An aerial photograph of a coastal region, likely the northern Gulf of Mexico. The land is a mix of green and yellowish-brown, indicating vegetation and possibly agricultural or developed areas. The water is a deep blue, with some lighter green areas near the shore, possibly indicating shallow water or seagrass beds. The sky is a clear, light blue.

# **Numerical Modeling in the Northern Gulf of Mexico in Support of LaCPR and MsCIP**

**Barb Kleiss and Ty Wamsley**

**USACE  
Engineer Research and Development Center**

# Team Effort

**C. Cerco, R. Chapman, M. Cialone, M. Dortch, B. Jensen, S. Kim, P. Luong, M. Noel, A. Sleath, J. Smith, M. Zakikhani; USACE ERDC (EL and CHL)**

**J. Ratcliff; USACE MVN**

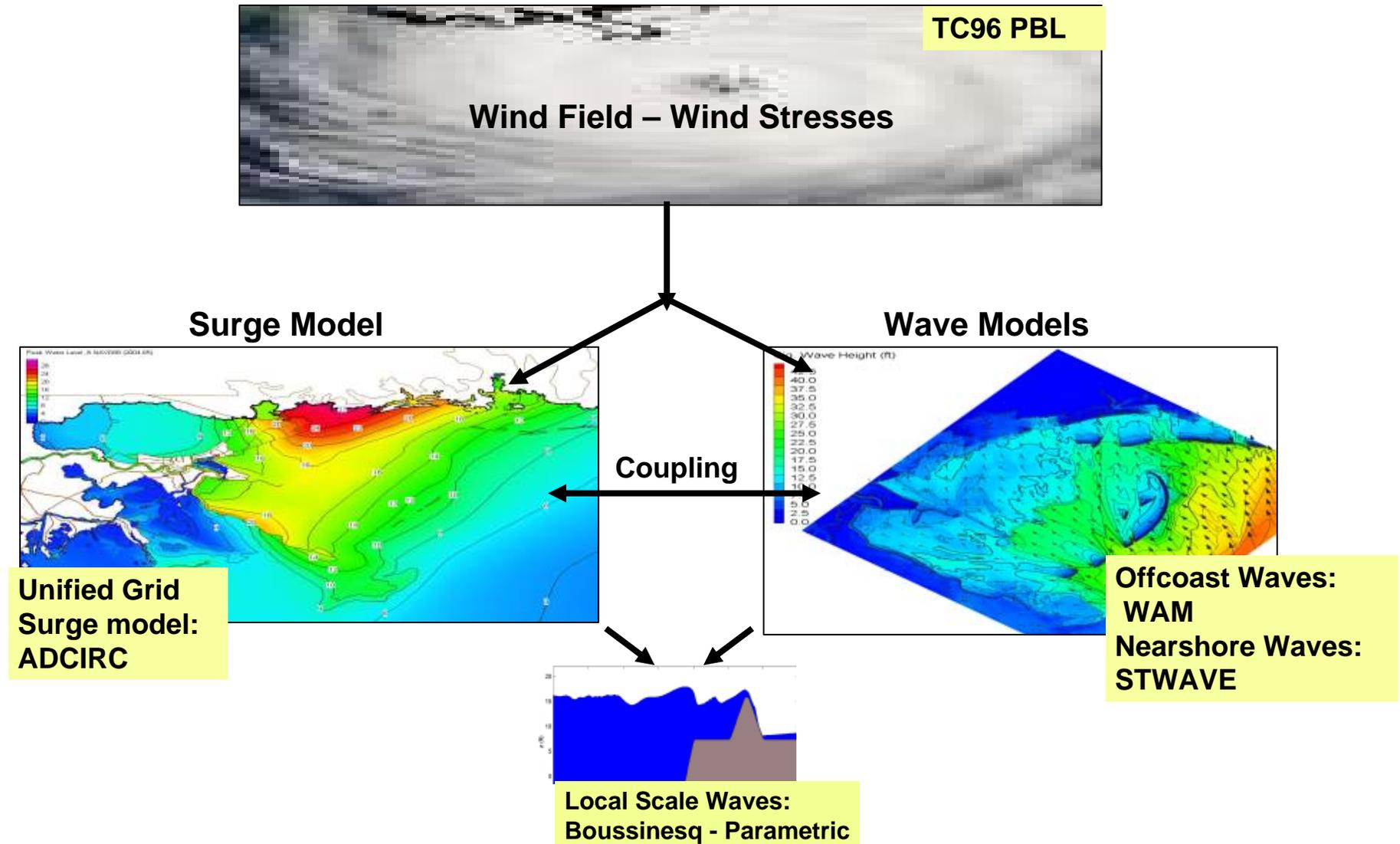
**J. Westerink; University of Notre Dame**

