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## Hazardous Marine and Coastal Conditions Expected in St. Thomas, St. John and Puerto Rico

**A long-period northwesterly swell is bringing hazardous conditions to St. Thomas, St. John, and PR, with rip currents, high surf, and rough seas. Breaking waves up to 10ft and strong currents pose risks to swimmers and small vessels through Thursday night**

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The National Weather Service in San Juan has issued multiple weather advisories due to hazardous marine and coastal conditions affecting the Atlantic waters, northern coast of Puerto Rico, Culebra, St. Thomas, and St. John. A long-period northwesterly swell is driving these conditions, which are expected to create dangerous waves, strong rip currents, and hazardous seas throughout the day.

For marine hazards, a Small Craft Advisory is in effect for offshore Atlantic waters until 6:00 p.m. this evening. Mariners are advised to exercise caution as rough seas pose a significant risk to small vessels.

For coastal hazards, the NWS has issued two key alerts:

- **High Risk of Rip Currents:** Coastal areas along the northern coast of Puerto Rico, Culebra, St. Thomas, and St. John will experience dangerous rip currents through late Thursday night. These currents pose a serious threat, even to experienced swimmers. Breaking waves will range from 6 to 7 feet in Culebra, St. Thomas, and St. John, with occasional higher waves. Along Puerto Rico's northern coast, breaking waves may reach up to 10 feet.
- **High Surf Advisory:** This advisory remains in effect for the northern coast of Puerto Rico until 6:00 p.m. AST this evening due to large breaking waves of up to 10 feet.

#### **Hazards and Potential Impacts**

- **Small Craft Advisory:** Rough seas will pose challenges for small vessels, making navigation hazardous. Mariners should remain cautious and check for updates before heading out.
- **High Rip Current Risk:** Strong rip currents could pull swimmers away from shore, creating life-threatening conditions. Beachgoers are advised to avoid swimming in affected areas and follow local warnings.
- **High Surf Advisory:** Large waves crashing onto jetties and rocky coastlines can sweep people and pets into the ocean. Rough surf may knock individuals down, leading to serious injuries. Additionally, localized beach and dune erosion, dangerous swimming conditions, and minor coastal flooding may occur, with the potential for damage to beachfront structures.

Residents and visitors are urged to stay updated on marine conditions and hazard risks by checking the Experimental Graphical Hazard Weather Outlook from the National Weather Service:

<https://www.weather.gov/erh/ghwo?wfo=sju>.

Beachgoers, boaters, and residents in the affected areas should take necessary precautions to ensure safety.