



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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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 35 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of April 18-22, 2016. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

St. Croix

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

Chenay Bay
New Fort (Ft. Louise
Augusta)
Halfpenny
Dorsch
Grapetree Bay
Cane Bay

Frederiksted Public Beach
Spratt hall
Columbus landing
Princess (Condo Row)

St. Thomas

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

Hull Bay
Magen's Bay
Lindbergh Bay
Brewer's Bay
Vessup Bay

St. John

Johnson Bay
Great Cruz Bay
Cruz Bay
Oppenhiemer
Frank Bay

The following beach **does not meet water quality standards because it exceeds the established Enterococci Bacteria threshold and therefore is not considered to be safe for swimming or fishing:**

St. Thomas

Sapphire

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.