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### BENEATH YOUR BOAT

AN ECOSYSTEM TEEMS WITH LIFE

A living necklace of coral reefs encircles St. John Island. It supports thousands of species that thrive in the protected waters of Virgin Islands National Park and Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument. Mangrove forests and seagrass meadows, which lie between island and reef, are living habitats too. Mangroves, seagrasses, and corals live in partnership to support diverse life, stabilize beaches, reduce erosion, and trap sediment.

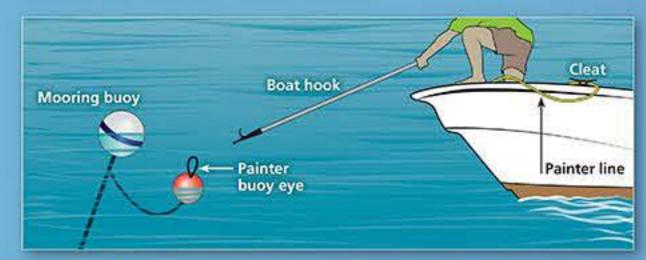
Anchors and anchor chains can break, crush, and topple corals, which can take decades to recover. They can rip up seagrasses.

Help preserve the fragile ecosystem you've come here to enjoy. Use the National Park Service mooring system, based on boat length overall (LOA). Use the map (other side) to find an unclaimed mooring buoy that accepts boats of your LOA. Then find a color-coded buoy to match your type of use and duration of stay.

FIRE CORA

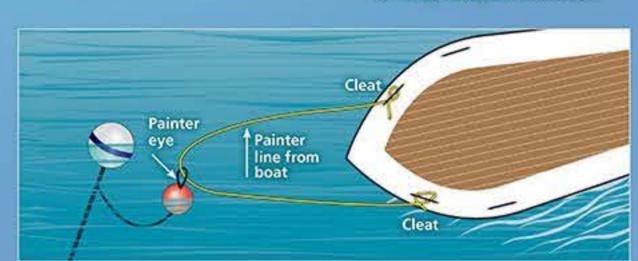
**GREAT STAR** 

#### **How to Moor Your Boat**



1 You'll find over 200 mooring buoys, safe in winds up to 40 mph, in the bays around St. John.

Approach a mooring buoy slowly. Head into the wind or current. Pick up the eye of the small, red "painter" buoy with your boat hook.



3 With one end of your painter line secured to the bow, thread it through the eye. Cleat off on the other side. Do not hook the eye over your cleat (follow diagram above).

4 To leave a mooring, uncleat line; pull it through the eye; back away.

> You must leave your mooring when St. John Island is under a Tropical Storm Watch.

# HAWKSBILL TURTLES eat sponges and other invertebrates

#### SAFETY TIPS

SWIM, scuba dive, or snorkel with another person, never alone.

PROTECT yourself against sun damage. Use reef-safe sunscreen. Wear a hat and shirt.

SQUALLS arise suddenly, especially in winter. Remain alert.

WATCH FOR SNORKELERS and swimmers near boat exclusion zones and access channels.

CORALS are animals that attach

to the ocean floor or to skeletons

of dead corals. Hard species like

star coral slowly build up a reef. Reefs provides food, shelter, and

breeding and nursery grounds

for other species.

QUIET HOURS in the park and park waters are after 10pm.

NIGHTTIME underwater boat lights are prohibited.

SMOKING is prohibited within 50 feet of pavilions, restrooms, and picnic tables.

BALLOONS, METAL DETECTORS, and REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT are prohibited.

Deposit boater-generated TRASH (limit two 10-gallon bags) at Cruz Bay near the Customs Office, Maho, Francis, Saltpond, and Little Lameshur.

BEACH / SHORELINE is the area between the water's edge and 50 feet landward and seaward. Glass, pets, and smoking are prohibited on all beaches and shorelines.

## FISHING

Fishing regulations differ in park and monument waters (see map, other side). Spears are prohibited in both. Know where you are.

IN PARK WATERS you may fish with hand-held rod and line except in boat exclusion zones, while using moorings, and while at the NPS Finger Pier and NPS Cruz Bay Dock. Fishing is allowed on the NPS Finger Pier after 5pm. For lobster, conch, and whelk, see below.

IN MONUMENT WATERS you may cast nets for bait fish. You may also fish with hand-held rod and line for hardnose, but only while attached to yellow fishing moorings.

#### Conch

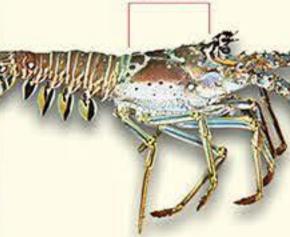
Season open November 1 to May 31. Conch must be landed in the shell. Limit two (2) per person per day.



#### Caribbean Spiny Lobster

May be taken at any time. Females with eggs may not be harvested. Limit two (2)

HARD SHELL



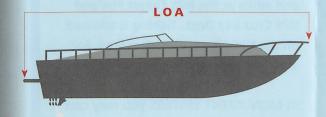
#### Whelk

Season open October 1 to March 31. Limit one (1) gallon (in the shell) per person per day. You may not possess more than two days' limit.

#### **How Big is Your Boat?**

You can moor your boat at many locations. Use the mooring system and respect the rules for visiting these protected waters, also published at www.nps.gov/viis/planyourvisit/virgin-islandsmarine-visitor-use-information.htm.

Know your boat length overall (LOA). Find it on your registration. It determines which moorings you can use. Rafting of two vessels is permitted if combined length is less than the mooring limit.



