

Geography

Location: Caribbean, chain of islands in the North Atlantic Ocean, southeast of Florida

Map references: Central America and the Caribbean

Area:

total area: 13,940 sq km

land area: 10,070 sq km

comparative area: slightly larger than Connecticut

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 3,542 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 3 nm

International disputes: none

Climate: tropical marine; moderated by warm waters of Gulf Stream

Terrain: long, flat coral formations with some low rounded hills

Natural resources: salt, aragonite, timber

Land use:

arable land: 1%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 0%

forest and woodland: 32%

other: 67%

Irrigated land: NA sq km

Environment:

current issues: coral reef decay

natural hazards: hurricanes and other tropical storms that cause extensive flood and wind damage

international agreements: party to - Biodiversity, Climate Change, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution

Note: strategic location adjacent to US and Cuba; extensive island chain