

# Sunscreen Pollution at TRUNK BAY & HAWKSNEST - St. John, USVI-



**Oxybenzone**, a common sunscreen ingredient, has been measured in our Bay at levels that threaten ecosystem health.

STAGHORN CORAL



Photo credit: Caroline S. Rogers, USGS

Hawksnest West

RQ 8.3

Hawksnest East

RQ 10.56

Trunk Bay East

RQ 155

Trunk Bay West

RQ 64.44



CORAL

Accumulates in tissues. Can induce bleaching, damage DNA, deform young and kill.

GREAT STAR CORAL



Photo credit: Jeff Miller, NPS

Hawksnest West

RQ 1.44

Hawksnest East

RQ 1.83

Trunk Bay East





RQ 26.83

Trunk Bay West

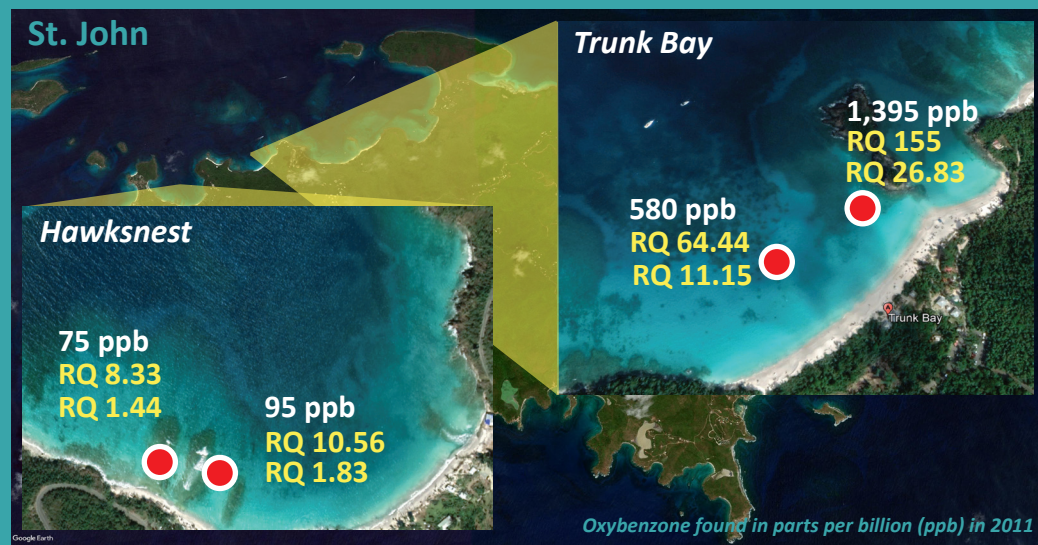
RQ 11.15

## EPA GUIDELINE: RISK QUOTIENT (RQ) $\geq 0.5$ = HIGH RISK

Risk Quotients are used to determine the need for a **REGULATORY ACTION** for a chemical of concern.

-  High ecological risk (greater than or equal to 0.5)
-  Acute risk for endangered species (greater than or equal to 0.05)
-  Moderate risk and potential for restricted use (greater than or equal to 0.1 but less than 0.05)
-  Low risk (greater than or equal to 0.05 but less than 0.1)

**NO ACTION** will lead to further death at Trunk Bay and Hawksnest, St. John



## OTHER THREATS:

-   Unsustainable tourism
-  Walking on reef
-  Invasive species
-  Climate change

## WHAT WE CAN DO:

- Inspect active ingredients & choose non-nano zinc oxide and titanium dioxide sunscreens
- Seek shade between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Use Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) sunwear
- Reduce pollution in the Bay and educate visitors



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