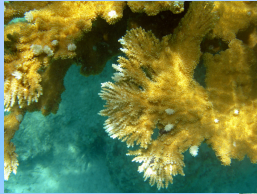
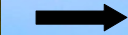


The History of The St Croix East End Marine Park Creating Momentum, a Legacy in the Making



Resources in Peril



Changes over 20 years in St Croix, USVI



The St. Croix East End Marine Park (STXEEMP) was established in 2003 through collaborative efforts of local USVI government agencies, non-government agencies, and stakeholders with funding and logistical support from the Department of Interior and The Department of Commerce. This historically significant event was the culmination of a 30 year vision to protect natural resources of the Virgin Islands and is now the cornerstone for future territorial marine conservation efforts. Recognizing the importance of broad-based support, community stakeholders played a key role in designing this MPA and continue to actively contribute to its management today through the Virgin Islands Marine Protected Area Advisory Committee.

From vibrant colour to skeletal remains. The marine resources of the U.S. Virgin Islands are a poor reflection of an earlier time. Many visionaries recognized the threats to the territories' reefs. The St Croix East End Marine Park is a testament to hard work and dedication. The Park was established to protect territorially significant marine resources, promote sustainability of marine ecosystems and to conserve and preserve significant natural areas for the use and benefit of future generations. It provides the cornerstone to larger conservation efforts while ensuring a legacy of traditional and cultural practices. It is key to the way of life in the Virgin Islands.



The Advisory Committee established in 2003 © STXEEMP, 2003



Major Milestones



US workshops 2000

1960
•1960 - DOI study for VI Government recommends East End of STX be designated a Nature Preserve

1970
•1972 - Proposed Senate Act to establish VI Territorial Park System
•1978 - VI Coastal Zone Management Act passed
•1979 - VI CZM program established within Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs
•1979 - 18 Areas of Particular Concern (APC) established



The Official Opening 2003



DPNR and Federal Staff 2005

1980
•1980 - East End of STX recommended as an Area for Preservation and Restoration (APR)
•1981 - East End of STX is listed as a candidate for park within V.I. Territorial Park System plan
•1982 - East End of STX is nominated as a candidate for National Marine Sanctuary status



The CZM Commission 2006

1990
•1998 - U.S. Coral Reef Task Force established by President Bill Clinton
•1999 - Governor Charles W. Turnbull states USVI commitment to coral reef conservation at 3rd U.S. CRTF meeting



CZM Director and Assistant Director 2006

2000
•2001 - The US Virgin Islands Marine Park Project partnership is formalized between the DPNR and the University of Virgin Islands
•2001 - The Walter B. Jones Memorial and NOAA Excellence Award for Ocean and Coastal Resource Management in the category of "Excellence in Local Government" is presented to the DPNR's Division of Coastal Zone Management
•2001 - Community workshops held in STX to develop the St Croix East End Marine Park (STXEEMP) project
•2002 - "Puerto Rico Resolution" adopted by USCRTF providing funds for the STXEEMP project
•2002 - Portions of four APC sites on east end of STX combined and elevated in status to become the St. Croix East End Marine Park (VI Code T12, Act No. 6572)
•2002 - USVI Marine Park Advisory Committee receives Coastal America Partnership Award
•2003 - STXEEMP office created within DPNR/CZM



Governor Turnbull 2006



The STXEEMP at Present Building a Legacy



The First Component of the USVI's Territorial Marine Park System



The STXEEMP Mission

Protect territorially significant marine resources

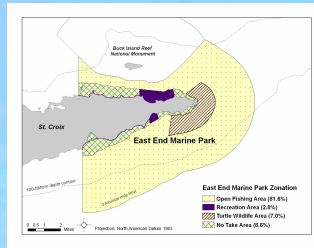
Promote sustainability of marine ecosystems

