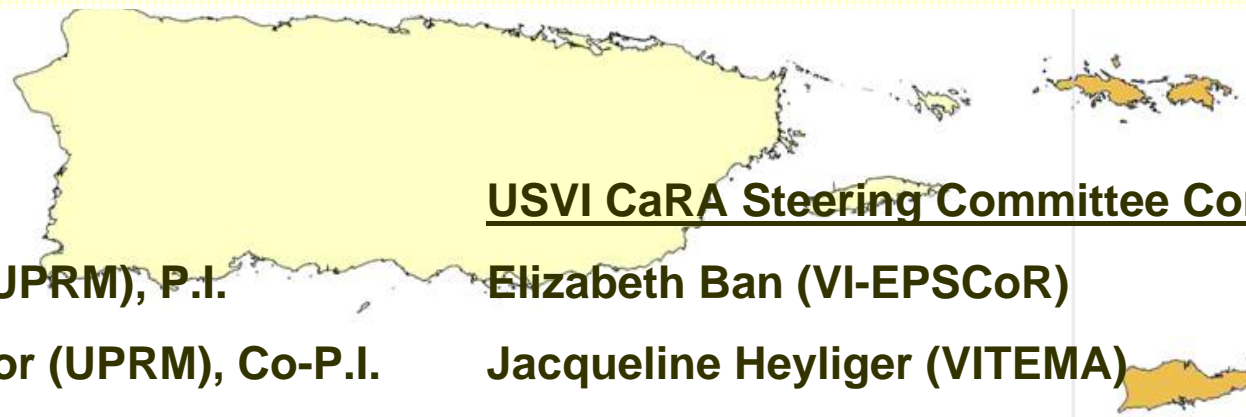


# Caribbean Regional Association: Update on Activities in the Virgin Islands



## CaRA's PI's

Julio Morell (UPRM), P.I.

Jorge Corredor (UPRM), Co-P.I.

Roy Watlington (UVI), Co-P.I.

## Founding Steering Committee

Frank Muller-Karger (USF)

W. Douglas Wilson (NOAA)

George Maul (FIT, IOCARIBE)

## USVI CaRA Steering Committee Contingent

Elizabeth Ban (VI-EPSCoR)

Jacqueline Heyliger (VITEMA)

Nasseer Idrisi (VI-EPSCoR)

Kemit Lewis (UVI-Sea Grant-VIMAS)

Mark Sabino (WICO)

Marjorie Smith (Smith Ferries)

Tyler Smith (UVI/CMES/TCRMP)

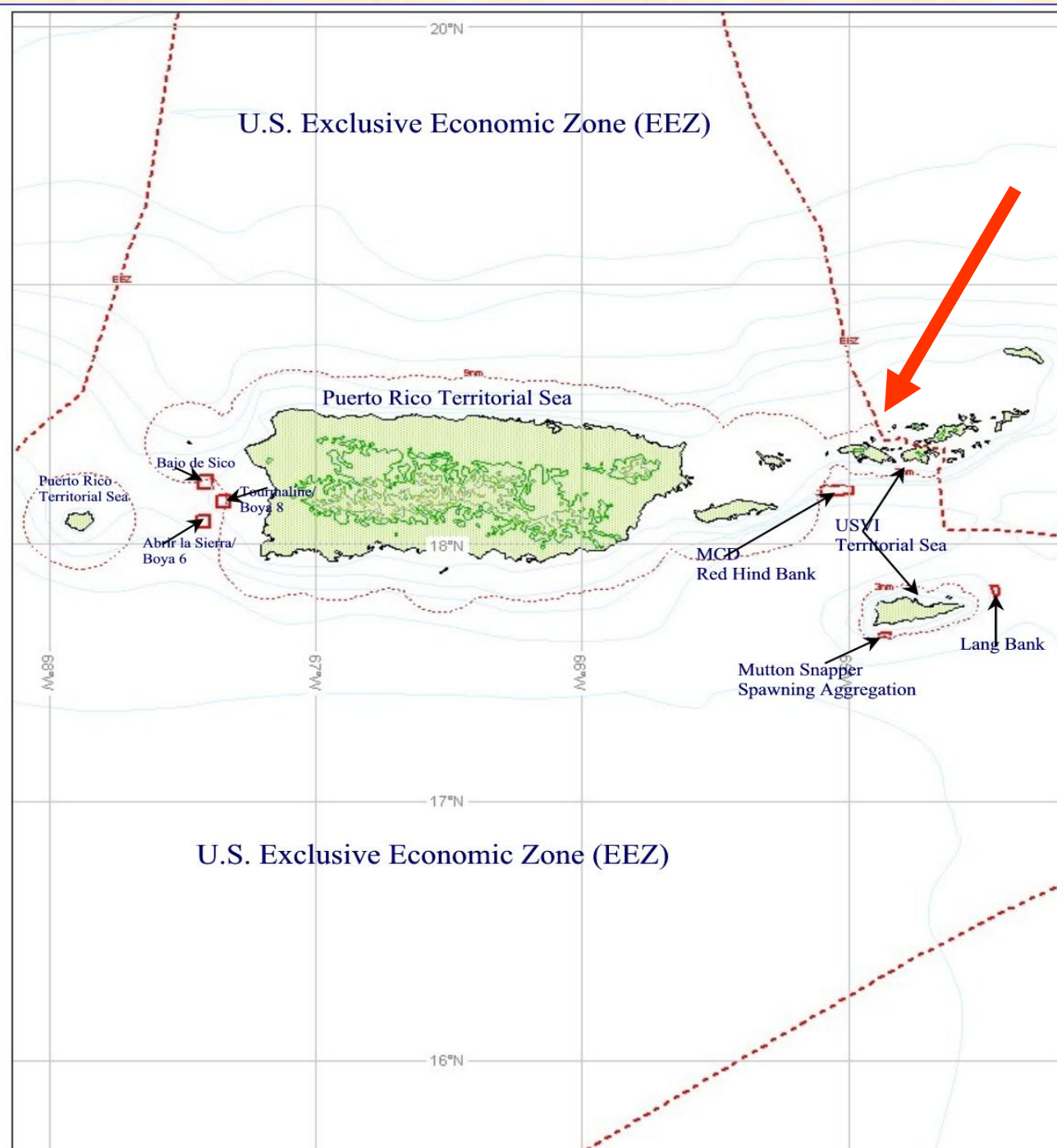
\_\_\_ (GoVI – Tourism)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the CaRA Steering Committee**

