GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Marine Incident at Seal Dog Island

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The Marine Safety Investigation and Reporting Authority (MSIRA) of the Premier's Office is informing the public about a marine incident that occurred on Tuesday, 21 October 2025, around 11:00 p.m.

The incident took place between Long Bay, Virgin Gorda, and Seal Dog Island. It involved a 48-foot Bali 4.8 catamaran named Borrowed Bounty, which reportedly broke loose from its mooring ball, drifted, and collided with rocks at Seal Dog Island. This collision compromised the vessel's structure, caused it to take on water, and ultimately led to its sinking.

There were 7 passengers on board, none of whom were injured.

Chief Marine Safety Investigations Officer, Mr. Jerome Padmore, reported that the Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR) responded swiftly, ensuring the prompt recovery of the occupants. He said the vessel was salvaged by Husky Salvage & Towing.

“Investigations are ongoing regarding the circumstances surrounding the incident,” he stated. “The use and condition of mooring balls is becoming a significant safety concern in Virgin Islands waters, leading to vessel losses and severe damage. Increased public awareness and attention from operators and facility managers are needed.”

Mr. Padmore said in response to these incidents, the Marine Safety Accident Investigation Authority will conduct a full investigation to identify issues and improve safety standards for mooring systems across the Territory. He said MSIRA will continue to provide updates as the investigation progresses and reminds all mariners that marine accidents must be reported to MSIRA as required by law.

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About:

The Marine Safety Investigation and Reporting Authority (MSIRA) operates under the Premier’s Office and is the official body responsible for the independent investigation of marine accidents and incidents within the territorial waters of The Virgin Islands. Guided by the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations, 2020 and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Casualty Investigation Code, MSIRA's primary objective is to enhance maritime safety through fact-based investigations, the identification of safety issues, and the

issuance of recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. MSIRA investigations do not seek to apportion blame or establish liability.

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Additional Documents or Media

- vf_marine_incident_at_seal_dog_island.pdf