



Coastal Studies Group

# **Measuring the Continuum of Coastal Environmental Variability with Remote Sensing**

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**Bureau of Economic Geology  
Jackson School of Geosciences  
The University of Texas at Austin**

**XIII Simposio Brasileiro de Sensoriamento Remoto  
Florianopolis, Brazil, April 21 to 26, 2007**

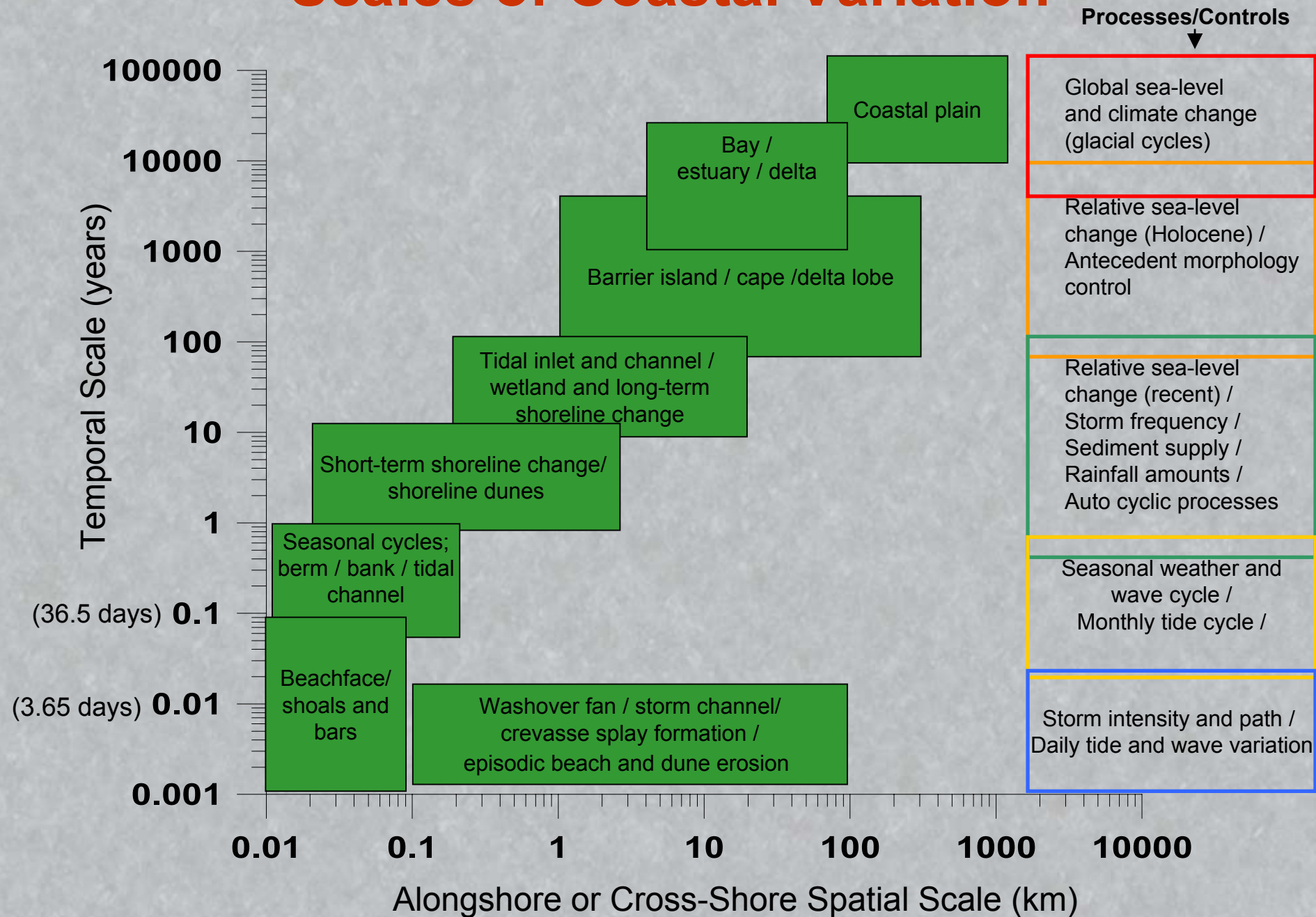


## Two Key Considerations

What is the spatial scale of the feature?

What is the temporal scale of the process?

# Scales of Coastal Variation

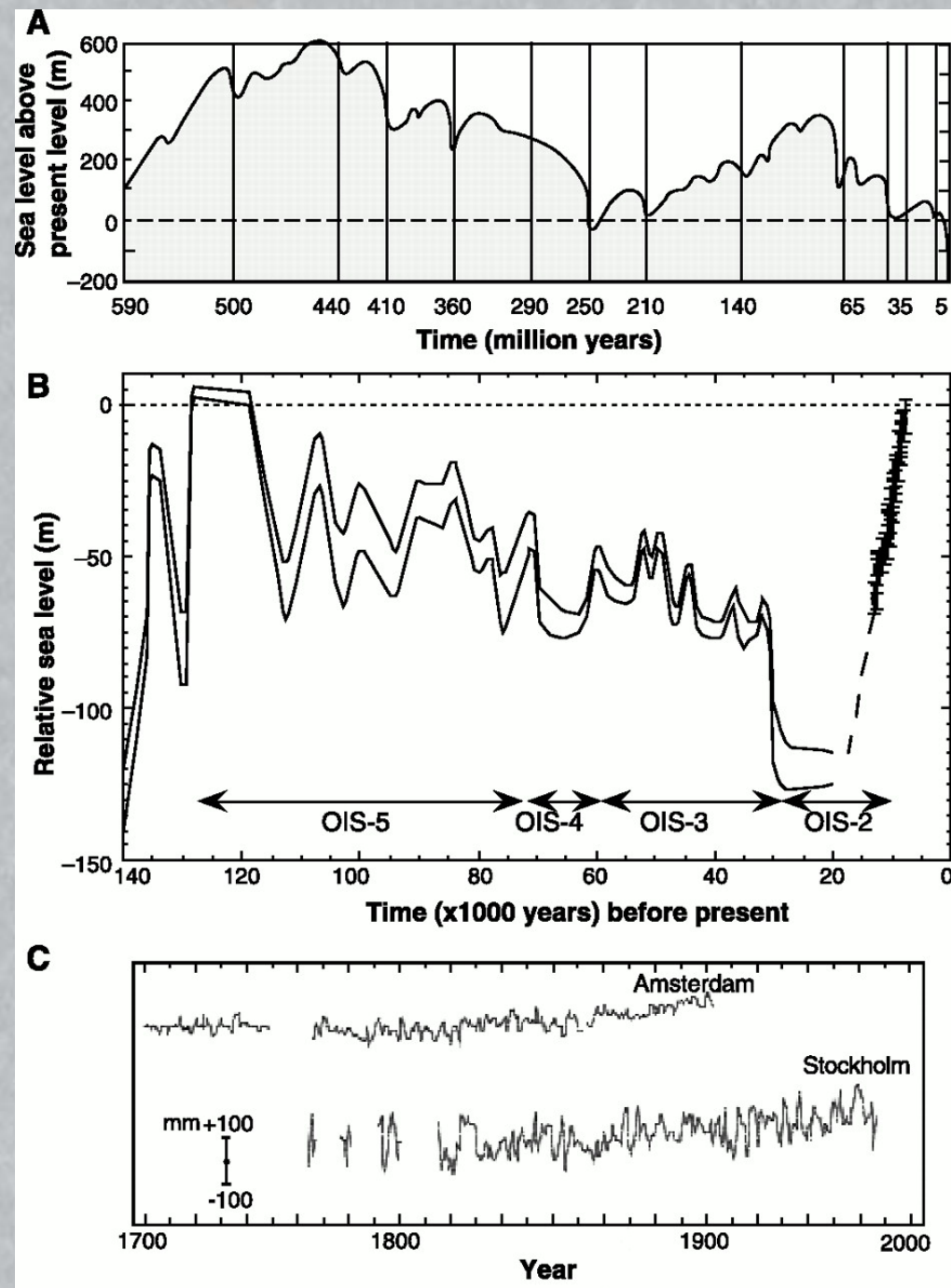




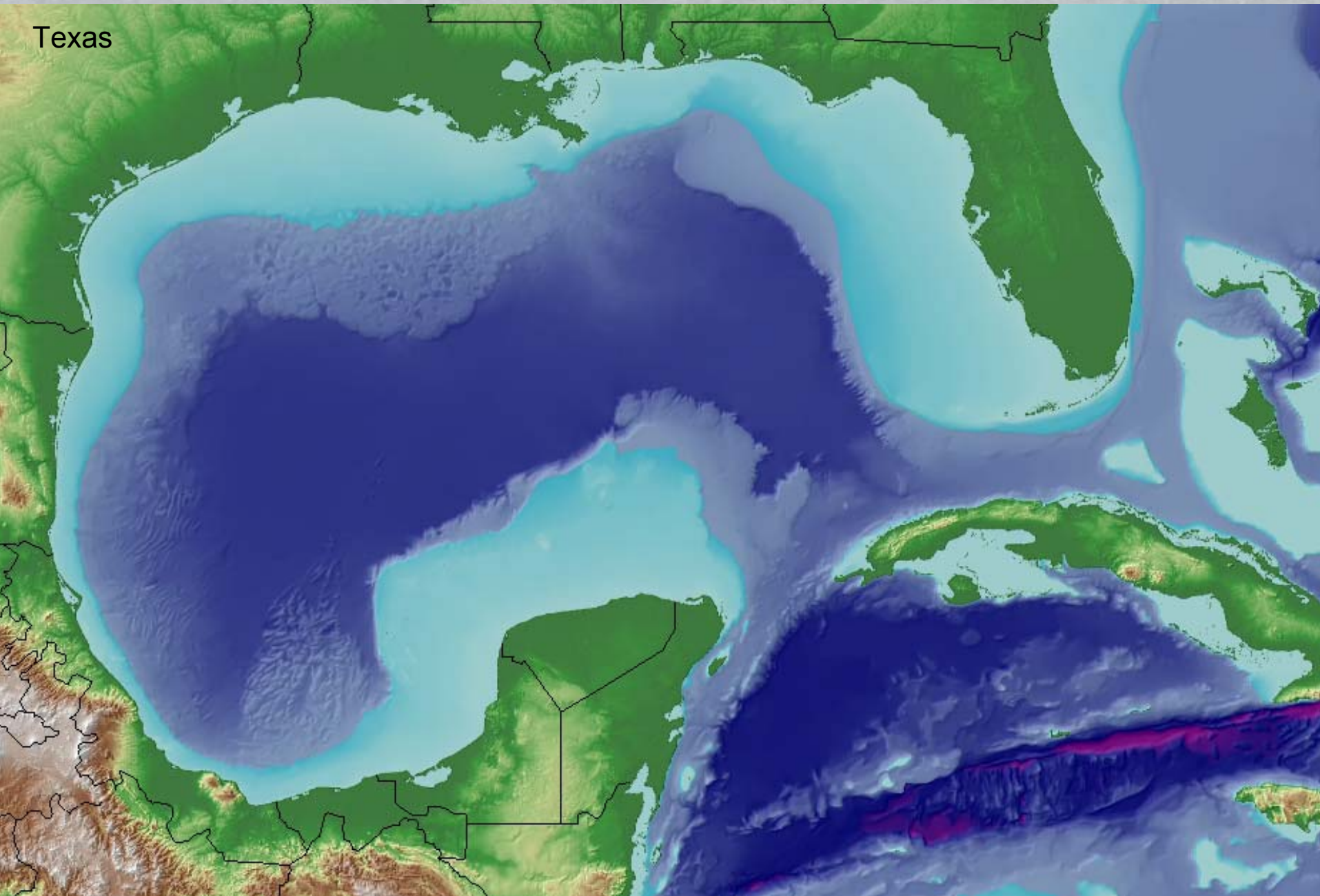
# Global Sea-Level Change

K. Lambeck et al.,  
Science 292, 679 -  
686 (2001)

Published by AAAS



# Gulf of Mexico





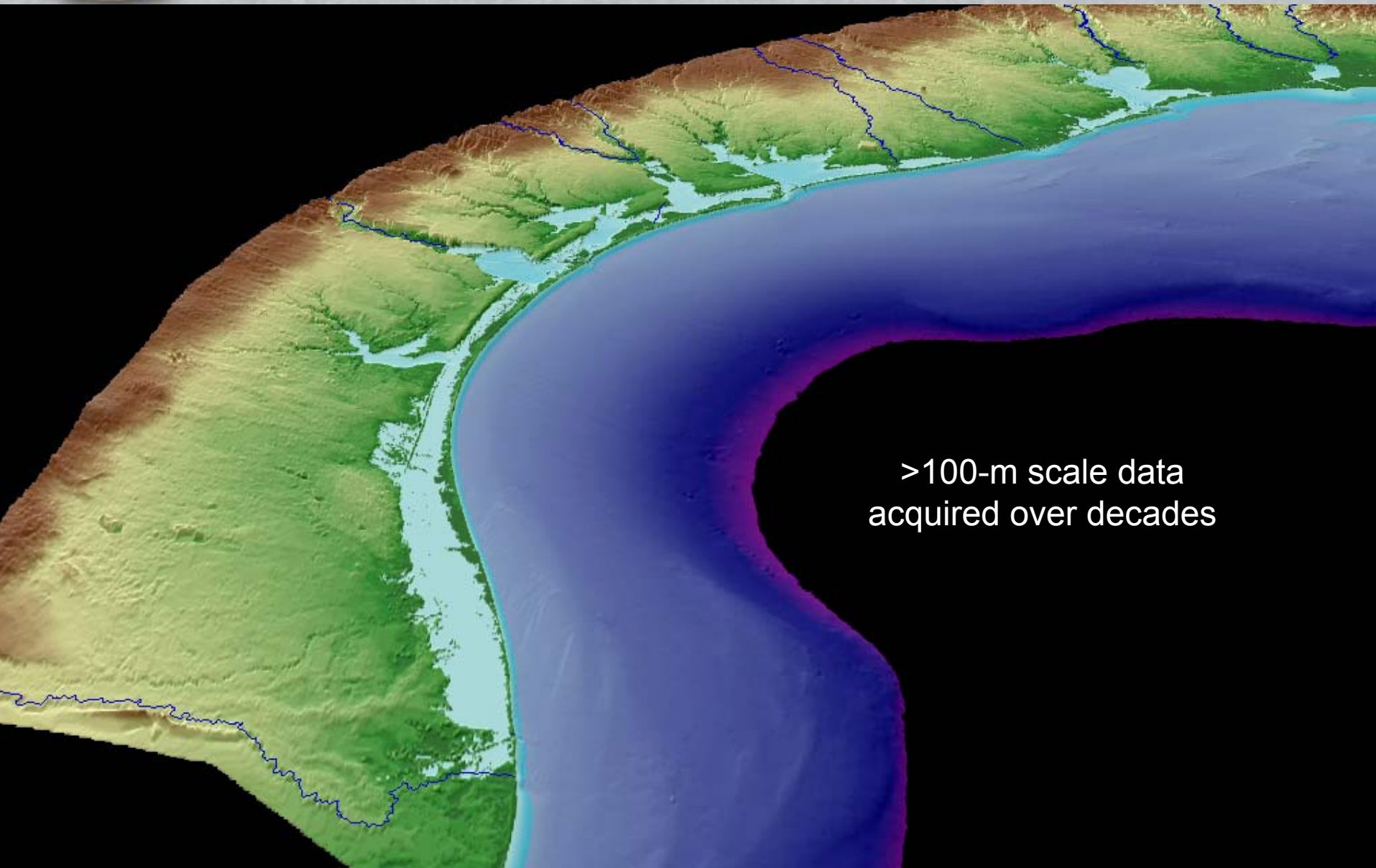
# Texas Coast



*Gulf of Mexico*



# Texas Coastal Plain Topography/Bathymetry



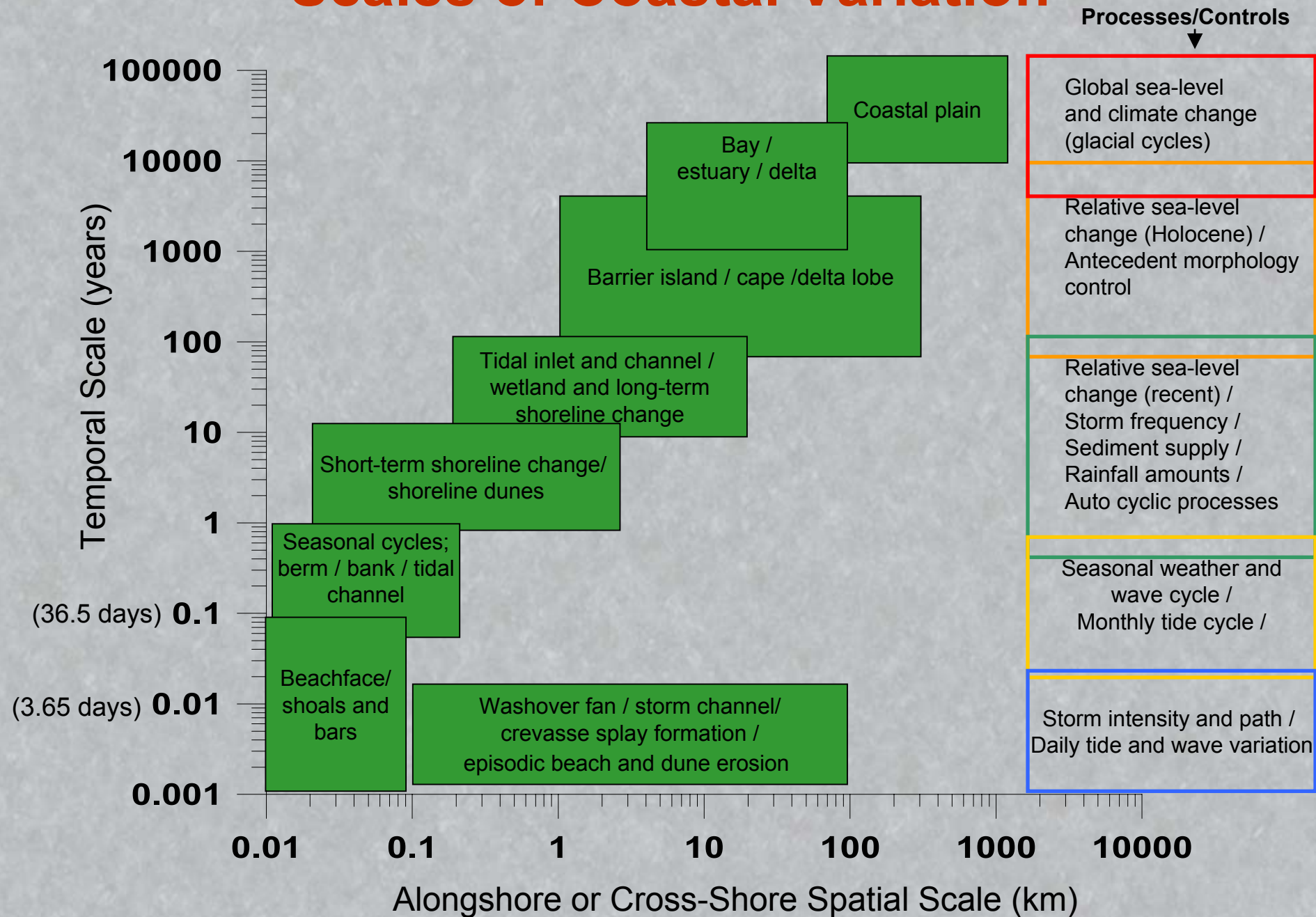
>100-m scale data  
acquired over decades



