



# The Ole Wife

Protecting our Natural Heritage and Culture

Newsletter for the St. Thomas  
Fishermen's Association  
April 2006  
Volume 2 Issue 1

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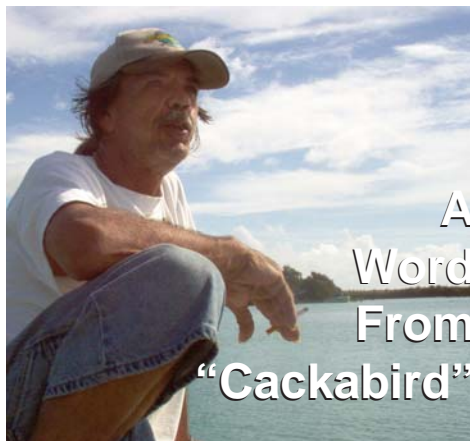
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Interested in joining the St. Thomas Fishermen's Association? Memberships are \$50 per year, which helps support the STFA to represent you with local and federal lawmakers, defending the fishery and your livelihoods.

Contact the St. Thomas Fishermen's Association at 714-2556 or e-mail us at [usvi\\_fishermen@yahoo.com](mailto:usvi_fishermen@yahoo.com).



## Good Day to all of You!

Since the St. Thomas Fishermen's Association (STFA) was created, many GOOD things have been accomplished. We have done everything in our power to protect our fishery. We have fought the Feds and protected our fishery, allowing everyone to continue making a living.

We have members of the STFA and fishermen who truly care what happens to their fishery. They attend the meetings religiously and give input into issues that we are addressing. The STFA takes the fishermen's ideas and thoughts very seriously. It is not just the STFA board members that make the decisions. It is YOU, the members of the STFA who attend, participate and help in the decision-making processes that make the STFA the organization that it is. For those voices that speak out, on behalf of the STFA, **THANK YOU!**

On the other hand, we also have those fishermen that prefer to criticize, drinking and talking mele. You are the ones that think the fishery is untouchable. You don't attend the meetings, what you hear is often second hand rumors, and therefore never really get the true story. The places we sell fish are NEVER out of mele. Drinks keep coming and mouths keep flapping. When it comes to meetings that involve your fishery, you hide like rats, wanting others to negotiate for you. When the decisions are made, you do nothing but

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## Government Conspiracy Against Virgin Island Fishermen?

Well, there are times that it seems anyone with a government paycheck is out to shut down Virgin Islands fishermen. For example:

- DPNR told the Frenchtown "to empty out their lockers and come back in 6 months" while they, at long last, began the fish house remodeling project.
- DPNR and Dept. Agriculture announced that fishermen would no longer be able to sell fish at Market Square after that facility is refurbished. This, despite the fact that fishermen have been selling fish there for more than a century.
- Roy Crabtree, at the Administrative Meeting for the last CFMC meeting, announced that the new reauthorization for the Magnuson-Stevens Act was going to give NOAA fisheries more power to "declare overfishing" and close fisheries all the way to the shoreline.
- The STFA proposal to NOAA which would enable us to gather information which would show once and for all whether our fisheries require such draconian actions was "lost" during its electronic submission. NOAA fisheries suggested that they might fund parts of it with "Discretionary Funds" but later said that they didn't have the money.
- In fact, NOAA seems to moving into a "don't confuse me with the facts" mode. After they closed the St. Thomas conch fishery in Federal waters, even though St. Thomas fishermen land less than 1% of

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## Ledee Participates in Hydroacoustic Survey

During February, STFA VP Winston Ledee, chartered his "Great White" for a NOAA hydroacoustic survey of the St. Thomas shelf. The survey, which provided an indirect census of fish on the shelf, concentrated on the outer shelf. "We saw lots of fish on the south, both with the towed sensor and my own depth sounder," said Ledee, "not so much on the north, though, I think it's because of the colder water on the north".

Winston and the STFA are looking forward to seeing the results, just to see what use NOAA will put them to.

## St. Croix Fishermen Getting Organized

The STFA hears that St. Croix is trying to organize a brother organization. We support the effort because together we can do a better job of protecting both Virgin Islands fishermen and its fishery resources. STFA has supplied our bylaws and other information and offered to help in any way we can.

