

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Hazardous Seas and Breezy Conditions Forecasted for the Upcoming Week in USVI and Puerto Rico

Marine safety alert: A prolonged period of rough seas and windy conditions

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The National Weather Service has issued a warning for hazardous coastal and marine conditions for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico that are expected to persist this week. Residents and visitors to the region should be prepared for rough seas, life-threatening rip currents, and breezy winds.

The forecast indicates that rough and hazardous marine conditions will persist in the USVI and PR. Northeast winds between 15-20 mph are expected, with occasional gusts

of up to 30 mph, impacting parts of the islands and regional waters throughout the workweek. Additionally, marine conditions may deteriorate further later in the week due to the arrival of northerly swells.

Potential Risks and Impacts:

- **Marine Conditions:** Mariners and boaters are advised to exercise caution, as seas are anticipated to be rough and hazardous, ranging from 6 to 10 feet in height, occasionally surging up to 13 feet. Wind speeds of 15-25 knots, with occasional gusts reaching up to 30 knots, are expected for the duration of the workweek. Small Craft Advisories are in effect for most local waters, excluding the southern coastal waters of Puerto Rico.
- **Surf Zone:** Life-threatening swimming conditions and rip currents are anticipated due to large breaking waves, which will range from 6 to 10 feet, with occasional higher breakers. A High Rip Current Risk is in effect for the north and east-facing beaches of Puerto Rico, Culebra, Vieques, and the U.S. Virgin Islands throughout the workweek. A High Surf Advisory has been issued for north and east Puerto Rico, Culebra, and northern USVI.
- **Breezy to Windy Conditions:** Residents should be prepared for sustained winds ranging from 15 to 20 mph, occasionally gusting up to 30 mph, across Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Outdoor unsecured objects may be susceptible to movement or damage.

Residents and visitors are advised to stay updated on weather forecasts and take necessary precautions to ensure their safety during these challenging conditions.