



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Coastal Zone Management Program

St. Croix East End Marine Park

No. 5005 Estate Great Pond

Christiansted, Virgin Islands 00820

The St. Croix East End Marine Park (STXEEMP), the Territory's first multiple-use marine park was established in 2003 after extensive collaboration between government agencies and the public through Act No. 6572. Rules and regulations for the STXEEMP were promulgated by Governor John P. deJongh in September of 2007.

The STXEEMP incorporates portions of four Areas of Particular Concern, encompasses an area of approximately 60 square miles with 17 miles of shoreline and hosts a variety of marine habitats and organisms. The mission of the STXEEMP is to manage these natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. The STXEEMP is managed by the Department of Planning & Natural Resources' Division of Coastal Zone Management.

Summary of St. Croix East End Marine Park (Marine Park) Rules and Regulations  
(12 V.I.C. Section 98)

The following activities are PROHIBITED throughout the Marine Park

- **Removal of, injury to or possession of living or dead coral or live rock (without a permit)** [Section 98-4(a)(1)]
- **Alteration of or construction on the seabed, except as a result of proper anchoring, allowed fishing activities, authorized or permitted government or scientific activities** [Section 98-4(a)(2)]
- **Discharge or deposit of certain materials brought into the Marine Park from outside, except as permitted** [Section 98-4(a)(3)]
- **Operating a vessel in a way that would injure or cause prop scarring to coral, sea grass, or any other immobile object attached to the seabed; improperly mooring vessels; operating a vessel in a manner which creates a wake within 100 feet of divers down flags, within 100 feet of stationary vessels, in a manner to harass or injure birds, turtles or marine life** [Section 98-4(a)(4)]
- **Diving without a flag** [Section 98-4(a)(5)]
- **Introducing or releasing of exotic species** [Section 98-4(a)(6)]
- **Damage or removal of markers, signs or other property** [Section 98-4(a)(7)]

- **Movement of, removal of or possession of Marine Park's historical or cultural resources** [Section 98-4(a)(8)]
- **Taking or possession of marine life species in any manner inconsistent with the Marine Park Rules and Regulations** [Section 98-4(a)(9)]
- **Sale of consumer item(s) or conduct of commercial activity, except as authorized** [Section 98-4(a)(10)]
- **Interference with law enforcement** [Section 98-4(a)(11)]
- **Anchoring vessels in hard bottom or coral communities** [Section 98-4(a)(12)]

The following activities are ALLOWED throughout the Marine Park

- **Persons may conduct any authorized permitted activity as long as it is done in accordance with the Marine Park Rules and Regulations** [Section 98-4(b)]
- **Persons may conduct authorized activities by a valid government lease, permit, license, approval or other authorization issued before or after the effective date of the Marine Park Rules and Regulations as long as the holder complies with the Marine Park Rules and Regulations and/or the terms of the CZM Committee's permit conditions** [Section 98-4(c), Section 98-4(d)]
- **Activities conducted by Environmental Enforcement Officers while performing enforcement duties** [Section 98-4(e)]
- **Anchoring on sand** [Section 98-4(12)]

The following activities are PROHIBITED within the No-Take Zone

- **Operating a vessel more than 150 feet in length, excepting public vessel for national defense, law enforcement or emergency response** [Section 98-5(b)]
- **Removing, taking, damaging, breaking, cutting, spearing or injuring any marine resource by hand or by gear** [Section 98-5(b)(1)]
- **All recreational and commercial fishing.** All fishing gear must be stowed and not readily available for immediate use. (Lawful vessels may have legally harvested fish or catch aboard) [Section 98-5(b)(2)]
- **The removal/injury of any living or nonliving marine resource** [Section 98-5(b)(3)]
- **Operating personal watercrafts, airboats, or water skiing** [Section 98-5(b)(4)]

- Shoreline recreational take line fishing [Section 98-5(d)(1)]
- Catch and release guide fishing, cast net bait fishing are allowed with a permit [Section 98-5(d)(2)]

- **Gill nets that exceed 8 feet in depth and a span of 600 feet.** [Section 98- 5(d)(2)]
- **Traditional fishing methods.** [Section 98-5(d)(2)]

*“Traditional fishing” means those commercial or recreational fishing activities that were customarily conducted within the Park prior to its designation as a protected area in the Management Plan for the Park. These fishing activities include, but are not limited to, the use of fish traps, seine nets, gill nets, trammel nets, spear fishing, hand collection or gigs for conch, lobster, octopus and whelk (with or without the use of scuba gear), bottom long line, etc.*

- **Using gill or trammel nets** [Section 98-5(c)(2)(D)]

- Any person wishing to perform commercial, scientific or other activity within the Marine Park (excluding recreational shoreline fishing) shall apply for a permit. [Section 98-7(a)]
- No person or vessel may utilize moorings within the Marine Park without obtaining a mooring permit from the Marine Park Office. [Section 98-7(b)]
- No permits or authorizations shall be given for leases, development or production of minerals or hydrocarbons; the disposal of dredged material or the discharge of medical or hazardous waste, discharge of solid waste, burning or stockpiling of debris or the discharge or disposal of untreated or primary treated sewage [Section 98-4(f)]

- The Marine Park Office, its agents or DPNR Enforcement Officers may issue verbal or written orders to any person undertaking activities in violation of the Marine Park Rules and Regulations to cease and desist with such actions. These activities may include undertaking or threatening to undertake any activity prohibited in the Rules and Regulations; undertaking or threatening to undertake any activity that may require a permit without first securing a permit; any activity inconsistent with or in violation of any provision of a Marine Park permit. [Section 98-9(a)]
- Enforcement Officers may issue conservation tickets for any violation of the Marine Park Rules and Regulations that they observe, pursuant to the authority vested in them under Title 12, Chapter 99a of the Virgin Islands Code. [Section 98-9(h)]

## East End Marine Park Management Zones



**RECREATION ZONE** *Areas for snorkeling, diving with a flag, boating, personal watercraft, SUP/kayak use & shoreline recreational take line fishing.* Inquire about Marine Park permits for catch-and-release guide fishing & cast-net bait fishing. Seasonal/size restrictions apply. **All other traditional fishing is prohibited.**

**NO TAKE ZONE** *Protects near-shore environments & encompasses large, contiguous, diverse habitats.*  
**All fishing, extraction & use of personal watercrafts is prohibited.** Diving with a flag, snorkeling, SUP/kayak and transit in a boat are all permitted. Fishing gear must be stowed.

**SEA TURTLE PRESERVE** *Protects nesting sea turtles.* The Endangered Species Act prohibits harassment, take, or alteration of behavior of sea turtles. Please keep 50 yards away from turtles.

**OPEN ZONE** Open to activities except for those that could injure coral or live rock or alter the seabed. VI fishing permits, size and seasonal restrictions apply.