

Seasonal Closures

April 1 - June 30

Snappers: Lane & Mutton

April 1 - September 30

West Indian Top Snail
(Whelks)

June 1 - October 31

Queen Conch

Recreational Bag/Size Limits

Queen Conch: Minimum size limit is either 9 inches in length from the tip of the spire to the distal end of the shell, or 3/8 inch lip width (thickness) at its widest point. Harvest limited to 6 conch per day per recreational fisher; not to exceed 24 conch per boat per day.

Whelks (West Indian Top Snail): Minimum size of shell must be greater than 2 7/16 inches in diameter.

Prohibited Harvest

Parrotfish: Midnight, Blue, Rainbow

Groupers: Goliath, Nassau

See Recreational Fishing Handbook for further guidance.

CIGUATERA

Ciguatera fish poisoning (CFP) is an illness caused by consuming fish that have eaten a marine toxin produced by the alga *Gambierdiscus toxicus*. The toxin tends to accumulate in larger predatory fish such as barracuda, king mackerel, horse-eye jack, amber jack, cubera snapper, dog snapper, and some large groupers.

However, there is still a risk that any fish may cause CFP. Local commercial fishers are familiar with high risk and questionable species and do not sell them. If you are buying fish and are concerned about a species, ask the fisher. There is currently no way to detect if a fish has ciguatera prior to eating it.

Cooking the fish does not destroy the toxin. Symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, numbness, muscle pain, and reversal of hot and cold sensations. Symptoms may begin 6 to 24 hours after consuming a contaminated fish and may last for days to weeks. If you suspect you have ciguatera, go to the hospital.

For more information: Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ciguatera/>

Contact Us

Department of Planning and
Natural Resources

Division of Fish and Wildlife

St. Thomas

6291 Estate Nazareth
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(340) 775-6762

St. Croix

45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted
St. Croix, VI 00840
(340) 773-1082



Department of Planning
& Natural Resources
Division of Fish & Wildlife

St. Thomas A Shoreline Fishing Guide

