



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4611 Tutu Park Mall
Suite 300, 2nd Floor
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(340) 774-3320

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



Office of the Commissioner

Contact: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator
jamal.nielsen@dpnr.vi.gov

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QUEEN CONCH HARVEST SEASON OPENS NOVEMBER 1, 2025

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the seasonal closure for harvesting Queen Conch (*Aliger gigas*) will end at midnight on Friday, October 31, 2025. Beginning **November 1, 2025**, harvesting will be permitted through **Monday, June 1, 2026**, in accordance with federal and territorial regulations (50 CFR 622.491; V.I.C. Title 12, Chapter 9A §316; VI.R.R. Title 12, Chapter 9A §316-1).

These seasonal restrictions protect Queen Conch populations during critical reproductive periods, ensuring sustainable fisheries and preserving Virgin Islands marine resources for future generations.

Harvesting Requirements

- A valid recreational or commercial fishing license is required.
- Harvest is allowed in St. Croix federal waters and all territorial waters.
- Each conch must:
 - Have a shell length of at least 9 inches (from spire tip to distal end), or
 - A lip thickness of 3/8 inch,
 - Be landed intact and whole in its shell.

Bag and Vessel Limits

- Recreational:
 - Territorial waters: 6 conch per person/day, max 24 per vessel/day.
 - Federal waters: 3 conch per person/day, max 12 per vessel/day.
- Commercial:
 - Up to 200 conch per day in territorial and St. Croix federal waters.

Prohibited Areas

Harvesting is strictly prohibited within:

- St. Thomas East End Reserves (STEER)
- St. Croix East End Marine Park (STXEEMP)

Licenses & More Information

Recreational licenses can be purchased at <https://www.gooutdoorsusvi.com/>.

"We ask for everyone's cooperation to protect Virgin Islands resources for the present and future benefit of the people of the Virgin Islands," urged Commissioner Oriol.

For questions, contact:

- Division of Fish & Wildlife: DFWelectronic@usvi.onmicrosoft.com | 340-773-1082 (STX) | 340-775-6762 (STT)
- Division of Environmental Enforcement: 340-773-5774 (St. Croix) | 340-774-3320 (St. Thomas)