

# Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Platinum Level Sustainability Report



## 2021 USVI Charter Yacht Show

November 7 – 10, 2021

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Green Team Members include: Alyse Arehart & Oriel Blake

## 1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations:



We had two water refill stations on site at the event, both with signage that encouraged refilling water bottles.

## 2. Eliminate Plastic Straws:



Our event is 100% plastic straw-free. We do not put any straws in the beverages offered at evening events. Additionally, attending crews are encouraged to take the Project Green Flag Pledge which includes choosing reusable over disposable products. Some crews offer metal straws onboard, but most crews avoid them altogether.

### 3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware:



All meals were provided in compostable take-away boxes with bamboo cutlery.

#### 4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags:



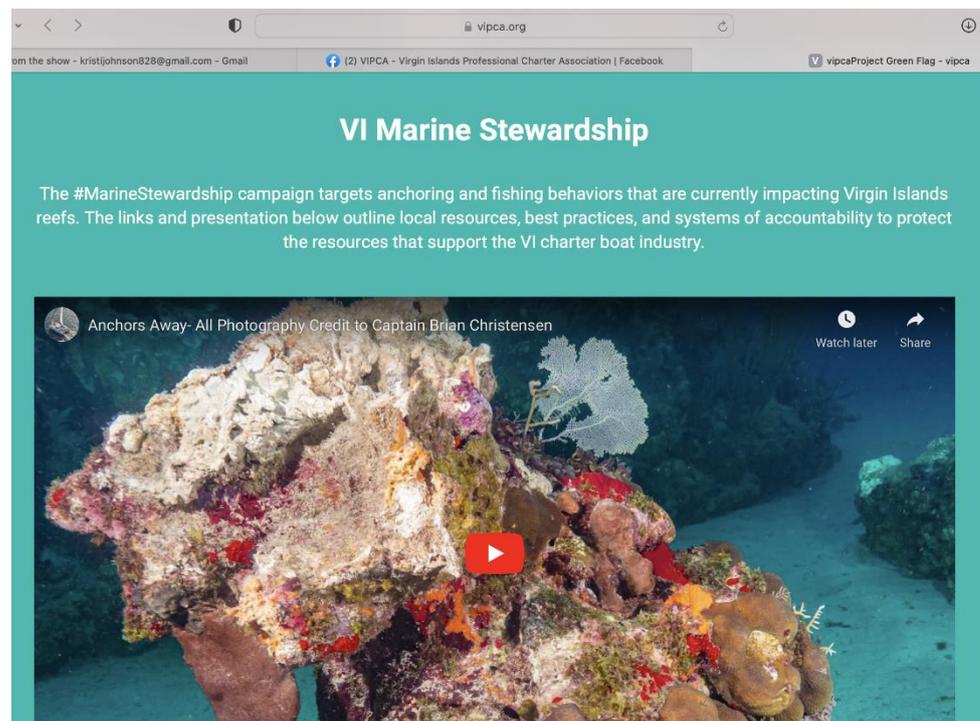
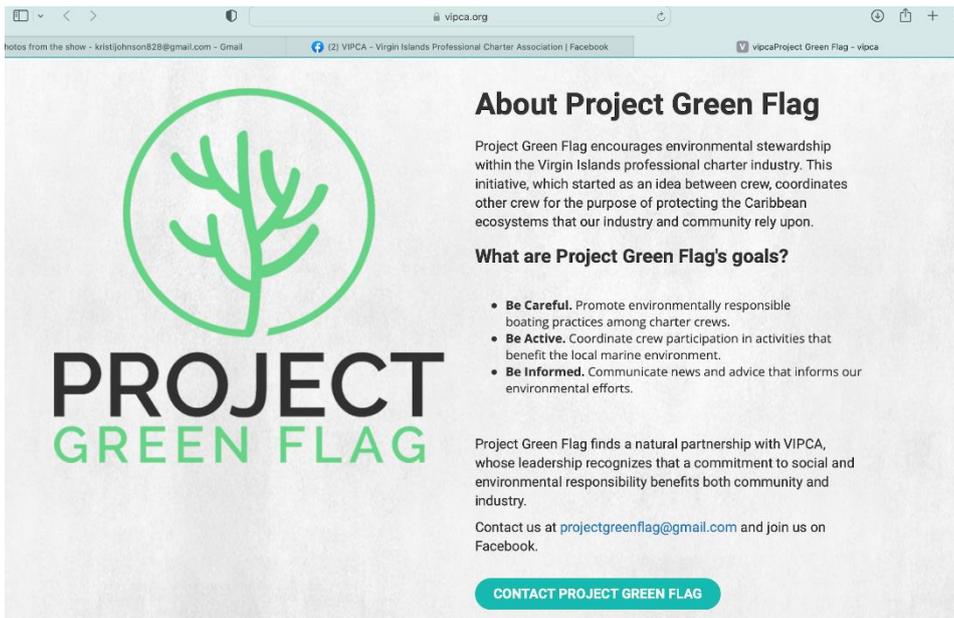
All of the Yacht Show's attendees were provided with Globally Clean's reusable produce bags in effort to reduce single-use plastic bags in grocery stores. We also highlighted that these can be purchased locally at Moe's Fresh Market, with the goal to see more local charter yacht chefs utilizing reusable bags when provisioning. Every purchase supports local animal and environmental welfare projects ([www.globallyclean.com](http://www.globallyclean.com)). Award-winning crews were also provided with a VisitUSVI.com reusable tote.

