



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## Annual Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation Seasonal Area Closure in Federal Waters off St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands Begins on March 1, 2016, at 12:01 a.m., Local Time

### Annual Seasonal Area Closure

NOAA Fisheries reminds the public that commercial and recreational fishing is prohibited in federal waters of the mutton snapper spawning aggregation area in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (see Figure 1) from 12:01 a.m., local time, March 1 through June 30, 2016.

U.S. Caribbean federal waters off the U.S. Virgin Islands extend from the three nautical mile seaward boundary of the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands out to 200 nautical miles offshore.

The area closure is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates:

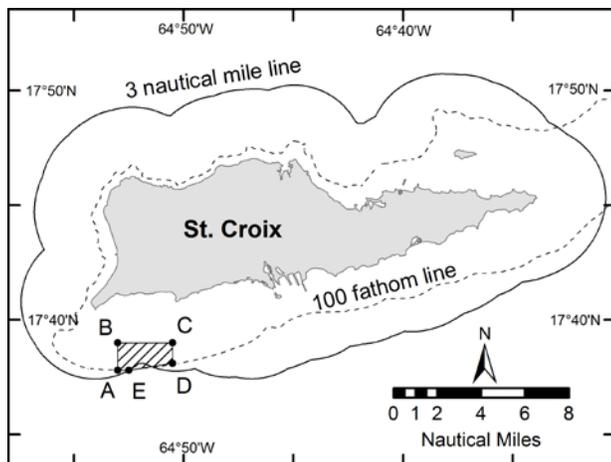
- A 17°37.8' N      64°53.0' W
- B 17°39.0' N      64°53.0' W
- C 17°39.0' N      64°50.5' W
- D 17°38.1' N      64°50.5' W
- E 17°37.8' N      64°52.5' W
- A 17°37.8' N      64°53.0' W

### Year-Round Fishing Prohibitions in the Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation Area, U.S. Virgin Islands

Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited within federal waters of the mutton snapper spawning aggregation area year-round.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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**Figure 1.** Map showing the mutton snapper spawning aggregation area off St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.