**April 27, 2007**

**San Juan, Puerto Rico**

USVI:  
The eastern  
extreme  
of CaRA's  
domain



# CaRICOOS Community

## United States Virgin Islands

*St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas, Water Island*

**Area:** 349 sq km (compared to 9,104 sq km, for Puerto Rico), consisting of 4 main islands and numerous islets and cays

**Population:** 112,000 (compared to ~3.9 million for Puerto Rico)

**Gross Domestic Product:** ~\$ 2.4 billion (~\$ 72.4 billion for Puerto Rico)

**Marine-dependent Industries:** shipping, tourism, fishing, marinas, cruise ships, ferries, marine recreation including fishing and scuba

# Ocean Observing Capabilities

## Assets- Facilities

McClellan Marine Science Center  
VIERS  
Salt River  
Virgin Islands National Park  
Nature Conservancy St. Croix

## Platforms

NDBC  
CREWS  
Conservation Districts hydro-  
graphic serial Stations'  
instrumentation

## Existing Data Streams

- \* Grammanik Bank  
time series
- \* Coastal/Shelf  
Hydrographic  
Monitoring
- \* Long-term Coral  
Monitoring Program
- \* Anegada Climate  
Tracers Study

## Modeling Initiatives & Partners

ROMS/HYCOM

# Potential Partners --

## for developing observational assets & building capacity

- DPNR – DEP, CZM, DF&W
- Virgin Islands National Park
- US Geological Survey – St. John
- West Indies Company
- Virgin Islands Port Authority
- VI Territorial Emergency Management Agency
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Hovensa
- Yacht Haven Marina
- Geological Survey of Denmark & Greenland
- Seakeepers International Society
- Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines/University of Miami
- US Department of Homeland Security
- NGOs: IRF, Nature Conservancy, Ocean Conservancy, etc.

# CaRA/CaRICOOS Events in the USVI

A map of the Caribbean region, showing the United States Virgin Islands circled in orange. The map includes the eastern coast of North America, the Caribbean Sea, and parts of South America and the Central American isthmus.

## Recent

GEUS- Galathea 3, *WINMARGIN*

NOAA/SEFC/AOML – *RV Nancy Foster*

## Upcoming

AMLC – Association of Marine Laboratories  
in the Caribbean

# Unmet regional needs for data and observations

- SST & hydrographic data
- bathymetry
- regional and coastal currents
- coastal sea state - wave heights
- satellite and *in situ* monitoring of African dust, volcanic ash

# Steps ahead

- Continue building stakeholders -identify and engage data users and data providers and identify their needs
- Continued development of CaRA's formal structure in the USVI
- Identify needed observations, including satellite assets, and data gaps and develop proposals to provide these
- Enhance data flow and communication between users and providers; establish user-appropriate local accesses
- Secure local/regional funding in addition to federal funding to support the organization and some initiatives
- Gain awareness of USVI Congressional Representative
- Develop pilot projects to demonstrate usefulness and need for new CarlCOOS observing systems





**The end**

**Thank you**

<http://cara.uprm.edu>

# Obstacles and Opportunities

- New government administration – some important stakeholders lost, requiring renewed recruitment efforts.
- Synergies with the BVI



# CaRA's Mission

**... to establish and administer a sustained observing system for the northeastern Caribbean region, the Caribbean Regional Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System - CaRICOOS to provide observations and products for the purposes of:**

- detecting and predicting climate variability and consequences**
- preserving and restoring healthy marine ecosystems**
- ensuring human health**
- managing resources**
- facilitating safe, efficient marine transportation**
- coastal Hazard Management Response**
- predicting and mitigating against coastal hazards.**

# Progress

- The broadest range of potential stakeholders (users and providers) is being engaged
- **CaRA** is determining its organized structure
  - most likely along the lines of a n.g.o.
  - leadership as much from users as from data providers
  - constitution, bylaws, recognition from NFRA
- Continued identification of data & information needs of stakeholders
- Existing data streams identified and accessed
- **CarlCOOS** data made accessible in databases
  - new databases being considered when necessary
  - data management and control (DMAC) as per *Ocean.US*
  - user-appropriate accesses to data developed/provided
- Develop pilot projects for needed new observing systems.