**J. Atkinson; Ayres Associates**

**Brady Couvillon, USGS**

**Robert Twilley, Louisiana State University**

# Modeling Methodology



# ADCIRC Grid Domain

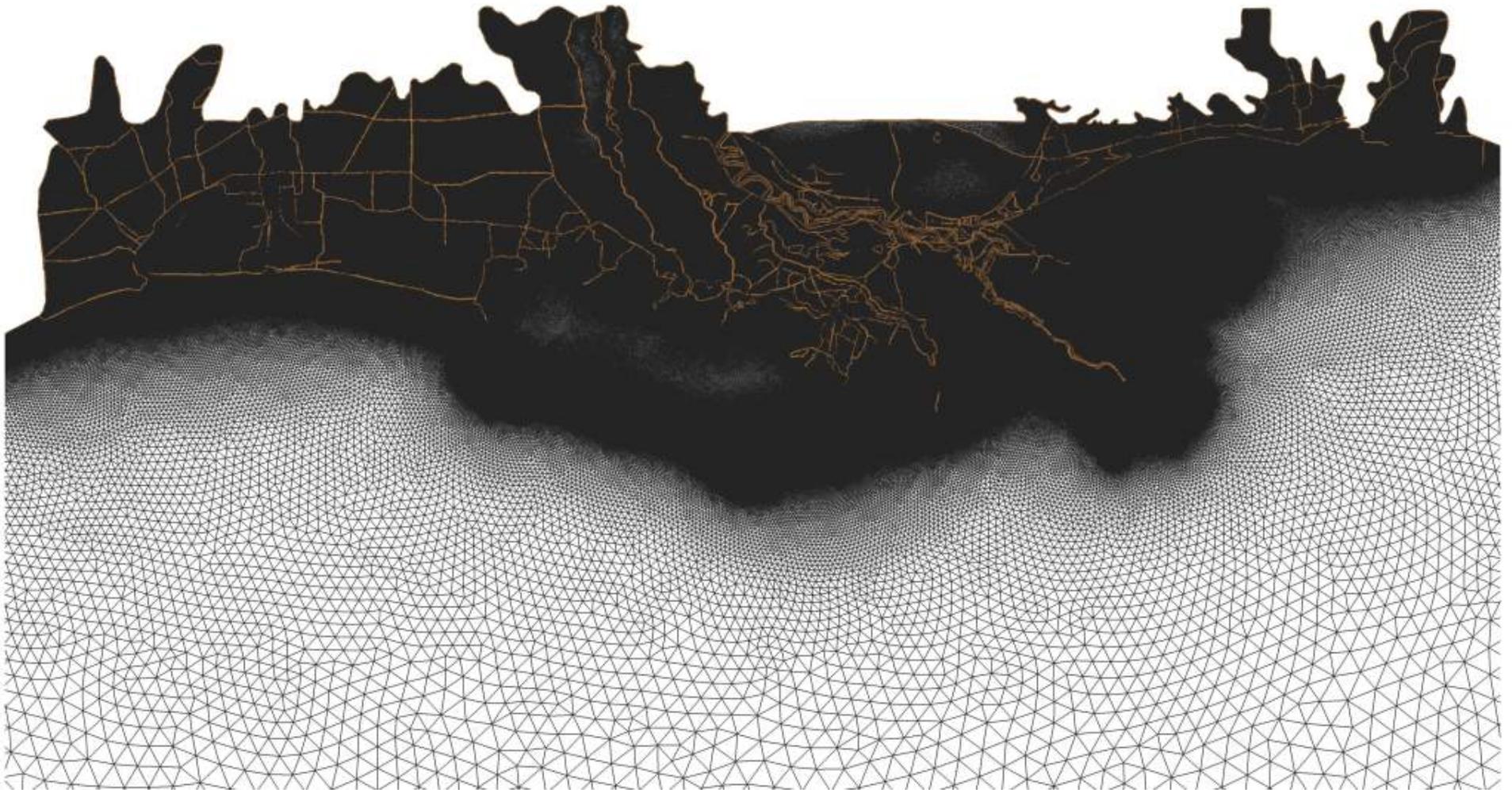
LaCPR and MsCIP

WAM Model Domain

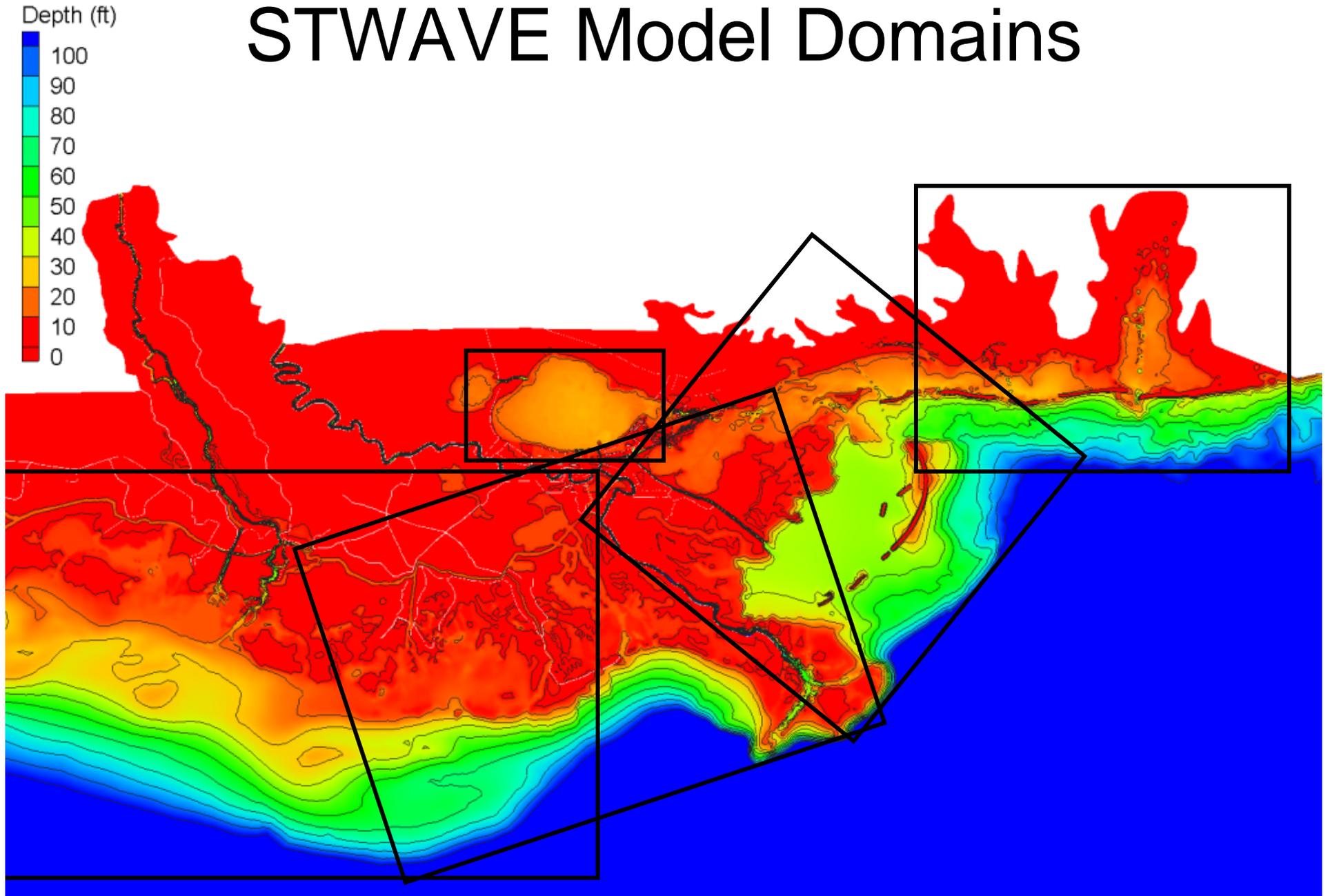


# ADCIRC Grid

## Louisiana and Mississippi



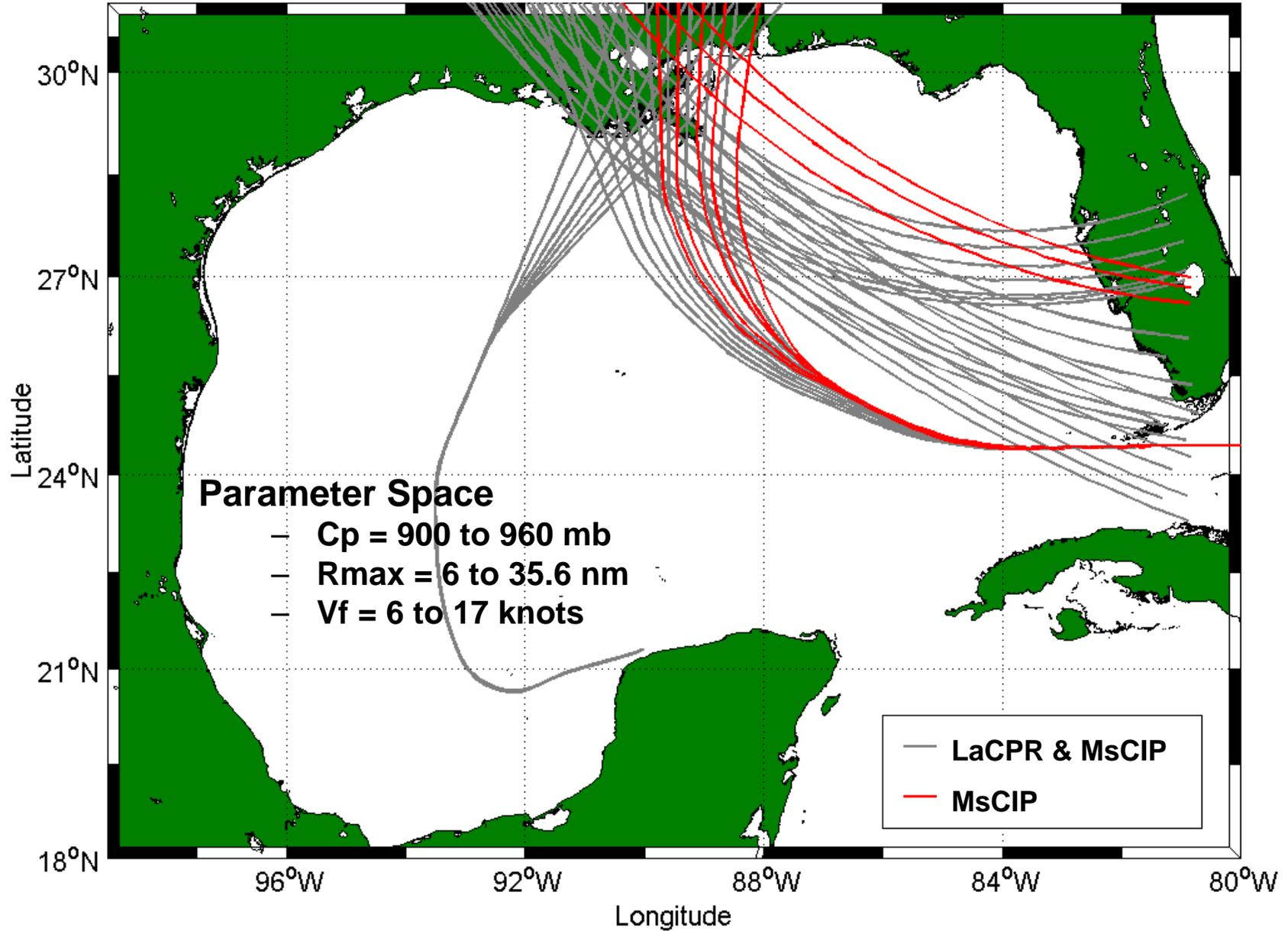
# STWAVE Model Domains



# LaCPR and MsCIP Models and Input

- Wind Model (TC96)
- Surge Model (ADCIRC)
