

DAP – STT/STJ

CHAIRMAN REPORT

MPA's | APC's | SSC MEETING

# DAP Meeting was held on March 22, 2022

- Attendees:

- Julian Magras
- Christy Berry
- Joshua Quetel
- Winston Ledee
- Ruth Gomez
- Collin Butler
- Shirley Ledee
- Gregory Ledee
- Jessica Petersen
- Daryl Bryan
- Gilbert Laban
- Elizabeth Kadison

- Absent

- USVI Government DFW
- STT|STJ Liaison
- STT|STJ Enforcement
- Federal Enforcement
- PEW Charitable Trust

# APC's

## Area's of Particular Concern

- Issues / Questions:
  - What law created the APC and how these were defined and established?
  - What is the purpose of an APC?
  - Were the fishers or public involved?
  - Dates when each APC were established and with what objective(s).
- Reports | Studies conducted or ongoing needs to be presented to the DAP's.

## 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

**\* DAP Committee has requested to see results of studies that have been completed and reported.**

## Concerns/Issues

- Studies have proven corals are more healthy outside Monument than inside.
  - Lionfish / Seagrass / Groupers
  - Enforcement
  - Studies / Reports
- \* Another issue is a Marina has just been approved within the monument.**

# VI National Park

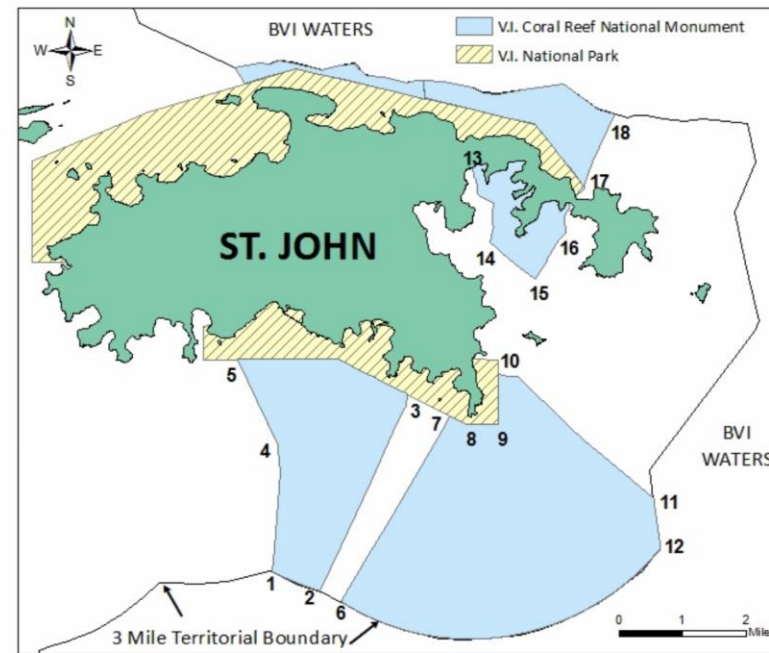
- Commercial Fishing Prohibited
- Some Recreational Fishing Permitted

## Concerns / Issues

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

\* Request of reports within Park.

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

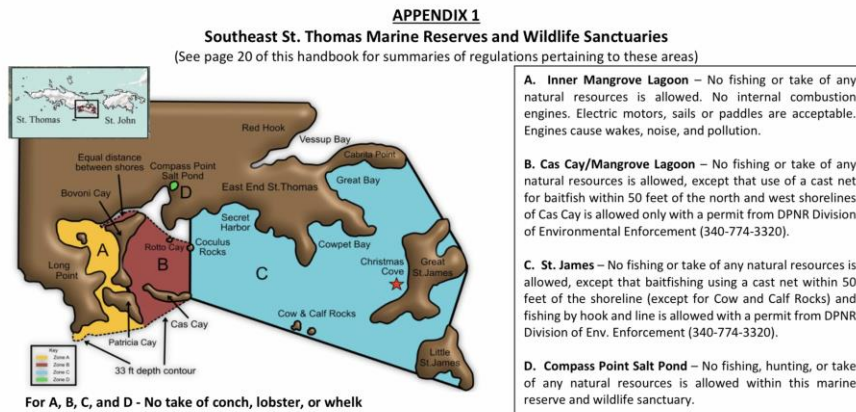
# South East St. Thomas Marine and Wildlife Sanctuaries

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

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

## Concerns | Issues

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



**\* Request of study/reports that have taken place and what is the plan to correct the issues and violations within the sanctuaries.**

