



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Coastal Zone Management Program

Cyril E. King Airport Terminal Building 2nd Floor
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June 8, 2011

Mr. Sindulfo Castillo
Chief, Regulatory Section
Corps of Engineers
San Juan Area Office
400 Fernandez Juncos Avenue
San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00901-3299

**RE: LSJ, LLC (Little St. James Island)
Installation of two (2) moorings
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands**

Dear Mr. Castillo:

Enclosed is an assessment of the proposed mooring sites off of Little St. James for the subject project. The enclosure is forwarded to your office for an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permit.

Questions or concerns regarding this matter may be referred to Mr. Manny C. Ramos, CZM Environmental Engineer, at [REDACTED] or via e-mail to manny.ramos@dpnr.gov.vi

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean-Pierre L. Oriol".

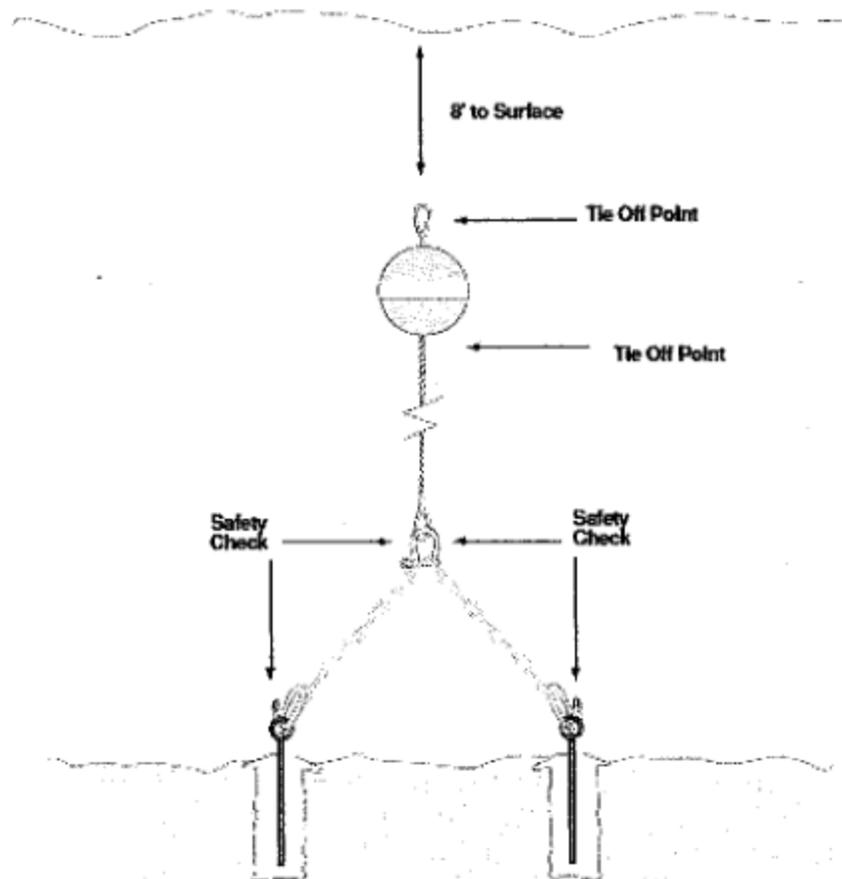
Jean-Pierre L. Oriol
Director, CZM

enclosure

ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED MOORING SITES OFF OF LITTLE ST. JAMES

