



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONCH SEASON OPENS

Dawn Henry Esq., Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources reminds the fishing community that the season for queen conch harvest opened on Tuesday, **November 1, 2016**. The regulations on harvesting conch remain in effect.

- The existing quota is 50,000 lbs per year for commercial harvesting, after the quota is reached, the fishery will remain closed until November 1st of the following year.
- All conch must be landed alive and in the shell.
- The limit of 200 conch per boat for licensed commercial fishermen.
- A limit of 6 Conch per person for recreational fishermen and a total of 24 conch per boat.
- No conchs may be possessed that are less than (9) nine inches in length from the spire to the distal end, or less than 3/8inch lip thickness.
- **NO HARVEST OF UNDERSIZED CONCH.**

Commissioner Henry reminds fishers to report their landings monthly to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Conch season is closed from July 1 until October 30 of every year.