

# International Challenger RU29 Mission Update

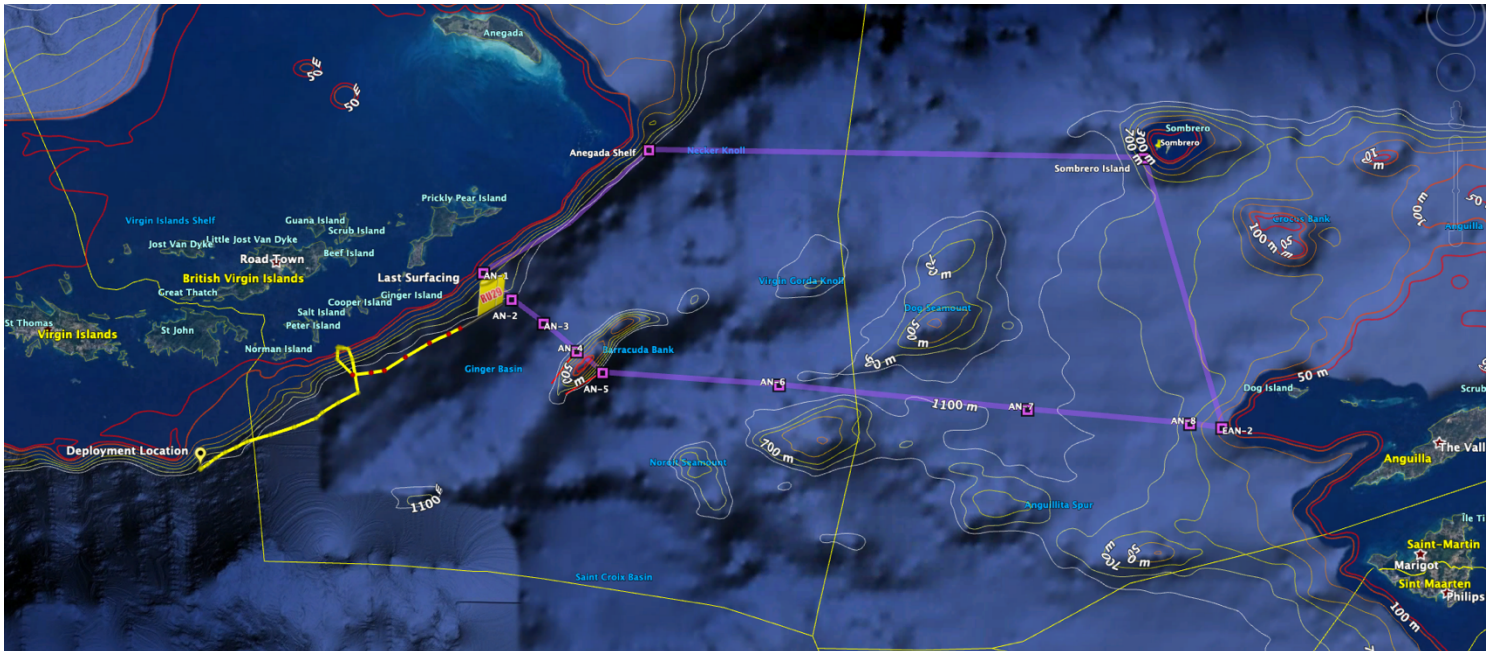
Update 2: 9 September 2019

## Where is RU29 – and where will its mission take it?

The map below shows Glider RU29's progress during the first three days of its mission; we will update these regularly. Deployed south of St. John, USVI, it entered BVI waters and is headed for its first station in the Anegada Passage. It did take a little northward detour due to a piloting transcription error, but the glider is smart enough not to run itself aground.

The purple lines show the planned mission track. Soon RU29 will stop, perform some instrument tests, and then begin its mission. Starting off Virgin Gorda, the glider will head towards Barracuda Bank, avoiding the shallow water there, and east towards Anguilla. It will take a return path around the north side of the Anegada Passage, ending back up at the first station.

The glider's forward progress is about 20 km / day when it is profiling to 1000 meters, less in shallower water. Our loop should take about two weeks. Depending on remaining battery voltage, the glider will repeat some portions, or head to a rendezvous spot to be picked up for recharging and redeployment.



Regional map showing RU29 Glider progress as of 1700 UTC Monday 9 September, 2019. See text for details.

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The International Challenger RU29 Mission 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 observing and glider activities. The mission will work in the waters of the US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, and Anguilla, under international Marine Science Research permit. Funding for the project comes from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the IOOS, Rutgers University, and the G. Unger Vetlesen Foundation.