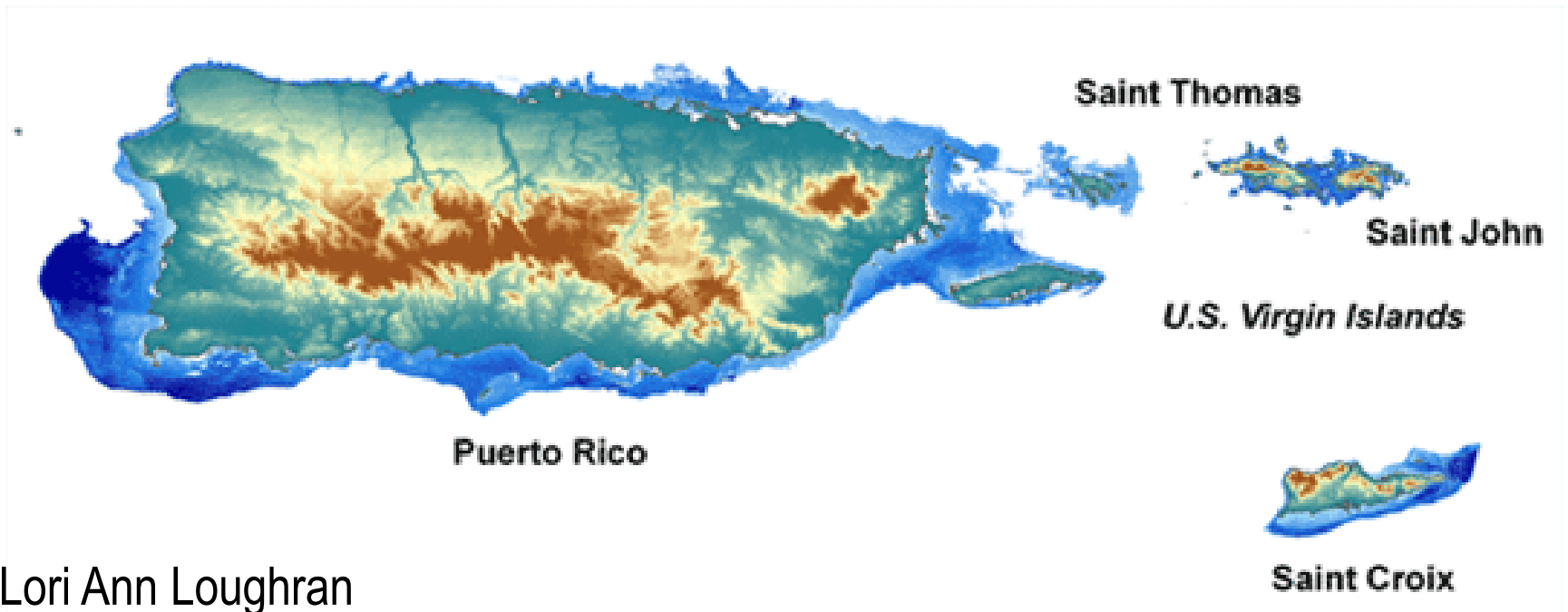


Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



Lori Ann Loughran

Incident Management and Response Specialist

USCG D7 District Response Advisory Team Supervisor

May 21, 2025



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



Topics covered today:

What is CRRT?

Why is there a CRRT?

Where is CRRT?

Who makes up CRRT?

**Caribbean Regional Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution
Contingency Plan (RCP)**

When is CRRT relevant?

How is the CRRT notified/activated?



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



What is the CRRT?:

- The CRRT is a compilation of Federal and Commonwealth and Territorial Agencies that:
 - Serve as the regional body for planning and preparedness activities before a response to a major or other significant oil or hazardous substance incident.
 - Provide coordination and advice during such response actions.



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



What is the CRRT?:

- The CRRT meets to:
 - Review and comment on recent response actions or other issues related to the preparation, implementation, or exercise of regional and/or local plans;
 - To conduct advance planning for use of dispersants or other chemical agents in response to oil spills;
 - To conduct or participate in training and exercises as necessary to encourage preparedness activities of the response community within the Caribbean region.



