

From early 2024, a fleet of four AutoNaut Uncrewed Surface Vessels will be assisting the Barbados Meteorological Service (BMS) to predict the path and strength of approaching hurricanes. Two additional USVs are due to be added to the fleet.

Stationed hundreds of miles east of Barbados, the USVs will transmit real-time data. When deployed by BMS in hurricane season they can be followed live on the BMS Met Radar <https://www.barbadosweather.org/Radars/LeafScripts/BMSRadarProducts.php>

Welcoming the new fleet of 5m USVs Barbados Minister of Home Affairs Wilfred Abrahams said "...the aim is to improve forecasting of future tropical storms, to better predict their impact and give the public timely early warning..".



case study | BARBADOS HURRICANE FORECASTING

Following a 2023 shakedown mission, Sabu Best, Director of BMS said:

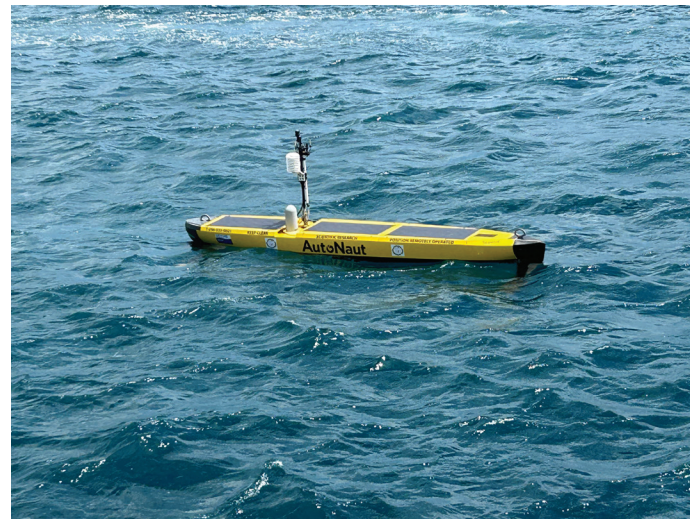
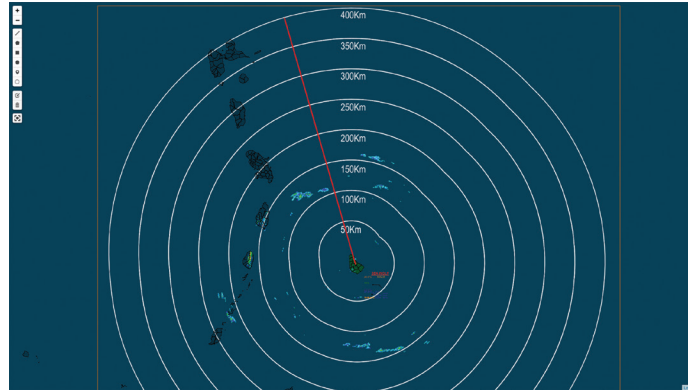
“It was really useful when (hurricane) Tammy was passing to the north. Useful in terms of verifying swell heights and having a look at the wind intensity to the East of Barbados. So, it is already starting to prove that it can work.”

Each of the UK built AutoNaut USVs are fitted with the most up to date sensors:

- Rotronics humidity sensor
- Seabird 49 FastCAT CTD - water Conductivity, Temperature and Depth
- Xylem ‘Motus’ wave sensor
- FT7 wind sensor

Benefits of using USVs for over-the-horizon meteorological remote sensing include:

- Zero-carbon data,
- Reduced risk to personnel
- Dynamic Spatial & Temporal coverage
- Reduced cost



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