

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Only One Beach Is Unsafe This Weekend; D.P.N.R. Says

Health / **Published On March 19, 2016 10:02 AM /**

Staff **March 19, 2016**



As the Easter camping seasons draws nigh, residents are hoping conditions will be right for the Department of Planning and Natural Resources to declare the territory's beaches safe.

One week before the popular season arrives, all but one of territory's beaches -- Princess (Condo Row) -- are safe for swimming and fishing, according to the government agency.

On St. Croix, the safe beaches are: Stoney Ground, Protestant Cay, Buccaneer, Cramer Park, New Fort (Ft. Louise Augusta), Dorsch, Frederiksted Public Beach, Pelican Cove (Comorant), Shoy's, Rainbow, Cane Bay, Chenay Bay, A – Mill Harbour, Halfpenny,

Princess (Condo Row) and B – Breezez Grapetree Bay.

On St. Thomas, they include: Lindquist, Coki Point, Vessup Bay, Brewer's Bay, Bluebeards, Secret Harbor, Bolongo Bay, Sapphire, Water Bay, Frenchman's Bay, Hull Bay, Lindbergh Bay and Magen's Bay.

And on St. John, the safe beaches are: Oppenhiemer, Johnson Bay, Frank Bay, Cruz Bay and Great Cruz Bay.

High levels of enterococci bacteria and turbidity may be caused by runoff due to heavy rains, heavy marine vessel traffic, high wave activity near the shoreline, irresponsible recreational use, etc. Runoff can consist of sediment, pesticides, animal feces and oil & grease, all of which are harmful to the waters of the territory, says DPNR.

The department, led by Commissioner Dawn L. Henry, says it will continue to monitor these popular swimming areas. DPNR also recommends that residents use their discretion when swimming or fishing at the designated beaches. If the waters appear muddy or murky or have foul odors, do not swim or fish.

For additional information regarding water quality, call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix.