



Expansion of the U.S. Drought Monitor to the U.S. Virgin Islands

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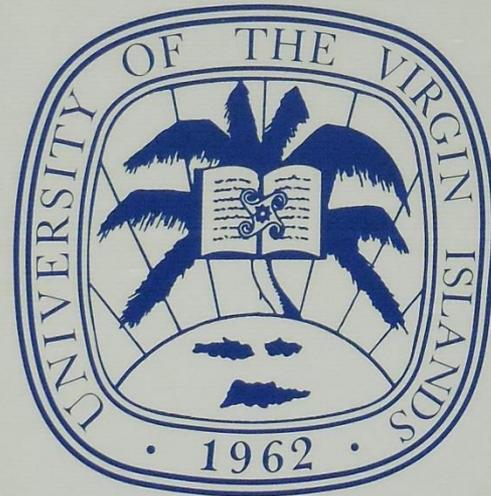
U.S. Drought Monitor Forum, Keystone, SD

April 5, 2017

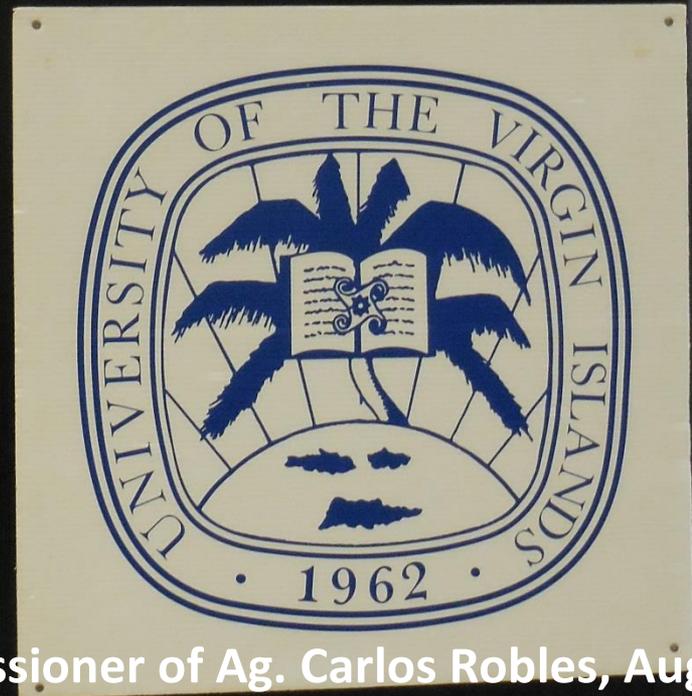
Northern Coast of St. Croix, VI, near Christiansted, August 29, 2016

Meetings held with stakeholders:

- U.S. Virgin Islands, Aug. 30-31, 2016**
- Near San Juan, PR, Sep. 1, 2016**



Mark Svoboda, NDMC, August 30, 2016



2015 Average Rainfall Accumulation per Climate Zones

Saint Thomas/Saint John	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
OBSERVED	1.46	3.92	1.26	0.30	2.32	1.97	0.38	---	---	---	---	---
NORMAL	2.72	1.71	1.47	2.92	3.90	2.54	3.33	---	---	---	---	---
%PON PER MONTH	54	229	86	10	59	78	11	---	---	---	---	---
ACCUMULATED	1.46	5.38	6.64	6.94	9.26	11.23	11.61	---	---	---	---	---
NORMAL	2.72	4.43	5.90	8.82	12.72	15.26	18.59	---	---	---	---	---
% PON ACCUMULATED	54	121	113	79	73	74	62	---	---	---	---	---

Saint Croix	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
OBSERVED	2.17	1.66	0.96	1.93	0.89	1.52	0.85	---	---	---	---	---
NORMAL	2.00	1.61	1.53	2.47	3.88	2.60	3.24	---	---	---	---	---
%PON PER MONTH	109	103	63	78	23	58	26	---	---	---	---	---
ACCUMULATED	2.17	3.83	4.79	6.72	7.61	9.13	9.98	---	---	---	---	---
NORMAL	2.00	3.61	5.14	7.61	11.49	14.09	17.33	---	---	---	---	---
% PON ACCUMULATED	109	106	93	88	66	65	58	---	---	---	---	---

These data are preliminary and have not undergone final quality control by the National Centers for Environmental Information / NCEI/. Therefore, these data are subject to revision. Final and certified climate data can be accessed at www.ncdc.noaa.gov. Normal values based on active COOP stations.

