

The Virgin Islands Consortium

DPNR Embarks on 14-Month Study That Observes Vessel Behavior in Territorial Waters

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The Department of Planning and Natural Resources has announced that the Division of Fish and Wildlife has started the Boating and Angling Information Trial (B.A.I.T.), a fourteen-month research study on vessel activity.

According to the release, information gathered from B.A.I.T. will be used to help agencies improve port facilities (docks, boat ramps, fish cleaning tables, mooring balls, etc.) and create a strategic plan to promote outdoor recreation and enterprise. The maintenance and improvement of port facilities ensures the promotion of safe and fun experiences for the industries and public that use our shorelines and waters, D.P.N.R. said.

The study is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Division of Fish and Wildlife will observe the size, number, and activity of vessels at ports across the territory at different time periods and across all days of the week. All data gathered will be anonymous and no individuals or vessels will be approached, only observed, according to the release.

For any questions regarding this program, contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife by email at DFWElectronic@usvi.onmicrosoft.com or by calling the office at (340) 773-1082.

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