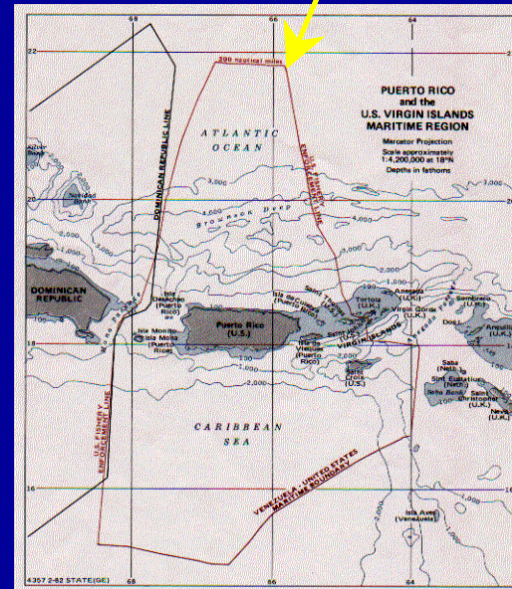
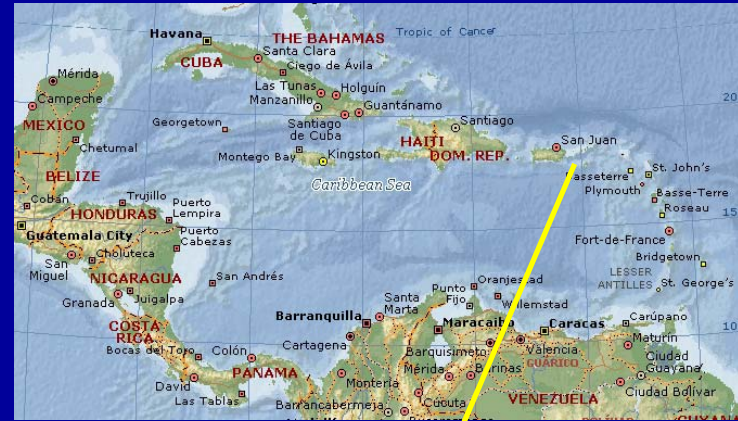
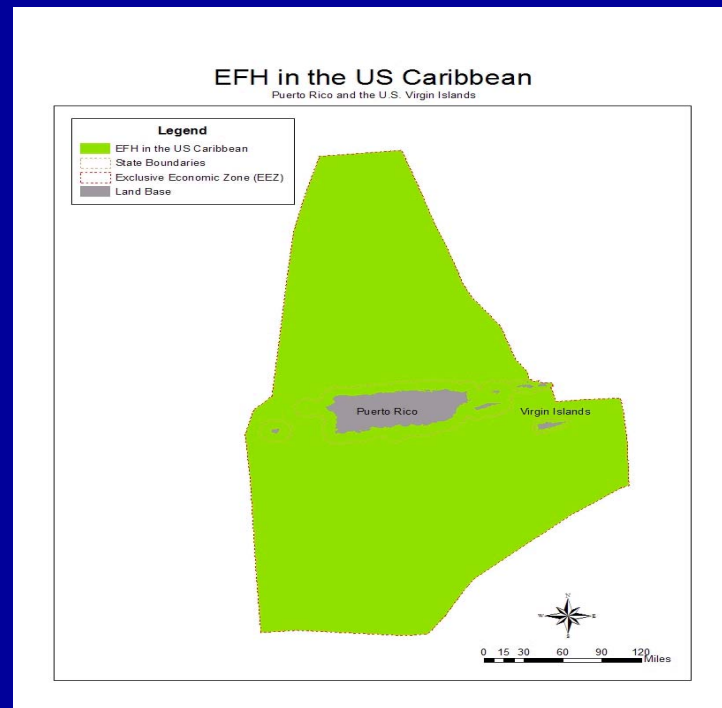


Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Policy on MPAs

CFMC is one of eight regional councils created by the Magnuson-Stevens Act of 1976, as amended. Its main responsibility is to prepare fishery management plans for the EEZ off Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

