



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Seasonal Prohibition on Fishing for or Possession of Queen Conch in Federal Waters off St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, Begins on June 1, 2016, at 12:01 a.m. Local Time

NOAA Fisheries reminds the public of the upcoming seasonal prohibition on fishing for, or possession on board a fishing vessel of, queen conch (*Strombus gigas*). This annually recurring prohibition will take effect at 12:01 a.m. local time on June 1, 2016, and continue through October 31, 2016. The closure applies in federal waters east of 64°34' W longitude, including that portion of the Lang Bank area falling within those federal waters (see map below). The queen conch fishing season is scheduled to reopen at 12:01 am, local time, on November 1, 2016.

The only area in U.S. Caribbean federal waters where fishing for queen conch is allowed during the open season is in those waters east of 64°34' W

longitude. Federal waters surrounding the remainder of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and around Puerto Rico, remain closed year-round to all fishing for queen conch. U.S. Caribbean federal waters consist of those waters extending from the three-nautical mile seaward boundary of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the nine-nautical mile seaward boundary of Puerto Rico, out to 200 nautical miles offshore.

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*.

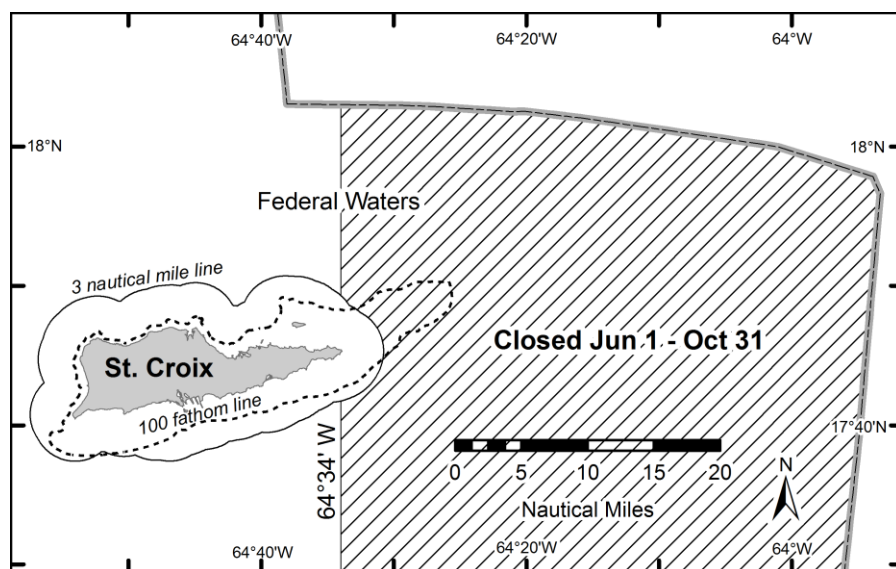


Figure 1. Map showing the queen conch seasonal closure area in federal waters east of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.