

# Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Platinum Level Sustainability Report



## 2023 USVI Charter Yacht Show

11/12/2022

Prepared by: Oriel Blake  
Clean Regatta Organizer  
[info@vipca.org](mailto:info@vipca.org)

Green Team Members include: Kara Hubert, Kristie Weiss, Alyse Arehart, Melissa Popple, Mwamini Frett

## 1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations:



We had two water refill stations on site at the event, both with signage that encouraged refilling water bottles. We provided as our swag thermos stainless steel water bottles so that the refillable water stations were used, complementing our plastic water bottle free event.

## 2. Eliminate Plastic Straws:



Our event is 100% plastic straw-free. We do not put any straws in the beverages offered at evening events. Additionally, attending crews are encouraged to take the Project Green Flag Pledge which includes choosing reusable over disposable products. Some crews offer metal straws onboard, but most crews avoid them altogether.

### 3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware:



All meals were served on compostable paper plates with bamboo cutlery and compostable hot and cold cups.

#### 4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags:



All of the Yacht Show's attendees were provided with VIYA reusable bags in effort to reduce single-use plastic bags in grocery stores. Award-winning crews were also provided with a VisitUSVI.com reusable tote.

5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy:



Our trophies are crystal, not plastic.

## 6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts:



and the environment

- Toxic aerosol sunscreen spray travels up to 1500 feet.
- The difference between SPF30 and SPF50 is only 1% more protection.
- Toxic chemical sunscreen ingredients can be found in human urine 20 minutes after application.
- A recent French study showed that more than 80% of our personal care products have endocrine disrupting chemicals. Read your ingredient labels on shampoo, conditioners, moisturizers, skin cleansers, deodorants, cosmetics, baby care products and perfume.

Stream2Sea has been working to set the standard for what is reef-safe since 2015. When it comes to safety, you can guess or be certain. We'd like you to be certain.

Look no further for products that are safe for you and our waters!

Stream2Sea products protect our bodies, our waters and our environment. The packaging is biodegradable or made of recycled materials. And most importantly these products make us feel responsible and safe when using them!

LEARN MORE AT [STREAM2SEA.COM](http://STREAM2SEA.COM)!

For 10% off your order and an automatic donation to Island Green Living, use coupon code

VIPCA

hello@stream2sea.com 866-968-9513 www.stream2sea.com



“Toxic 3 Os” are harmful to Humans, Coral and Marine Life

USE ONLY CORAL-SAFE MINERAL SUNSCREEN WITH NON-NANO ZINC OXIDE & TITANIUM DIOXIDE, the only sunscreen ingredients deemed safe and effective by the FDA

SCAN ME

Please also:

- Wear rash guards & hats
- Avoid aerosol sprays

Please help preserve the pristine beaches & stunning underwater world that lure you to our shores so that you & your loved ones can enjoy them for years to come!

For more information, visit [islandgreenliving.org](http://islandgreenliving.org)

VIPCA  
Virgin Islands Professional Charter Association



**PROJECT GREEN FLAG**

### About Project Green Flag

Project Green Flag encourages environmental stewardship within the Virgin Islands professional charter industry. This initiative, which started as an idea between crew, coordinates other crew for the purpose of protecting the Caribbean ecosystems that our industry and community rely upon.

### What are Project Green Flag's goals?

- **Be Careful.** Promote environmentally responsible boating practices among charter crews.
- **Be Active.** Coordinate crew participation in activities that benefit the local marine environment.
- **Be Informed.** Communicate news and advice that informs our environmental efforts.