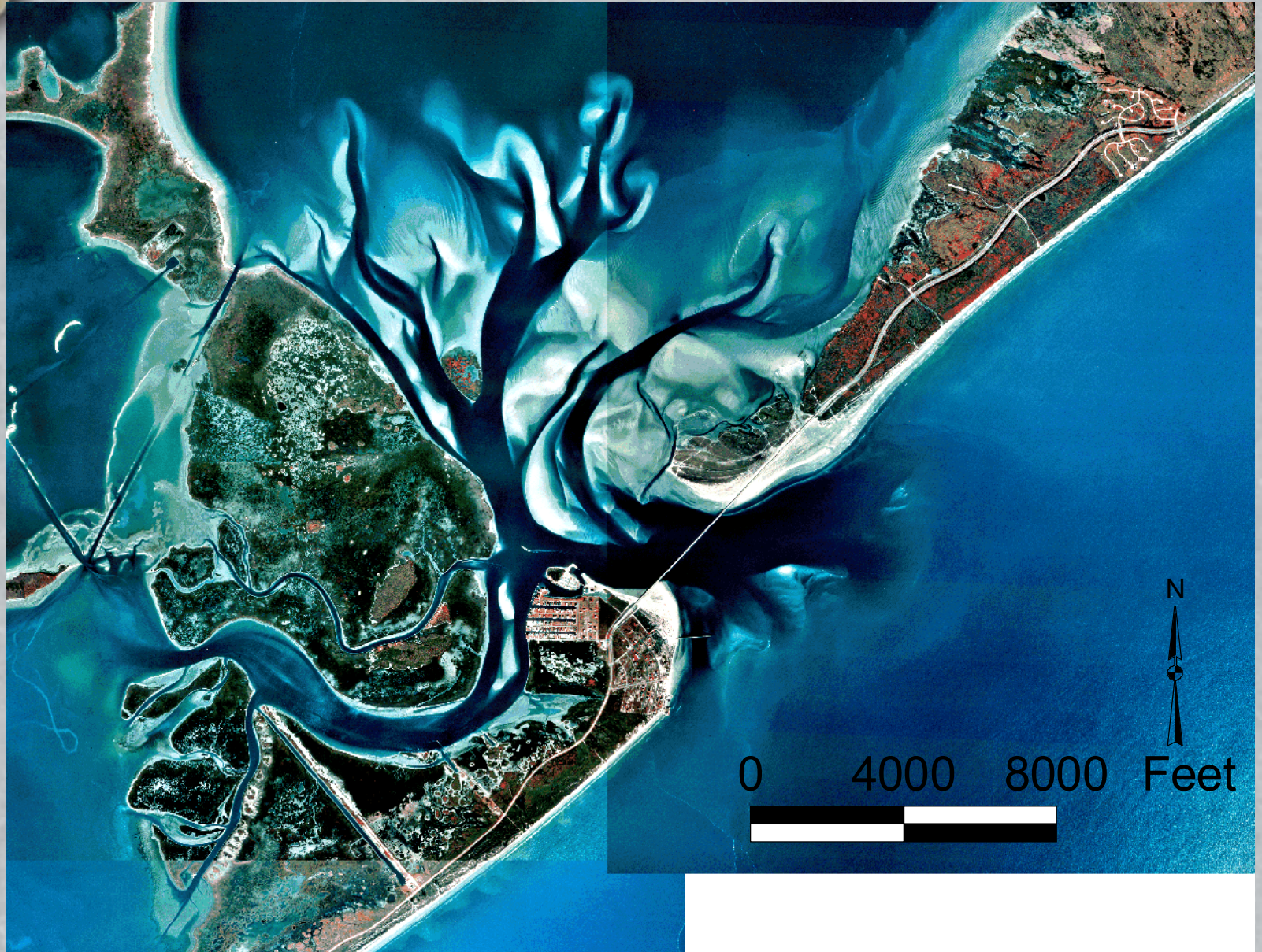
# Landsat Drape



# Scales of Coastal Variation



# 1995 Color-Infrared Aerial Photograph



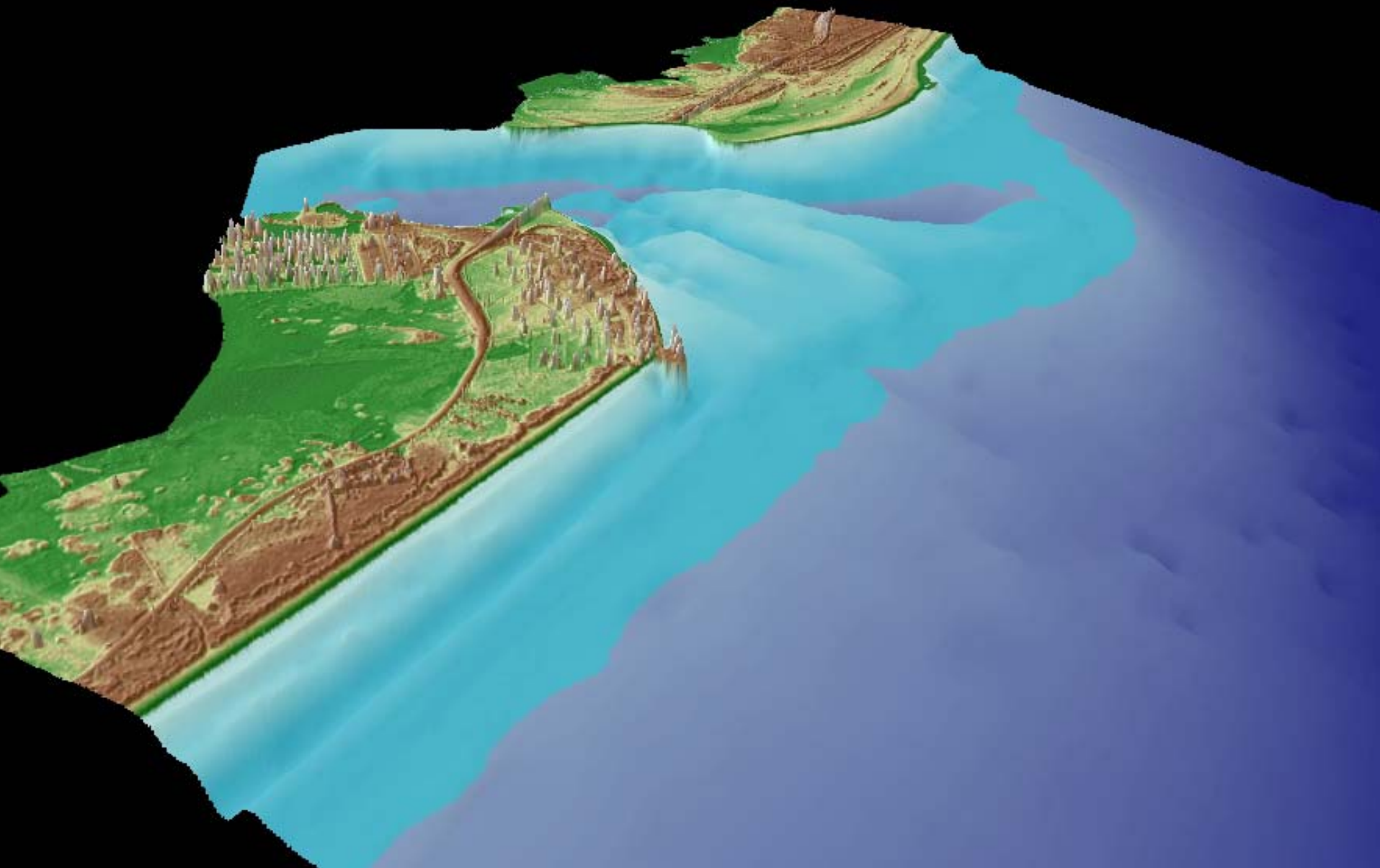


# Shorelines, 1930 - 2002



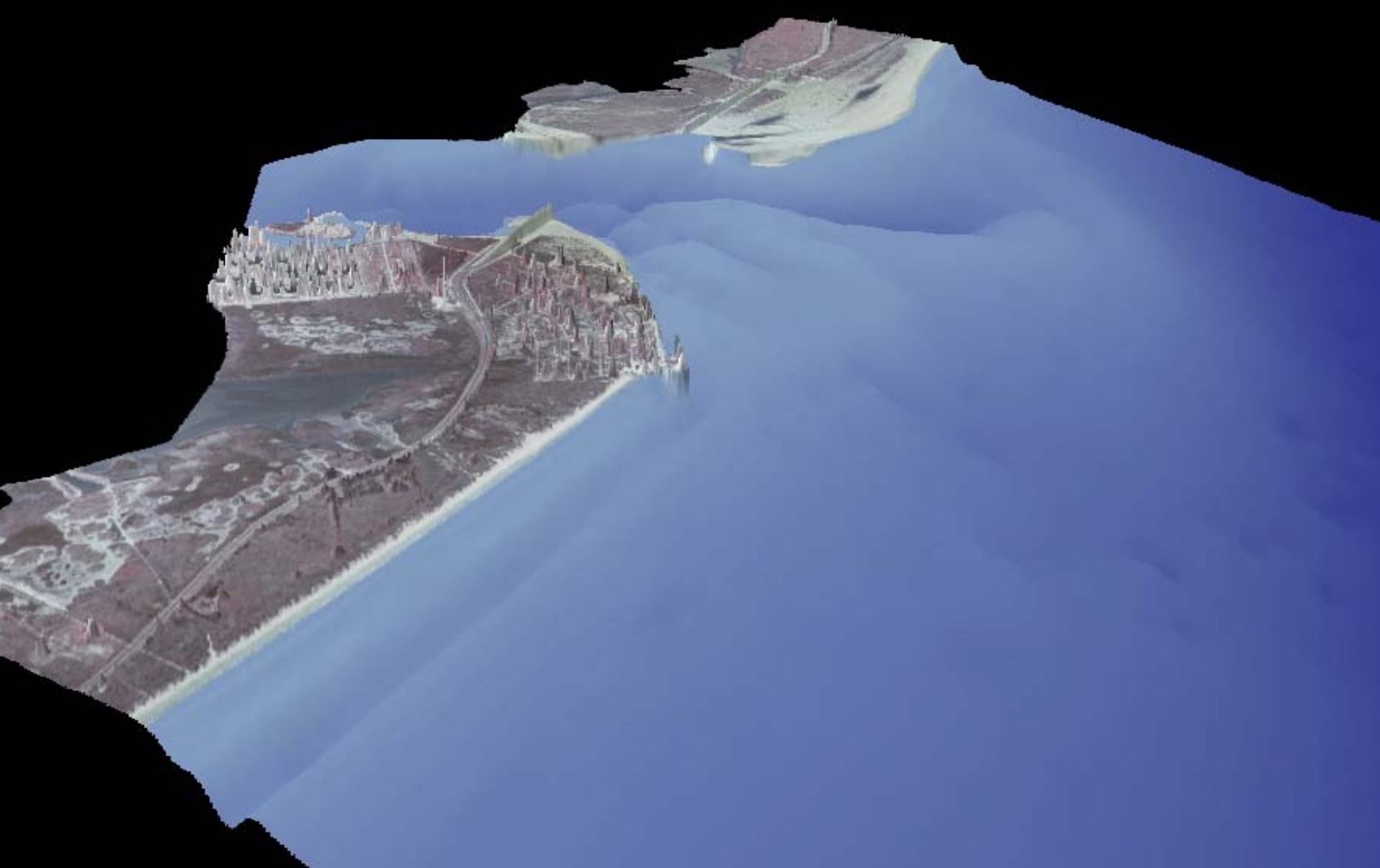


# 1-m scale topography and bathymetry





# Color-Infrared Photograph Drape



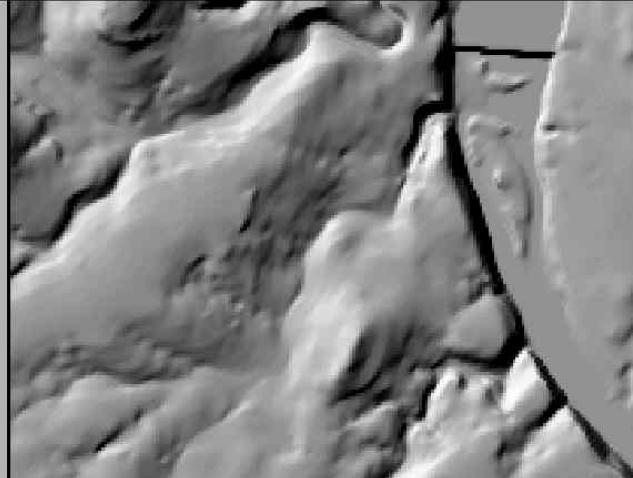


# Digital Elevation Model (DEM) Resolution

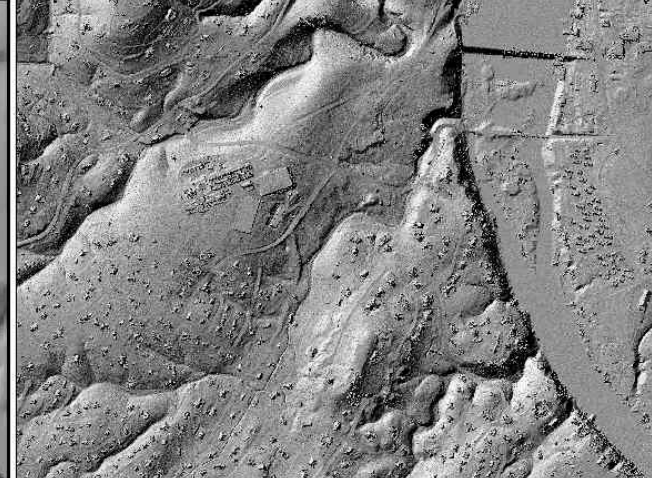
0m 500m 1000m



**A. 30m USGS DEM**



**B. 10m AverStar DEM**



**C. 0.5m Lidar DEM**

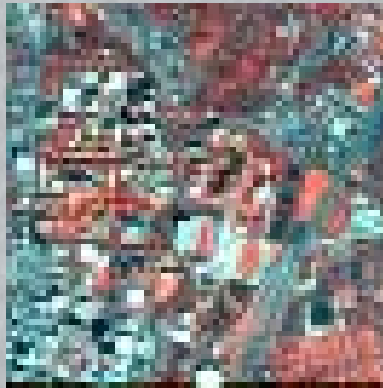


# Imagery Spatial Resolutions\*



1-2m

QuickBird,  
IKONOS



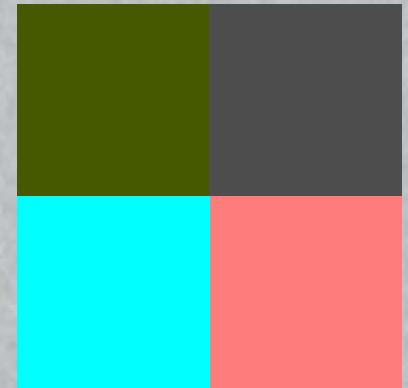
30m

Landsat TM,  
ETM+



79m

Landsat MSS

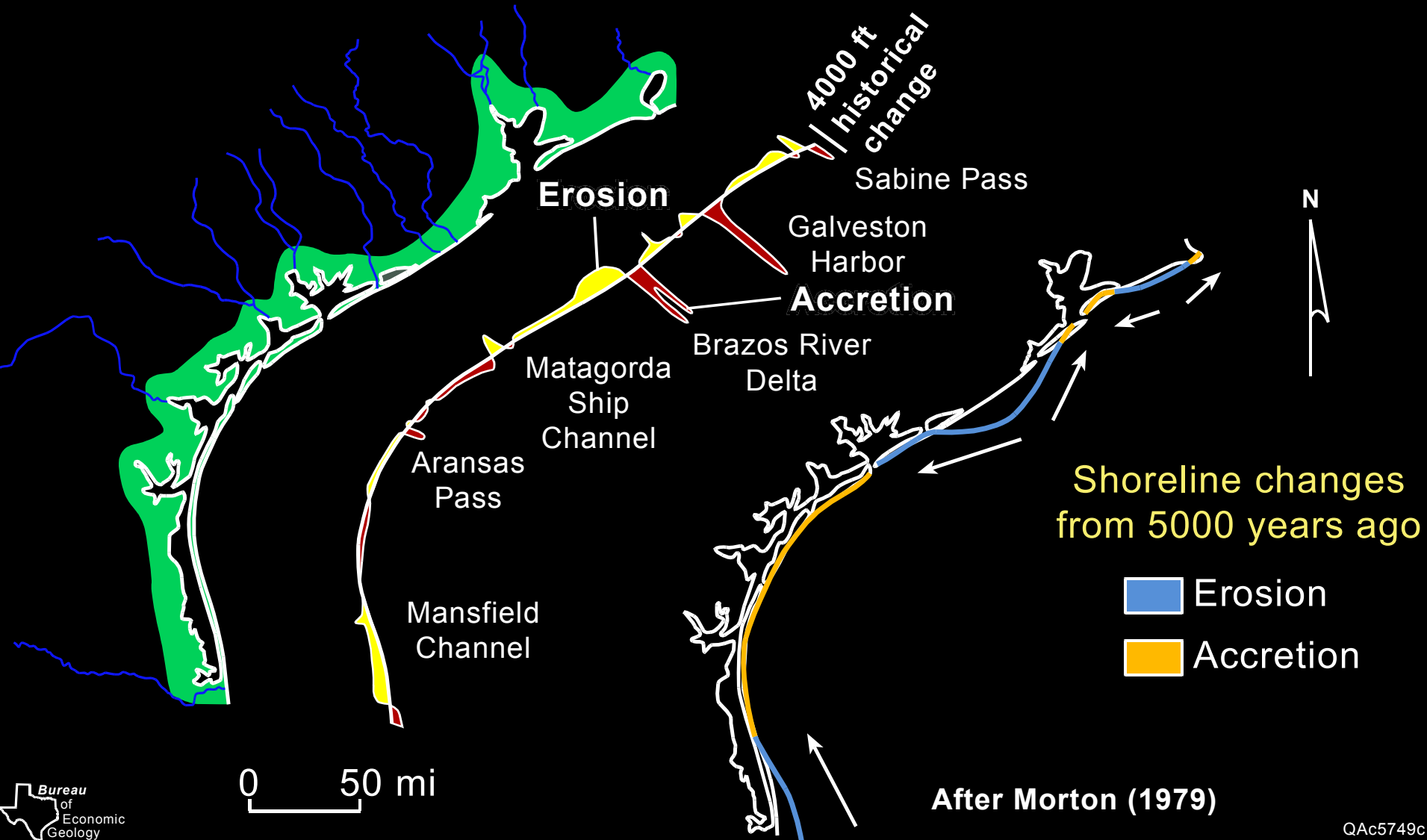


1.1km

AVHRR

\*Simulated

# TEXAS SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT





# Goal

**Determine how the shoreline is likely to change during the next 60 to 100 years.**

- Compute **average annual rate of shoreline change** by linear regression of select historical shoreline positions.
- Qualitative evaluation of alongshore trend of the standard errors of linear regressions at each transect.
- Exclude earlier shorelines from calculation based on above evaluation and knowledge of sediment-budget altering engineering works.



# Shoreline Change Analysis

- **Mapping past and current shorelines**
  - Early maps
  - Aerial photography
  - Ground kinematic GPS
  - Airborne lidar – shoreline plus beach and dune topographic mapping
- Calculating “average annual rate of change” and projecting future shoreline position
  - GIS-based Shoreline Change and Projection Program (SSAPP)
- Beach profile ground surveys
- Data availability and public awareness
  - Online reports
  - Web-based GIS using ArcIMS software



# Early Shoreline Surveys



Planetable surveying in the Philippines



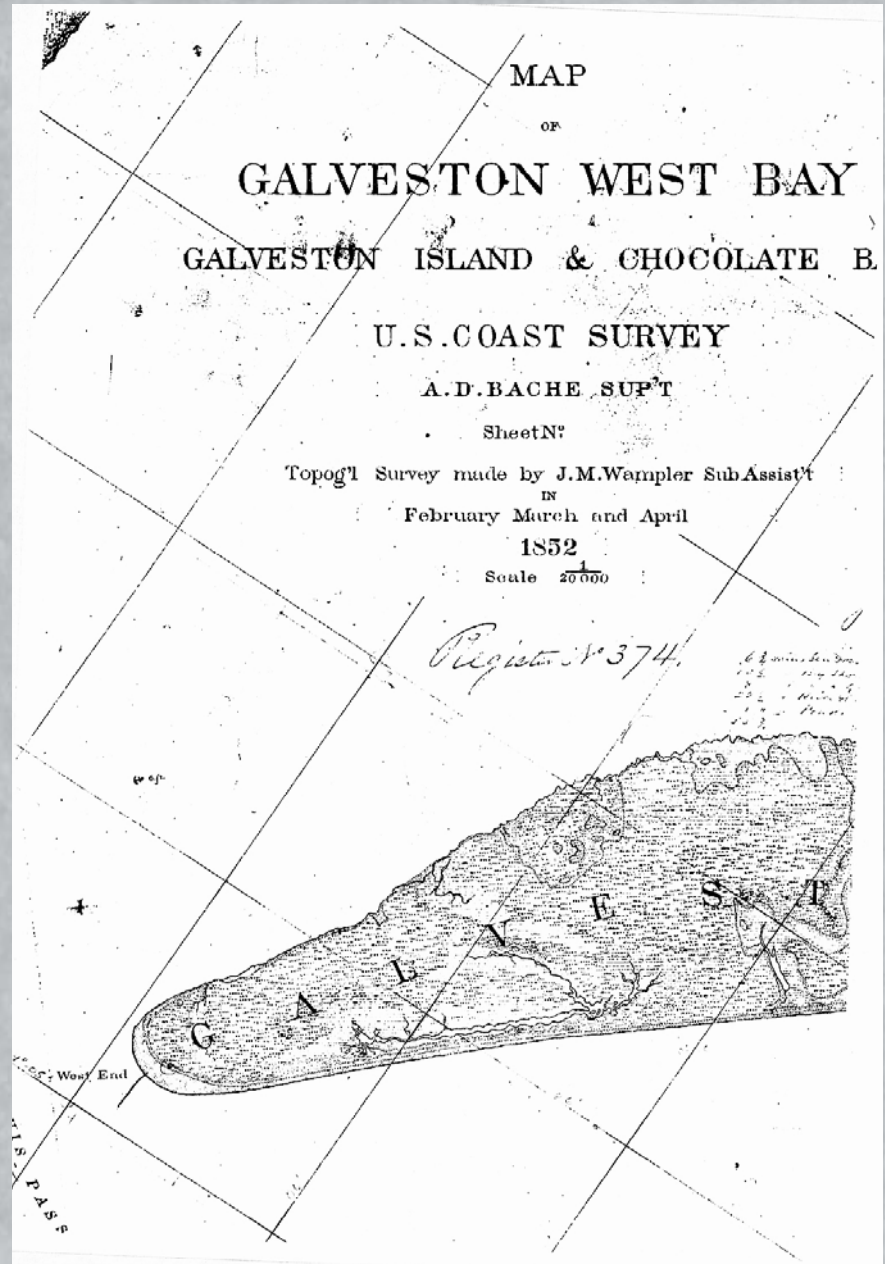
# Data Sources

## Before 1930:

Maps from the mid to late 1800's produced by the U.S. Coast Survey.

## Not always used:

Engineering structures altered sediment budget since 1900.



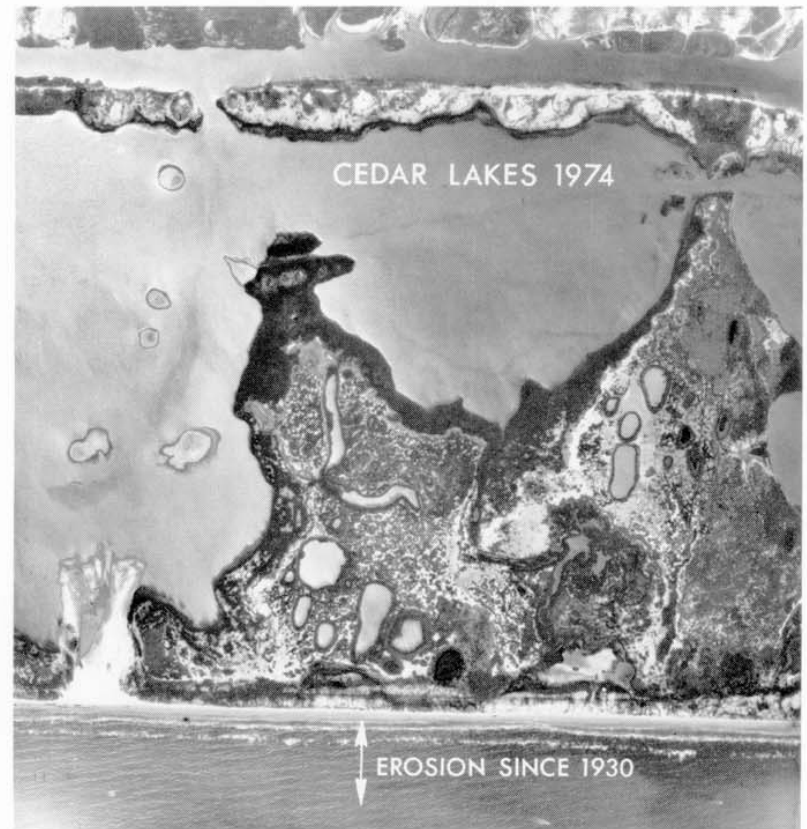


**Sand Trapped by Jetty, Southwest end of Bolivar Peninsula (08/07/98)**



# Data Sources

## 1930's to 1990's - Vertical Aerial Photographs

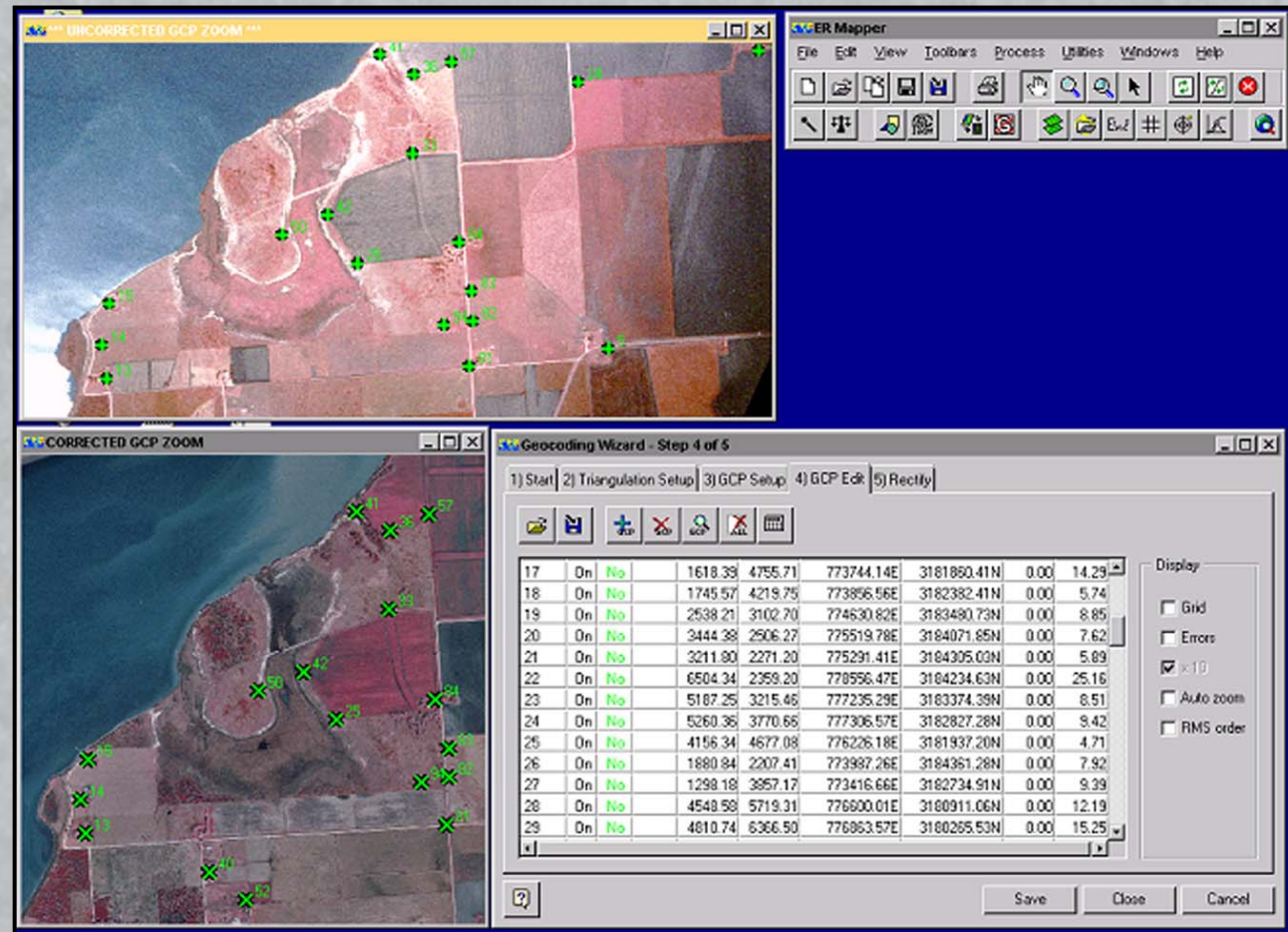




# Digital Photo Rectification (ER-Mapper Software)

## 1995 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quads Serve as Base Maps

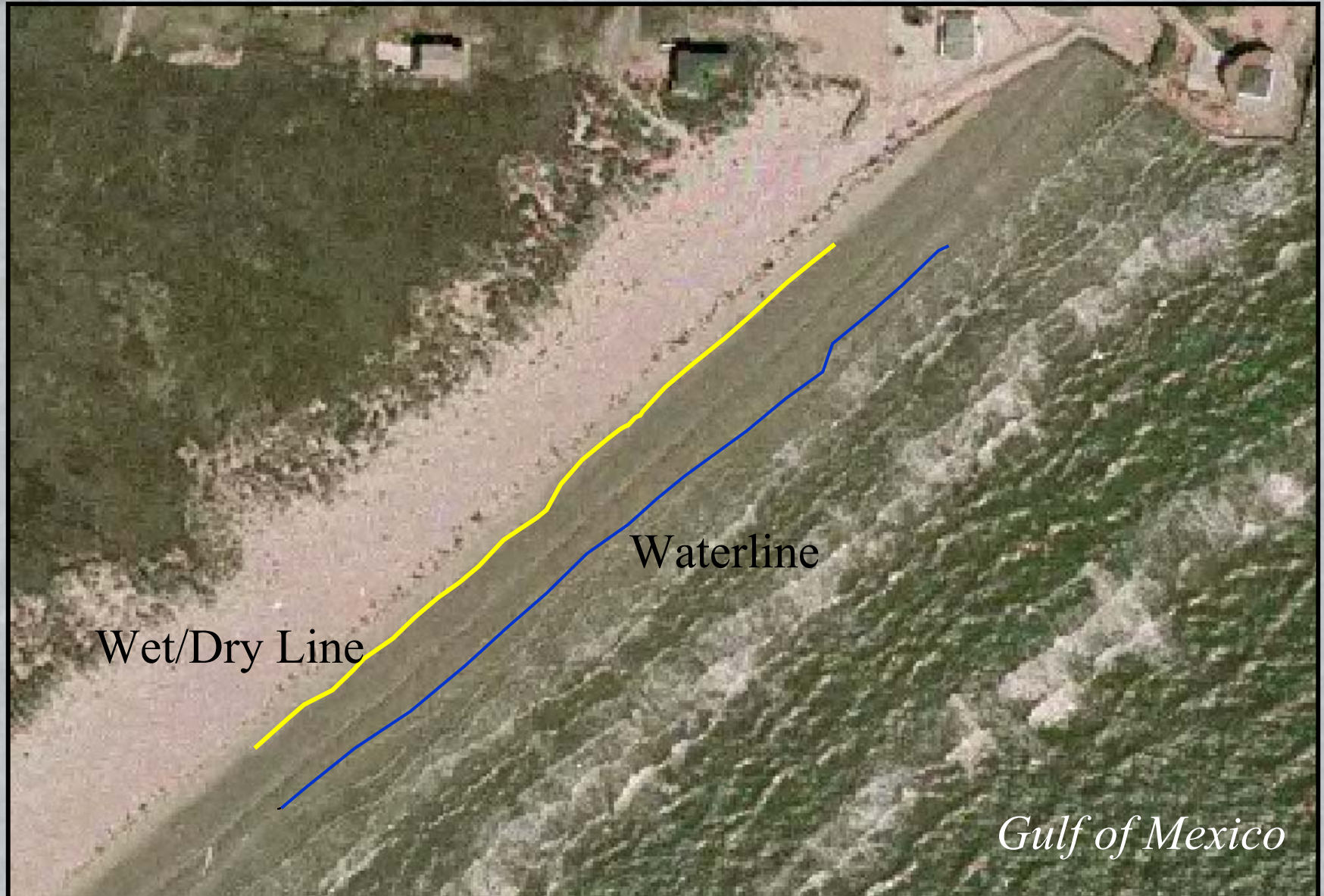
- USGS/Tx Orthophoto Program
- Scanned color IR film, 1-m resolution
- Meet 1:12,000 map accuracy standards (90% of test points within 10 m)
- Our tests show typically within 5 m





