

# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

U. S. Virgin Islands

## Coastal Zone Management

Special Edition Newsletter



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Department of Planning & Natural Resources



# Implementing the VI Coastal Zone Management

## INTRODUCTION

The V.I. Coastal Zone Management Act (VICZMA) or Act was established in 1978 as a means of regulating development and managing coastal resources in the territory. The Coastal Zone Management Commission is the entity responsible for implementing the mandates set forth in the Act. The goals and policies of the VICZMA are quite comprehensive, covering a full range of issues and concerns likely to arise in conjunction with regulating land use in the coastal zone. The Act emphasizes social, environmental, economic, cultural and aesthetic values, and recognizes issues of resource capabilities and limitations. Long term social and economic benefits, the protection of the environment and traditional activities, and the public use of the shoreline consistent with tradition are the concerns of the program.



### **Coastal Hazard Mitigation**

To the extent feasible, discourage further growth and development in flood prone areas and assure that development in these areas is designed to minimize risks to life and property. Improve public awareness of coastal natural hazards and opportunities to reduce risks to life and property. Identify hazard areas (coastal locations that, if developed, would pose a hazard because of periodic flooding, storms, erosion or land settlement) and improve the ability to use non-structural means to mitigate damages from coastal hazards. Seek NOAA technical assistance for immediate post-hurricane assessments.



### **Sustain Coastal Ecosystems**

Conserve ecologically significant resource areas for their contribution to marine productivity and value as wildlife habitats, and preserve the function and integrity of reefs, marine meadows, salt ponds, mangroves and other significant natural areas. Restore coastal habitats that have been impacted by surface runoff, development and other disturbances. Acquiring information on the quality, quantity and distribution of coastal habitats and biodiversity is essential for effective and efficient management.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

### **Coastal Water Quality**

Sustain and improve coastal water quality and improve the ability to protect and restore coastal water quality by reducing the adverse impacts of new development activities and mitigating the adverse impacts of existing developments.



# Program Through Strategic Management & Projects

## ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

### *Improve Divisional Efficiency*

Provide clear, easily accessible information and guidance to permit applicants and other interested parties. Establish a productive work force by exploring and providing opportunities for technical training. Enhance permitting program through the use and implementation of related technology and tools.



*Bluebeards Villas Beach*

### *Public Access*

Encourage and provide affordable and diverse public recreational opportunities in the Coastal Zone for all residents of the Virgin Islands through the acquisition, development, and restoration of areas consistent with sound resource conservation principles.



*10<sup>th</sup> US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting*

### *Enhance Public Awareness*

Increase the involvement and commitment of citizens and affected interests in efforts to protect and restore coastal water quality and coastal resources.



*Coastweeks Beach CleanUp*

### *Public Outreach & Education*

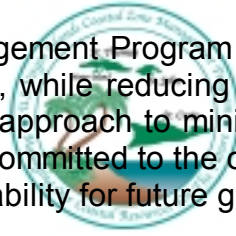
Promote the management our coastal resources for the future by the development of three goals. These objectives are to provide information; to raise and enhance public awareness and interest; and to encourage positive action.



*St. Thomas CZM Public Hearing*

# CZM Mission Statement

The U.S. Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program was established to manage, enhance, protect, and preserve our coastal resources, while reducing conflicts between competing land and water uses. It represents a comprehensive approach to minimizing the impacts of activities on our coastal resources. Our program is strongly committed to the overall management of the coastlines to ensure environmental and economic sustainability for future generations.



## CZM Commission

### Present Members

Anthony Winston Adams  
John H. Beagles  
Christian O. Christensen  
Julien Harley  
Albert Hewitt  
Robert Mathes  
John Brion Morrisette  
Austin "Babe" Monsanto  
Madaline H. Sewer  
Sarah "Peggy" Simmonds

### Past Members

Leroy Arnold  
John Babb (*deceased*)  
Ruth Beagles  
Justin Berkeley  
John Bernier  
Mavis Brady  
Christopher Brathwaite  
David Canegata  
Reynold Charles  
James Dalmida Jr.

Liston Davis  
Charles Farrell  
Peter Griffith (*deceased*)  
Edwin Hatchette  
Oscar Henry  
Valdemar Hill  
Keith Husband  
Marquis C. James  
Orville Kean  
Jean Larsen

Helen Marsh (*deceased*)  
Thomas Matthias  
William Newbold  
Albert Paiewonsky  
William Roebuck (*deceased*)  
James L. Ross  
Eric Schindler  
Edith Smith-Adams  
Henry Thomas  
Beverly "Susan" Weaver



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