## Pinero Reappointed as CFMC Chairman

Breaking with the longstanding tradition of rotating the CFMC chairmanship between Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the CFMC voted to keep Eugenio Pinero as its chairman. Pinero, a deep water snapper fisherman from the west of Puerto Rico, has shown himself to be a friend of Virgin Islands fishermen and has worked effectively to make sure that the STFA voice is heard. The alternative, Viridin Brown from St. Croix, was opposed by the STFA due to his long history of selling out VI fishermen and resources.

Good going Eugenio!!!

## A Word From Cackabird (Continued)

criticize the hard work others have done on your behalf. *Where were you when you had a chance to have a voice in the decisions?* If you don't want to defend your livelihood, then don't complain after negotiations have been agreed upon.

There are four types of commercial fishermen, seine, lobster, trap and line, and there are also recreational fishermen. At NO time should you think that you are unaffected. The first in line for changes are the trap fishermen with the proposed "limited entry". If the Feds get their way, you can be sure that fishing in these waters will NEVER be the same again.

Our association was created to unite the fishermen of the U.S. Virgin Islands. We fight for those that are behind the STFA; the fishery; and the future of fishermen in the V.I. Our mandate is NOT to stand on the bay defending the decisions that have been made. If you have suggestions, then start attending the meetings and getting involved with us. If you choose not to attend, then understand one thing. It was YOUR choice, not ours that your opinion didn't count. The fishermen need to become one fighting unit and the STFA is just the tool to accomplish that.

We have grants and have applied for grants that will do studies to prove the healthiness of our fishery with the fishermen's help. There are many of you who are now taking advantage of these grants, making a little extra money. In the future you will see more of this kind of thing being offered to members of the STFA.

There are more changes coming in the near future. The territorial government and the Fishery Advisory Council are looking at the current rules and regulations, talking about changes. *Do you want these changes to happen without your input?*

I am giving the non members one last opportunity to join us and become part of the STFA, to stand up and have input concerning your livelihood and the fishery. If you think that we are asking too much of you to give up an hour or two once a month to attend meetings, then think of all the spare time you'll have for your melee once the fishery is shut down for good.

## Government Conspiracy (Continued)

CFMC stated MSY, they moved the SEDAR process to say that lobster and yellow tail are showing signs of overfishing in the final report, even though all of the SEDAR meetings disagreed with this view.

- One has to wonder why DFW, over the past quarter century has not carried out any studies or written any papers that truly state the situation with VI fishery resources. It could just be that NOAA doesn't want that information to appear.

- Even when information exists, it gets manipulated like last year when UVI researcher Rick Niemeth convinced the council to close the Grammanik bank even though he had absolutely no information about the fishery there.

- St. Croix fishermen lost two more pieces of their shelf when the CFMC closed the Lang Bank Red Hind aggregation site and the Mutton Snapper aggregation site year round to bottom-tended gear. CFMC didn't even have the honesty to include discussions of these in their public hearings last year but hid the information away in a second 700-page document. DFW Direct Barbara Kojis and Biologist Toby Tobias (both actively involved in the CFMC) did not even warn St. Croix fishermen about these closures at the hearing where STFA presented the species closures.

- NOAA is listing elkhorn and staghorn corals as "Threatened Species". This provides NOAA with another opportunity to interfere with VI fishermen. Barbara Kojis is even arguing that NOAA should expand the depth range that will impact fishing activities. There will be a "workshop" in May. Make sure you attend and tell them we're tired of all this crap.

- Donna Christiansen's bill to extend the VI Territorial Sea to 9 miles seems to have died in the Congress. No help here.