# Shoreline Interpretation

## Wet/Dry Line



Wet/Dry Line

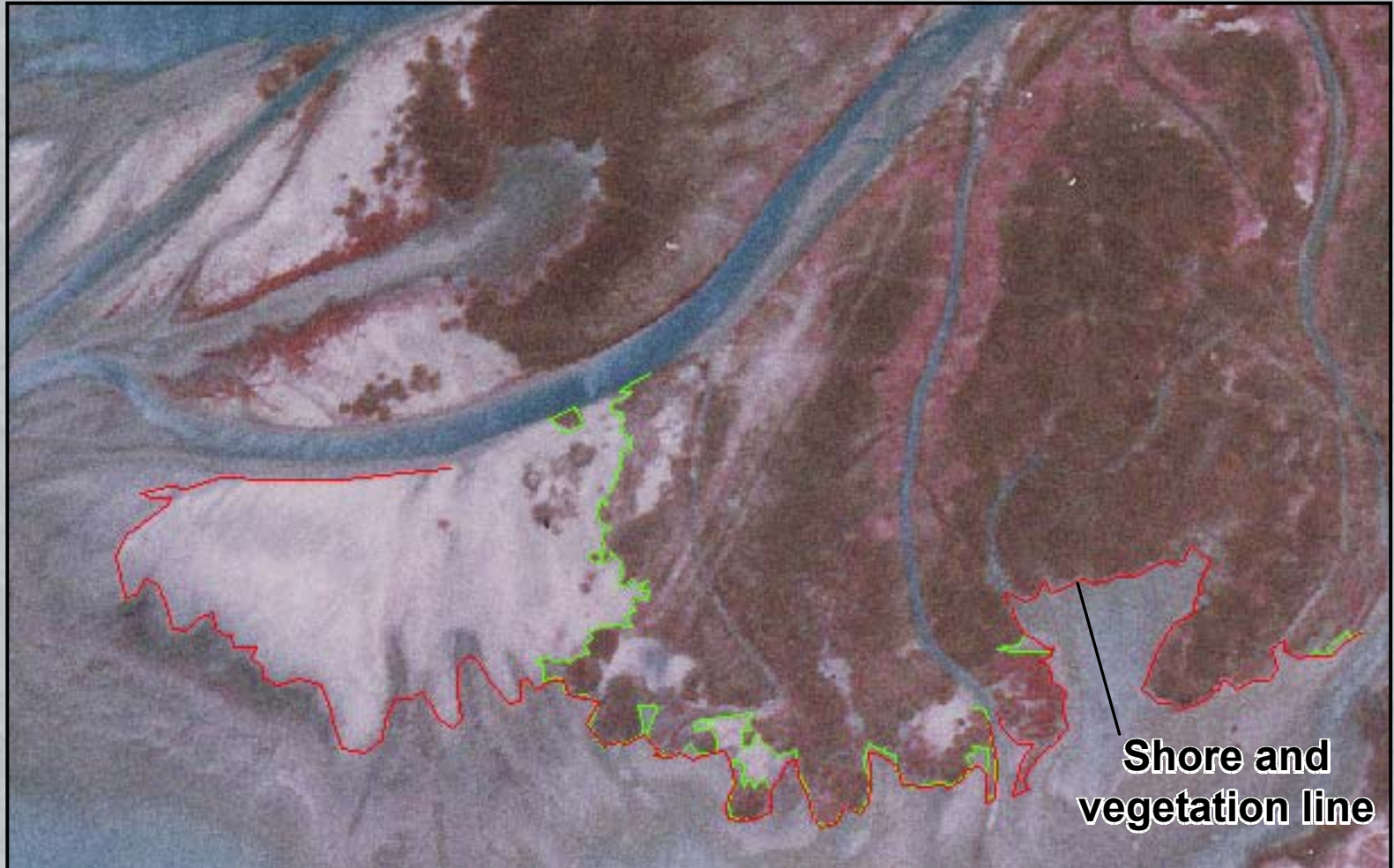
Waterline

*Gulf of Mexico*



# Shoreline Interpretation

## Shoreline and Vegetation Line





# Data Sources

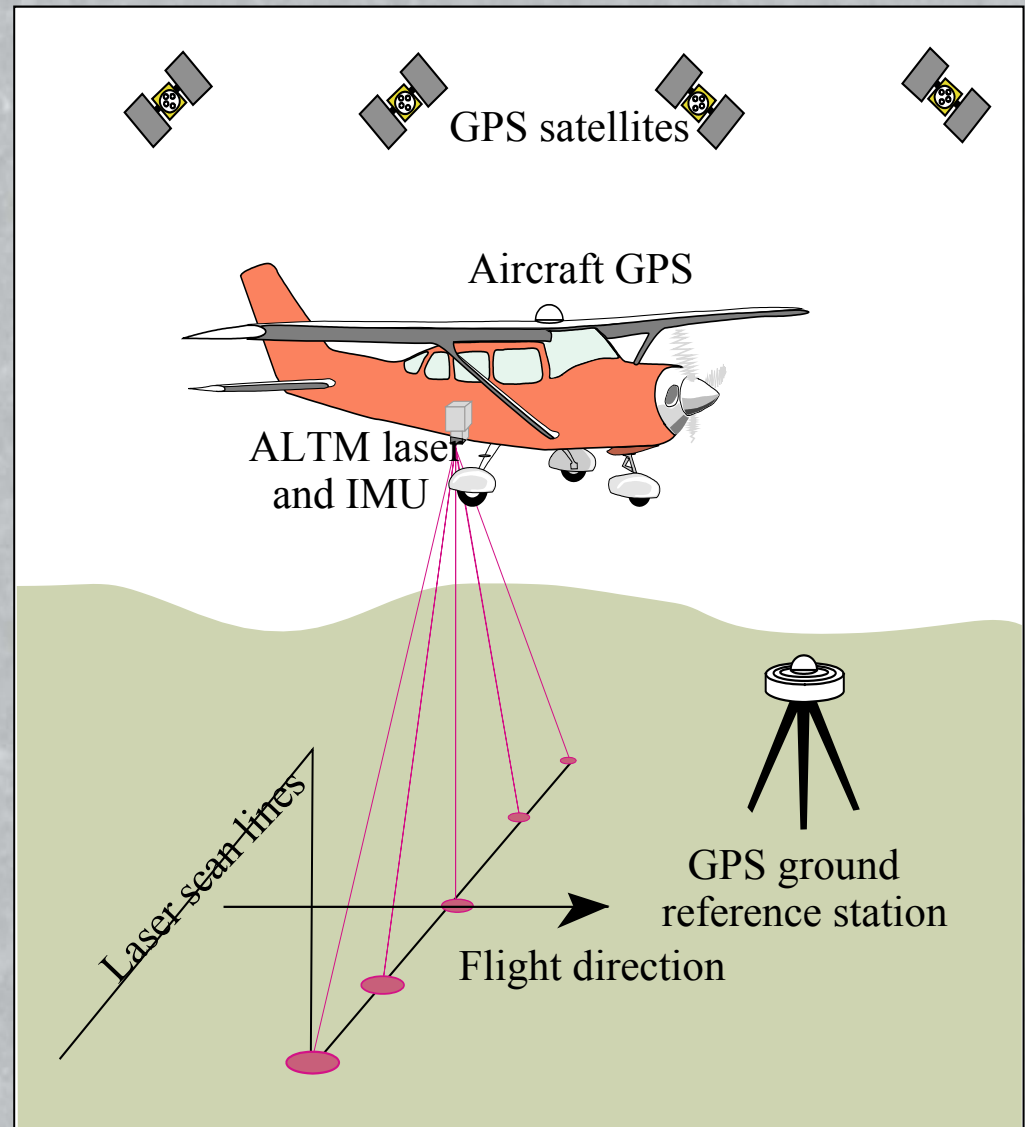
**1990's – Kinematic GPS Surveys**





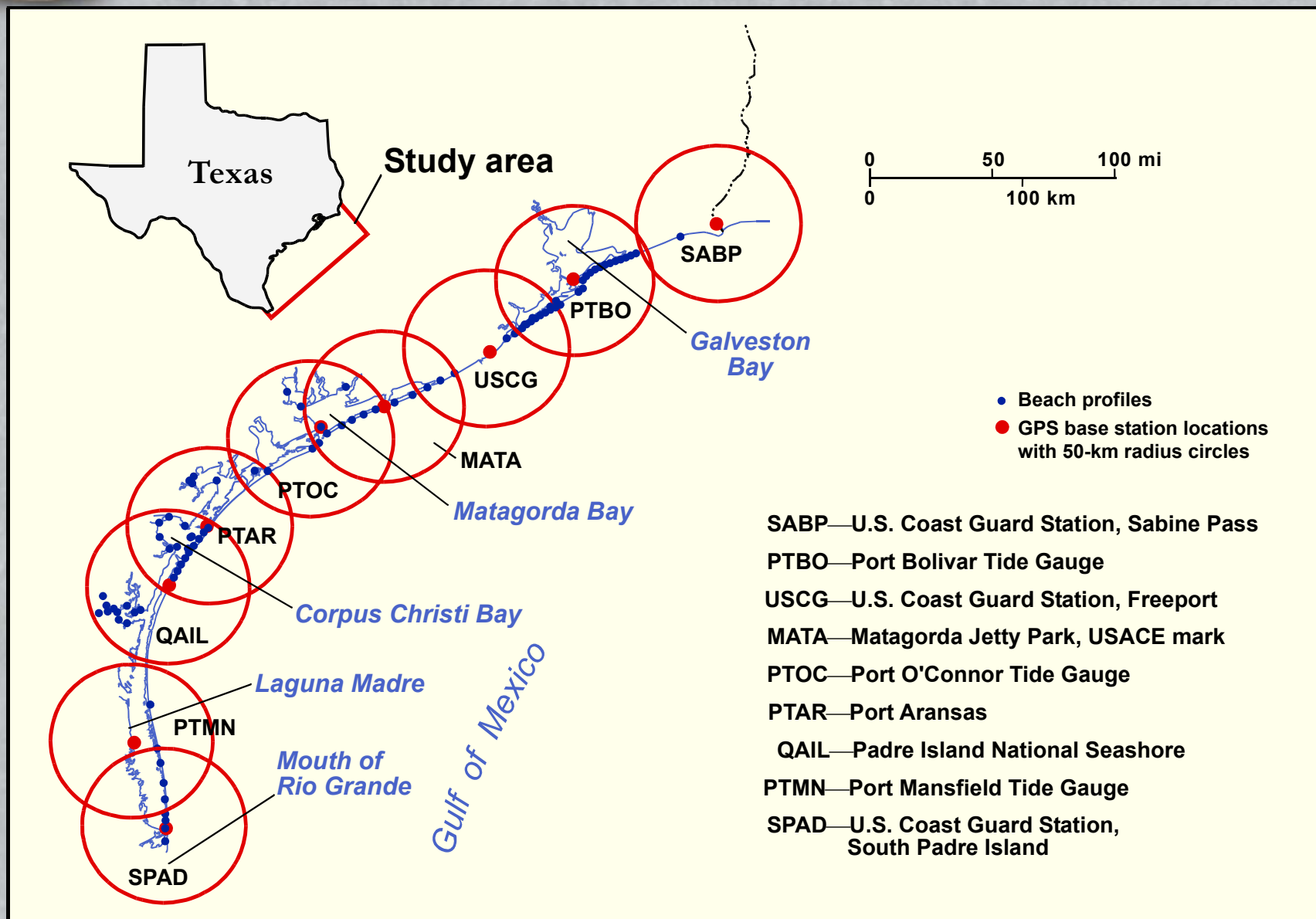
# UT's Airborne Topographic Lidar (Optech Inc., ALTM 1225)

- Mirror sweeps laser beam across the ground.
- Range to target is determined by measuring time interval between outgoing and return of reflected laser pulse.
- Aircraft position is determined using GPS phase differencing techniques.
- Pointing direction of laser determined with Inertial Measuring Unit (IMU) and recording of mirror position.
- Data streams recorded and synchronized for post processing.





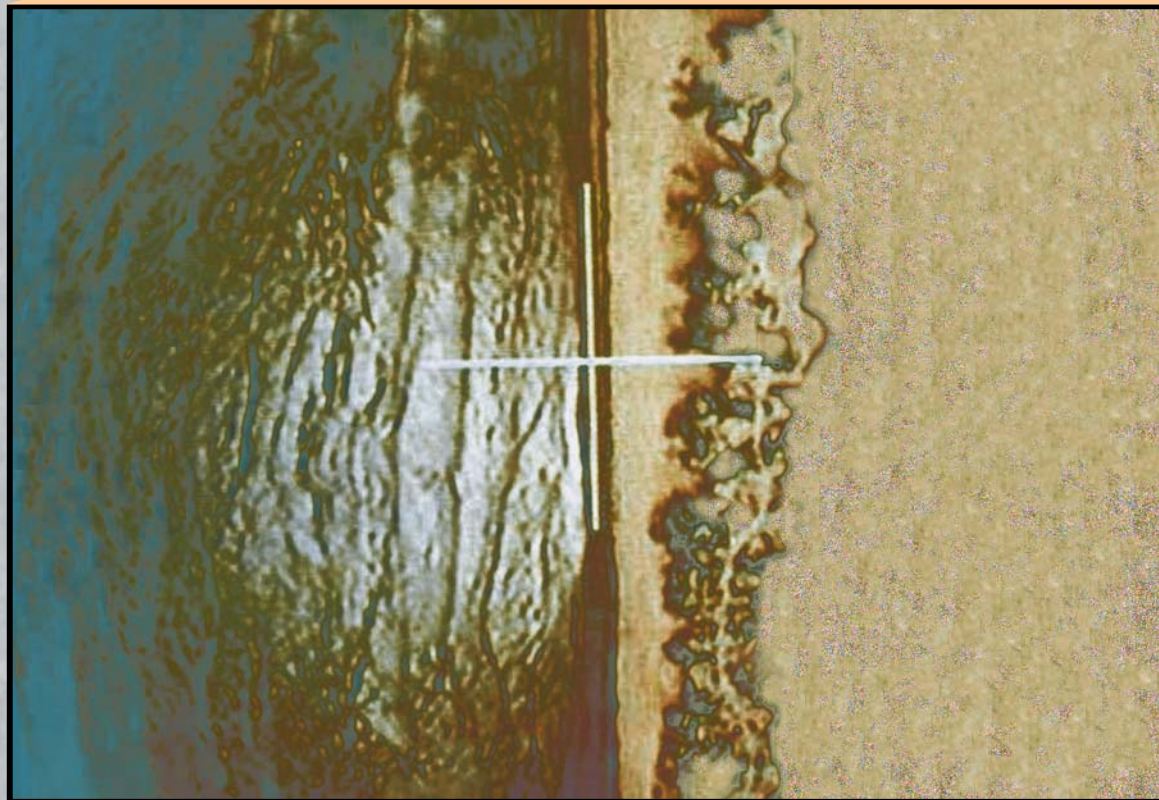
# GPS Coastal Network





# Lidar Instrument in Cessna 206

(Optech ALTM 1225)



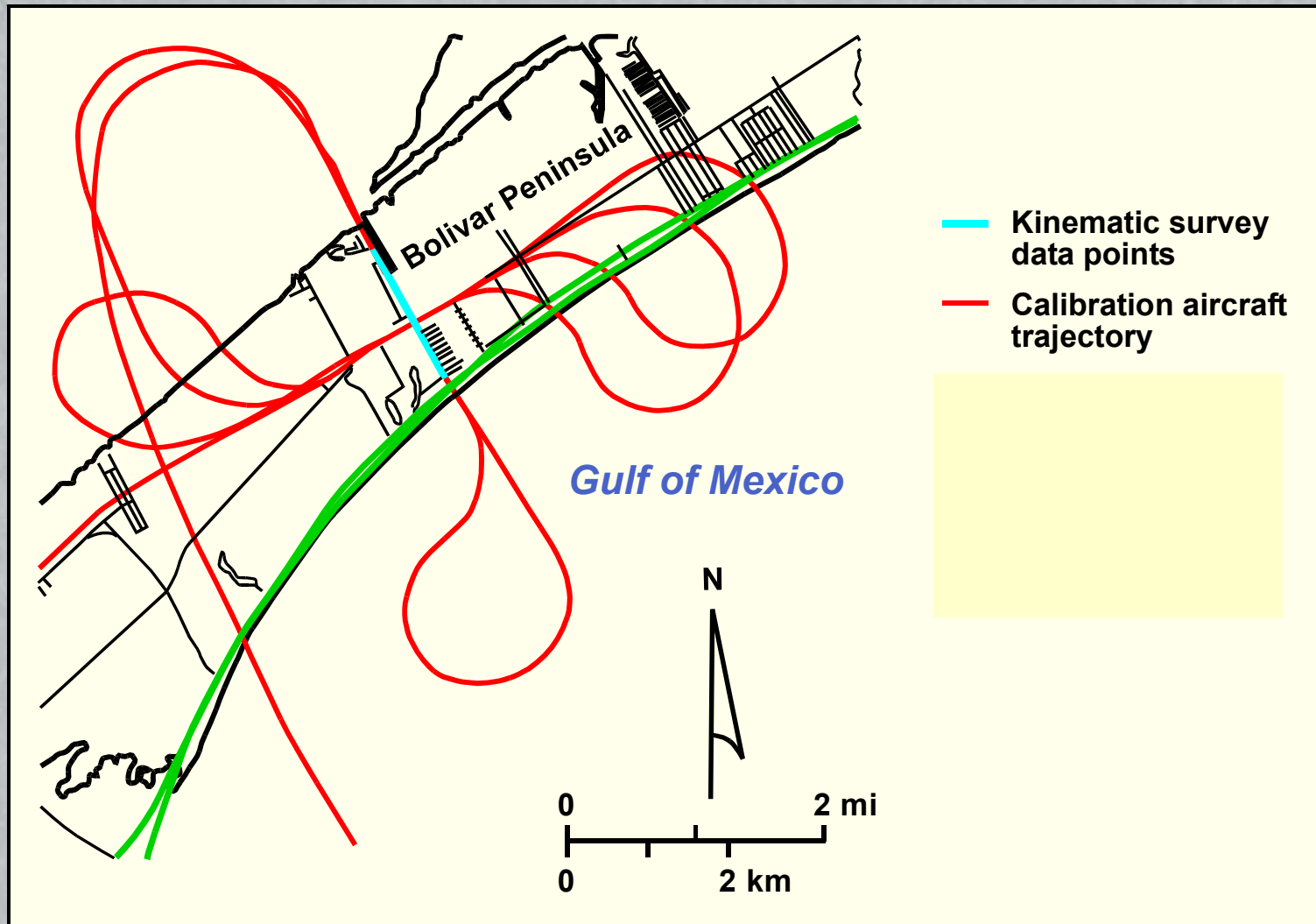


# Calibration Target





# Calibration Flight Lines





# Lidar Digital Elevation Model

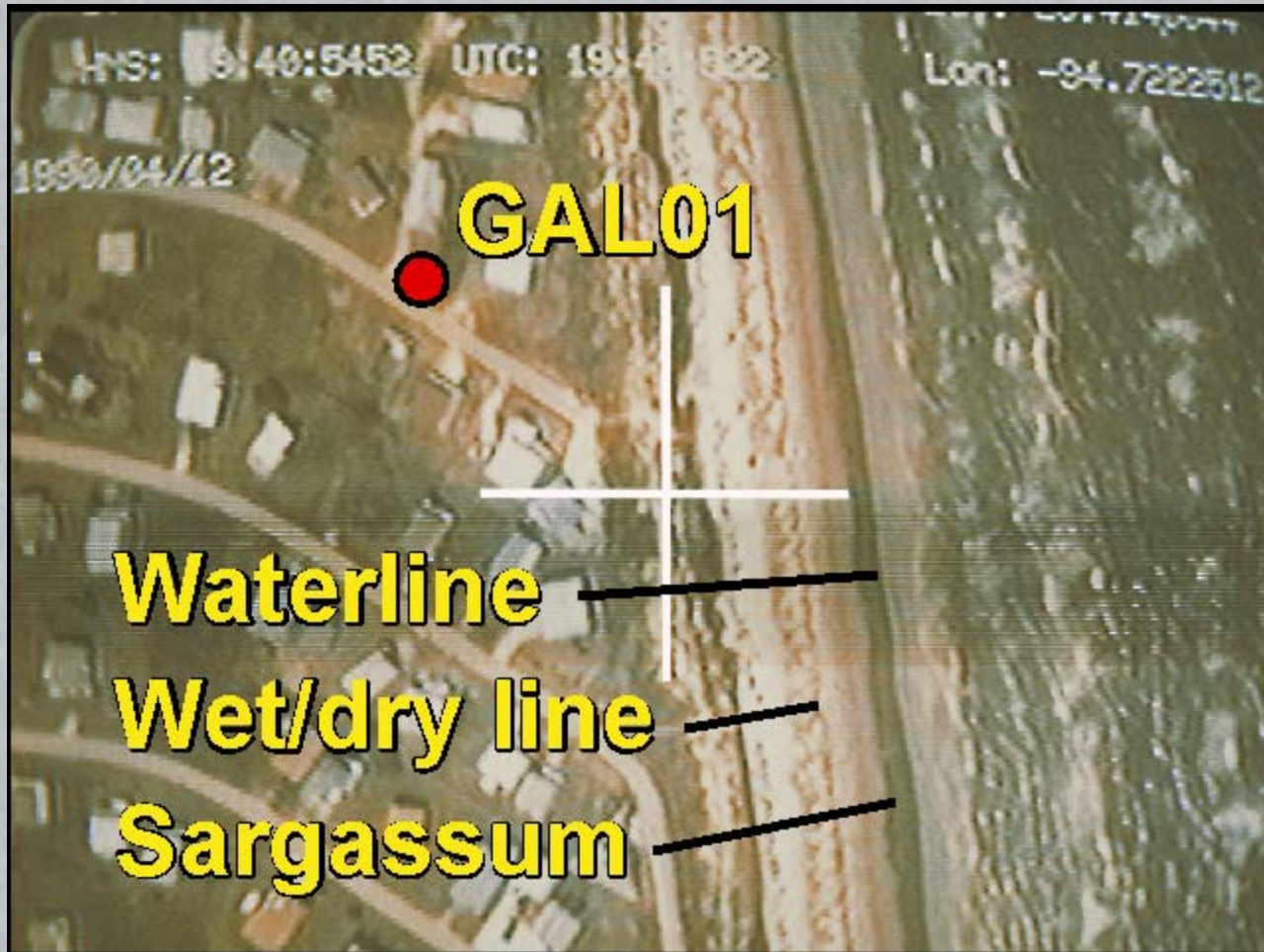
## 1 - m grid



- Ellipsoidal heights converted to orthometric heights (NAVD 88) using GEOID99 gravity model.
- Local mean sea level (MSL) correction applied.