- Offshore Wave Model (WAM cycle 4.5)
- Nearshore Wave Model (STWAVE)
- Base Conditions – Same grids for all models
- Storms – 152 identical storms

# Storms



# MsCIP – FEMA Region 4 Coordination

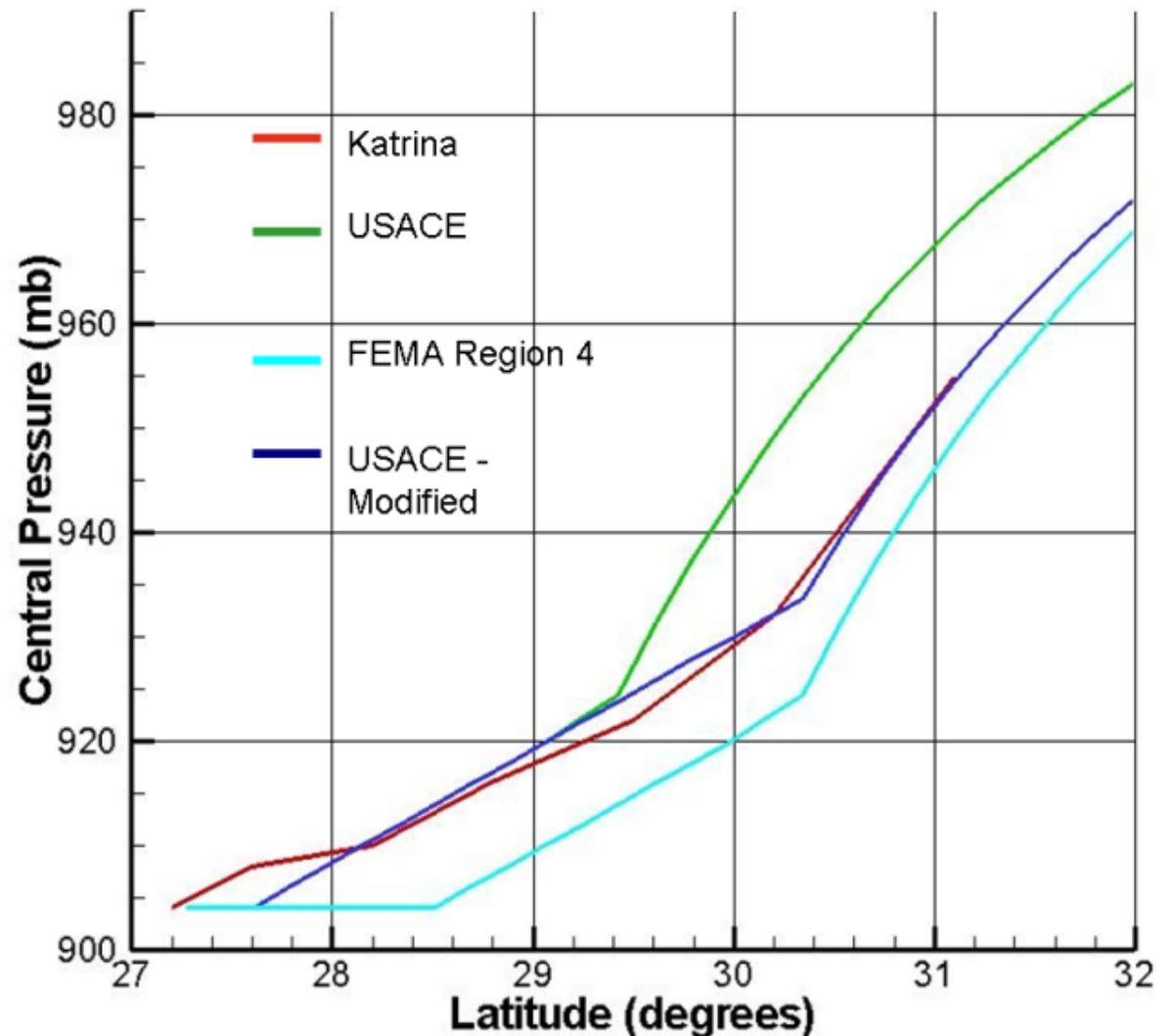
- Wind Model (TC96)
- Surge Model (ADCIRC)
- Offshore Wave Model (WAM cycle 4.5 / WAM OWI)
- Nearshore Wave Model (STWAVE / SWAN)
- Same ADCIRC grid east of the Mississippi river
- **Different storms** and implementation of JPM-OS statistical methodology

