

UVI Newsletter



Virgin Islands Marine and Advisory Service



VIMAS

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Advisory Service

Beach cleanup highlights:



Fig 1: Group photo after the Coki Point / Water Bay cleanup.



Fig 2: Howard Forbes Jr (left), Cheryl Petsche (middle), and Emoi Petersen (right), collecting and recording trash as they walk the shoreline of Brewer's Bay Beach.

Coast Weeks in Full Swing 2014

September 20th, 2014 marked the beginning of Coast Weeks, a nationwide initiative set forth by The Ocean Conservancy to mobilize communities in the fight for trash free seas. The issue of marine debris and coastal pollution might seem overwhelming but it is entirely preventable. Through Coast Weeks, volunteers have assembled on all three islands in the V.I. to improve the condition of our beaches; making them safer not just for beach-goers but marine life as well. Sea turtles are amongst some of the most susceptible marine animals to plastic bags; mistaking them for jellyfish resulting in injury or death.

Since the kick-off event on September 20th, there have been more than ten cleanups on St. Thomas,

St. Croix, and St. John collectively. This year, more than 100 volunteers have pledged their time to assist with the cause in St. Thomas and with several more beach cleanups scheduled, the number of volunteers this year is expected to increase.

**"It's not about
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In 2013, approximately 8,000 pounds of trash was collected from the Virgin Islands. Keep in mind though, it's not about how much trash

is collected but rather what kinds of trash. That information can be used to implement better management practices to combat the specific issues encountered at each beach. Some beaches simply need larger, more visible signs that indicate littering is not allowed whereas others might benefit from small recycling centers that can recycle the trash that accumulates on the beach.

Coast Weeks ends October 31st, but if you haven't had a chance to come out to cleanup, there are still many more to come. Keeping the beach clean is a year-round task. For more information, contact Howard Forbes Jr (VIMAS Coordinator) @ (340) 513-7203 or howard.forbes@live.uvi.edu.

Upcoming Beach Cleanups (St. Thomas)

October 11th: Red Hook Salt Pond
(8:30 AM–12:00 PM)

National Park Road (8:30 AM–11:30 AM)

October 11th: Brewer's Bay Beach
(8:30 AM–12:00 PM)

October 25th: Mandahl Bay (9:00 AM–12:00 PM)

October 21st: Vessup, Secret Harbor,



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