## Lidar Survey Video



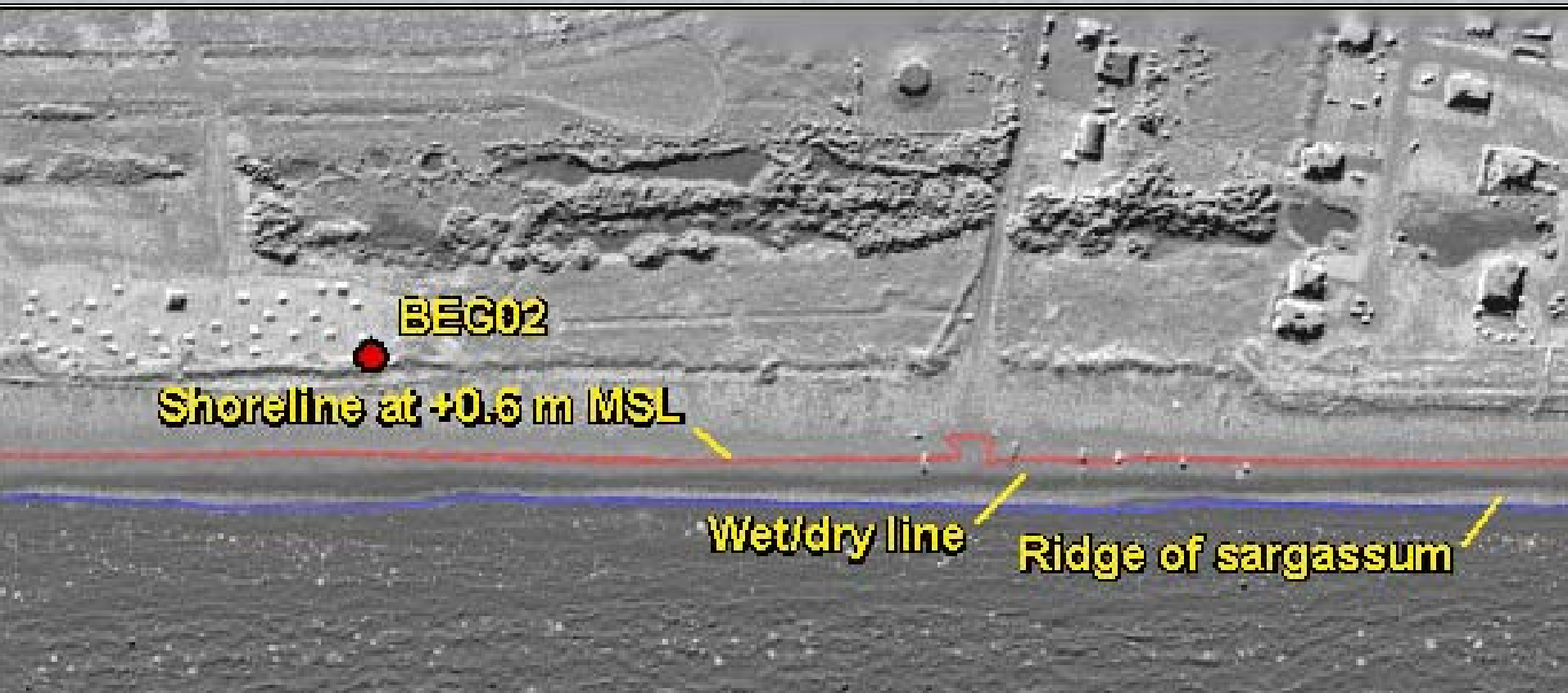


# Galveston Beach



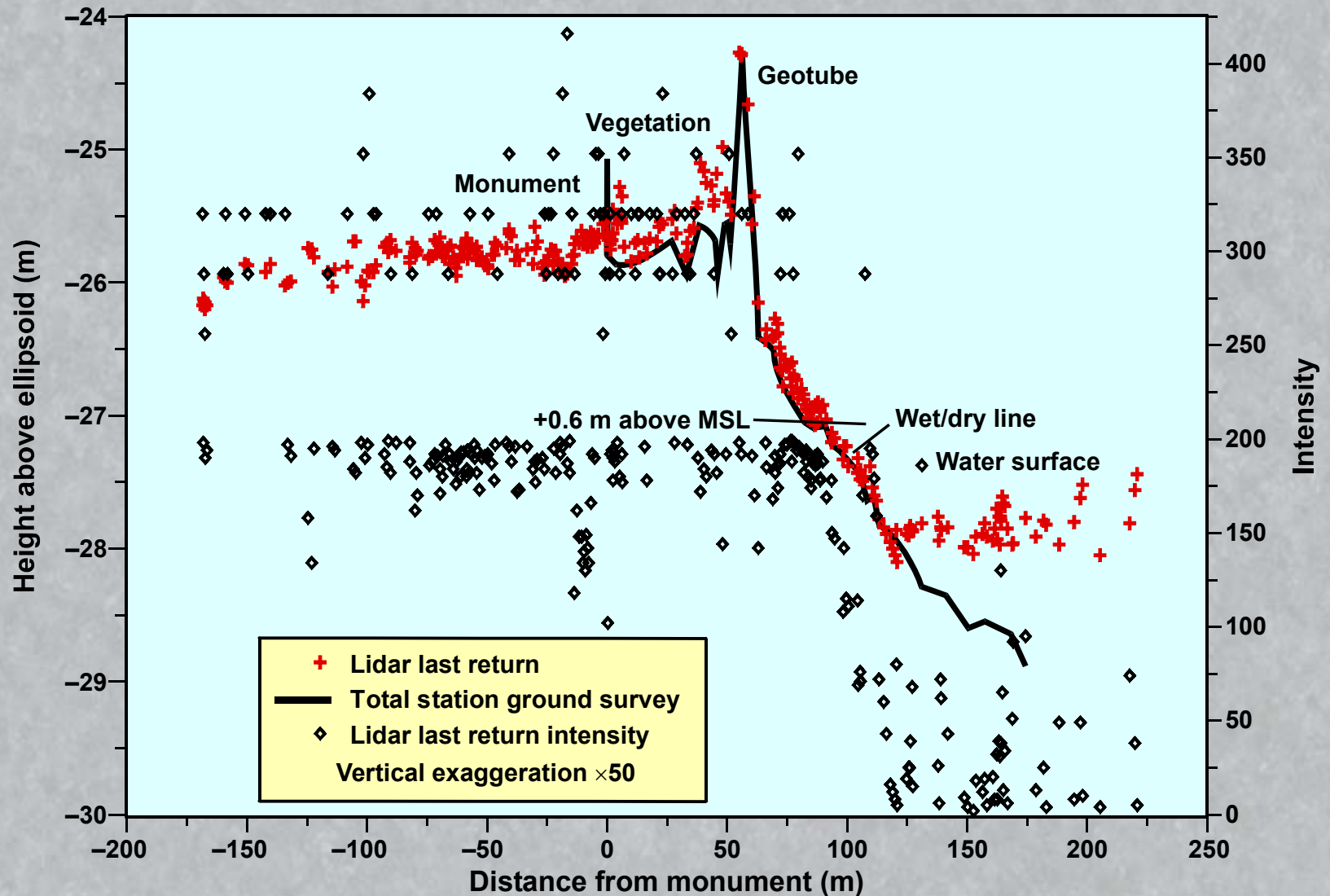


# Lidar Intensity Drape on DEM





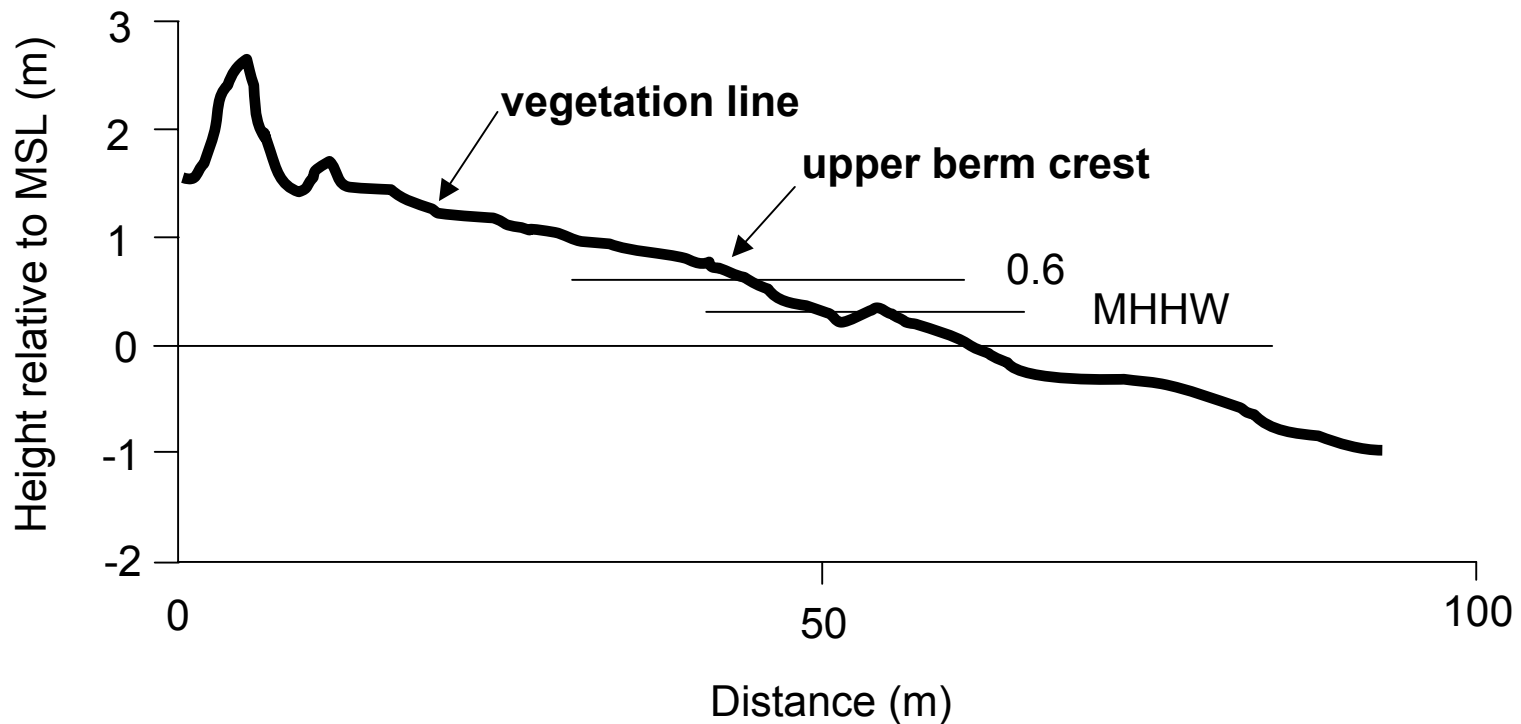
# Galveston Island Profile





# Representative Wet/Dry Elevation

## 0.6 m along Upper Tx Gulf Coast



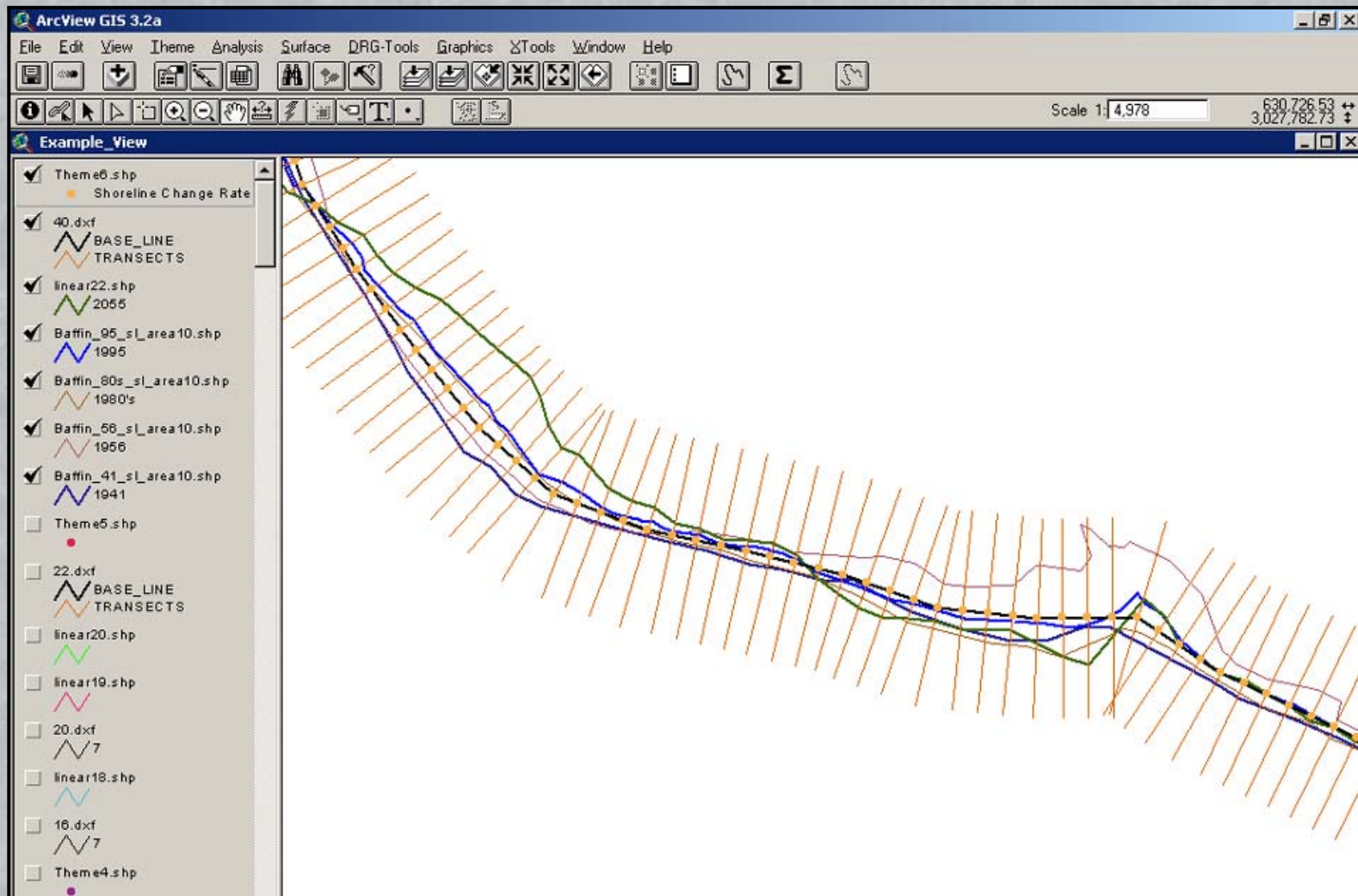


# Shoreline Change Analysis

- **Mapping shorelines**
  - Aerial photography
  - Ground kinematic GPS
  - Airborne lidar – shoreline plus beach and dune topographic mapping
- **Calculating “average annual rate of change” and projecting future shoreline position**
  - GIS-based Shoreline Change and Projection Program (SSAPP)
- **Beach profile ground surveys**
- **Data availability and public awareness**
  - Online reports
  - Web-based GIS using ArcIMS software

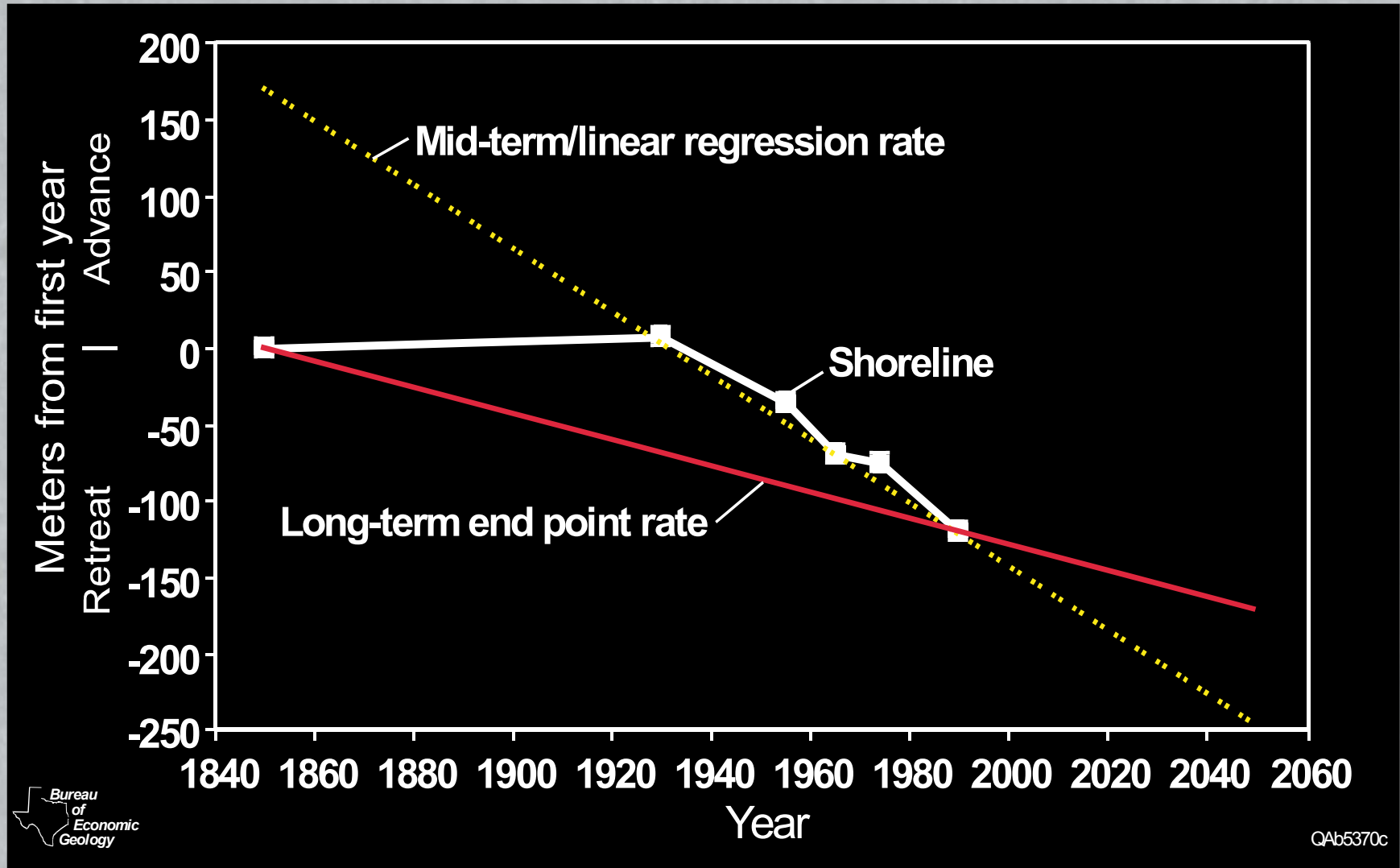


# Shoreline Change and Projection Program ArcView Interface





# Shoreline Change Rate





# Projected Shoreline

## Galveston Island





# Shoreline Change Analysis

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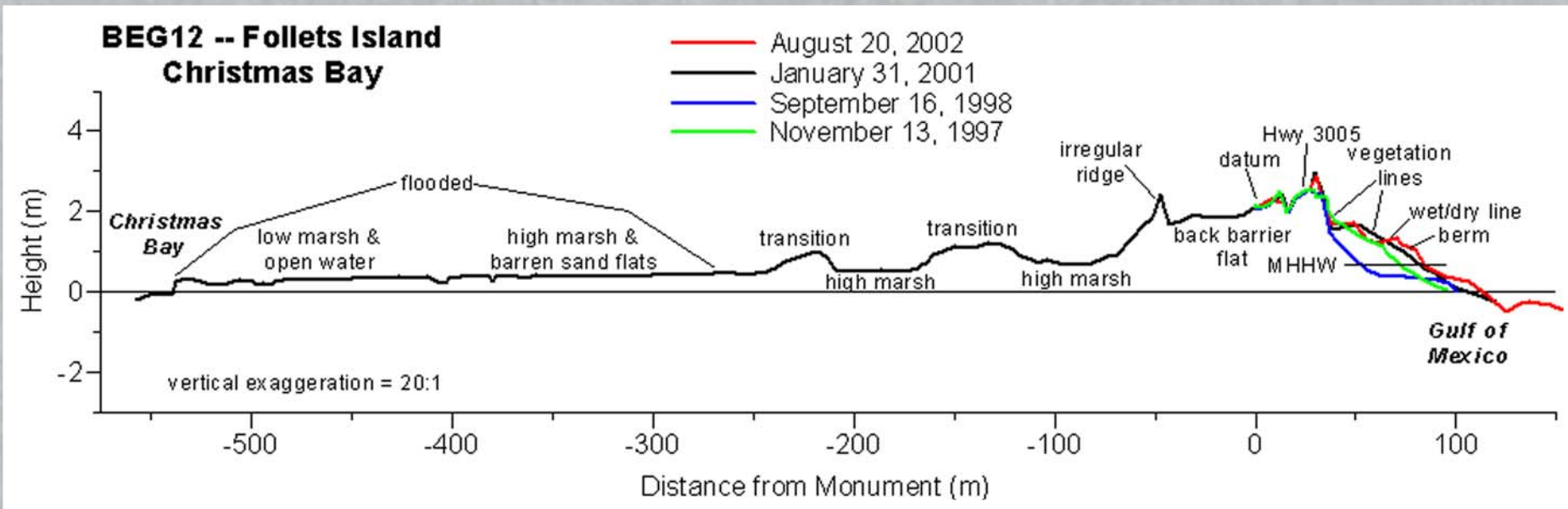


# Ground Survey





# Beach Profile Annotated





# Shoreline Change Analysis

- **Mapping shorelines**
  - Aerial photography
  - Ground kinematic GPS
  - Airborne lidar – shoreline plus beach and dune topographic mapping
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[www.beg.utexas.edu/coastal/coastal01.htm](http://www.beg.utexas.edu/coastal/coastal01.htm)

Shoreline Change Project - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Print View Source


Address <http://www.beg.utexas.edu/coastal/intro.htm>







**BUREAU OF  
ECONOMIC GEOLOGY**  
The University of Texas at Austin

RESEARCH

Coastal  
Studies

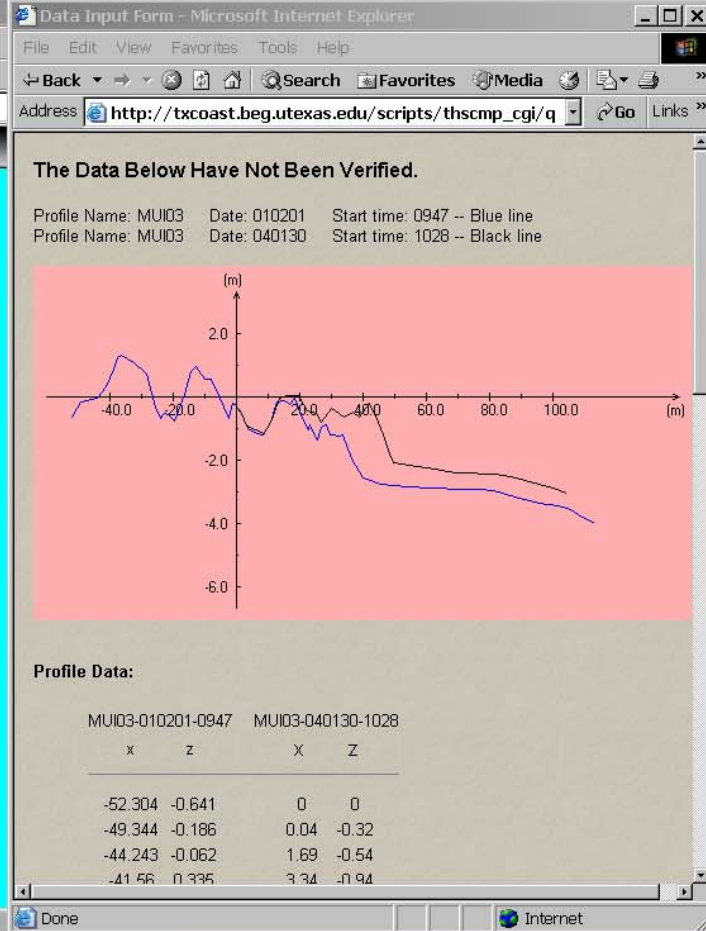


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### The Texas Shoreline Change Project

<p><b>Goals</b></p> <p><b>Objectives and Methods</b></p> <p><b>Geographic Information System (GIS)</b> <i>Coastal maps and photographs with shorelines, rates of shoreline change and beach profiles</i></p> <p><b>Texas Historical Shorelines Inventory</b></p> <p><b>Shoreline Types</b></p> <p><b>Reports</b></p> <p><b>Download Shoreline Data</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>In June 1999, Governor Bush signed into law the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA). This act provides funds for coastal erosion projects. It authorizes the <b>Texas General Land Office (GLO)</b> to implement a comprehensive coastal erosion response program that can include designing, funding, building, and maintaining erosion projects. The GLO is named in the act as the entity that will monitor shoreline change rates with the assistance of the Bureau of Economic Geology and local governments. The Texas Shoreline Change Project is addressing requirements of the CEPRA regarding (1) the identification of "critical coastal erosion areas", (2) the monitoring of historical shoreline erosion rates, (3) <b>making data accessible on the Internet</b>, and (4) increasing public awareness of coastal erosion issues. This is an active web site. Users should check periodically for additional data and reports. Send comments to Jim Gibeaut at <a href="mailto:jim.gibeaut@beg.utexas.edu">jim.gibeaut@beg.utexas.edu</a>.</p> <p>The Texas Shoreline Change Project is partially funded by the Texas Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.</p>
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Viewing Instructions

Data Download

☐ Toggle between legend and data list

Legend

Gulf shoreline change (ft/yr)

- Less than -20
- 20 - -12
- 12 - -6
- 6 - 0
- 0 - 3.0
- 3.0 - 9
- 9 - 25
- 25 - 80.71

Beach profiles (linked)

Shoreline types (ESI)

- Exposed walls
- Scarps and steep slopes in clay
- Wave-cut clay platform
- Fine-grained sand beaches
- Scarps and steep slopes in sand
- Mixed sand and gravel beaches
- Gravel beaches
- Exposed riprap
- Exposed tidal flats
- Sheltered man-made structures
- Sheltered riprap
- Sheltered scarps
- Sheltered tidal flats
- Marshes
- Salt, brackish-water marshes
- Freshwater marshes
- Freshwater swamps
- Mangroves
- No data

Aransas.tif (2002)

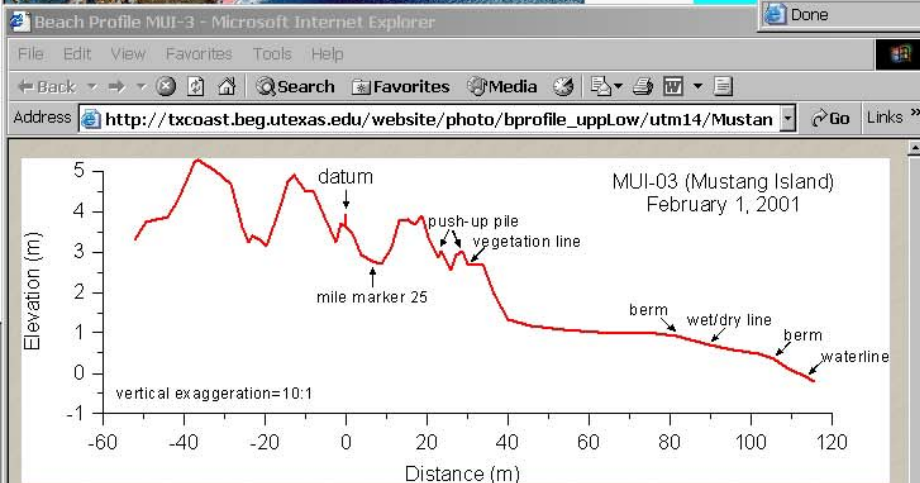
South Padre Island.tif (2002)

