



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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September 21, 2018

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, which is 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 September 17-21, 2018. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

St. Croix

Cramer's Park
Shoy's
New Fort (Ft. Louise
Augusta)
Buccaneer

Chenay Bay
Halfpenny
Dorsch
Frederiksted Public Beach
Cane Bay

Pelican Cove (Cormorant)
Protestant Cay
Rainbow

St. Thomas

Magen's Bay
Brewer's Bay
Lindbergh Bay

Secret Harbor
Hull Bay
Lindquist

The following beaches **do not meet water quality standards because they exceed the established Enterococci Bacteria threshold and therefore are not considered to be safe for swimming or fishing:**

St. Thomas

Coki Point
Water Bay
Sapphire
Vessup Bay
Bluebeards
Bolongo Bay

Please Note: Samples were not collected at the following beaches:

- *All Beaches on St. John*
- *Stoney Ground, Princess Condo Row and Grapetree Bay on St. Croix*
- *Frenchman's Bay on St. Thomas*

Therefore, the water quality of these beaches is unknown.

High levels of Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity may be caused by runoff due to heavy rains, heavy marine vessel traffic, high wave activity near the shoreline, irresponsible recreational use, etc. Runoff can consist of sediment, pesticides, animal feces and oil & grease, all of which are harmful to the waters of the Territory.

DPNR will continue to monitor these popular swimming areas. DPNR also recommends that you use your own discretion when swimming or fishing at the designated beaches. If the waters appear muddy or murky or have foul odors, do not swim or fish. For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix.