



# CARICOOS

Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System



“ CARICOOS allows me to be a more efficient fisherman.”

Edwin “Pauco” Font  
Commercial Fisherman

CARICOOS is the Regional Association of the national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) in the US Caribbean, primarily Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. We provide data and products to inform decision-making concerning ocean activities in the region.

**We help improve:**

**MARITIME SAFETY** By enabling preparedness and security

**ECONOMY** By unlocking the economic benefits of the ocean

**ENVIRONMENT** By protecting vital marine resources



[www.caricoos.org](http://www.caricoos.org)

## What Is Coastal Ocean Observing?

Our observing system encompasses seven (7) oceanographic buoys, seventeen (17) meteorological stations, five (5) high frequency radars, and two (2) Sea Gliders. These platforms allow us provide the general public with real time information about the ocean conditions across the entire region.





“ We value our partnership with CARICOOS and appreciate their work on improving our ability to monitor and predict our maritime environment. ”

Capt. R.W. Warren  
US Coast Guard Commander, Sector San Juan

## Benefits for People and Businesses in the Caribbean

### Safe and Efficient Maritime Operations

Our insular societies depend on the ocean for essential services. The shipping and ferry industries represent essential lifelines, while recreational activities constitute a crucial component of the tourism industry and a major economic driver for the region. In CARICOOS our goal is to provide decision-support tools to enhance safety and efficiency of the full range of maritime operations taking place in the region. We support port and harbor operations, as well as inter-island shipping and cruising, by providing observations and models of coastal weather, waves, winds, currents, and water levels. We provide recreational operators and users with information to support planning and minimize risk; and aid the USCG by providing the best available surface current and coastal weather data in support of search & rescue and rapid response operations.



### Beach Drowning Prevention

The CARICOOS region is constantly threatened by severe waves resulting from tropical and extratropical storms. Our complex coastal morphology, along with the characteristic wave forcing of the region, result in additional coastal threats, accounting for one of the highest per capita drowning rates in the US. CARICOOS supports drowning prevention by providing accurate wave observations, forecasts and decision-support products, while continuing to expand the network of platforms and capabilities that provide information on coastal weather, waves, and currents.

### Monitoring Climate Variability

CARICOOS provides crucial data to document variations in ocean properties attributable to regional and extra-regional climate processes with potential short and long term impacts on the coastal environment. We contribute information to national data sets through continuous operation of regular observing assets, and providing technical and logistic support to long-term research on ocean acidification and tropical storm development.



### CARICOOS Members

- University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez
- La Regata Nautical Newspaper
- University of Virgin Islands
- PR South Coast Harbor Pilots
- Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program
- Smith's Ferry Service
- Caribbean Fisheries Management Council
- West Indies Company
- PR Coastal Zone Management Program
- National Weather Service
- Caribbean Tsunami Warning Center
- among others.

### For More Information

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