

CaRA Stakeholders' Council Meeting

San Juan, December 9, 2008

CaRA-VI Introduction & Progress Report

Roy A. Watlington

Sub-regional Coordinator for the USVI



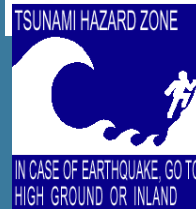
USVI Participants

- CaRA-VI Stakeholders Council Members (elected)
 - Captain Marjorie Smith, *Smith's Ferry Service*
 - Marine Manager Mark Sabino, *W.I. Company*
- USVI Signatories
 - GoVI: Tourism, DPNR; St.Thomas Administrator; WICO; Smith's Ferry; UVI (Pres. LaVerne Ragster)
- Advisors
 - Jacqueline Heyliger (VITEMA), Mel Vanterpool (USVI-DHS), Kemit Lewis (VI F&W), Hubert Brumant (Magens Bay Authority), Cpt Marjorie Smith, Manager Mark Sabino, Tyler Smith (UVI)
- UVI Contributors
 - Nasseer Idrisi, Co-PI on CaRA Implementation grant, **future Sub-regional Coordinator**, Acting Director of CMES, VI-EPSCoR researcher
 - UVI Center for Marine & Environmental Studies
 - Steve Prosterman, Tyler Smith, Kevin Brown, Charmaine Joseph
 - UVI/Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service
 - Roy Watlington, Co-PI, NFRA Board, CaRA-MOA signatory



Overview of CaRA's USVI Activities

- Maintaining stakeholder contacts
 - ✓ DPNR/CZM/CaRA
 - ✓ VITEMA / NTHMP / IOCARIBE
 - ✓ Sub-regional Transportation & Cruise ships
- Pilot and Demonstration Projects
 - ✓ VI-Mesonet (*Weatherflow*)
 - ✓ Operational ROMS for Region (*RSMAS*)
 - ✓ Gap Analysis for **HF Radar coverage**
- Participating in NFRA governance, IOOS Representation
- Participating in CaRA/CarICOOS governance and operations, supporting Stakeholder's Council

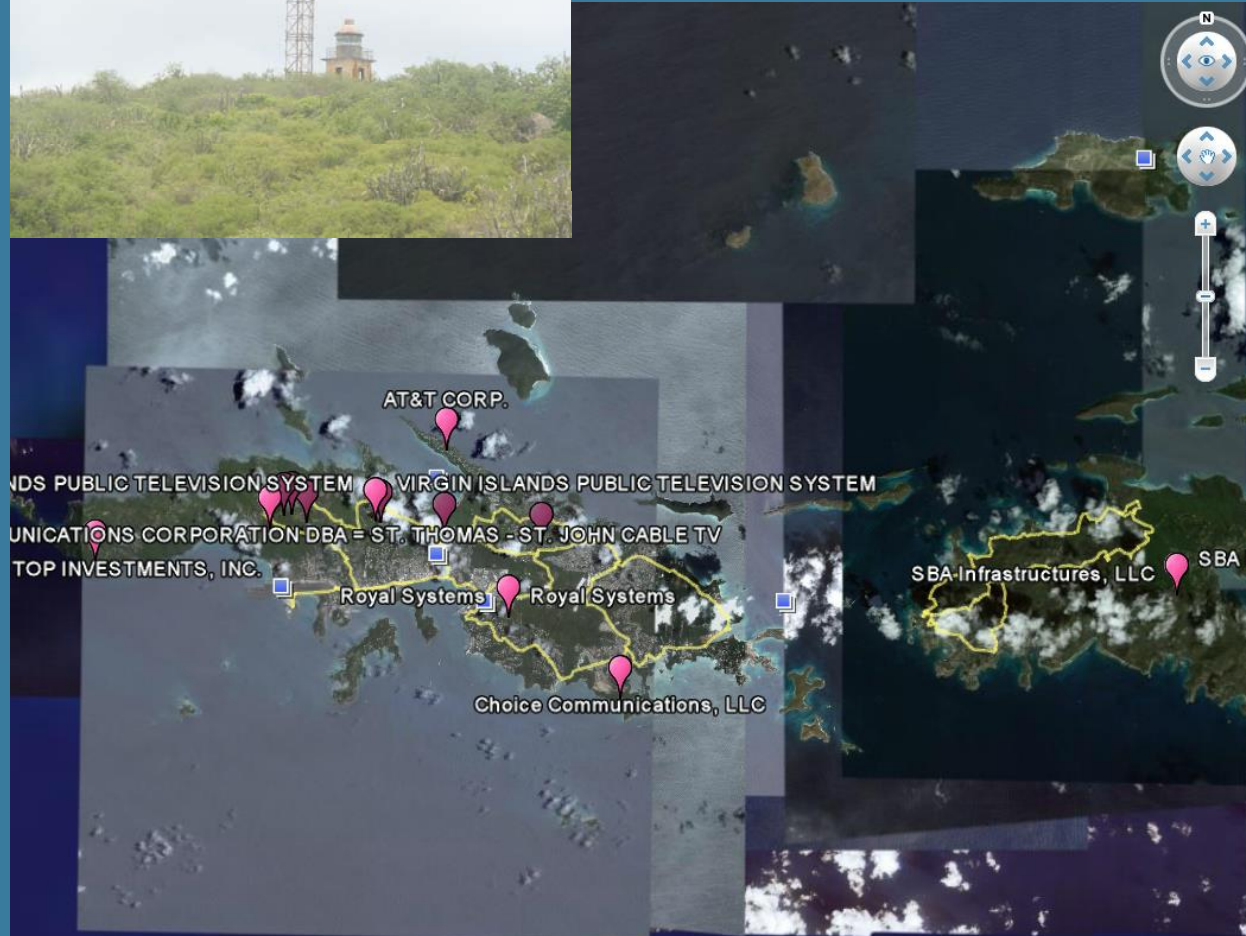


“VI-Mesonet”