# MsCIP – FEMA Region 4 Coordination

- Different Storms
  - Parameter space
  - Tracks
  - Landfall filling

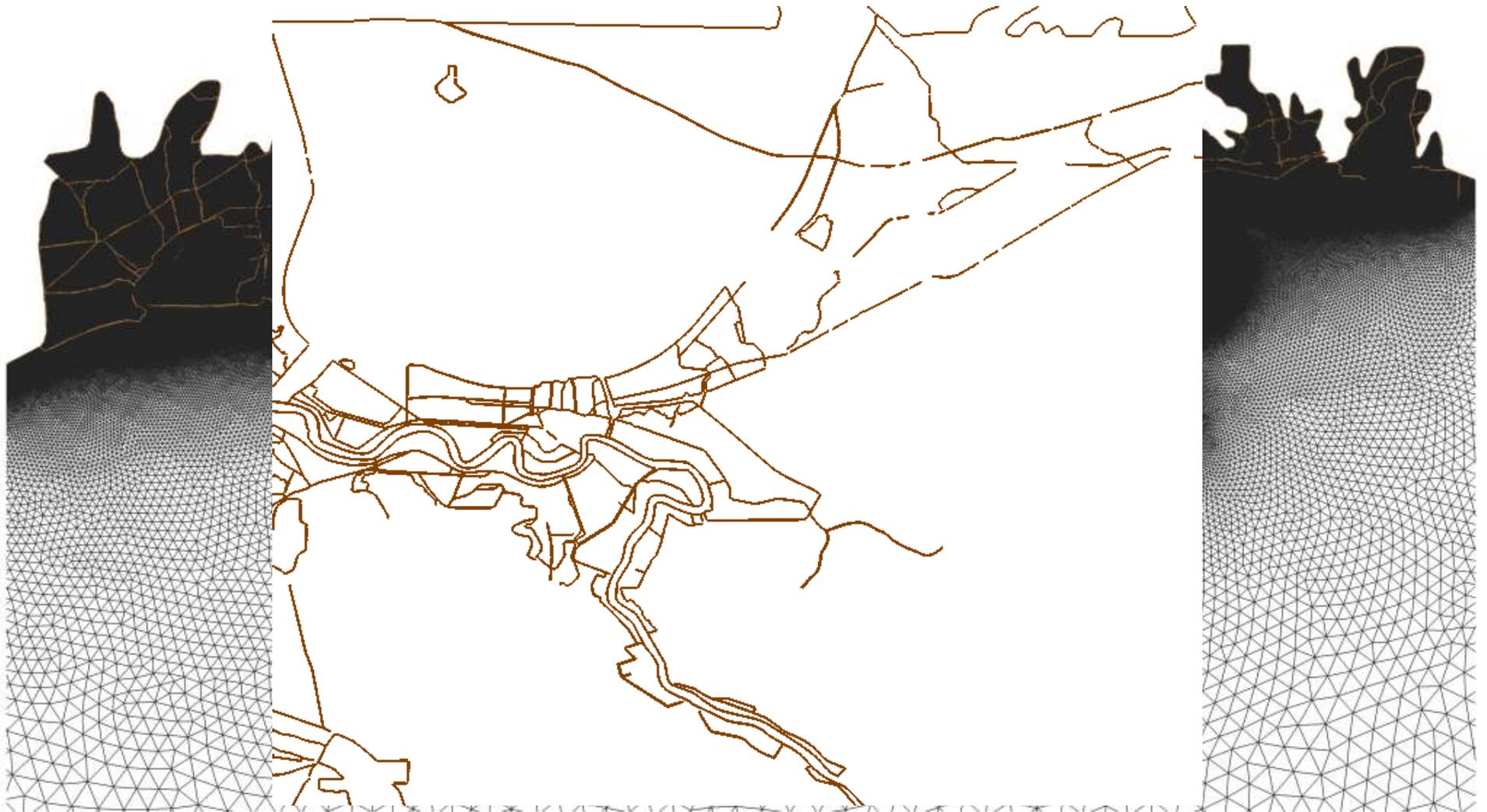
Impact greatest on  
Mississippi coast

Blending algorithm  
