

V.I. RC&D USVI Coastal Habitat Restoration Through Watershed Stabilization

Comprehensive Monitoring Workplan Progress Report

October 1, 2009

Initiation of marine monitoring has commenced at one location (Coral Bay) and is scheduled to commence in Fish Bay and East End Bay in the week of October 11th. In Coral Bay, project monitoring coordinator Tyler Smith and co-PI for marine monitoring, Sarah Gray and team, met for a one day planning session at Virgin Islands Ecological Resource Stations (VIERS). This included agreement on specifics of sampling methodologies and a trip to Coral Bay via boat to scout sediment and biological monitoring sites. Sediment monitoring in Coral Bay from August-December of 2009 is being conducted by Sarah Gray and funded by the NOAA Coral Coral Reef Conservation Program. August 19th a total of 16 sediment trap arrays were deployed at a total of 8 locations in Coral Bay. Sediment from these traps was recovered on September 16th, targeting a sampling frequency of 26 days. Samples are being processed at VIERS and data submitted to a communal project database.

Traps arrays for Fish Bay and East End Bay have been constructed and are awaiting deployment. All sediment monitoring locations will be sampled in synchrony (± 3 days), therefore deployment will be targeted to commence with the next Coral Bay sampling cycle on October 13th.