

TROPIC NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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VI ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

The Division of Fish and Wildlife, the UVI Cooperative Extension Service, and various individuals trained or with an interest in tropical flora and fauna have developed a list of species which can be considered endangered in the US Virgin Islands. The list contains 49 species of plants and 28 species or groups of animals. Also included on this list are two federally listed plants and 8 federally listed animals.

This list is promulgated by the Commissioner of DPNR under Act 5665, Section 104(g), the VI Endangered and Indigenous Species Act of 1990. All species on this list are protected by law and anyone found harassing, injuring, killing, taking, catching, possessing or attempting to do the same is subject to a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$10,000 and not more than 60 days in jail.

Permits may be issued for the collection of these species for scientific or educational purposes and can be applied for through the Commissioner's office.

INDIGENOUS AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PERMITS

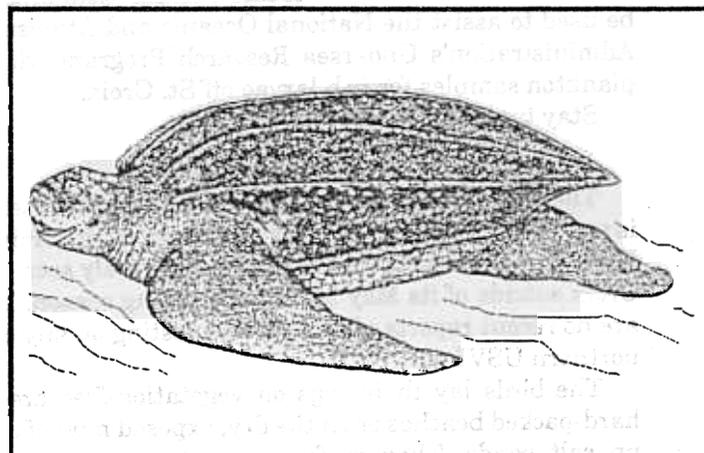
Under the VI Indigenous and Endangered Species Act of 1990 numerous activities require a permit. To apply for a permit a **Permit Application Form** must be submitted. This form provides all the necessary information for the DPNR to evaluate the need and potential effects of the proposed activity and the type of permit to be issued. These forms are available at Division of Fish and Wildlife and Bureau of Environmental Enforcement offices on St. Croix and St. Thomas. The following permits can be obtained;

Collector's Permit - This permit is issued for any type of collecting activity. Collecting of fish and marine invertebrates for any commercial purpose requires payment of a fee (10% of the value of the organisms sold to an average dealer in Miami, Florida). The fee schedule is available at the above mentioned offices. Exceptions to this are where the collector is providing bonafide educational or research opportunities to the public.

Retention/Transit Permit - This permit is issued in conjunction with a collector's permit if the collected flora or fauna are to be held in captivity or shipped off-island.

Mangrove Cutting Permit - This permit is issued for the cutting or pruning of any of the three species of mangroves occurring in the US Virgin Islands. These include the Red, Black and White mangrove.

All permit applications will be reviewed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and will be either issued or denied by the Commissioner within 30 days of receipt by DPNR. All fees are to be paid at the Bureau of Environmental Enforcement.



The leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) has been on this planet for approximately 150 million years with little change. These turtles commonly reach total lengths of close to eight feet and the males have been found weighing over 2000 pounds. They are in a different family from the other sea turtles and do not have a hard carapace (shell). These turtles nest every two years in the tropics and spend the rest of their time in the north Atlantic. The leatherbacks that nest on Sandy Pt., St. Croix are the largest nesting population in the United States.

VIDEO IN PRODUCTION

The Division of Fish and Wildlife and the V.I. Seagrass Office (Dana Fagan) are cooperating to produce a video on plastics in the environment using the leatherback turtle as an example of a species being seriously affected by plastic discarded in the ocean. The video will feature V.I. children asking questions of a local scientist. The video will contain excellent footage of leatherback turtles on Sandy Pt. and graphic footage of plastics in the V.I. environment. The video is being produced in both english and spanish and will hopefully be completed by late summer 1991.

COMING SOON

SEABIRD UPDATE

LEATHERBACK UPDATE

1990/1991 WHALE SEASON RESULTS