used for consistency  
between FEMA  
Regions 4 and 6

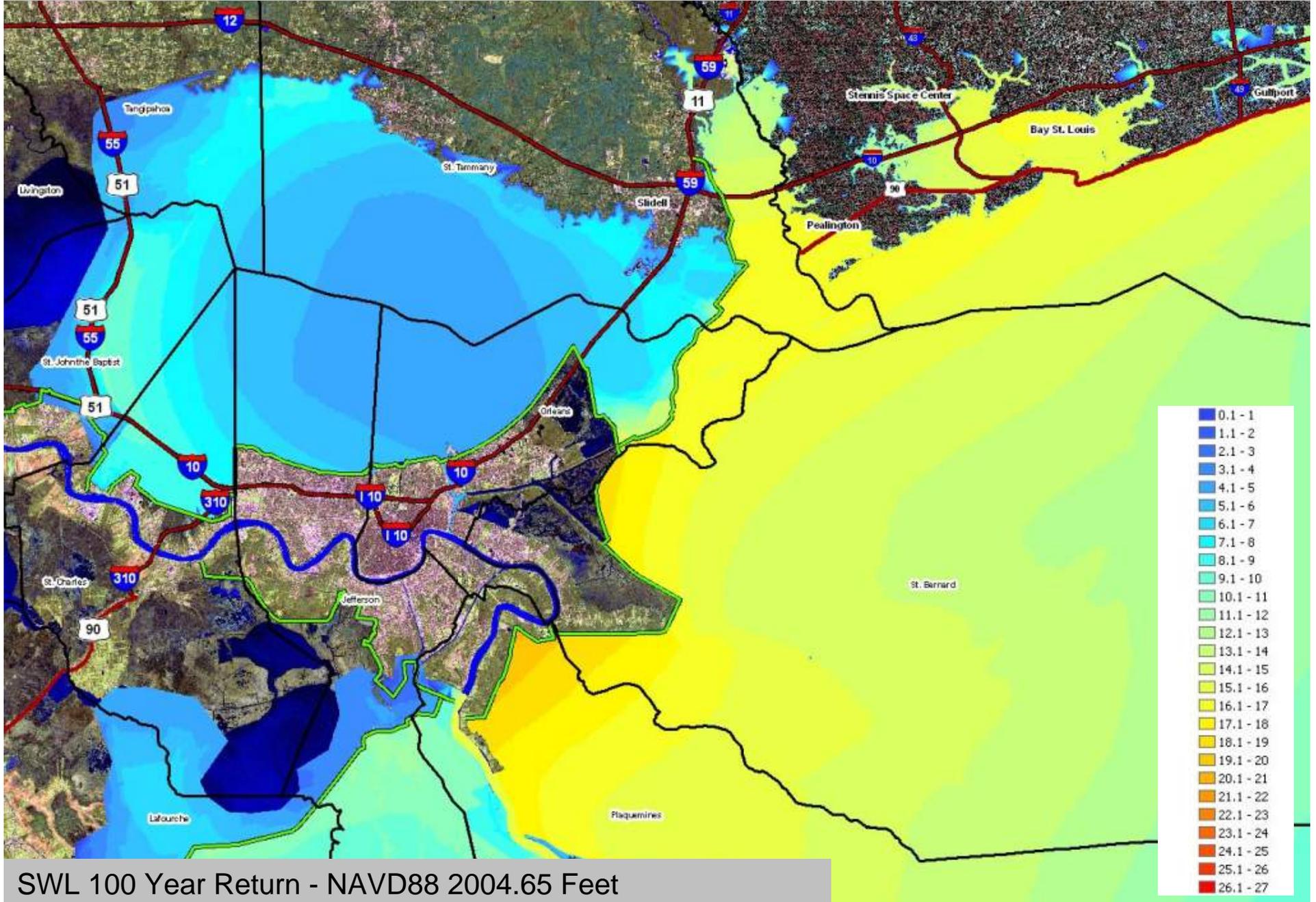


# ADCIRC Grid

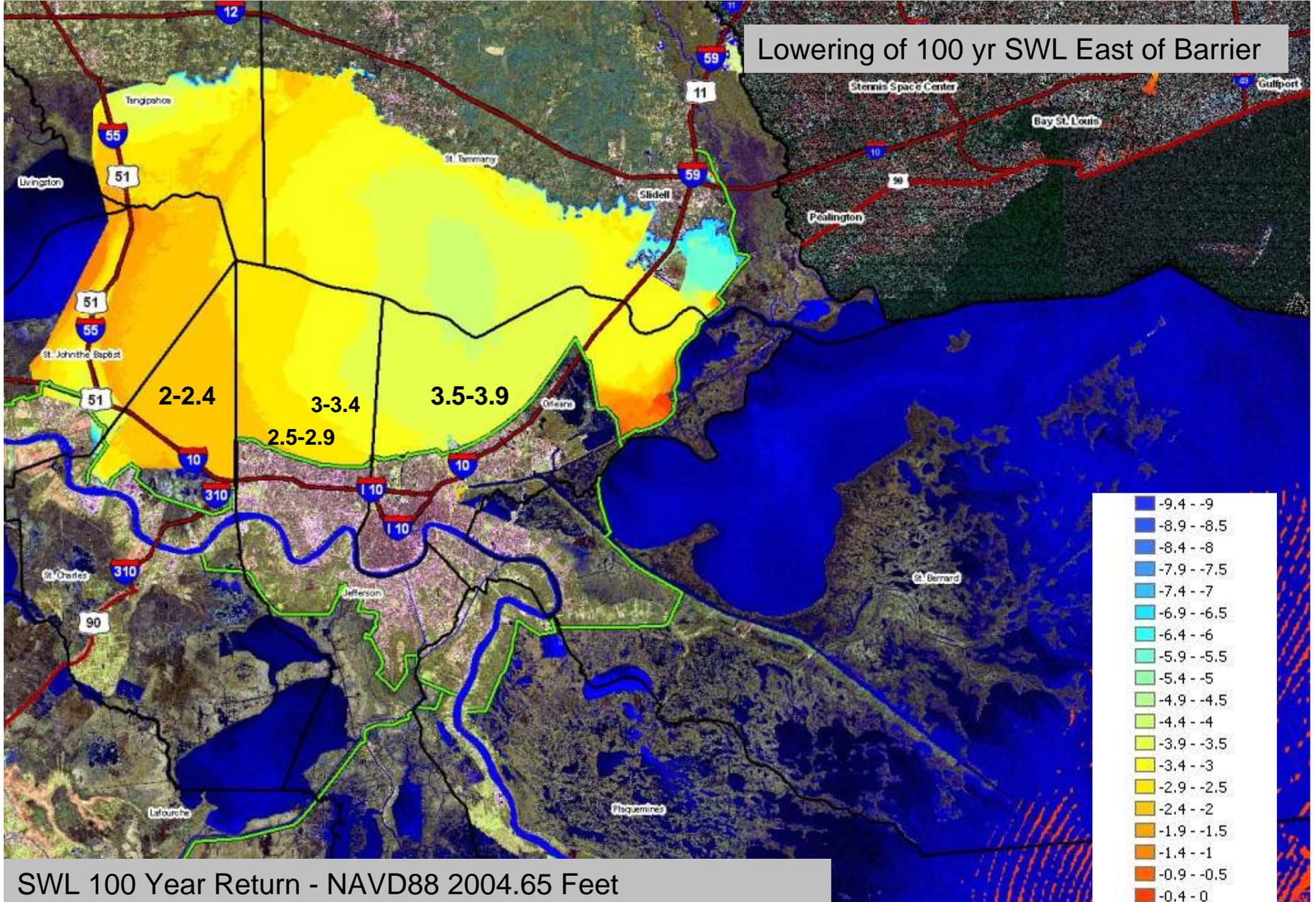
## Louisiana and Mississippi



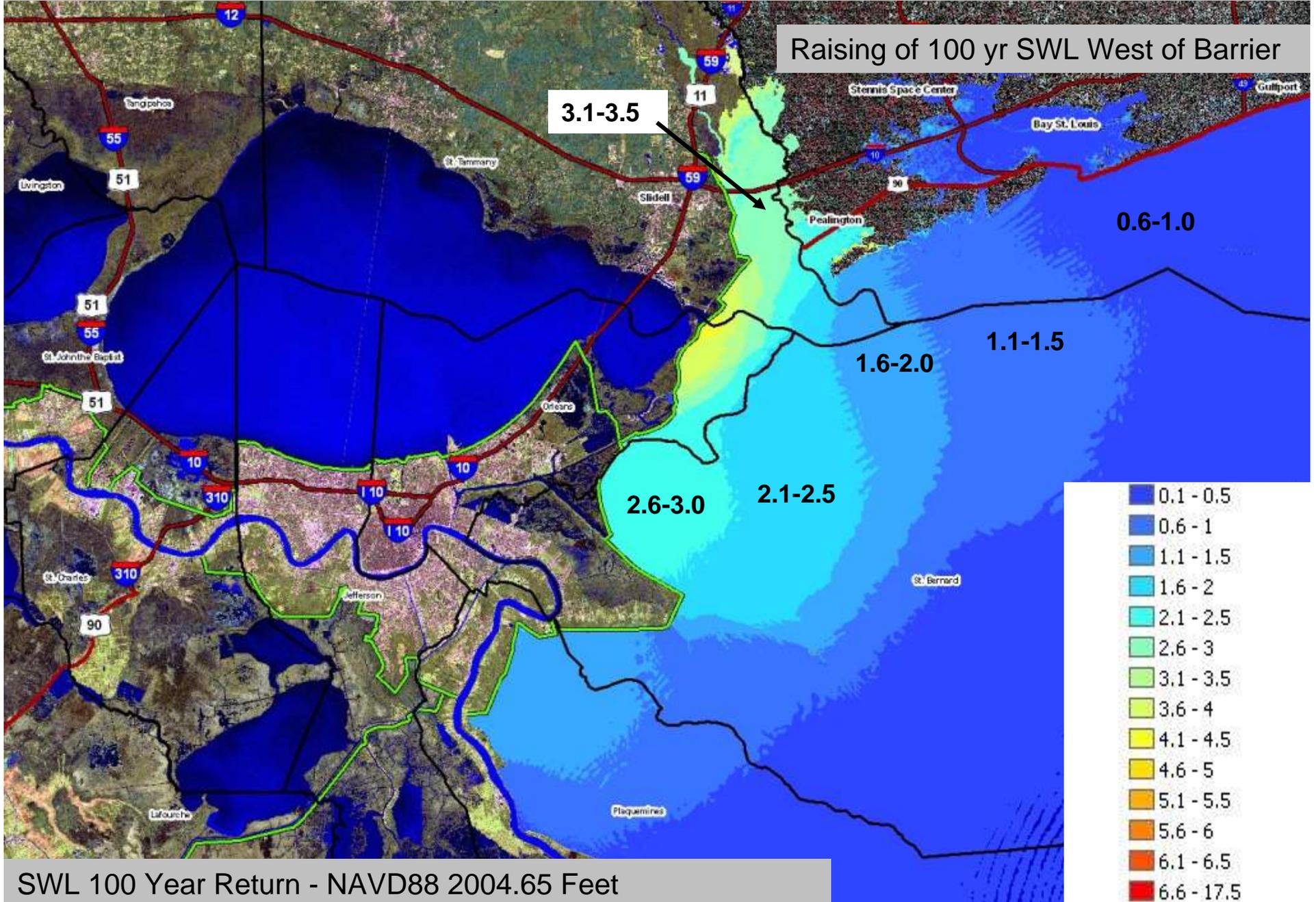
