



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 water quality analysis at 21 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of November 30 – December 4, 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
Princess (Condo Row) B -
Breezez
Halfpenny
Grapetree 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) A – Mill Harbour

St. John

Johnson Bay

Frank Bay

Cruz Bay

Great Cruz Bay

PLEASE NOTE: *Oppenheimer on St. John could not be sampled this week. Beaches on St. Thomas were not sampled this week due to heavy rains this week, and DPNR anticipates that negative environmental impacts will be caused by storm-water runoff. DPNR advises the public to use caution when using the coastal waters on St. Thomas until further notification. DPNR is also advising parents to instruct their children to keep away from storm water-impacted beaches as well as areas with manholes and storm water flooding. There may be an elevated health risk to anyone swimming in storm water-impacted areas as a result of increased concentrations of bacteria.*

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.