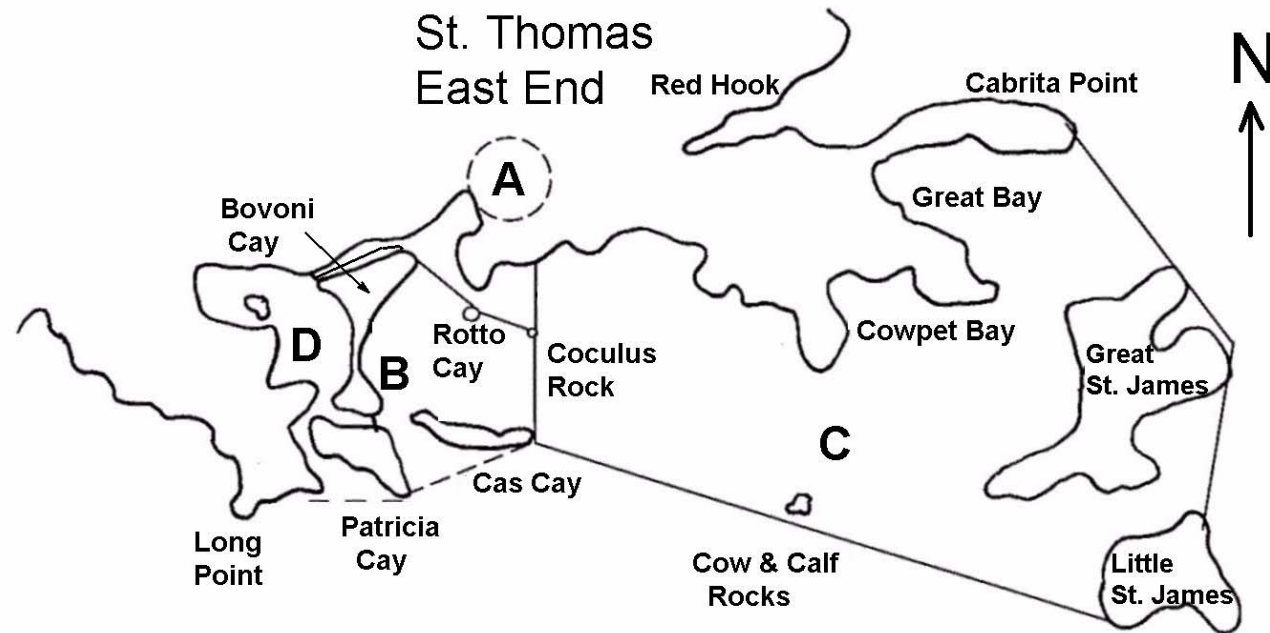
Table A3-1. Summary of USVI Territorial Fishing Regulations (continued)	
Subject	Summary of Regulation
<p><u>Cas Cay/Mangrove Lagoon Reserve</u> Boundary:</p> <p>Permitted Acts:</p> <p>Fishing Permits:</p> <p>Prohibited Acts:</p>	<p>See Figure A3-1 map, area “B” and area “D”.</p> <p>The use of a cast net with a minimum square mesh size of one quarter (1/4) inch to capture bait fish (“fry”) within 50 feet of the north and west shorelines of Cas Cay only.</p> <p>A special monthly permit obtained from the Division of Environmental Enforcement is required to catch baitfish in the Reserves.</p> <p>In the Inner Mangrove Lagoon (see Figure A3-1 map, area “D”), no fishing, no traps, and no seines. In short, no take at all. Use of internal combustion engines is prohibited.</p>
<p><u>Compass Point Marine Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, St. Thomas</u></p>	<p>See Figure A3-1 map, area “A”.</p> <p>Designated September 24, 1992. No fishing, hunting or taking of any plant or animals within the marine reserve and wildlife sanctuary.</p>
<p><u>Salt River Marine and Wildlife Sanctuary, St. Croix.</u></p>	<p>Designated July 19, 1995. Regulations are pending that will prohibit fishing or harvest of fisheries resources within the Sanctuary. Contact the Division of Environmental Enforcement for up-to-date regulations at 773-5774.</p>
<p><u>The Small Pond at Frank Bay Wildlife and Marine Sanctuary, St. John</u></p>	<p>Designated on March 24, 2000, signed on April 11, 2001. There are numerous specific prohibitions regarding the sanctuary. Those that relate to fisheries include the following: no hunting, fishing or harvest of fisheries or wildlife resources; the use of a motorized vessel is prohibited within Frank Bay Pond.</p>
<p>14 <u>Territorial Marine Parks:</u> <u>St. Croix East End Marine Park</u></p>	<p>Designated on January 9, 2003. Regulations are pending that will designate certain restricted zones within the park boundaries. Contact the Division of Environmental Enforcement for up-to-date regulations at 773-5774 or the Marine Park Coordinator at 773-1082 extension 2204.</p>

