



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

**QUEEN CONCH CLOSED TO FISHING
JUNE 1, 2020, UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 2020
AS PER V.I. CODE TITLE 12, CHAPTER 9A, SECTIONS 304 and 316**

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources announces to the public that the annual queen conch seasonal closure commences on **June 1, 2020**, for both the St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John Districts, as established by regulation effective July 1, 2008.

Harvesting of queen conch is prohibited from June 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020. Possession of queen conch is prohibited from June 15, 2020, through October 31, 2020.

Seasonal harvest closures conserve fished populations and help sustain and improve the fisheries of the Virgin Islands. The conch season will reopen on **November 1, 2020**, and will remain open until midnight, **May 31, 2021**, or until the 50,000 lb. quota per district is reached, whichever comes first.

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol also advises the public that harvesting and/or possession of Mutton and Lane Snapper are prohibited Territory-wide from **April 1 to June 30, 2020**.

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 queen conch or other fishing 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 774-3320 in St. Thomas.