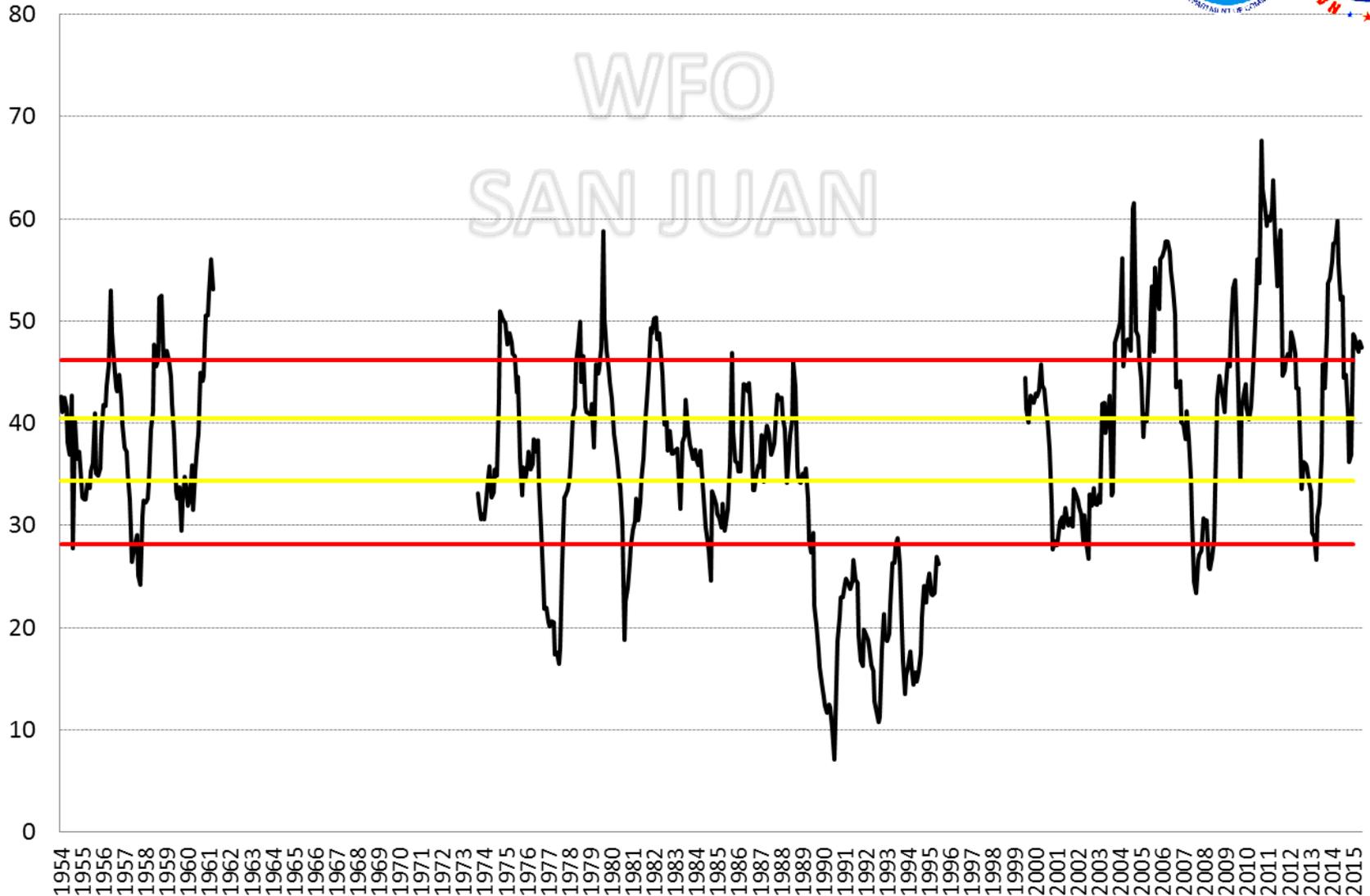


Saint Thomas Cyril E King Airport JAN 1953 - JUL 2015