Project Green Flag finds a natural partnership with VIPCA, whose leadership recognizes that a commitment to social and environmental responsibility benefits both community and

Oriel Blake, VIPCA's Executive Director, gave a presentation at the event that described VIPCA's VI Marine Stewardship campaign, as well as Project Green Flag, both of which are VIPCA sponsored initiatives that encourage local charter yacht crew to be mindful and protective of our local marine ecosystems while operating in the Virgin Islands. You can find more information about both campaigns at: <https://vipca.org/project-green-flag/>

## 7. Involve Local Organizations:



Friends of Virgin Islands National Park and STAR (Sea Turtle Assistance and Rescue) provided two separate seminars on conservation during the show. We also pay a donation to the University of the Virgin Islands for their planting more mangroves to carbon offset our guests flying in.



## 8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage:



VIPCA had four reusable signs posted at the registration area where all evening events were held. The signs consisted of a description on the Clean Regatta Campaign, a Sewage Discharge notice, a Mangrove Carbon Offset initiative, and information about Protecting Turtles.

## 9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably:



Each year's Yacht Show Culinary Contest requires "Local ingredients sourced from the US Virgin Islands." Crews were to use a minimum of two locally sourced ingredients in each dish entered and provide information on where the ingredients came from. They were judged based on execution, appearance, taste, creativity, and uniqueness of ingredients. The winner of the main course entree's item [pictured] includes locally caught tuna purchased from a local fisherman in Frenchtown, and vegetables sourced at the farmers market in St. Thomas.

## 10. Organize a Green Team:



This year's Green Team consisted of VIPCA's Executive Director Oriel Blake, Project Green Flag Melissa Popple & VIPCA's Marine Stewardship Committee board member Kara Hubert and chair Mwamini Frett. All four were onsite at the event ensuring compliance with the Clean Regatta Program. Kara worked off-site collecting information and submitting it online for the final report. Outside of this event, we all are members of VIPCA's Marine Stewardship committee and work with local government and businesses to help educate and inform the committee of how we can all be better stewards of our local marine environment. These efforts have been made in various VIPCA press releases, VIPCA Facebook posts, as well as through emails over the last year. We are currently working to grow our Marine Stewardship committee with more local crews and businesses so everyone can be on the same page!

## 11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage:

Dear VIPCA Members and New Charter Businesses,

VIPCA's Marine Stewardship Campaign #vimarinestewardship is asking everyone to make an effort to serve as positive stewards on our local waters.

A great first step is to familiarize yourself with boating information for cruising within the U.S. Virgin Islands. Today we are focusing on two areas that are managed by the National Park Service - the Virgin Islands National Park around St. John, and Buck Island Reef National Monument off of St. Croix.

Any vessels operating commercially in the Virgin Islands National Park must obtain a commercial use authorization permit via an application process with the Virgin Islands National Park and not only to pay for overnight use of the National Park moorings.

Anchoring inside the National Park is only permitted offshore Lind Point and Francis Bay, St. John. Vessels over 210' LOA are prohibited from anchoring in the Park.

Anchoring outside the Park boundaries of St. John is permitted in Cruz Bay, Great Cruz Bay, Chocolate Hole, and Coral Harbor. VIPCA is working with DPNR for an expanded list of short-term anchorages to be published soon. See the Department of Planning and Natural Resources for permitted long-term anchoring locations around St. Thomas and St. Croix: <https://dprn.vi.gov/environmental.../anchoring-mooring/>

Trash Disposal on St. John is permitted on the four beaches where there are locking bins: Hawksnest Bay, Little Cinnamon Beach, Maho Bay, and Francis Bay. NPS is also directing vessels to utilize the dumpster by the basketball courts (past Starfish Market, across from E&C Gas Station; this would be a 0.7mi walk with trash in hand, so consider making transportation arrangements). NPS is asking boaters to avoid using the locking bins at the Visitors Center. Do not use the smaller, open trash bins for your volume boat garbage. Never leave trash outside any garbage bin as wild animals will get into it.

Fishing Regulations: <https://dprn.vi.gov/fish-and.../fish/fishing-regulations/>

No fishing/lobstering in the Park while on commercial charter. For more information call the National Park: 340-776-6201 ext. 238 /or pick up a Mariners Resource Guide at the Visitors Center in Cruz Bay. You can also email DPNR Enforcement at [dee@dprn.vi.gov](mailto:dee@dprn.vi.gov) with any questions or concerns.

