



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

-----0-----

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
TEL: (340) 773-1082
jamal.nielsen@dpr.gov.vi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 14, 2022

ONLINE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATORS AND REMOVAL AGENTS

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that on Monday, July 18th, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will start the certification program for Wildlife Control Operators and Wildlife Control Removal Agents associated with the Invasive Species Eradication Community Program or simply known as The Bounty Program.

Invasive species hurt economic and ecological resources in the Territory and methods to control those species include recruiting and certifying members of the public to assist with their control. The certification program for Wildlife Control Operators and Wildlife Control Removal Agents is a management tool highlighted in the 'USVI Invasive Species Action Plan' to mitigate impacts of invasive species.

Wildlife Control Operator: means an individual who does not charge a fee for handling nuisance, vermin, or invasive wildlife species, but is certified by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to collect a bounty for handling nuisance, vermin, and invasive species.

Wildlife Control Removal Agent: means a professional licensed by the Department of Licensing and Consumers Affairs to collect a fee for handling nuisance, vermin, or invasive species and is certified by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to handle nuisance, vermin, and invasive species.

All pest management companies, small business owners, and members of the public are encouraged to apply. Wildlife Control Removal Agents can be hired by community members to assist with the growing need for the management of nuisance and invasive species across the territory. Wildlife Control Operators will be able to volunteer their services, while also being able to collect declared bounties on red-tailed boas and mongoose after certification.

For more information, please visit <https://dpr.vi.gov/fish-and-wildlife/wild/> for the online certification program or visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 45 Mars Hill in Frederiksted or at 6291 Estate Nazareth on St. Thomas or call by phone at 340-773-1082.