



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

-----0-----

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4611 Tutu Park Mall
Suite 300, 2nd Floor
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(340) 774-3320

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



Office of the Commissioner

Contact: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator
jamal.nielsen@dpnr.vi.gov

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR'S FISH & WILDLIFE TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING ON SAVANA ISLAND BIOSECURITY

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces a public meeting hosted by the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) in partnership with Island Conservation, an international non-profit organization. The meeting will focus on ongoing efforts to protect the newly designated *SAVANA ISLAND WILDLIFE AND MARINE SANCTUARY* and outline biosecurity measures planned for the coming year.

Stakeholders and community members are invited to attend a presentation detailing strategies to eradicate invasive rats from Savana Island and prevent future incursions. Invasive rats on Savana Island pose a serious threat to native wildlife and plant species. They consume seabird eggs, damage habitats, hinder plant growth, and disrupt nutrient cycles—endangering the island's delicate ecosystem. Following rat removal, strict biosecurity protocols will be implemented to prevent re-invasion and the introduction of other invasive species.

Topics to Be Covered:

- Standard operating procedures for biosecurity management
- Preventive actions against invasive species
- Surveillance methods for early detection
- Response protocols for incursions

Meeting Details:

- **Date:** Thursday, December 18, 2025
- **Time:** 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Location:** Viya Building, Tutu Park Mall, St. Thomas
- **Virtual Access:** Join via TEAMS or dial **+1 939-236-6758**, Conference ID: **143 119 533#**

For more information, visit dpnr.vi.gov or contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife on St. Croix at (340) 773-1082 on St. Thomas at (340) 775-6762 or Email: DFWElectronic@usvi.onmicrosoft.com.