Anchoring at Buck Island Reef National Monument: You can find updated alerts and conditions for anchoring here at <https://www.nps.gov/buis/index.htm>, as well as information on exploring nearby attractions around St. Croix.

We had volunteers on site bussing dining areas and disposing of trash in proper receptacles for the attendees. VIPCA's VI Marine stewardship committee also shared a post to yacht crew on how to be better stewards of our local waters, which included where to properly dispose of trash throughout the USVI (see post attached).

## 12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill:



We were able to limit food waste at the event by donating leftover meals in compostable to-go containers to The Bethlehem House Shelter, a Catholic Charity here on St. Thomas.

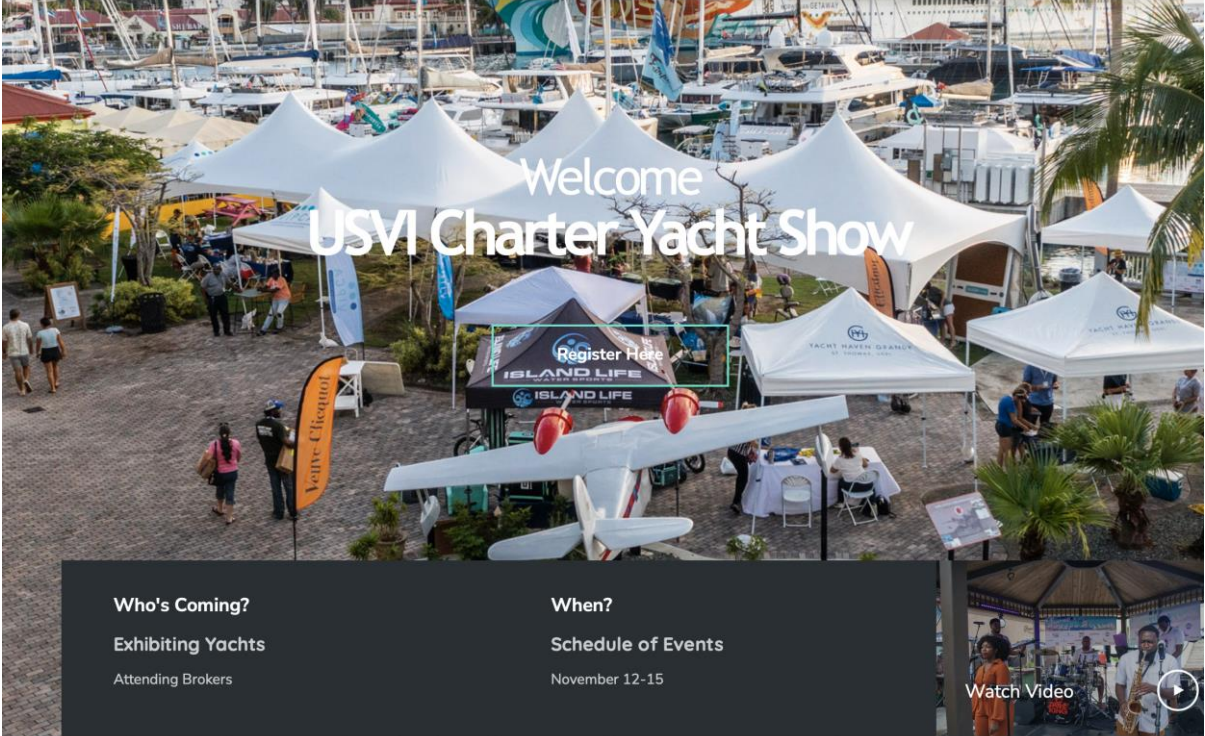
<https://catholiccharitiesvi.org/what-we-offer/>

