

U.S. Virgin Islands Accomplishments – USCRTF 2003

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St. Croix East End Marine Park



- **1960 – Recommendation by DOI to protect resources around the East End of St. Croix**
- **1980s St. Croix Coral Reef APC designated**
- **2000 - Action plan to protect Coral Reefs**
- **Funding for Coral Reef Protection**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Benthic Habitat Maps produced by NOAA**
- **Obtained funding from NOAA for coral reef monitoring to establish baseline data & expand monitoring network.**
- **Marine Park Advisory Committee formed and arrive at decision to develop a management plan for the St. Croix Coral Reef APC.**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Commence Marine Park Project**
 - **Resource Description Report**
 - **Socioeconomic Assessment of Marine Resource Utilization**
 - **Framework for a System of Marine Protected Areas**
 - **Marine Park Management Plan**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Development of the Management Plan**
 - **Partnerships – DPNR / UVI / TNC**
 - **Advisory Committee**
 - **Stakeholder Involvement**
 - **Identify Stressors**
 - **Significant Marine Areas Identified**
 - **Develop Plan**
 - **Public Hearing**
 - **Revisions to Plan**

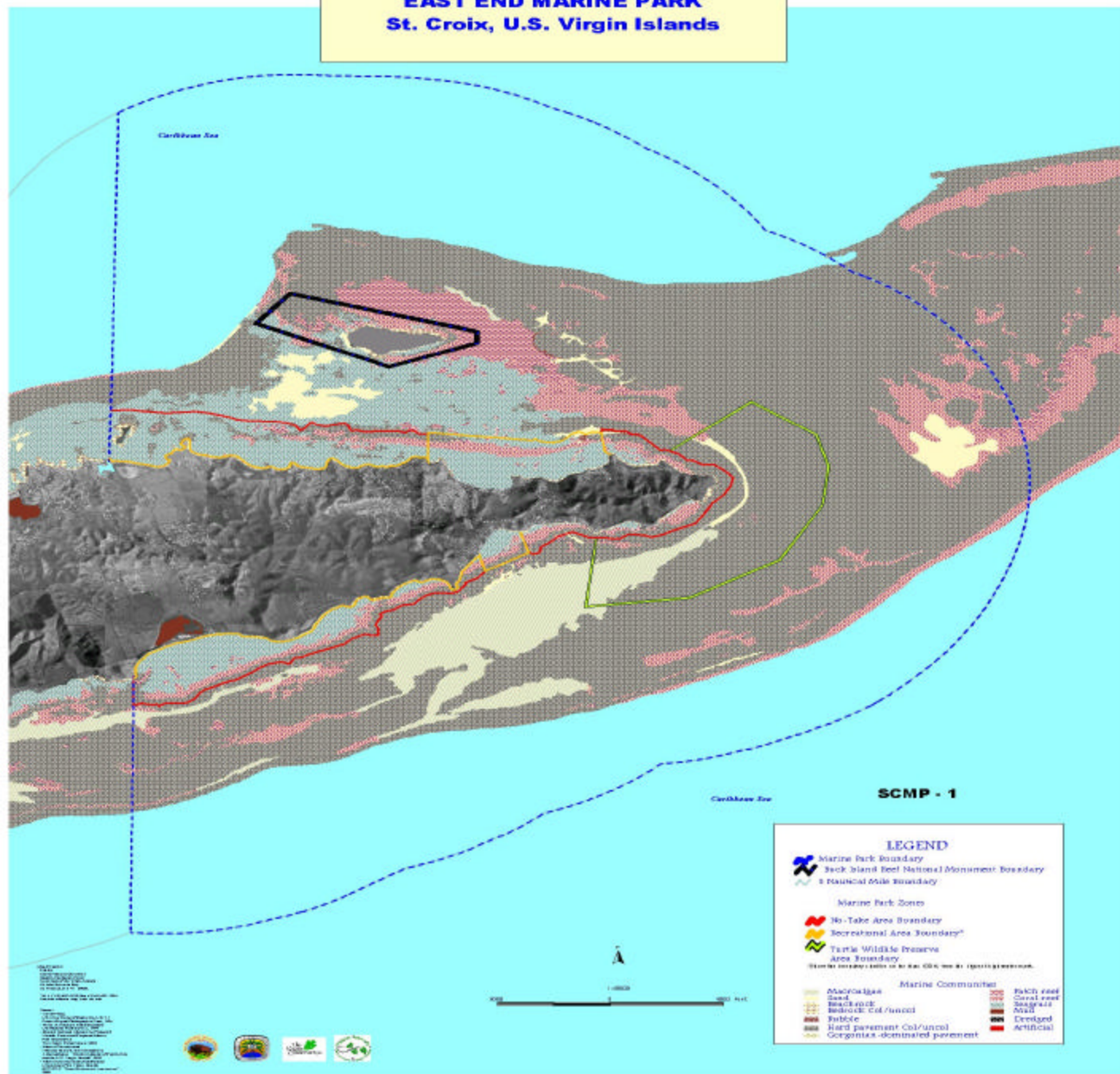
EAST END MARINE PARK
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Recreational
 Areas

No Take
 Areas

Turtle
 Wildlife
 Preserve

Open
 Area



St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **VICZMP Commission Adopts Plan Unanimously and forwards it to the Legislature for approval – July 2002**
- **Advisory Committee and other Advocates Rally Support**
- **Legislature Approves Plan (by 12 – 0 vote) – December 23, 2002**
- **Governor Turnbull signs into Law Act No. 6572 Establishing The St. Croix East End Marine Park – January 15, 2003**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Ongoing Efforts**

- **Development of Rules and Regulations**
- **Refurbishment of Visitor's Center**
- **Installation of Boundary Markers**
- **Education / Outreach**
- **Signage – Visitor's Center & Roadside**
- **NPS Mitigation BMP**

St. Croix East End Marine Park



- **Challenges**

- Stakeholders – Representation
- Interest Groups
- Human Resources
- Budget
- Monuments

St. Croix East End Marine Park



- **Benefits**

- Available Data – Maps, Studies
- Federal & Local Partnerships
- Increased Community Awareness
- Sustainable Use of Resources

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Acknowledgements**

- **USCRTF**
- **UVI / Consultants**
- **NGOs - TNC, TOC, IRF**
- **V. I. Marine Park Advisory Committee**
- **Stakeholders**
- **Interest Groups – CFMC, STXFAC, Dive Operators & Others**
- **Legislature of the USVI**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

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