Abstract
Long-term, high accuracy seawater temperature data sets are essential in studies assessing environmental changes that may alter coral reef communities. Located at the approximately the same latitude, the subsurface sea-water temperature (S3T) off Discovery Bay, Jamaica (DBJ) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) had the same overall mean temperature. The USVI S3T during the winter months is ~0.5°C warmer than DBJ, while May - July at DBJ is ~1°C warmer than USVI S3T. With the passing of tropical storms in 1995 and 1997 in the USVI S3T dropped as much as 1.5°C within a 20 hr period and did not revert to the previous temperature during that calendar year. Mean monthly S3T during 2000 and 2001 in the USVI was >0.5 °C warmer than during similar periods in the early 1990s. Mean monthly S3T during 1999-2002 at DBJ was 0.27°C cooler than during 1994-1995.

Keywords
Caribbean, climate change, coral reefs, environmental monitoring.