# LACPR EB Barrier Conditions



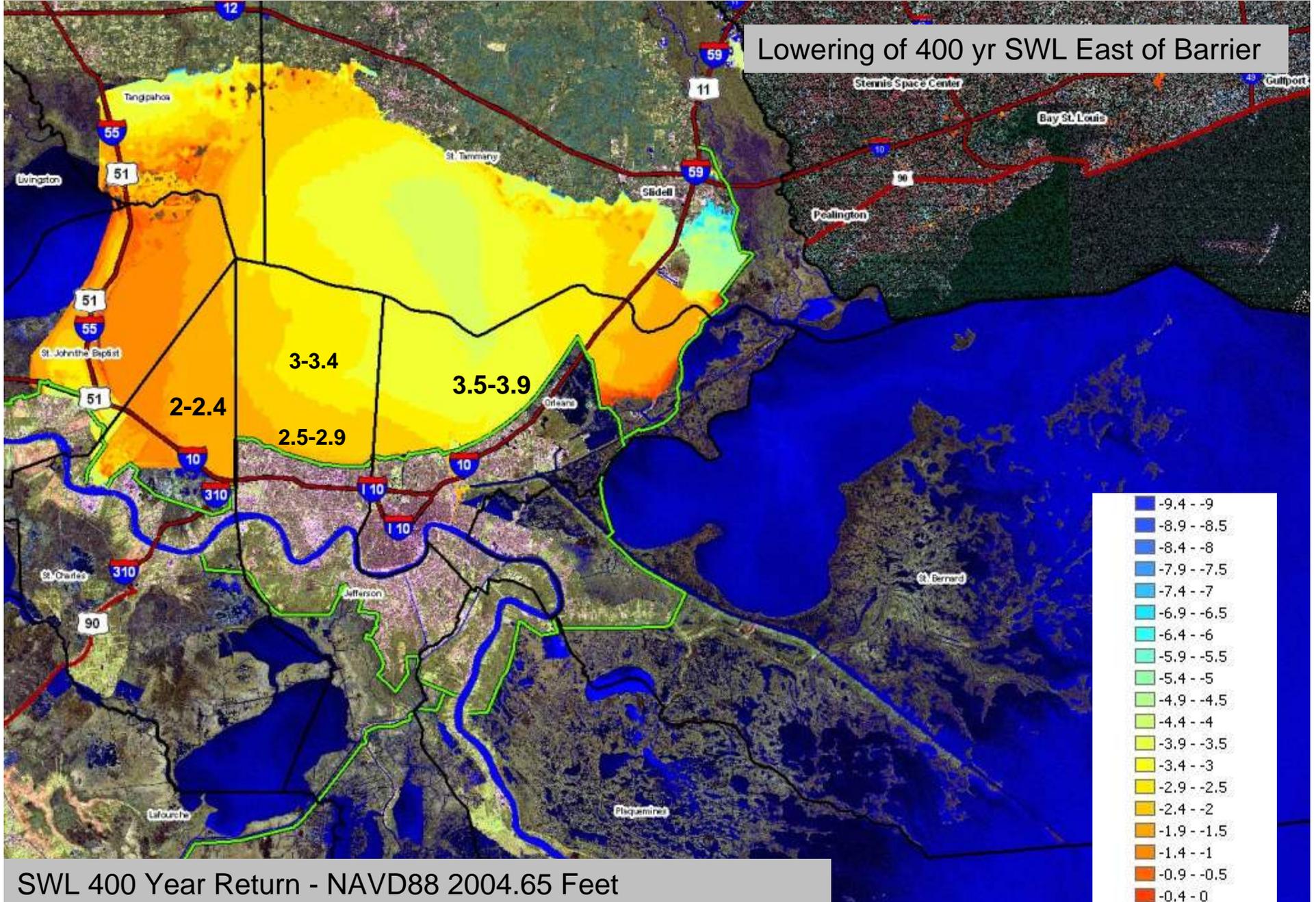
# LACPR EB Barrier Conditions Minus 2010 Conditions



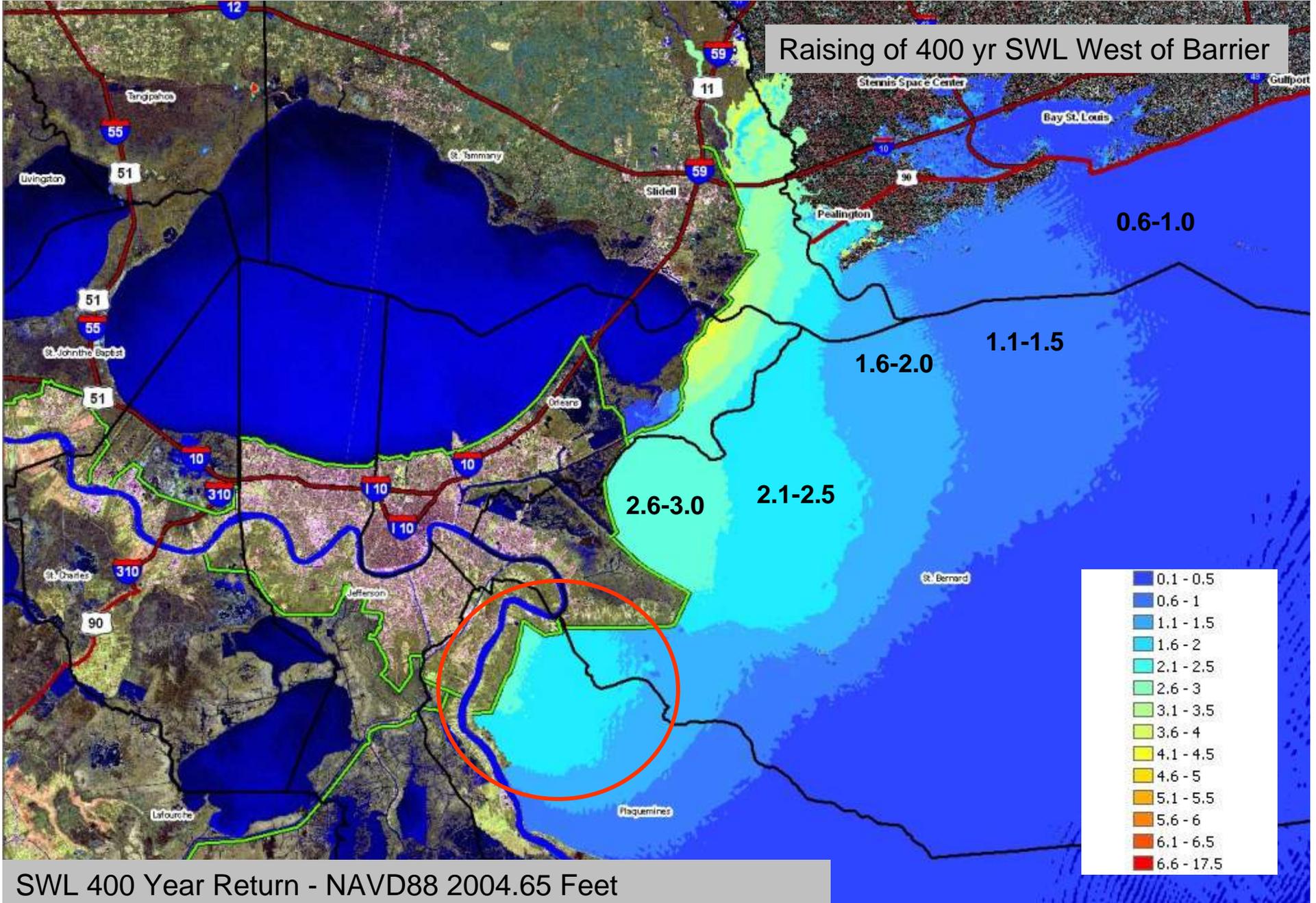
# LACPR EB Barrier Conditions Minus 2010 Conditions