#### 5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy:



Our trophies are crystal (not plastic), and the totes are made of canvas.

## 6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts:



Oriel Blake, VIPCA's Executive Director, gave a presentation at the event that described VIPCA's VI Marine Stewardship campaign, as well as Project Green Flag, both of which are VIPCA sponsored initiatives that encourage local charter yacht crew to be mindful and protective of our local marine ecosystems while operating in the Virgin Islands. You can find more information about both campaigns at: <https://vipca.org/project-green-flag/>

## 7. Involve Local Organizations:



Oriel Blake, VIPCA's Executive Director, spoke at an evening event on behalf of Friends of Virgin Islands National Park (whose representative was unable to attend at the last moment) about how crews can help protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the Virgin Islands National Park, which is a large area through which local yacht crews operate.

## 8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage:



VIPCA had four reusable signs posted at the registration area where all evening events were held. The signs consisted of a description on the Clean Regatta Campaign, a Sewage Discharge notice, a Mangrove Carbon Offset initiative, and information about Protecting Turtles.

## 9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably:

### IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

**This year's theme is:**

**"LOCAL INGREDIENTS SOURCED FROM THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS"**

You must use a **minimum of two** locally sourced (ie. farm, fishermen...) ingredients in each dish entered, and provide information on where your ingredients came from.

You will be judged based on execution, appearance, taste, creativity, and uniqueness of the ingredients.

There will be limited entries allowed in each course. Courses are: Appetizer, Main, and Dessert.

Judges to include St. Thomas' own celebrity Chef Julius Jackson, and more!

Once you have signed up on the VIPCA website, it is recommended that you join the facebook group **VIPCA YACHT SHOW CULINARY COMPETITION** for all the latest updates, tips, etc.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vipcaculinarycomp>



This year's Yacht Show Culinary Contest theme was "Local ingredients sourced from the US Virgin Islands." Crews were to use a minimum of two locally sourced ingredients in each dish entered, and provide information on where the ingredients came from. They were judged based on execution, appearance, taste, creativity, and uniqueness of ingredients. The winner of the main course entree's item included pictured above featured Red Hind Grouper purchased from a local fisherman in Frenchtown, roasted okra and white sweet potatoes grown locally, as well as micro greens sourced from local Sugar Brown Farms, all on St. Thomas.

## 10. Organize a Green Team:



This year's Green Team consisted of VIPCA's Executive Director Oriel Blake, Project Green Flag's Alyse Arehart, and VIPCA's Marine Stewardship Committee board member Kristi Marquart. Oriel & Alyse were onsite at the event ensuring compliance with the Clean Regatta Campaign. Kristi Marquart worked off-site collecting information and submitting it online for the final report. Outside of this event, we all are members of VIPCA's Marine Stewardship committee and work with local government and businesses to help educate and inform the committee of how we can all be better stewards of our local marine environment. These efforts have been made in various VIPCA press releases, VIPCA Facebook posts, as well as through emails over the last year. We are currently working to grow our Marine Stewardship committee with more local crews and businesses so everyone can be on the same page!

## 11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage:

Dear VIPCA Members and New Charter Businesses,

VIPCA's Marine Stewardship Campaign #vimarinestewardship is asking everyone to make an effort to serve as positive stewards on our local waters.

A great first step is to familiarize yourself with boating information for cruising within the U.S. Virgin Islands. Today we are focusing on two areas that are managed by the National Park Service - the Virgin Islands National Park around St. John, and Buck Island Reef National Monument off of St. Croix.

Any vessels operating commercially in the Virgin Islands National Park must obtain a commercial use authorization permit via an application process with the Virgin Islands National Park and not only to pay for overnight use of the National Park moorings.

Anchoring inside the National Park is only permitted offshore Lind Point and Francis Bay, St. John. Vessels over 210' LOA are prohibited from anchoring in the Park.

Anchoring outside the Park boundaries of St. John is permitted in Cruz Bay, Great Cruz Bay, Chocolate Hole, and Coral Harbor. VIPCA is working with DPNR for an expanded list of short-term anchorages to be published soon. See the Department of Planning and Natural Resources for permitted long-term anchoring locations around St. Thomas and St. Croix: <https://dpr.vi.gov/environmental.../anchoring-mooring/>

Trash Disposal on St. John is permitted on the four beaches where there are locking bins: Hawksnest Bay, Little Cinnamon Beach, Maho Bay, and Francis Bay. NPS is also directing vessels to utilize the dumpster by the basketball courts (past Starfish Market, across from E&C Gas Station; this would be a 0.7mi walk with trash in hand, so consider making transportation arrangements). NPS is asking boaters to avoid using the locking bins at the Visitors Center. Do not use the smaller, open trash bins for your volume boat garbage. Never leave trash outside any garbage bin as wild animals will get into it.

Fishing Regulations: <https://dpr.vi.gov/fish-and.../fish/fishing-regulations/>

No fishing/lobstering in the Park while on commercial charter. For more information call the National Park: 340-776-6201 ext. 238 /or pick up a Mariners Resource Guide at the Visitors Center in Cruz Bay. You can also email DPNR Enforcement at [dee@dpr.vi.gov](mailto:dee@dpr.vi.gov) with any questions or concerns.

Anchoring at Buck Island Reef National Monument: You can find updated alerts and conditions for anchoring here at <https://www.nps.gov/buis/index.htm>, as well as information on exploring nearby attractions around St. Croix.

We had volunteers on site bussing dining areas and disposing of trash in proper receptacles for the attendees. VIPCA's VI Marine stewardship committee also shared a post to yacht crew on how to be better stewards of our local waters, which included where to properly dispose of trash throughout the USVI (see post attached).

## 12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill:



We were able to limit food waste at the event by donating leftover meals in compostable to-go containers to The Bethlehem House Shelter, a Catholic Charity here on St. Thomas.

<https://catholiccharitiesvi.org/what-we-offer/>

## 13. Use Paperless Event Management:



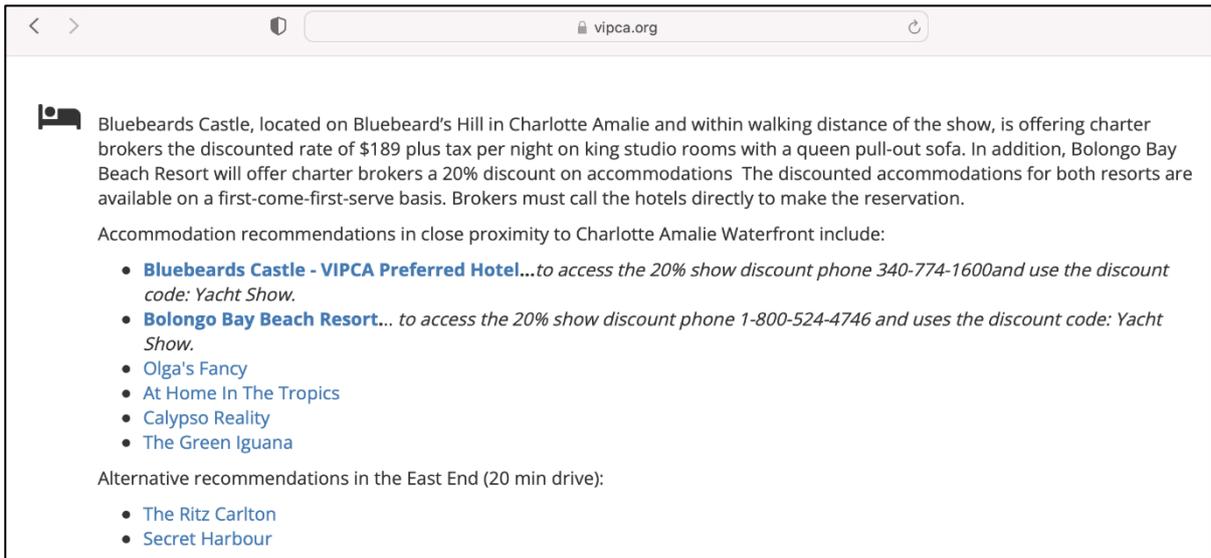
This year we offered a Yacht Show website ([www.usviyachtshow.org](http://www.usviyachtshow.org)), which consisted of an event map, brochure of exhibiting yachts, our Covid-19 protocols, schedule of events, pictures, videos, and a message from Governor Albert Bryan Jr. This website eliminated the need for paper maps and brochures and was a very useful resource for all attendees.