## 13. Use Paperless Event Management:

Phone: 1-340-642-0656 info@vipca.org Welcome Message from Governor Bryan Photo & Video Awards VIPCA.org

VIPCA  
USVI Charter Yacht Show

HOME ATTENDEES ▾ EVENTS ▾ ABOUT PRESS ▾ SPONSORS CONTACT REGISTER HERE



Welcome  
USVI Charter Yacht Show

Register Here

Who's Coming?  
Exhibiting Yachts  
Attending Brokers

When?  
Schedule of Events  
November 12-15

Watch Video

WELCOME

# USVI CHARTER

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. New opportunities to network, learn, shine and certify all in a world-class venue are what yacht brokers and crewed yachts can anticipate at the 2022 USVI Charter Yacht Show. Set for November 12-15 and hosted by the Virgin Islands Professional Charter Association

This year we offered a Yacht Show website ([www.usviyachtshow.org](http://www.usviyachtshow.org)), which consisted of an event map, brochure of exhibiting yachts, schedule of events, pictures, videos, and a message from Governor Albert Bryan Jr. This website eliminated the need for paper maps and brochures and was a very useful resource for all attendees.

## 14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up:



VIPCA's Marine Stewardship committee hosted a virtual island clean-up in honor of Earth Day Friday April 22nd. Crews and members of the community were asked to choose any area within the USVI (for example a beach, trail, waterfront, neighborhood, etc.) and capture their clean-up efforts in a social media post tagging #VImarinestewardship on Facebook or Instagram. This has become an annual effort by VIPCA to recruit crews to dedicate a day to pick up trash on a beach, at a marina, in a neighborhood, along a trail, etc. This year several crews joined the effort and over 20 heavy duty bags of trash were collected, mostly containing various plastic waste.

## 15. Promote Alternative Transportation:



### ACCOMMODATIONS

1. **Bluebeard's Castle - VIPCA Preferred Hotel...** *20% show discount.* Brokers must call the hotels directly to make the reservation using the discount code "yacht show" 340-774-1600.
2. **Bolongo Bay Beach Resort...** *20% show discount.* Brokers must call the hotels directly to make the reservation using the discount code "yacht show" 1-800-524-4746
3. Olga's Fancy
4. At Home In The Tropics
5. The Green Iguana
6. Calypso Reality
7. Alternative recommendations in the East End (20 min drive):
  1. The Ritz Carlton
  2. Secret Harbour

The Yacht Show's registration page promoted Bluebeard's Castle as a preferred hotel because it is within walking distance to the marina. Brokers were incentivized to book this hotel with a 20% special Yacht Show discount.



## 16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection:



A presentation was given on the Sea Turtle Monitoring and Protection Program, geared for an audience of charter boat captains and industry leaders, at the USVI Charter Show at Yacht Haven on Sunday, November 13th at 9am and again at 12pm. Specific info was provided on what protections are in place, and how that shapes what good marine stewardship looks like from the vantage of a charter boat in our waters, and specifically in VI National Park, if/when applicable.

Speaker:

Willow Melamet

Marine Programs Manager

Friends of Virgin Islands National Park

[wmelamet@friendsvinp.org](mailto:wmelamet@friendsvinp.org)

