

St Thomas, St John Liaison Report

NICOLE GRE AUX



2021 has been a challenging Year by means of Local fisheries outreach

Staffing shortage at the St Thomas DFW office

Mandated restrictions on gatherings

Overtaxed DPNR Enforcement officers

Thankfully, All of these have been rectified in the positive

Activities



Visits 3 times a week to the different fish vending areas

Joseph P Bryan fish market water availability checks

Communication with the Division of Fish and Wildlife

Interviews with Fishers to be highlighted on our
Caribbean Fishery Management media platform

Sustainable Seafood Initiative

SEASONAL CLOSURES NO HARVEST OR POSSESSION DURING THE DATES INDICATED	
FEBRUARY 1 - APRIL 30 FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL WATERS	APRIL 1 - JUNE 30 FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL WATERS
 RED GROUPER	 MUTTON SNAPPER
 BLACK GROUPER	 LANE SNAPPER
 TIGER GROUPER	OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31 FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL WATERS
 YELLOWFIN GROUPER	 BLACK SNAPPER
 YELLOWEDGE GROUPER	 BLACKFIN SNAPPER
JUNE 1 - OCTOBER 31 FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL WATERS	 VERMILLION SNAPPER
 QUEEN CONCH	 SILK SNAPPER
APRIL 1 - SEPTEMBER 30 TERRITORIAL WATERS ONLY	
 WEST INDIAN TOPSNAIL (WHELK)	



