SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY (SACS) | U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS OVERVIEW

U.S. VIRGIN ISLAND SUMMARY

The majority of the economic risk for the U.S. Virgin Islands is in St Thomas. Potential risk is anticipated to double with sea level change. Virtually all the risk in existing and future conditions is in populated places.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Coastal Storm Risk Management Framework, SACS key products, and other shared tools were used to assess and communicate risk across the SACS Study Area, and ultimately to address the assessed risk with a series of recommendations. The entire process was implemented with input from stakeholders across federal, state, and local public and private sectors. Recommendations to manage coastal storm risk are grouped into six categories, as illustrated in the icon graphics below, and are further grouped by timeframe : near term (< 5 years), mid term (5 10 years), and long term (> 10 years), as well as by responsible party (multi agency, USACE, and Congress).

Activities and Areas Warranting Further Analysis



Design and Construction Efforts



Recommendations on Previously Authorized USACE



Companion Document to South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) | Overview

Regional Sediment Management Practices



Study Efforts





SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY (SACS) | ADVANCING U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION CATEGORIES DEFINED



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Activities and Areas Warranting Further Analysis: This category includes development of tools, data collection, and multi-agency efforts such as those undertaken by Silver Jackets teams, which bring together multiple state, federal, and sometimes tribal and local agencies to manage risk from flooding and other natural disasters.

Address Barriers Preventing Comprehensive Risk Management: This category advances opportunities to address the multiple barriers preventing comprehensive risk management identified in the SACS report.

Design and Construction Efforts: Examples include recommendations that support design and construction of tentatively selected or recommended plans from USACE CSRM studies conducted separately from SACS.

Recommendations on Previously Authorized USACE Construction Projects: This category includes recommendations that maintain and/or adapt existing USACE CSRM projects to continue providing storm risk management as sea level rises.

Regional Sediment Management Practices: This category supports a systems approach for more efficient and effective use of sediments in coastal environments, ranging from agency collaboration on sand source identification to leveraging the beneficial use of dredged material with emerging natural, nature-based features (NNBF).

Study Efforts

Examples include USACE feasibility study recommendations, studies that may be led by other stakeholders, and studies that fall under existing USACE authorities, such as the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) and Planning Assistance to States (PAS).

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations to the right include:

I REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS APPLICABLE TO U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regional Priority Recommendations may be applicable to the entire region, such as improving understanding and application of compound flooding effects, or they may be location-specific recommendations to address areas with the most significant risk relative to the entire study area.

2) U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS





<u>U.S. VIRGIN ISLANI</u>	<u>ds recom</u>	MENDA	TIONS		
CATEGORY	TIMING*	TYPE**	RECOMMENDATION	ASSIGNED TO	NEXT STEP
Address Barriers	Mid-Term		Community engagement efforts.	Multi-agency	Stakeholder Collaboration
	Long-Term		Establishment and enforcement of updated regulatory set-back.	Multi-agency	Stakeholder Collaboration
	Long-Term		Coastal hazard modeling guidance.	Multi-agency	Stakeholder Collaboration
	Long-Term		Develop a concentrated, joint stakeholder effort to provide data consistent with that available for the continental United States.	Multi-agency	Stakeholder Collaboration
	Near-Term		Use of risk assessment tools and collaboration for coastal resilience needs.	Multi-agency	Stakeholder Collaboration
	Mid-Term		Identify and conserve parcels of land to accommodate mangrove migration.	Multi-agency	Identify Non-federal Sponsor (USACE Study)
	Near-Term		Improve methodology for quantification of OSE, EQ and RED benefits during feasibility phase to assist USACE teams during plan formulation.	USACE	Guidance/Policy
Regional Sediment Management	Mid-Term		RSM Opportunities on St. Croix.	USACE	Identify Likely Lead Stakeholder(s)
Study Efforts	Mid-Term		Creation of a comprehensive coastal improvements plan.	Multi-agency	Stakeholder Collaboration
	Near-Term	TRP	Protection of Airport Road.	USACE	Identify Nonfederal Sponsor (USACE Study)
	Mid-Term	TRP	Christiansted Comprehensive Flood Risk Management.	Multi-agency	Stakeholder Collaboration
	Long-Term		Protect and Restore Coral Reefs.	Multi-agency	Identify Likely Lead Stakeholder(s)

ADDITIONAL REGIONAL PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES

CATEGORY	TIMING*	TYPE**	RECOMMENDATION	ASSIGNED TO	NEXT STEP
Activities/Areas Warranting Further Analysis	Mid-Term	RP	Advance ongoing interagency work to improve understanding and application of compound flooding effects on existing and future coastal storm risk.	Multi-Agency	Stakeholder Collaboration
	Near-Term	RP	SACS key products should be maintained and updated by USACE and utilized, as applicable, by USACE and stakeholders to support consistent, efficient, and effective analyses. Additionally, other agency-led data and tools should be supported to facilitate use of consistent, up-to-date information for decision making. Examples of such agency-led efforts include the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Minerals Management Information System (MMIS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Change Analysis Program.	Multi-Agency	Funding
	Near-Term	RP	A multi-agency and collaborative approach should be used to develop methods that account for environmental benefits in traditional habitat units and economic quantities (monetized) in order to acknowledge and consider environmental benefits as a factor in deciding on a recommended plan in all future CSRM studies.		Guidance/ Policy
	Near-Term	RP	Develop streamlined and vetted methods to quantify and incorporate risk management benefits to Regional Economic Development, Environmental Quality, and Other Social Effects to ensure Federal interest determinations consider benefits other than National Economic Development.	USACE	Guidance/ Policy
Address Barriers	Near-Term	RP	Develop streamlined and vetted methods to quantify and incorporate risk management benefits to Regional Economic Development, Environmental Quality, and Other Social Effects to ensure Federal interest determinations consider benefits other than National Economic Development.		Guidance/Policy
	Near-Term	RP	Ongoing and future federal and nonfederal studies recommending beach nourishment should explicitly incorporate adaptive capacity to improve project resilience.		Guidance/ Policy
Regional Sediment Management	Near-Term	RP	Promote partnerships and collaboration on beneficial use of dredged material opportunities.	Multi-Agency	Stakeholder Collaboration
	Near-Term	RP	Develop regional prioritization of strategies to address sand needs.	USACE	Funding

* Near-Term: < 5 Years / Mid-term: 5 – 10 Years / Long-term: >10 Years / ** RP: Regional Priority / TRP: Territory Priority





FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO SACS PRODUCTS, ANALYSES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS: HTTPS://WWW.SAD.USACE.ARMY.MIL/SACS/

Companion Document	to South	Atlantic Coas	stal Study (SA	CS) Overview
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