U.S. Virgin Islands Accomplishments – USCRTF 2003

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St. Croix East End Marine Park

- 1960 – Recommendation by DOI to protect resources around the East End of St. Croix
- 1980s St. Croix Coral Reef APC designated
- 2000 - Action plan to protect Coral Reefs
- Funding for Coral Reef Protection

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Benthic Habitat Maps produced by NOAA**
- **Obtained funding from NOAA for coral reef monitoring to establish baseline data & expand monitoring network.**
- **Marine Park Advisory Committee formed and arrive at decision to develop a management plan for the St. Croix Coral Reef APC.**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Commence Marine Park Project**
  - **Resource Description Report**
  - **Socioeconomic Assessment of Marine Resource Utilization**
  - **Framework for a System of Marine Protected Areas**
  - **Marine Park Management Plan**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

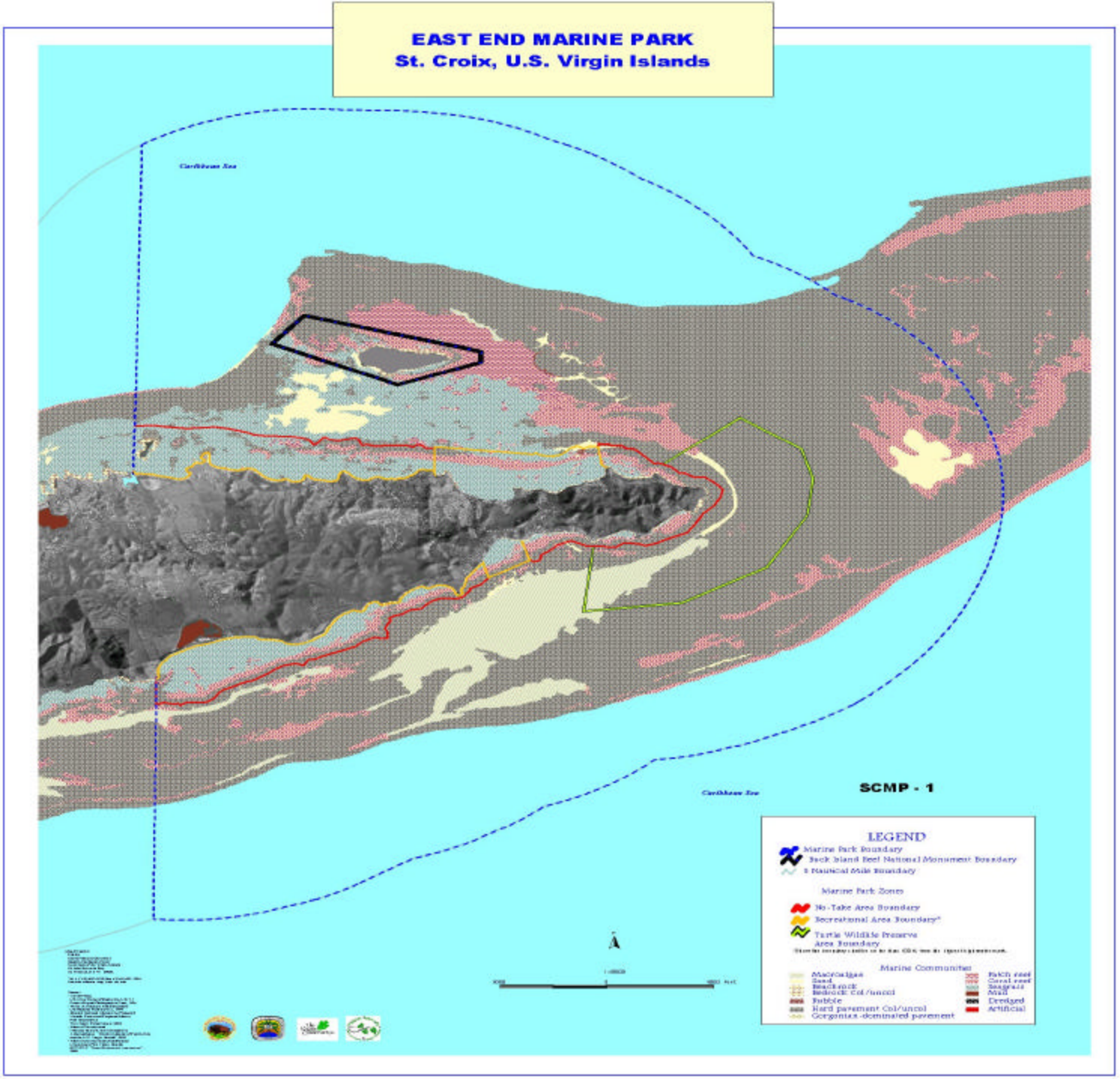
- **Development of the Management Plan**
  - **Partnerships – DPNR / UVI / TNC**
  - **Advisory Committee**
  - **Stakeholder Involvement**
  - **Identify Stressors**
  - **Significant Marine Areas Identified**
  - **Develop Plan**
  - **Public Hearing**
  - **Revisions to Plan**

Recreational Areas

No Take Areas

Turtle Wildlife Preserve

Open Area



St. Croix East End Marine Park

- VICZMP Commission Adopts Plan Unanimously and forwards it to the Legislature for approval – July 2002
- Advisory Committee and other Advocates Rally Support
- Legislature Approves Plan (by 12 – 0 vote) – December 23, 2002
- Governor Turnbull signs into Law Act No. 6572 Establishing The St. Croix East End Marine Park – January 15, 2003

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Ongoing Efforts**
  - **Development of Rules and Regulations**
  - **Refurbishment of Visitor's Center**
  - **Installation of Boundary Markers**
  - **Education / Outreach**
  - **Signage – Visitor's Center & Roadside**
  - **NPS Mitigation BMP**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Challenges**
  - **Stakeholders – Representation**
  - **Interest Groups**
  - **Human Resources**
  - **Budget**
  - **Monuments**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Benefits**
  - **Available Data – Maps, Studies**
  - **Federal & Local Partnerships**
  - **Increased Community Awareness**
  - **Sustainable Use of Resources**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

- **Acknowledgements**
  - **USCRTF**
  - **UVI / Consultants**
  - **NGOs - TNC, TOC, IRF**
  - **V. I. Marine Park Advisory Committee**
  - **Stakeholders**
  - **Interest Groups – CFMC, STXFAC, Dive Operators & Others**
  - **Legislature of the USVI**

St. Croix East End Marine Park

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