Coral reefs play a critical role in the oceanic biome. Evaluation of reef development as well as anthropological impact is important in understanding arguably the most diverse and abundant ecosystem on Earth. Currently, there is insufficient data on many reefs worldwide and specifically in the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). A special survey protocol called “Reef Check” was designed to allow volunteer researchers a method for evaluation based on high value indicator species divided among three categories of organisms. During five independent years, two being sequential, reefs in St. John USVI were evaluated for health development. In 2010, hurricane Otto destroyed numerous reefs in the Caribbean. After this event, the reefs located on the southeastern shore of St. John have been healing in a positive manner. Although species distribution has changed during reconstruction, the health of these reefs is improving.

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