GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

Tel: (284)468-2730
Official Government Website:
https://gov.vg

Works Commence On Derelict Vessels Removal & Disposal In Sea Cows Bay Harbour

Release Date: 8 December, 2025



The Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency (RDA) is pleased to announce the commencement of works under the Derelict Vessels Removal & Disposal Project, which will see the extraction of 28 abandoned and deteriorated marine vessels from the Sea Cows Bay Harbour.

This project marks a significant step forward toward improving maritime safety, restoring the natural marine environment, and enhancing the visual and ecological quality of a marine shelter and one of the Territory's key coastal areas.

Removal works are scheduled to begin at 7:00 a.m. daily, with operations taking place both on the water and along the shoreline.

The removal process will involve extracting vessels from the harbour, transporting them to the loading site in Sea Cows Bay, and breaking them down into distinct waste streams at a designated staging site at Pockwood Pond. Materials will be separated into metal, plastics, wood, and fiberglass.

The public is kindly asked to exercise caution in the area, as some vessels will be brought ashore for removal. Residents and motorists are advised to stay clear of large heavy machinery and follow all directional and safety signage.

The commencement of works for the project follows the contract signing held on 17 November, 2025 with the joint venture of Sandwise Ltd. & Commercial Dive Services Ltd., who were awarded the contract valued at US$854,633.43. The contract duration is four months.

RDA Chief Executive Officer Mr. Anthony McMaster noted that the commencement of this project reflects the Government's ongoing commitment to responsible marine management.

"The removal of derelict vessels is essential for safe navigation, environmental protection, and the overall resilience of our coastal infrastructure. We are pleased that this project is now underway and that it is being delivered by local expertise through this joint venture," CEO McMaster stated.

The removal and disposal works will not only address long-standing safety hazards but also contribute to environmental restoration as debris and pollutants

associated with abandoned vessels can pose risks to marine life and water quality.

The project complements wider efforts to promote a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable marine environment.

The RDA will continue to provide updates as work progresses in the coming months.

# # #

ABOUT THE: Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency (RDA)

The Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency was established in April 2018 to lead the territory’s recovery efforts following the catastrophic hurricanes of 2017. Since its formation, the RDA has managed key recovery projects across the territory, helping to restore vital infrastructure and build resilience for the future.

ABOUT THE: Virgin Islands Development Agency (VIDA)

The Virgin Islands Development Agency (VIDA) will be an established permanent body that will oversee long-term development and infrastructure projects of the Virgin Islands. The agency’s mission will include promoting sustainable growth, enhancing disaster resilience, and driving economic development throughout the territory.

For more information contact:

For Additional Information Contact:

Colene A. Penn

Head of Communication

Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency

Mobile: (284) 440-0040

Email: communications@bvirecovery.vg

Website: www.bvirecovery.vg

Additional Documents or Media

- 012_works_commence_on_derelict_vessels_removal_project.pdf