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## St. Thomas and St. John Face Hazardous Seas as Rip Current and High Surf Advisories Take Effect

**The National Weather Service warns of breaking waves up to 12 feet and life-threatening rip currents along the northern coasts through Thursday. Residents and visitors are urged to exercise caution and avoid entering the water**

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ST. THOMAS — Wind-driven seas combined with a long-period northerly swell are set to create hazardous marine and coastal conditions in the coming days, impacting areas including the Atlantic waters, local Caribbean passages, and the northern coasts of Puerto Rico, Culebra, St. Thomas, and St. John.

According to the National Weather Service in San Juan, Puerto Rico, hazardous seas have prompted small craft advisories across the Atlantic waters and local Caribbean passages, remaining in effect through at least Thursday afternoon.

A high risk of rip currents has been issued for the northern coasts of Puerto Rico, Culebra, St. Thomas, and St. John until Thursday afternoon, NWS said. Breaking waves between 5 to 7 feet, increasing to 10 to 12 feet starting this evening through Wednesday, are expected to create life-threatening rip currents capable of pulling even experienced swimmers far from shore.

The high surf advisory will be in effect from this evening through Wednesday afternoon along the northern coasts of Puerto Rico, Culebra, St. Thomas, and St. John, where breaking waves are forecasted to reach heights of 10 to 12 feet.

### **Potential Hazards and Impacts**

**Small Craft Advisory:** Rough seas pose significant risks to small vessels, increasing the likelihood of capsizing.

**High Rip Current Risk:** Rip currents can quickly sweep swimmers away from shore, creating dangerous conditions for beachgoers.

**High Surf Advisory:** Large breaking waves may wash over jetties, sweep individuals and pets onto rocks, and knock people down. Localized beach erosion, minor flooding, and potential damage to beachfront structures are also possible.

Residents and visitors in affected areas are urged to exercise caution, avoid entering the water, and refrain from visiting hazardous coastal zones during this period. Small craft operators are advised to remain in port until conditions improve.

For detailed updates on marine and coastal conditions, including rip currents and other hazards, visit the Experimental Graphical Hazard Weather Outlook at <https://www.weather.gov/erh/ghwo?wfo=sju>.

These hazardous conditions are expected to persist through at least Thursday, with localized impacts likely to disrupt recreational and marine activities. The public is encouraged to stay informed and take precautions to ensure safety.