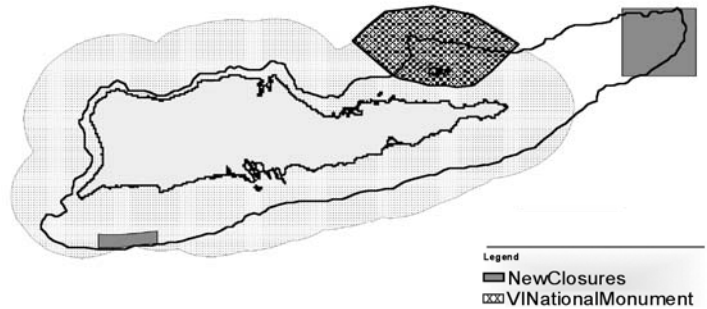
We may just be paranoid, but it sure seems like they are out to get us! If you fishermen want to keep on fishing and you Virgin Islanders want to continue to enjoy fresh local fish, you need to keep supporting the STFA. Call your senators. Elect senators and a new governor that will support rather than attack fishermen. Attend these meetings. We'll never win all these fights without your help!

# CFMC Sneaks in St. Croix Closures

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council, in their September 13, 2005 "Final Rule" announcement in the Federal Register, announced that there were going to be year round closures in the areas of the current seasonal closures for Red Hind and Mutton Snapper on St. Croix. This came as a surprise to STFA.

In researching the matter, it appears that the Council accomplished this by a very indirect and devious manner, referencing the closures in one 700-page document and describing them in another 700-page document. How are fishermen supposed to be able to protect themselves from this sort of sneakiness?

This is especially unfair to the St. Croix fishermen who have already lost a big part of their small shelf to the Monument and have to contend with all of the industrial pollution on the south. The above map details the closures that the Caribbean Fishery Management Council has imposed.



## Fishermen Closed out of Market Square

In February, a public meeting was held at Christ Church Methodist to discuss the upcoming renovations of the Rothschild Francis Market Square. At the meeting, Commissioner Lewis of the Department of Agriculture, announced that selling fish at the renovated Market Square would be prohibited. This is an historic selling place for the fishermen of St. Thomas, and Commissioner Lewis' comments left no room for negotiation. Interestingly, no one from the STFA was given notice of this meeting so we were unable to alert affected fishermen of this impending project. When the STFA first heard of this renovation, we invited the Department of Agriculture, Public Works and Historic Preservation to an STFA General Meeting to discuss how the fishermen would fit into this renovation. No one from the Department of Agriculture or Public Works came to the meeting, even though they said they would be there.

The STFA is not taking this matter lightly. Fishermen have been selling fish at Market Square for over a century and we intend to continue. Combined with the renovations at the Frenchtown Fish House, there are those in the Territorial Government who are once again showing that the island has no place left for the fishermen. On the other hand, several Senators, including Senate President Lorraine Berry, Senator Louis Patrick Hill and Senator Celestino White have all expressed our concerns over the total disregard of fishermen's livelihoods and the public's access to fresh local fish in this historical commercial center.

## DPNR Circus at Frenchtown Fish House

DPNR continues to waffle on their renovation plans of the Gustave Quetel Fish House. After over six weeks of meetings with the fishermen, DPNR called a meeting on March 22 to announce that all shed rooms must be completely cleared by April 1 for a month-long replacement of the roof. Previous meetings with DPNR were requested by the STFA when notices were placed on the doors of fishermen's sheds, telling them that their rooms needed to be vacated. After pressure from the STFA, DPNR agreed that they would do the repairs, six rooms at a time, minimizing the disruption to the fishermen. This last change of plans has outraged the fishermen. STFA's President, Jimmy Magner's response to this last plan, "We've needed a new roof since Hurricane Hugo. Now they start listening?"



Dede (André) Magras mending seine.

