

TROPIC NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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NEW FISHERY REGULATIONS

Management measures to further restrict harvest in the shallow-water reef fish fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service. These changes constitute Amendment No. 1 to the Shallow-water Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan.

The final rule: (1) increases the minimum allowable mesh size in fish traps to 2 inches in the smallest dimension with a one year phase-in period; (2) prohibits the harvest or possession of nassau grouper until the species is rebuilt to exploitable levels; (3) expands the current data collection program to include socio-economic data; and (4) establishes an area closure during the red hind spawning season. The closure affects a 14 square mile area south of St. Thomas from December 1 to February 28 of each year.

These regulations are currently in affect in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This zone extends from the limits of our territorial sea (3 miles) out to the 200 mile international boundary.

EARTH DAY 1991

On June 5, 1990 Governor Alexander Farrelly signed Act No. 5564 which establishes that April 22 of each year shall be observed as "Earth Day" throughout the Virgin Islands. The following are some ideas for activities that you, your school or your organization could use for Earth Day.

☛ Ask your school or organization to bring in speakers to talk about environmental issues.

☛ Write letters to local elected officials asking them to support a specific local environmental project. Request that an elected official come to your school or organization to speak on the issue.

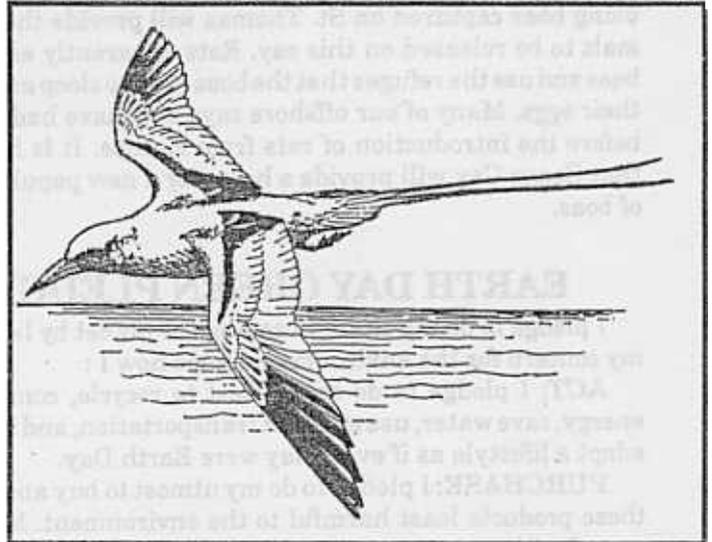
☛ Plant trees in your schoolyard or around your neighborhood. Plant local trees instead of exotics. We have a large variety of flowering and fruit trees to select from here in the VI. Remember, even if you don't eat the fruit, it will provide food for some of our wildlife.

☛ Organize or participate in a cleanup of your schoolyard, local park, beach or reef area.

☛ Organize or participate in a recycling effort for aluminum, paper or glass. Reuse the backs of used paper and save a tree.

☛ Make a commitment to yourself and the Earth; stop using spray cans and styrofoam products (destroying ozone), pick up any litter you see around you, think before you act.

☛ Most important, **MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY!!!!!!**..... The Earth will love you for it.



Tropic birds (genus Phaethon) are a pelagic (open ocean), migratory seabird seen in the Territory usually between the months of October and May. They are mostly white, have a red or yellow bill and a long, streamer-like tail. Since they are offshore feeders, little is known of their feeding habits and pelagic existence. If you sight tropicbirds feeding, we would be interested to know the approximate location and number of birds sighted. Please call Judy Pierce at the Division of Fish and Wildlife with any information.

THANKS TO "CRUZAN GOLD"

Cruzan Gold, a sport fishing yacht located at Sapphire Marina, has been generously donating its unused baitfish and squid to Fish and Wildlife's seabird rehabilitation project. We currently have a permanently crippled pelican and frigatebird which require twice daily feedings of fry, ballyhoo, squid or any other fish we can catch. If anyone has any spare, unpreserved, preferably fresh fish you would like to donate, please contact Judy Pierce at the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

COMING SOON

EARTH DAY COVERAGE

ST. CROIX MARINE RESERVES

IT'S LEATHERBACK TURTLE SEASON AGAIN

