



December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Julio M. Morell  
Executive Director  
CARICOOS  
PO BOX 3446  
Lajas, PR 00667

Dear Morell:

On behalf of the PR South Coast Harbor Safety & Security Committee, I write to endorse the valuable data and services provided by the CARICOOS, part of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).


The Puerto Rico South Coast Harbor Safety & Security Committee (PR-SCHSSC ) is a U.S. Coast Guard created and promoted organization integrated by stakeholders from Federal, State, Local governments, Private Sector and Academia of the maritime community. Its main purpose is to provide a venue for discussions, initiatives and to address any issues concerning Maritime commerce, national security, maritime safety, education and environmental protection.

CariCOOS has been a valuable active member of our Committee from the very beginning. Continually providing maritime data, forecasts, real time essential information, among other, that has positively impacted and facilitated, directly and indirectly, operations of maritime local, national and international commerce, leisure maritime traffic, maritime law enforcement and rescue operations, to name a few. Academia, Government and Private sectors of the maritime community have come to count on CariCOOS's assistance as indispensable. A fine example was the invaluable data and support during the recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma & María. Their support was critical in the reopening of ports and emergency response operations.

As such, the PR-SCHSSC fully endorses and supports the continued funding of CariCOOS.

I understand that CARICOOS is funded primarily by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in addition to the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and various industry partners. Sustained funding for CARICOOS will be crucial to the maintenance of the program's observing networks and to the continuity of the important data products and services that these observations enable. Please feel free to contact me if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Mr. Luis R. Torres, BSS CPP  
Chairman  
PR South Coast Harbor Safety & Security Committee