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

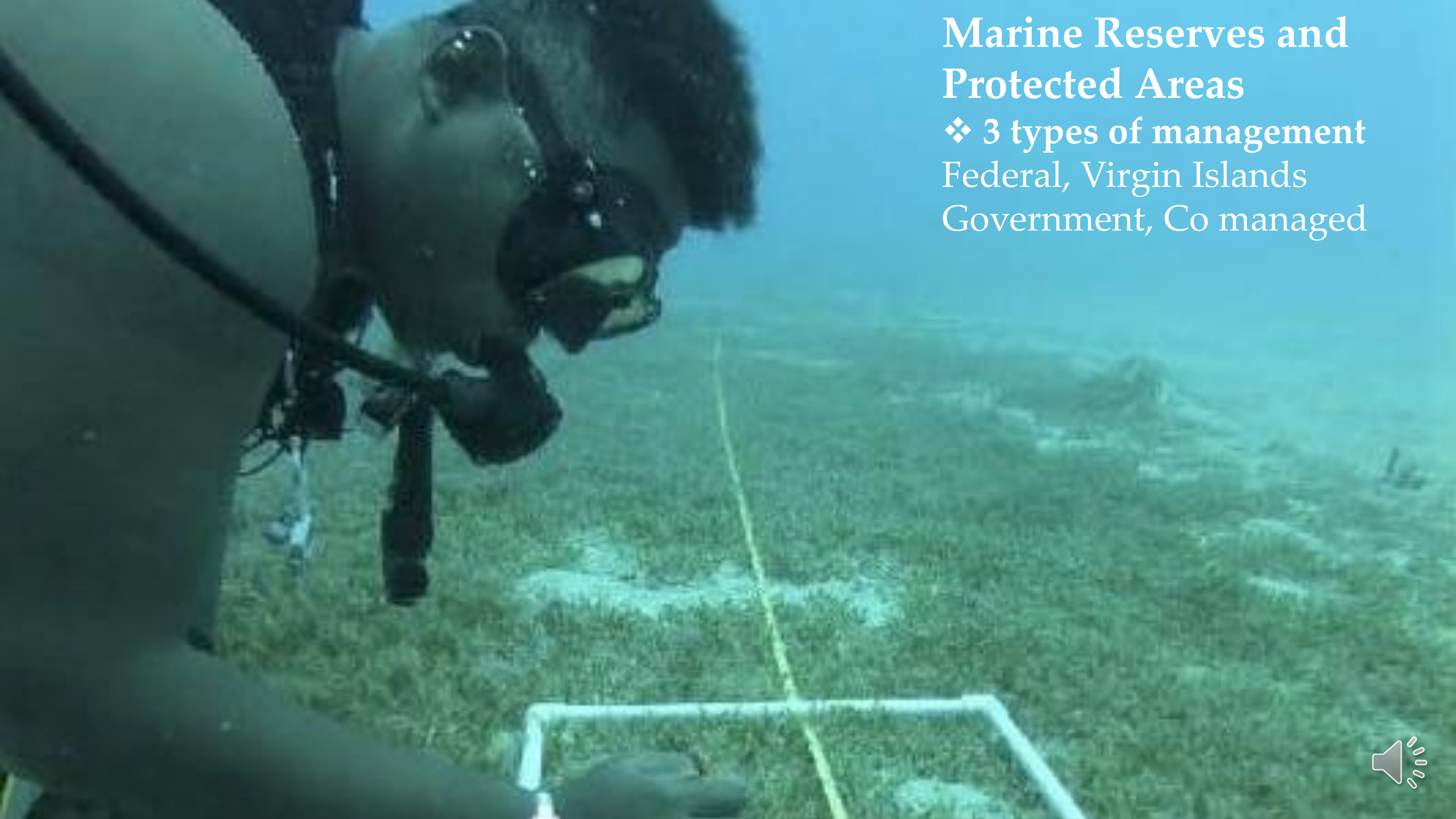
OEAP Presentation-

Nicole Greaux
St. Thomas/St. John



Marine Reserves and Protected Areas

❖ 3 types of management
Federal, Virgin Islands
Government, Co managed



Federal	USVI Government
V.I. National Park*no commercial fishing allowed	Cas Cay/ Mangrove Lagoon*bait fish only, no take inner lagoon
Coral Reef National Monument *no take	Compass Point Marine Reserve* no take
Hind Bank Marine Conservation District*no take	Frank Bay Marine Sanctuary(Small Pond)*no take
Grammanik Bank*highly migratory species only during 3 month closure	ST. Thomas East End Reserve *integrated areas of inclusion





Territorial MPAs

- 5. Cas Cay/Mangrove Lagoon MSWR
- 7. St. James and Compass Point Pond MSWR
- 12. St. Thomas East End Reserve (5 and 7 combined)
- 13. Small Pond at Frank Bay MSWR

APCs

- 1. Botany Bay APC
- 2. Magens Bay APC
- 3. Mandahl Bay APC
- 4. St. Thomas Harbor APC

- 6. Mangrove Lagoon/Benner Bay APC
- 8. Vessup Bay/East End APC
- 9. Enighed Pond/Cruz Bay APC
- 10. Chocolate Hole/Great Cruz Bay APC
- 11. Coral Bay APC



Studies and Involvement



St. Thomas East End Reserves (STEER)

- In August 2020, DPNR-CZM took on a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow to take lead on completing a 2-year update of the 2011 STEER Management Plan document. This process includes:
 - Conducting STEER Key Informant Interviews
 - A Management Plan Update Workshop Series
 - Building out a STEER Management Council
 - Producing an updated 2022 STEER Management Plan Document
- In June 2021, DPNR- CZM and FW hosted two SEAS Island Alliance Interns to conduct seagrass and algae surveys within Benner Bay and Mangrove Lagoon.
 - The purpose of this project was to better understand the seagrass and algae species present with the two bays.
- Currently, DPNR-CZM is conducting a STEER Public Use Survey
 - The results of the survey will update DPNR's understanding of areas for activity in STEER and help advise the placement of informative signage around the reserves.





Emerging Areas: Invasive Seagrass and *Sargassum* Golden Tides

Dr. Edwin Cruz-Rivera
Lead Researcher



Mangrove Function, Recovery & Restoration

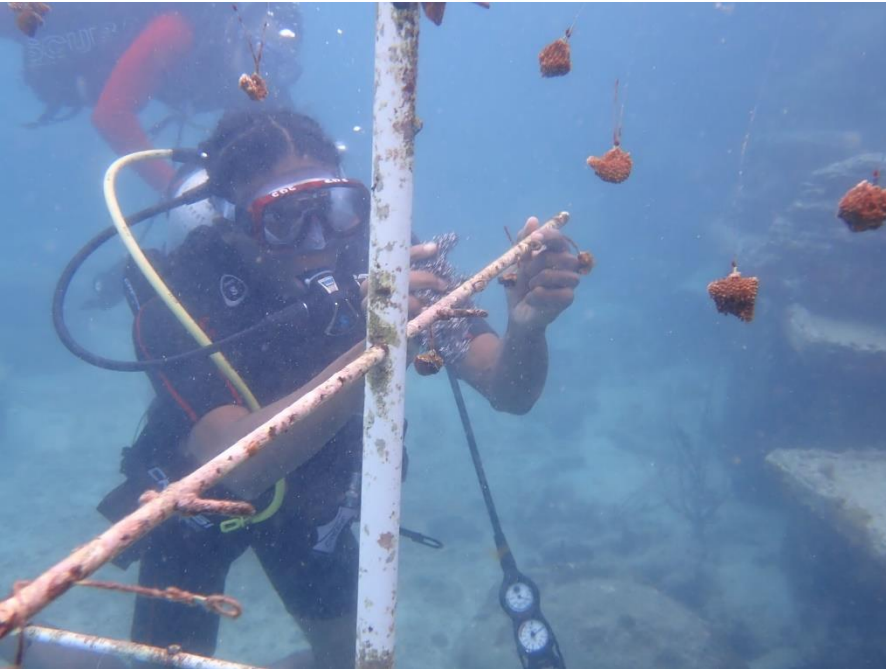
Dr. Kristin Wilson Grimes,
Lead Researcher



