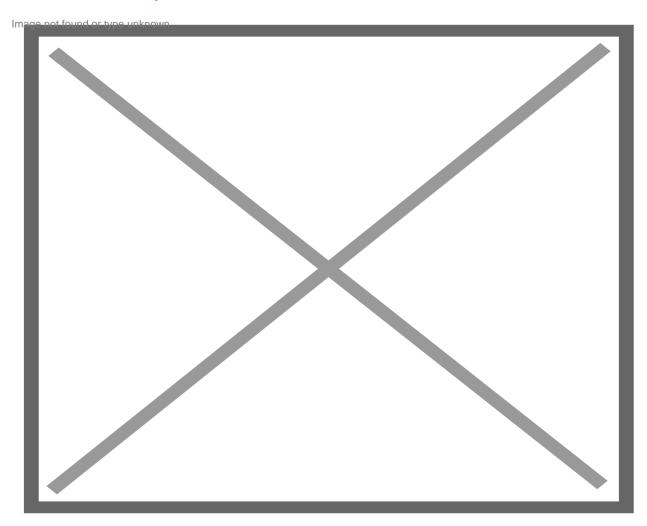
Hurricane Lee Triggers Hazardous Marine and Coastal Conditions in USVI and PR Through Mid-Week

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Although Hurricane Lee does not pose a direct risk to the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, its far-reaching effects are expected to deteriorate marine and coastal conditions through at least the middle of this week. The storm is currently located at latitude 22.1 N and longitude 61.7 W.

Officials have issued Small Craft Advisories for Atlantic Waters, the Anegada Passage, and the local waters of the northern Virgin Islands. Mariners are urged to exercise caution while navigating these areas, as hazardous conditions are expected to persist.

Beachgoers and residents should also be alert to a high risk of rip currents and high surf advisories on the north and east-facing beaches. Breaking waves between 10 and 15 feet are forecasted for these locations, significantly elevating the danger levels for swimming and boating activities.

In addition to the high surf, there is also a separate high-risk warning for rip currents due to breaking waves between 6 and 9 feet. These conditions are particularly treacherous for inexperienced swimmers and may also pose a danger to experienced swimmers caught off guard.

With these advisories in effect, residents and visitors are advised to remain cautious and vigilant, avoiding marine activities and swimming in the affected areas until conditions improve.

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