



## What You Can Do to Help Protect St. Croix Waters & Reefs

### Learn all you can about our oceans and reefs

*“When you learn about something you value, you understand it; when you understand it, you respect it; when you respect it, you protect it.”*

Visit:

- [www.coralreef.noaa.gov/](http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/)
- [www.coralreef.noaa.gov/outreach/welcome.html](http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/outreach/welcome.html)
- [www.coris.noaa.gov/](http://www.coris.noaa.gov/)
- [www.npca.org/marine\\_and\\_coastal/coral\\_reefs/](http://www.npca.org/marine_and_coastal/coral_reefs/)
- [www.gotostcroix.com/vine/index.htm](http://www.gotostcroix.com/vine/index.htm)



### Join the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008 initiative on St. Croix

Participate in regular IYOR events on-island & become part of the global effort to increase awareness & appreciation of coral reefs to better protect & manage them.

Contact: Karlyn Langjahr at (340) 773-3367 or [karlyn.langjahr@dprn.gov.vi](mailto:karlyn.langjahr@dprn.gov.vi);  
Kim Ishida at (340) 690-7452 or [kim.ishida@gmail.com](mailto:kim.ishida@gmail.com); or  
Emily Tyner at (340) 692-4144 or [etyner@uvi.edu](mailto:etyner@uvi.edu)

Visit the St. Croix East End Marine Park! Schedule a guided tour or visit by calling 340-773-3367.

### Use smart practices for cleaner water and healthier reefs

*Cleaner waters and healthier reef ecosystems are not only more beautiful, but also better for human health!*

- Dispose of trash in proper receptacles
- Discard car batteries, appliances, electronic waste, and other items at proper sites
- Use canvas or reusable bags instead of plastic bags when shopping
- Use water efficiently
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers on your yard or gardens
- Compost your organic waste and use organic fertilizers
- Carpool or drive more fuel-efficient vehicles



## More smart practices for cleaner water and healthier reefs...

- Reduce your amount of driving by combining errands, using public options, or walking/ biking
- Recycle motor oil and keep your vehicle in good working condition
- Use energy-efficient lights and appliances in your home
- Turn off lights and appliances when they are not in use
- Do not feed marine animals such as birds, sea turtles, dolphins, whales, etc.
- When fishing, only keep the fish that will be consumed; release the rest
- Minimize by-catch when fishing
- Practice ethical fishing methods and follow local fishing regulations
- Properly treat boat sewage instead of flushing it into the water
- Consume fish and seafood that are harvested ecologically and by sustainable practices
- When snorkeling or diving, do not touch the corals or animals!
- "Leave Paradise in its Place" - do not collect beach shells, sand, marine organisms
- Use mooring buoys or set your boat's anchor on sand instead of reefs
- Support reef-friendly businesses
- Report illegal activities you witness such as dumping of waste into our waters, etc.
- Contact your government representatives to voice your concerns and interests
- Join local organizations the work toward better conservation & management of marine resources
- Consume as much local and organic food as possible to minimize shipping fuel & chemicals
- Plant a tree or other plants to help eliminate run-off into the oceans & to absorb humans' carbon dioxide



## Spread the word!

*Tell friends, family, clients, and visitors about coral reefs! The more we know and understand about reefs, the better stewards we will become. The more people engaged with our island's treasures, the more united our efforts will become to help protect coral reefs.*

Let others know about International Year of the Reef 2008 and the St. Croix East End Marine Park and encourage them to participate and join in local efforts.



## ***Making Things Happen!***

*All V.I. RC&D programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regards to, race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).*