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Hazardous Seas and Strong Winds Forecasted for USVI and Puerto Rico

Extended weather alert issued for swell and wind event affecting U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico for the entire week

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The National Weather Service in San Juan has issued a decision support briefing, highlighting the presence of hazardous seas and life-threatening rip currents expected to persist throughout the week across Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The briefing details a small north-to-northeasterly swell moving across the regional waters. This, combined with fresh to strong easterly winds generated by a strong surface high pressure north of the region, is expected to continue promoting hazardous seas and life-threatening surf zone conditions through Tuesday.

The conditions are anticipated to persist through the rest of the week and possibly into the weekend due to another long-period northeasterly swell and choppy wind-driven seas. Breezy conditions are also forecasted across the islands throughout the workweek.

Potential Risks and Impacts Outlined

- **Marine Conditions:** The seas are expected to be hazardous, with waves between 6 and 10 feet, occasionally reaching up to 11 feet. Wind speeds of 15-25 knots with gusts of up to 30 knots are likely throughout the workweek. These conditions pose significant risks for small craft. As a result, Small Craft Advisories are in effect through at least Friday for most local waters, except the coastal waters of south and southwestern Puerto Rico, where small craft should exercise caution.
- **Surf Zone Hazards:** Life-threatening swimming and rip current conditions are expected due to breaking waves between 6 and 8 feet, with occasional higher breakers. A High Rip Current Risk warning is in place for the north and east-facing beaches of Puerto Rico, Culebra, Vieques, and the U.S. Virgin Islands beaches throughout the workweek.

Residents and visitors in the affected areas are advised to stay informed and exercise caution near water bodies.