



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

DPNR ANNOUNCES START OF FISHERIES HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources informs all members of the Virgin Islands fishing community affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria that the Hurricane Disaster Relief Assistance Program will begin accepting and reviewing direct relief applications on Monday, June 1, 2020.

All fishers and fishing-related businesses are encouraged to visit the website <https://dprn.vi.gov/fish-and-wildlife/fish/hurricane-disaster-relief-assistance/> for the most up-to date information on the program and to access application forms. Application forms will also be available at DPNR offices. Weekly program updates will be available online or by phone.

“The USVI fishing community was devastated by the 2017 hurricanes. The goal of this funding is to restore the fishing industry to pre-hurricane conditions. DPNR is excited to support and enhance the resilience of the fishery with the long-awaited disaster relief assistance at this time. Thank you for your patience as we worked with NOAA and our local government partners on the implementation of this program” said Commissioner Oriol.

To qualify for financial assistance, fishers will need to present a valid 2017 business license issued by the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, proof of employment in the fishing industry, and documentation of losses including receipts for any equipment already replaced.

For more information, please contact the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife at 340-775-6762 between 9AM to 12PM or by email at fishdisaster@dprn.vi.gov.