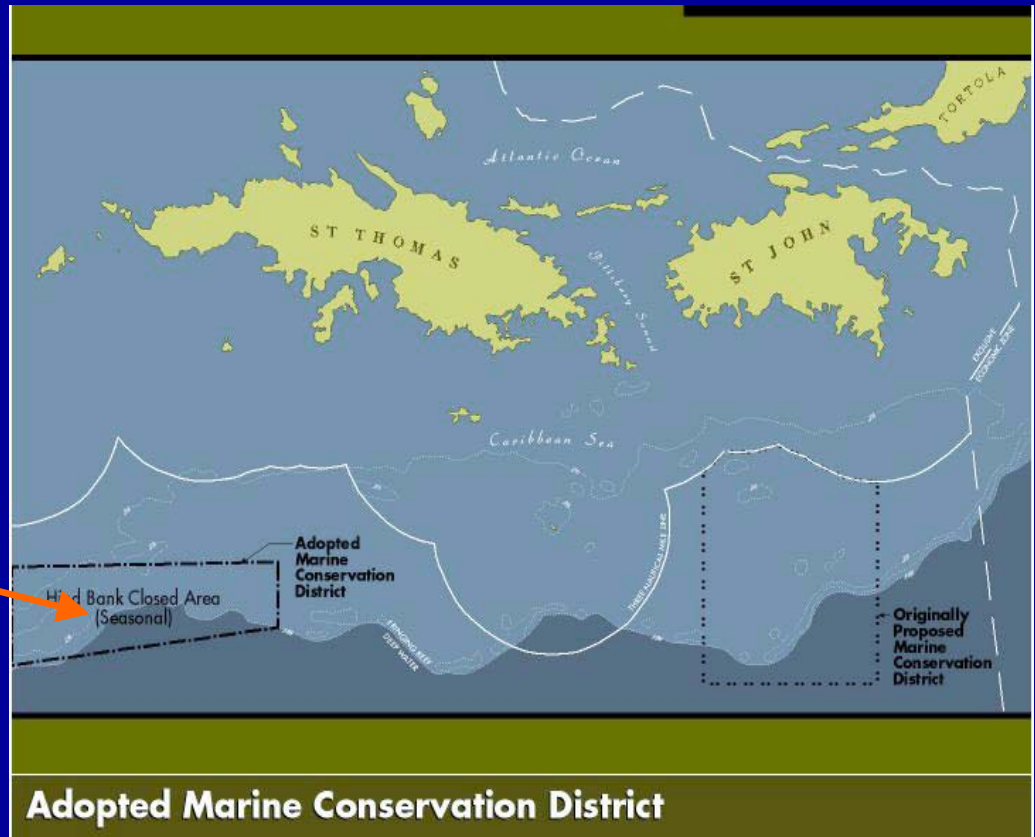
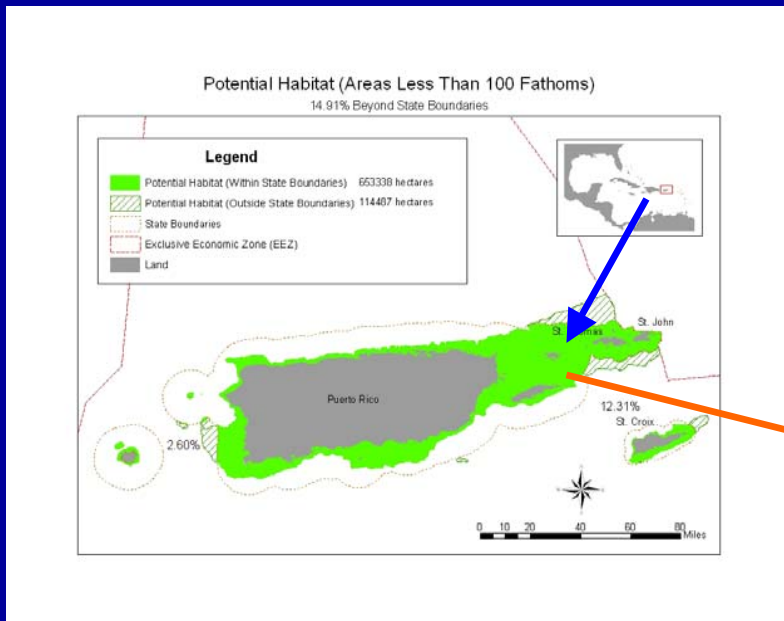


CFMC has been working on strategies to protect habitat since the 1970s. During the last several years a management plan to identify EFH was developed and is in the process of implementation. This plan also has recommendations for the adoption of mitigating management measures to protect essential habitat.



The CFMC's Coral Reef FMP established a Marine Conservation District off St. Thomas, USVI, for the protection of coral and coral reef habitat, and spawning aggregations of groupers and snappers.

This was one of the first marine reserves in the U.S. EEZ.



Several concepts have been developed or proposed to designate areas that are in need of protection, among them: marine reserves, no-take zones, marine protected areas, marine parks, marine monuments, marine conservation districts, and sanctuaries.

The following table summarizes some of these established in the US Caribbean.

