

Dependable Maritime Services

rebuilding habitat  
from the bottom up

## Environmental Assessment Report

For Dependable Maritime Reef Ball Habitat Project  
Coki Point, Brewer's Bay/UVI, and Cloudbreak/Inner Brass.

October 2005

*Hamy*

**Environmental Assessment Report  
For  
Permit Application of**

**The placement of reef ball habitat on three sites at  
Coki pt., Brewer's bay/UVI, and off Inner Brass Is.  
St. Thomas, USVI**

**Prepared by Dependable Maritime Services  
Crown Bay Marina  
St. Thomas, USVI  
October, 2005**

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## **1.0 Name and Address of Applicant**

Dependable Maritime Services  
Capt. Harry Freyn 111  
17 – 5B St. Peter  
St. Thomas, USVI. 00802

Dependable Maritime has provided the Virgin Islands Port Authority live-handling services for passenger vessels, operating out of Crown Bay for over five (5) years. It is owned and operated by Capt. Harry Freyn and Edward Pierce. These men have 50 years experience working and playing in VI waters.

**2.0 Location of Project** - please see location map – fig. 1&2

**2.01 First Site – Coki Pt. Beach – East end, St. Thomas, USVI**

An area of sand bottom approximately 3000 sq. ft. and oval in shape, it lies 400' north of Coki pt. beach in 45-50' of water. Its geographical centerpoint location coordinates are:

LAT 18' 21.026" N  
LONG 64' 51.999" W

**2.02 Second Site – Brewer's Bay – South side, St. Thomas.  
(northside-airport runway)**

3000 sq. ft. oval shaped area located due north .79 NM from Range Cay and .07 NM from the UVI dock in 13 – 18' of water.

Centerpoint coordinates:  
LAT 18' 20.387" N  
LONG 64' 58.706" W

**2.03 Third Site – Inner Brass Island – North Side, St. Thomas**

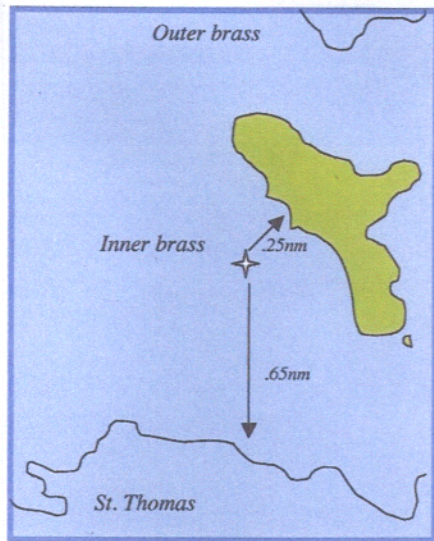
A round patch of sand 100' in diameter. ( 7850 sq. ft. )  
The site lies in 50' + of water between Inner Brass Is. and the north shore of St. Thomas about 300 yds from the southwest point on Inner Brass.

