

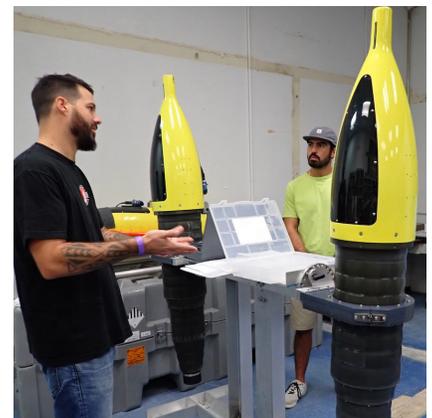
CARICOOS Board of Directors fully engaged in securing continued support for meeting high priority coastal data and product needs.

On November 7, 2019 the CARICOOS Board of Directors met with the system's technical and administrative leadership to discuss and agree on approaches to follow towards a comprehensive stakeholder need assessment and prioritization process. Said need assessment is essential for the design of the proposal requesting support for the upcoming five-year funding cycle. CARICOOS's Board, composed of representatives from critical agencies, industries and news media, will provide their expertise and access to key stakeholders in order to prioritize coastal information needs. Five committees were formed to support: Safe and Efficient Maritime Operations; Mitigation of Coastal Hazards and Threats to Human Health; Management and Restoration of Living Resources (Fisheries, Mangroves, Reefs and Seagrasses); Assessment of Regional Climate Variability, including Coastal and Open Ocean Structure; and Data/Product Communication & Stakeholder Education. If you wish to provide input, please contact one of our board members or us at contact@caricoos.org to direct your idea or concern. This effort will allow CARICOOS to continue meeting critical data needs from those living, working and/or enjoying the region's wealth of coastal areas.



Glider School

CARICOOS technical team received a hands-on-learning training from NOAA-AOML personnel on how to refurbish and prepare underwater gliders. These will be deployed during the upcoming hurricane season to collect oceanographic data which will contribute to hurricane intensity forecasting studies.



Improving accessibility and visualization of Puerto Rico coral reef data.



The visualization of biological datasets is paramount to better understand global change related to variable oceanographic conditions. In this regard, the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) funded Puerto Rico Coral Reef Monitoring Program (PRCRMP) of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER), becomes an essential tool. The PRCRMP includes benthic and fish observations throughout the Puerto Rico archipelago since 1999, with a special emphasis on the condition of natural protected areas.

CARICOOS, with US IOOS support, is currently working along with the DNER and U.S. partners of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS USA) and the Marine Biological Observation Network (MBON USA) to translate the PRCRMP database following the Darwin Core standard which offers a consistent and flexible framework for compiling biodiversity data. The end goal of this project is to incorporate the database into MBON to visualize coral reef data from Puerto Rico through a GIS-based application. Ultimately, with this effort, CARICOOS hopes to address common research, management, and data sharing needs in Puerto Rico by improving data accessibility and use in data-driven decision-making and resource management. CARICOOS envisions that the process developed to translate and visualize PRCRMP data could act as a transferable framework for other available biological and environmental datasets.

CARICOOS workshop at the Tri Beta Society of UPR Cayey.



Continuing efforts to increase our stakeholder's understanding of the correct use of coastal weather data, CARICOOS hosted a Waves Workshop for the Honorary Society of Biology BBB (Tri-Beta) of UPR Cayey campus which included a detailed description of the services, tools, and products available on the CARICOOS.org website. During the workshop, we focused on coastal wave data, such as significant wave height and direction but also emphasized the importance of collecting other complementary

field data such as wind speed and direction and air or water temperature. These, and other, CARICOOS environmental variables are relevant to many biology research projects and are freely available to all our stakeholders, including all Tri-Betas. We thank the Tri-Beta for the invitation.

US Caribbean Partners Meeting with the NOAA Office for Coastal Management and NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team.