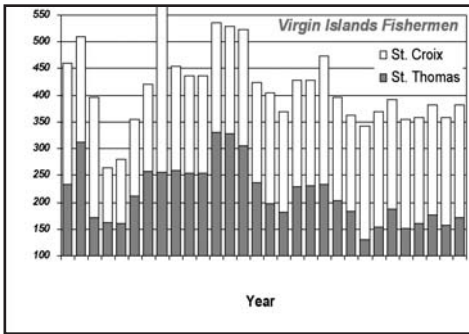
## STFA Fun Day Sponsors

*A special thanks for all your help!*

- A.H. Riise • Aramark • Arrian's Bar and Restaurant • Bella Bleu • Betsy's Bar • Billy D's • Blue Dolphin • Bolongo Bay Beach Club • Caribbean Petroleum Inc. • Caribbean Gifts & Things • Central Air Inc. • Coca Cola Bottling Company • Collette Munroe • Cost U Less • Craig & Sally's Restaurant • Cuzzins Restaurant • Floor Factory • Frank's Bakery • Frenchtown Deli • Gladys's Café • Graphic Solutions • Home Depot • Hovensa • Hunter Foods • Island Marine Outfitters • J & B Machine Shop • Merchants Market • Molly Malone's Restaurant • Neptune Fishing Supplies • North Drop Restaurant • Offshore Marine • Petite Pump Room • Plaza Extra • Pricemart • Quality Foods • Roy's Construction • Seaborne Airlines • Senator Berry • Senator Hill • Sibs Restaurant • Sonia Hubert • St. Thomas Dairies • Walker's By the Sea • West Indies Design • And any others we may have overlooked.

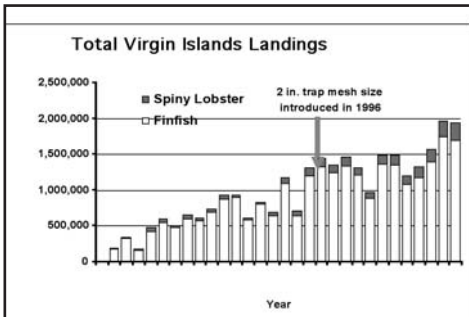
The next general meeting of the STFA will be held on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Frenchtown Community Center.

# Just what in the Hell are they talking about? (Part 2)



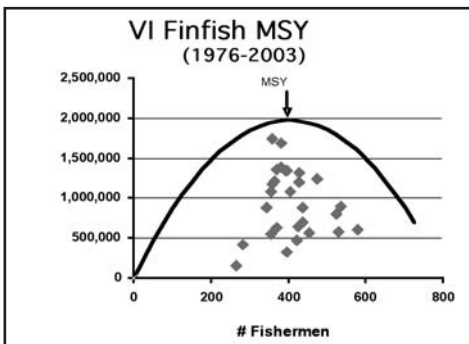
The main reason for this series of articles is to attempt to explain how information about your fishing activities is being used to manage fisheries. Last issue of the Olewife, we talked about fishing effort. If you recall, fishing effort is just how many days, traps, handlines and so on, it takes to catch fish.

Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) is how much you catch every day, or in each trap. An understanding of CPUE is the basis for estimating just exactly how much fish can be produced by any resource-Maximum Sustainable Yield and managing the resource to guarantee future landings.



In the beginning, fishermen could catch as much fish as they were willing to fish for. More days, more traps, more effort always led to more fish. As effort increased, there was competition and the amount of fish per day or per trap started to drop.

Using the limited Virgin Islands data we have been able to obtain we can see that the number of fishermen has ranged between 250 and 550 over the course of catch reporting.



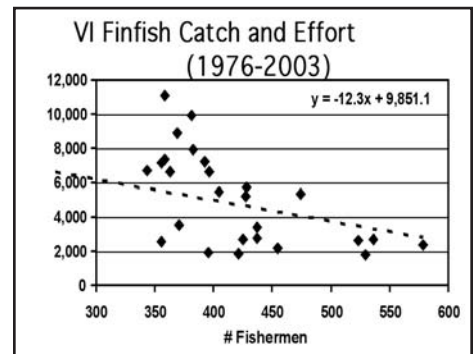
The amount of fish landed over this period has risen from about 500,000 lbs (not including lobster) to around 1,700,000 lbs. The Catch per Unit of Effort relationship was higher when there were fewer fishermen and lower when there were more fishermen.

Maximum sustainable yield can be calculated by taking the equation for the dashed CPUE

trend line and calculating the expected yield for each level of effort (below). MSY is about 2 million pounds at around 400 fishermen, which is more or less the current level. We'll talk more about MSY in the next issue.

This all sounds pretty simple doesn't it? Things are good—we're catching below MSY at current levels of effort (or so it seems). But again, it's what we don't know that can hurt us and can lead the Feds to step in with proposals for regulation.

What don't we know? Well for starters we don't know the differences between St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix. We don't know how much of the effort on either island platform comes from traps, from line fishing, from diving. Mainly we don't know this because DFW won't cough up the data for us to look at. Additionally, we don't know how effort affects different species or how the significant increase in traps per fishermen affects the CPUE. But these are things that we'll discuss in our next Olewife issue.



