

What is Sport Fishing?

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

(There is a maximum retention of 30 lbs of fish per boat)

**Emphasis is placed on the release of caught*

Marlin



POINTS TO NOTE:

- ✍ For recreational fishing, Local and Foreign vessels are required to have a Certificate of Registration and Fishery License to be used in the BVI.
- ✍ Fishing Licensing is done by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour in Road Town, Tortola.
- ✍ A temporary pleasure fishing license, which is valid for one month, may be obtained for a fee of \$35.00. Application forms may be requested and returned via fax (1-284-494-4283) and must be accompanied by a copy of a valid photo ID (passport or

CONSERVATION & FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Government of the Virgin Islands
P. O. Box 3323, Road Town, Tortola,
(British) Virgin Islands

Tel: (284) 494-3701 EXT. 5551/5552

Direct: (284) 494-5681/3429

Fax: (284) 494-2670

Email: cfid@bvirginislands.gov



A GUIDE TO RECREATIONAL FISHING



PLEASURE AND SPORT

B.V.I. Fishing

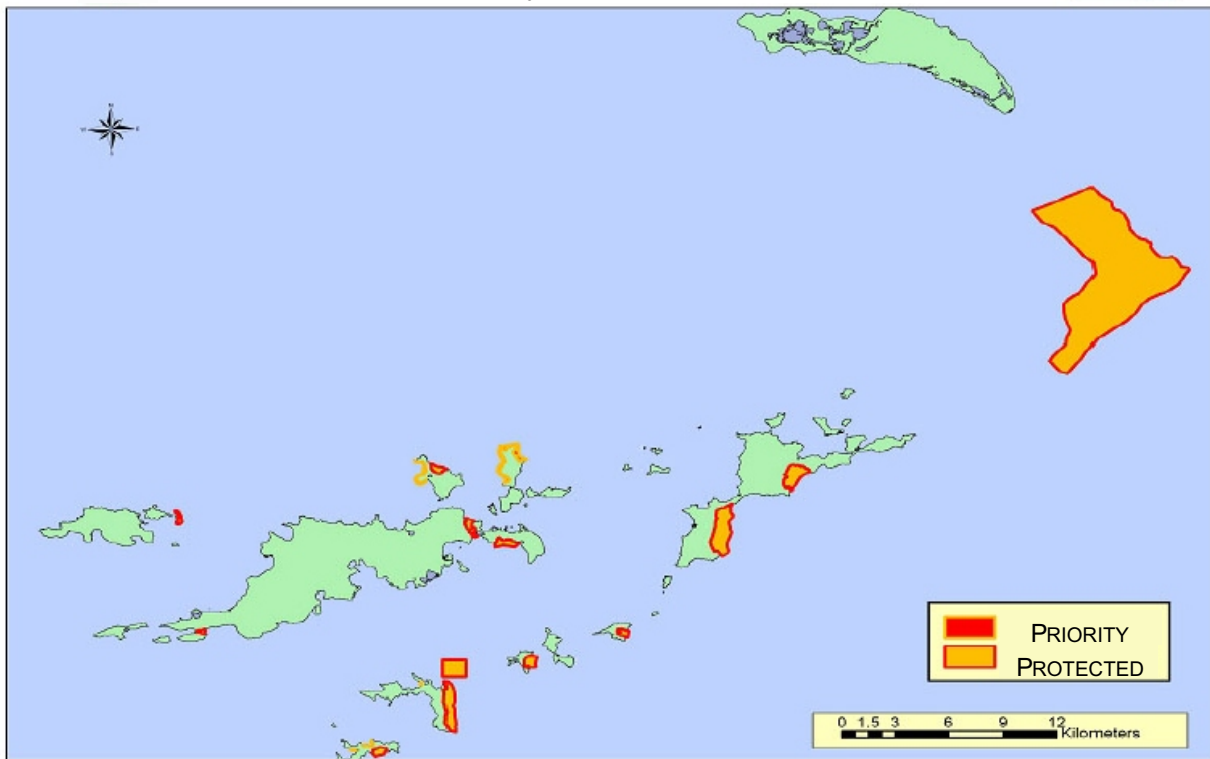
The British Virgin Islands is located south east of Puerto Rico. Over 40 islands, rocks and cays stretch for 182 square kilometers that boasts to be “Natures Little Secret”. Within our pristine waters are close to 300 different marine fish species which makes Recreational Fishing a joy.

In the B.V.I., Recreational fishing may be divided into Pleasure Fishing and Sport Fishing





Fisheries Priority & Protected Areas -BVI



Fisheries Protected Areas:

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

Fisheries Priority Areas:

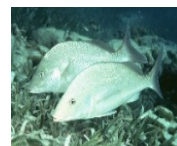
- Great Harbour, Peter Island
- The Bight, Norman Island
- Frenchman's Cay
- Benures Bay, Norman Island
- West Guana Island
- Great Camanoe

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



Marate
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

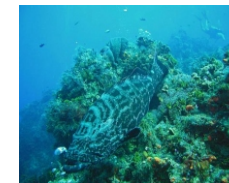


Green Turtle

Moratoriums

There are moratoriums on:

Jew Fish



Leatherback Turtles

Loggerhead Turtles



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 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.

