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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REEF FEST 2015 - CORAL WORLD OCEAN PARK TO HOST AGAIN!

St Thomas, USVI

Coral World Ocean Park in support of the University of the Virgin Islands and Blue Flag USVI is busily preparing for the 6th annual St. Thomas Reef Fest, scheduled for November 7th, 2015, come rain or shine. The Reef Fest community event in past years has been organized by the Sea Grant Marine Outreach Program's Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service at the University of the Virgin Islands. Thanks to the overwhelming success of the event past few years, Coral World has offered its venue again for this year's Reef Fest fundraiser.

Valerie Peters, Blue Flag USVI Coordinator and Director of Marketing at Coral World Ocean Park, "As a marine education facility, Coral World Ocean Park supports the University of the Virgin Islands' efforts to increase environmental education opportunities for the children of the Virgin Islands through the VIMAS program."

Peters went on to say, "Reef Fest celebrates the coral reef. It is about empowering the local community to protect coral reefs. It is a day dedicated to learning about the bond between humans and the reef, and about what each person can do to cultivate that relationship in a positive way."

Trudie Prior, General Manager of Coral World said, "We are thrilled to help keep Reef Fest going because it is a perfect match to Coral World's mission." The Coral World mission statement says our goal is "to bring you close to the inhabitants of the magical undersea world that surrounds the Virgin Islands and to the stunning variety of plant life that grows in our lagoons and on our hillsides." Coral World seeks "to entertain, to educate, and to inspire appreciation and understanding of the local environment. Our hope is that you will experience the joy of discovery and that you will love and protect the natural treasures you see here."

The University of the Virgin Islands' VIMAS Program's Mission is to improve the public's knowledge and stewardship of the marine environment. Reef Fest presents a unique opportunity to interact with and learn about marine creatures and the reef they inhabit at no cost. Please join us for a fun day full of activities and educational programs at Coral World.

The fun lasts all day with educational and family-oriented activities!

Free admission to Coral World Ocean Park (9am—3pm)

Free parking and Free roadside shuttle service (10am—3pm)

Live music

Reef Rap Competition

Attend marine conservation related presentations and demonstrations

Engage in family-friendly educational games

Visit the various Coral World exhibits and attend feeding presentations

Visit booths decked out with take-home information about the unique island environment

Reef Fest an event not to be missed!!

We encourage individuals, businesses, agencies, and groups to come forward with supplies, food, equipment, funds, talent, education, and almost anything to support the festival. In the spirit of the reef, islanders will learn more about our ocean, reflect on its importance in their lives, take time to do something good for our blue planet and learn how to take action to protect the ocean and the reefs in their daily lives.

Please stay tuned for more details regarding the much-anticipated annual **Reef Fest** on St. Thomas, November 7th, 2015 at Coral World and Coki beach. For more information, contact Valerie Peters at marketing@coralworldvi.com or 340 775 1555 ext 246 and befriend the Coral World Facebook page for updates.