



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR ANNOUNCES THIRD ANNUAL VIRGIN ISLANDS CORAL REEF WEEK

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) is pleased to announce that the Division of Coastal Zone Management will host the Third Annual Virgin Islands Coral Reef Week from April 12–19, 2026.

This weeklong celebration invites the St. Croix community to enjoy a variety of free, family-friendly events designed to highlight the importance of the Territory’s vibrant marine ecosystems. Activities include outdoor adventures, educational experiences, hands-on conservation projects, and opportunities to learn from local experts.

Below is the full schedule of events:

April 12–19

Free Kayak Tours at Salt River

Enjoy a morning paddle through the Salt River ecosystem.

Use promo code “**coral**” to register at: <https://www.bushtribe.com/adventures/>

For VI residents only; advance registration required.

April 12 | 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Coral Conservation Festival — The Nature Conservancy’s Coral Innovation Hub, Estate Little Princess

Celebrate St. Croix’s natural resources with lab tours, activities, interactive displays, games, prizes, local vendors, food, drinks, and music.

No registration required.

April 14 | 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Coral Fragging with Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) — Christiansted Boardwalk, in front of Blue Salt Divers

Learn how coral fragments are grown in nurseries and help prepare corals to be placed on Long Reef.

No registration required.

April 14 | 6 p.m.

Coral Trivia Night — Leatherback Brewery

Test your ocean knowledge in a special marine-themed trivia competition.

RSVP by calling **340-772-2337**. Teams up to six people.

Advance sign-up encouraged.

April 17 | 4–6 p.m.

Sunset Walk — Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge

Join local biologists for a guided sunset exploration featuring birdwatching, shell identification, and nature interpretation.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/crwsunset>

For VI residents only; advance registration required.

April 18–19 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Community Mural Painting — Altona Lagoon Pavilion

Help create a community mural in a fun, paint-by-numbers format. All supplies provided.

No registration required.

April 18–19 | Morning & Afternoon

Discover SCUBA Dives

Experience SCUBA with a certified instructor—no certification needed and all gear provided.

Register: <https://bit.ly/crwscuba>

For VI residents only; advance registration required.

April 18 | 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Mangrove Nature Walk — Altona Lagoon

Join Thriving Islands for a guided walk focused on mangrove ecosystems and local wildlife.

Sign up: thrivingislands@gmail.com

Advance sign-up encouraged but not required.

April 18 | Morning, Half-Day

Buck Island Snorkel Tour — Big Beard's

Discover Buck Island's marine life on a free educational snorkel excursion.

Register by calling **340-773-4482** and requesting the *Coral Reef Week trip*.

For VI residents only; advance registration required.

For more information, please refer to the attached event calendar or contact the Coral Reef Week team at 340-773-1082 extension 2255 or usvicoralreefweek@gmail.com.