Mustang Island

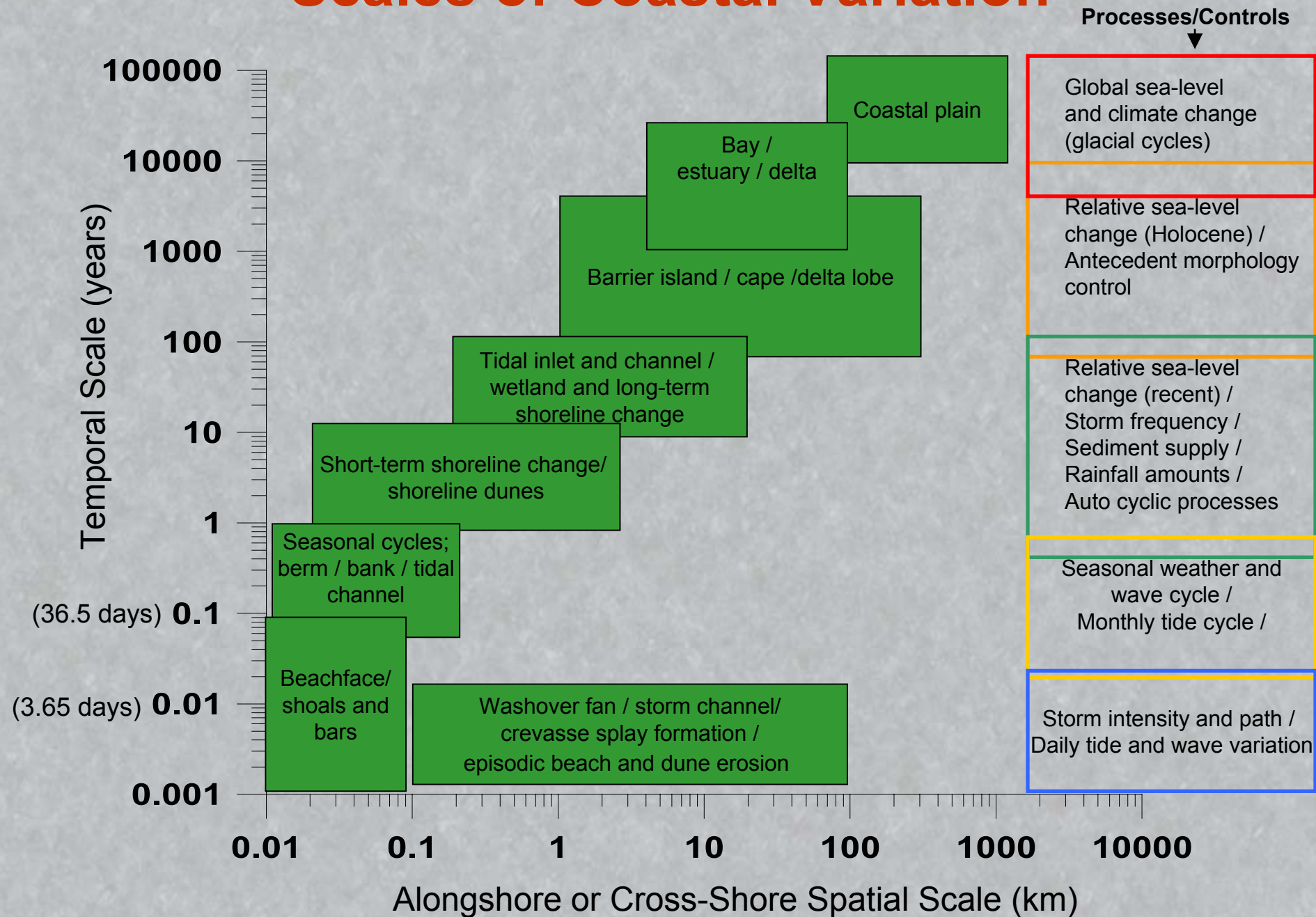
Matagow.tif

Matageast.tif

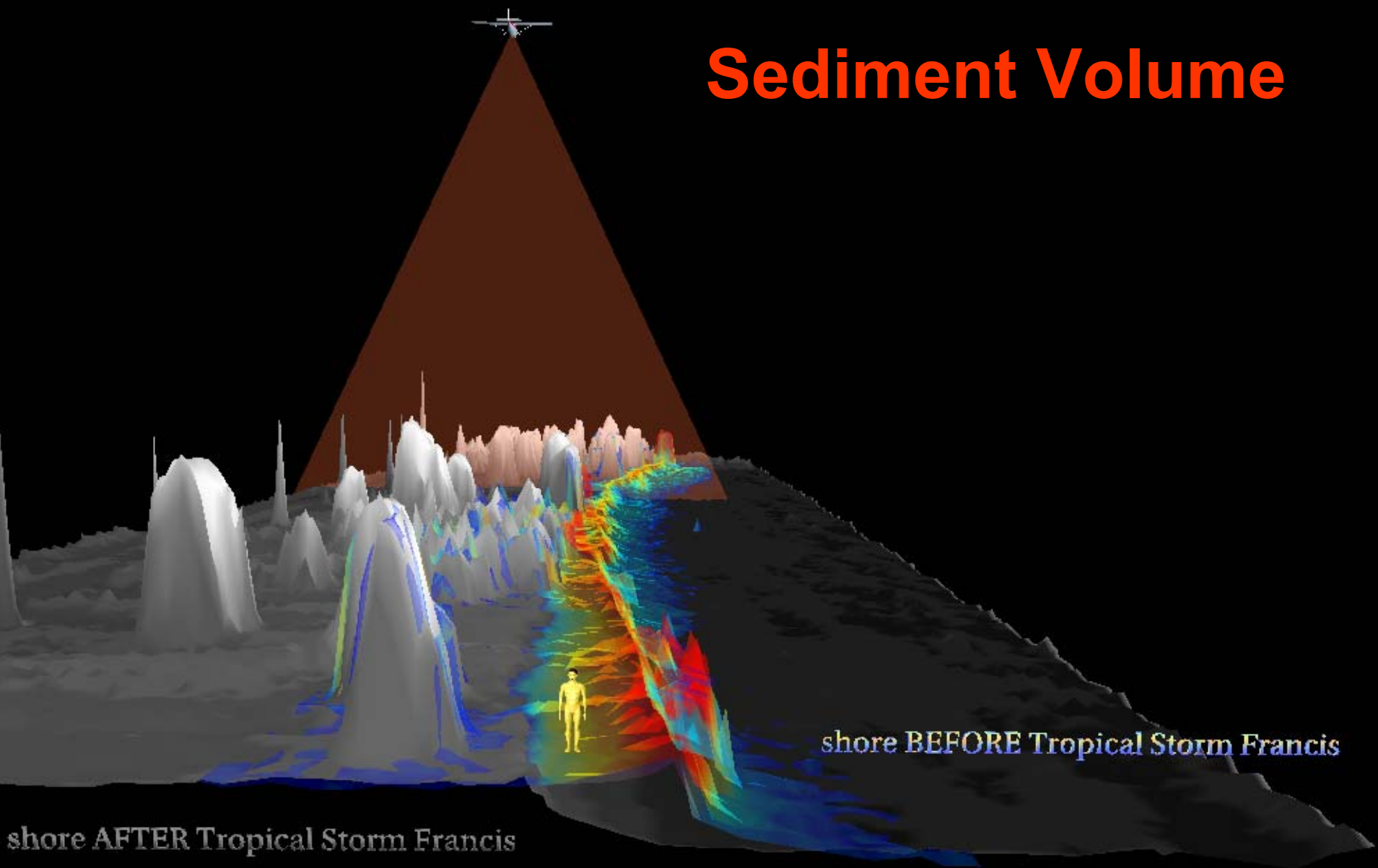
Internet



# Scales of Coastal Variation

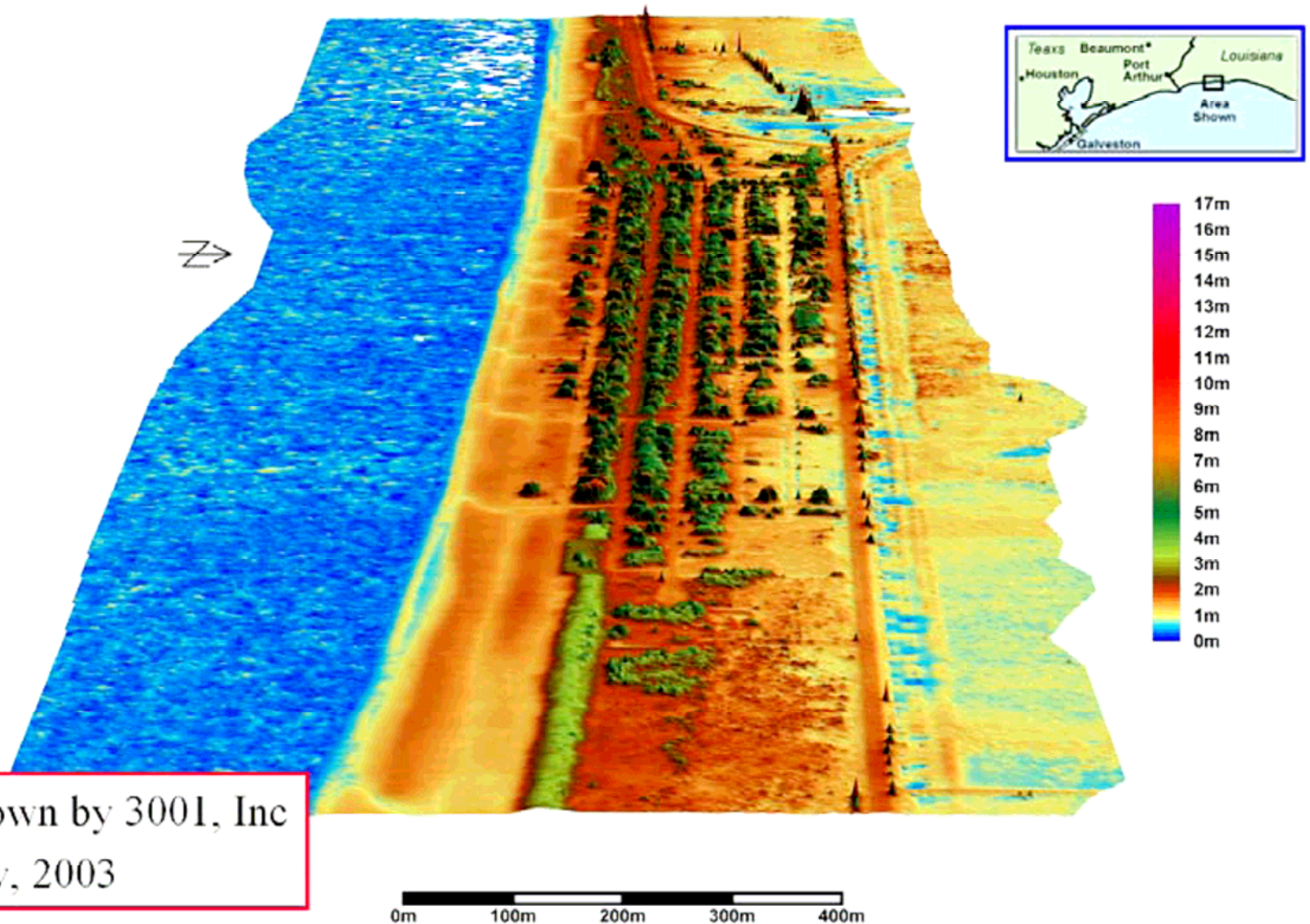


# Sediment Volume





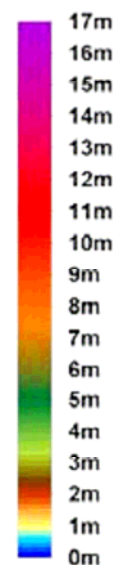
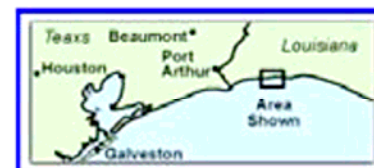
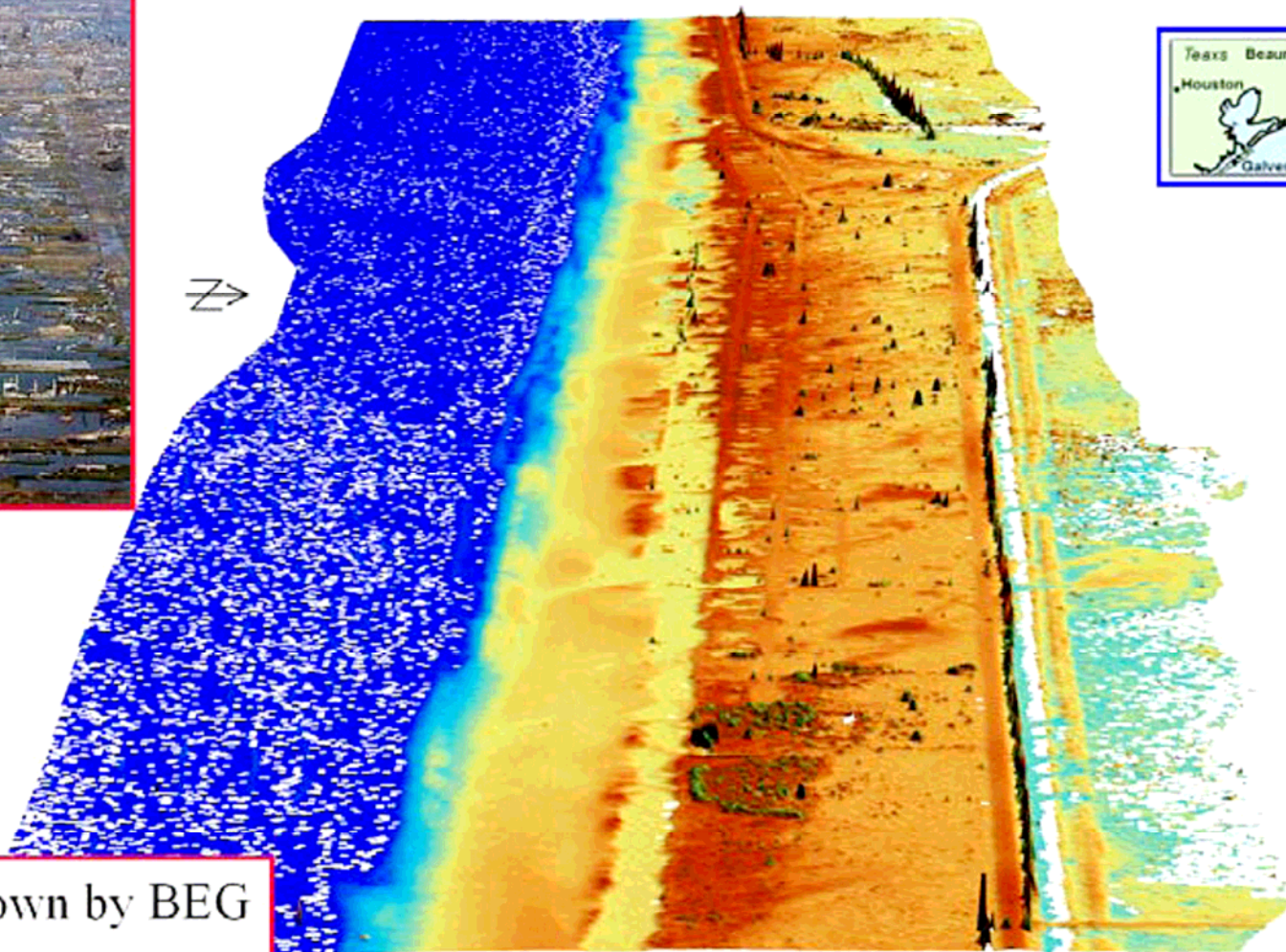
# Holly Beach, Louisiana



# Holly Beach, Louisiana



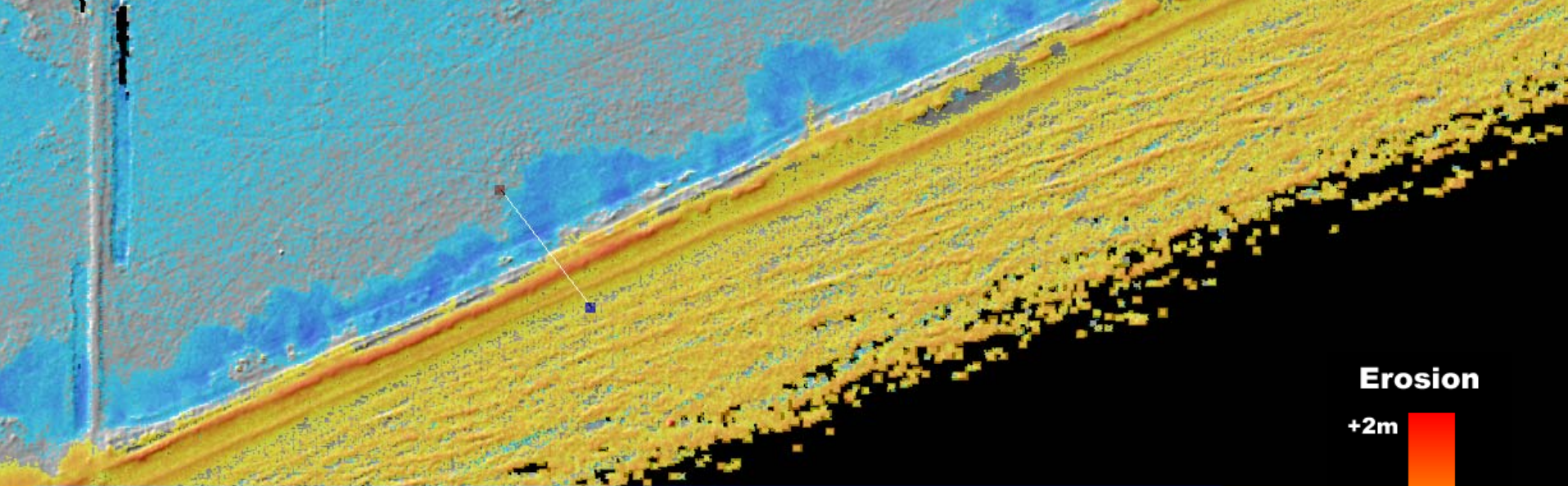
⇒



Lidar flown by BEG  
6 October, 2005

0m 100m 200m 300m 400m





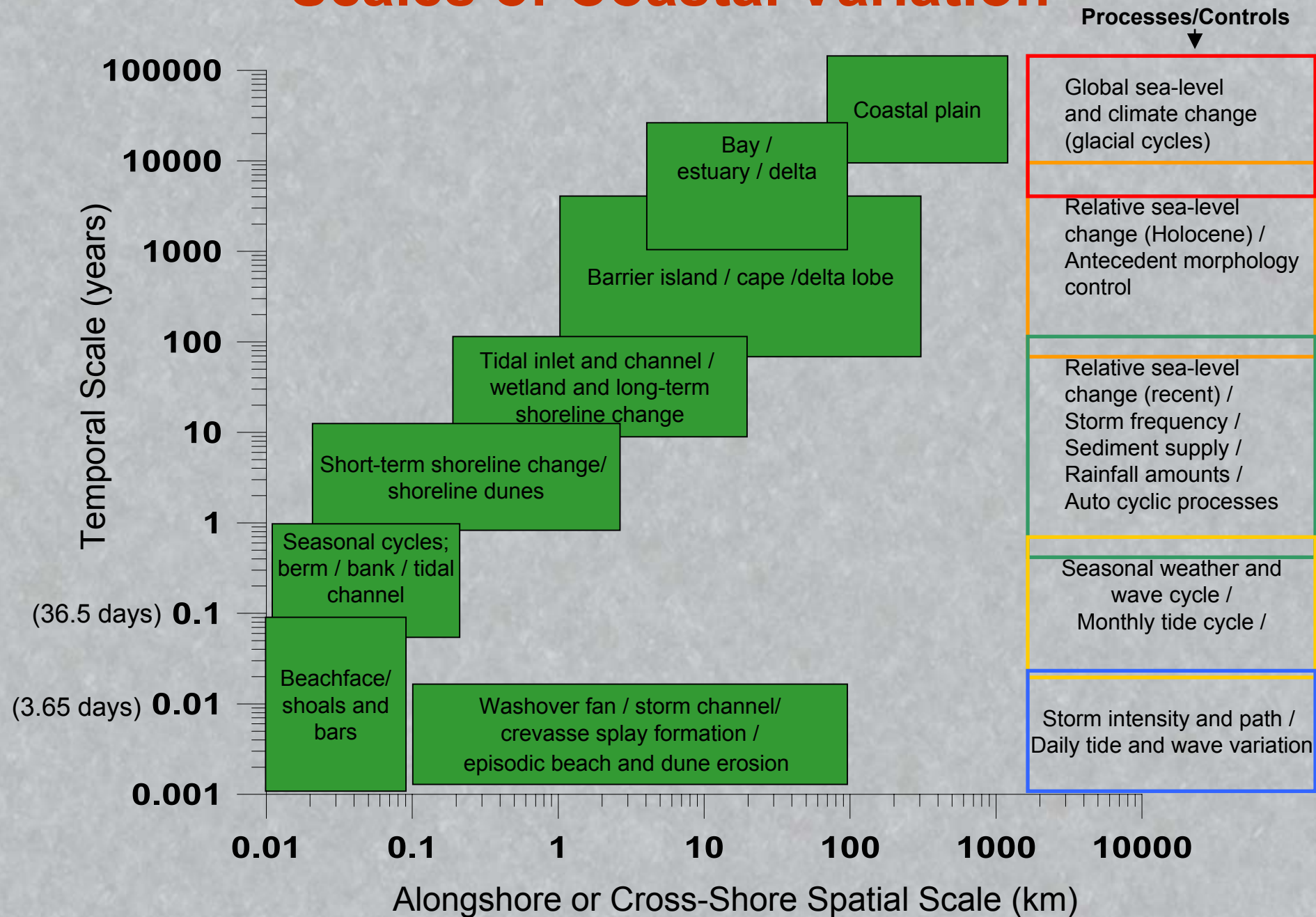
**Erosion**



**Deposition**



# Scales of Coastal Variation





# Ground-based Lidar Mapping

(Opetch Inc., ILRIS Instrument)

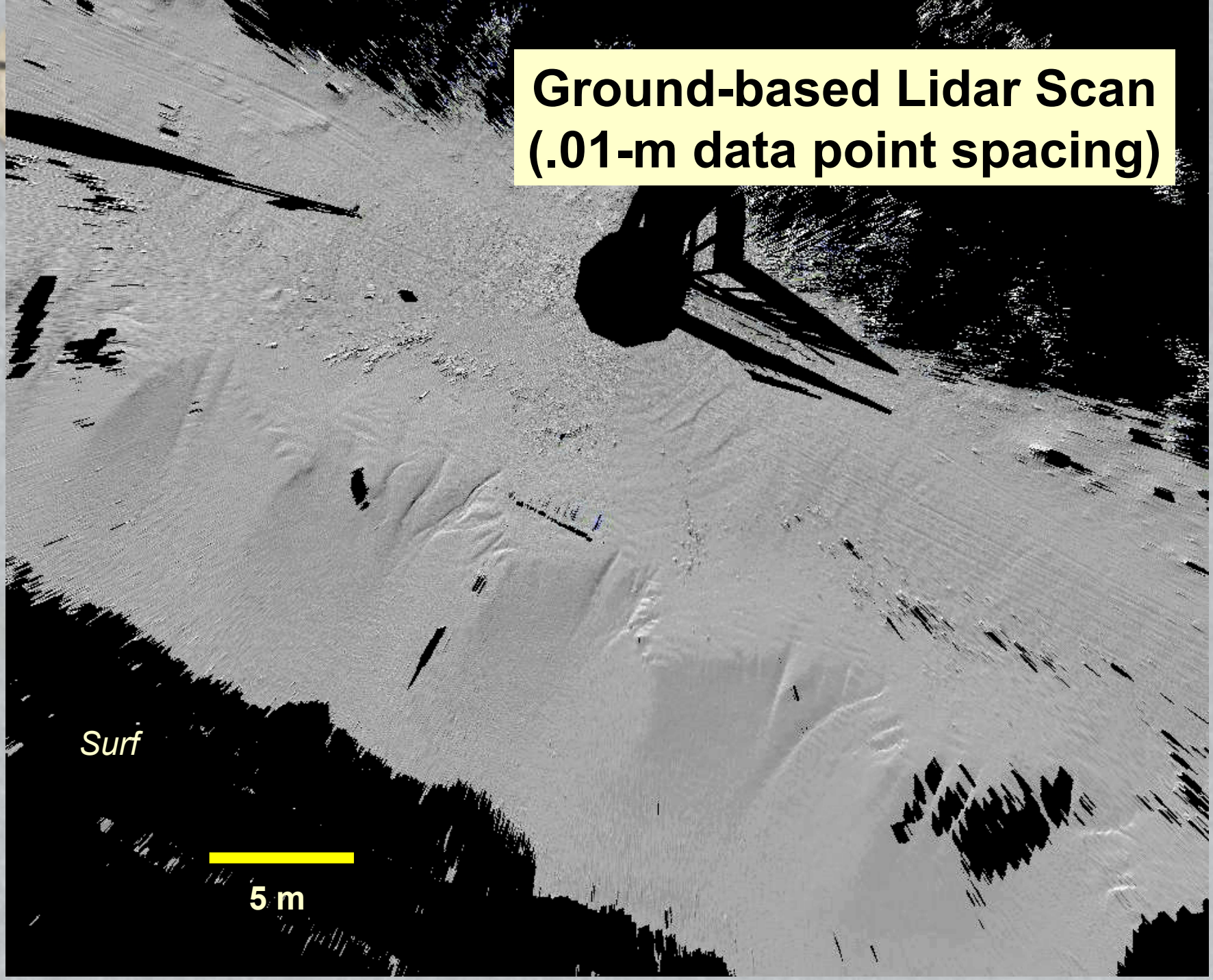


Ground-based lidar scanners are capable of capturing data at a rate of 2,000 points per second. Laser point spacing is between 2 and 10 centimeters with individual scans covering 10's to 100's of meters. Depending on the distance between the scanner and the target and the target rugosity, 100's of meters to kilometer can be scanned and merged in one day.