Conserve and preserve significant natural areas for future generations



Recent Milestones in the Ongoing Development of the STXEEMP

- Management Plan
- Approved by CZM Commission on July 19, 2002
- Legislation (Act #6572)
- Approved by Legislature on December 23, 2002
- Marine Park Office created within CZM-March 2004
- Website unveiled January 2006
- Rules and Regulations
- Approved by CZM Commission April 2006
- Park Office at Plot #5, Camp Arawak, Estate Great Pond
- Renovation underway



Park Office Staff



Conrad Knowles, Marine Park Coordinator
 Paige Rothenberger, Marine Resource Ecologist
 Migdalia Roach, Administrative Assistant

Projects

Physical Infrastructure

- Navigational Aides and Boundary Markers
- Signage
- Camp Arawak-new marine park office
- Renovation of Club Comanche Sugar Mill as new interpretive center



Projects

Operational Infrastructure

- Rules and Regulations
- Economic Evaluation
- Resource User Survey
- Comprehensive Watershed and Coastal Wetlands Protection Plan
- Vessel Use Assessment
- Standard Operating Procedures



Projects

Education and Outreach

- Outreach Van (mobile outreach and education program)
- Snorkel Clinics
- Classroom Presentations
- Summer Camp
- Participate in VI Network of Environmental Educators (VINE)



Projects

Research

- Coral Reef Monitoring Programs (Territorial and NOAA protocols)
- Spiny Lobster monitoring
- Elkhorn and Staghorn coral (*Acropora*) mapping

Questions?
 For More Information Please Visit Our Website at:
www.stxeastendmarinepark.org



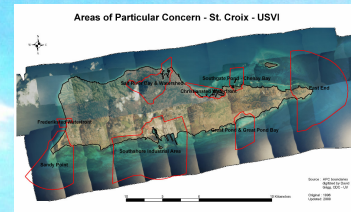
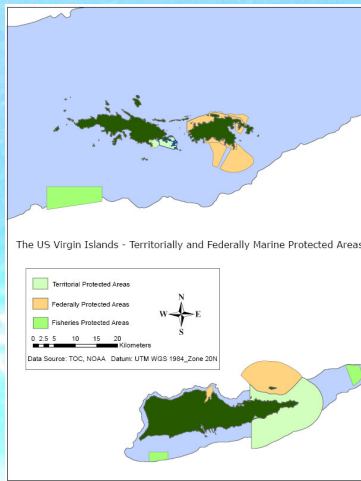
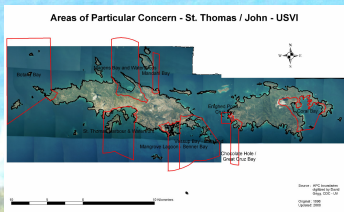
The Vision for the Future Leaving a Legacy for the USVI



The St. Croix East End Marine Park is an important step in creating a system to protect marine resources and allow them to recover. Recovery of these vital ecosystems upon which Virgin Islanders depend is a must. The protection of essential fish habitat and back reef embayments provide vital areas for the replenishment of key commercial fishing species like the Nassau Grouper and Cubera Snapper that used to be common sights on the reef.



Many protected areas exist throughout the waters of the V.I. However, a series of challenges are created through a combination of different jurisdictional entities coupled with varying goals for each area and a lack management plans and/or resources to fully implement enforcement of regulations. Through partnership and collaboration of all management agencies and through local community participation the resources and the quality of life in the V.I. can be maintained or enhanced.



The Potential Benefits of a Marine Protected Area System

- Enhancement of the local economy
- Protection of cultural heritage and social traditions
- Improved fisheries
- Enhanced recreational value
- Improved quality of life for all



The opportunity exists to create a functional and integrated protected area system in the Virgin Islands by combining territorial and federal efforts. Through cohesive and effective partnerships we can strive to work towards a common goal: the sustainability of social, economic, cultural and ecological benefits for generations to come. Policy makers, managers, scientists and community members all have a vital role to play in defining land and water use in the US Virgin Islands.

Are you ready to play your part?