

Importance of Marine Reserves

The areas within STEER have been protected for a variety of reasons, all of which will benefit your use and enjoyment of our marine natural resources. These marine reserves will:

1

Contribute to commercial and recreational fishery resources by protecting a portion of the spawning stock from exploitation

Preserve important coral reef, mangrove, and seagrass habitats for larval, juvenile, and adult fish and invertebrates such as lobster and conch

2

3

Provide coastal and marine viewing and recreation areas for the general public, snorkel and SCUBA divers, school groups and scientists

The Lionfish invasion is perhaps the most significant environmental crisis in the USVI. There is potential for the complete loss of our fishery and our coral reef systems. In the Bahamas, lionfish were responsible for the loss of 85% of the juvenile fish on a reef in 5 weeks!

**To report Lionfish sightings:
(340) 201-2341**



CONTACTS

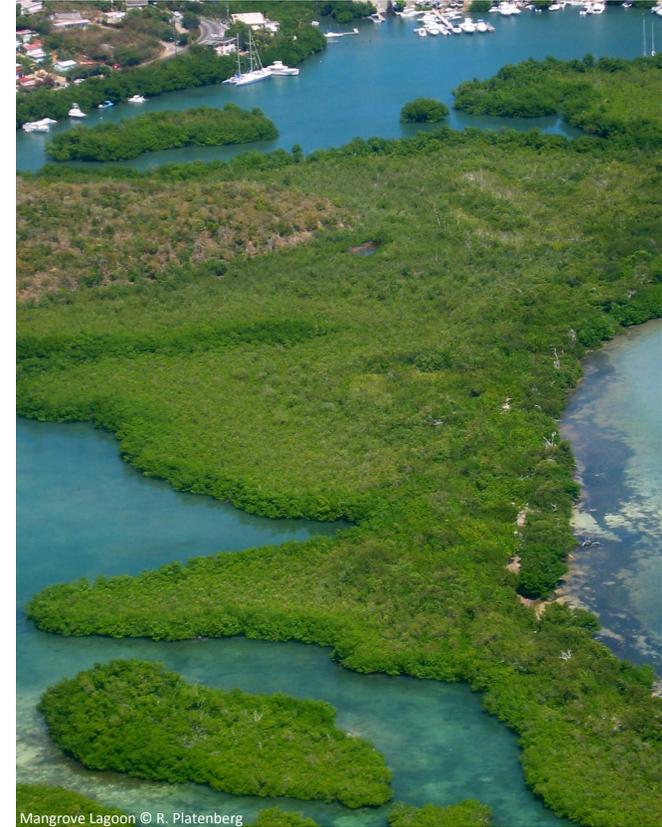
- **General information and inquiries:**
The Nature Conservancy
(340) 518-5575 OR
UVI Marine Advisory Service
(340) 693-1392
- **Enforcement, Violations:**
Division of Environmental Enforcement (340) 774-3320
- **Fish & Wildlife issues:**
Division of Fish & Wildlife (340)775-6762
- **Development questions:**
Coastal Zone Management
(340) 774-3320



Made by Melanie L. Feltmate

STEER

St. Thomas East End Reserves Activities Guide



Mangrove Lagoon © R. Platenberg

The St. Thomas East End Reserves (STEER) is a territorial marine protected area which encompasses several existing protected areas (Cas Cay / Mangrove Lagoon, St James, and Compass Point Marine Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries) into one comprehensive management unit. This pamphlet serves as a guide to the zones in STEER and the allowed activities within each zone.

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ACTIVITIES GUIDE

Preservation: Area where motorized watercraft, extraction of any resource, and anchoring is prohibited. Area designed for ecological sensitivity compatible with non-motorized craft and passive recreational activities

Low-Impact: Area where anchoring is allowed with a permit for a maximum of seven [7] days. Extraction of resources is prohibited as is tying to mangroves

General Use: Area where surface waters are kept clear for recreational and transit uses. Anchoring and extraction of resources are prohibited

Storm Use: Area where hurricane moorings are located and temporary anchorages are allowed only during major storm events as this zone is kept in Preservation otherwise

Activity	General Use	Low-Impact Use	Preservation	Emergency Anchor
Motorized watersports	✓	✓	✗	✗
Non-motorized watersports	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baitfishing	Permit ¹	Permit ¹	✗	✗
Handline fishing	Permit ¹	Permit ¹	✗	✗
Anchoring	✓	✓	✗	✓
Harvesting (whelk, conch, lobster)	✗	✗	✗	✗
Scientific research	Permit ²	Permit ²	Permit ²	Permit ²
Picnicking	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hunting	✗	✗	✗	✗
Spearfishing	✗	✗	✗	✗
Transit	✓	✗	✗	✗
Camping	✗	✗	✗	✗

1 - Contact Division of Environmental Enforcement: (340) 774-3320; 2 - Contact Division of Fish and Wildlife: (340) 775-6762



Non-motorized recreation is enjoyed in all zones, and scientific research can be conducted in all zones, with a permit



The Preservation Zone was created to help protect endangered species such as hawksbill turtles & staghorn coral, and their critical habitats