Table A3-1. Summary of USVI Territorial Fishing Regulations (continued)	
Subject	Summary of Regulation
15	<p><u>Altona Lagoon and Great Pond Shrimp Management</u></p> <p>a. All seine nets, gill nets and traps are prohibited in Altona Lagoon, Great Pond and their respective connecting channels to the sea.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>c. No motorized vessels are allowed in Altona Lagoon, Great Pond and their respective connecting channels to the sea.</p> <p>d. A recreational shrimp fishing permit from the Division of Environmental Enforcement is required to harvest shrimp on St. Croix. The annual fee for this license is \$10.00.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>g. The sale of southern pink shrimp is prohibited. Vendors selling shrimp must possess a certificate of origin for the shrimp.</p> <p>h. The use of lights to attract shrimp for harvest is prohibited.</p> <p>i. Recreational handlining and rod and reel fishing are permitted in Altona Lagoon, Great Pond and their respective connecting channels to the sea.</p>

Figure A3-1. Southeast St. Thomas Marine Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuaries



- A. **Compass Point Pond** Marine Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary
- B. **Cas Cay/Mangrove Lagoon** Marine Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. **St. James** Marine Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. **Inner Mangrove Lagoon** (special restrictions)



B. FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Federal waters extend from 3 to 200 nautical miles offshore.

Table A3-2. Summary of Federal Fishing Regulations Applicable to the USVI.		
	Subject	Summary of Regulation
1.	<p><u>Red Hind:</u> St. Thomas:</p> <p>St. Croix:</p>	<p>No harvest year round at the Red Hind Marine Conservation District (MCD) southwest of Saba Island (see Figure A3-2 map). All fishing is prohibited in the MCD.</p> <p>No harvest December 1 to February 28 within a 3.5 square mile area east of St. Croix at the head of Lang Bank (see Figure A3-3). All fishing is prohibited in the closed area during this period.</p>
2.	<p><u>Mutton Snapper (Virgin Snapper):</u> St. Croix:</p> <p>Area:</p>	<p>No harvest March 1 to June 30 within the Mutton Snapper Spawning area (see Figure A3-4 map). All fishing is prohibited in the closed area during this period.</p> <p>Joint Territorial and Federal closure is between Long Point and the southwest tip of Sandy Point about 2 miles offshore and is 2.5 miles long and 1 mile wide.</p>
3.	<p><u>Yellowtail Snapper:</u> Size Limit:</p>	12 inches total length.
4.	<u>Nassau Grouper:</u>	No harvest or possession.
5.	<u>Goliath Grouper (jewfish):</u>	No harvest or possession.
6.	<u>Seahorses:</u>	No harvest or possession.
7.	<u>Foureye, Banded, Longsnout Butterflyfishes:</u>	No harvest or possession.

Table A3-2. Summary of Federal Fishing Regulations Applicable to the USVI.		
	Subject	Summary of Regulation
8.	<p><u>Queen Conch:</u> Minimum Size:</p> <p>Harvest Quota:</p> <p>Landing Restriction:</p> <p>Gear Restriction:</p> <p>Sale Restriction:</p> <p>Closed Season:</p>	<p>9 inch shell length from spire to the distal end of shell, or 3/8 inch lip thickness. No harvest of undersized conch.</p> <p>Commercial: 150 conch per day. Recreational: 3 conch per day not to exceed 12 per boat.</p> <p>Must be landed whole in the shell at final landing site. No disposal of shell at sea prior to landing. Taking conch to offshore cays and islands for purpose of removing from shell is prohibited. Transport of conch meat out of shell over open water is prohibited.</p> <p>No use of hookah gear.</p> <p>No sale of undersized conch or conch shell.</p> <p>No sale of imported conch meat unless shipment is accompanied by a CITES export permit and shipment is cleared at the Port of Miami.</p> <p>July 1 – September 30.</p>
9.	<p><u>Marine Aquarium Fish:</u></p>	<p>May harvest only by a hand-held dip net or a hand-held slurp gun.</p>
10.	<p><u>Billfish:</u> Minimum Size Regulations:</p>	<p>No commercial harvest; no sale Blue Marlin– 99”LJFL (Lower Jaw Fork Length) White Marlin – 66” LJFL Sailfish – 63” LJFL Swordfish – 47” LJFL (see #11 below) Long Bill Spearfish – Retention is prohibited.</p>

