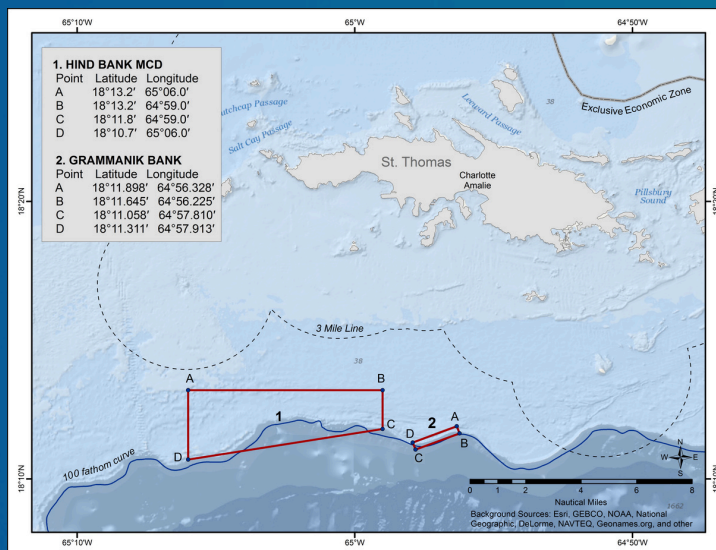
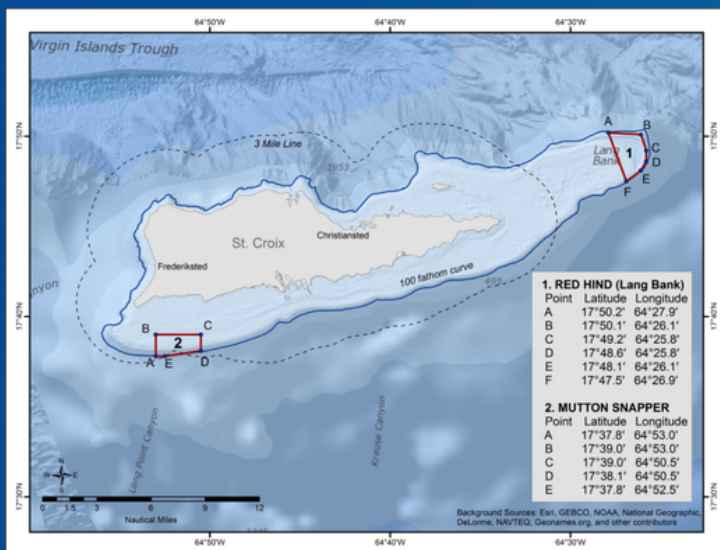


The **Caribbean Fishery Management Council** and **National Marine Fisheries Service** are responsible for the conservation and management of federal fishery resources in the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which extends 3 nautical miles from the USVI coast to the offshore boundary of the EEZ. For information on the regulations for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species including tunas, billfishes, and sharks, visit: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>.



SEASONAL AND AREA CLOSURES ST. CROIX

- 1. Red Hind Spawning Aggregation Area (Lang Bank):** Closed from December 1 through the last day of February each year, to all fishing activities. The use of pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round.
- 2. Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation Area:** Closed from March 1 through June 30 each year, to all fishing activities. The use of pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round.

SEASONAL AND AREA CLOSURES ST. THOMAS

- 1. Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (MCD):** Closed year-round to all fishing activities. Anchoring is prohibited year-round.
- 2. Grammanik Bank:** Closed from February 1 through April 30 each year, to fishing activities, except for harvest of HMS species. The use of pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round.

GEAR AND METHOD RESTRICTIONS

Applicable to All Fisheries	Applicable to Specific Fisheries Managed by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council	
Explosives, trawl nets, trammel nets, and purse seines are prohibited in federal waters. Toxic chemicals may not be used or possessed in a coral area. Gillnets** are prohibited for managed species and restricted for non-managed species.	Reef Fish	Poisons, drugs or other chemicals, powerheads, and gillnets are prohibited for the harvest of reef fish in federal waters. Fish must be landed with head and fins intact.* Descending devices required to be on board vessels fishing for reef fish in federal waters.
	Pelagic Fish	Gillnets are prohibited for the harvest of pelagic fish in federal waters. Fish must be landed with head and fins intact.*
	Spiny Lobster	Spears, hooks, or similar devices, and gillnets are prohibited for the harvest of spiny lobster in federal waters. Spiny lobster must be landed with head and carapace intact. Harvest of egg bearing females is prohibited in federal waters.
	Queen Conch	Harvest by diving while using a continued surface air supply is prohibited in federal waters. Queen conch must be landed with meat and shell intact.

