

TROPIC NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 1998

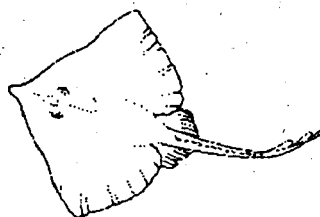
Volume 10 Number 9

A Divers Guide to Things That Sting

This is the final segment of this article, which has been in previous issues.

Other Potentially Harmful Animals

Stingrays and *Scorpionfishes* - Stingrays and Scorpionfishes are non-aggressive marine animals which rely upon camouflage to blend them into the surrounding area.



Because they are not always easily seen by swimmers and divers, injuries sometimes occur. Both stingrays and scorpionfishes are capable of producing a deep puncture wound. Scorpionfishes can inject a strong venom into the victim. Do not attempt to remove any spines which may be imbedded. Seek medical attention immediately, as these types of wounds may produce serious reactions.

Now that you know about all the dangerous things that live beneath the sea, it almost makes you want to up and move to Oklahoma, right? Well, don't start packing yet. You can still enjoy the beauty of the undersea world without risking your health. A little common sense will go a long way in helping you enjoy safe diving, snorkeling, and swimming activities:

- 1.) Avoid touching coral or other animals, especially if you are unfamiliar with the animal or are prone to allergic reactions.
- 2.) Learn more about reef creatures and how to recognize those that are potentially harmful.
- 3.) Prepare a first aid kit that would be useful in treating venomous marine wounds.
- 4.) Always use the "buddy system", so you'll have help available if you need it in the event of an emergency.

Article written by Cathy C. Lawlor former DFW employee.

1998 National Clean Boating Campaign

The Marine Environmental Education Foundation (MEEF) has

launched the first annual National Clean Boating Campaign (NCBC), a year round program to promote good stewardship of our water resources by boating families, marina operators, boat dealers and manufacturers.



Campaign Goals

The goal of the National Campaign for Clean Boating is to improve water quality from boating and boating industry activities through a national outreach educational program.

Campaign Objectives

The National Clean Boating Campaign objectives for the public/private partnership for clean boating include:

1. To build a network of partnering national, state, and local organizations, businesses, agencies and individuals to promote clean water practices by the boating industry and boating public
2. To establish an annual National Clean Boat Week celebration of the importance of recreational boating and clean water each summer
3. To produce a national education campaign of multiple national and local programs to promote clean water practices by recreational boating industry and boating public
4. To develop corporate and public partnerships to support and promote clean boating and clean water
5. To increase industry and boating public awareness of the importance of water quality protection.

May 1998 - Redhook, St. Thomas
Temperature

Maximum	Minimum	Rainfall
89.0°F	72.3°F	4.97 inches

1998 National Clean Boating Campaign Boat Sewage Control & Pumpout Use

Remember...

- Do your part to keep sewage out of America's boating waters.
- Clean water is just more fun.

What Boaters Can Do

1. Always use onshore restrooms when docked.
2. Encourage everyone to use the shoreside facilities before casting off.
3. When going boating for three or more hours, plan for onshore restroom stops while buying fuel or eating at waterfront restaurants.
4. Do not dump any untreated sewage into any lake, river, or coastal water inside the three mile limit; it's illegal.
5. Keep fats, solvents, oils, emulsifiers, paints, poisons, phosphates, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins out of toilets.
6. Take dogs to marina's posted pet walk area (or use a pooper scooper).
7. Help other boaters understand ways to control boat sewage, pass this information on.

COASTWEEKS 1998

Celebrate, Educate, Participate
September 19 - October 11, 1998

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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Address Correction Requested

Endangered Species Coloring Book now available

A long awaited addition to the Environmental Education Program is our Endangered Species Coloring Book of the Virgin Islands. The book features an official list of V.I. Threatened and Endangered Species of local plants and animals, as well as drawings of many species. Illustrations were done by Teresa "Red" Fisher.

The coloring book was produced to provide information on some of the threatened and endangered plants and animals found in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each plant or animal in the book is in danger of extinction. The threats are all related to human activities which alter the natural environment. Threats include overharvest, habitat destruction and introduction of exotic species which are predators or compete with local species for food and habitat. By learning about our endangered species you will be better able to make informed decisions and take proper actions to protect and conserve our valuable natural resources.

As with most of our environmental education materials, there is a postage fee of \$ 2.00 (U.S. Stamps only) per coloring book. Give us a call or mail in your request with appropriate name/address information.



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Donna M. Griffin - Editor

Ralf H. Boulon Jr. - Chief of Environmental Education

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Trees were saved by printing on recycled paper