# Ground-based Lidar Scan (.01-m data point spacing)



*Surf*

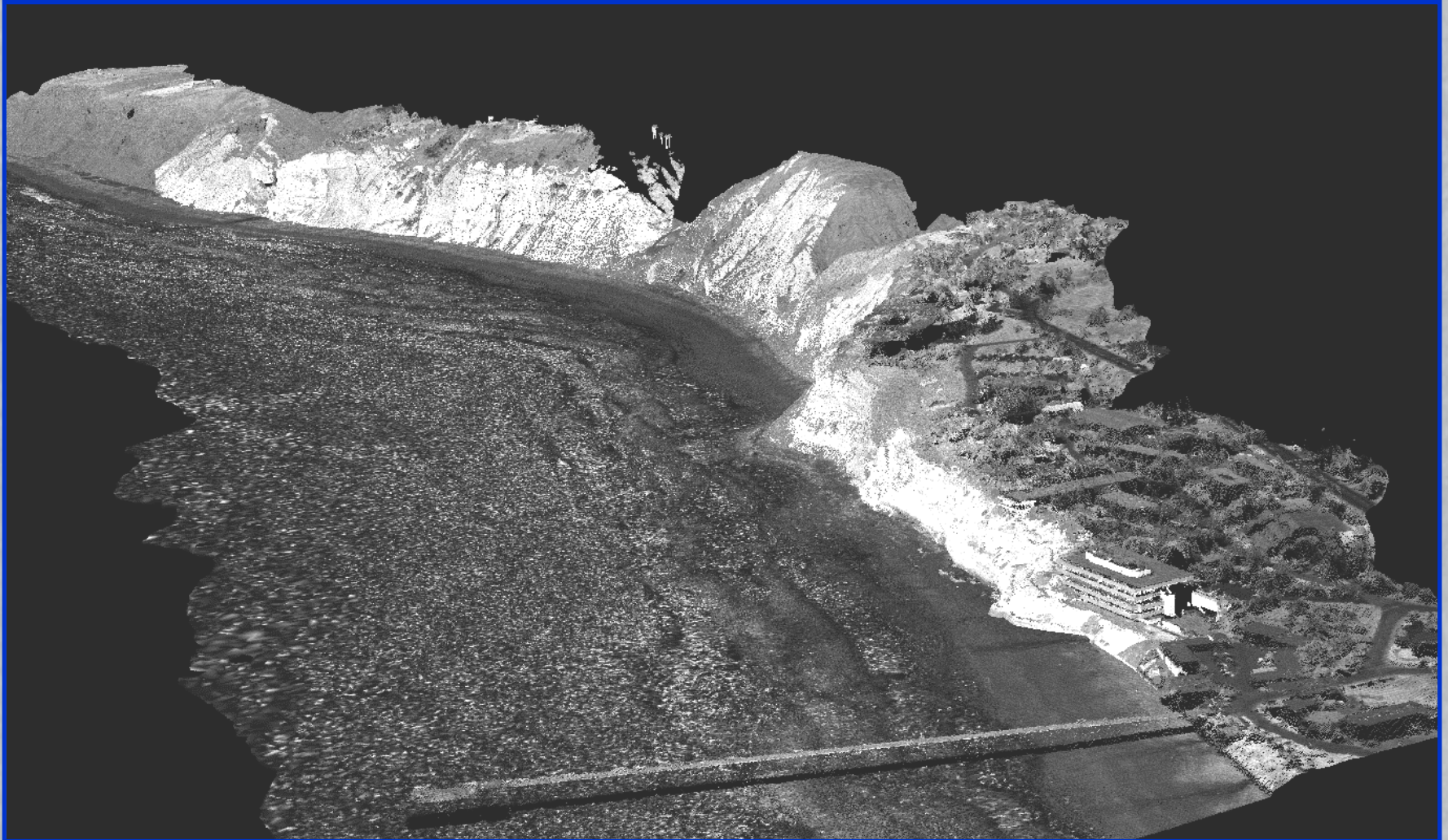


5 m





# Merged Airborne and Ground-Based Lidar, La Jolla, California





## Last Slide

We need to start or continue to  
build a data set of adequate  
spatial and temporal resolution.

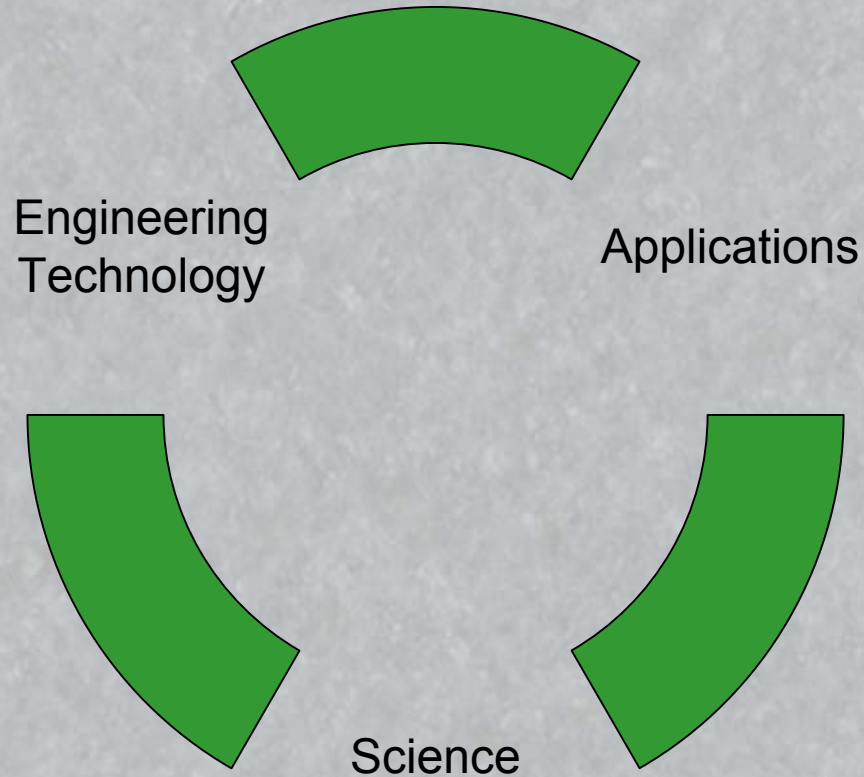
[www.beg.utexas.edu/coastal/coastal01.htm](http://www.beg.utexas.edu/coastal/coastal01.htm)

# Coastal Studies Group



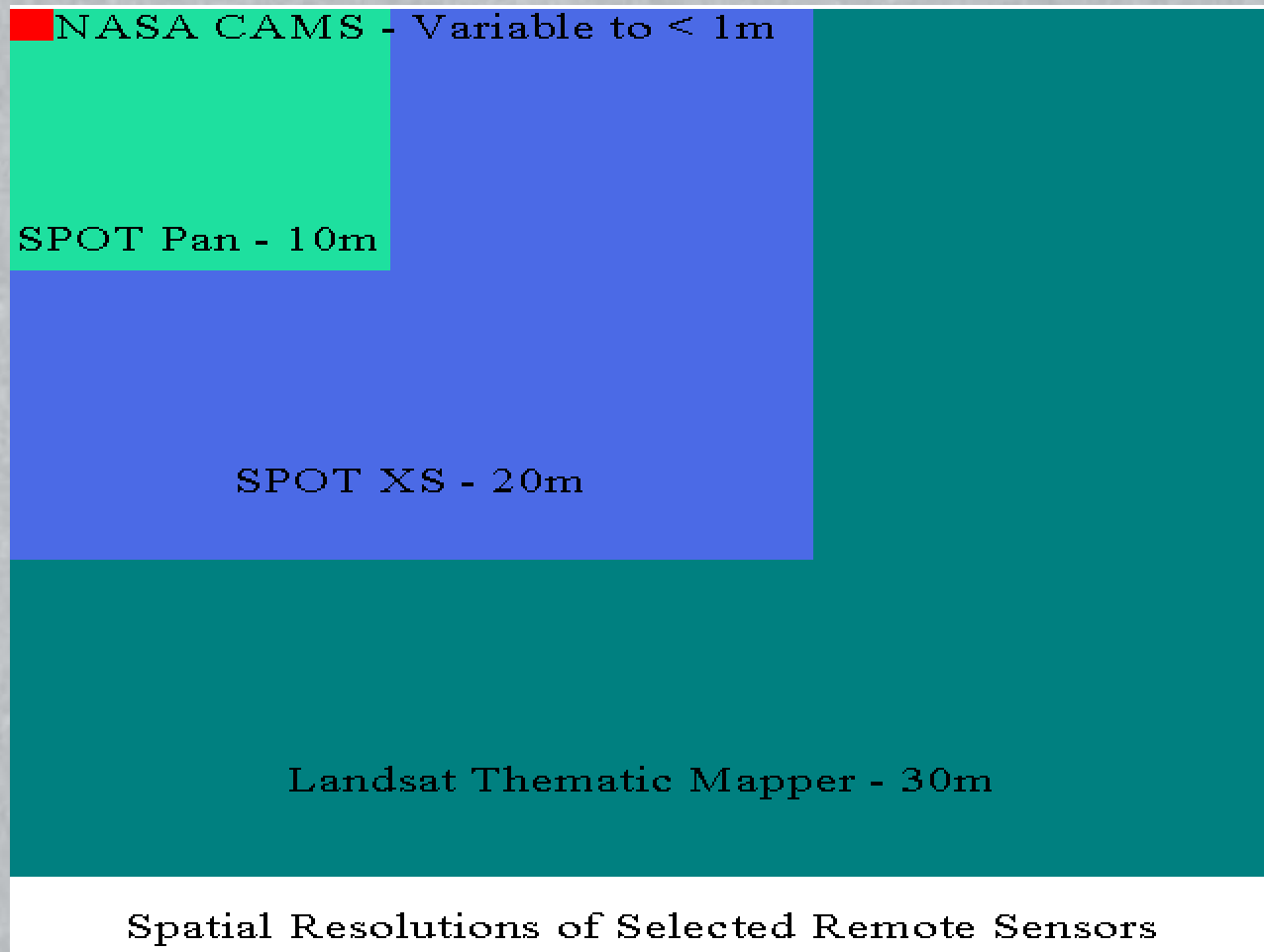


# Problem Solving Cycle



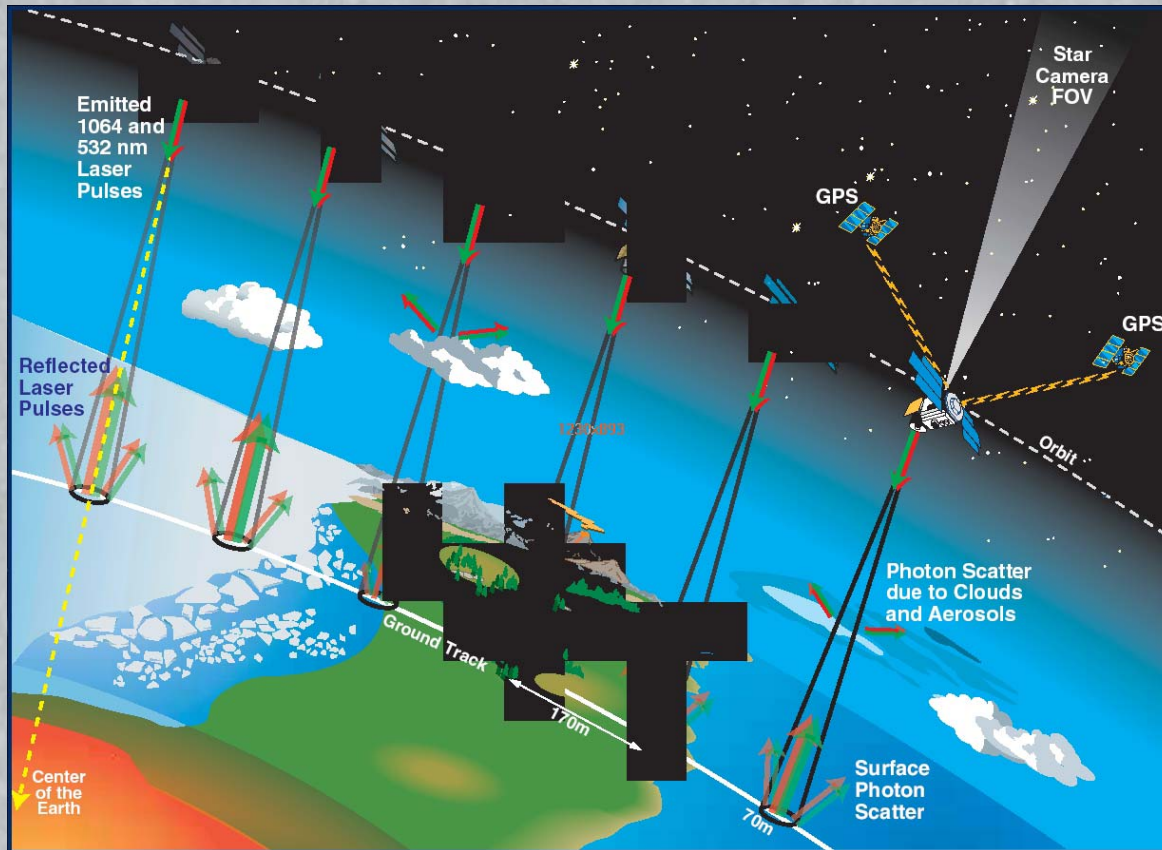


# Spatial Resolution of Remote Sensors





# Space - Based Lidar GLAS Geoscience Laser Altimeter System



Graphic by Deborah McLean

Carried on the Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite (ICESat)

70 - m diameter spot size  
and 175 - m spacing  
between spots

Launched January 2003

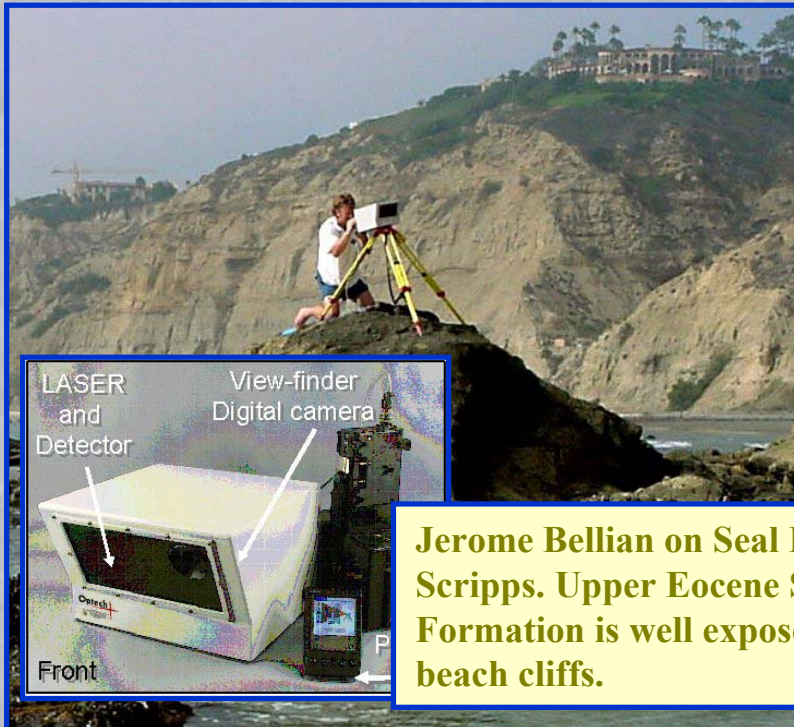
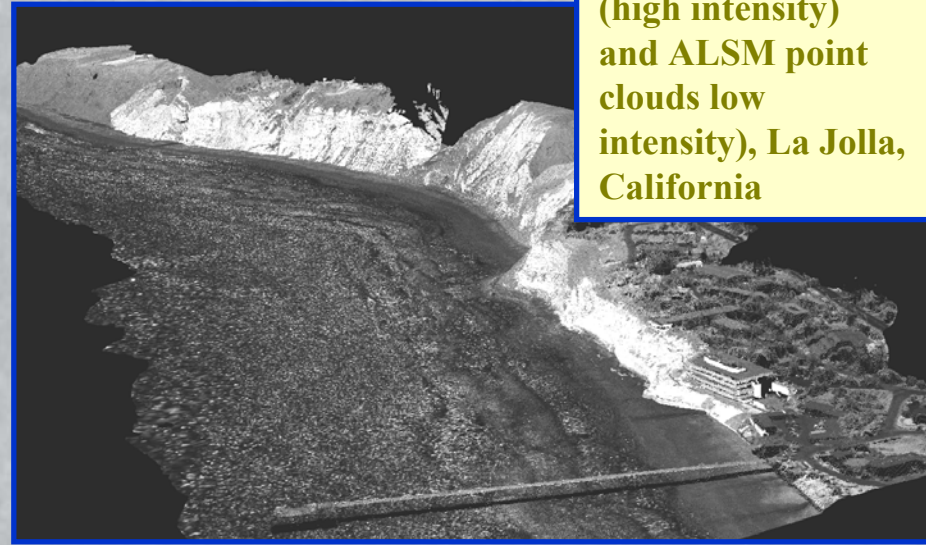
[www.csr.utexas.edu/glas/](http://www.csr.utexas.edu/glas/)



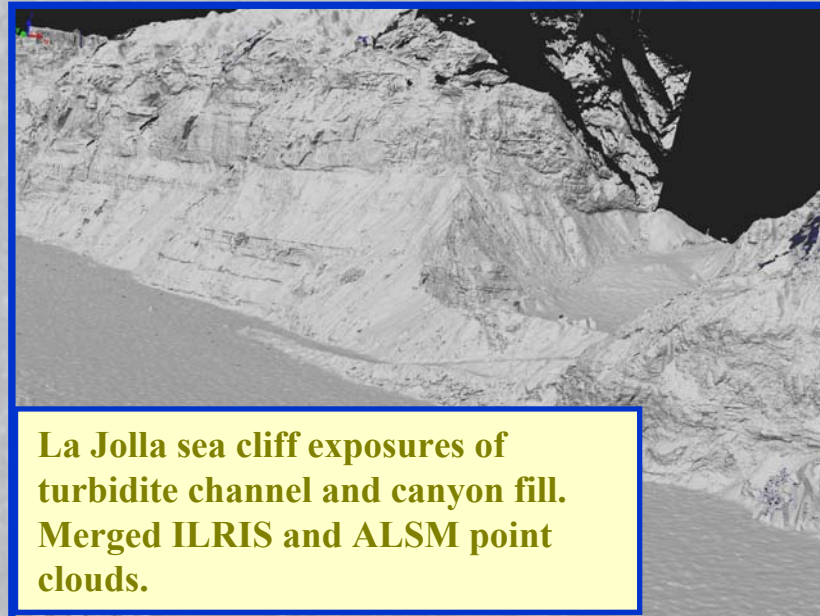
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Merged ILRIS (high intensity) and ALSM point clouds low intensity), La Jolla, California



Jerome Bellian on Seal Point, north Scripps. Upper Eocene Scripps Formation is well exposed along the beach cliffs.



La Jolla sea cliff exposures of turbidite channel and canyon fill. Merged ILRIS and ALSM point clouds.



## Air – Based

### LIDAR

- Light Detection and Ranging





# Coastal Studies Group

## THE COASTAL ZONE

- Area of population concentration
- Center of:
  - Urbanization
  - Recreation
  - Industry
  - Transportation



# Coastal Studies Group

Also site of:

- Critical natural land and water resources
- Dynamic processes, both natural and human induced





# Coastal Studies Group

**Understanding the interaction of natural processes and human activities on land and water resources of the coastal zone is essential in their prudent use, management, and conservation**

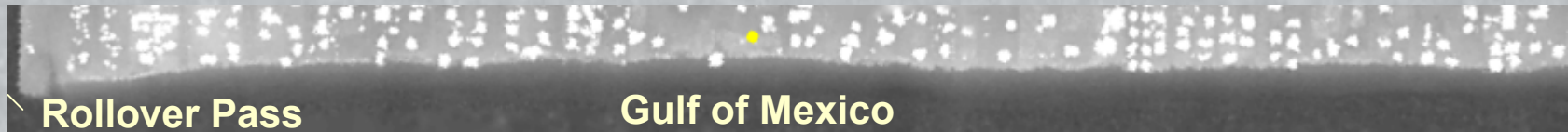


# Geomorphic/Engineering Change

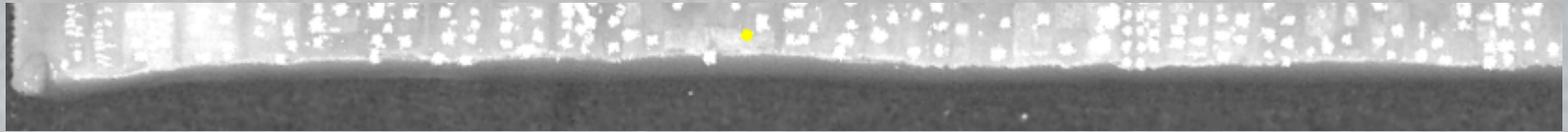
## Bolivar Peninsula, Texas

1,000 ft

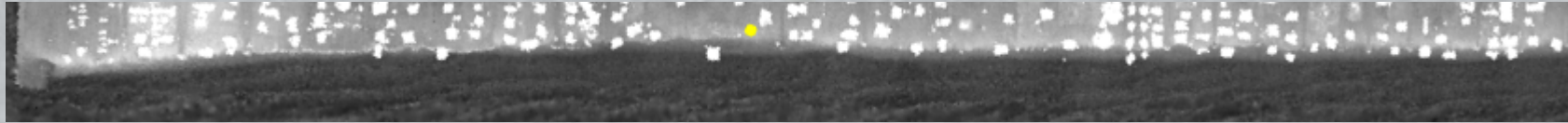
1997  
Nov



1998  
Pre-  
Frances



1998  
Post-  
Frances



2000  
Geotube  
installed



2001  
July





## The Lidar Advantage

**Historically, coastal scientists and engineers conducted regional studies using sparse data or local studies using detailed data. Lidar makes it possible to acquire detailed, accurate topographic data over a broad region, allowing geomorphic analysis across the continuum of the spatial scale.**