## 14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up:



VIPCA's Marine Stewardship committee hosted a virtual island clean-up in honor of Earth Day the weekend of April 17-18. Crews and members of the community were asked to choose any area within the USVI (for example a beach, trail, waterfront, neighborhood, etc.) and capture their clean-up efforts in a social media post tagging #VImarinestewardship on Facebook or Instagram. Those who participated were entered into a drawing to win a free massage at Sugar & Spice Salon. This has become an annual effort by VIPCA to recruit crews to dedicate a day to pick up trash on a beach, at a marina, in a neighborhood, along a trail, etc. This year several crews joined the effort and over 20 heavy duty bags of trash were collected, mostly containing various plastic waste.

## 15. Promote Alternative Transportation:



The Yacht Show's registration page promoted Bluebeard's Castle as a preferred hotel because it is within walking distance to the marina. Broker's were incentivized to book this hotel with a 20% special Yacht Show discount.

## 16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection:



VIPCA's Marine Stewardship committee makes constant efforts to increase awareness of our local habitats. At the event, we posted a reusable "Protect Turtles" sign that provided safe boating tips to protect our local green sea turtles, which included designating a spotter when boating or anchoring to protect marine life, follow all slow speed and no wake zones and signage, staying in deep-water channels whenever possible, avoid boating or anchoring over seagrass, being alert when boating near beaches and/or sea turtle nesting areas, and wearing polarized sunglasses for better visibility of the water surface and marine life below the surface (see sign attached). We also strive to regularly post on VIPCA's Facebook page reminding yacht crews to be mindful when anchoring within the USVI National Park and Marine Protected Areas. Back in March, for example, we took the opportunity to do a post about World Seagrass Day, reminding yacht crews to anchor in sand, not in seagrass, which provide food, habitat, and nursery areas for numerous vertebrate and invertebrate species.

17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives:



VIPCA served catered meals from the local Moe's Fresh Market, which included vegetarian options at each meal.

## 18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

Eco-Smart Race Techniques do not apply to our event since we were a land-based Yacht Show, however, see bonus opportunities for more efforts.

## 19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water



 **VIPCA - Virgin Islands Professional Charter Association** ...  
Published by Kristi Marquart ·  
November 6 at 8:57 AM ·

VIPCA's Marine Stewardship Committee reminds yacht crews to check your sunscreen labels: While no sunscreen has been proven to be completely 'reef-friendly,' those with the active ingredient non-nanotized titanium oxide or zinc oxide, which are natural mineral ingredients, have not been found harmful to corals.

Chemicals in some sunscreens that can harm marine life include: Oxybenzone, Benzophenone-1, Benzophenone-8, OD-PABA, 4-Methylbenzylidene camphor, 3-Benzylidene camphor, nano-Titanium dioxide, nano-Zinc oxide, Octinoxate, Octocrylene (link to NOAA's information about Skincare Chemicals and Coral Reefs).

You can protect yourself as well as the reef by covering-up before you enter the water. On the water, wear hats, sunglasses and light, long-sleeved clothing to protect you. In the water, a long-sleeved shirt or rash guard will help prevent sunburn.