760.470.8995

## 17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives:

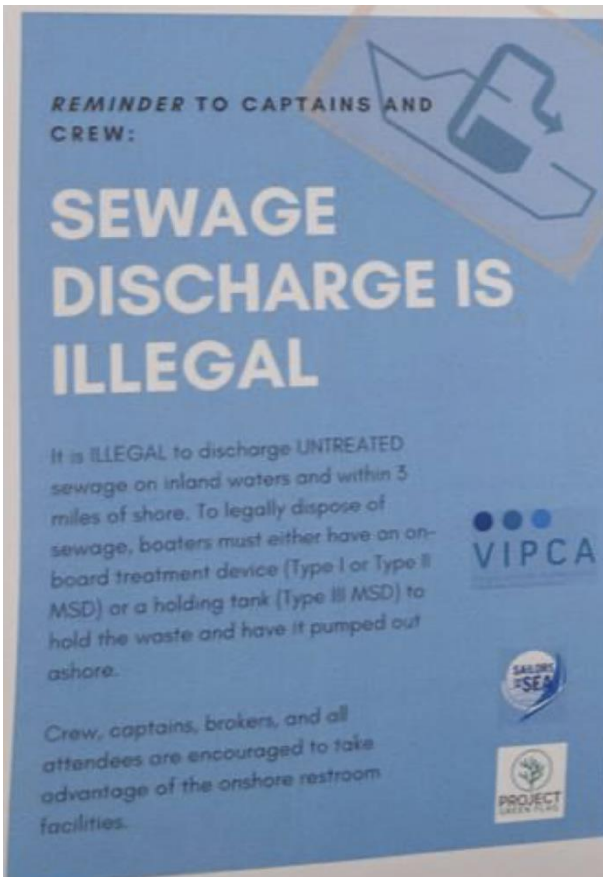


VIPCA served catered meals from the local Moe's Fresh Market, which included vegetarian options at each meal.

## 18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

Eco-Smart Race Techniques do not apply to our event since we were a land-based Yacht Show, however, see bonus opportunities for more efforts.

## 19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water:



VIPCA partnered with VI Clean Coasts, Stream2Sea and Island Green Living to promote the mineral sunscreen law in the USVI. Also at this event we had a re-usable sign that read "Sewage discharge is illegal," (see attached re-usable sign) and crew, captains, brokers, and all attendees were encouraged to take advantage of the onshore restroom facilities. Additionally, VIPCA recently shared a Facebook post just before the event reminding yacht crews to check their sunscreen labels.

## 20. Encourage Green Boating Practices:

THE

# GREEN FLAG PLEDGE

GREEN FLAG VESSELS ARE COMMITTED TO PROTECTING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENTS THAT SUPPORT OUR VIRGIN ISLANDS CHARTER INDUSTRY

A CAMPAIGN BY



PROJECT  
GREEN FLAG

1

### REEF SAFE SUNBLOCK

Rash guards and clothing are the safest form of sun protection. When creams must be applied, crews use- and ask that guests use- mineral sunblock whose active ingredients are simply non-nano zinc and/or titanium. In 2020, the USVI's historic "Toxic 3 Os" Sunscreen Ban went into effect, banning sunscreens that contain any of three reef-harming chemicals. Be informed that the label "REEF SAFE" can still be misapplied to chemical sunscreens.

2

### REDUCE PLASTICS ONBOARD

Today, plastic constitutes approximately 90% of all trash floating on the ocean's surface. Crews take practical steps to reduce single-use plastics, especially: Providing filtered water from the boat or having refillable jugs delivered; choosing refillable rather than single-use toiletries; provisioning with reusable tote bags; choosing reusable over disposable products.

3

### SOURCE SUSTAINBLE SEAFOOD

Crews are learning which local and store-bought seafoods are sustainable, allowing them to choose the best options as often as possible (see USVI Fish Fact Cards). Crews abide by local fishing regulations and are mindful of popular sites that risk being overfished (see DPNR Fishing Regulations).

4

### ANCHORAGE ETIQUETTE

Crews choose to moor whenever possible, and they exercise best anchoring practices to avoid damaging reefs and seagrass beds. They also minimize the use of underwater lights, and they dispose of tank waste *and* food waste away from any shoreline. They make no wake in mooring fields and are mindful of turtles and wildlife that can be harmed by propellers and fast dinghies (see Reef Stewards Campaign).

