



CARICOOS

CARIBBEAN COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

OUTREACH, EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

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Performance Period: June 1, 2019 – November 30, 2019

LONG-TERM GOALS

Continue O&E formal and informal activities focused on enhancing awareness and appropriate utilization of CARICOOS products and services. Perform workshops presentations and attend information table to strengthen outreach, education and engagement for CARICOOS.org website and related mobile applications.

MILESTONES / OBJECTIVES

To maintain and further develop effective communication pathways and strategies with Stakeholders in order to:

- Improve the interaction between the user and CARICOOS.org products and services to enhance awareness and encourage proper utilization of the decisional tools.
- Provide the public with educational experiences that will allow them to understand the importance of incorporating CARICOOS products into decision-making.
- Adapt the educational process to different audiences and levels of knowledge, making CARICOOS products more accessible to the public.

WORK COMPLETED

- Oral presentations on CARICOOS wave models and currents were offered at the “Conservación y Seguridad Costera” meeting. This event was sponsored by the Bottom Up Destination Recovery Initiative of Foundation for Puerto Rico. In addition to oral presentations, CARICOOS was part of a community educational campaign planning committee, along with lifeguards and community members. The campaign included several outreach activities and the installation of rip currents signage where drownings have been reported.
- Offer a field trip to Verano Ecológico Summer Camp participants to CARICOOS labs.
- Collaborate with a non profit organization called Mi Playa Limpia Inc. in the coordination of marine debris removal activities.
- Maintain and active presence in US Coast Guard Pollution Prevention and Safety Workshops, at the North Harbor Safety and Security Committee meetings and at the Marine Resource Education Program (coordinated by Gulf of Maine Institute and the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council). Through all these collaborations, a large number of fisherman learned about CARICOOS products and how these products can be used when planning their daily commercial and recreational activities.
- Promote Pa’ la Playa app at the Emergency and Safety Congress and PR Tourism Department

CARICOOS Semi-Annual Progress Report

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- Collaborate with the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Education Program in several activities, such as the National Estuary Day and Boy Scouts Day Camp 2019.
- Continue O & E efforts developing a new k-12 workshop on ocean waves. This is part of an ongoing collaboration with Puerto Rico Sea Grant Education Section that aims to design series of workshops in order to meet the Department of Education STEM standards. The workshop focuses in educating K-12 students and teachers on wave concepts and terminology
- Conduct a field trip with CROEV (Centro Residencial de Oportunidades Educativas Villalba) aquatic robotics team to Sea Glider labs.

MAJOR OUTCOMES

To assure proper interpretation of wave data and forecasts CARICOOS developed a new K-12 workshop for “Ocean Waves”. Sea Grant curriculum specialist, Delmis Alicea, PhD., has been advising CARICOOS staff on the importance of educational strategies and of assessing the learning progress following the Department of Education standards. This workshop includes oral presentations, interactive activities as well as a pre and post-tests. As part of the interactive activities, students had the opportunity to explore the CARICOOS website and Pa’ la Playa (beach app). The test results were scrutinized to determine the learning gain.

CARICOOS Outreach Team was called to actively participate in the USCG “Pollution Prevention and Boater Safety Training” across different marinas in the region.

RELATED PROJECTS

CROEV Aquatic Robotics Team visited CARICOOS headquarters to obtain technical knowledge for their 2020 Sea Perch Challenge Project where they will design, build and operate a Sea Glider. CARICOOS carried out a field trip to Marine Sciences Department on Isla Magueyes Labs. During the field trip, the students had the opportunity to see a Sea Glider and ask questions about deployments and sensors, among other things. This initiative will be completed in 2020 with collaboration between JBNERR, PR Sea Grant and CARICOOS. Data analysis, field support and technical assistance will be provided.



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CARICOOS BY THE NUMBERS

- 22 Engagement Activities.
- 3000+ People Impacted.
- 1100+ K12 Students Impacted.
- 9 Training Education.
- 6 Conference Presentations.
- 7416 Facebook followers.
- 2 radio interviews.

WORK PLAN FOR UPCOMING PERFORMANCE PERIOD (December 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020)

- Release and promotion of CARICOOS Boat App.
- Continue the “Waves Workshop” for K12 and College Students.
- Implementation of “Ocean Currents Workshop” and “Wind Workshop” to assure proper interpretation of CARICOOS data and products.
- Update the “Tiempo Costero” manual.



Waves workshop at Bernardino Cordero Bernard High School in Ponce



CROEV aquatic robotics field trip to CARICOOS sea glider lab.