## STFA RECEIVES \$93,000 NOAA GRANT TO STUDY COMMERCIAL FISHERIES BY-CATCH

The STFA received a \$93,456.00 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) to study St. Thomas commercial fisheries by-catch. The funding will be used to develop a system for collecting by-catch information by designing and testing a fishermen-friendly approach to recording the data through a "trip ticket" system.

"This is the beginning of an era in which the fishermen have a real say in how their resources are managed." said STFA President, Jimmy Magner. "Most researchers develop programs like the by-catch sampling in a vacuum, without any input

on how or by whom it will be used. We have been given the opportunity to change that and show the federal government that we are serious about making sure that the science they are using to manage USVI fisheries is sound."

The STFA is currently involved in a by-catch study through MRAG Americas, which will serve as a starting point in developing the new trip ticket system. The STFA will train technicians to sample the by-catch from local fishermen and record the data. The data will be recorded in a database, and the data collection system will be reviewed and revised throughout the process to ensure its usefulness and

efficacy. The sampling technicians will be selected from STFA members and University of the Virgin Islands students. The review process will include input from local fishermen, the STFA researchers and National Marine Fisheries Services cooperating scientists.

This grant is a great first step towards proactive management of VI commercial fisheries. The STFA looks forward to receiving more government funding in the future to ensure that the sons and daughters of the VI can continue to fish and that all Virgin Islanders can continue to enjoy the many kinds of fresh seafood supplied by VI fishermen well into the future.

## Compensation for Seizure by the BVI

Thanks to Caine Magras of the Office of Management and Budget, the STFA have become aware of the Fishermen's Guarantee Fund, which operates like "seizure insurance" for those fishermen who participate in it. The owner of a seized vessel can file a reimbursement for losses incurred as a direct result of the seizure. These include equipment and catch confiscated, as well as lost fishing time. The program is operated by the US Dept. of State:

Office of Marine Conservation  
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs  
Room 5806  
Dept of State  
Washington, DC 20520-7818

Contact: Mr. Rus Lamotte  
(Phone 202-647-3941,  
e-mail [Rus.Lamotte@State.gov](mailto:Rus.Lamotte@State.gov))

Information Required for a Claim:

1. Proof of Citizenship or Status
2. Description of property and basis for claim
3. Date property acquired
4. Actions taken against the property
5. Steps taken to pursue local and administrative and judicial remedies in the foreign country
6. Nature and amount of losses

We have talked with the State Department and this program has never received any claims. If someone wants to pursue a claim and wants help in preparing the documents, contact David Olsen.

<http://govbenefits/goBenefitOverview.do?benefitId=718>

## FAC Overhauls VI Fishing Regulations

The Virgin Islands FAC is starting a major project to overhaul VI fishing regulations. The STFA will provide input, through Julian Magras and Bryson Bryan, members of the FAC and representatives of the STFA Board of Directors. The STFA Management Committee will be providing suggestions about how fishermen want their resources managed.

## CFMC May Yank Negotiation Panel!

In a precedent-setting move, the CFMC voted to approve the STFA's request for direct "negotiations" on fishery issues, bypassing the Territorial Government who have failed to look after either the Territory's fishermen or its resources. The Panel will be made up of:

- 5 fishermen from St. Thomas
- 5 Fishermen from St. Croix
- 2 Fishermen from St. John
- 1 Council Member
- 1 Representative from NOAA Fisheries

It will be supported by the Council staff who will serve as "facilitator". The STFA requested that CFMC staff serve in this position rather than hiring a professional as we felt that a "familiar face" would be more effective than a stranger.

The task of the Panel will be to develop recommendations for "limited entry and gear rationalization". What this means is that the Panel will examine

the current licensing mess in the Territory and suggest how best to guarantee current fishermen's access, allow for young Virgin Islanders to take up fishing and begin to address the issue of how much fishing gear (read that as traps) is in the water. The Panel will have one year to accomplish this task with a possibility of a 6-month extension. The CFMC will have to go through an advertisement effort to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and it is likely that the process could take two to three years.