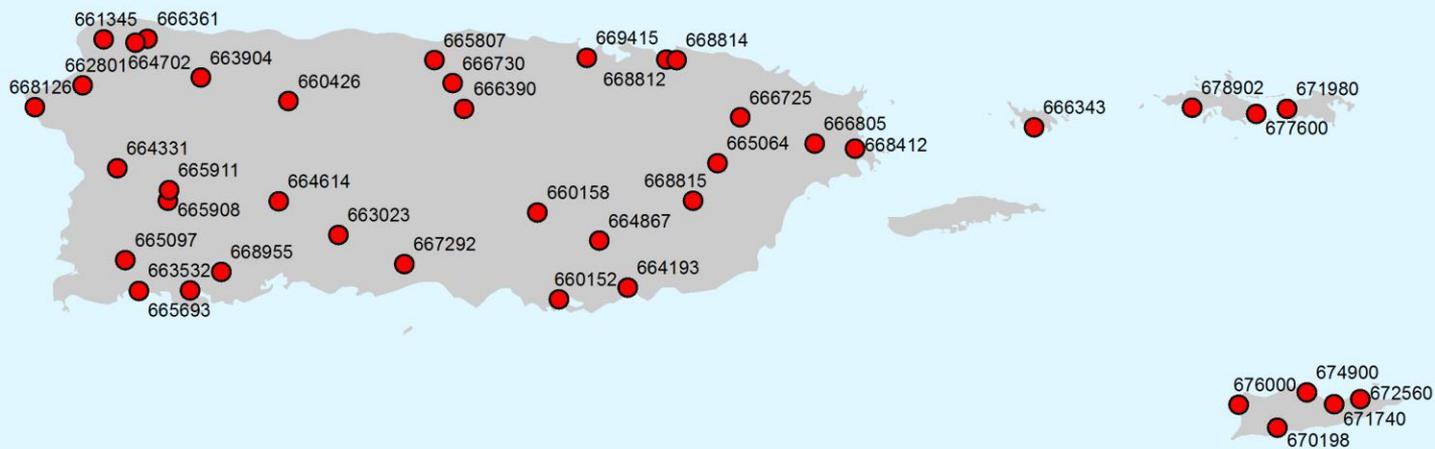
— UPPER 20% — UPPER 40% — LOWER 40% — LOWER 20%



12-MONTH RAINFALL RUNNING AVERAGE (in)