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/sunscreen-corals.html>

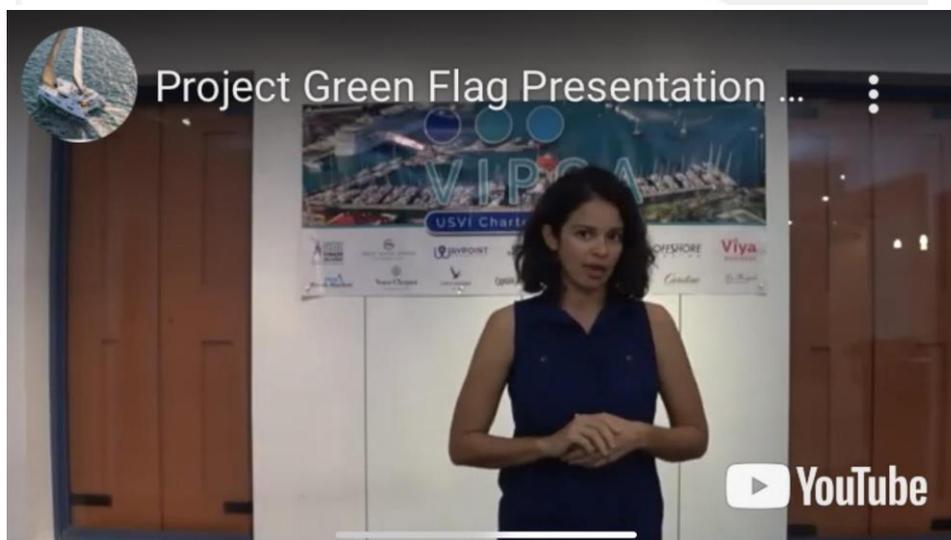
At the event, we had a re-usable sign that read "Sewage discharge is illegal," (see attached re-usable sign) and crew, captains, brokers, and all attendees were encouraged to take advantage of the onshore restroom facilities. Additionally, VIPCA also recently shared a Facebook post just before the event reminding yacht crews to check their sunscreen labels.

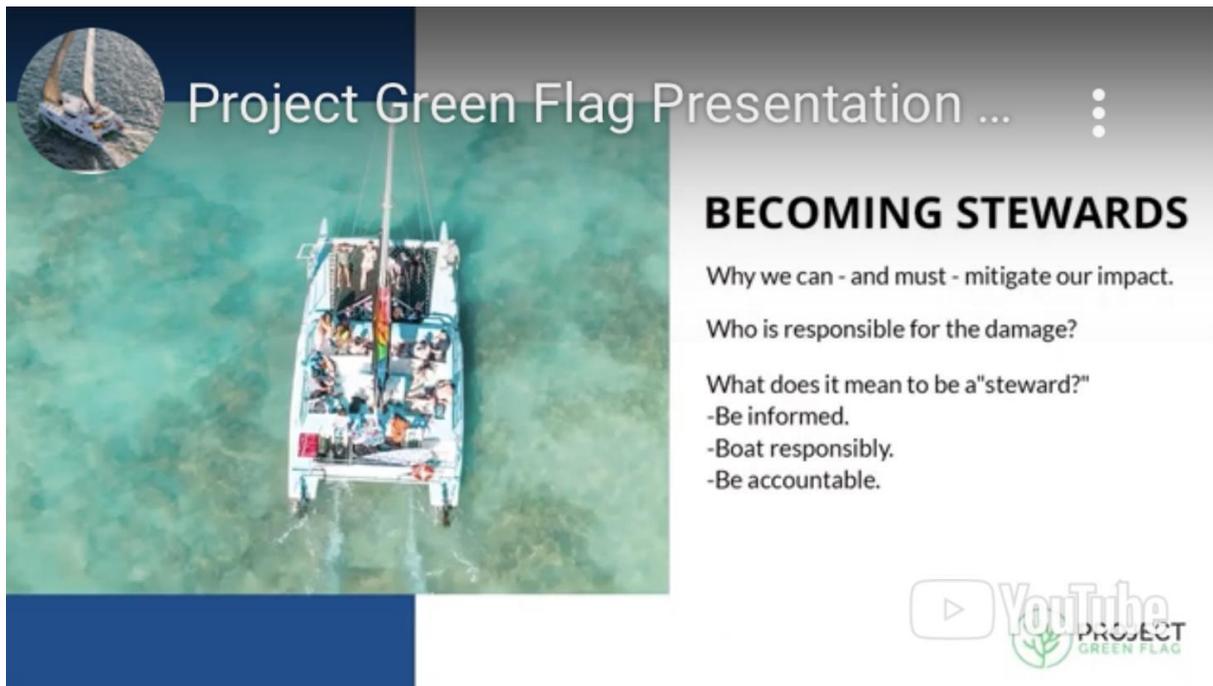
## 20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

