

whale sharks. They have trips for coral spawning, and have quite a varied assortment of hard corals and life. There is also the option to dive under an oil platform, which is interesting. (<http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>, <http://gulf-diving.com>)

**M/V Fling, September 2003, Roger Soape (ras@rasoape.com), Houston, TX.** Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 60 to 100 feet. Water: 85 F, calm. A well run 2-day trip, a bit like camping. Boat left the dock at 9:30 pm Friday night and travels while divers sleep. Dawn Saturday found us at the Flower Gardens for a 7:00 am dive — the first of five that day, including a night dive. We made two more dives on Sunday morning at Stetson Bank (after moving during the night). Thirty plus divers share rooms with bunks and only three heads. Showers on dive deck. Still, all runs like clockwork. No divemasters in the water but they jump in the water first to check out the site, currents, etc., then back on board to give briefing and help divers giant stride in buddy pairs the 5+ feet to the water. Diving at the Flower Gardens was so-so with a loggerhead and a couple of hawksbills, barracuda and a good number and variety of the usual tropical suspects. Stetson Bank was fabulous. Two manta rays — close and relatively unconcerned in 100 ft vis water! A bull shark or two, lots of spotted and goldentail morays, jacks, snapper, reef fish (large and small). Food good and plentiful. The galley crew had something good for us to eat after each and every dive. The captains,

galley crew and divemasters all love to dive — and it shows. We were told that the two galley guys and the two divemasters work so they can go diving. They take turns diving between the guests dives. Nice get away — especially for a Houston area resident or someone who is in or near Houston on other business. Weather is a concern, though, and trips are canceled if the seas are rough. Not for beginner divers!

## VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH

**Cuan Law, February 2003, Victor A. Bary (vbary@yahoo.com), Cranford, NJ.** Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 15 to 50 feet. Water: 78 to 83 F, choppy. Second trip on the *Cuan Law* and we were just as pleased as on our first. The boat (105' x 44') is spacious and well-appointed, with one and two person kayaks, two Hobie Cats and two 20-foot Zodiacs, used for dive sites where the Cuan can't anchor and for water skiing. The food was delicious and plentiful and the entire crew (captain and five others) were delightful and accommodating. Each dive was preceded by a thorough briefing including a large site map. Divers could follow divemasters and map their own course and pace, as they chose to. Slow-paced, luxurious vacation, with two to three dives a day, with other aquatic activities available, and wonderful and spacious accommodations. Boat offered separate rinse tank (although its purpose seemed to escape a number of non-photographers), E-6 processing, and camera rental. ([www.cuanlaw.com](http://www.cuanlaw.com))