Regulations and Resource Protection

Do Not Touch or Feed Wildlife
Feeding, touching, harassing or removing any wildlife in the park (other than fishing-see fishing regulations), either on land or in water, is prohibited.

Balloons
Balloons are prohibited, because when floating in the water they are eaten by sea turtles and may cause their injury or death.

Waste & Trash
Do not dump human waste or refuse in park waters. Waste must be treated and discharged at least three miles from the nearest land. Trash may be placed in receptacles located at Cruz Bay, Trunk Bay, and Little Lameshur Bays. It may not exceed two gallons per bag.

Lease Only Footprints
Help us preserve the historic treasures of these islands. If you find something old please leave it right where you found it and if you see someone collecting artifacts be sure to contact a park ranger—removing artifacts from a national park is a federal crime and can result in fines and/or prison.

Metal detectors, magnetometers, side scan sonar, and sub bottom profilers are prohibited.

Use of bright deck lights or underwater lights of any kind, from boats to attract fish or other purposes (other than hand held dive lights) is prohibited.

Commercial vessels with an LOA greater than 125 feet are prohibited from anchoring or mooring in water parks.

Water skiing, towing of any recreational device, and use of motorized personal watercraft (jet skis, wave runners, etc.) are prohibited.

SCUBA and snorkeling is permitted in areas designated by boats and designated areas. SCUBA diving is prohibited in Trunk Bay.

Use of stationary underwater diver's scooter or dive propulsion vehicles is prohibited.

SCUBA and snorkeling is prohibited in areas adjacent to beaches and inside boat exclusion areas. SCUBA and snorkeling is prohibited in designated boat channels, shipping lanes, and SCUBA diving is prohibited in Trunk Bay.

Use of stationary positioning systems is prohibited in the monument. Use of stationary positioning systems is allowed within the Lind Point and Francis Bay. Anchoring by vessels that meet the vessel length restrictions for those areas.

Use of underwater diver's scooter or dive propulsion vehicles is prohibited.

Dinghies
Dinghies are permitted on beaches with designated channels, including beaches with dinghy tethers. Anchoring OR tying to natural features is prohibited.

Commercial vessels with an LOA greater than 125 feet are prohibited from anchoring or mooring in water parks. Use of bright deck lights or underwater lights of any kind, from boats to attract fish or other purposes (other than hand held dive lights) is prohibited.

Dinghy Tethers
Dinghy Tethers are provided at Trunk, Little Cinnamon, Little Maho, Maho, Hawknest Bays, and Honeymoon Beach and Waterlomoy Cay for vessels up to 16 feet in length; overnight use is not permitted.

NPS Cruz Bay Creek Dinghy Area
The NPS Cruz Bay Creek dinghy area is at the finger pier: South side – vessels 16 feet or less may tie up for up to three hours, North side – CUA vessels only.

NPS Cruz Bay Creek Finger Pier
Vessels docking at the NPS Cruz Bay finger pier are limited to 15 minutes to load and unload passengers.

NPS Dock in Red Hook
Commercial and recreational use of the NPS dock facility at Red Hook is by special use permit only. Only vessels 60 feet or less may be considered for a permit.

NPS Pier in Great Lameshur Bay
Commercial and scientific use of the NPS dock facility at Great Lameshur Bay is by special use permit only.

NPS Bulkhead at Hassel Island
Commercial use of the NPS Bulkhead at the historic Creque Marine Slipway is by special use permit only.

Beach Access (Dinghy) Channels
Vessels less than 26 feet LOA may access beaches inside boat exclusion areas via beach access channels, designated by red and green buoys. Vessels must stay inside these channels. Channels are primarily for pick-up and drop-off. Vessels that can be pulled completely out of the water may be kept on the beach; other vessels must immediately leave the boat exclusion area after picking up or dropping off passengers. Beached vessels may not be anchored or tied to any feature including rocks; overnight use is not permitted.

Storm Swells
Conditions may change rapidly, especially during winter months. If swells develop, you may need to alter your plans.

Leave Only Bubbles
To avoid injury to yourself and marine life, please do not touch anything while snorkeling and diving.

Look Out For Snorkelers
Watch for snorkelers and swimmers, especially when near a boat exclusion area or in an access channel. Run dinghies at a no-wake speed when travelling to and from a beach and within mooring field.

Safety Tips
Don't Go It Alone
Always swim, snorkel, and SCUBA dive with another person.

Wear Sun Protection
Protect yourself from sun exposure to tropical sunlight; use sunscreen and a hat and shirt. If you burn easily, stay indoors or in the shade between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Dangerous Reefs
Boaters should be especially careful to avoid Windy Point and Johnson’s Reef. Windy Point Reef fringes the coastline between Trunk and Cinnamon Bays.

Fishing
In the monument cast netting for bait fish is permitted. Fishing for hardnose is prohibited. Any equipment or apparatus used for the purpose of fishing shall be attached to a vessel.

 Seasons & Limits for Conch, Whelk & Lobster
All dates are subject to change. Please check with the Virgin Islands Department of Planning & Natural Resources or a ranger for the most up-to-date information.

Conch Season
Open from November 1 to May 31.

Whelk Season
Open from October 1 to March 31.

Boat Exclusion Areas
The following are prohibited in these areas:

- Abandoned dinghies or vessels
- Mooring within park waters
- Dinghy tethers
- Anchoring OR tying to natural features
- Fishing for hardnose
- Motorized vessels in the park
- Commercial and recreational use of the NPS dock facility at Red Hook
- Fishing is prohibited with hand-held rod and line

CAUTION! Conch, Whelk, Lobster and fish may not be harvested from Coral Reef National Monument waters!

For more information contact Virgin Islands National Park at 340-775-6207 or the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, at 340-775-6762.

Rafting or second vessel on a Mooring
- Vessels on moorings utilizing a second vessel greater than 16 feet LOA are a registered tender; the combined LOA of the two vessels must be less than the rated vessel length for the mooring, either +1 foot or -10 feet.
- Rafting with other boats while on moorings is prohibited if the combined lengths of both vessels are less than the length rating of the mooring.

Abandoned Vessels
Any vessel or any part of a vessel not in use for a 24 hour period is considered abandoned and will be removed.

Beach Definition & Use
Venezuela Beach - the area between the water’s edge and 50 feet landward and seaward of the water's edge.

Glass bottles and containers, pets, and smoking are prohibited on all NPS beaches.

Smoking is also prohibited within 50 feet of pavilions, picnic tables or restrooms.