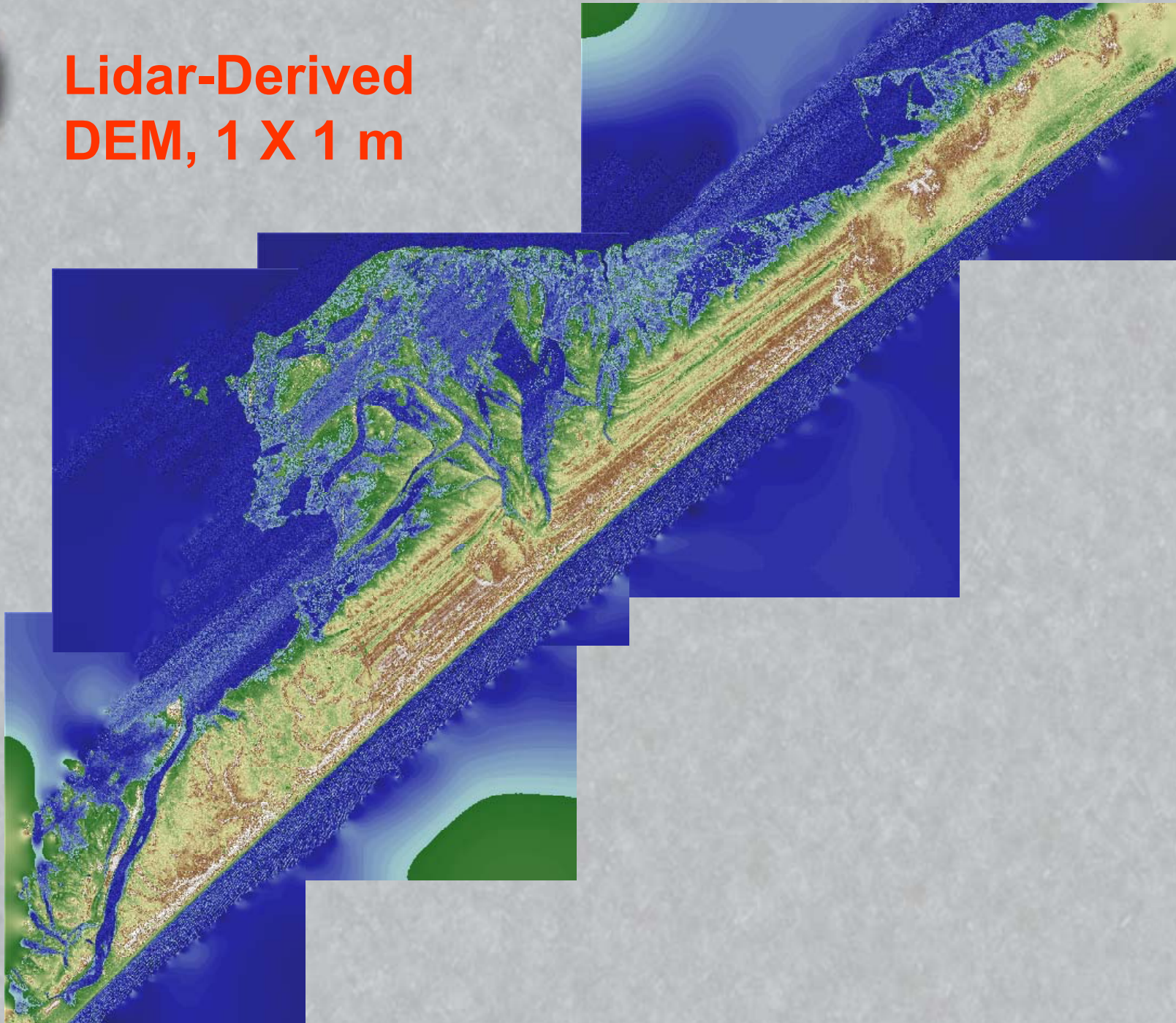
# DEM, 30 X 30 m

## From National Elevation Data



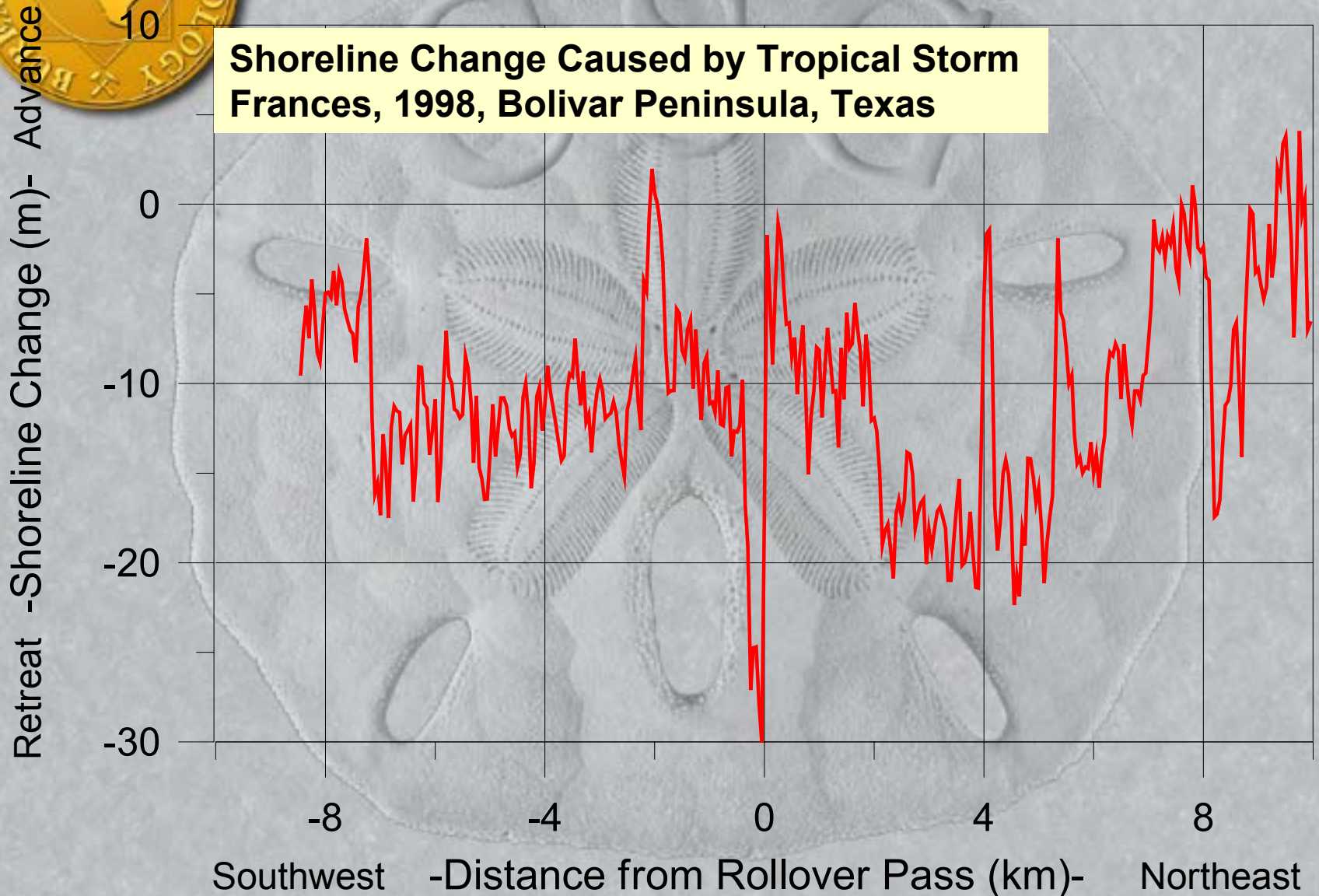


# Lidar-Derived DEM, 1 X 1 m



# Shoreline Change Based on Elevation

**Shoreline Change Caused by Tropical Storm Frances, 1998, Bolivar Peninsula, Texas**





# Coastal Studies Group

## Mapping the Shoreline and Comparing Beach Widths



**Shaded Relief Topographic Lidar Image  
Galveston Island, Texas**



# Coastal Studies Group

## Mapping the "Natural" Vegetation Line



# Storm-Surge Inundation

**Color IR Photography Draped  
On Lidar DEM**



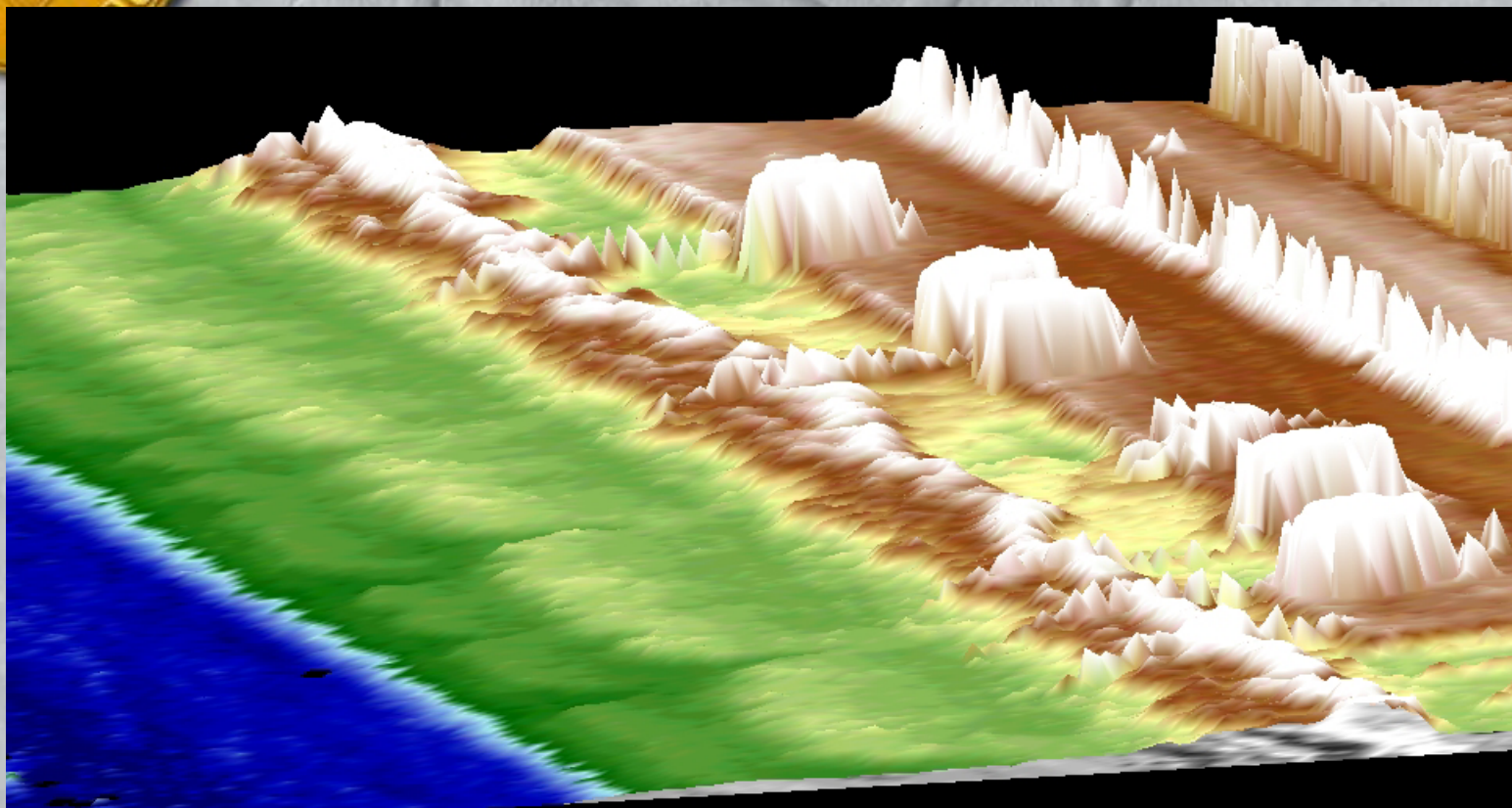
# Storm-Surge Inundation

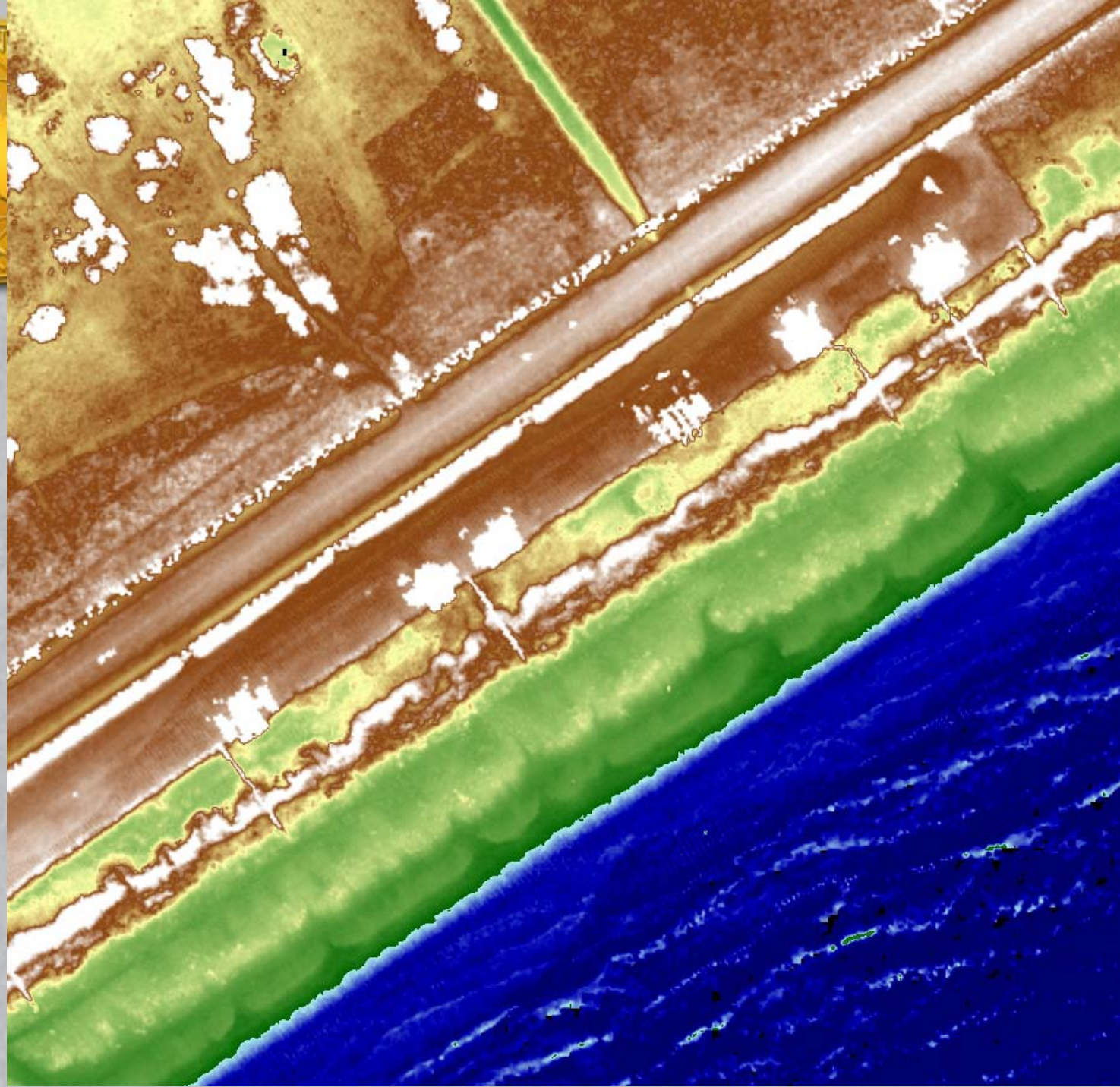
**9.5 ft. Storm Surge**





# Coastal Studies Group





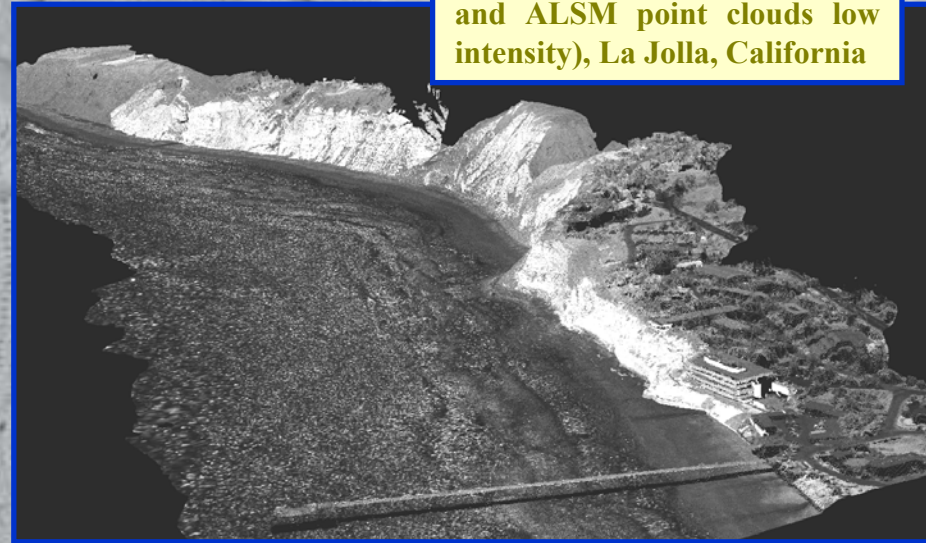
## Galveston Beach



## Ground-based Lidar Mapping

Ground-based lidar scanners are capable of capturing data at a rate of 2,000 points per second. Laser point spacing is between 2 and 10 cms with individual scans covering 10s to 100s of meters outcrop exposure. Depending on the distance between the scanner and the outcrop and the outcrop rugosity, 100s of meters to kilometers of outcrop can be scanned and merged in one day.

Merged ILRIS (high intensity) and ALSM point clouds low intensity), La Jolla, California

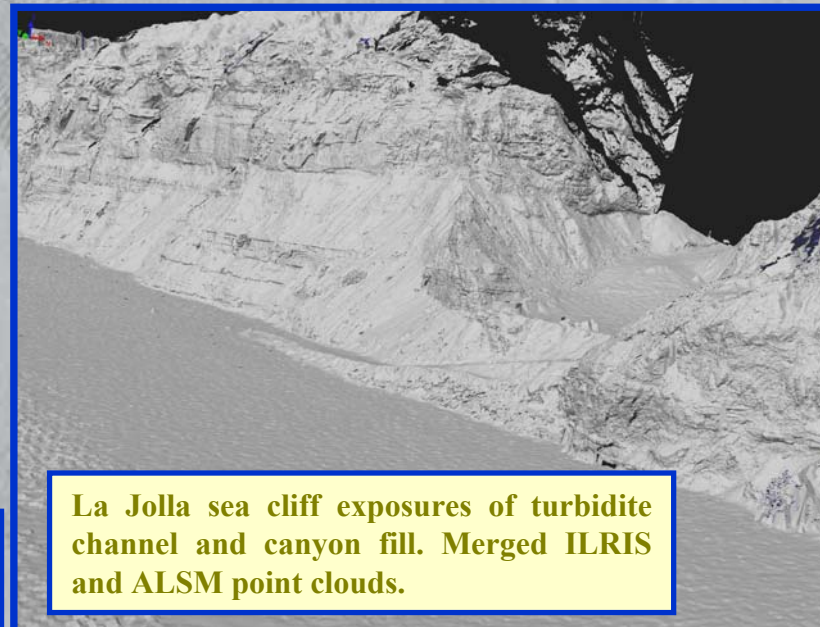


LASER and Detector

View-finder Digital camera

Front

Jerome Bellian on Seal Point, north Scripps. Upper Eocene Scripps Formation is well exposed along the beach cliffs.



La Jolla sea cliff exposures of turbidite channel and canyon fill. Merged ILRIS and ALSM point clouds.



# Changing Barrier Island Environments

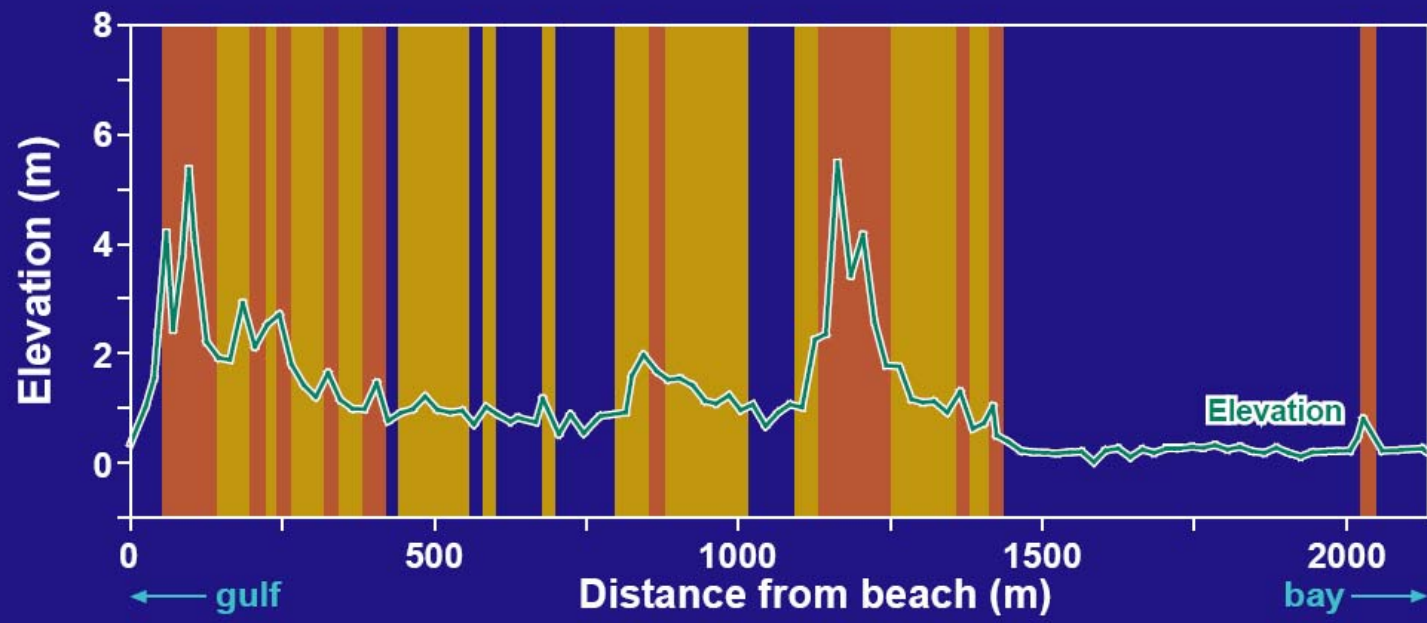
1979



2004

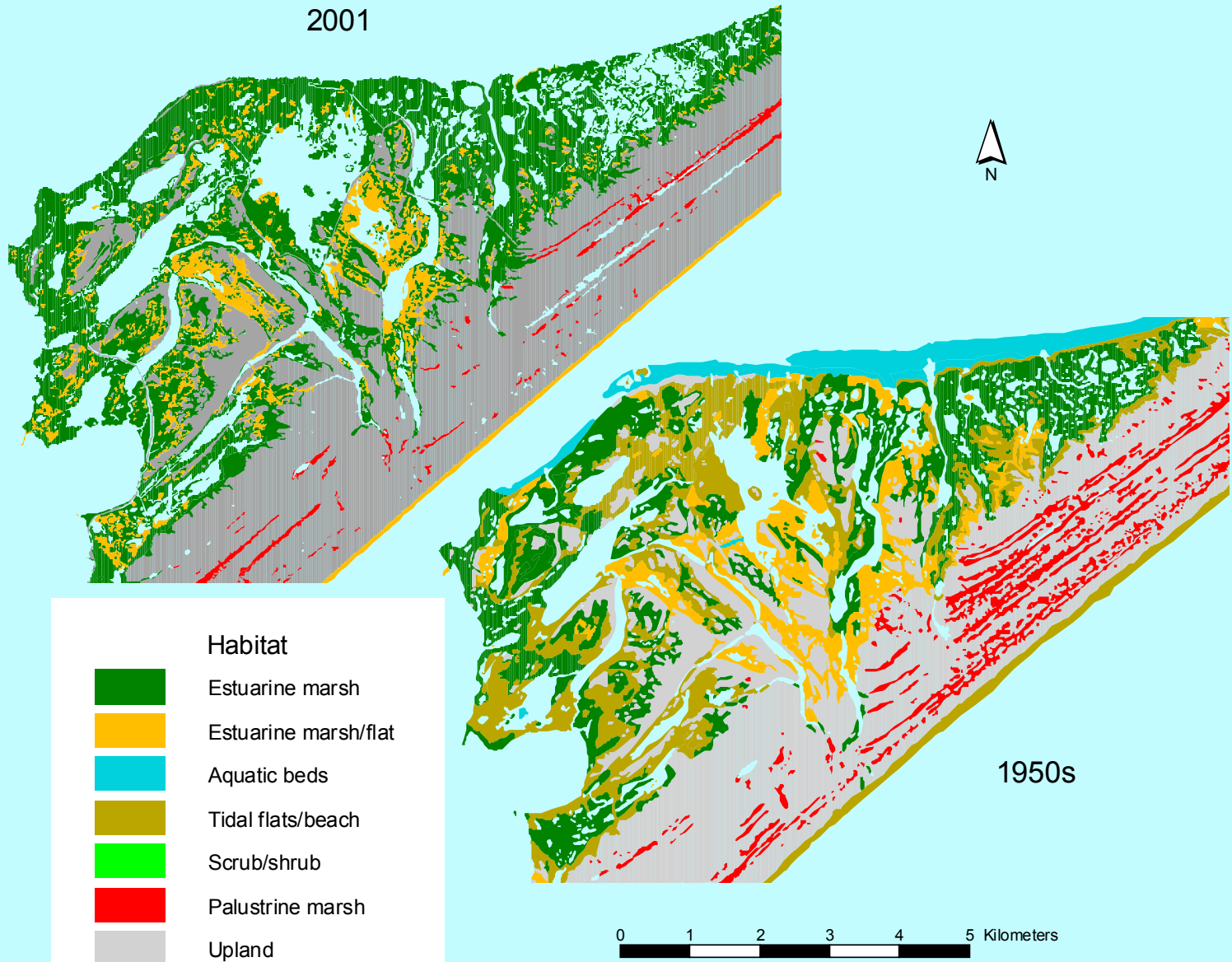


Mustang Island, Texas



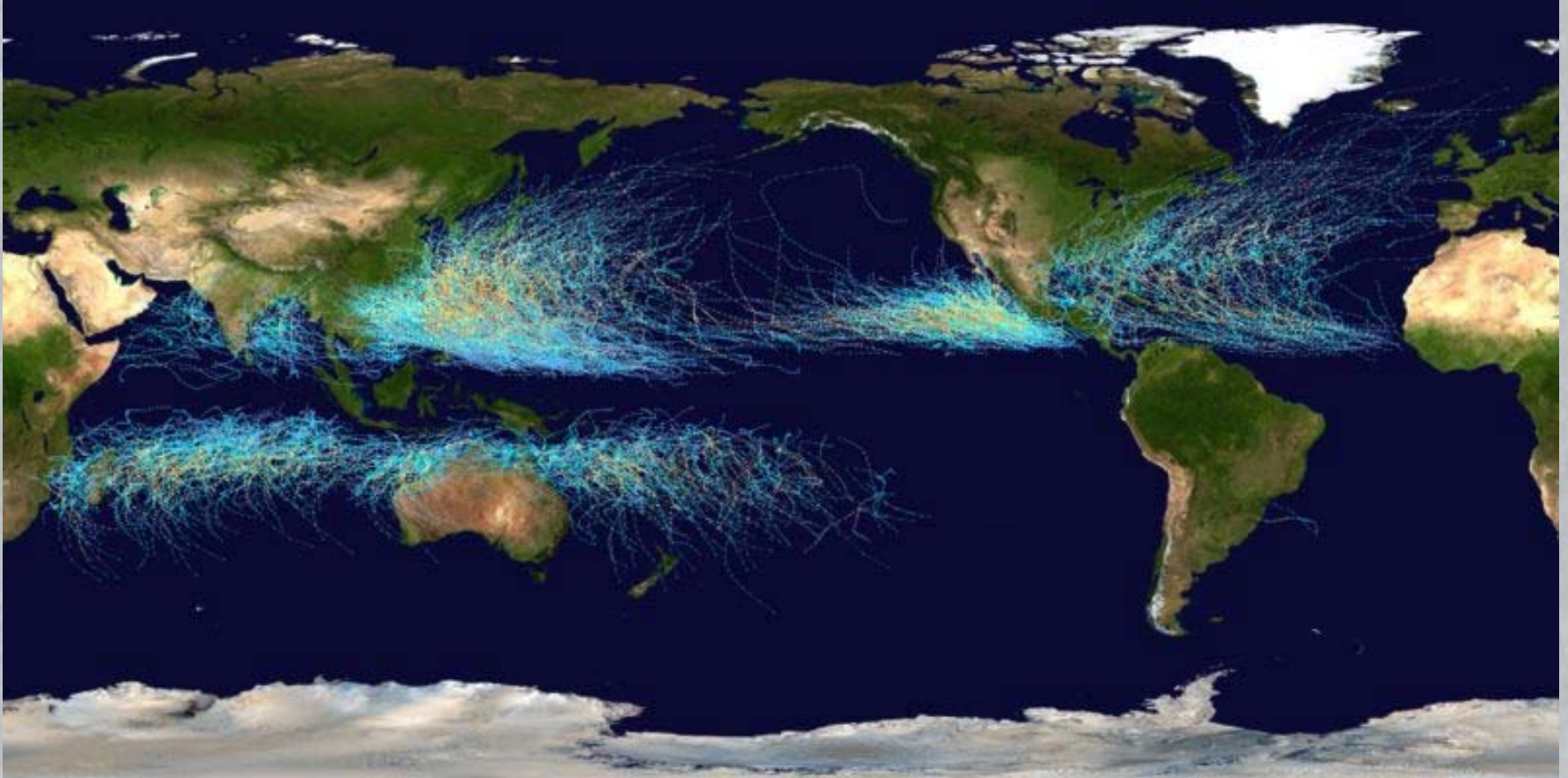
<i>Upland</i>		<i>Fresh marsh</i>		<i>Salt marsh</i>		<i>Tidal flat</i>		
	Dune		High		High		High	 Beach
	VBF		Low		Low		Low	