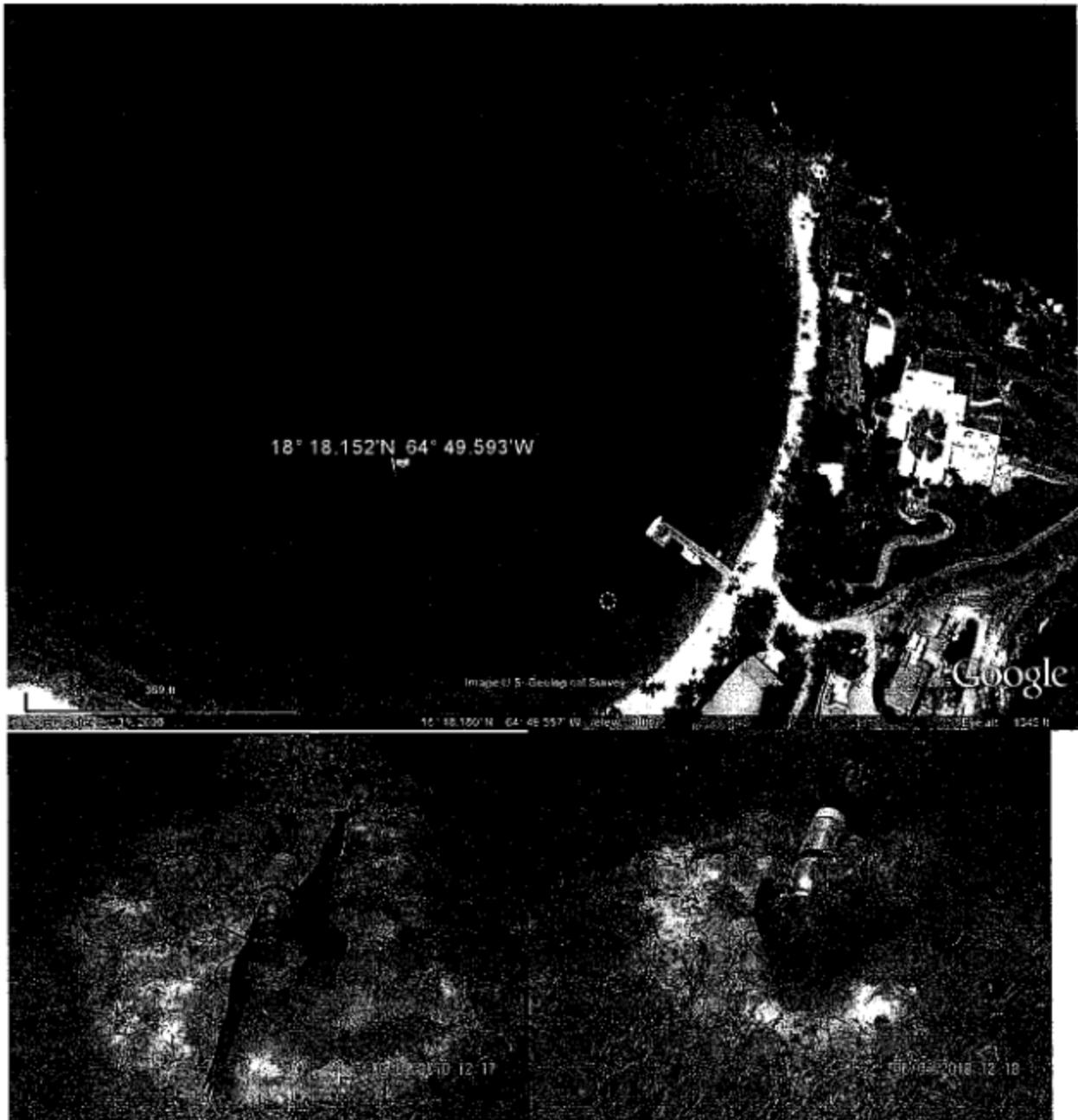
L.S.J., LLC would like to permit two moorings off shore of the island of Little St. James. The moorings are to be primarily used when the seas are too rough for the vessels to sit at the dock. Two sites have been selected one approximately 200' from the dock and the other approximately 300' from the dock.

The moorings will be double screw anchor moorings with chains held off the bottom with a large float, the mooring buoy and line is then attached to the submerged float.



Underwater structure for moorings.

The proposed mooring which is farthest from the dock is located at 18°18.152'N and 64°49.593'W and is amid dense seagrass beds. The seagrass bed is primarily *Thalassia testudinum* with scattered *Syringodium filiforme*. The mooring anchors would each be placed in a small blowout. The larger of the blowouts is approximately 9' in diameter and the smaller is 5' in diameter.



The blowouts are approximately 6' apart. One of the screw anchors would be placed in each blowout.

The closer mooring is located at 18°18.130'N and 64°49.573'W and is also amid a dense seagrass bed. The seagrass bed is primarily *Thalassia testudinum* with scattered *Syringodium filiforme*. The mooring location is in the leading edge of a blowout which is recolonizing with grass species. *Halodule beaudettei* is present within the blowout in addition to *Thalassia* and *Syringodium*. This blow out is much larger and is moving in a northerly direction.



The mooring design will limit impact on the seafloor and the surrounding benthic community. The use of the moorings should have minimal impact on the surrounding seagrass since they are only proposed for temporarily periodic use, therefore shading should not become an issue.