



**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 18 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of September 12-16, 2016. **Please note:** Beaches in the St. Croix District were not sampled this week. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing:**

**St. Thomas**

Lindquist  
Coki point  
Bluebeards  
Secret Harbor  
Bolongo Bay  
Frenchman's Bay  
Sapphire  
Hull Bay  
Magen's Bay  
Lindbergh Bay  
Brewer's Bay  
Vessup Bay  
Water Bay

**St. John**

Johnson Bay  
Oppenhiemer  
Frank 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**

Great Cruz Bay

Cruz Bay

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.