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Public Notice | Establishment of Recreational Fishing License in U.S. Virgin Islands

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Notice of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources Intent to Promulgate Rules and Regulations for the Virgin Islands of the United States to Establish a Recreational Fishing Program Pursuant to 3 V.I.C. §401(B)(16) and 12 V.I.C. §105.

DATE OF NOTICE: December 16, 2021

III. DESCRIPTION OF NOTICE Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) has prepared Recreational Fishing Regulations that are available for public comment until February 11, 2022. DPNR is empowered, with the approval of the Governor, to issue rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of 12 V.I.C. as appropriate to implement their powers,

duties, and functions. The Draft Recreational Fishing Rules and Regulations are for the purpose of establishing recreational fishing definitions, a licensing program for individuals and charter vessels, and gear and take constraints.

IV. NOTICE OF PROPOSED PUBLIC HEARING A hearing on the Draft Recreational Fishing Regulations shall be held at 4:00 PM for both districts on Monday, January 10, 2021. This meeting will be held virtually via GoTo Meeting Meeting URL:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/817672533> Phone call-in: +1 (646) 749-3122

V. AVAILABILITY OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS The Draft Recreational Fishing Rules and Regulations are attached to this notice and are available for viewing electronically at <https://dpr.vi.gov/fish-and-wildlife/fish/>

VI. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT To submit comments on the draft rules and regulations, please contact DFW at: DPNR-DFW, 45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted, VI 00841 Email: DFWElectronic@usvi.onmicrosoft.com Comments must be submitted to DPNR at the above-mentioned address either in writing or by email on or before 5 pm, February 11, 2022.

VII. DPNR'S RESPONSE TO COMMENTS DPNR will consider any comments made by the public. Within 15 days of the close of the public hearing period, the Department shall file the proposed rules with the appropriate government agency in accordance with 3 V.I.C. § 913.