* See 50 CFR 622.10 for exceptions to this rule. See 50 CFR 622.477 and 622.512 for restrictions on gillnet use.

SEASONAL CLOSURES FOR SPECIFIC SPECIES

Harvest of these fish is prohibited in federal waters around the USVI during the dates listed below

February 1 - April 30



Red Grouper



Black Grouper



Tiger Grouper



Yellowfin Grouper



Yellowedge Grouper*

June 1 - October 31



Queen Conch—harvest is allowed east of 64°34' West longitude, which includes Lang Bank, St. Croix.

April 1 - June 30



Mutton Snapper

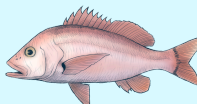


Lane Snapper

October 1 - December 31



Black Snapper



Blackfin Snapper



Vermillion Snapper



Silk Snapper

*Prohibition for yellowedge grouper does not apply in federal waters around St. Croix.

PROHIBITED HARVEST

If these species are caught in federal waters, they must be returned immediately to the water with minimal harm



Midnight Parrotfish



Blue Parrotfish



Rainbow Parrotfish



Nassau Grouper



Queen Conch – harvest is prohibited in all waters west of 64°34' West longitude.



Goliath Grouper

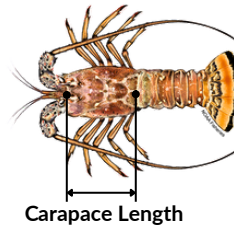
Harvest of all corals, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers in federal waters is prohibited.

QUEEN CONCH HARVEST LIMITS

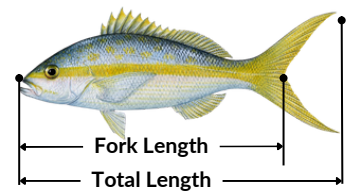
Commercial Sector - 200 queen conch per vessel/day.

Recreational Sector - 3 queen conch per person/day, or if more than 4 persons on board vessel, 12 queen conch per vessel/day.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS IN USVI FEDERAL WATERS



Carapace Length

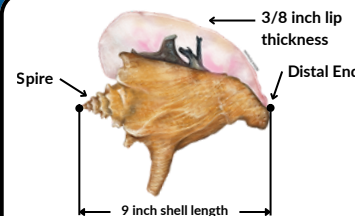


Fork Length

Total Length

Spiny Lobster	3.5 inches (8.9 cm) carapace length
Yellowtail Snapper	12 inches (30.5 cm) total length
Redband parrotfish**	8 inches (20.3 cm) fork length
Queen, princess, redbfin, redbtail, stoplight, striped parrotfish**	9 inches (22.9 cm) fork length
Dolphin/Mahi	24 inches (61.0 cm) fork length
Wahoo	32 inches (81.3 cm) fork length

**Parrotfish size limits only apply in St. Croix EEZ waters.



Queen Conch

9 inches (22.9 cm) in length from the tip of the spire to the distal end of the shell, or 3/8 inches (9.5 mm) in lip width at its widest point.

RECREATIONAL BAG LIMITS

Species	Allowed quantity:	
	Per Person/Day	Per Vessel/Day
snapper, grouper, parrotfish combined	5 fish per person/day	OR if 3 or more persons are on board, 15 fish per vessel/day
	Not to exceed: 2 parrotfish per person/day or 6 parrotfish per vessel/day.	
St. Croix angelfish, grunts, squirrelfish, surgeonfish, triggerfish combined	5 fish per person/day	OR if 3 or more persons are on board, 15 fish per vessel/day
	Not to exceed: 1 surgeonfish per person/day or 4 surgeonfish per vessel/day.	
St. Thomas/St. John angelfish, grunts, jacks, porgies, surgeonfish, triggerfish, wrasses combined	5 fish per person/day	if 3 or more persons are on board, 15 fish per vessel/day
	Not to exceed: 1 surgeonfish per person/day or 4 surgeonfish per vessel/day	
spiny lobster	3 per person/day	No more than 10 spiny lobsters per vessel/day
dolphin/mahi	10 per person/day	Not to exceed 32 per vessel/day
wahoo	2 per person/day	Not to exceed 10 per vessel/day