



Virgin Islands Shipping & Maritime Authority

NAVIGATION WARNING **NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 04-2025 (P)**

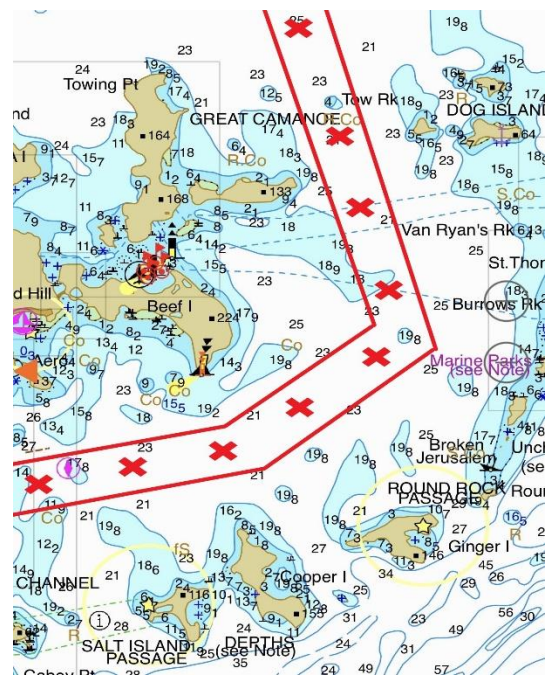
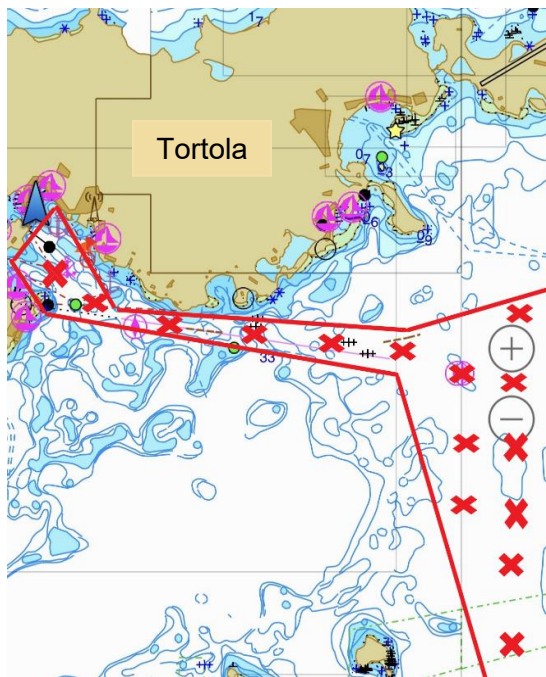
OWNERS, MANAGERS, OPERATORS, SKIPPERs, AND MASTERS OF ALL VESSELS OPERATING WITHIN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

REFERENCE:

REPORTS OF FISH TRAPS PLACED WITHIN RECOGNIZED SHIP AND NAVIGATIONAL CHANNELS.

LOCATION:

APPROACHES TO ROAD HARBOUR AND THE SIR FRANCIS DRAKE CHANNEL.



Mariners are advised that fish traps have been reported within and near designated ship and navigational channels and approaches to Road Harbour and the Sir Francis Drake Channel. These fish trap buoys are unlit, often difficult to detect particularly at night, or during periods of reduced visibility and pose a significant hazard to safe navigation. Contact with these fish trap buoys may cause damage to vessel hulls, rudders, and propulsion systems, with potential disruption to commercial shipping operations, maritime safety, and port access.

All mariners are urged to:

- Maintain a sharp lookout when navigating within channels and approaches.
- Avoid running over buoys or floats which may indicate submerged traps.
- Report any hazardous trap placements to the Virgin Islands Shipping & Maritime Authority immediately.

All fisherfolk are urged to:

- **Avoid placing fish traps within or near ship and navigational channels.**
- **Remove fish traps placed within or near ship and navigational channels.**

Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the removal and destruction of fish traps without further notice to ensure the safety of maritime traffic.

This notice has been issued in accordance with section 163 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2001

Mr. John Samuel
Director of Shipping
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27th October 2025