

Image not found or type unknown

USVI and BVI Continue Vessel Fee Talks; Revised Rates Presented by Premier Wheatley

Governor Albert Bryan Jr. and BVI Premier Natalio Wheatley met to review updated charter vessel license fees. Revised rates lower day charter costs and add flexible options, while both leaders emphasized regional cooperation and maritime industry growth.

Business / **Published On April 15, 2025 05:00 PM /**

Staff Consortium **April 15, 2025**

Image not found or type unknown



Governor Albert Bryan Jr. and BVI Premier Natalio Wheatley. By. GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Governor Albert Bryan Jr. and Premier Natalio Wheatley of the British Virgin Islands reconvened today to continue discussions first initiated on March 7, 2025, regarding the BVI's proposed fee structure for Commercial Recreational Vessel Licenses.

During the March meeting, the BVI outlined its initial licensing fees for foreign-based term charters, including an annual fee of \$7,500 for up to seven entries, and an option for unlimited entries at a rate of \$24,000 per year. Day charter licenses were initially proposed at \$12,500 annually, while water taxi licenses were set at \$2,500 per year.

At today's meeting, Premier Wheatley presented updated rates, which reflect the BVI's consideration of stakeholder feedback. Under the revised structure, the fee for foreign-based term charters remains \$7,500 per year for up to seven entries, with an added charge of \$2,100 for each additional entry. The option for unlimited entries remains at \$24,000 annually. The fee for day trips has been reduced to \$8,500 per year, while the fee for water taxis remains unchanged at \$2,500 per year.

Governor Bryan expressed continued concern over the current process for vessel entry and exit into the BVI. He offered support from the U.S. Virgin Islands in developing an automated system to improve and streamline clearance procedures. The BVI indicated that it is currently developing such a system and anticipates its launch by summer 2025.

Beyond the matter of fees and entry procedures, both leaders emphasized their shared interest in strengthening the maritime industry across the Greater Virgin Islands. Governor Bryan and Premier Wheatley noted the importance of regional cooperation in positioning the Virgin Islands as a premier destination for charter vessels.

The revised terms offer a number of practical benefits to charter operators. The reduced fee for day charters from \$12,500 to \$8,500 lowers the cost barrier for smaller operators. The tiered structure for term charters, with a \$7,500 base fee and a per-entry charge, provides flexibility for mid-volume operators, while the \$24,000 unlimited entry option continues to serve high-frequency businesses. Retaining the \$2,500 water taxi fee ensures consistency for that sector.