

Outreach and Education Strategies on MPAs

Importance of Stakeholders Participation

177th CFMC public meeting
February 9, 2022
Carolina, PR

Importance of MPAs

An MPA is defined as: “a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”

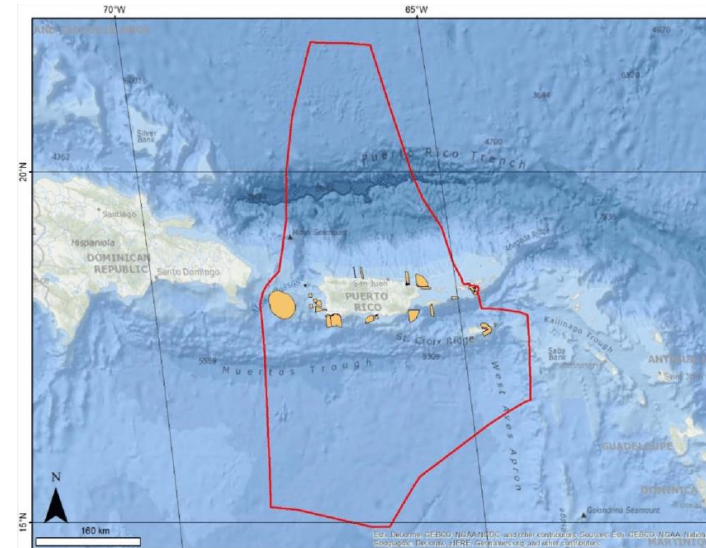
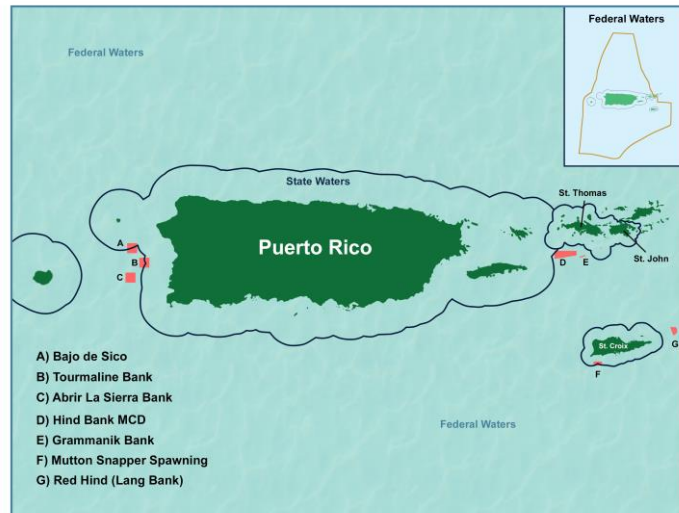
What is Protected?

Ecologically significant ecosystems, habitats, processes, and taxa: mangroves, shallow coral reefs, seagrasses, deep coral reefs

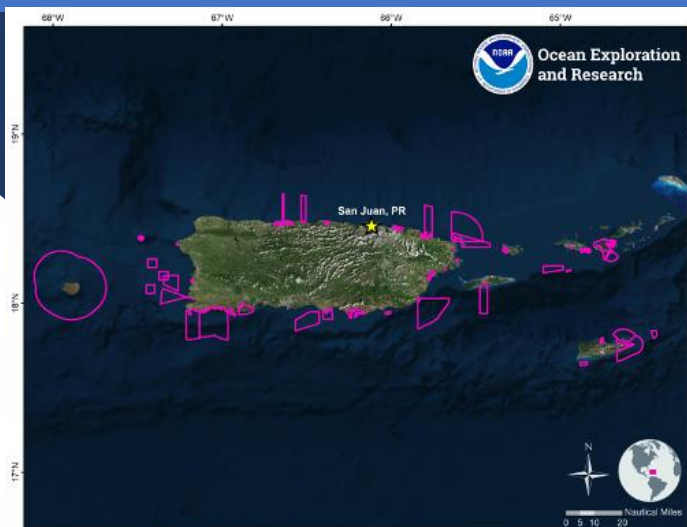
What is allowed?

Multiple uses
Some prohibit extraction of living resources

MPAs in the CFMC jurisdiction



MPAs in Puerto Rico



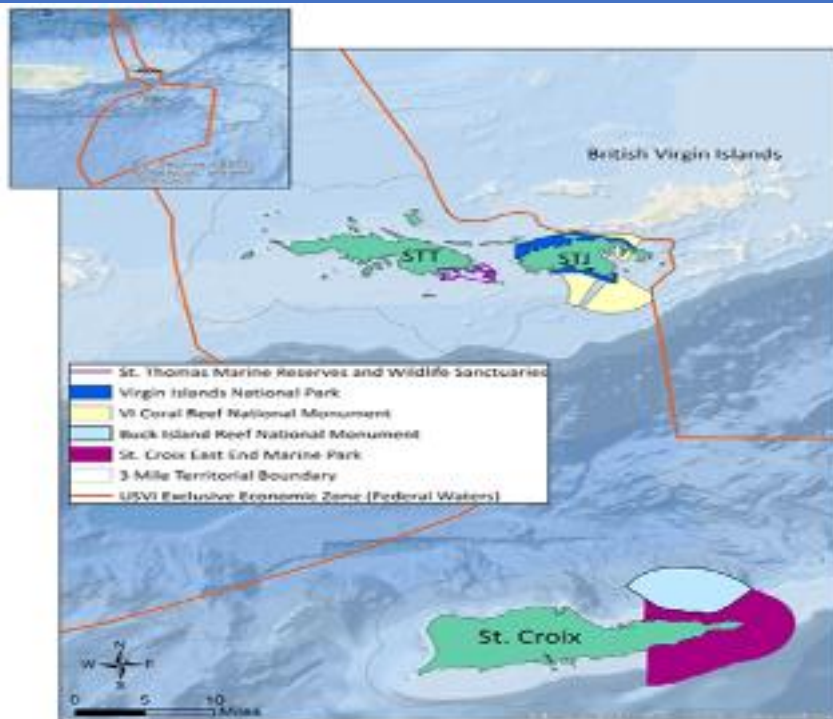
RESERVA MARINA ARRECIFE DE LA ISLA VERDE

Ayúdanos a proteger este criadero de especies para su reproducción y propagación.

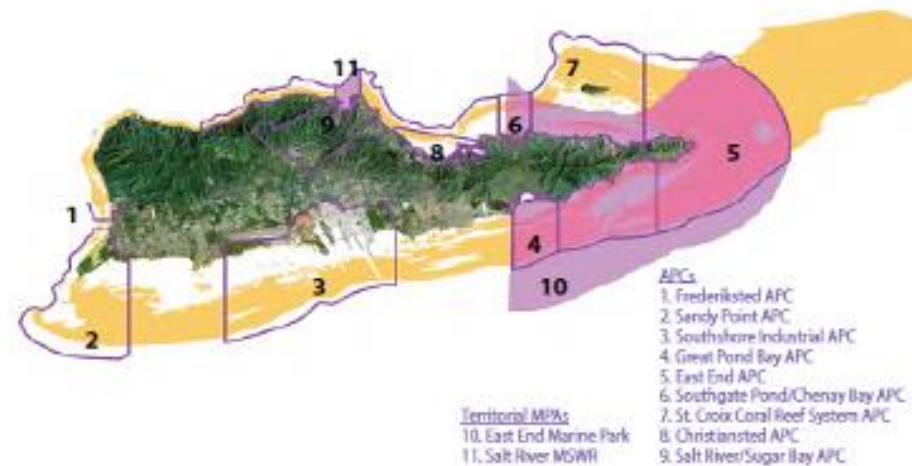
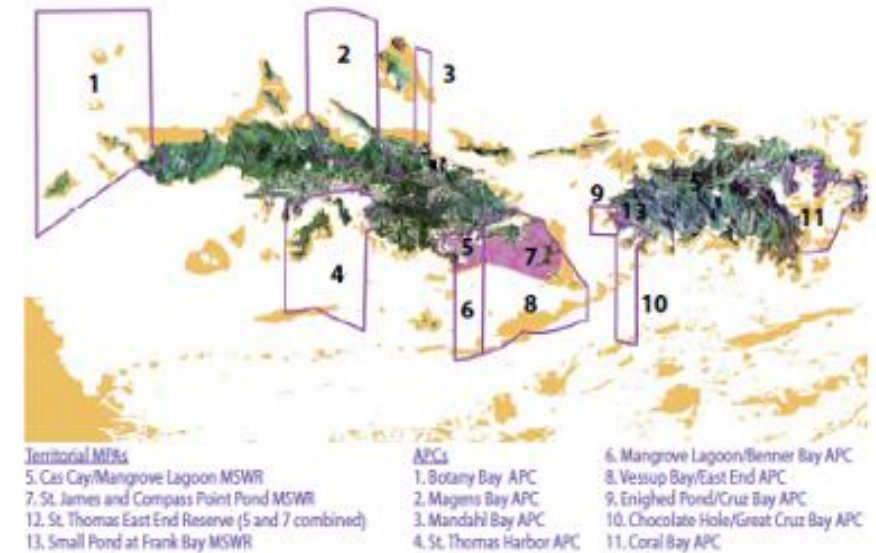