Centerpoint coordinates:  
LAT 18' 22.822" N  
LONG 64' 58.630" W

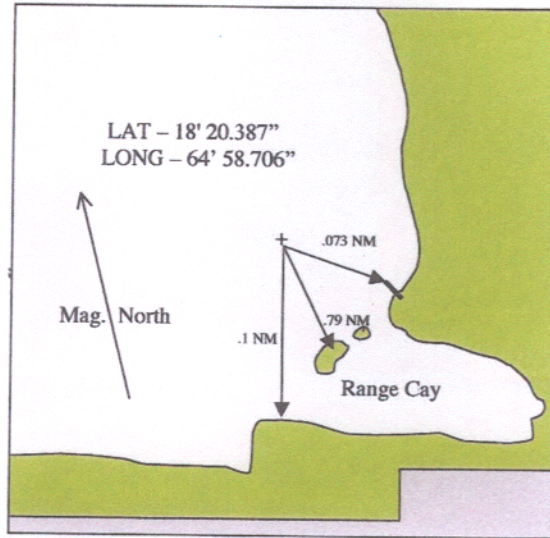
Figure 1.  
Sites Location Map



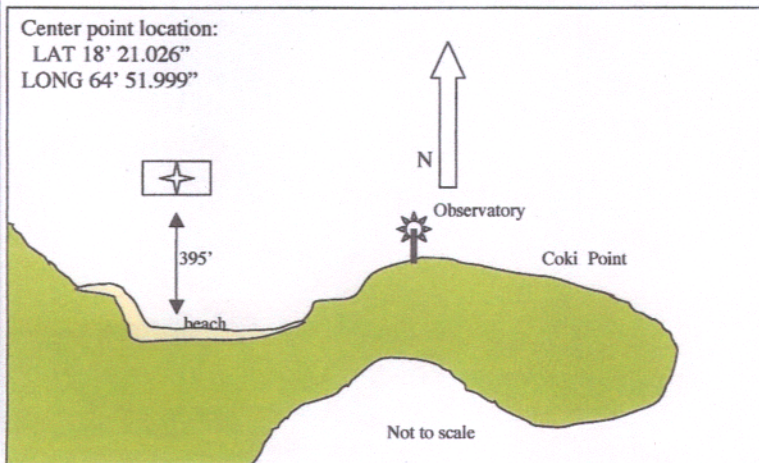
**Figure 2.**  
**Vicinity Maps**



**Cloudbreak/InnerBrass**



**Brewer's Bay/UJVI**



**Coki Point**

### **3.0 Abstract**

To give to the people and tourists of the Virgin Islands an improved ecosystem in a scientifically engineered reef. Using the most proven methods, these reefs will be placed in three (3) separate locations with specific purpose in targeting 3 key areas of interest to the VI; Education (Brewers bay/UVI), Tourism (Coki pt.), and local business (Cloudbreak). These sites were also selected as they are areas that need promotion of habitat.

Dependable Maritime is dedicated to bi-annual monitoring of all the systems, consisting of species censuses and photographs of reef ball growth and development.

We wish to make aware the public and public officials of the social, economic, ecological importance of a reef ball habitat as a first step in building a foundation for additional or alternative sources of funding.



## 4.0 Objectives Sought by Proposed Project

The object of this application is to obtain a Major Water permit to place three (3) reef ball ecosystems underwater in specific areas, not only to promote eco – tourism, such as Coki pt., or to provide a study reef for our local UVI marine science department, but more importantly to pave the way for a new, diverse, and environmentally friendly way to bring money into the Virgin Islands.

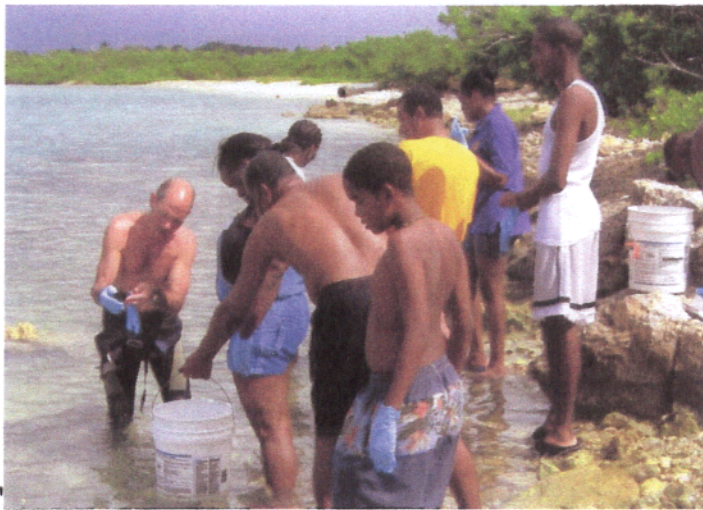
Dependable Maritime Services realizes potential in fish farming, beach restoration, coral transplanting and reef building projects to name a few. When permit is granted our primary endeavor will be to place 38 reef balls on the Cloudbreak site near Inner Brass island. It is our wish to incorporate the ashes of paying customers into the concrete which makes up the individual reef balls. This will provide a less expensive alternative to internment, and can be quite attractive to water enthusiasts.

There are many facets to this business and spin – offs could be extensive, travel, hotels, restaurants, funerary services for visiting loved ones. At home we promote fisheries, help reefs recover, buy materials, hire locals, educate youth, and contribute to the local tax system.

Some immediate objectives can be summarized :

- a. Develop a reef ball habitat specifically designed for fishing
- b. Develop a reef ball habitat to enhance fisheries
- c. Develop an eco-tourism reef for diving and snorkeling
- d. Develop a juvenile reef ball habitat

Tom Maher of Marine Habitats, Inc. said, "Based upon a decade of experience with artificial reefs around the world, this reef represents the best and most complete natural reef mimic for an artificial system than I have every observed.



**Figure 3**

*Tom Maher, left, teaches members of the Optimist Club of St. Johns about sea urchins.*

The whole project cost less than traditional breakwaters, which are rarely environmentally friendly, yet produced an end result with far greater beauty, usefulness and environmental sensitivity. Therefore, Stanford Development Company Ltd. and the Reef Ball Foundation have raised the bar for Caribbean developers. It's now possible to leave our coral reefs in a better state after construction of breakwaters. For more information about this project, go to the Reef Ball Foundation's website at [www.reefball.org](http://www.reefball.org), then click on the World Mapping System, then click on the Caribbean Ocean, then click on the Reef Ball icon to the right of Antigua.



*Left: Optimist Club members gather sea urchins for the new reef  
Right: Spiny Lobsters in 'Layer Cake' style Reef Ball.*

*Left: Urchin seeking protection in Reef Ball depression.*

