



**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**

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

**VERMILION, BLACK, SILK AND BLACKFIN SNAPPER  
CLOSED TO FISHING OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2019**

**HARVEST OF WHELK REOPENS  
OCTOBER 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020**

AS PER V.I. CODE TITLE 12, CHAPTER 9A, SECTION 316a

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Commissioner Jean-Pierre Oriol, of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, announces the annual seasonal closure of Vermilion, Black, Silk and Blackfin Snapper to fishing. No harvest or possession of Vermilion, Black, Silk, or Blackfin Snapper is permitted from October 1 to December 31 in the St. Thomas/St. John district. St. Croix is exempt from the seasonal closure for these species in territorial waters.

In addition, Commissioner Oriol announces that the harvest of Whelk, *Cittarium pica*, is open within the entire Territory from October 1, 2019 until March 31, 2020. Whelk must be landed whole and must be greater than 2 7/16 inches in diameter.

The Commissioner asks for everyone's cooperation to protect Virgin Islands resources for the present and future benefit of the people of the Virgin Islands.

For more information about snapper or other fisheries regulations, please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 773-1082 in St. Croix and 775-6762 in St. Thomas or the Division of Environmental Enforcement at 773-5774 in St. Croix and 340-774-3320 in St. Thomas.