



FY2013: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) Development

U.S. IOOS is 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 2013 to further develop 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.

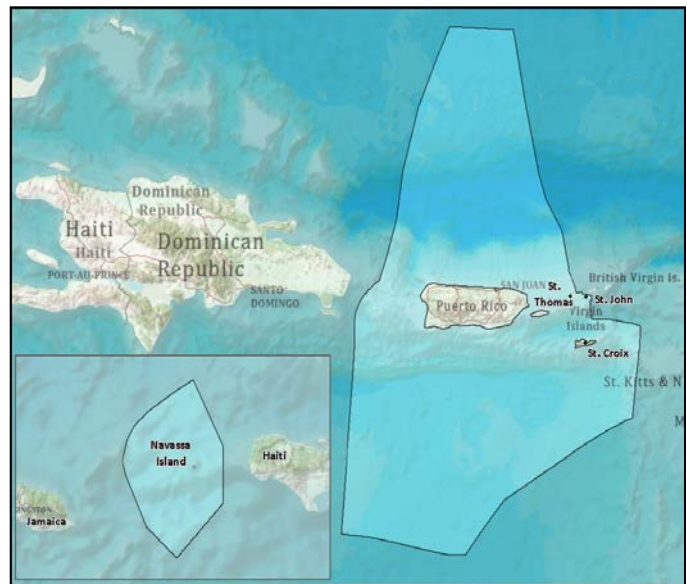
CARIBBEAN REGION

The Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) is the regional association driving the implementation of the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS) for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. CariCOOS is focused on meeting identified stakeholder needs for improved real time data products and forecasts of coastal weather (winds, waves and currents), 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). Starting in 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 2013 - \$1,644,149
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 marine tourism and recreation, maritime transportation, security, and human and ecosystem health and management sectors, who require coastal seas and weather information for their decision-making. To meet both stakeholder needs and national program requirements, CariCOOS 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 and other entities to produce regionally-focused water quality products

- Ensuring IOOS-compliant data processing and archiving
- Disseminating data and products to agencies and stakeholders to ensure a user-responsive, operational regional observing system
- Continued stakeholder engagement towards identification of data needs, enhancing awareness of CariCOOS products and training in their use and interpretation

Activities that CariCOOS will undertake in FY 2013 include, among other things:

- Operational implementation of numerical inshore high resolution wind, wave and circulation models for critical coastal sites and integration with direct observations into user-focused products (harbor operations support product, beach and surf-zone warning system)
- Sustained operation and maintenance of all observational assets (CariCOOS Data Buoy network, high frequency radars in the Mona Passage, and coastal weather [MESONET](#)) and regional model implementations, and sustained dissemination of data streams and data products
- Water quality product development, monitoring and dissemination (remotely sensed turbidity and suspended sediments and microbial beach contamination)
- Updating regional storm surge inundation atlas with revised bathymetry and computational meshes
- Bi-weekly sampling at, and annual refurbishing of, NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program MAPCO2 buoy at La Parguera

CariCOOS will also receive supplemental funds from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program to continue providing support for hydrodynamic modeling in the Northeast Corridor Reserve.

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