



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Annual Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation Seasonal Area Closure in Federal Waters of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands Begins on March 1, 2015, at 12:01 a.m., Local Time

NOAA Fisheries reminds the public that commercial and recreational fishing is prohibited in federal waters of the mutton snapper spawning aggregation area in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (see Figure 1) from 12:01 a.m., local time, March 1 through June 30, 2015.

The U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone in the U.S. Virgin Islands consists of those waters extending from the three nautical mile seaward boundary of the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands out to 200 nautical miles offshore.

The area closure is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates:

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| 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 |
| A | 17°37.8' N | 64°53.0' W |

In addition, fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited within the exclusive economic zone portion of the mutton snapper spawning aggregation area year-round.

This action complies with regulations implemented under Amendments 2 and 3 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to address required provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and is necessary to protect these resources. The Caribbean Fishery Management Council, in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries, developed the amendments to regulate fishing mortality.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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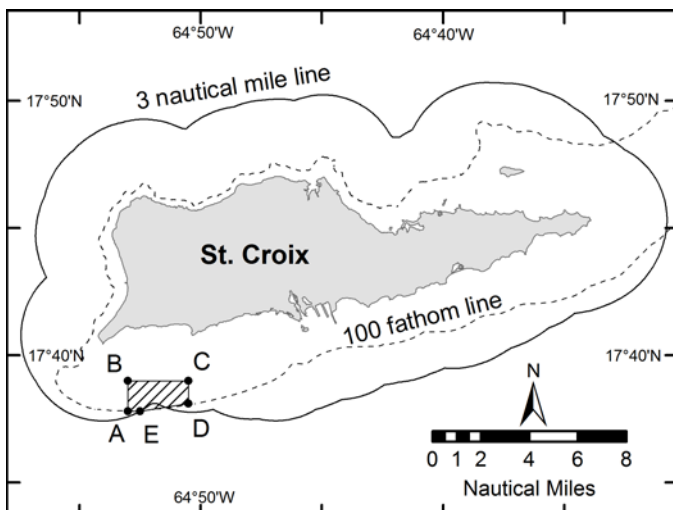


Figure 1. Map showing the mutton snapper spawning aggregation area in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.