

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

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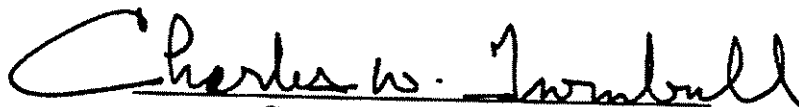
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

TITLE 12 V.I.R.R.

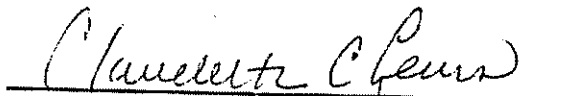
APPROVED

5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF July, 2006

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CHARLES W. TURNBULL  
GOVERNOR



DEAN C. PLASKETT, ESQ.  
FBI COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Copy below is hereby certified to be a true and correct copy of Rules and Regulations adopted pursuant to authority granted in 12 V.I.C. Section 304, by:

DEAN C. PLASKETT, ESQ.  
COMMISSIONER

The copy below amends 12 V.I.R.R. Chapter 9A

# U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

## Chapter 9A Commercial Fishing.

### *Subchapter 316. Closed Seasons*

316-14. Possession of certain species of fish prohibited

### *Subchapter 321. Fishing gear, regulations*

321-1 Prohibited use of certain nets, penalties

§ 316-14 The possession of the following species of fish is prohibited during the time periods set forth below:

(a) The possession of red grouper, tiger grouper, yellowedge grouper, black grouper, and yellowfin grouper is prohibited from February 1st through April 30th of each year in the territory.

(b) The possession of black, blackfin, vermillion and silk snapper is prohibited from October 1st to December 31st of each year in St. Thomas/St. John District.

(c) The possession of mutton snapper is prohibited from April 1st to June 30th of each year in the territory.

(d) The possession of lane snapper is prohibited from April 1st to June 30th of each year in the territory.

(e) The possession of Nassau grouper is prohibited year round in the territory until the CFMC has determined that it has recovered.

(f) The filleting of fish in Federal waters of the U.S. Caribbean is prohibited and it is required that fish captured or possessed in territorial waters be landed with heads and fins intact.

(g) Restrict tarpon and bonefish fishing to catch and release using hook and line only. No take of tarpon or bonefish is allowed.

§ 321-1 The use of all gill and trammel nets, single or multiple wall entanglement nets, are prohibited in the territory, with the exception of single-wall surface gillnets for the baitfish ballyhoo (Family Hemiramphidae), gar (Family Belonidae) and flyingfish (Family Exocoetidae). Surface gillnets must be tended at all time, may not be more that 1,800 ft in length, as measured by the float line, and may not be used within 20 ft from the bottom. Mesh size may not be smaller than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch square or 1.5 inch stretch. Only one 1,800-ft bait net is permitted per boat. Restricted gill and trammel nets may not be possessed onboard vessels in territorial waters. The penalties for gill and trammel net violations are \$1000 fine and confiscation of vessel and equipment.