

Pioneers of Caribbean Sea Exploration

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Abstract

2015 marks forty-five years since the first regional scientific exploration of the Caribbean Sea Cooperative Investigations of the Caribbean and Adjacent regions, CICAR. Coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC, of UNESCO during 1970-1976, its most significant impact was developing scientific capability in the region. As islands of the West Indies and continental states mark International Day for Biodiversity, application of the database ranges from education and environmental conservation for sustainable development to palaeoenvironmental interpretation for international petroleum exploration. CICAR evolved into IOCARIBE Association in 1975 and IOCARIBE Sub-Commission in 1982. Britain's contribution to this marine survey by students from University College London was supported by HMS Fawn, HMS *Fox* and HMS *Hecla* of the Royal Navy and RV *Atlantis II* of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Attempts were made to continue research on Tobago with Buccoo Reef Trust, following numerous citations in major publications on foraminifera. This presentation is based on the research of P. Dolan, who contributed sediment maps of Pedro Bank illustrating distribution of coral, algae, molluscs, foraminifera, echinoderms, alcyonarians, serpulids, bryozoa, oolites, pelletoids, aggregates, fines, aragonite, dark grains and live weeds.