

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Thomas Beaches Not Sampled For Safety This Week; Chenay Bay In St. Croix Not Safe

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D.P.N.R. said on Friday that due to heavy rains throughout the beginning of the week, the Division of Environmental Protection did not sample St. Thomas beaches. Beachgoers, therefore, should use caution when swimming and fishing in Charlotte Amalie.

Meanwhile on St. Croix, all beaches except Chenay Bay were considered safe for swimming and fishing, as they met water quality standards considered safe, according to D.P.N.R. They include the following: Stoney Ground, Protestant Cay, Buccaneer, Cramer Park, New Fort (Ft. Louise Augusta), Dorsch, Frederiksted Public Beach, Pelican Cove (Comorant), Shoy's, Rainbow, Cane Bay, Princess (Condo Row), A – Mill Harbour,

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

The safe St. John 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.