EN EL ÁREA DEMARCADA ESTÁ PROHIBIDA LA PESCA Y LAS EMBARCACIONES DE MOTOR.
Multas por violación a la orden de no pesca: \$100 - \$5,000. Multas por embarcaciones de motor: \$250.
Orden Administrativa DRNA Núm. 2014-01, Ley de Pesca 278 y Reglamento de Pesca 7949.
Ley de Navegación 430 y Reglamento de Embarcaciones 6979. Cuerpo de Vigilantes DRNA: (787) 724-5700

MPAs in the USVI Virgin Islands



St. Thomas
St. John



St. Croix

How many
MPAs do you
know in your
area?...



Stakeholders participation

- Social, cultural and economic aspects.
- Contribute their traditional and local ecological knowledge of the marine ecosystems in the MPA and the historical relationships with the area.
- Identify and promote the community responsibilities for effective MPA management: prohibitions, closed seasons, etc.

Who are the
Stakeholders?

WE ARE ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Fishing community

Educators

Business

Consumers

Planners

Government agencies/Federal - Territorial

Stakeholders Participation

Education

- Integrate scientific data on MPAs to ALL curricular content: social sciences, geography, natural sciences, art and environmental studies.
- . Resources for community education
- Integration of fishers in management decisions.

Outreach & Education Communication Strategies



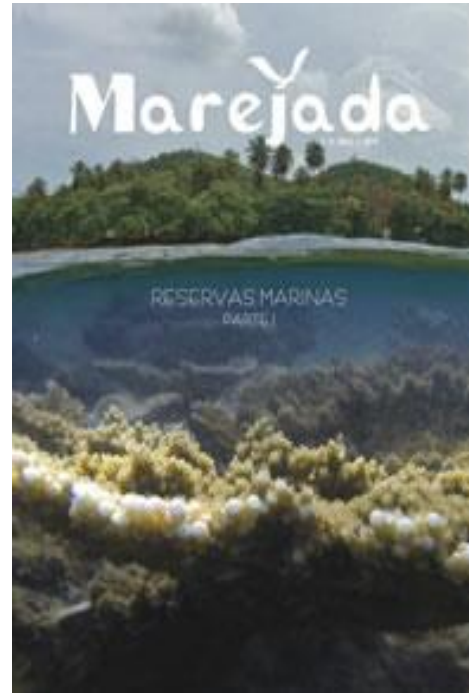
INTRODUCTION

“Ocean Literacy is an understanding of the ocean’s influence on you and your influence on the ocean.”