NMFS convened a special meeting of the CFMC in December in St. Thomas to try and reverse that decision. STFA stood firm and results are as yet undetermined.

Tune in!!! This is going to affect how fishermen fish and your livelihoods. You will need to come to the STFA meetings to keep informed.

## NOAA Public Workshop on Coral Protection

### *Elkhorn and Staghorn Will be Listed as Threatened*

NOAA will be holding public input workshops on elkhorn and staghorn corals' upcoming "threatened" listing under the Endangered Species Act. The listing means that "take" or damage to the corals is prohibited. This workshop is to determine what legal practices are already occurring on the reefs (like fishing) so that they can decide whether or not to list some activities as "exemptions" to the no-take rule. If you are a fisherman who fishes near elkhorn or staghorn coral (and you probably are), you need to attend this meeting to give your input. Don't let NOAA put you out of business!

The St. Thomas workshop will be held Wednesday, May 24, 6-8 pm in Caribbean B Room of the Holiday Inn Windward Passage. There will also be a meeting in St. Croix on Tuesday, May 23 in the Curriculum Center from 5-7 pm.

## Territorial Government Has Failed VI Fishermen

So said STFA Vice President, Julian Magras at the VI Agricultural Day Forum hosted by the VI Legislature in St. Croix on March 20. Mr. Julian Magras continued, stating that "Local government has not only failed to realize that fishing is an asset, they have also opened the door to federal agencies to carry out totally unnecessary programs of restriction."

Mr. Magras, along with STFA President Jimmy Magner, were asked to represent the St. Thomas/St. John fishermen during the public policy forum themed "Bridging Tradition with Technology: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Production for the 21st Century". The event was hosted by Senate President Lorraine Berry. Other participants included representatives of local farms, cattle and goat ranches and the St. Croix fishermen. Senator Berry said that the forum was held to engage in frank and open discussion about what is being done to save the agricultural industry.



If you have anything you'd like to have posted this section such as an event, wedding, new baby or other important community information, please contact Linda Evans at 714-2556.

### General Meeting

The next general meeting of the STFA will be held on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Frenchtown Community Center.

### French Heritage Dance

In observation of French Heritage Week, July 8-14, the STFA is organizing a dance to kick off the week's many activities. The dance will be held on July 8, details TBA. A complete list of events will be announced by French Heritage Week Coordinator, Senator Lorraine L. Berry.

### Fishing Tournaments!!

The Committee for the Betterment of Carenage has announced the date and details for the Pre-Father's Day Tournament.

### Father's Day

The Pre-Father's Day Fishing Tournament, sponsored by Offshore Marine and Mountain Top, will be held on June 11, with registration to be held on June 10, at the Joseph Aubain Ball Park. Prizes to be awarded are as follows: \$2,000 for largest qualifying fish; most number of fish; most weight; best captain; total boat weight; most unusual fish; and youngest angler with fish by weight. Prizes for both tournaments will be announced during the Father's Day weekend celebrations, June 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Joseph Aubain Ball Park. For more information, contact Gail at 998-1715 or 777-4323.

### Bastille Day Kingfish Tournament

The Northside Sportfishing Club is having their Annual Bastille Day Kingfish Tournament, lines in at 5:00 a.m., Sunday, July 16. There are 15 winning categories, catching Kingfish and other species. Fishing ends at noon and will be followed by a beach-side party with music, food and games at Hull Bay Hideaway. This tournament benefits the Joseph Sibilly School, St. Thomas Rescue, The American Red Cross and the Family Resource Center and KIDSCOPE. Awards ceremony at 8:00 p.m. and more music and dancing to follow! For more information, contact Tournament Coordinator, Monica Lester, at 774-5206.



Winston Ledee, David Olsen and Julian Magras listen to Jimmy Magner after receiving an award.

## CFMC Acknowledges STFA Efforts!

At its August meeting in St. Croix, the Caribbean Fishery Management Council presented the St. Thomas Fishermen's Association with an award for its efforts to ensure that both Virgin Islands fishery resources and Virgin Islands fishermen were protected by the Council's actions.

The award, a small artificial reef under a glass dome (see picture), was accepted by STFA President Jimmy Magner, who thanked the Council and reminded them that "we aren't going away" and that we would work to see that Virgin Islands fishermen don't end up inside the dome.