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



Why is there a CRRT?:

- **National Response Framework:** The National Response Framework is a guide that details how the Nation conducts all-hazards response— from the smallest incident to the largest catastrophe. This document establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response.
- The Framework identifies the key response principles, as well as the roles and structures that organize national response. It describes how *communities, States, the Federal Government and private-sector and NGO partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response.*
- It describes special circumstances where the Federal Government exercises a larger role, including incidents where Federal interests are involved and catastrophic incidents where a State would require significant support. It lays the groundwork for first responders, decisionmakers and supporting entities to provide a unified national response.



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



Why is there a CRRT?:

- **National Response System Plans:** The three levels of contingency plans under the National Response System interact in a hierarchical fashion as described in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, commonly known as the **NCP, (40 CFR §300.210).**
- The **NCP sets standards for regional contingency plans (RCPs) and area contingency plans (ACPs)** and provides a framework in which those plans, and the activities that they describe, can be organized.
- The **RCPs provide more geographically specific information regarding regional response policies and operations.**
- The **ACPs provide information regarding specific response resources and environmentally or economically sensitive receptors in specific areas and on area-specific response policies.**



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



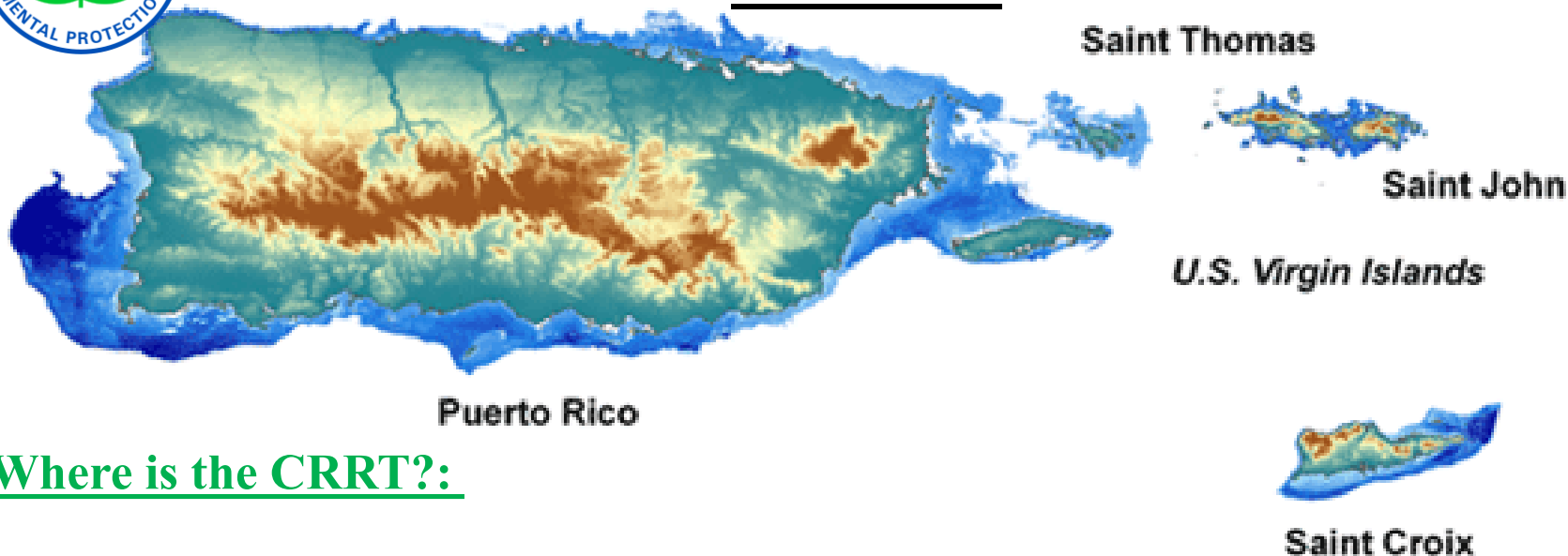
Why is there a CRRT?:

- The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a companion document that provides *standard command and management structures that apply to response activities*.
- This system provides a consistent, nationwide template to enable Federal, State, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and NGOs to work together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity.
- This consistency provides the foundation for utilization of the NIMS for all incidents, ranging from daily occurrences to incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response.



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



Where is the CRRT?:

The Caribbean Region includes the following geographical areas:

- The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (PR)
- The Territory of the United States Virgin Islands (USVI)
- Boundaries with the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and the Dominican Republic.

