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High Surf and Hazardous Marine Conditions Expected in Puerto Rico and USVI

High surf and hazardous marine conditions are expected along Puerto Rico's north coast, as well as in St. Thomas, St. John, and Culebra due to a northeasterly swell. Waves up to 13 feet, dangerous rip currents, and beach erosion are possible.

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The National Weather Service in San Juan has issued alerts for dangerous marine and coastal conditions impacting Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands today due to a long-period northeasterly swell moving through the region. Residents and visitors are urged to exercise caution as these conditions pose risks to swimmers, boaters, and coastal communities.

A high surf advisory remains in effect through 6:00 p.m. this evening, with a rip current statement extending until late tonight. Large breaking waves are expected along the north coast of Puerto Rico, with wave heights between 8 to 13 feet. Meanwhile, Culebra, St. Thomas, and St. John will see waves reaching 6 to 7 feet.

The primary hazards associated with these conditions include:

- Life-threatening rip currents, which can pull even experienced swimmers away from shore.
- Localized beach erosion, particularly along exposed coastlines.

Authorities are urging beachgoers to heed all flag warning systems and avoid entering the water in affected areas.

Additionally, hazardous marine conditions are being reported across the Atlantic waters, with seas ranging from 5 to 7 feet. These conditions will persist through noon AST on Tuesday, creating challenges for small craft operators and increasing the risk of rough seas. The National Weather Service has classified the severity level as "elevated", indicating that while conditions are not extreme, they warrant caution, particularly for smaller vessels.

Apart from marine hazards, afternoon showers are expected to bring an elevated risk of flooding, especially across the interior and eastern sections of Puerto Rico today. Residents in flood-prone areas should remain alert for potential flash flooding and rising water levels in low-lying areas.

The National Weather Service urges the public to avoid swimming or entering the ocean in areas under high surf and rip current warnings; small craft operators should exercise extreme caution or consider staying in port; and residents in flood-prone areas should monitor weather updates and be prepared for possible flooding.