# Habitat Change Since 1950's



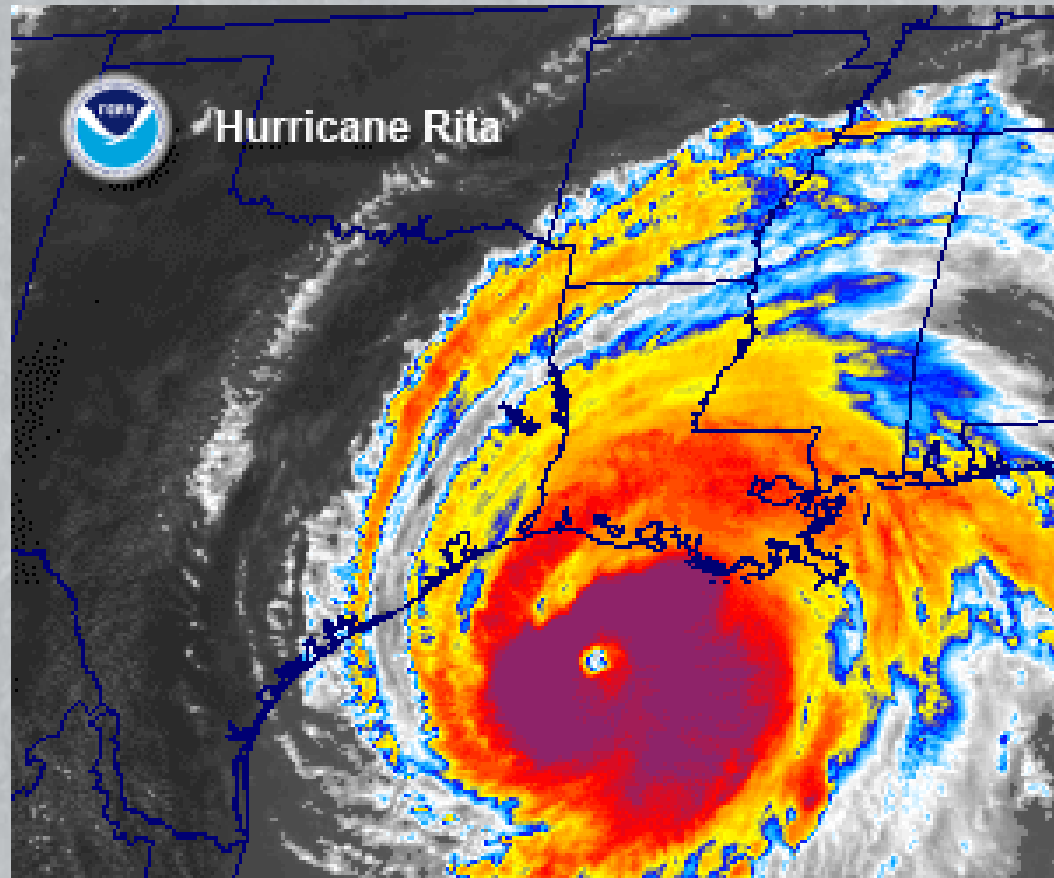


# Global Tropical Cyclones: 20 Years of Tracks (1985 – 2005)



# Coastal Studies Group







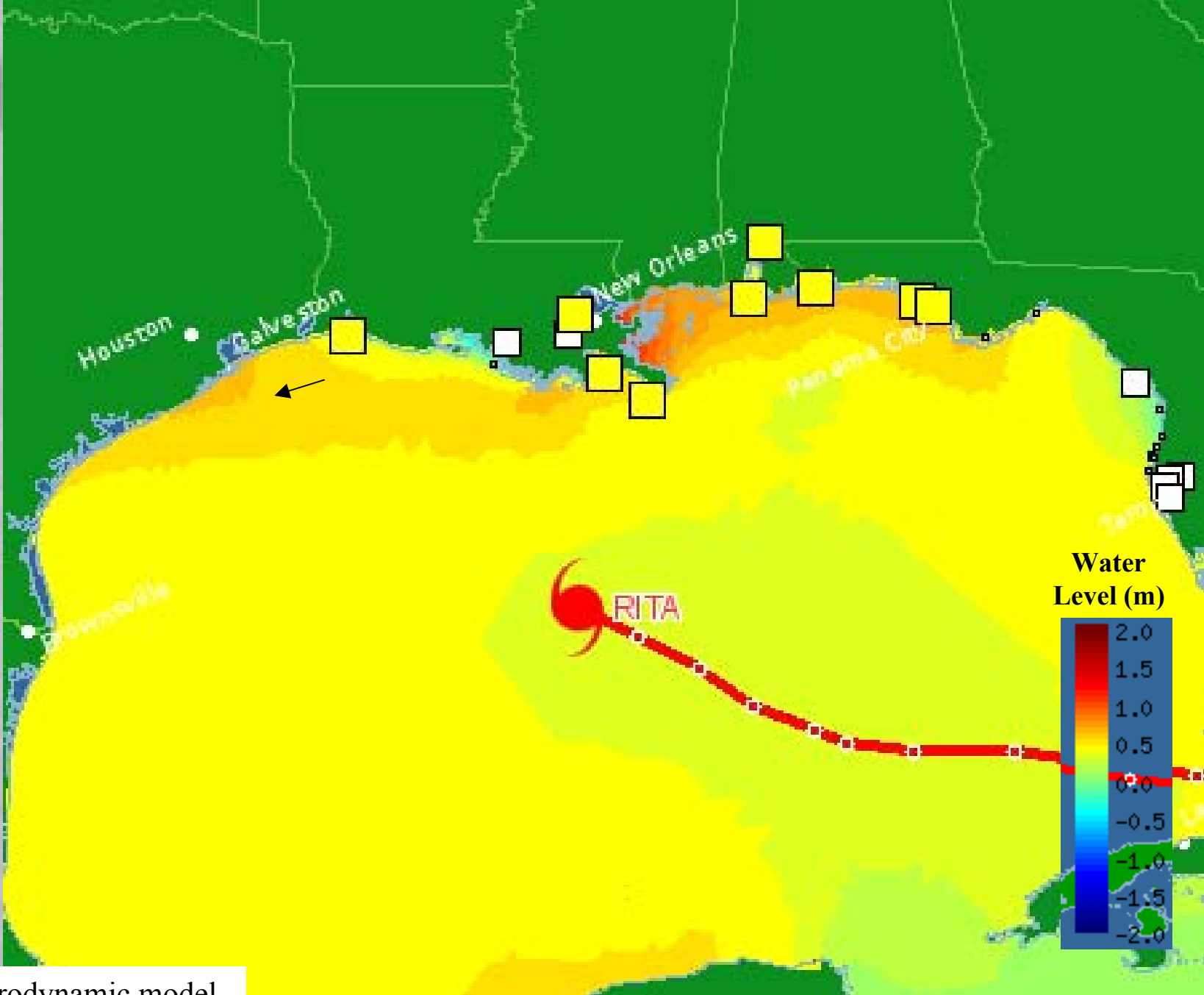
# Modeled Water Level

Wind Direction  
&  
Relative Speed  
Measured at  
offshore buoy  
#42035



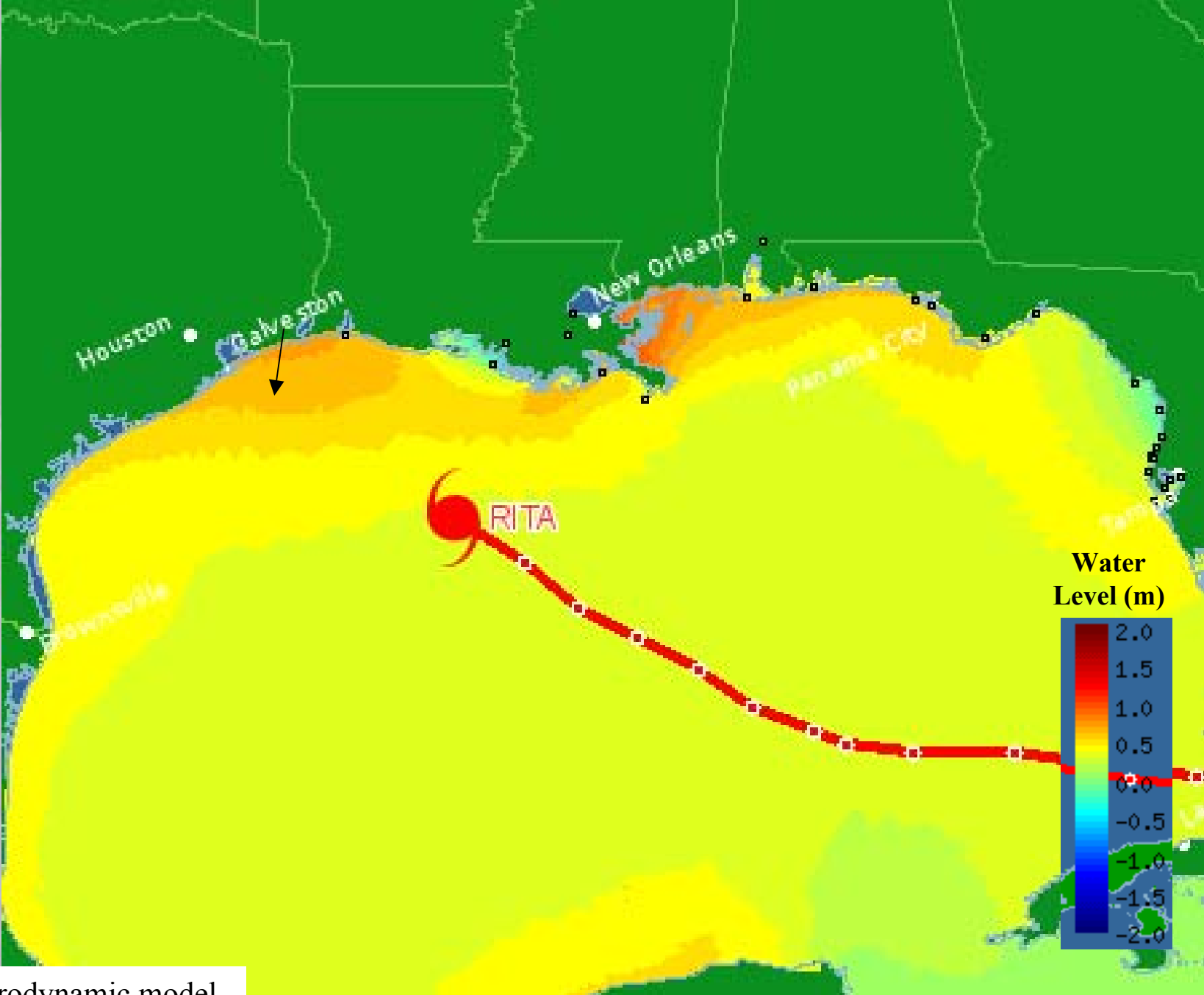


Modeled  
Water  
Level



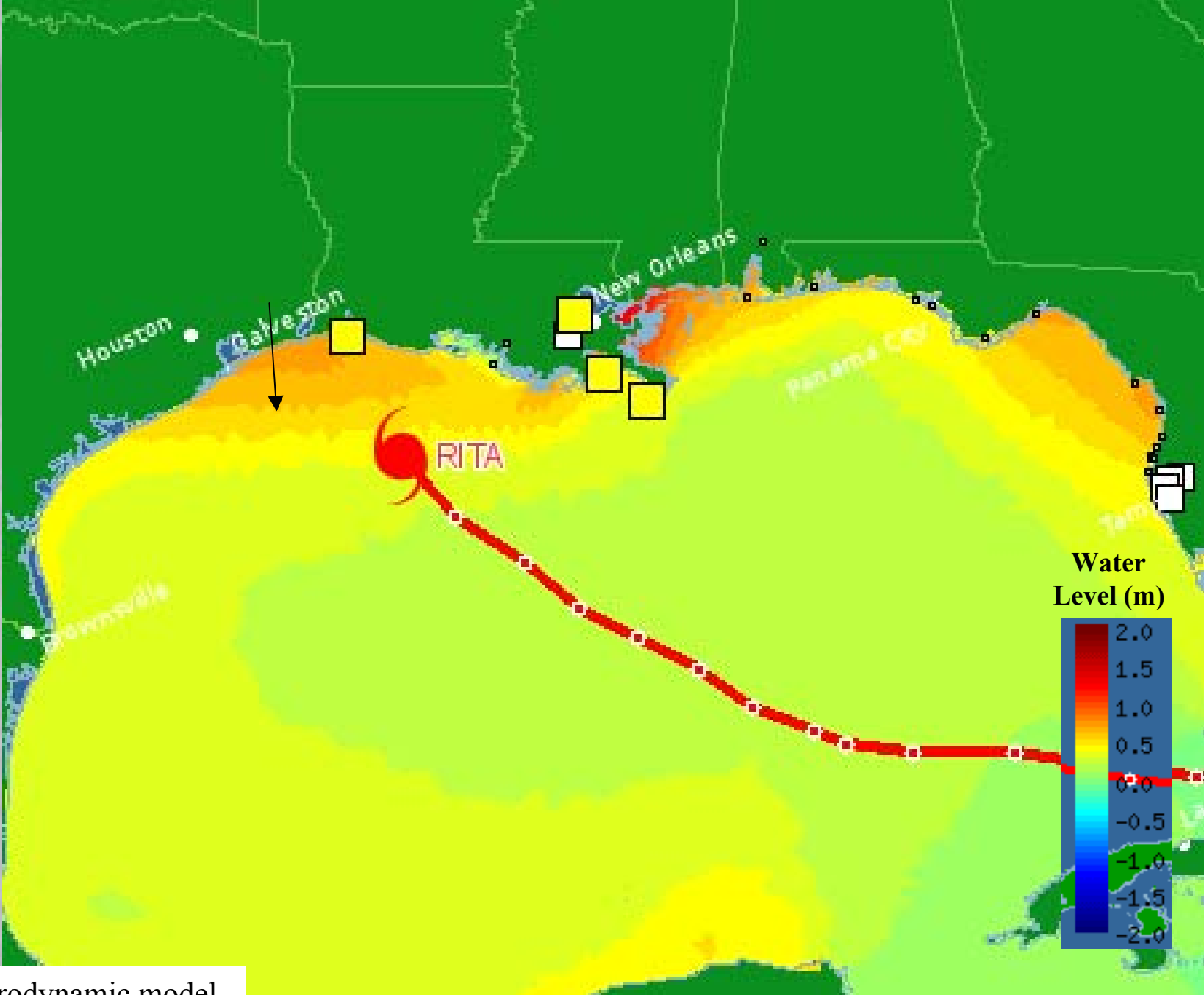


Modeled  
Water  
Level



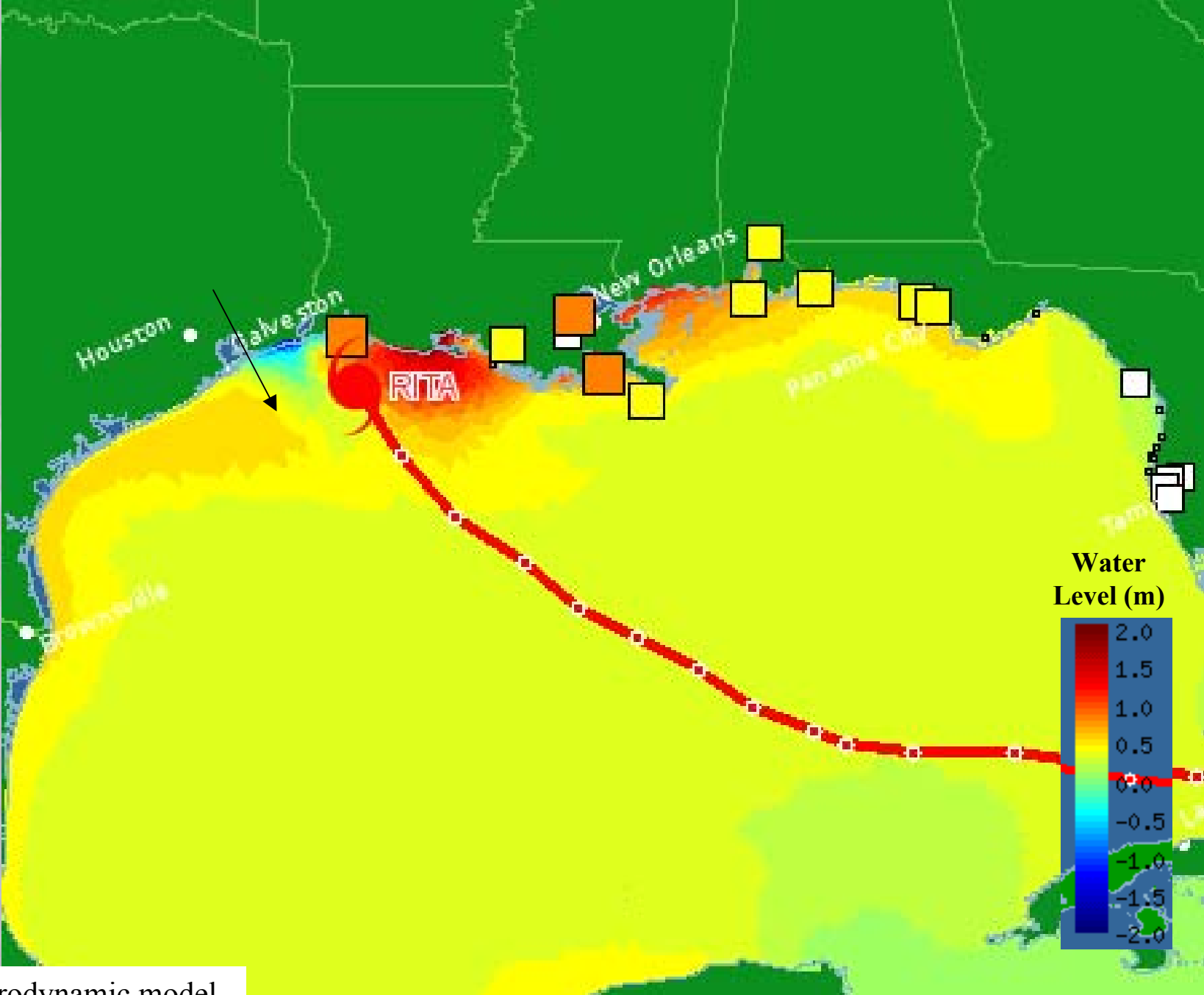


Modeled  
Water  
Level



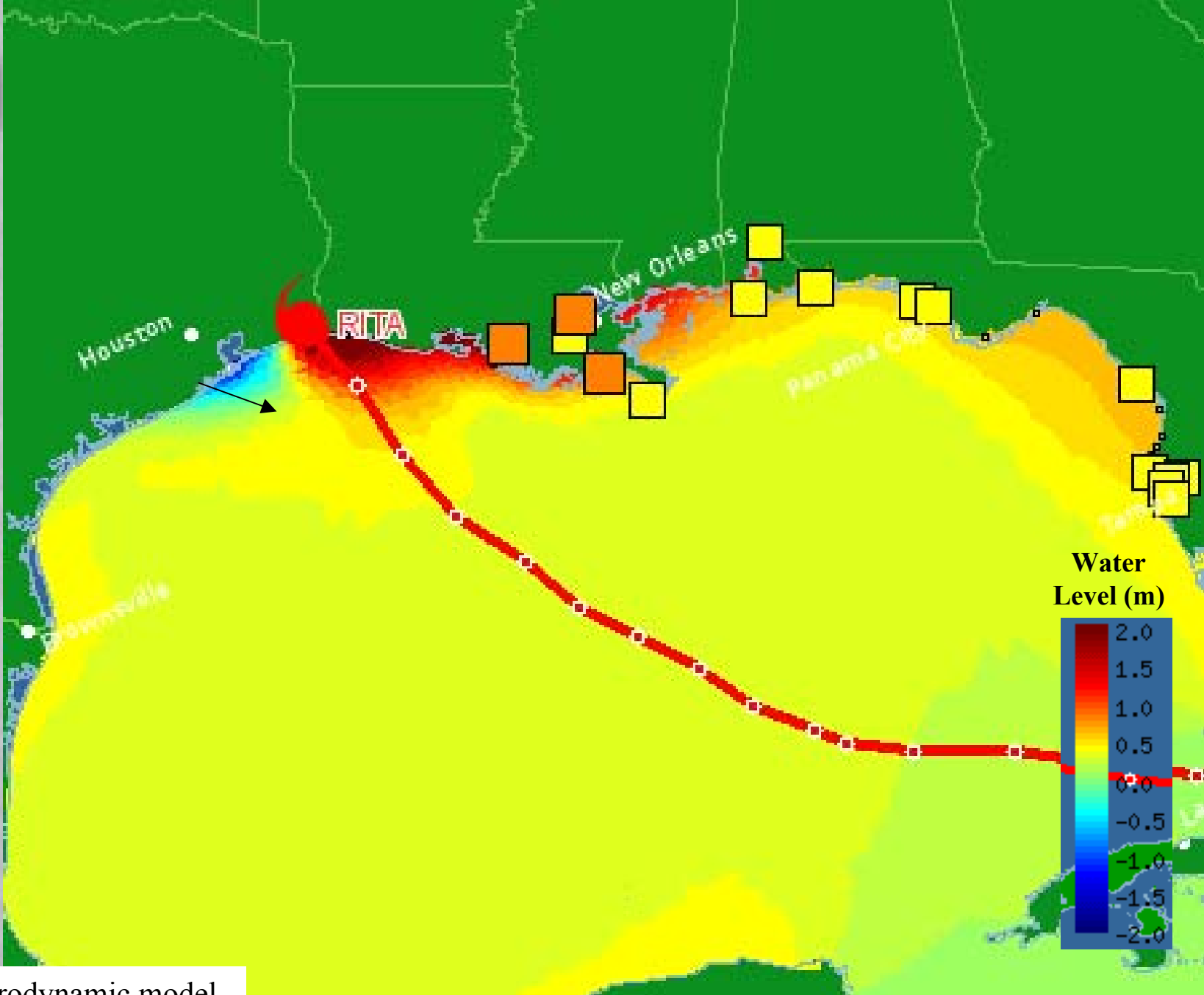


Modeled  
Water  
Level



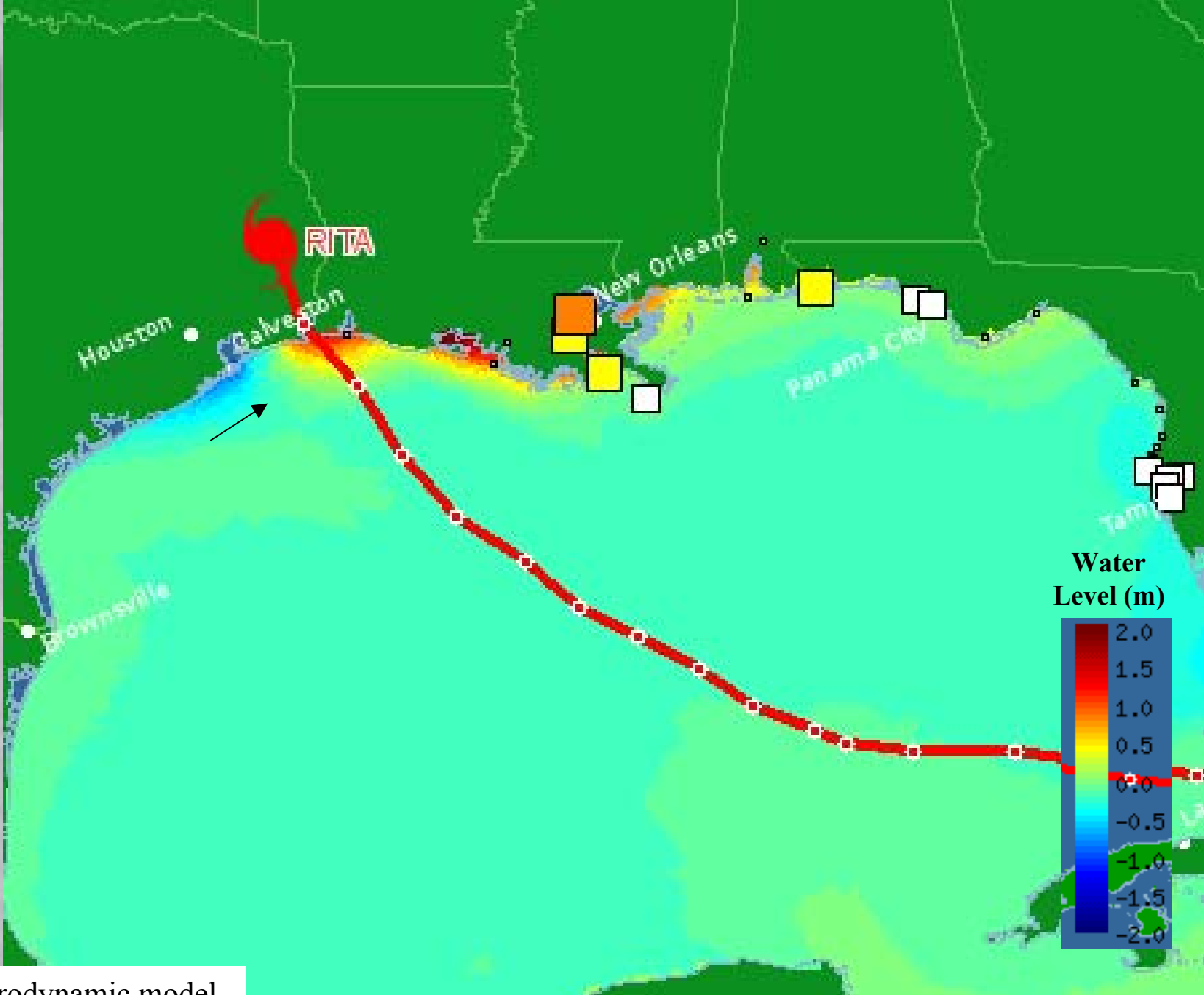


Modeled  
Water  
Level





Modeled  
Water  
Level





Modeled  
Water  
Level



# Shoreline Change Caused by Hurricane Rita September 24, 2005