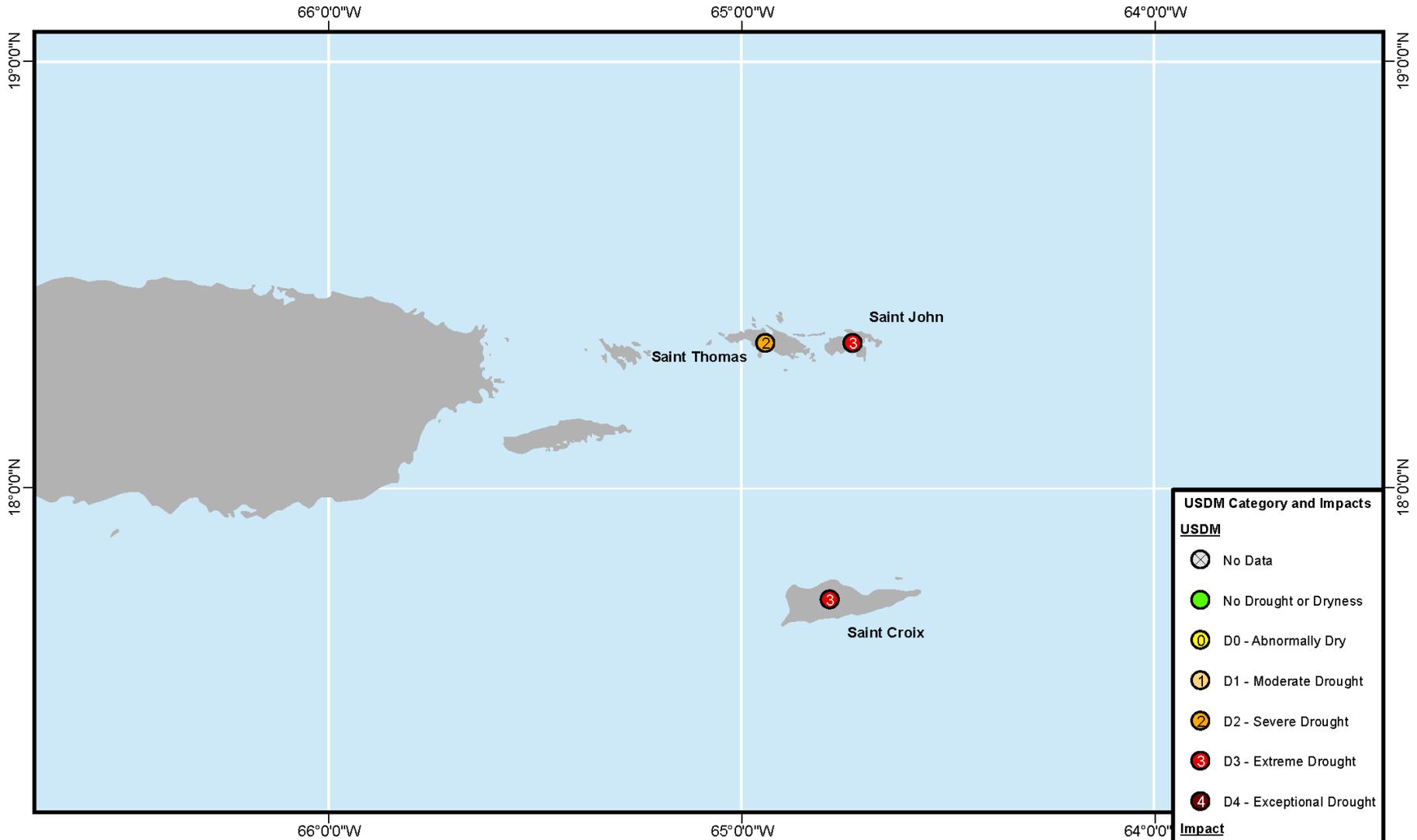
COOP Stations for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands



U.S. Drought Monitor
U.S. Virgin Islands

SAMPLE

October 31, 2013



USDM Category and Impacts

USDM

- ⊗ No Data
- No Drought or Dryness
- ① D0 - Abnormally Dry
- ② D1 - Moderate Drought
- ③ D2 - Severe Drought
- ④ D3 - Extreme Drought
- ⑤ D4 - Exceptional Drought

