



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEACH ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program, which evaluates weekly water quality at popular swimming beaches throughout the Territory by sampling for Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity, which is a measure of water clarity, advises the public of the following:

DPNR performed July 4-8, 2016. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

St. Croix

Stoney Ground
Protestant Cay
Cramer's Park
Pelican Cove (Comorant)
Shoy's
Rainbow

New Fort (Ft. Louise
Augusta)
Halfpenny
Dorsch
Cane Bay
Spratt Hall

Columbus landing
Princess (Condo Row)
Frederiksted Public Beach
Buccaneer

St. Thomas

Lindquist
Coki point
Bluebeards
Bolongo Bay
Water Bay
Frenchman's Bay

Hull Bay
Magen's Bay
Lindbergh Bay
Brewer's Bay
Vessup Bay
Sapphire
Secret Harbor

St. John

Johnson Bay
Great Cruz Bay
Oppenhiemer
Frank Bay
Cruz Bay

The following beaches **do not meet water quality standards because they exceed the established Enterococci Bacteria threshold and therefore are not considered to be safe for swimming or fishing:**

St. Croix

Chenay Bay
Grapetree Bay

High levels of Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity may be caused by runoff due to heavy rains, heavy marine vessel traffic, high wave activity near the shoreline, irresponsible recreational use, etc. Runoff can consist of sediment, pesticides, animal feces and oil & grease, all of which are harmful to the waters of the Territory.

DPNR will continue to monitor these popular swimming areas. DPNR also recommends that you use your own discretion when swimming or fishing at the designated beaches. If the waters appear muddy or murky or have foul odors, do not swim or fish. For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix.