



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

-----0-----

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
dpnr.vi.gov



Office of the Commissioner

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

Friday, September 18, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEACH ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) advises the public of the latest results from its Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program. The program conducts weekly water quality testing at popular swimming beaches throughout the Territory, monitoring for Enterococci bacteria and turbidity, an indicator of water clarity.

During the week of September 14–18, 2026, DPNR conducted water quality testing at 30 designated beaches throughout the Territory.

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

St. Croix		
Buccaneer Beach	Gentle Winds	Shoy's Beach
Cane Bay	Ha'Penny Beach	Sprat Hall
Chenay Bay	New Ft. Louise Augusta	Stony Ground
Cramers Park	Pelican Cove (Comorant)	
Dorsch Beach	Prosperity Beach	
Fredriksted Public Beach	Rainbow Beach	

St. Thomas		
Bluebeards Beach	Hull Bay	Sapphire Beach
Brewers Bay	Lindbergh Bay	Secret Harbor
Bolongo Bay	Lindqvist Beach	Vessup Bay
Frenchman's Bay	Magens Bay	

The following beaches did not meet established water quality standards due to elevated levels of Enterococci bacteria and are considered unsafe for swimming and fishing at this time:

- Coki Point, St. Thomas
- Honeymoon Beach, Water Island
- Princess Condo Row, St. Croix
- Protestant Cay, St. Croix

Please note: Samples were not collected from the following beaches:

- Water Bay, St. Thomas
- Grapetree Beach, St. Croix
- All beaches on St. John

As a result, current water quality conditions at these locations are unknown.

The public is advised to avoid swimming or fishing in waters affected by sewage, stormwater runoff, large amounts of sargassum, or other visible signs of contamination. These conditions may result in elevated levels of bacteria or other contaminants that could pose a health risk.

DPNR also recommends avoiding areas near stormwater runoff, including guts, puddles, and drainage basins, as well as water that appear discolored, have foul odors, or contain large accumulations of sargassum.

DPNR will continue to monitor the affected waters and provide updates as conditions warrant.

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