



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 ENCOURAGES THE PUBLIC TO APPLY TO THE MARINE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) invites the community to learn more about the Virgin Islands Professional Charter Association (VIPCA) Marine Apprenticeship course. The program is a gateway to the marine sector in the USVI and will offer students training in powerboating, sailing, swimming, SCUBA and marina and dock management.

As a new partner this year, DPNR's Division of Environmental Enforcement will host one of the training segments of the course regarding what it takes to become a Conservation Enforcement Officer. Training activities will include patrolling designated mooring fields and locations prone to poaching, and familiarization with conservation laws and boating safety regulations in the USVI.

"We are grateful for the partnership opportunity with VIPCA to expose our local youth to various aspects of the marine industry. There are many professions in the marine industry that can provide careers to our people, one of them being a Conservation Enforcement Officer. If you love your home, love the water and want to see what careers are possible in the industry, be part of the marine apprenticeship program. And we encourage all interested graduates 21 and over to become an enforcement officer" says Commissioner Oriol.

Enrolment is open until May 18 for the 2020 VIPCA Marine Apprenticeship course, set to take place from July 3 to August 5. Applicants must be 18- to 30-years of age, be graduates (or will be this year) of a U.S. Virgin Islands' public high school and are U.S. Virgin Islands' residents. For more information about the program, please visit www.vipca.org/youth-training.

To learn more about the Division of Environmental Enforcement visit the DPNR website at dpr.vi.gov/environmental-enforcement or visit the DEE Facebook page at facebook.com/DPNRDEEUSVI

The VIPCA Marine Apprenticeship operates through the Marine Rebuild Fund (MRF), which was established by VIPCA at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, following the hurricanes of 2017. CFVI provides fiscal sponsorship, including facilitating a 2020 donation of \$25,000 for training (\$2,500/student) from Island Foundation, the Marion, MA-based foundation, which works with organizations that promote progressive social change and combat discrimination. The VIPCA Marine Apprenticeship is 100% FREE to students.