

PROHIBITED FISHING METHODS

In the BVI it is illegal to use or carry onboard a fishing vessel any spear gun, self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) diving equipment, explosive, poison or other noxious substances for fishing or harvesting of marine products in the fishery waters.

Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. There is a maximum fine of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15 000.00)** for this violation.

WHAT IS PLEASURE FISHING?

Pleasure fishing is when one or more persons on a vessel keep the fish caught for personal consumption. Pleasure fishermen typically utilize rods and hand-lines for amateur angling.

(For personal consumption, there is a maximum retention of 30 lbs of fish per boat)

WHAT IS SPORT FISHING?

Sport fishing is when one or more persons on a vessel, complete with skipper, fish on a catch-and-release basis. Big game fish such as Marlin* and Sail fish are typically the focus of Sport fishing.

**The release of caught Marlin is strongly encouraged*

POINTS TO NOTE:

- For recreational fishing, Local and Foreign vessels are required to have a Certificate of Registration and Fishery Licence to be used in the BVI.
- Fishing Licenses are processed by the Conservation and Fisheries Department in Road Town, Tortola. Contact 1-284-468-2700.
- A temporary pleasure fishing licence, which is valid for one month, may be obtained for a fee of (approx.) \$45.00.
- Application forms may be requested and returned via fax (**1-284-468-2781**) or email (**cfid@gov.vg**) and must be accompanied by a copy of a valid photo ID (passport or driver's license).

Conservation and Fisheries Department
Government of the British Virgin Islands
P.O. Box 3323, Road Town, Tortola,
British Virgin Islands

Tel: (284) 468-2700
Fax: (284) 468-2781
Email: cfd@gov.vg



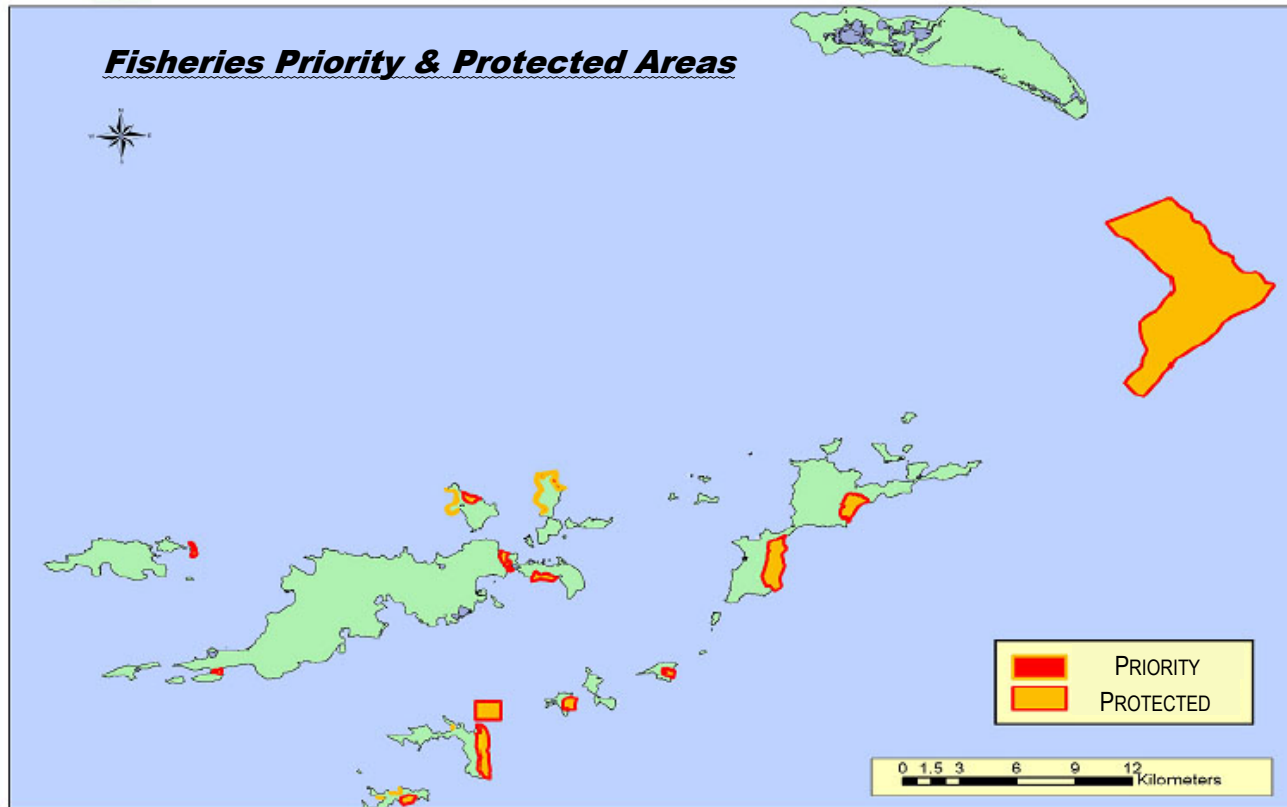
GUIDE TO RECREATIONAL FISHING



PLEASURE AND SPORT

B.V.I. FISHING

The British Virgin Islands is located south east of Puerto Rico. Over 40 islands, rocks and cays stretch for 182 square kilometers that boasts to be "Natures Little Secret". Within our pristine waters are close to 300 different marine fish species which makes **Recreational Fishing** a joy.



Fisheries Protected

- Horse Shoe Reef, Anegada
- Beef Island Channel
- Hans Creek, Beef Island
- The Sound, Ginger Island
- Big Reef, Peter Island
- Green Cay
- North Bay, Guana
- Frenchman's Cay
- Taylor Bay, Virgin Gorda
- South Sound, Virgin Gorda
- The Sound, Salt Island
- Money Bay, Norman Island
- Santa Monica Rock
- Dead Chest

Fisheries Priority

- Great Harbour, Peter Island
- The Bight, Norman Island
- Frenchman's Cay
- Benures Bay, Norman Island
- West Guana Island
- Great Camanoe

Fisheries Protected Areas

(or *Marine Protected Areas*) are reserves which serve to protect and preserve the breeding grounds and habitats (and allow for the regeneration) of aquatic life.

ALL human activity (save snorkeling) is prohibited in these areas. This includes (but is not limited to) the mooring of boats, diving, building construction and fishing.

Fisheries Priority Areas are designated locations set aside for registered and licensed vessels and persons to engage in fishing. Snorkeling, diving and other recreational activities are prohibited. Anchorage is also prohibited except during times of storms and hurricanes. During such instances the Chief Conservation and Fisheries Officer should be immediately notified.

Closed Seasons



Margate

Jan. 1 - Mar. 31



Red Hind

Jan. 1 - Mar. 31



Nassau Grouper

Mar. 1 - May 31



Lobster

Jul 31 - Oct 31



Conch Whelk

Aug 15 - Oct 31



Hawksbill Turtle

Apr. 1 - Nov. 30



Green Turtle

Moratoriums (NO TAKE)

There are moratoriums on:

Leatherback Turtles



Jew Fish



Loggerhead Turtles