




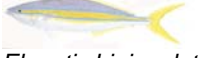





GAMEFISH	SEASON	LOCATION	BAIT/ LURES
 <i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i> YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER*	All year	Shallow and deep reef areas	Fry
 <i>Sphyraena barracuda</i> BARRACUDA	All year	All reef areas	Spoons, small lures
 <i>Caranx crysos</i> HARDNOSE (Blue runner)	April-September	Most inshore areas and around baitfish schools and fish aggregating devices (FADs)	Blue fry, small feathers
 <i>Caranx ruber</i> BAR JACK	All year	Most inshore areas and around schools of bait fish	Blue fry, scuttle (squid), feathers
 <i>Caranx hippos</i> CREVALLE JACK	All year	100 fathom drop offs, most inshore areas and around schools of bait	Fry, scuttle (squid)
 <i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i> RAINBOW RUNNER	April - September	North and South drops of STT, STJ and STX, around FADs	Fry, scuttle (squid), feathers
 <i>Scomberomorus regalis</i> CERO	All year	Between islands and from the shoreline to the shelf edge in STX	Ballyhoo, fry, lures, feathers
 <i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i> BONITO (little tunny)	All year with a peak season between Jan - May	Most inshore areas and drop offs around schools of baitfish	Blue fry, feathers
 <i>Scomberomorus cavalla</i> KINGFISH	All year with a peak season between February – May	Most mid-shelf areas and dropoffs	Ballyhoo, fry, skirts

* Within Federal waters (3 to 200 nautical miles offshore) the size limit is a total length of 12 inches

ETHICAL ANGLING

Help fish stocks increase through catch and release.

Limit your take, use what you take, don't waste it.

Observe regulations and report violations to the Division of Environmental Enforcement at (340) 773 – 5774 in St. Croix or (340) 774-3320 in St. Thomas.

Bring all garbage in, don't pollute the sea.

Captain your boat, practice safety afloat.

Show courtesy and respect, others' rights don't neglect.

Share what you know to help your sport grow.

For more information on Recreational Sportfishing contact:
DPNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife
www.vifishandwildlife.com



Midwater Game Fish RECREATIONAL FISHING IN THE U.S VIRGIN ISLANDS



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND
NATURAL RESOURCES



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Frederiksted
St. Croix, V.I. 00840
(340) 772-1955

6291 Estate Nazareth
St. Thomas, V.I. 00802
(340) 775-6762

INSHORE SPORTFISHING

Near shore game fishing in the U.S. Virgin Islands has been the mainstay of marine recreational fishing for both local residents and visitors. Inshore recreational game fishing is an island tradition. Most is done from small family-owned boats catching species such as Cero mackerel, barracuda and kingfish.

FISHING WITH SEABIRDS

One important aspect of mid-water game fishing is to be able to pinpoint hot spots. Seabirds are one of the best natural indicators of these spots. Seabird's range of visibility is extensive and may lead boats to baitfish being brought to the surface by predators. Protect them by discouraging them from taking baited lines and by avoid small islands and cays where they nest and rear their young since they are easily disturbed by loud noises and may abandon their nests and hatchlings.

RESERVE AND CLOSURE SITES

Closed areas aid in the protection and reproduction of species, increasing population size. Year-round area closures allow fish to grow to maturity and reproduce while seasonal area closures that protect spawning aggregations also help ensure successful reproduction. Adult fish protected by year round area closures will eventually migrate to other areas repopulating these areas. Protecting at least one area may lead to continued and improved fishing in many others.

There are areas present within the U.S. Virgin Islands that are either closed to fishing year-round or during certain months. Please contact DPNR's Division of Environmental Enforcement at (340) 773-5774 or (340) 774-3320 for a copy of the rules and regulations governing these areas or refer to DPNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife's website (vifishandwildlife.com). Fishing regulations for the East End Marine Park can also be found at the office of the Division of Coastal Zone Management at (340) 773-1082.

BYCATCH

Bycatch is the portion of a catch, or harvest, which consists of animals taken incidentally during fishing operations. These can include birds, fish, marine mammals and turtles, many of which are endangered. Please try to release these species alive.

LOCATION OF MARINE REGULATED AREAS AND SEASONAL CLOSED AREAS