5

### BE ACCOUNTABLE

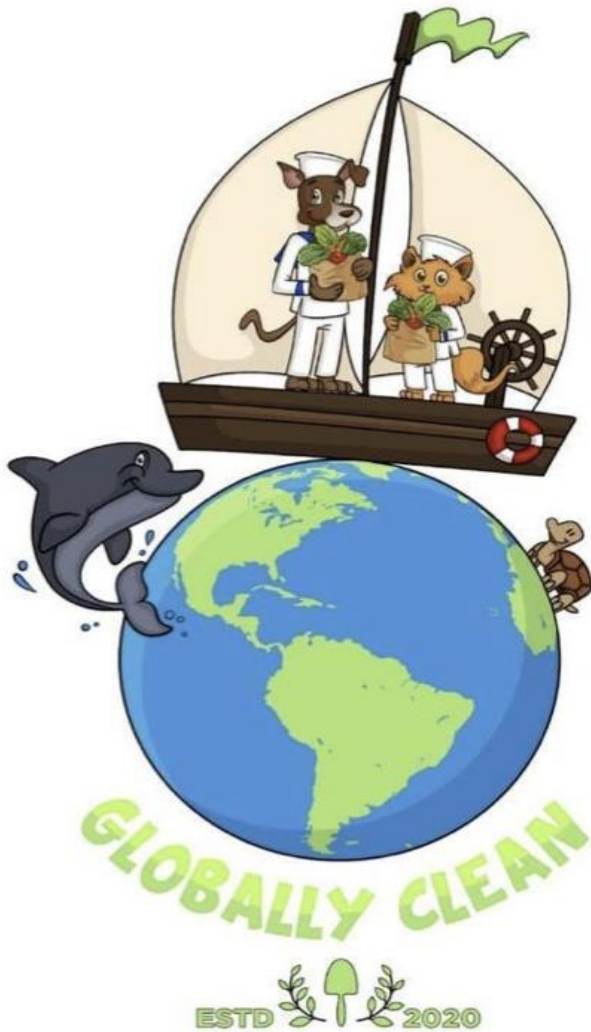
Crews act as stewards and advocates for our local marine resources. They stay informed and offer information to others within our boating community. They practice friendly, helpful communication to encourage responsible fishing, mooring, and anchoring behaviors. They report damage via the DPNR Hotline app.

Promoting Green Boating Practices is a major part of VIPCA's Marine Stewardship initiative! We also encouraged crews to take the Project Green Flag Pledge which includes taking "steps to reduce single-use plastics, especially providing filtered water from the boat or having refillable jugs delivered, choosing refillable rather than single-use toiletries, provisioning with reusable tote bags, and choosing reusable over disposable products."

We have the Project Green Flag webpage on [vipca.org](https://vipca.org), which provides general signage and talking points that were used at the event. Also on VIPCA's website and YouTube channel, you can view Project Green Flag's founder, Alyse Arehart, giving a presentation on Reef Stewardship which discusses protecting the resources that support the Virgin Islands charter industry. The presentation highlights problems that local crews and divers have observed locally and discusses how we can address these problems with our fellow local mariners and community. The discussion further covers how we can become better stewards of our waters by being informed, boating responsibly, and being accountable.

<https://vipca.org/project-green-flag/>

## Bonus Opportunities:



We supported a wonderful local cause that we felt was beneficial to the environment, as well as the local St. Thomas Humane Society. VIPCA teamed with Globally Clean who donated their reusable produce bags, “Doggy Bags”, to all attendees of the Show. This donation was a joint effort between Green Team member Kristi Marquart and Globally Clean founder Illana Reich. Kristi first reached out to Illana because they share a mutual interest in reducing plastic waste and helping local island dogs find homes. The donation of reusable doggy bags is in effort to reduce single-use plastics and to encourage more local yacht chefs to use them while provisioning for charters. VIPCA also helped advertise during the event that Globally Clean’s Doggy Bags can be purchased locally at our sponsored grocer Moe’s Fresh Market, with every purchase supporting local animal and environmental welfare projects. [www.globallyclean.com](http://www.globallyclean.com)