

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Coastal Zone Management Permits Move Forward

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ST. JOHN -- Senators who make up the Committee on Housing, Public Works, Waste Management and Planning, chaired by Senator Marvin Blyden, voted favorably for all four Coastal Zone Management (CZM) permits heard in the committee on Wednesday at the Cleone Henrietta Creque Legislative Conference Room in St. John.

CZM permit Nos. CZJ-2-14(W), CZJ-14-16W, CZJ-24-16W, and CZJ-29-16W were all forwarded to the full body for further consideration.

"All of the CZM permits are for continued use. Thus far, there hasn't been any complaints or violations by the permittees," said Mr. Blyden. "I do not see any issues with the CZM permits that are before me today."

According to the Legislature, CZM permit No. CZJ-14-16W allows continued use and occupancy of an existing 50'x6' floating dock in Fish Bay, St. John; CZM permit No. CZJ-29-16W allows for the installation of a 70'x6' floating dock in the nearshore area of Cruz Bay, St. John; CZM permit No. CZJ-2-14W allows continued use and occupancy of an existing 100'x5' dock and 6500 ft² of submerged lands surrounding the dock structure seaward of Lovango Cay, St. John; and CZM permit No. CZJ-24-16W allows for the continued use and occupancy of an existing 12'x12' rectangular floating swim platform, an existing 6'x4' water access walkway and three swim buoys near Cruz Bay, St. John.

"The reason for the docks are significant. Some of the docks will alleviate stress for the elderly and disabled population," said Sen. Brian Smith, the outgoing At-Large lawmaker who resides in St. John.

"DPNR Commissioner and the St. John Committee of the V.I. Coastal Zone Management Commission have found the four CZM permits consistent with the policies and standards of VIC Title 12 Chapter 21 for the V.I. Coastal Zone Management Program," said Department of Planning and Natural Resources representative Gregory Richards.