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## LONG-TERM GOALS

Facilitating CARICOOS Goals and Activities for Coastal Ocean Observing in the US Virgin Islands

## MILESTONES / OBJECTIVES

In accordance with the seven-item Scope of Work approved for inclusion under CARICOOS grant # NA16NOS0120026, for this period the following objectives have received principal focus:

- (1) establishing an administrative structure by which CARICOOS goals can be addressed;
- (2) continued and enhanced outreach and education;
- (3) Improving local usage and satisfaction and heightening USVI awareness
- (4) expanding observational services for USVI stakeholders

## WORK COMPLETED

1. OCOVI
  - OCOVI's Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of the USVI; Bylaws have been drafted, and a Board of Directors has been identified.
  - A draft subaward awaits UPR's approval
2. Outreach and education:
  - Presentation on CARICOOS activities in the USVI was made to the Caribbean Regional Response Team meeting on St. Thomas on June 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Agreement established with the Virgin Islands Children's Museum whereby a "CARICOOS Corner" can become a permanent exhibit with signage, PowerPoint presentations, posters, handouts, and eventually direct access to the CARICOOS webpage.
  - Publication of *CARICOOS-VI UpDate* (informative local newsletter) November 30, 2016.
3. Improving local usage and satisfaction (Initiated not completed)  
Meetings and discussions focused on assessing satisfaction with CARICOOS services and products and on obtaining feedback from fishers and navigators on matters including relocating of VI-A (the UVI-owned "St. Thomas" buoy); use of point forecasts, and discussions about identifying third-party assistance to establish a basic weather station and ocean buoy at VITOL mooring near the former station of VI-A.
4. Expanding observational services

- Precipitation monitoring – A proposal for external support for rain gauges has been submitted for USGS/WRRI funding by UVI’s Dr. David Morris with Brice Orange and both CARICOOS-OCOVI principals as Co-PIs. This expansion will serve climate-change studies, environmental monitoring and freshwater resource assessment in the USVI.
- Pilot project for Virgin Islands Basin operational thermal glider deployments -- Discussions with Scott Glen of Rutgers University and others from Teledyne-Webb on the development of a pilot project of operational deployments of AUV thermal gliders in the Virgin Islands Basin with UVI agreeing to serve as the base station and with its researchers becoming prime stakeholders in this phase.

## MAJOR OUTCOMES

Achievements, what was learned

- The completion of a joint proposal for funding support to enhance capabilities of two CARICOOS meteorologic stations with the addition of precipitation gauges has demonstrated how the two agencies that represent CARICOOS in the USVI in different ways (UVI and OCOVI) will continue to advance CARICOOS goals in the USVI.
- It was further learned that, given their limited surface area, the entirety of the Virgin Islands can be considered “Tier 1” for CZM (Coastal Zone Management) purposes. This allows recognition of new potential stakeholders, who are inland and upstream of the coast but rely upon and/or have environmental impacts on coastal resources.
- Discussions with Rutgers University on research-directed AUV thermal glider operations in the Virgin Islands Basin and on the feasibility of a receiving site on St. Croix for CARICOOS AUV glider activity revealed that a future opportunity might develop for CARICOOS to serve the region as the Marine Resources Education Center at Salt River, long-planned by UVI, Rutgers University, University of North Carolina, *et al.* resumes development.

## RELATED PROJECTS

Outreach – The environmental organization, “Regener8\_340”, St. Croix December 3<sup>rd</sup>, has requested a presentation on climate change in the region. This presentation will stress CARICOOS contributions to its understanding and planning.

Assistance -- Advising the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency on identifying and securing expertise to develop computer models for anticipating tsunami currents in Virgin Islands ports.

## WORK PLAN FOR UPCOMING PERFORMANCE PERIOD (Dec. 1 2016 – May 31 2017)

The receipt of funding will allow full address of all Scope of Work items. The work plan in the December 1 – May 31, 2017 period will include the following:

1. Finalizations:
  - opening of the CARICOOS Corner at the Virgin Islands Children’s Museum
  - acquisition and installation of precipitation-measuring capabilities on selected CARICOOS met stations,
  - initiation of pilot project for thermal glider deployments in the Virgin Islands Basin; :
2. New outreach and education

- Formal review of stakeholders updated needs, user satisfaction , requested improvements
  - Enlisting youth into ocean observing activities and marine technology careers – Develop, in consort with local organizations such as high schools, UVI and the Marine Action Group, an engaging project that develop interest in CARICOOS and recruit participants into CARICOOS-like activities.
3. Assist CARICOOS as requested in maintenance of its observational assets in the USVI (in collaboration with UVI, Weatherflow, Inc. and Caribbean Wind LLC)
  4. Assisting CARICOOS with deployment of High Frequency radar in the USVI
  5. Assisting CARICOOS in governance activities will become most significant in preparing the USVI delegation for participation in the 2017 CARICOOS General Assembly.

## **REFERENCES**

- Virgin Islands Children’s Museum, <http://www.vichildrensmuseum.org/>

## **PUBLICATIONS & PRODUCTS**

- CARICOOS-VI *UpDate*, November 30, 2016