

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR OBSERVES NATIONAL BOATING SAFETY WEEK, MAY 16-22, 2026

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the department will observe National Boating Safety Week from May 16 through May 22, 2026, with activities coordinated by the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the Division of Environmental Enforcement (DEE).

National Boating Safety Week serves as an important reminder for boaters to take proactive steps to protect themselves, their passengers, and others on the water.

“Boating Safety Week reinforces the message that preparation, awareness, and responsible behavior are essential every time you head out on the water,” said Commissioner Oriol. “Simple actions such as wearing a life jacket, remaining alert, and respecting our waterways can make a life-saving difference.”

The public is encouraged to take advantage of boating safety resources and educational materials available through the national Safe Boating Campaign at <https://safeboatingcampaign.com>.

For additional information, please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 340-773-1082 (St. Croix) or the Division of Environmental Enforcement at 340-773-5774 (St. Croix). More information about DPNR programs and initiatives is available at <https://www.dpr.vi.gov>.

2026 BOATING SAFETY WEEK EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Location
5/16/2026	Boating Safety Class: Participants will learn emergency procedures, navigation rules, sound signals, boat basics, distress signals, anchoring, jet ski & PWC (personal water craft) use, and safety equipment	9am to 4pm	Florence A. Williams Public Library, 1122 King Street, Christiansted, St. Croix To enroll, please email: USCGAuxUSVI@gmail.com
5/18/2026	Life Jacket Loaner Program: DFW will launch a life jacket loaner program for recreational boaters throughout the territory.	Year round	St. Croix: DFW, 45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted DEE, 6003 Anna's Hope, Christiansted St. Thomas: DFW, 6747A Estate Nadir, Tropical Marine DEE, 4611 Estate Tutu, Suite 200, at DPNR
5/21/2026	Boat Inspections and Outreach: DEE and DFW will be holding boat inspections, answering question, and providing outreach materials to boaters (while supplies last).	9am to 12pm	Hull Bay Beach, 4-B Hull Bay Road, St. Thomas
5/22/2026	Boat Inspections and Outreach: DEE and DFW will be holding boat inspections, answering questions, and providing outreach materials to boaters (while supplies last).	9am to 12pm	Altona Lagoon, Mount Welcome Rd & Route 66, St. Croix