



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

BEACH ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program, which evaluates weekly water quality at popular swimming beaches throughout the Territory by sampling for Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity, a measure of water clarity, advises the public of the following:

DPNR performed water quality analysis at 24 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of March 16, 2026– March 20, 2026.

Based on the analytical results, the following beaches met water quality standards and are considered safe for swimming and fishing:

St. Croix		
Buccaneer Beach	Gentle Winds	Protestant Cay
Cane Bay	Grapetree Bay Beach	Rainbow Beach
Chenay Bay	Ha’Penny Beach	Shoys Beach
Cramers Park	New Ft. Louisa Augusta	Sprat Hall
Dorsch Beach	Pelican Cove (Comorant)	Stony Ground
Frederiksted Public Beach	Princess Condo Row	Prosperity Beach

St. John
Frank Bay
Great Cruz Bay
Johnson Bay
Oppenheimer Beach

Water Island
Honeymoon Beach (Druif)

The following beach does not meet water quality standards because it exceeds the established Enterococci bacteria threshold and is therefore, considered unsafe for swimming or fishing:

- *Cruz Bay on St. John.*

Samples were collected on St. Thomas however due to a delay in transport, the samples exceeded their holding time and therefore were not analyzed.

Therefore, the water quality at these beaches is unknown.

Please be advised that anyone swimming in waters contaminated with sewage, stormwater, or with large amounts of sargassum may be at an elevated health risk due to elevated concentrations of bacteria or other contaminants. Waters impacted by sewage, stormwater runoff (i.e., guts, puddles, and drainage basins), large amounts of sargassum, or any area that appears discolored or has foul odors should be avoided. DPNR will continue to monitor the impacted waters.

For additional information regarding water quality, call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix or 774-3320 in St. Thomas.