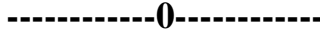




**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**



**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

No. 45 Estate Mars Hill, Frederiksted  
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00840

CONTACT: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator

TEL: (340) 773-1082

FAX: (340) 713-2430

[jamal.nielsen@dpr.gov.vi](mailto:jamal.nielsen@dpr.gov.vi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, September 21, 2020

**DPNR FISHERIES HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE**

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources is pleased to announce that the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hurricane Disaster Relief Assistance program has dispersed more than \$655,000 to over 130 fishers and helpers. This completes the first phase of base payments to all fishers and helpers who applied through September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Phase 2 of the program, which applies to applicants who have applied for assistance over \$5000, is currently underway. All Phase 2 applicants are advised that in addition to all documentation for losses as a result of the 2017 storms Irma and Marina, a notarized self-certification form will also need to be completed to show proof that neither insurance nor other grants were received to cover those losses.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife will offer in-person assistance on Thursdays and Fridays from 9am – 4pm at the Red Hook, St. Thomas and Mars Hill, St. Croix locations. For more information, contact us at 340-773-1082 or visit our website <https://dpr.vi.gov/fish-and-wildlife/fish/hurricane-disaster-relief-assistance/>.