



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4611 Tutu Park Mall
Suite 300
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(340) 774-3320

45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted
St. Croix, VI 00840
(340) 773-1082
dpr.vi.gov



Office of the Commissioner

CONTACT: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator
jamal.nielsen@dpr.vi.gov

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DPNR AND *FRIENDS OF EAST END MARINE PARK* TO HOST
SEAGRASS PATROL**

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources announces that the Division of Coastal Zone Management, in collaboration with Friends of the St. Croix East End Marine Park, will host an educational session titled *Seagrass Patrol* on Friday, June 10th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the St. Croix East End Marine Park office (Old Camp Arawak) at 5005 Estate Great Pond.

Seagrass Patrol is a citizen science program that will provide participants with a hands-on experience to learn about the inhabitants of seagrass meadows which are often overlooked. St. Croix East End Marine Park (STXEEMP) staff will assist participants with seine deployment, removing, identifying, measuring, and the safe release of organisms caught in the net. Basic water sampling parameters such as salinity and pH are also collected.

This is a free educational event, held quarterly, and suitable for all ages and experience levels. RSVP is mandatory. For program inquiries and reservations please email East End Marine Park Outreach Coordinator Kelcie Troutman at kelcie.troutman@dpr.vi.gov / 340-718-3367.

This work is conducted under a scientific permit issued by the Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW19059X) for the use of the seine. The Department reminds the public that fishing is restricted in the East End Marine Park [12 VIC§98] and that seines are considered commercial fishing gear in the territory: unless permitted separately, their use is restricted to licensed commercial fishers [12 VIC§312(k)]. The program is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coral Reef Conservation Program.