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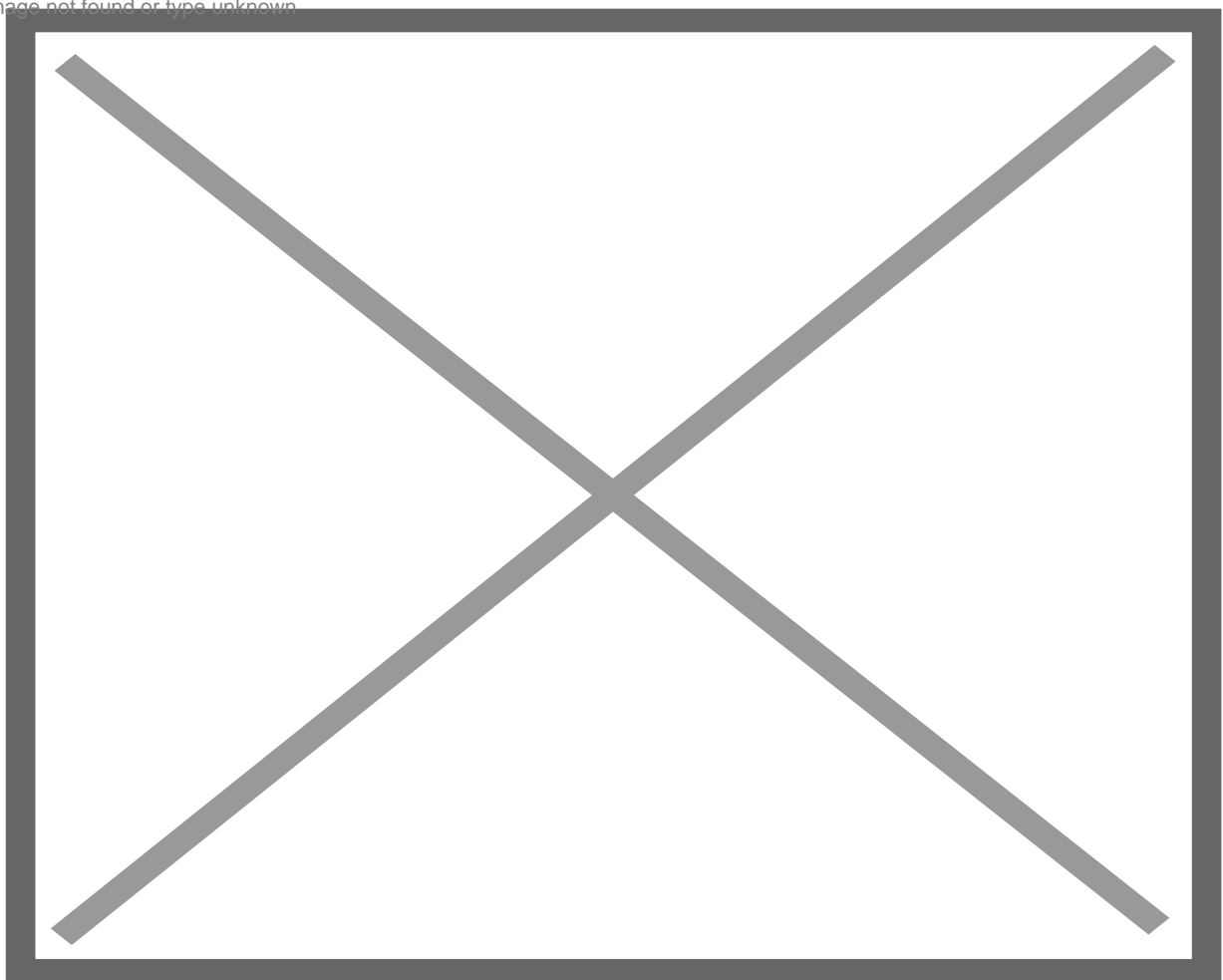
Weather Service Forecasts Hazardous Marine Conditions for Puerto Rico; Calmer Outlook for U.S. Virgin Islands

Puerto Rico faces high surf and rip currents; USVI sees milder conditions

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In its latest decision support briefing issued at 10:00 a.m. AST today, the National Weather Service highlighted differing weather and marine conditions for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The briefing focuses on high surf conditions specifically impacting north-facing beaches of Puerto Rico. A long-period northerly swell, accompanied by moderate to locally fresh northeast winds, is expected to bring choppy seas and hazardous conditions for small craft operators. Life-threatening

rip currents for beachgoers are also anticipated, continuing into early next week.

Consequently, Small Craft Advisories have been issued for nearshore and offshore Atlantic waters, coastal waters of western Puerto Rico, and the Mona Passage. Mariners in these areas should exercise caution as seas are forecast to build between 8 and 10 feet, with occasional surges up to 11 feet, at least until Monday.

While Puerto Rico braces for these conditions, the U.S. Virgin Islands can expect a relatively calmer period. Over land areas, breezy conditions are likely, and there is a possibility of isolated to scattered showers.

The National Weather Service advised residents and visitors in both regions to stay informed and exercise caution, particularly in Puerto Rico due to the heightened marine risks.

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