- *Weatherflow, Inc.*
- Pilot project
- Weather network
- Real-time info
- Directed to navigators and marine recreation
- **Five sites in the northern USVI**
 - ✓ Pole emplacements
 - ✓ Sensors
 - ✓ Smart access



Buck Is,
N. Idrisi



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18°20'29.10" N 64°52'32.85" W

elev 216 ft

Eye alt 19.76 mi

Operational PR-VI ROMS

Developing the Regional Ocean Model System (ROMS) for operational use in the PR-VI region

RSMAS*/UVI/CaRA

- **Group A Deliverable:**

Bathymetry - blending the high resolution NGDC grid into the GEBCO grid to create 1 km resolution projected onto the ROMS' grid.

- **Group B Deliverable:**

Atmospheric forcing from NOGAPS (Navy Operational Global Atmospheric Prediction System), COAMPS, NCEP NCAR reanalysis, and QuikSCAT winds

- **Group C Deliverable:**

Comparison of model output with *in situ* observations and error estimation

High Frequency Radar for surface currents

Proposed USVI HF Radar Sites as a result of Gap Analysis

St. Croix:

- Hams Bluff
- Rust-Op-Twist

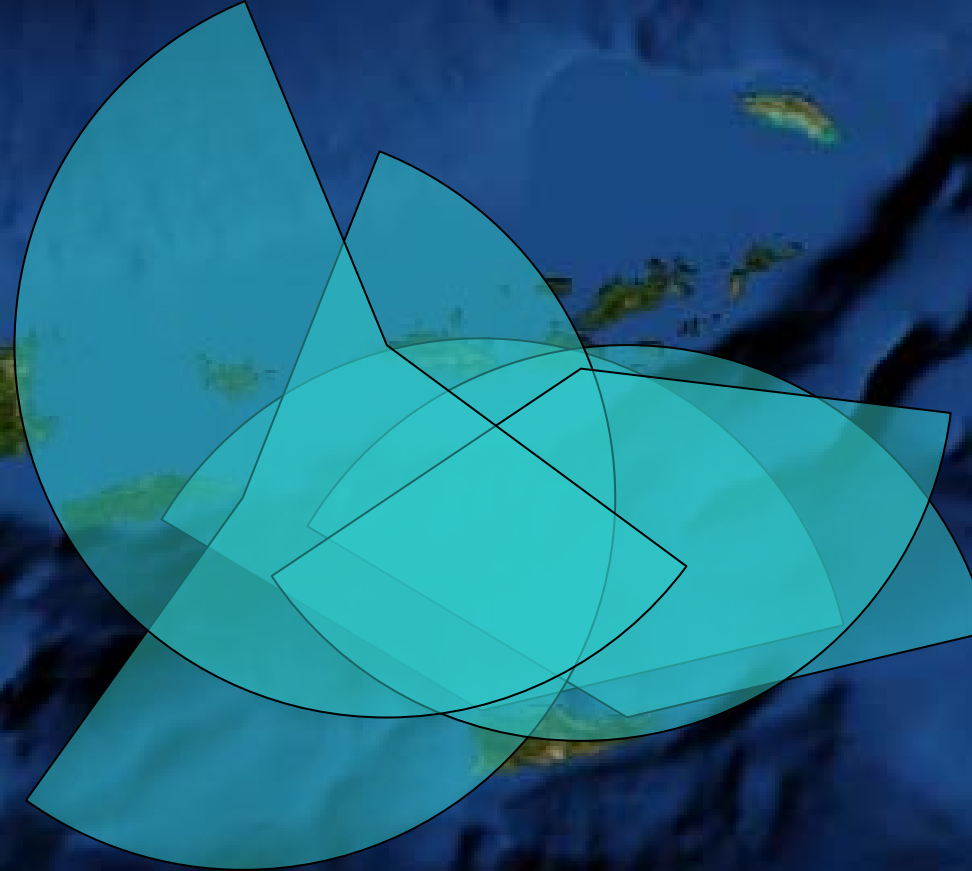
St. John:

- Maria Bluff

St. Thomas:

- Fort Hill, Water Is.

J. Corredor



Accommodations & Courtesies

WHOI/Weber AUVs

PRSN GPS

USGS, Woods Hole

Stanford Financial/
RSMAS

Nature Conservancy

WHOI/Weber AUV Glider Deployment



Stakeholders Responses

- Initially enthusiastic – eager for products and synergies
- Now wait-and-see
- Concern about too much organization
- Core stakeholders still engaged.

Challenges

- Generated interest exceeds local capability
 - ✓ Local unmet needs for data, expertise and contacts
 - ✓ Accommodating external projects
- Pilot projects not coming fast enough for some sectors (*i.e.*, tourism, marine recreation)
- Turn-over and unintentional sub-regional self-exclusion
- Resolving challenges
 - ✓ Make benefits clear (demonstrate existing products)
 - ✓ Stability
 - ✓ User-dictated avenues of communication



Potential Benefit to Others

- How might your project be relevant to other regions or federal agencies?
- If so, what would be required to transfer key elements to other regions, federal agencies, and users?
- Does this project include a component to transfer or extend project results to other regions and users? If so, please describe.