



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

STORM-WATER ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources performed water quality analysis at 7 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of August 12 – August 16, 2024. Due to the significant rainfall this week from Tropical Storm Ernesto and the potential for more over the weekend, the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) anticipates negative environmental impacts from storm-water runoff, high surf zones, and possible sewer system overflows. Therefore, the department advises the following:

- Exercise caution when using coastal waters and beaches throughout the Territory until further notice.
- Parents should instruct children to avoid storm water-impacted beaches, manholes, and areas with storm water flooding.
- Swimming in storm water-impacted areas poses an elevated health risk due to increased bacteria concentrations.
- Stormwater runoff may contain harmful contaminants or pollutants. Avoid areas of stormwater runoff (e.g., guts, puddles, drainage basins) or any area that appears discolored or has foul odors.

The following beaches met water quality standards and were considered safe for swimming and fishing:

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|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| St. Croix | | |
| Dorsch Beach | Halfpenny Beach | New Fort (Ft. Louise Augusta) |
| Frederiksted Public Beach | Buccaneer Beach | |
| Chenay Bay | Shoy's | |
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