## Women Show Their Skill at Pre-Mother's Day Fishing Tournament

The Committee for the Betterment of Carenage held their annual Pre-Mother's Day Fishing Tournament on Sunday, April 2. There were 8 boats and 25 anglers participating, including the wives, mothers and daughters of many STFA members. Fish caught ranged from a huge hosseye, a trio of olewives, lots of red hind and even a few tiny, little grunts. All said, a great time was had by everyone, except for the fish. Results of the contest were not available at press time, but will be reported in the next issue of The Olewife.

## SPAG Workshop

The "Reef Fish Spawning Aggregation Exchange Learning Course", was held October 3rd-7th on Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas. The course, sponsored by Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, The Bahamas Department of Fisheries and the Perry Institute of Marine Science was attended by James 'Jimmy' Magner, Ruth Gomez and Derek Quetel. The objective of the course was to share a new understanding of reef fish spawning aggregations (SPAGs) in the Caribbean.

Fishermen, scientists, fisheries managers and individuals exchanged information, personal experiences and data in the hope of developing a conservation and monitoring strategy for spawning aggregations. Attendees included fishermen and fishery managers from Belize, Bahamas, Jamaica, British Virgin Islands, Barbados, St. Croix and St. Thomas. The three-day course included fish identification, life history of snappers and grouper, oceanography, spawning aggregation research, status of fish spawning aggregations, fish tagging and fish counts.

The Virgin Islands (St. Thomas & St. Croix) had the smallest fishing grounds in acreage with the most closures and restrictions. All attendees were amazed with the struggle, fight and accomplishments the St. Thomas Fishermen's Association (STFA) has made.

The British Virgin Islands' enforcement presence is on all the attendees' wish list. They were very interested in seeking a better understanding on SPAGs. They were very interested in correcting what has become a relationship of misunderstandings between the USVI and BVI.

All in all it was a great course filled with lots of information. New relationships were formed and lots of knowledge was gained.



Ronnie Danet casting for bait.

## STFA Fun Day Successful!

The September 25th STFA Fun Day and Softball Tournament was a major success! Delicious local food organized by VP Neville Smith, music by Mr. Gumbs-DJ and P'Your Passion, entertainment for children, a 50/50 raffle with a \$1,200 first prize and a fishermen's softball tournament, all combined with a perfect Virgin Islands day for a highly successful event attended by 1000 Virgin Islanders.

Event organizers Julian Magras and Bobby Bryan and their committee are to be congratulated for a flawless event.

First place in the 50/50 raffle was won by Lisa Berry for \$1,205.00; second place was won by Larry Greaux for \$723.00; and Dr. Callendar was the third place winner for \$485.00. In all, over

5,000 tickets were sold and provided a big part of the revenue from the event.

The softball tournament with net fishing, line fishing, trap fishing and lobster fishing teams was kicked off by Gladys of Gladys Cafe who sang the national anthem perfectly and Senator Berry throwing the first pitch. The tournament was won by the lobster fishing team. A highlight of the day was the game between the North Side and French Town women, won by the French Town team.

Local sponsors' response was fantastic (sponsors listed separately) and made the event possible. The final total will provide nearly \$4,000 to cover airfare and hotels for STFA members to fight the fight for our fishermen!

## STFA Updates on MRAG By-Catch Study

The STFA, in cooperation with MRAG Americas, is working on a new way to standardize by-catch reporting in the Virgin Islands. Fishermen are being paid \$150 per trip to bring their by-catch into shore. So far, we've made 39 trips since September with assistance from lobstermen, line, net and trap fishermen. The results show that lobster traps get less than 5% catch as by-catch, net fishermen land less than 1%, floating line fishermen less than 3%, and that trap and bottom fishing each have about 25% by-catch. The majority of the by-catch is shellfish. In order to reduce how many are brought back to shore and die for the report, we have been releasing 1 in 4, and multiplying the remaining by 4. The next dominant species in the by-catch is the dog teeth snapper.



STFA Fun Day ballgame opening ceremony.



MRAG catch measuring.

# STFA Fun Day Activities



St. Thomas Fishermen's Association  
2-12 Demerara  
St. Thomas, USVI 00802