



Angela Borchert

Civil engineer Michael Morgano of GRL and Associates Dynamic Testing gathers data Wednesday on the first concrete pile installed to support the Christiansted boardwalk extension.

# One post at a time

## Work begins on new boardwalk

ANGELA BORCHERT

ST. CROIX — A barge crew maneuvered around the Christiansted waterfront Wednesday after a handful of sailboat owners changed their moorings and the Seaborne seaplane altered its landing pattern.

A crane from the barge was visible towering above the Caravelle Hotel, set in position to start work on the long-awaited boardwalk extension.

The first test pile was hammered into the shallows as actual construction got under way in front of Rum Runners

restaurant. In the afternoon, a second test pile was pounded in at Silver Bay, adjacent to The Usual Suspects.

"So far, so good," said Michael Morgano, civil engineer for Goble, Rausche, Likins and Associates Dynamic Testing.

Morgano compiled data on a computer aboard the barge, and made recommendations about soil density, stresses and hammer performance for RR Caribbean Inc., lead contractor for the project.

"We just make sure the pile goes in in one piece with no integrity problems," Morgano

said. "It drives very nicely. Stresses are very low. We found a soil layer sufficiently strong to hold the pile."

A total of 105 concrete foundation posts will be installed for phase one of the Christiansted boardwalk extension, according to Denis Campion of RR Caribbean.

Surrounding the work space are curtains that hang from the water's surface to the bottom. Campion said they are designed to contain sediment.

Also, the contractor noted, staff of the Department of

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**St. Croix Abis**

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## **BOARDWALK:** Extension was a long time in the works

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Planning and Natural Resources are charged with testing the water regularly both inside and outside the cordoned off area.

People on the Rum Runners terrace observed that water within the yellow curtains appeared cleaner than water on the other side.

About \$1.7 million of federal highway funds are

being used for phase one. Plans are to construct a 15-foot-wide wooden deck from The Usual Suspects to connect with the existing boardwalk.

The first ground-breaking ceremony for this development was held at Silver Bay on Oct. 27, 1998, during the Roy L. Schneider administration. A second ground-breaking ceremony was held Dec. 10, 1999, at the end of Queen Cross Street by Gov. Charles Turnbull.