



Caribbean Fishery Bulletin
Bringing Fishing News to You

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Seasonal Closure of Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation Area in U.S. Caribbean Federal Waters off St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHEN:

Annual Seasonal Area Closure

NOAA Fisheries reminds fishermen and the public of the upcoming seasonal closure on fishing for any fish species in federal waters of the mutton snapper spawning aggregation area in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (Figure 1).

- This closure begins at 12:01 a.m., local time, on **March 1, 2017**, and extends through **June 30, 2017**.

Year-Round Fishing Prohibitions

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

WHY THIS CLOSURE IS HAPPENING:

This seasonal area closure protects mutton snapper when they are spawning (reproducing) and therefore more vulnerable to fishing pressure. The closure also protects the habitat that supports those aggregations.

The Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation Area is located off southwest St. Croix and bounded by lines connecting 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

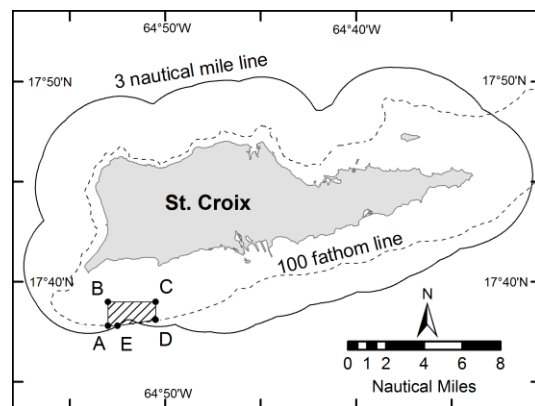


Figure 1. Map showing the mutton snapper spawning aggregation area (shaded) off St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

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