



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 DEPLOYS NEW FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources announces the deployment of new fish aggregating devices (FAD) in the St. Thomas/St. John district on Thursday, August 27th and in St. Croix on Friday August 28th, 2020. Deployment of the FADs benefits the USVI by shifting fishing pressure from heavily fished inshore areas to offshore areas with more abundant populations of pelagic sportfish 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. The FADs were constructed with federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sportfish Restoration program funding and generously deployed by Limetree Bay Terminals, LLC, staged by Virgin Islands Port Authority, and transported by Franklin Benjamin.

FAD **T7** was deployed north of St. Thomas, approximately 15 miles north of Cricket Rock.

FAD **T8** was deployed north of St. Thomas, approximately 16 miles north of Outer Brass.

FAD **S** was deployed west of St. Croix, approximately 8 miles west of Ham’s Bluff.

All FAD’s deployed are a yellow surface buoy that contains a radar reflector and flashing light to facilitate navigation. Commissioner Oriol reminds boaters that mooring vessels to the FADs is not permitted, as it weakens the buoy components and can cause the FADs to break away.

The GPS coordinates are as follows:

FAD #	Latitude	Longitude	Reference
T7	18° 38.158’ N	65° 03.562’ W	15 miles north of Cricket Rock, St. Thomas
T8	18° 38.252’ N	64° 58.614’ W	16 miles north of Outer Brass, St. Thomas
X22 (S)	17° 46.966’ N	65° 01.302’ W	8 mi west of Ham’s Bluff, St. Croix

For locations of existing FADs or for more information, contact us at 340-773-1082 or at <https://dpr.gov.vi/fish-and-wildlife/fish/>.