



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:

Due to the high volume of rainfall experienced by the USVI Territory this week, DPNR anticipates that negative environmental impacts will be caused by storm-water runoff, high surf zones and possible sewer system overflows.

DPNR advises the public to refrain from using any of the coastal waters throughout the Territory until further notification after beach testing next week. 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.

DPNR, however, did perform water quality analysis at 28 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of July 29 – August 2, 2019. **The following beaches meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing:**

St. Croix

Shoy's
New Fort (Ft. Louise
Augusta)
Dorsch
Frederiksted Public Beach
Stony Ground
Spratt Hall

Pelican Cove (Cormorant)
Rainbow
Buccaneer
Protestant Cay
Chenay Bay
Cramer's Park
Halfpenny

Cane Bay
Columbus Landing

St. Thomas

Magen's Bay	Frenchman's
Brewer's Bay	Bolongo Bay
Lindbergh Bay	Secret Harbor
Lindquist	Hull Bay
Sapphire	
Bluebeard's	

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

Coki Point
Water Bay
Vessup Bay

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

- *Grapetree Bay & Princess (Condo Row) on St. Croix*
- *All St. John Beaches*

Therefore, the water quality of these beaches is unknown.

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) or if any area appears discolored or has foul odors. 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.