



**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 (DPRN) 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:

DPRN performed water quality analysis at 24 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of January 11-15, 2016. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

**St. Croix**

Dorsch

Frederiksted Public Beach

Pelican Cove (Comorant)

Rainbow

Cane Bay

Gentle Winds

**St. Thomas**

Lindquist

Coki point

Vessup Bay

Brewer's Bay

Bluebeards

Secret Harbor

Bolongo Bay

Sapphire

Water Bay

Frenchman's Bay

Hull Bay

Lindbergh Bay

Magen's 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. John**

Oppenhiemer

Johnson Bay

Frank Bay

Cruz Bay

Great Cruz Bay

**\*Please note:** Princess (Condo Row) A – Mill Harbor, Halfpenny, Princess (CondoRow) B – Breezez, Grapetree Bay, Shoy's, Chenay Bay, Protestant Cay, Buccaneer, Cramer Park, New Fort (Ft. Louise Augusta) of St. Croix could not be sampled due to dangerous high wave activity.

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.