

## **Compensation and Transplant Recovery Plan**

In preparation of submarine cable removal, Clean Ocean Initiative has created a Recovery Transplant Plan to help with the relocation of any organism that have settled on the submarine cable or surrounding areas that may be disturbed by our actions.

After surveying all submarine cable corridors in shallow water environments between 100 and 250 ft., Clean Ocean concluded only SAJ-2015-02638 (SP-DCM) known as Aguadilla #3 (Ramey-Grand Turk) and SAJ-2015-02635 (SP-DCM) known as Aguadilla #4 (Ramey-Antigua) would be involved in the Recovery Transplant Plan. Some corals and octocorals may be disturbed by the submarine cable removal in the area, but the main focus will be on sponges which dominate the reef area. Sponges provide habitat for juvenile fish and shellfish, including spiny lobsters and other commercially important species. The sounds produced by some of their visitors, such as snapping shrimp, may guide other creatures to this safe habitat. That is why it is important to maintain this ecosystem and be able to safely transplant all organisms along the cable corridors.

The process of transplanting sponges is not that different from transplanting complete corals. Similar techniques can be used for both species, including to bryozoans and hydroids. Technical divers would locate all sponges and organisms needing transplantation from the cable corridor and find suitable locations to be moved to. After safely removing the organism, the technical diver will take the organism to its new location and transplant using marine epoxy or similar adhesive.