What is Sport Fishing?

Sport fishing is when one or more persons on a vessel, complete with skipper, fish either on a catch-and-release basis or for personal consumption. Big game fish such as Marlin* and Sail fish are typically the focus of Sport fishing.

(There is a maximum retention of 30 lbs of fish per boat)

*Emphasis is placed on the release of caught Marlin

A GUIDE TO RECREATIONAL FISHING

For recreational fishing, Local and Foreign vessels are required to have a Certificate of Registration and Fishery License to be used in the BVI.

Fishing Licensing is done by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour in Road Town, Tortola.

A temporary pleasure fishing license, which is valid for one month, may be obtained for a fee of $45.00.

CONSERVATION & FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
Government of the Virgin Islands
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B.V.I. Fishing

The British Virgin Islands is located south east of Puerto Rico. Over 40 islands, rocks and cays stretch for 182 square kilometers that boasts to be "Natures Little Secret". Within our pristine waters are close to 300 different marine fish species which makes Recreational Fishing a joy.

In the B.V.I., Recreational fishing may be divided into Pleasure Fishing and Sport Fishing.
Fisheries Priority & Protected Areas - BVI

Fisheries Protected Areas are reserves which serve to protect and preserve the breeding grounds and habitats (and allow for the regeneration) of aquatic life. ALL human activity (save snorkeling) is prohibited in these areas. This includes (but is not limited to) the mooring of boats, diving, building construction and fishing.

Fisheries Priority Areas are designated locations set aside for registered and licensed vessels and persons to engage in fishing, snorkeling, diving and other recreational activities. Anchorage is also prohibited except during times of storms and hurricanes. During such instances the Chief Conservation and Fisheries Officer should be immediately notified.

Moratoriums

There are moratoriums on:

- Jew Fish
- Leatherback Turtles
- Loggerhead Turtles

Closed Seasons

- Maroate: Jan. 1 - Mar. 31
- Red Hind: Jan. 1 - Mar. 31
- Nassau Grouper: Mar. 1 - May 31
- Lobster: Jul. 31 - Oct. 31
- Conch & Whelk: Aug. 15 - Oct. 31
- Hawksbill Turtle: Apr. 1 - Nov. 30
- Green Turtle

Prohibited Fishing Methods

In the BVI it is illegal to use or carry onboard a fishing vessel any spear gun, self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) diving equipment, explosive, poison or other noxious substances for fishing in the fishery waters.

Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. There is a maximum fine of Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($15 000.00) for this violation.