This document melds the “Ocean Literacy: Essential Principles and Fundamental Concepts” developed by the National Geographic Society, NOAA and partners for K-12 curricula with resources from the National Marine Protected Areas Center (MPA Center) that illustrate those principles. The information is intended to help educators improve ocean literacy by highlighting MPA Center resources on marine protected areas and conservation. The seven Essential Principles are a practical resource that outlines the knowledge required to be ocean literate, and are aligned with the National Science Education Standards (NSES). For more information on how these principles map to educational standards and to view the original Ocean Literacy document, click here: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/literacy.html>.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

The original seven Essential Principles of Ocean Literacy and Fundamental Concepts are shown below with those concepts that



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UPR Sea Grant

Áreas Marinas

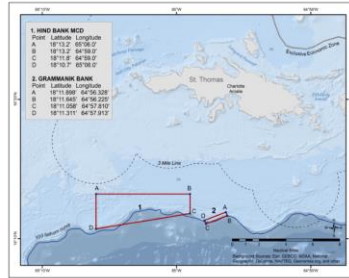
Protegidas

- Reserva Marina Isla de Desecheo
- Reserva Marina Tres Palmas
- Un acercamiento bibliográfico a las áreas marinas protegidas (Parte I)

St. Thomas/St. John MPAs outreach strategies requested by the fishers to inform tourists.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the U.S. Virgin Islands St. Thomas/ St. John

The fisheries of St. Thomas/St. John constitute an important part of the ecosystems in the U.S. Caribbean. One of the most powerful and effective methods for protecting fisheries resources and ocean life is the Marine Protected Area (MPA). According to the Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000, "Marine Protected Area" means any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein. The MPA provides a refuge for the managed species and at the same time gives animals within the boundaries time to grow larger than those that occur outside of the area.

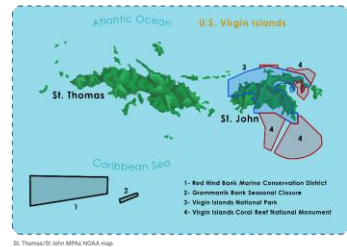


Hind Bank MCD and Grammanik Bank CFMC Map.

Grammanik Bank
The Grammanik Bank is a submerged area located 10 km south, on the south shelf edge of St. Thomas LSI. It is approximately 1.5 km wide and 500 m deep. The Grammanik Bank benthic habitat is primarily composed of a mesophotic reef at depths between 30-40 meters. This is the only region in the U.S. Caribbean where mesophotic reefs were observed in 2000. The Grammanik Bank is a unique and important habitat for many species of fish and invertebrates. The bank is a natural barrier to the south of St. Thomas, and the possibility of its population restoration in the near future.

In 2003, it was designated by the CFMC as the St. John Zone (SJZ) from February 1 to April 1 within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This means that no fishing or any possession of any species of fish is allowed during the closure. Fishing may occur from May 1 through August 31. The fishery is managed by the CFMC. The prohibition does not apply to highly migratory species.

Hind Bank Marine Conservation District
A Marine Conservation District (MCD) is a diverse geographical area of special value and significance to the marine ecosystem that it is to be managed in its natural state. The purpose of the MCD is to conserve and manage representative examples of marine habitats and ecosystems and to maintain marine biodiversity. This is especially important for the protection, conservation and management of especially important species. MCDs are areas of non-consumptive usage which are designed to ensure persistence of reef fish stocks and habitats. Their primary objective is to protect older and larger fish. The benefits derived from this are the protection of the critical



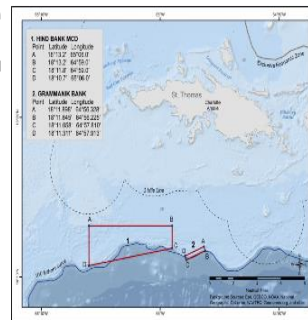
St. Thomas/St. John MPA MCD map.



Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the U.S. Virgin Islands St. Thomas/ St. John

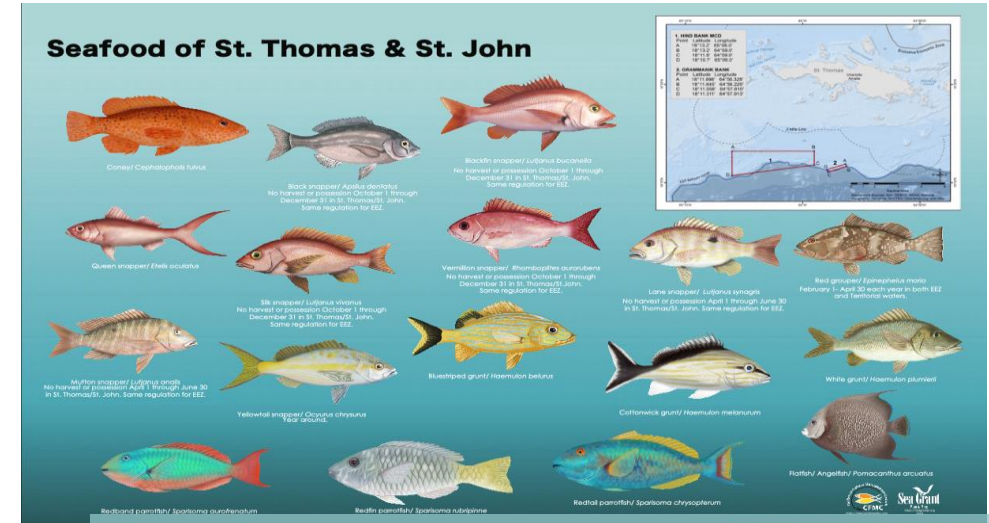
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There are two MPAs in St. Thomas/St. John in the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): the **Grammanik Bank** and the **Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (MCD)**. These are very valuable for the protection of spawning aggregations of important fishery species such as the red hind (*Epinephelus guttatus*) and the nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*). There are other important and valuable fish species in these MPAs including: midnight parrotfish (*Scarus coelestis*), blue parrotfish (*Scarus coeruleus*), rainbow parrotfish (*Scarus guacamaia*), and goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) (Pittman, S.J., L. et al.). Seasonal species closures exist for specific large-bodied grouper and snapper species. Trammel nets are prohibited throughout the USVI and surface gill nets are restricted to batfish only. Catch limits and size restrictions on specific species also exist. These MPAs have also been designated by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC).

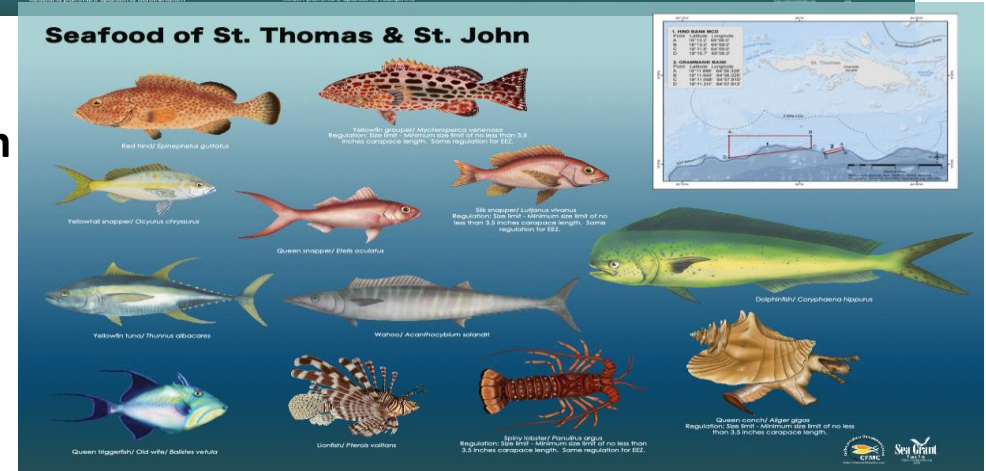


Hind Bank MCD and Grammanik Bank CFMC Map.

Local



Tourism



4 pages Fact sheet

All MPAs should be adequately identified with pertinent information for the users: consumers, fishers and tourists



Questions?

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