#### Dinghies less than 16'

Dinghy Tethers for day use only, 8am-5pm, are provided at Honeymoon Beach, Hawksnest Bay, Trunk Bay, Little Cinnamon Beach, Maho Point, and Waterlemon Cay. Overnight tethering and tying to natural features are prohibited.



#### Boats less than 26'

May enter **Boat Exclusion Areas** (BEA) through Access Channels. You can stay to use the beach if you pull the entire length of your boat out of the water. If loading and unloading passengers, immediately leave the BEA to allow others to enter the channel.











#### Boats 16' to 60'

Use **Moorings** marked by white buoys; other colors indicate allowed uses. Day use 8am-5pm.









Use **Moorings** marked by purple buoys. Day use 8am-5pm.



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Three anchorages are provided for boats that exceed the allowed LOA at available moorings or that briefly stop to clear customs at Cruz Bay. Prevent damage to coral reefs and seagrass beds. Do not anchor anywhere else in park or monument waters.



**Boats Clearing Customs** May anchor briefly at Cruz Bay Anchorage 6am-6pm.

Big Boats less than 125'

May anchor at Lind Point Anchorage.

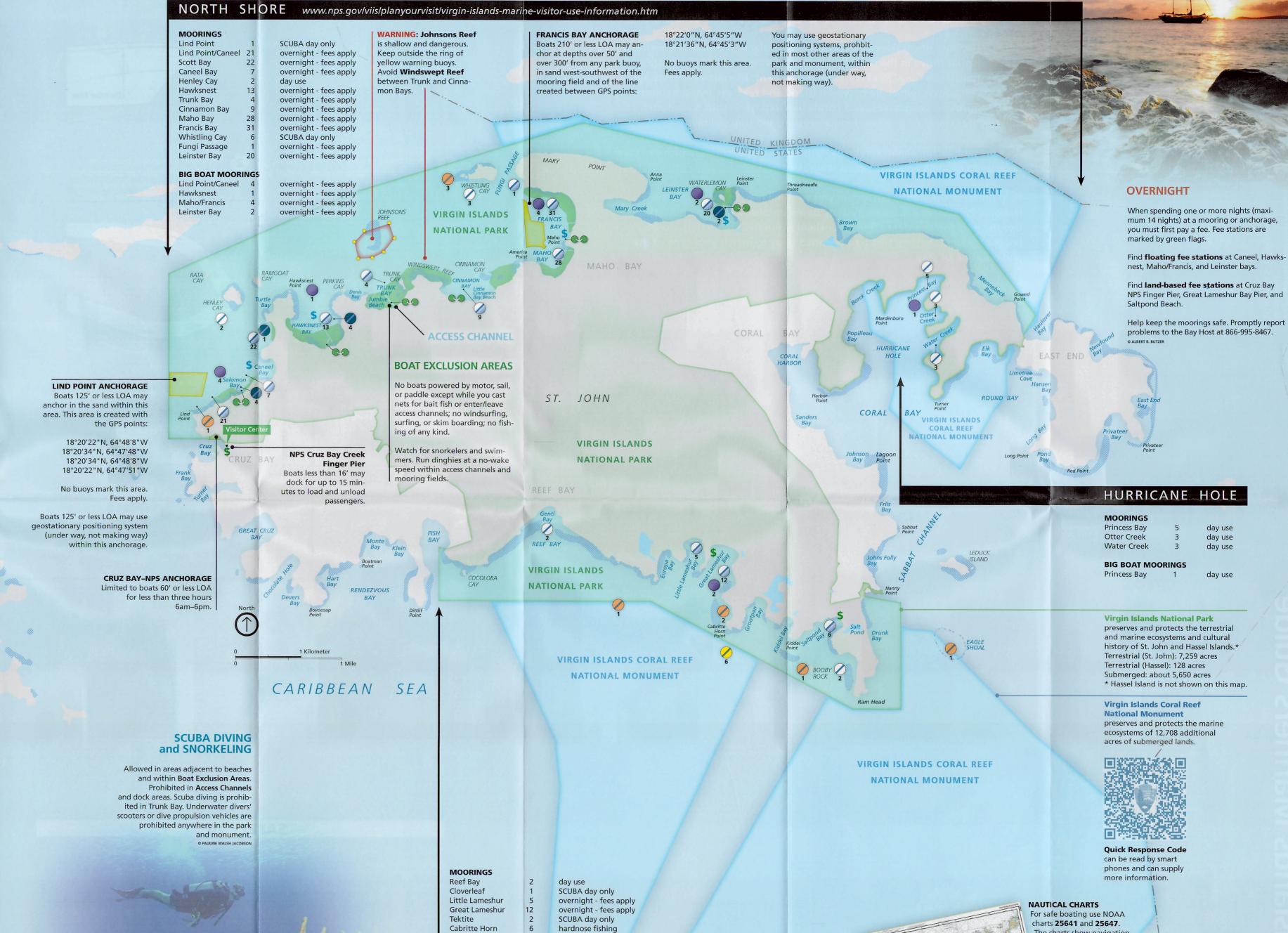
Larger Boats less than 210'

May anchor at Francis Bay Anchorage.

Overnight Fees

\$ LAND-BASED FEE STATION





**Booby Rock** 

Salt Pond

Ram Head

**Eagle Shoal** 

**BIG BOAT MOORINGS** Great Lameshur

SOUTH SHORE

SCUBA day only

SCUBA day only

overnight - fees apply

day use

day use

The charts show navigation

and hazardous areas in

aids like markers and buoys

detail. Don't use the map in

this brochure for navigation.