



FY2012: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

U.S. IOOS® is envisioned to be an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. NOAA continued to provide merit-based funding in 2012 to further development of the IOOS regional network. IOOS regional partners provide coordination with regional stakeholders while contributing data and other outputs to the national system – supporting regional priorities while advancing national objectives.

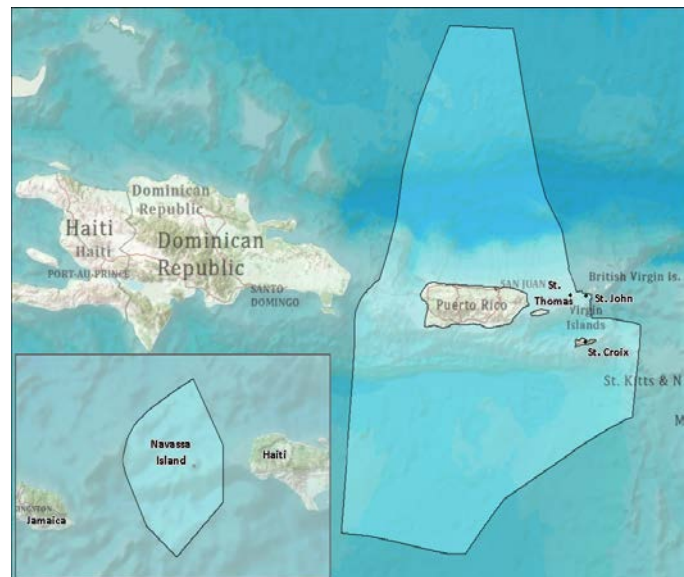
CARIBBEAN REGION

The Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) is the regional association for the coastal and ocean observing system that is being developed for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. CaRA is focused on meeting identified stakeholder needs for improved real time data products and forecasts of coastal weather (winds), currents, waves, water quality and hurricane-driven inundation for the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

NOAA Funding:

Prior to FY 2011, IOOS regional partners received two awards – one for development of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS), and one for planning and stakeholder engagement by a Regional Association (RA). Since FY 2011, IOOS has made a single award to each region for management of these activities. Funds awarded by NOAA since establishment of the U.S. IOOS Program Office are as follows:

FY 2012 - \$1,409,730
FY 2011 - \$1,347,000
FY 2010 - \$1,000,000 RCOOS, \$399,824 RA
FY 2009 - \$527,016 RCOOS, \$399,826 RA
FY 2008 - \$499,999 RCOOS, \$399,699 RA



Regional Priorities:

CaRA has engaged stakeholders from the tourism and marine recreation, maritime transportation, security, and human and ecosystem health and economics sectors, who require coastal seas and weather information for their decision-making. To meet both stakeholder needs and national program requirements, CaRA is focused on the following activities:

- Enhancement or installation of essential in situ (in the water) observational assets;
- Operational implementation of modeling tools;
- Partnering with NOAA to produce regionally-focused remote sensing products;
- Ensuring IOOS-compliant data processing and archiving; and
- Disseminating data and products to agencies and stakeholders to ensure a user-responsive, operational regional observing system.

In FY 2012, CaRA activities will include, among other things:

- Bi-weekly sampling at, and annual refurbishing of, NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program MAPCO2 buoy at La Parguera;
- Continued implementation of water quality monitoring and related product development for the region;
- Sustained operation and maintenance of all observational and modeling assets and sustained dissemination of data streams and data products;
- Operation, maintenance, and refurbishing of the CariCOOS Data Buoy network, including the CariCOOS Wave Buoy
- Operation and maintenance of the coastal weather MESONET, including one new station, and development of interpretative educational products for buoy and mesonet data
- Completion of site-specific rip current and beach safety interpretive maps for the two beaches with highest incidence of drownings in the region – Jobos Beach in Isabela, and Domes Beach in Rincón, Puerto Rico; and
- Implementation of inshore high resolution wave and circulation modeling for critical beaches and harbors, and installation of current measurement instruments at Charlotte Amalie and other critical harbors.

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