

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR LAUNCHES LIFE JACKET LOANER PROGRAM

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces the launch of a new Life Jacket Loaner Program through the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), aimed at increasing access to safe recreational boating throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In observance of National Boating Safety Week, DFW is introducing the program to help both adults and children participate in boating activities who may not otherwise have access to a life jacket. Beginning May 18, 2026, individuals 18 years of age and older may visit any DFW or Division of Environmental Enforcement office in the territory to sign out an adult- or child-sized life jacket for day use.

“Life jackets are not only required by law, but they are also critical to protecting boaters while enjoying the waters of our territory,” said Commissioner Oriol. “We are pleased to offer this program to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to boat safely, even if they do not own a life jacket.”

The Division of Fish and Wildlife encourages all residents and visitors to exercise caution and prioritize safety while on the water.

For more information about the Life Jacket Loaner Program, please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 340-773-1082 on St. Croix or visit the DPNR website at <https://www.dpr.vi.gov>.