# DAP — STT/STJ

CHAIRMAN MPA'S REPORT
TERRITORIAL | FEDERAL WATERS

#### **VI Coral Reef National Monument**

- Anchoring Prohibited
- All Fishing Prohibited
- Just Bait Fish & Blue Runner (Hardnose) fishing permitted at Hurricane Hole and Cabritte Horn Point with license from National Park

## **Concerns/Issues**

- Studies have proven corals are more healthy outside
   Monument than inside.
- Lionfish / Seagrass / Groupers
- Enforcement
- Studies / Reports

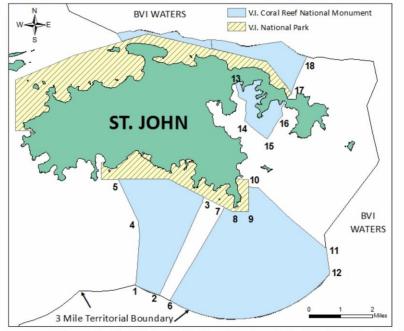
# VI National Park

- Commercial Fishing Prohibited
- Some Recreational Fishing Permitted

# Concerns / Issues

- Lionfish | Seagrass
- Studies | Reports
- Boating Activity
- National Park Service (they do a lot of patrolling) in-shore

## Reef National Monument are different from those of the VI National Park waters (see #7 below).



Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	18°15.799′N	64°44.878′W
2	18°15.532′N	64°44.235′W
3	18°18.178′N	64°43.036′W
4	18°17.504′N	64°44.819'W
5	18°18.692′N	64°45.354′W
6	18°15.413′N	64°43.947′W
7	18°17.899'N	64°42.451'W
8	18°17.781'N	64°42.243'W
9	18°17.791′N	64°41.808′W
10	18°18.474′N	64°41.540′W
11	18°16.790′N	64°39.678′W
12	18°16.097′N	64°39.579′W
13	18°20.772′N	64°41.877′W
14	18°20.287′N	64°41.916′W
15	18°19.762′N	64°41.292′W
16	18°20.386′N	64°40.876′W
17	18°21.070′N	64°40.629′W
18	18°21.961′N	64°40.242′W

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

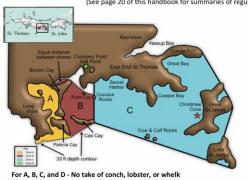
# South East St. Thomas Marine and Wildlife Sanctuaries

also known as St. Thomas East END Reserve (STEER)

- No Commercial Fishing
- Bait Fishing by cast net only with permit from DPNR

#### **APPENDIX 1**

Southeast St. Thomas Marine Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries (See page 20 of this handbook for summaries of regulations pertaining to these areas)



- A. Inner Mangrove Lagoon No fishing or take of any natural resources is allowed. No internal combustion engines. 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 Environmental Enforcement (340-774-3320).
- C. St. James No fishing or take of any natural resources is allowed, except that balfishing using a cast net within 50 feet of the shoreline (except for Cow and Calf Rocks) and fishing by hook and line is allowed with a permit from DPNR Division of Env. 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.

## **Concerns** | Issues

- Boat Activity\*\*\*
- No Pump Out Station\*\*\*
- No Enforcement
- Lots of Illegal Activity
- Lionfish | Seagrass
- Anchoring | Partying etc.

# Grammanik Bank Seasonal Closure

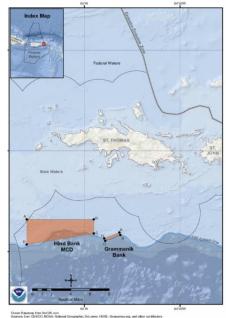
## St. Thomas February 1 to April 30

- Protection of spawning of several species of groupers/ snappers/ queen trigger fish etc.
- No fishing permitted from February 1<sup>st</sup> to Aprill 30<sup>th</sup> annual
- No Bottom Gear Allowed Year Round

### Concerns / Issues / Comments

- Lionfish
- Large Groupers
- Studies | Reports
- Closed for 18 yrs
- Protection of many species

#### APPENDIX 6 - HIND BANK MCD AND GRAMMANIK BANK CLOSURES, ST. THOMAS



#### HIND BANK MARINE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ST. THOMAS

The Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (MCD) is closed year-round. Fishing for any species and anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited in this 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

From February 1 through April 30, no person may fish for or possess any species of fish, except highly migratory species (bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, skipjack tunas; swordfish; sharks; billfish), in or from the Grammanik Bank closed area. The following points define the corners of this 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 <u>year-round</u> in both Hind Bank Marine Conservation District and Grammanik Bank Seasonal Closure.

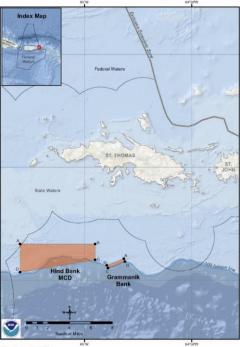
## Hind Bank MED

- Closed year round 14 Square Miles
- All fishing and anchoring prohibited within 14 square mile closure

## Issues | Concerns

- Lionfish | Groupers
- Studies | Reports
- Enforcement only during spawning season
- Protection of all species

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# Conclusion

- Are closures actually working??? Yes | No
- Are we creating more damage than protection Yes | No
- Too many studies in some cases being done and reports always saying that more studies are needed. More presentations are needed at the CFMC meetings on studies that are taking place.
- Do we need more MPA's? Yes | No (Honestly speaking No)
- What needs to happen in the issues that are taking place within the MPA's needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

This presentation was solely on the fisheries MPA's St. Thomas and St. John. The wildlife MPA's will be reported by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.