# LACPR EB Barrier Conditions Minus 2010 Conditions



# LACPR EB Barrier Conditions Minus 2010 Conditions



# Structural Alternatives

- Base Conditions: LaCPR = MsCIP
- LaCPR Alternatives → MsCIP Base
- MsCIP Alternatives → LaCPR Base
- However, a combination of alternatives across the region can be modeled together.

# Storm Surge and Wetlands

- Complicated Dynamics preclude application of simple “rules of thumb” (i.e. X miles of marsh reduces surge by Y feet)
  - Storm track
  - Storm intensity
  - Surrounding topography/bathymetry
  - Vegetation type
- Modeling is a tool for qualitative and/or semi-quantitative evaluation of the surge reduction potential of coastal restoration features.

# Storm Surge and Wetlands

- Purpose: Assess the potential of coastal restoration features for reducing storm surge and waves for hurricanes with varying intensity.
- Trends and relative performance.

# Storm Surge and Wetlands

## Why the limitations?

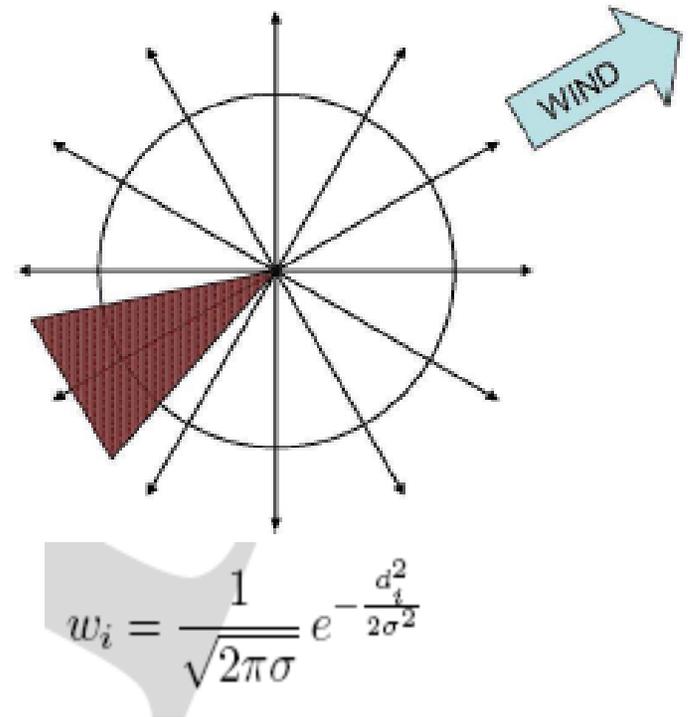
- New application of the model and area of active research.
  - Complicated physics
  - Representation of physical system
  - Friction factors
- Very limited data.
  - Need to fund research for field and laboratory studies

# Storm Surge and Wetlands

- Considered:
  - Bathymetry and topography modify storm surge and waves.
  - Vegetation reduces surface winds and slows surge propagation .
- Not Considered:
  - Changes to the landscape that occur during storms passage (ie vegetation stripped, land mass eroded)
  - Changes in the structure of the hurricane itself due to landfall infilling phenomenon that may be influenced by landscape features

# Parameterizations of Frictional Resistance

- Wind Reduction
  - Winds in ADCIRC and STWAVE are reduced to account for higher surface roughness through a directional land masking procedure



Roughness length scales

$$f_r = 0.0706 \left( \frac{z_{0_{marine}}}{z_{0_{land}}} \right)$$

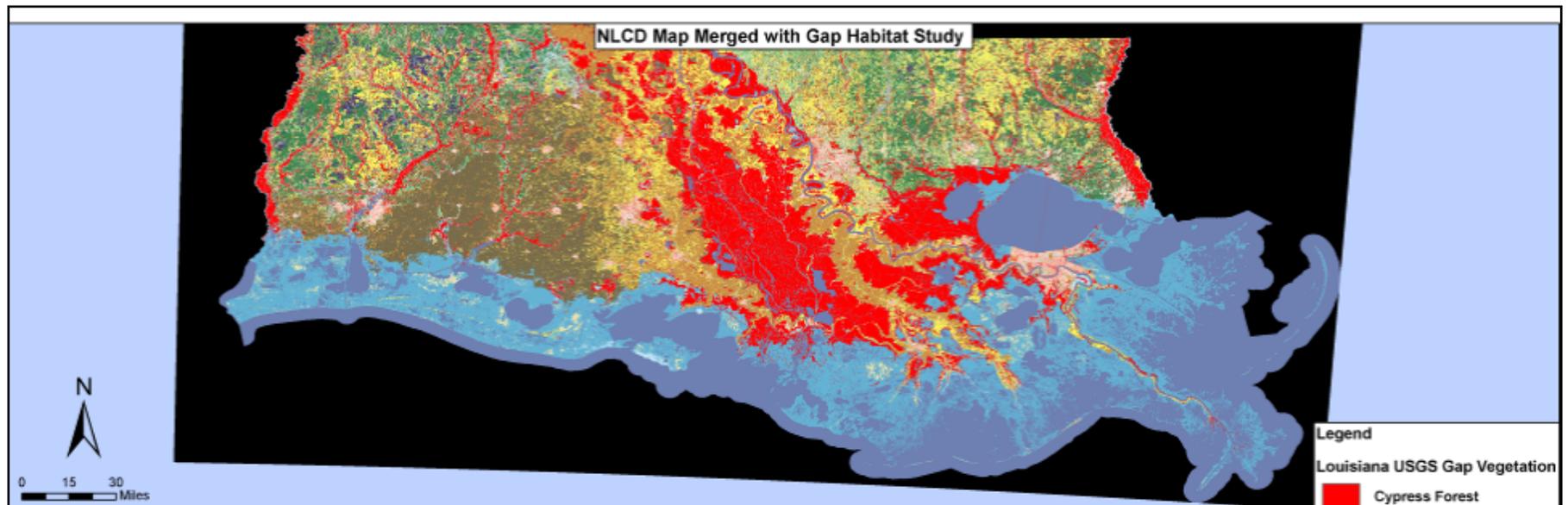
Varies w/land cover and quantified by FEMA-HAZUS study (NLCD)

As inundation takes place, roughness is reduced

$$z_0' = z_{0_{land}} - \frac{d}{30} \quad \text{for} \quad z_0' \geq z_{0_{marine}}$$

# Parameterizations of Frictional Resistance

- Wind Reduction
  - A canopy is applied to areas classified as NLCD/GAP forest precluding momentum transfer from the wind fields to the water column