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St. Thomas and St. John



Students that complete the Learn to Swim Program are excellent candidates to participate in either the 1-week **Junior Ocean Explorers Summer Program** which is open to students in grades 3-6 or the 4-week **Youth Ocean Explorers Summer Program** which is open to students in grades 7-12. Through these programs, students can use their newfound swimming skills to explore our nearshore Caribbean waters to learn about the variety of life that exists within our oceans



THANK YOU



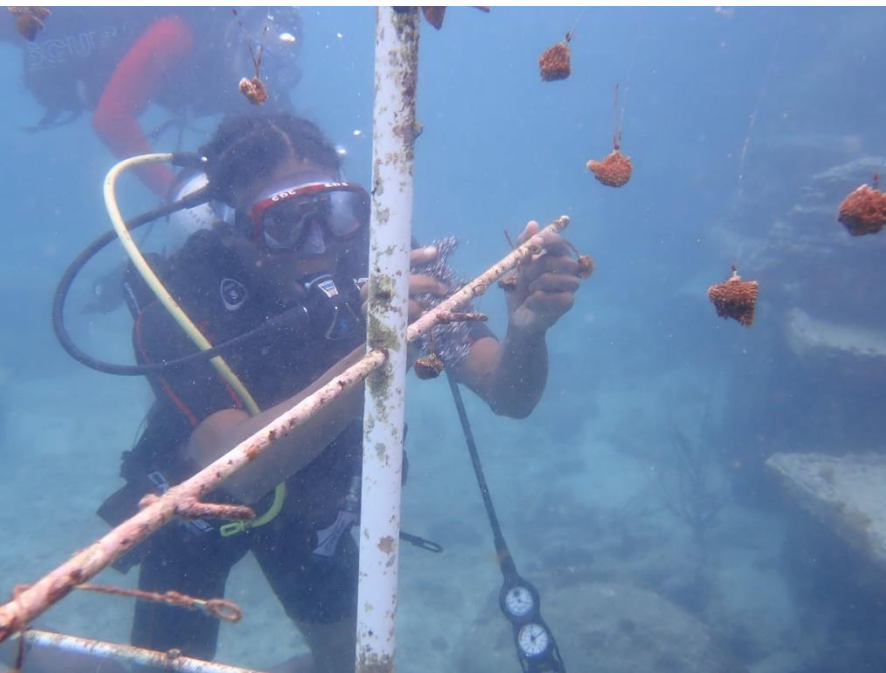
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Teaching youth about our coastal natural resources.



