



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES



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 water quality analysis at the 24 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of October 12-16, 2015. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

St. Croix

Stoney Ground
Protestant Cay
Chenay Bay
Buccaneer
Cramer Park
Rainbow
Shoy's

New Fort (Ft. Louise
Augusta)
Princess (Condo Row)
Columbus Landing
Dorsch
Frederiksted Public Beach
Sprat Hall

Cane Bay
Pelican Cove (Comorant)
Gentle Winds

St. Thomas

Hull Bay
Sapphire
Vessup Bay
Magen's Bay
Secret Harbor
Bluebeards
Brewer's Bay
Lindbergh 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. Thomas

Frenchman's Bay

Bolongo Bay

PLEASE NOTE: Halfpenny and Grapetree Bay on St. Croix could not be sampled this week due to the heavy presence of seaweed along the shoreline. Beaches on St. John district were not sampled this week.

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.