

RU29 International Challenger Mission Update

Update 1: 8 September 2019

After several attempts thwarted due to minor equipment malfunctions, Glider RU29 was successfully launched on 6 September, 2019, on its mission measuring open ocean temperature, salinity, and currents in the Anegada Passage region over the next two months.

The project is a collaboration among Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ) Center for Ocean Observing Leadership, Ocean and Coastal Observing - Virgin Islands (OCOVI, an affiliate of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Caribbean Coastal and Ocean Observing System (CARICOOS), and the University of the Virgin Islands. This mission will collect upper ocean data to improve hurricane forecasting models; study conditions in the Anegada Passage, an important region for NE Caribbean climate Change; and build international cooperation for ocean glider activities. The mission will work the waters of the US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, and Anguilla, under an international Marine Science Research permit.

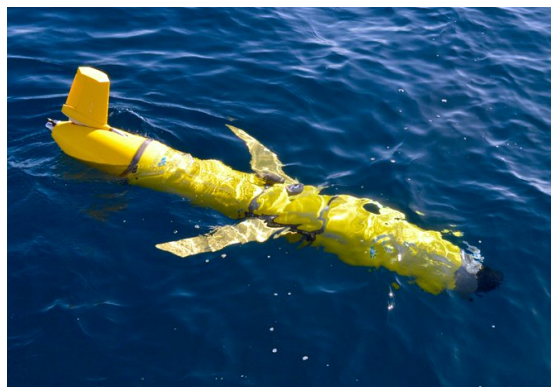


Photo Doug Wilson, OCOVI

6 September 2019: RU29 is underway, launched by University of the Virgin Islands student Elisha

Ocean gliders mechanically adjust their buoyancy to profile the ocean from the surface to 1000m, make measurements, and report them via satellite upon surfacing. These data are available immediately to the public and to scientists managing ocean models. For the RU29 Challenger mission, the investigators will post regular updates to keep interested parties up to date on the mission's progress, share observations and data, and provide information on regional ocean observing activities.

Information on ocean gliders and the Challenger mission is available from Rutgers University: <https://rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/data/underwater-gliders/about-underwater-gliders/>



A Slocum Glider 'in the wild'. Regional fisherman and others who might encounter them on the ocean are asked to simply keep clear and let them do their work.

Information on OCOVI regional ocean observing activities: www.ocovi.org

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