



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

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DPNR TO DEPLOY FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES

Commissioner Dawn L. Henry, Esq., of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources announces that the Division of Fish and Wildlife will deploy a total of six (6) FADs around each district this year. A total of twenty-two (22) locations are permitted for FAD deployment in the St. Croix district and nineteen (19) locations are permitted in the St. Thomas/St. John district.

Deployment of the FADs will benefit the Territory by shifting fishing pressure from heavily fished inshore areas to offshore areas with more abundant populations of pelagic sport fish species such as tuna, dolphin, and wahoo. The FAD program will also provide enhanced and improved fishing opportunities to recreational anglers in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

During the week of February 15 - 19, 2016, the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) will position the first of two (2) new submerged fish aggregating devices (FADs) south of St. Croix. The FADs will be placed 4 nautical miles southeast of Long Point and 3 nautical miles south of Sandy Point, St. Croix. The GPS coordinates will be publicly announced once the FADs are deployed.

Additionally, two (2) new submerged FADs will be deployed north of St. Thomas in the following weeks. These devices will be installed 11 nautical miles northwest of Cockroach Cay and 13 nautical miles north of Outer Brass Island. The GPS coordinates of these FADs will also be announced after deployment.

Commissioner Henry reminds the fishing community that mooring to the buoys is not permitted.

This project is 100% funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration funds. For more information, contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (340) 775-6762 on St. Thomas or (340) 773-1082 on St. Croix.