

Closed Seasons for Marine Animals

(Strombus Gigas) Leaf Conch

1st December - 31st May



(Epinephelus Striatus) Nassau Grouper

30th November - 31st January



(Epinephelus guttatus) Red Hind

1st January - 31st March



Marine Turtles

1st April - 30th November



Conclusion

Any one caught harvesting or practicing any of the methods mentioned on the previous page will be **PROSECUTED** in court at the maximum penalty.

Any one seen harvesting or practicing these **ILLEGAL** methods in the British Virgin Islands waters, should contact the Conservation and Fisheries Department immediately.



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VHF Channel 16

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Fishing Laws in the

British Virgin Islands

prepared by the
Conservation and Fisheries Department
Ministry of Natural Resources & Labour
Government of the British Virgin Islands



For further information on
Laws Regarding Fishing in the BVI,
visit the
Conservation & Fisheries Department
in the Quatisky Building
next to the Market Place
in Road Town.

In the

British Virgin Islands

it is **ILLEGAL** to:

- ⇒ Haul another person's fish traps/pots or fishing gear without permission from the owner.
- ⇒ Use **CAST NETS** with a mesh size of less than 3/16 inch.
- ⇒ Use a **BEACH SEINE** with a mesh size of less than 1.5 inches.
- ⇒ Use a **FLYING FISH NET** with a mesh size of less than 3/4 inch.
- ⇒ Use any fish trap/pot with a mesh size of less than 2 inches when measured across the narrow part.
- ⇒ Take any **LOBSTER** less than one pound in weight or which has a carapace or head of less than 3 inches. Neither should lobsters bearing eggs be harvested. Lobsters should immediately be returned to the sea. Lobsters should not be harvested with spear guns or hooks.
- ⇒ Harvest **CONCH** without a flared lip. Any conch without a flared lip is considered a juvenile. All harvested conch should be landed in the shell.

⇒ Use a fish trap or seine net to catch Currimole fish.

⇒ Use any **FISH TRAP/POT**, which does not have a biodegradable panel.

⇒ Use **SCUBA GEAR** to take any marine products (whether conch, fish, shells, lobster, coral, etc.)

⇒ Use **SPEAR GUNS** to harvest any marine products.

⇒ Harvest any type of **TURTLE** during the months of April to November.

⇒ Fish in British Virgin Islands waters without a valid fishing license or permit.

⇒ Fish in any Marine Protected Area.

Valid Fishing Licenses can be obtained from the

Ministry of Natural Resources

&

Labour.

Tel 284-468-3701 ext. 2147

Marine

Protected Areas

- ⇒ Horse Shoe Reef, Anegada
- ⇒ Hans Creek, Beef Island
- ⇒ South Sound, Taylor's Bay to Copper Mine, Virgin Gorda
- ⇒ The Sound, Salt Island
- ⇒ The Sound & Wedges Bay, Ginger Island
- ⇒ Big Reef, Peter Island
- ⇒ Green Cay, Jost Van Dyke
- ⇒ Money Bay, Santa Monica, Rock South West, and Norman Island
- ⇒ Dead Chest
- ⇒ Guana Island