This story is part of NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter

St. Croix, VI, was the venue for a partners meeting in late June with NOAA's Office for Coastal Management (OCM, SE & Caribbean Team) and NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team (SECART). This was the first time either group had met in the USVI and provided a long overdue opportunity to meet with and learn from NOAA's partners in the US Caribbean. The OCM and SECART group included staff from across NOAA's primary organizational units (NMFS, NOS, NWS, OAR) and partners from National Estuarine Research Reserves, Coastal Management Programs, coral reef managers, Sea Grant, and the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA).



Guests included local NOAA staff (NOAA VI Coral Liaison; NOAA VI Fisheries Liaison), VI DPNR (Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Zone Management Divisions), PR DNER (CZM Program and Jobos Bay NERR), FEMA; US Park Service; the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS); staff engaged in NOAA/NCCOS research and mapping activities; The Nature Conservancy; and USFWS/Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge.

Attendees participated in science, policy, and resilience briefings and discussions, including first-hand updates on past and current activities and future needs. A full day discussion on resilience was a highlight of the meeting. Participants noted lessons learned following recent storms and engaged in discussions on moving toward a more resilient future. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives shared information on their programs and funding, along with information regarding opportunities and challenges for using these funds to enhance natural infrastructure. NOAA staff discussed the roles and responsibilities of their offices before, during, and after disasters, highlighting products and services available to the community.

Field trips provided opportunities to learn more about local programs and issues. A glass-bottom boat ride, organized by the Virgin Islands' Coastal Zone Management Division, featured vivid closeups of area issues, such as erosion, development pressures, storm-related damage, and damage to coral reefs from storms and human activities. Trips to Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge and the East End Marine Park highlighted partnerships in St. Croix to enhance sustainable use of the island's natural resources.

NOAA thanks the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources for all their assistance with meeting logistics and helping us better understand their programs and issues.

For more information, please contact: Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov.

CARICOOS expand the kiosk network for the benefit of its current and future users.

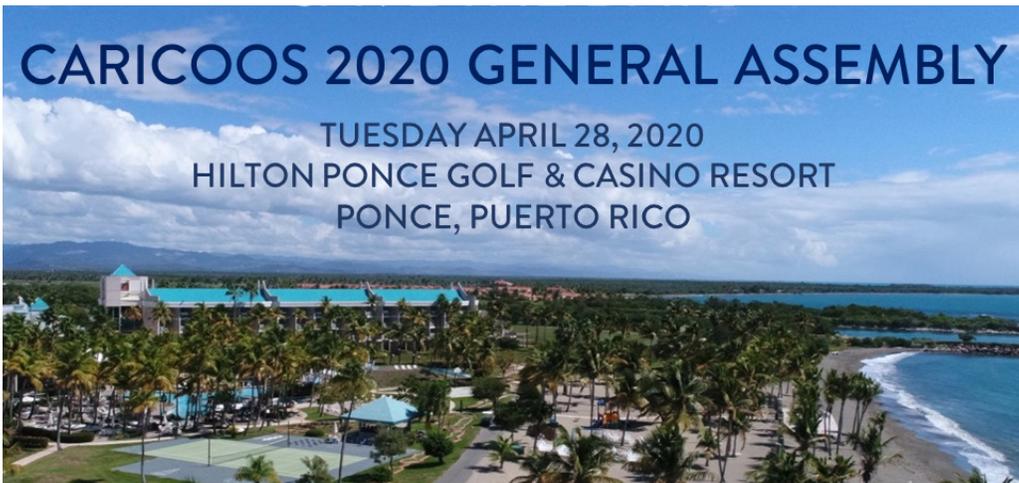
This effort aims to reach a broader and diverse audience and promote the correct use of CARICOOS tools for decision-making. These tablets and TV screens are located in strategic places, known for its recreational maritime traffic, tourism opportunities and educational experiences. The kiosks are located in Ponce Yacht and Fishing Club (Ponce, Puerto Rico), in M&M Bakery in La Parguera (Lajas, Puerto Rico) and in Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Visitor Center at Salinas.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CARICOOS 2020 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2020
HILTON PONCE GOLF & CASINO RESORT
PONCE, PUERTO RICO



Contact us:

 (787)832-4040 x. 2654

 contact@caricoos.org