# Grammanik Bank Seasonal Closure

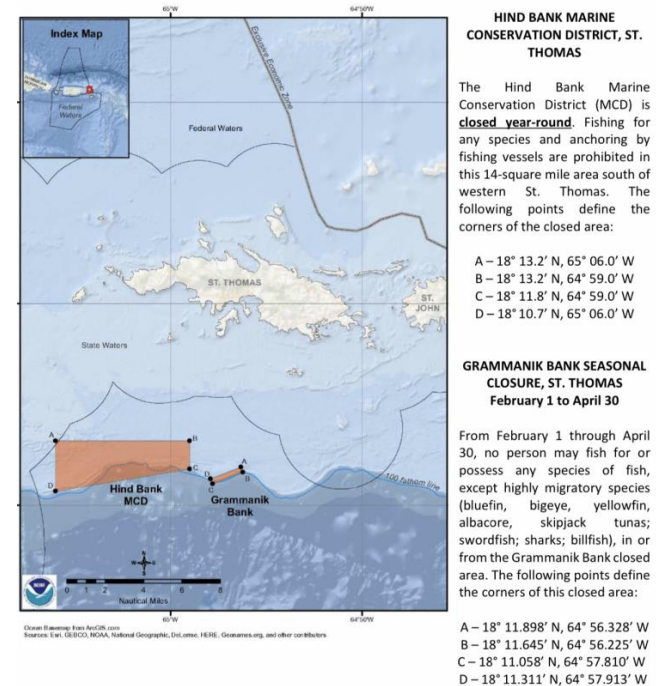
St. Thomas February 1 to April 30

- Protection of spawning of several species of groupers/ snappers/ queen trigger fish etc.
- No fishing permitted from February 1<sup>st</sup> to April 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



*Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets, or trammel nets is prohibited year-round in both Hind Bank Marine Conservation District and Grammanik Bank Seasonal Closure.*

# Grammanik Bank Seasonal Closure

St. Thomas February 1 to April 30

Continued...

- Reports needs to be presented to DAP-STT/STJ, SSC and CFMC
- Issue with PR boats poaching in and around bank.
- Large number of Nassau Grouper sighted and actual visual of spawning taking place.



# Hind Bank MCD

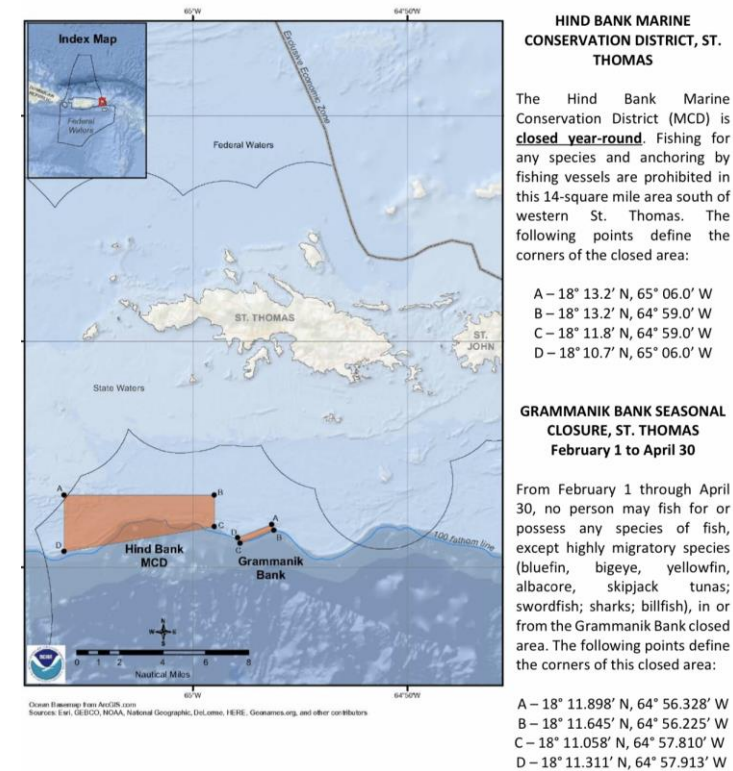
- Closed year round 14 Square Miles
- All fishing and anchoring prohibited within 14 square mile closure

## Issues | Concerns

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

\* Sarah Heidmann would like to give a presentation at the December CFMC Meeting on the work done over the past 10yrs.

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



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# SSC Comments

1. SEAMAP report I think moving forward fishermen involvement in this study would make a big difference.
2. More money needs to be allocated to Life History Collection so SEDAR assessments can have a better outcome
3. Fishermen are onboard in getting the samples needed to help with assessments example otoliths.
4. Deep water snappers study to take place in USVI with stakeholders involvement.
5. MER study that took place in PR was presented. The outcome was sketchy because of the roll the expansion factors have to play.
6. Other issues we see is that the MER project hasn't received final blessing as yet from SEFSSC. Discussion to move forward in USVI have concerns with the fishers. We don't use expansion factors.
7. Fishers in USVI are working with Virginia Shervette providing fish samples needed to complete assessments.

# Conclusion

- MPA's and APC's reports needs to be presented to committees.
- Presentation to be given at December CFMC meeting if approved on 10 year study of the MCD.
- Government agencies who sit on DAP's need to start attending meeting. Also PEW and Liaison representative.
- Liaison for STT|STJ needs to get involved with fishermen and host workshops. Proud to hear all what's happening in PR.
- We also see a conflict of interest with MER consultants being pushed by Todd Gedamke as the senior Founder of this company. He shouldn't be a member of the SSC pushing this company.
- We also see a conflict of interest with Sennai Habtes being the Chairman of the TAP. When he became Chairman. Mr. Habtes was at UVI now he's Chief of Fisheries for DFW in a decision-making role. That can sway the outcomes of the conceptual models.
- Last but very important is money being approved for Virginia Shervette to close Life History gaps.