



Virgin Islands Shipping Registry

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SAFETY ALERT

NOTICE TO MARINERS

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Applicability: All vessels in Virgin Islands waters

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North Coast Virgin Gorda - Transiting North Sound and Eustatia Sound

In the North Coast of Virgin Gorda, in the North Sound and Eustatia Sound there are a number of resorts. The area is considered as one of BVI's "Natures Little Secrets" and is a playground for recreational activities such as swimming, snorkelling, stand up paddle boarding, windsurfing, kite boarding etc.

The Blunder Bay area from the Anguilla Point to Little Leverick Bay and the buoyed channel between North Sound and Eustatia Sound is a NO WAKE ZONE and has SPEED LIMIT 5 Knots. It has been brought to our attention that many vessels in transit ignore these restrictions and proceed at very high speed. The wake created by these large vessels and speeding powerboats is eroding the beaches and making water based recreational activities dangerous.

It is important to note that the vessels MUST transit the area at such a speed that NO WAKE is generated by them. This means that larger vessels with higher draught and displacement such as cargo ships, barges and mega yachts may have to proceed at a speed lower than 5 Knots in order to create NO WAKE during their passage. Transiting the area with due consideration to other users will result in preservation of our precious eco-system and be good for the economy of the region.

Virgin Islands Shipping Registry strongly recommends:

1. Larger vessels such as Cargo Ships and Barges to avoid using the buoyed channel adjoining Saba Rock and instead use the passage north of Eustatia Island.

2. All vessels transiting the Blunder bay area from Anguilla Point to Little Leverick Bay and the buoyed channel between North and Eustatia Sound to slow down to such an extent that there is no wake behind them.

Mariners are reminded that under BVI Merchant Shipping Laws there are penalties for operating a power craft:

1. which is dangerous to navigation or to life or limb of person;
2. to create nuisance to any other person;
3. while impaired by alcohol or drug;
4. at more than 5 Knots within one hundred yards of low water mark;

The Virgin Islands Shipping Registry welcomes the use of our territorial waters for recreational purposes by the leisure industry in a safe and considerate manner

Director

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