



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

No. 45 Estate Mars Hill, Frederiksted
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00840

Office of the Commissioner

Telephone: (340) 773-1082
FAX: (340) 773-1716

CONTACT: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator
FAX: (340) 713-2430
jamal.nielsen@dprn.vi.gov

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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 34 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of November 9-13, 2015. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

St. Croix

Stoney Ground
Protestant Cay
Buccaneer
Cramer Park
New Fort (Ft. Louise
Augusta)

Dorsch
Frederiksted Public Beach
Pelican Cove (Comorant)
Shoy's

Rainbow
Cane Bay
Chenay Bay
Gentle Winds

St. Thomas

Magen's Bay
Lindquist
Coki point
Vessup Bay

Bluebeards
Secret Harbor

St. John

Cruz Bay
Oppenhiemer
Johnson Bay
Great 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

Princess (Condo Row)
Grapetree Bay
Halfpenny

St. John

Frank Bay

St. Thomas

Bolongo Bay
Frenchman's Bay
Sapphire
Water Bay
Hull Bay
Brewer's Bay
Lindbergh Bay

DPNR advises the public to refrain from using areas that are affected by rain-water runoff until these effects subside. Parents are advised to instruct their children to keep away from storm-water-impacted beaches as well as areas with manholes and rain-water flooding.

There may be an elevated health risk to anyone swimming in rain-water-impacted areas as a result of increased concentrations of bacteria. All persons should also be aware that storm-water runoff may also contain contaminants or pollutants harmful to human health and therefore all persons should avoid areas of storm-water runoff (i.e. guts, puddles, and drainage basins).

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.