Acronym	Full Name	Definition
MPA	Marine Protected Area	Any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial, tribal, or local laws and regulation to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.
MR	Marine Reserve	"... areas in which some or all extractive activities are prohibited ..."
No-take zones	No-take Marine reserve	Areas in which all extractive activities are prohibited
MLCD	Marine Life Conservation District (Hawaii 1967)	Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCDs) are designed to conserve and replenish marine resources. MLCDs allow only limited fishing and other consumptive uses, or prohibit such uses entirely. They provide fish and other aquatic life with a protected area in which to grow and reproduce, and are home to a great variety of species. Fishes in most MLCDs are fairly tame and often show little fear of humans. MLCDs are most popular as sites for snorkeling, diving and underwater photography.
MCD	Marine Conservation District (1999)	The no-take marine conservation district was established (off St. Thomas, USVI) under the CFMC Coral FMP (Amendment 1, 1999) to conserve and manage representative samples of marine habitats and ecosystems and to maintain marine biodiversity.
HAPC	Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (1998)	EFH that is especially important ecologically or particularly vulnerable to degradation.
Marine Park	National Marine Park	Marine parks have been usually established by the Federal Government in the US Caribbean.
Marine Sanctuary		"As defined by the U.S. government: Multiple-use marine protected areas, protected under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, that may include breeding and feeding grounds of whales, sea lions, sharks, and sea turtles; significant coral reefs and kelp forest habitats; and the remains of historic shipwrecks. Some sanctuaries are zoned to include no-take areas. (Note: States may have sanctuaries that have a different purpose or are defined differently.)"
National Monument		An area designated by the President of the United States, under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906, to protect objects of scientific and historical interest that are located on federal lands.

Recently, however, scientists consider marine reserves as another tool for fishery management, not the ultimate problem solver for all fishing issues as some might think.

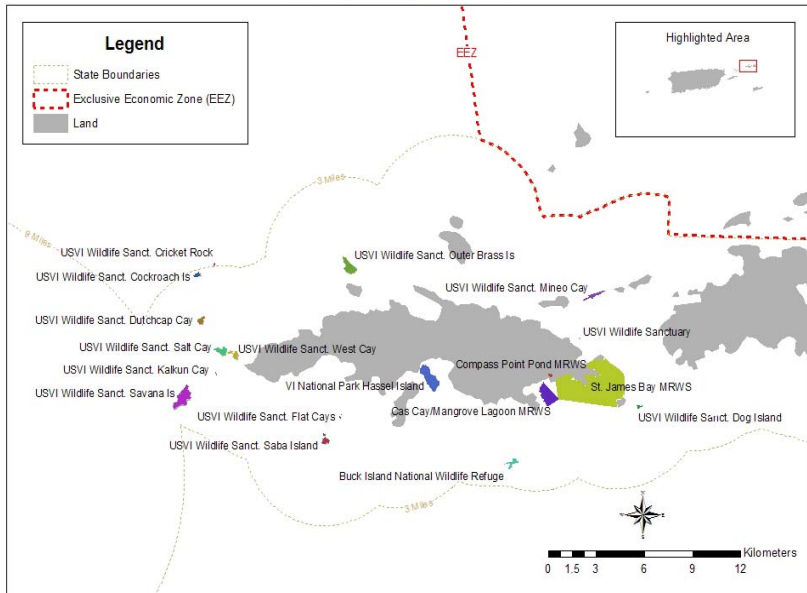
Effectiveness of marine reserves varies and it is strongly linked to the underlying assumptions and objectives for setting up a marine reserve.

In the US Caribbean, the CFMC has used the marine reserves to protect spawning aggregations of snapper and grouper species, seasonally or year around, in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

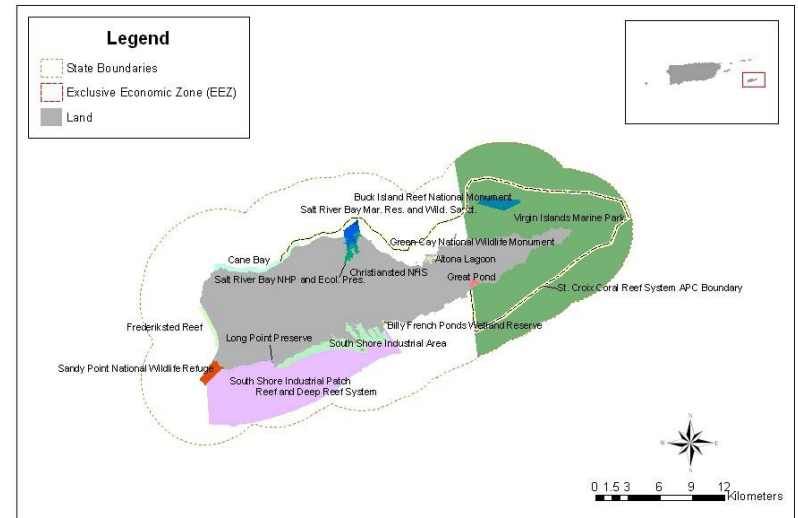
USVI local government and the Department of Interior have implemented marine parks in the USVI:

- St. John's National Park by DOI,
- St. Croix East End Marine Park by USVI.

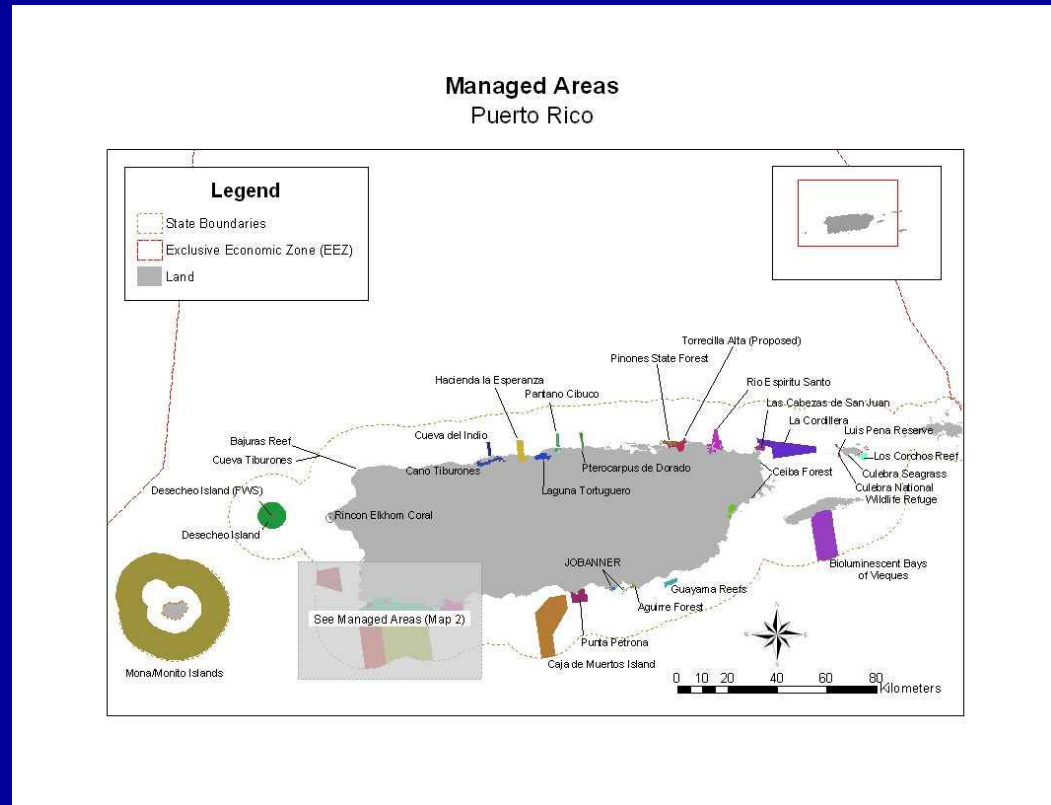
Managed Areas
U.S. Virgin Islands: St. Thomas



Managed Areas
U.S. Virgin Islands: St. Croix



Puerto Rico also has several marine reserves for the protection of coral reefs, other types of habitats and fishery resources.



In Conclusion

The CFMC endorses the use of marine reserves in conjunction with classical management measures and aggressively seeks the development of better strategies for scientific monitoring of these reserves, and the improvement of the decision-making process to determine how, when, and where to establish marine reserves. The scientific studies for marine reserves shall include aspects of oceanography, biology, and the socio-economy of the areas considered for marine reserves.

Issues for Discussion

We need to have 'base to top approach' rather than 'from the top down' strategy for MPAs.

MPAs should be scientifically designated, not by political or capricious decisions.

We need to establish no-take zones in addition to multiple-use MPAs to protect fishery resources.

Outreach and education programs are imperative for the effective creation and management of MPAs.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of enforcement in the management of MPAs.

Without adequate funds for marine reserves is almost impossible to monitor and manage these areas.

A scenic view of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, a grassy slope leads down to a rocky shore. A large, leafy tree stands on the right side of the slope, its reflection visible in the clear, turquoise water. The ocean extends to the horizon under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "Thank You Questions?" is overlaid in a large, white, cursive font across the center of the image.

*Thank
You
Questions?*