

Closed Seasons for Marine Animals:



(*Strombus gigas*)
Queen Conch
15th August – 31st October



(*Cittarium pica*)
Whelk
15th August – 31st October



(*Panulirus argus*)
Lobster
1st July – 31st October



(*Epineplelus guttatus*)
Red Hind
1st January – 31st March



(*Haemulon album*)
Margate
1st January – 31st March



Marine Turtles
1st April – 30th November



(*Epineplelus straiatus*)
Nassau Grouper
1st March – 31st May



Additional Information

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



For further information visit:

The Conservation & Fisheries Department
Quatisky Building
(next to the Market Place)
Road Town, Tortola
British Virgin Islands

Tel: 1-284-494-5681
1-284-494-3429

Fax: 1-284-494-2670

E-mail: def@bvidef.org

VHF Channel 16

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to the Public”*

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

In the British Virgin Islands it is **ILLEGAL** to:

- Haul, remove or empty 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 1½ inches.
- Use a **FLYING FISH NET** with a mesh size of less than ¾ 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 ½ 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, purchase or sell **any** type of **TURTLE** during the months of April to November. Neither should any turtle nest or turtle that is nesting be interfered with.
- 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

Marine Protected Areas are areas which protect and sustain breeding grounds and habitat of aquatic life.

The Marine Protected Areas of the BVI include:

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