

DEVELOPMENT OF REMOTELY SENSED COASTAL WATER QUALITY DATA PRODUCTS IN SUPPORT OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE CARICOOS REGION

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A coastal data need assessment identified water quality as a high priority for various stakeholder sectors in our region. The most pressing water quality issues include eutrophication and sedimentation of coastal ecosystems and the occurrence of fecal contamination in recreational waters. In our region, eutrophication and sedimentation have been persistently linked to riverine or creek influence and runoff. In order to monitor the region without extensive instrumental installation or field campaigns, CariCOOS has proposed to develop WQ data products based on high resolution imagery from ocean color satellites (i.e. MERIS and MODIS). Details on the ongoing product development and validation effort will be presented.