

## KEY FISHERIES REGULATIONS

The following summary of marine resources regulations is a guide only and is not to serve as a legal document. For further information, please contact the Marine Resources Section on 2935600.

### Recreational fishers may not sell their catch.

#### Minimum Sizes

Black grouper ( <i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i> )	95 cm / 37.5 inches
Yellowmouth grouper ( <i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i> )	50 cm / 20 inches
Red hind ( <i>Epinephelus guttatus</i> )	35 cm / 14 inches
Yellowtail snapper ( <i>Lutjanus chrysurus</i> )	30 cm / 12 inches
Lane snapper ( <i>Lutjanus synagris</i> )	25 cm / 10 inches
Hogfish ( <i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i> )	45 cm / 18 inches
Wahoo ( <i>Acanthocybium solandri</i> )	3.2 kg / 7 lbs
Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )	3.2 kg / 7 lbs
Bluefin tuna ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )	115 cm / 45 inches, 30 kg / 66 lbs
Swordfish ( <i>Xiphus gladius</i> )	125 cm / 49 inches, 25 kg / 55 lbs
Blue marlin ( <i>Makaira nigricans</i> )	114 kg / 250 lbs
White marlin ( <i>Tetrapturus albidus</i> )	23 kg / 50 lbs

#### Bag limits

Black grouper ( <i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i> )	1 fish per boat per day
Yellowmouth grouper ( <i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i> )	1 fish per boat per day
Lane snapper ( <i>Lutjanus synagris</i> )	30 fish per boat per day
Red hind ( <i>Epinephelus guttatus</i> )	10 fish per boat per day (May 1 – August 31)

#### Restricted species

Fishing for Bonefish and Pompano is only permitted with hook and line.

#### Protected species

The following species may not be taken or harmed: All marine turtles; all marine mammals; all stony and soft corals; queen conch, harbor conch, Bermuda cone shell, netted olive shell, Bermuda scallop, calico scallop, Atlantic pearl oyster, all helmet and bonnet shells, calico clam, West Indian top shell; Nassau grouper, red grouper, mutton hamlet, yellowfin grouper, gag grouper, tiger grouper, misty grouper, all parrotfishes, all seahorses, spotted eagle rays.

If you happen to catch any of these species when fishing with hook and line, you are required to handle them with due care and return them to the sea as quickly as possible.

#### Spearfishing

Spearfishing requires a licence from the Department of Environmental Protection as of 1/Sept/11. Only a pole spear may be used – no spearguns or Hawaiian slings. SCUBA may not be used to take fish, either with a spear or by any other means. Spearfishing may not be conducted within 1 nm of the shoreline.

## Lobsters

Recreational harvest of lobsters by free-diving requires a licence from the Department of Environmental Protection. Only a noose may be used to take lobsters. Lobsters may not be speared. SCUBA may not be used. Any person concurrently in possession of lobsters and a SCUBA tank will be presumed to have used SCUBA to take the lobsters unless it can be proved otherwise. Lobsters may not be taken between April 1 and September 1, and it is an offence to be in possession of any spiny lobster, whether live or dead, during this period.

## Gear restrictions

Recreational fishers may only use cast nets up to 8' in diameter. Other nets are not permitted. A vessel may not have more than a total of 15 hooks in the water at a time. Fixed fishing gear of any kind, including, but not limited to, pots and fixed nets, is prohibited.

