

Appendix A

**CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
268 MUÑOZ RIVERA AVE., SUITE 1108
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00918**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF A MARINE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT SOUTH OFF ST. JOHN**

**March 12, 1996
St. John, U.S.V.I.
SUMMARY MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by Mr. Virdin C. Brown, from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources in the U.S. Virgin Islands, at the Sprauve School's Library, in St. John, U.S.V.I.

Mr. Virdin Brown introduced the people present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to take statements regarding the establishing of a marine conservation district south off the island of St. John.

Mr. Miguel Rolón explained options A, G and H (options included under attached A.)

An estimate of 19 persons attended the meeting. However only four (4) came forward to provide their comments on the option presented.

Following are the comments of the individuals present at the hearings who voiced their comments:

Mr. John Garrison - Friends of the V.I. National Park, U.S.V.I.

Mr. Garrison's statement is included under attachment B.

Mr. John Dalmida - Commercial fisher, St. John, U.S.V.I.

- Disagrees with all the alternatives presented.**
- "Fishers have too many restrictions already, is harder every day for us to go out there and fish, and this proposal is making it harder."**
- "The fishers in St. John can be counted with my hands."**

Ms. Loren Nickbarg - World Class Anglers

-Considers Option "A" a poor choice.

-The other options are "far better."

Ms. Ann Marie Estes - Virgin Islands Dive Association

-"I would prefer option A, but would still go for any other option that would help the U.S. Virgin Islands grounds be replenished again."

The hearing was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF A MARINE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT SOUTH OFF ST. JOHN**

**March 13, 1996
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.
SUMMARY MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by Mr. Virdin C. Brown, from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources in the U.S. Virgin Islands, at the Legislature Building in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

Mr. Virdin Brown introduced the people present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to take statements regarding the establishing of a marine conservation district south off the island of St. John.

Mr. Miguel Rolón explained options A, G and H (options included under attached A.)

An estimate of 7 persons attended the meeting. However only three (3) came forward to provide their comments on the options presented.

Following are the comments of the individuals present at the hearings who voiced their comments:

1. Mr. Dean Greaux - Commercial fisher, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

- Do not see any problem with the closure.**
- There is a need for a fishing lane.**

2. Mr. David Berry - Commercial fisher, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

- Totally opposed to any closure.**
- There is a need for a fishing lane.**
- There should be a compensation fund for the fishers for oil spills.**
- A total ban on corals should be imposed in the U.S.V.I.**
- They need more FADs because it helps the fishers who fish around them to support their families since they have a better catch.**

-A "one hour meeting video" should be prepared to show and inform the fishers about all the regulations (local, National Park Service, NMFS, and Council Regulations).

3. Mrs. Mónica Lester - Commercial Fisher, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

-Her main concern is that they do lobster fish and it would be an extreme economic loss for them if option A was to be implemented.

-The Council can not forget that the MCD Committee should include fishers, as promised.

-Could accept Option H.

-Considering that 80% of their traps were lost in the hurricane, closing any area soon would cause great economic loss to the fishers.

-Regardless of what area is to be closed, enforcement is definitely necessary.

-There is a need for a shipping lane.

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF A MARINE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT SOUTH OFF ST. JOHN**

**March 14, 1996
St. Croix, U.S.V.I.
SUMMARY MINUTES**

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Patricia Skov, Council Member, Mr. William J. Tobias, Fish and Wildlife, DNER, and Mr. Kenneth C. Haines, SSC member, were the only person present.

No fishers attended to the meeting.