



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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September 27, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEACH ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPMR) 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:

DPMR performed water quality analysis at 24 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of September 24-28, 2018. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

St. Croix

Cramer's Park
Shoy's
New Fort (Ft. Louise
Augusta)
Buccaneer

Chenay Bay
Halfpenny
Dorsch
Frederiksted Public Beach
Cane Bay

Pelican Cove (Cormorant)
Protestant Cay
Rainbow

St. Thomas

Magen's Bay
Brewer's Bay
Lindbergh Bay
Water Bay
Sapphire

Vessup Bay
Bolongo Bay
Secret Harbor
Hull Bay
Lindquist

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. Thomas

Coki Point
Bluebeard's

Please Note: Samples were not collected at the following beaches:

- *All Beaches on St. John*
- *Stoney Ground, Princess Condo Row and Grapetree Bay on St. Croix*
- *Frenchman's Bay on St. Thomas*

Therefore, the water quality of these beaches is unknown.

STORM WATER ADVISORY NOTE: Due to the high volume of rainfall in the USVI Territory expected this weekend from **Tropical Storm Kirk**, DPNR advises the public to refrain from using the coastal waters throughout the Territory 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.

SEWAGE WATER ADVISORY NOTE: DPNR advises the public to refrain from using the coastal waters in the **Christiansted Harbor** area until further notification, as due to mechanical issues with the LBJ VIWMA pump station, untreated sewage is overflowing from the sewer system into surface waters in the **Christiansted Harbor**.

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). DPNR will continue to monitor the impacted areas and waters.

For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix or 774-3320 in St. Thomas.