



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

-----0-----

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

ST. CROIX GROUND LIZARD REINTRODUCTION ASSESSMENT **AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources announces that the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) has made the Environmental Assessment for the St. Croix Ground Lizard Reintroduction available for public comment until January 15th, 2021. A public comment hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th, 2020 at 3:00 pm. In an effort to help to reduce the global spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), this meeting will be held via the video conferencing platform **Go To Meeting**.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Review the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) as part of a Section 7 consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for projects that involve federally listed endangered species. The proposed project by DPNR-DFW is to reintroduce the endangered St. Croix Ground Lizard (*Pholidoscelis =Ameiva polops*) from offshore cays to the main island of St. Croix.

The associated documents are available for public review on the DPNR website <http://dpr.vi.gov/fish-and-wildlife/wild/>. Further, documents for the proposed project are on file for review by appointment at the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife locations at 45 Mars Hill, St. Croix or 6972 Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas by calling (340) 773-1082, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., except holidays.

Please note that this is a public hearing; therefore, public testimony will be heard. The following information should be used to view the meeting:

Please join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/541778325>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(312\) 757-3121](tel:+13127573121)

Access Code: 541-778-325