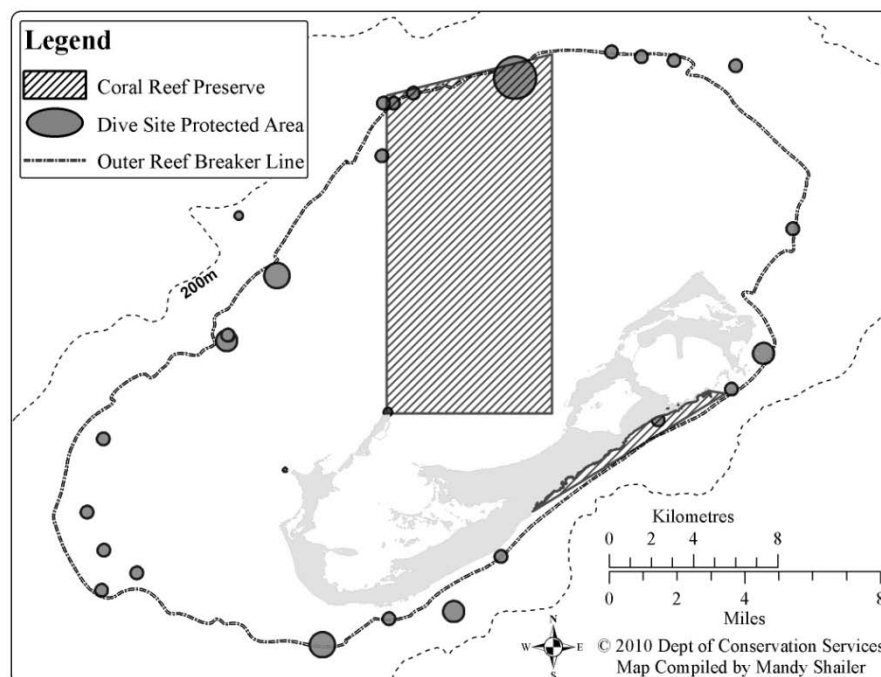
## Areas closed to fishing

The following bays are closed to netting of any kind: Somerset Long Bay, Shelly Bay, Whalebone Bay, Coot Pond.

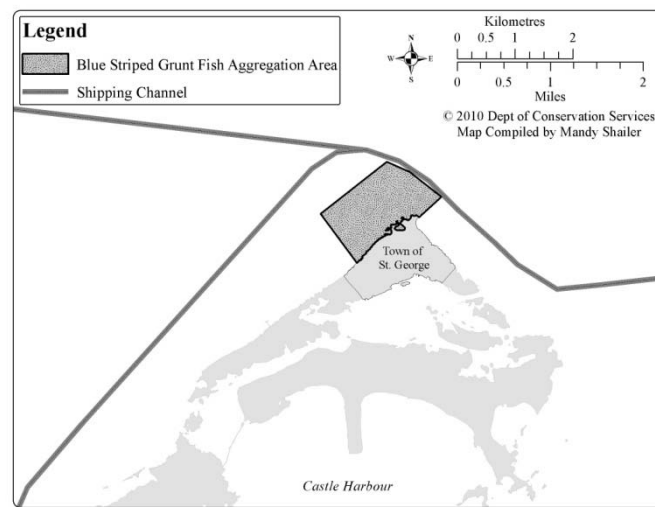
Certain areas are closed to all fishing, either permanently or on a seasonal basis – see below.

**Coral Reef Preserves.** Areas marked with diagonal stripes are Coral Reef Preserves. It is prohibited to take or damage any organism attached to the seabed. Careful anchoring is key to avoiding damage to corals.

**Areas permanently closed to fishing.** Areas marked with gray circles are dive sites that are permanently closed to fishing. These areas are marked with a central buoy and fishing is prohibited within a certain radius of the buoy. The size of the circle on the map is proportional to the area protected, and the radius varies from 300 m to 1 km.



**Special Closure of Fish Aggregating Area.** The area off St. Georges shown in gray below is closed to all fishing from May 1 through June 30 in order to protect breeding fishes. A buoy marks the northwest corner.



**Seasonally Protected Areas.** Fishing is prohibited in the Seasonally Protected Areas, in gray, from May 1 through August 31. Fishing is prohibited in the Extended Closure Areas, outlined in red, from September 1 through November 29. Trolling for game fish is permitted outside of the 30 fathom depth contour.

