|  |
| --- |
| NOAA Header |
| **NOAA In Your Territory**  **U.S. Virgin Islands** |
| *“NOAA's work touches the daily lives of every person in the United States and in much of the world. Our products and services are the result of the hard work of NOAA’s dedicated staff and partner organizations located in program and research offices throughout the country. The following is a summary of NOAA programs based in, and focused on, your state. The entries are listed by statewide, region, and then by congressional districts and cities or towns.”*   * Dr. Jane Lubchenco   Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  and NOAA Administrator |
| ***USVI*** ***Coastal*** **National Ocean Service (NOS)** **Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management** **Virgin Islands Coastal Management Program** Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) works with the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in the USVI. OCRM provides the coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act to protect, restore and responsibly develop our nation’s coastal communities and resources by balancing the often competing demands of coastal resource use, economic development and conservation. <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/mystate/virgin_islands.html>  **National Ocean Service (NOS)** **U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Program** **U.S. IOOS** **Regional Association** 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.   The Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) is one of 11 Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Program Regional Associations being established through IOOS. CaRA is developing the Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System for the Caribbean covering Puerto Rico, the American Virgin Islands and the Island of Navassa west of Haiti. Sustained and integrated observation of the coastal ocean is an international initiative that will provide substantial benefits to the economy, to security, and environmental conservation. [http://cara.uprm.edu](http://cara.uprm.edu/)  ***Entire Territory*** **NOAA** **Multiple Line Offices** **NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program** NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program brings together multidisciplinary expertise from over 30 NOAA offices and partners with state and federal agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations and community coastal resource managers to protect, conserve and restore coral reef resources that sustain livelihoods and economic development.  In response to identified threats and management priorities developed by coral reef managers in the USVI, NOAA invests in initiatives to identify priority watersheds and develop management plans to reduce pollutant inputs to reef resources, build stewardship capacity for conservation programs, reduce fishing impacts on stocks that affect reef resiliency and health, and promote reef recovery from coral bleaching, ship groundings and other events. Examples of projects include characterizing the East End Marine Park species, habitats and sources of land-based pollution to evaluate zones and support watershed management plan development and reviews, enhancing enforcement of marine protection regulations and operating Acropora nurseries to continue production and outplanting of corals to support the Acropora recovery plan.  By training enforcement officers in the identification of fishery species, the DPNR Division of Environmental Enforcement will be able to effectively investigate, document, and prosecute fishery and other violations in the USVI. The training, funded by NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, focuses on the importance of effective marine enforcement to protect coral reef ecosystem resources. Scuba, field and classroom training are part of the training plan. [http://coralreef.noaa.gov](http://coralreef.noaa.gov/)  **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)** **Southeast Region** **Southeast Fisheries Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center** NMFS studies, protects and conserves living marine resources to promote healthy, functioning marine ecosystems, afford economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for the American public.  NMFS’ Southeast Regional Office (headquartered in Saint Petersburg, FL) and Southeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Miami, FL) are responsible for living marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and U.S. Caribbean.  Using the authorities provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and other federal statutes, the Southeast Regional Office and Southeast Fisheries Science Center partner to assess and predict the status of fish stocks, marine mammals and other protected resources, develop and ensure compliance with fishery regulations, restore and protect habitat, and recover threatened and endangered species in waters off the U.S. Virgin Islands and throughout the Southeast Region.  The Southeast Regional Office conducts mandated essential fish habitat consultations associated with extensive energy and coastal  development activities, participates in state and regional habitat planning and restoration efforts, provides assistance during hazardous material incidents and hurricane events, and participates in the planning processes for major federal water development projects. <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/index.html> and [http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/)  **National Ocean Service (NOS)** **National Geodetic Survey** **Geodetic Coordinator** The Geodetic Coordinator is an employee that serves as liaison between NOS and the USVI. The Geodetic Coordinator helps guide and assist the USVI’s charting, geodetic and surveying programs through technical transfer. This program also provides assistance in planning and implementing Geographic/Land Information System (GIS/LIS) projects. <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/ADVISORS/AdvisorsIndex.shtml>  **National Ocean Service (NOS)** **Office of Coast Survey** **Navigation Manager** Navigation Managers serve as Coast Survey’s ambassadors to the maritime community. Located in different regions throughout the country, Coast Survey Navigation Managers help identify the challenges facing marine transportation in general, directly supporting the NOAA strategic goal to "promote safe navigation." These agents assist Coast Survey in overseeing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's nautical chart data collection and information programs, helping to meet constituent needs. Navigation Managers focus primarily on resolving charting and navigation questions, educating constituents on emerging charting technologies and their uses, and soliciting feedback on NOAA's navigation products and services from the commercial maritime industry.  OCS has a Navigation Manager located in St. Petersburg, FL to support mariners and stakeholders in South Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/reps.htm>  **National Weather Service (NWS)** **Automated Surface Observing Systems** **USVI Stations** The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog.  There are two ASOS stations in the territory. <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/asos/>  **National Weather Service (NWS)** **Cooperative Observer Program** **USVI Sites** The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS.  The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals’ energy bills monthly. There are nine COOP sites in the territory. <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop/>  **National Weather Service (NWS)** **NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards** **USVI Transmitter** NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There is one NWR transmitters in the territory. <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>  **National Weather Service (NWS)** **Weather Forecast Office** **Puerto Rico WFO** This NWS Weather Forecast Office is located in Puerto Rico (San Juan at Carolina), and provides weather and flood warnings, daily forecasts and meteorologic and hydrologic data for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This office also provides marine warnings and forecasts for the waters surrounding Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.  Forecasters provide on-site, detailed weather support during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts such as those following the Greensboro, Kansas, tornado; Hurricane Katrina; and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in New York City. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sju/>  ***Charlotte Amalie and Limetree Bay*** **National Ocean Service (NOS)** **Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services** **National Water Level Observation Network** The National Ocean Service (NOS) operates four long-term continuously operating tide stations in the U.S. Virgin Islands, which provide data and information on tidal data and relative mean sea level trends, and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at Lime Tree Bay, Christiansted, Lameshur Bay, and Charlotte, VI. [http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov.](http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/)  ***Salt River Bay, St. Croix*** **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)** **Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory** **Coral Reef Watch Environmental Monitoring** This permanent monitoring station is part of the Coral Reef Watch program, a collaborative effort between NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) and NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS). Remote monitoring stations in the Florida Keys, Bahamas, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands continually observe meteorological and oceanographic parameters. These data are transmitted to AOML where they are processed by artificial intelligence-based software and compared with NESDIS-supplied satellite data. The integrated data are used to predict, monitor, and model incidences of coral bleaching and other coral-related biological events. <http://www.coral.noaa.gov/crews/index.shtml>  ***St. Croix*** **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)** **Southeast Regional Office** **St. Croix Field Office** The St. Croix Field Office is located within the Federal Building on St. Croix. This office is responsible for implementing NMFS’ habitat protection programs in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition to conducting mandated essential fish habitat consultations associated with extensive coastal development activities, the St. Croix Field Office works with the U.S. Virgin Islands government and stakeholders to reduce the impacts of fishing on coral reef habitat. <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcd/hcd.htm> |
| **NOAA’s Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs**  [**http://www.legislative.noaa.gov**](http://www.legislative.noaa.gov) |