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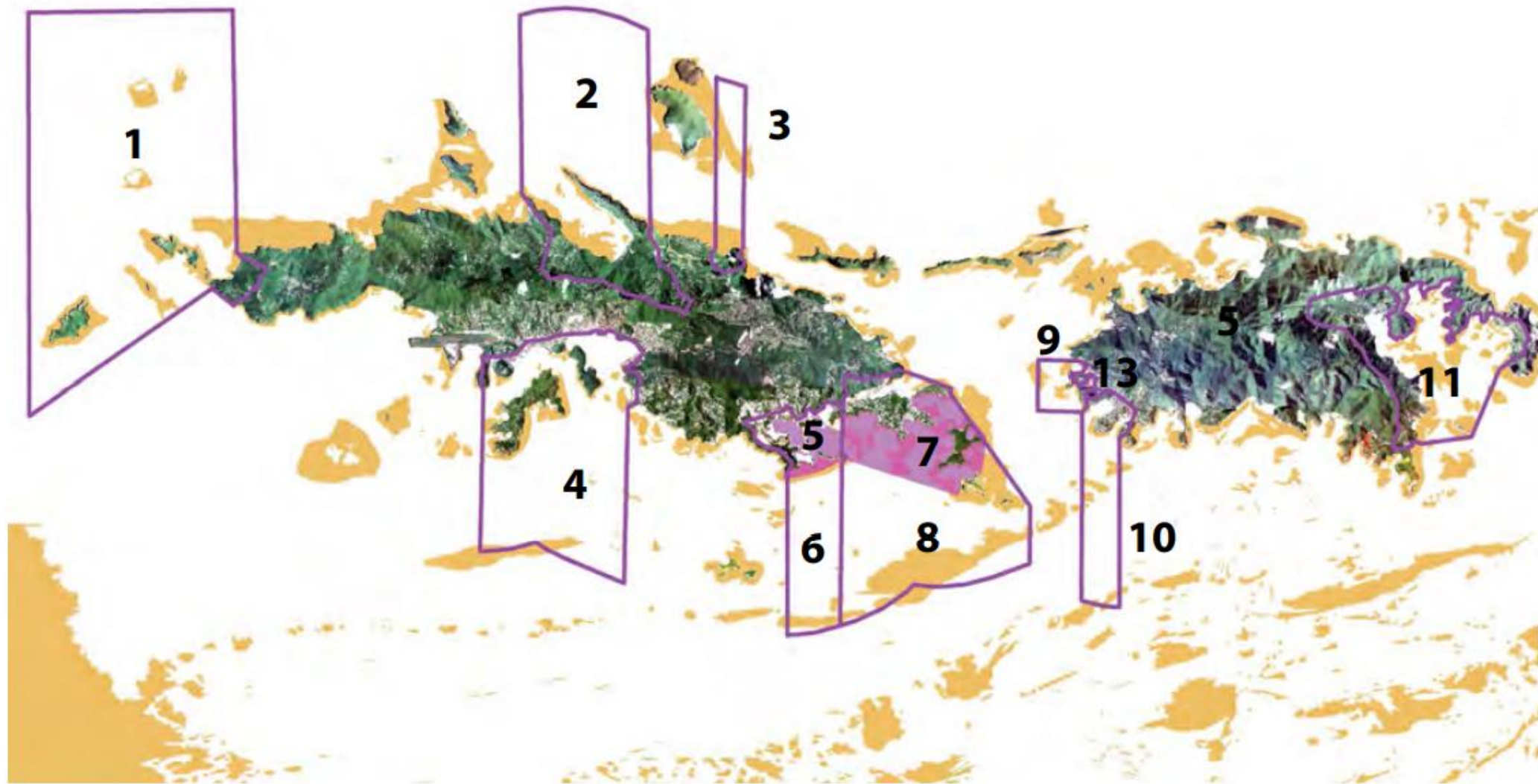
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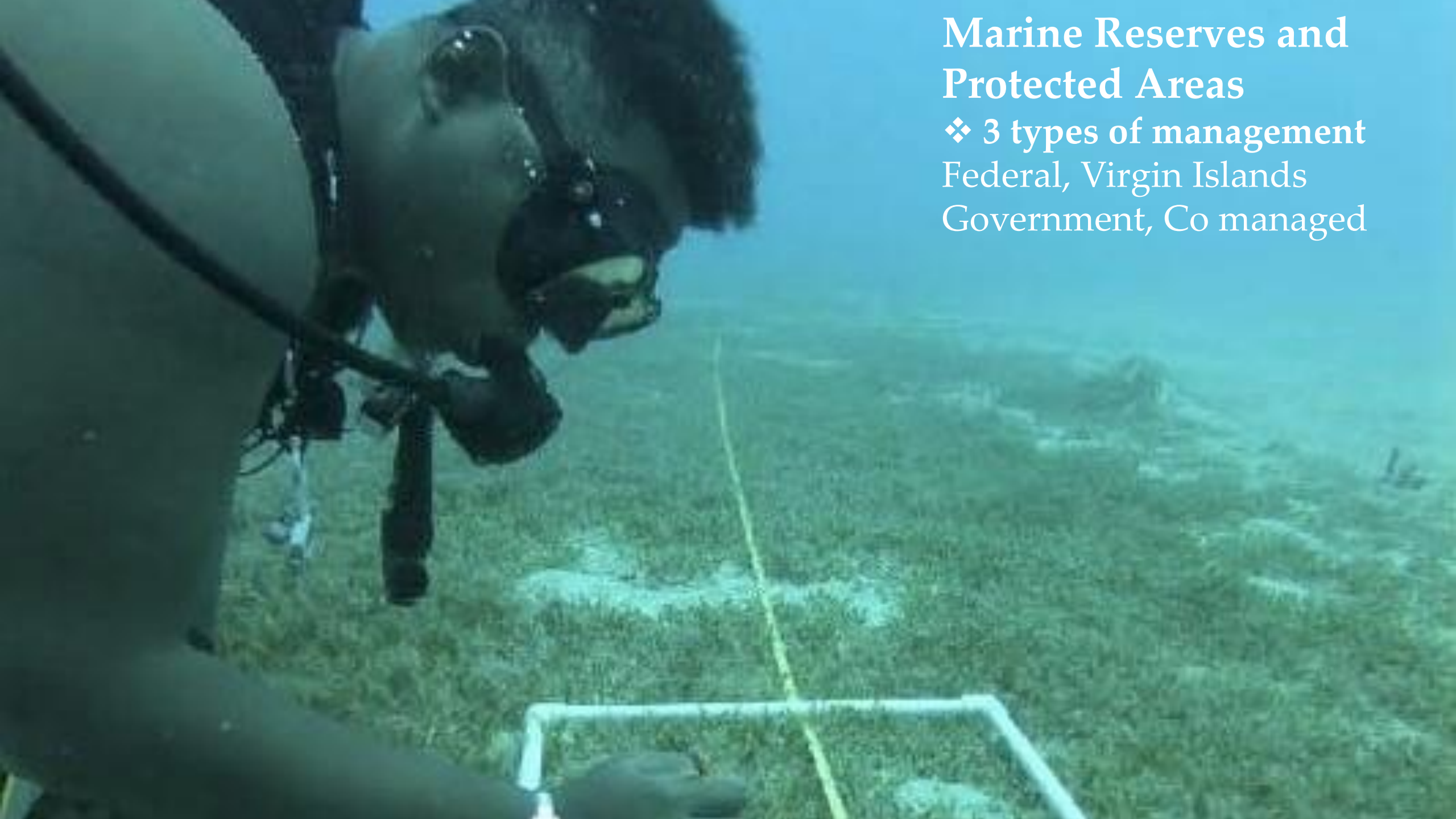