Table A3-2. Summary of Federal Fishing Regulations Applicable to the USVI (continued)		
	Subject	Summary of Regulation
11.	<u>Billfish, Swordfish, Tuna & Shark:</u>	<p>The NOAA - Fisheries, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, through the Magnusen-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, regulates billfish, swordfish, tuna, and sharks in all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.</p> <p>Permits: <u>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:</u></p> <p>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 Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico. 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.</p> <p>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. A commercial harvest permit does not allow participation in HMS Recreational tournaments.</p> <p>Permit Application: Permit applications are available at the Division of Fish and Wildlife offices in St. Croix and St. Thomas. 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</p>

Table A3-2. Summary of Federal Fishing Regulations Applicable to the USVI (continued)		
	Subject	Summary of Regulation
11.	<p><u>Billfish, Swordfish, Tuna & Shark:</u> Size Restrictions:</p> <p>Bag Limit:</p>	<p>The commercial and recreational minimum legal harvest size for yellowfin and bigeye tuna is 27" fork length. The recreational minimum for bluefin tuna is 27", however, check NOAA - Fisheries for current commercial bluefin limits.</p> <p>Recreational bag limit (possession) is 3 yellowfin tuna per person per day. No limit for bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tunas. Check NOAA - Fisheries for current bluefin limits.</p>
12.	<u>Sea Turtles:</u>	Endangered species: No harvest, no possession and no harassment of sea turtles or their eggs.
13.	<p><u>Traps:</u> Minimum mesh size:</p> <p>Gear Restrictions:</p>	<p>1 ½ inch hexagonal bare wire or 2 inch if coated.</p> <p>Two escape panels of 1 ½ inch hexagonal or 2 inch square mesh located on two different sides of the trap excluding top, bottom or side containing trap entrance. Escape panels must measure not less than 8" x 8" and must be fastened by biodegradable material (for example, 1/8 inch untreated jute twine) and may not be wrapped or overlapped.</p>
14.	<p><u>MARINE RESERVES:</u> <u>Hind Bank Marine Conservation District</u></p>	<p>No fishing or collecting allowed except as noted below:</p> <p>See Figure A3-2 map. Fishing for any species or anchoring of fishing vessels is prohibited year round within the Hind Bank Marine Conservation District.</p>

Figure A3-2. Hind Bank Marine Conservation District, St. Thomas, USVI

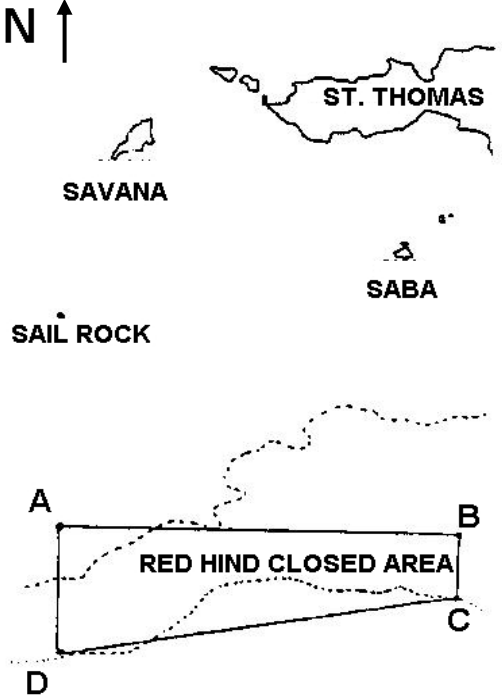
Public Notice	Map
<p style="text-align: center;">HIND BANK MARINE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ST. THOMAS, USVI</p> <p>THE RED HIND SPAWNING AREA IS CLOSED YEAR ROUND AS STATED IN THE FINAL REGULATIONS OF AMENDMENT ONE OF THE CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SHALLOW WATER REEF FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.</p> <p>FISHING IS PROHIBITED IN THE 14 SQUARE MILE AREA SOUTH OF WESTERN ST. THOMAS.</p> <p>THE FOLLOWING POINTS DEFINE THE CORNERS OF THE CLOSED AREA:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A – 18⁰ 13.2’N, 65⁰ 06.0’W B – 18⁰ 13.2’N, 64⁰ 59.0’W C – 18⁰ 11.8’N, 64⁰ 59.0’W D – 18⁰ 10.7’N, 65⁰ 06.0’W</p> <p>ANYONE CAUGHT FISHING OR ANCHORING IN THIS AREA WILL BE CONSIDERED IN VIOLATION OF THE CLOSED AREA AND MAY BE GIVEN A FEDERAL FINE UP TO \$100,000.00 AND ONE YEAR IN JAIL</p>	 <p>The map displays the geographical context of the closed area. It includes the islands of St. Thomas, Savana, Saba, and Sail Rock. A north arrow is positioned in the upper left. The 'RED HIND CLOSED AREA' is a rectangular region defined by points A, B, C, and D, situated south of the western part of St. Thomas.</p>

