

The Virgin Islands Consortium

DPNR Launches Life Jacket Loaner Program to Expand Safe Boating Access Across the Virgin Islands

Beginning May 18, adults may visit DFW or Environmental Enforcement offices to sign out adult- or child-sized life jackets for day use, as DPNR introduces the program during National Boating Safety Week to promote safer recreation.

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The V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources has launched a Life Jacket Loaner Program aimed at helping more residents and visitors safely participate in recreational boating across the U.S. Virgin Islands, including those who may not own or otherwise have access to a life jacket.

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol announced the program through DPNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife. The initiative is being introduced in observance of National Boating Safety Week and is intended to increase access to basic safety equipment for both adults and children.

Beginning May 18, individuals 18 and older may visit any Division of Fish and Wildlife office or Division of Environmental Enforcement office in the territory to sign out an adult- or child-sized life jacket for day use.

"Life jackets are not only required by law, but they are also critical to protecting boaters while enjoying the waters of our territory," said Oriol. "We are pleased to offer this program to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to boat safely, even if they do not own a life jacket."

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is encouraging residents and visitors to exercise caution and make safety a priority while on the water.

For more information about the Life Jacket Loaner Program, residents may contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 340-773-1082 on St. Croix or visit DPNR's website.