UNCLAS



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



Who makes up the CRRT?:

- EPA, USCG, FEMA, DOE, DOC/NOAA, DOI, DOL, DOS, GSA, DOD, DOA, DHHS, DOJ, DOT, NRC, DNER, DPNR, and VITEMA
 - Each party to the CRRT provides advice and assistance in their respective areas of expertise and can provide capabilities to support planning and response efforts.



FEMA



UNCLAS



Caribbean Regional Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (RCP):



******* THE RCP *******

- **The CRRT currently maintains one standing committee:
the *Management Committee*.**
 - **Consists of the EPA and USCG CRRT Co-Chairs, Alternate Co-Chairs and Coordinators, the commonwealth/territorial CRRT Members, and the CRRT Members from DOC/NOAA and DOI.**
 - **Responsible for the development of and adherence to the RCP.**



Caribbean Regional Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (RCP):



- ❖ Provides the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants.
- ❖ Fulfills this purpose by providing a framework in which Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) are consistent with each other, with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), and with other federal emergency response plans.
- ❖ Describes the mechanisms by which the Caribbean Regional Response Team (CRRT) assist On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) before a response, through planning and training activities; during a response, and through organizational and coordination assistance.
- ❖ Serves as a repository of CRRT policies and guidance pertaining to oil and hazardous substances responses.



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



When is the CRRT relevant?

- The CRRT meets bi-annually to:
 - Recommend revisions of the RCP and the NCP.
 - Review OSC actions to ensure that the RCP and the ACPs are effective.
 - Conduct advance planning for use of dispersants, surface collection agents, burning agents, biological additives, or other chemical agents, in accordance with Subpart J of the NCP.
 - Conduct or participate in training and exercises as necessary to encourage preparedness activities of the response community within the region.
- The meetings are also a forum for the OSCs to interact with the CRRT in a non-response setting, and for the CRRT to ensure that it is prepared to adequately support OSCs in planning and response activities.

UNCLAS



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



When is CRRT relevant?:

- RRTs function in two ways: as a *standing team* and as an *incident-specific team*.
- **Standing RRTs** participate in planning, preparedness, and training year-round, and are co-chaired by the EPA and the USCG.
 - May establish collaborative working groups and assign work as deemed appropriate, such as committees, workgroups or task forces.



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



When is CRRT relevant?:

- RRTs function in two ways: as a *standing team* and as an *incident-specific team*.
- **Incident-Specific RRTs** provide assistance to Federal OSCs and responding agencies during an incident.
 - Activation of an incident-specific RRT usually occurs at the request of a Federal OSC.
 - Standing RRTs can also activate an incident-specific RRT if it is evident that the Federal OSC needs additional support, or a discharge transects state boundaries, may pose a substantial threat to the public or environment, or is a worst-case discharge.
 - An incident-specific RRT is chaired by the federal agency providing the Federal OSC.



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



How is the CRRT notified?:

- **Per the NCP, RCP and ACP, the FOSC shall notify the RRT Natural Resource Trustee representatives of DOI and DOC through the established notification process regardless of whether listed species or critical habitat are present.**
 - **Upon notification, the DOC and DOI Trustee representatives shall contact the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) and USFWS Regional Response Coordinator (RRC), respectively, and other appropriate Service contacts as provided in internal DOC or DOI plans, guidance, or other documents.**



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



How is the CRRT activated?:

- **The incident OSC or any CRRT representative may request the activation of an incident specific RRT during any discharge or release.**
 - **The request should be made to the USCG Co-Chair for coastal incidents, and to the EPA Co-Chair for inland incidents.**
 - **Notification of the appropriate CRRT members will be the responsibility of the lead Co-Chair but may be delegated to the RRT Coordinators or other staff representatives.**



Caribbean Regional Response Team

CRRT 101



How is the CRRT activated?:

- **An incident-specific RRT** may be activated as an inter-governmental coordination team when an actual or potential discharge or release occurs that:
 - Exceeds the response capability available to the federal OSC in the place where it occurs.
 - Transects commonwealth/territorial boundaries.
 - Poses or potentially poses, a substantial threat to the public health, welfare, environment, or to regionally significant amounts of property, or poses a hazard to workers engaged in emergency response activities or associated cleanup operations.
 - Meets the definition of a major discharge as defined in the NCP.
 - Requested by FEMA or others in Regional events.
 - Transects RRT boundaries (e.g., offshore spills, hurricanes).
 - Transects Sector boundaries.
 - May transect an international boundary or otherwise may affect the interests of another country.

Caribbean Regional Response Team
CRRT 101

Questions?