Figure A3-3. Red Hind Closure, St. Croix, USVI

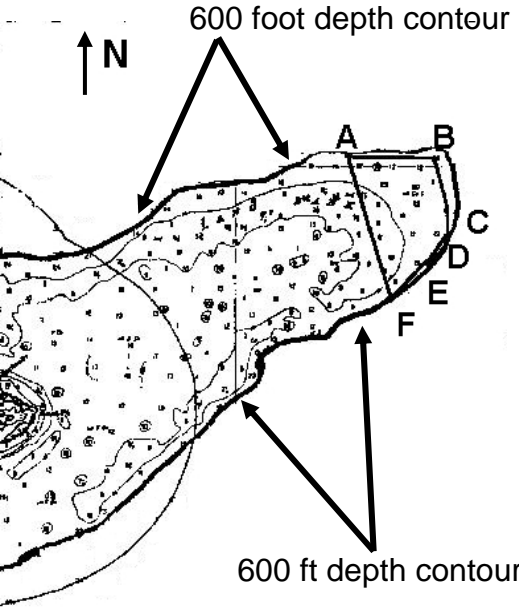
Public Notice	Map
<p>RED HIND CLOSURE, ST. CROIX, USVI</p> <p>THE RED HIND SPAWNING AREA IS CLOSED DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 28 AS STATED IN THE FINAL REGULATIONS OF AMENDMENT ONE OF THE CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SHALLOW WATER REEF FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.</p> <p>FISHING IS PROHIBITED WITHIN THE APPROXIMATELY 3.5 SQUARE MILE AREA EAST OF ST. CROIX AT THE HEAD OF LANG BANK.</p> <p>THE FOLLOWING POINTS DEFINE THE CORNERS OF THE CLOSED AREA:</p> <p>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</p> <p>POINTS 'A' THROUGH 'F' DEFINES THE 50 FATHOM DEPTH CONTOUR.</p> <p>ANYONE CAUGHT FISHING IN THIS AREA WILL BE CONSIDERED IN VIOLATION OF THE CLOSED AREA AND MAY BE GIVEN A FEDERAL FINE UP TO \$100,000.00 AND ONE YEAR IN JAIL.</p>	 <p>The map displays the coastal area of St. Croix, USVI, with a focus on the head of Lang Bank. A north arrow is located in the upper left. Two depth contours are shown: a solid line representing the 600-foot depth contour and a dashed line representing the 50-fathom depth contour. The closed area is a polygon defined by points A, B, C, D, E, and F. Point A is at the top left of the closed area, B is at the top right, C is at the right edge, D is at the bottom right, E is at the bottom, and F is at the bottom left. The area between the 600-foot contour and the 50-fathom contour is shaded with a stippled pattern.</p>

Figure A3-4. St. Croix Mutton Snapper Spawning Area Closure, March 1 to June 30

Public Notice	Map
<p style="text-align: center;">ST. CROIX MUTTON SNAPPER SPAWNING AREA CLOSURE MARCH 1 TO JUNE 30</p> <p>An annual closed season for mutton snapper (virgin snapper) has been established at a spawning aggregation area located off the southwestern coast of St. Croix between Long Point and the southwest cape of Sandy Point.</p> <p>The spawning aggregation 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). Boundaries of the closure are determined by straight lines connecting the following coordinates:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">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</p> <p>Points D-E-A define the 100 fathom (600 foot) depth contour and mark the southern boundary of the closed area.</p> <p>The closure commences on March 1 and ends on June 30 of each year. All fishing is prohibited within the closure area during this period. Mutton snapper in Federal waters within this area are protected under Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI, as prohibited in Federal Register 50 CFR Part 669, Vol. 58, No. 197, Rules and Regulations, pages 53145-53148.</p>	<p>The map shows the island of St. Croix with the city of Frederiksted. The southwestern coast features Sandy Point and Long Point. A dashed line indicates the 3-mile territorial sea boundary. A rectangular area is marked with vertices A, B, C, D, and E, representing the spawning area closure. A north arrow is located to the left of the island.</p>