THE  
**GREEN FLAG PLEDGE**  
GREEN FLAG VESSELS ARE COMMITTED TO PROTECTING  
THE MARINE ENVIRONMENTS THAT SUPPORT OUR VIRGIN  
ISLANDS CHARTER INDUSTRY

A CAMPAIGN BY  
  
**PROJECT  
GREEN FLAG**

- 1 REEF SAFE SUNBLOCK**  
Rash guards and clothing are the safest form of sun protection. When creams must be applied, crews use- and ask that guests use- mineral sunblock whose active ingredients are simply non-nano zinc and/or titanium. In 2020, the USVI's historic "Toxic 3 Os" Sunscreen Ban went into effect, banning sunscreens that contain any of three reef-harming chemicals. Be informed that the label "REEF SAFE" can still be misapplied to chemical sunscreens.
- 2 REDUCE PLASTICS ONBOARD**  
Today, plastic constitutes approximately 90% of all trash floating on the ocean's surface. Crews take practical steps to reduce single-use plastics, especially: Providing filtered water from the boat or having refillable jugs delivered; choosing refillable rather than single-use toiletries; provisioning with reusable tote bags; choosing reusable over disposable products.
- 3 SOURCE SUSTAINBLE SEAFOOD**  
Crews are learning which local and store-bought seafoods are sustainable, allowing them to choose the best options as often as possible (see USVI Fish Fact Cards). Crews abide by local fishing regulations and are mindful of popular sites that risk being overfished (see DPNR Fishing Regulations).
- 4 ANCHORAGE ETIQUETTE**  
Crews choose to moor whenever possible, and they exercise best anchoring practices to avoid damaging reefs and seagrass beds. They also minimize the use of underwater lights, and they dispose of tank waste *and* food waste away from any shoreline. They make no wake in mooring fields and are mindful of turtles and wildlife that can be harmed by propellers and fast dinghies (see Reef Stewards Campaign).
- 5 BE ACCOUNTABLE**  
Crews act as stewards and advocates for our local marine resources. They stay informed and offer information to others within our boating community. They practice friendly, helpful communication to encourage responsible fishing, mooring, and anchoring behaviors. They report damage via the DPNR Hotline app.





Promoting Green Boating Practices is a major part of VIPCA's Marine Stewardship initiative! We also encouraged crews to take the Project Green Flag Pledge which includes taking "steps to reduce single-use plastics, especially providing filtered water from the boat or having refillable jugs delivered, choosing refillable rather than single-use toiletries, provisioning with reusable tote bags, and choosing reusable over disposable products."

We have the Project Green Flag webpage on [vipca.org](http://vipca.org), which provides general signage and talking points that were used at the event. Also on VIPCA's website and YouTube channel, you can view Project Green Flag's founder, Alyse Arehart, giving a presentation on Reef Stewardship which discusses protecting the resources that support the Virgin Islands charter industry. The presentation highlights problems that local crews and divers have observed locally and discusses how we can address these problems with our fellow local mariners and community. The discussion further covers how we can become better stewards of our waters by being informed, boating responsibly, and being accountable.

## Bonus Opportunities:



We supported a wonderful local cause that we felt was beneficial to the environment, as well as the local St. Thomas Humane Society. VIPCA teamed with Globally Clean who donated their reusable produce bags, “Doggy Bags” to all attendees of the Show. This donation was a joint effort between Green Team member Kristi Marquart and Globally Clean founder Illana Reich. Kristi first reached out to Illana because they share a mutual interest in reducing plastic waste and helping local island dogs find homes. The donation of reusable doggy bags is in effort to reduce single-use plastics and to encourage more local yacht chefs to use them while provisioning for charters. VIPCA also helped advertise during the event that Globally Clean’s Doggy Bags can be purchased locally at our sponsored grocer Moe’s Fresh Market, with every purchase supporting local animal and environmental welfare projects. [www.globallyclean.com](http://www.globallyclean.com)