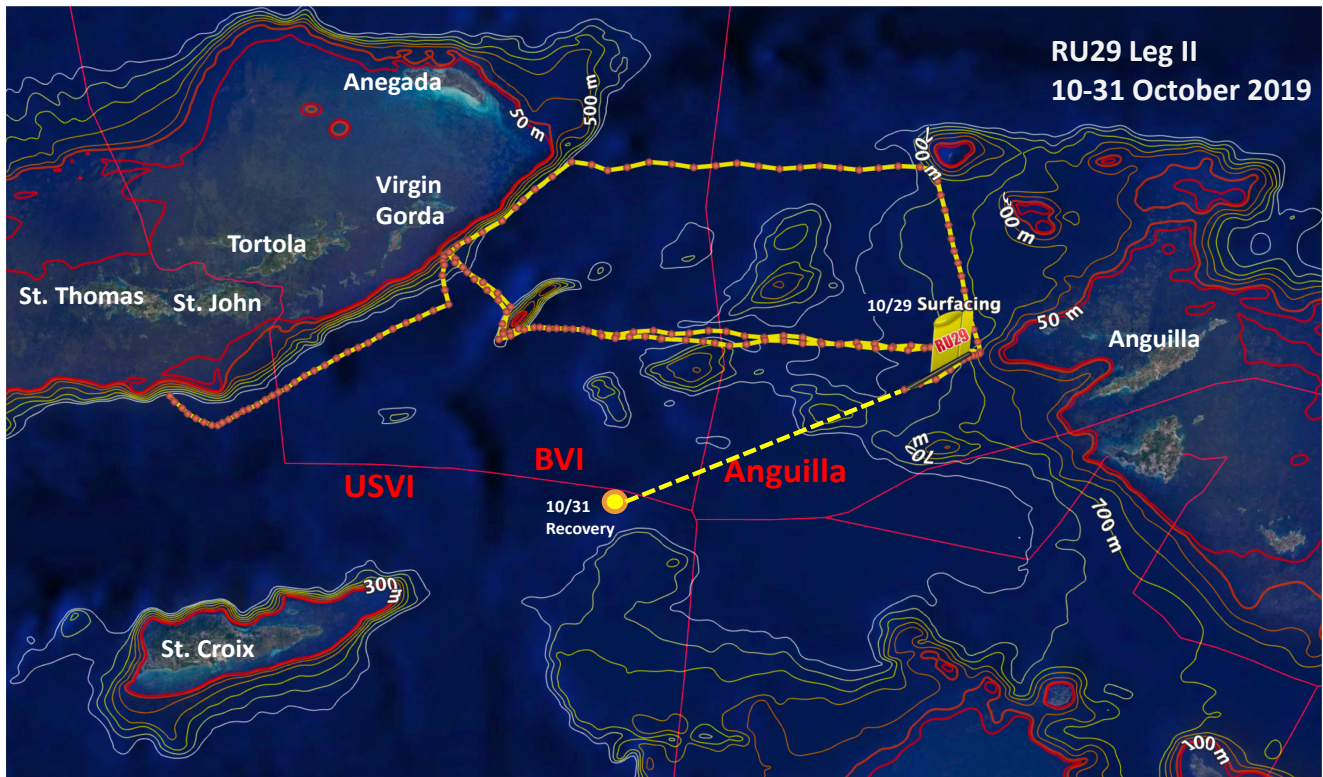


# International Challenger RU29 Mission Update

Update 9: 1 November 2019

## RU29 Recovered after Successful Leg II

Since its Leg II deployment on 10 October, RU29 has covered over 500 km, including two Anegada Passage transects and a full Virgin Gorda / Dog I / Sombrero I / Anegada loop. The Marine Science Permit for work in British Virgin Islands and Anguilla waters expired on 31 October, and RU29 had just reached US waters en route to planned data collection around St. Croix, when its satellite data communication revealed a water intrusion alarm.



Capt. Matt Driscoll scrambled the *Double Header* and was accompanied by UVI student and experienced OCOVI glider specialist Kenique Liburd for a 50-mile recovery mission out of St. Thomas. RU29 is now safely back in the OCOVI Glider Lab for full data download, diagnostics, and any necessary repairs. With hurricane season hopefully nearing an end, the team will go to work on analyzing data feed back into forecast model improvements. Thanks to all, especially our funding partners and the governments of Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands for making this groundbreaking scientific endeavor possible.

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.