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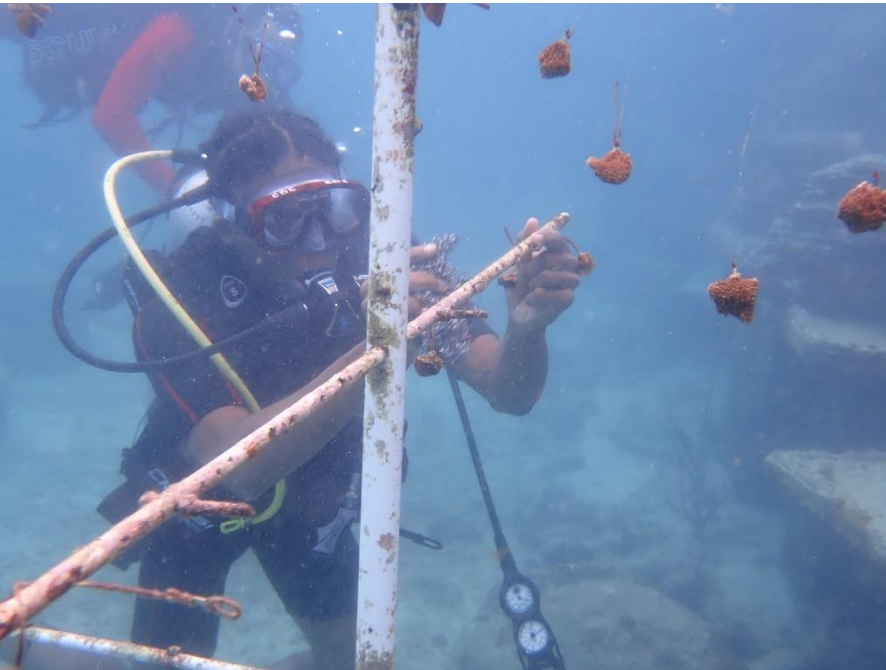
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