Impact

- No Impacts
- (L) Long-Term
- (S) Short-Term
- (SL) Short and Long-Term

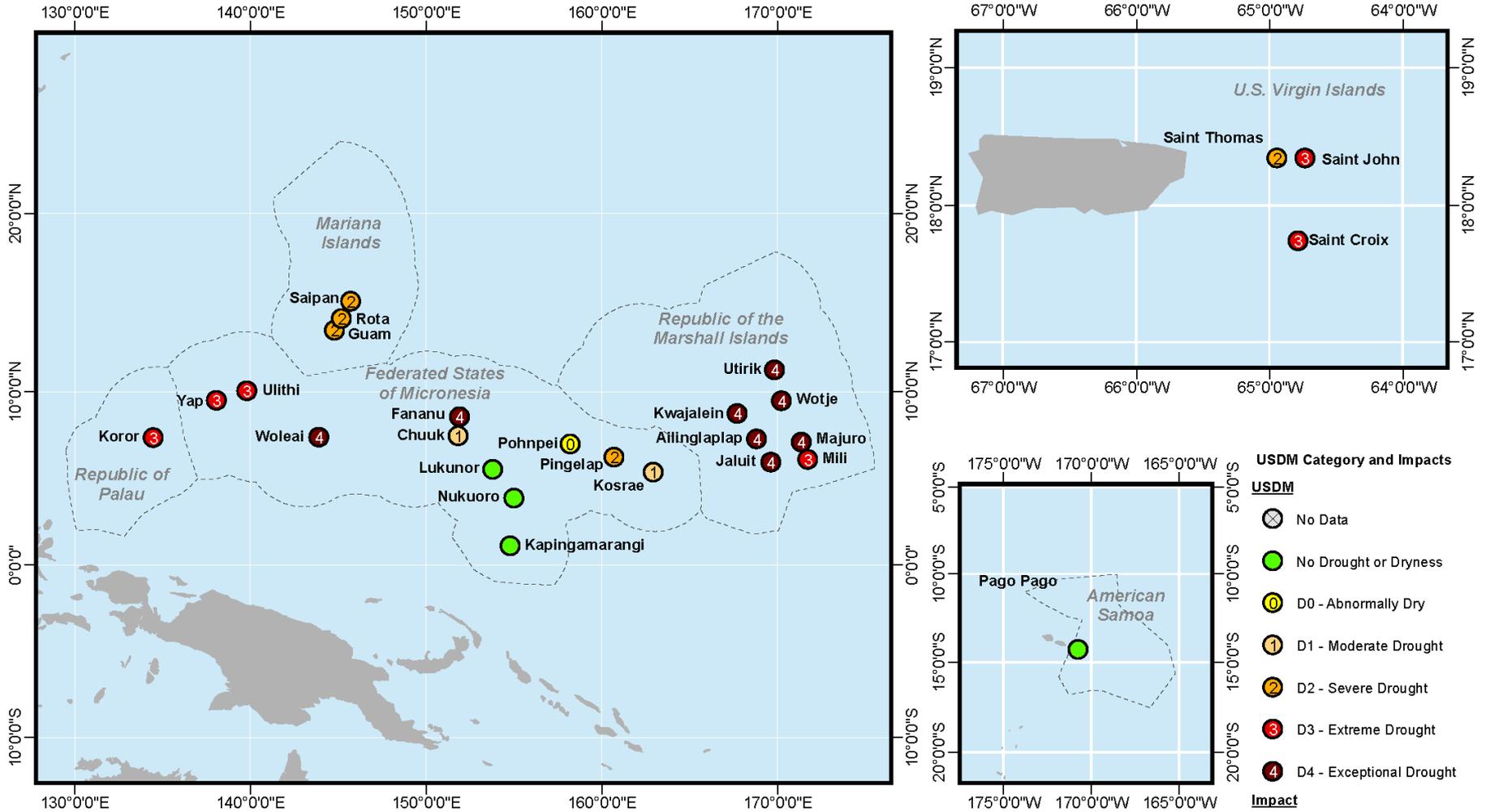
Author:
 Author Name
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands

October 31, 2013

SAMPLE



Author:

Author Name

NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center





United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAR 9 2017

Governor Kenneth E. Mapp
Office of the Governor
Government House
21-22 Kongens Gade
Charlotte Amalie
St Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Dear Governor Mapp:

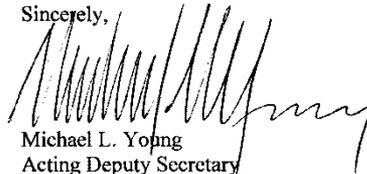
Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2016, to former Secretary Vilsack regarding the expansion of the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) to the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). I apologize for the delayed response.

Per your request, I am pleased to let you know that plans are underway to expand the USDM to include the Virgin Islands. To reach this goal, the Department has worked closely with representatives from the USVI.

Sponsorship of the August 2016 USVI Drought Monitor Forum was made possible through a Cooperative Agreement between our staff of meteorologists (two of whom are USDM authors) and the National Drought Mitigation Center. To address concerns that we need more expertise to achieve success, the Office of the Chief Economist has reached out to others in the region in hopes of securing a pipeline of information that will assist us in incorporating the USVI into the USDM, operationally, on a weekly basis. Additionally, we are planning to host at least one student this summer from the University of the Virgin Islands to train in all aspects of the creation of the USDM. These activities and dialogues have laid the groundwork for successful inclusion of the USVI into the USDM, which we hope to see operational in the near future.

I look forward to continuing our partnership with the USVI Drought Monitoring Working Group in providing Drought Monitor coverage to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Young
Acting Deputy Secretary

I am pleased to let you know that plans are underway to expand the USDM to include the [U.S.] Virgin Islands.



Northern Coast of St. Croix, VI, near Christiansted, August 30, 2016