



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**  
March 9, 2015

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## **VIPA Director Updates Public on Status of Crown Bay Dredging**

Preparation for the dredging of the East Gregerie Channel in Crown Bay, St. Thomas began last week announced Carlton Dowe, Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Port Authority.

The US Army Corp of Engineers approved the dredging permit on February 23 which allows VIPA to dredge the channel and a section along the northern side of the Austin “Babe” Monsanto Marine Terminal cruise ship pier to provide safer berthing conditions for large cruise vessels. Dowe said that VIPA has hired Bio Impact, Inc. to perform the mitigation requirement of the permit. This involves the relocation of plants, coral and other marine life in the areas to be dredged in the channel and along the cruise ship pier in Crown Bay. The process should take about three weeks, he said.

In addition to the sea life mitigation, VIPA has hired Orion Marine Construction, Inc. to perform the dredging. Dowe said that they are currently preparing the curtains that will contain the dredged material and minimize the sound of the dredge machine, which is also a requirement of the permit.

The project will cost about \$2.5 million, and is funded via bond financing secured by the Port Authority last year. Dredging should be completed by September 2015.

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Divers of Bio Impact, Inc. prepare to perform the mitigation of sea life along the ocean floor of the areas to be dredged by the VI Port Authority in the East Gregerie Channel and along the north side of the dock at the Austin “Babe” Monsanto Marine Terminal, Crown Bay, St. Thomas.



The barge operated by Orion Marine Construction, Inc. is stationed in Crown Bay as workers prepare the silt curtain to begin dredging.