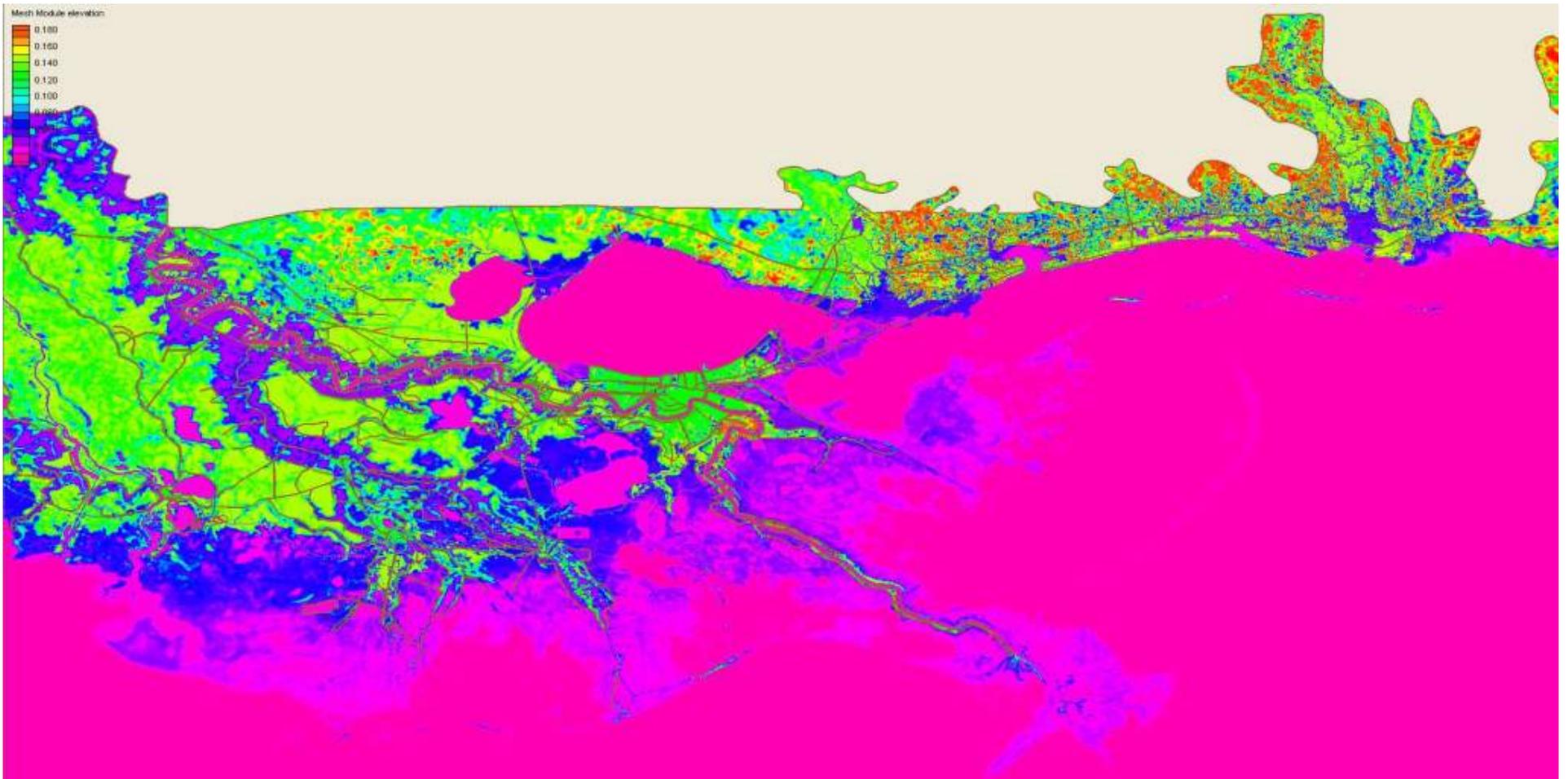
# Parameterizations of Frictional Resistance

- Manning-n scalar parameterization used to approximate flow resistance from a variety of physical mechanisms, including form drag, skin friction, and secondary currents.

Manning-n values for Louisiana GAP classes (FEMA 2005):

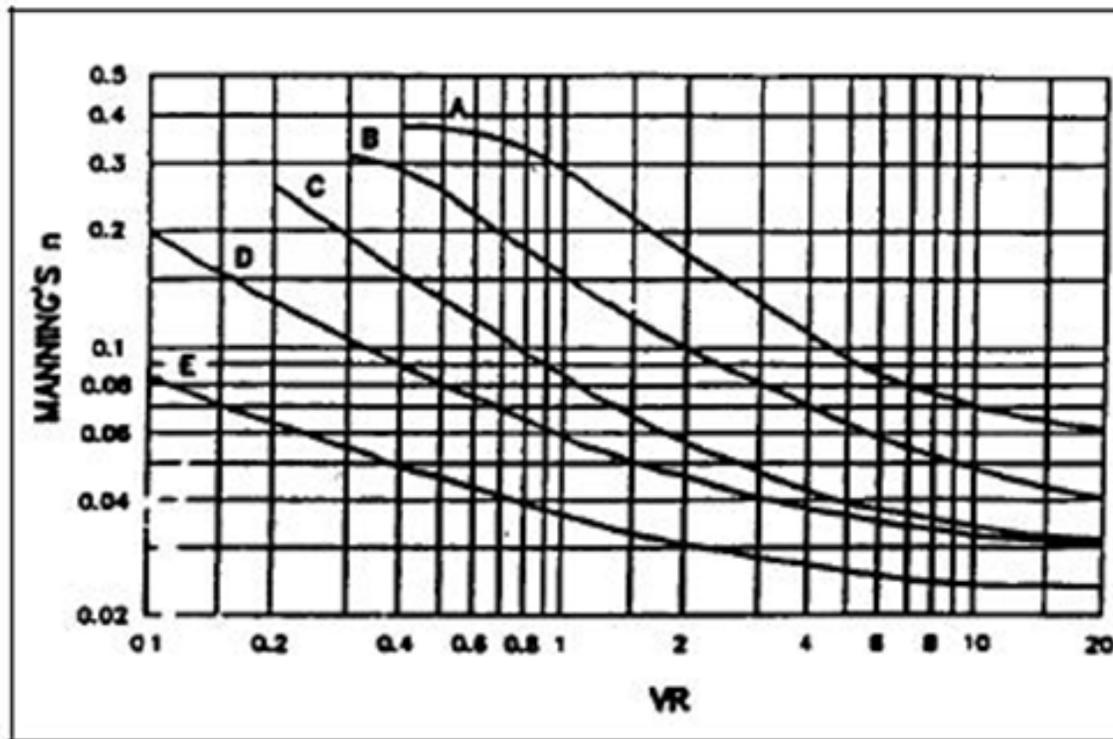
n = 0.055	! fresh marsh	<b>-defined at appropriate grid scale</b>
n = 0.050	! intermediate marsh	
n = 0.045	! brackish marsh	<b>-published values</b>
n = 0.035	! saline marsh	
n = 0.15	! wetland forest - mixed	<b>-validated against hindcasts of hurricanes Katrina and Rita</b>
n = 0.17	! upland forest - mixed	
n = 0.18	! dense pine thicket	
n = 0.020	! water	

# Manning-n Field



# Parameterizations of Frictional Resistance

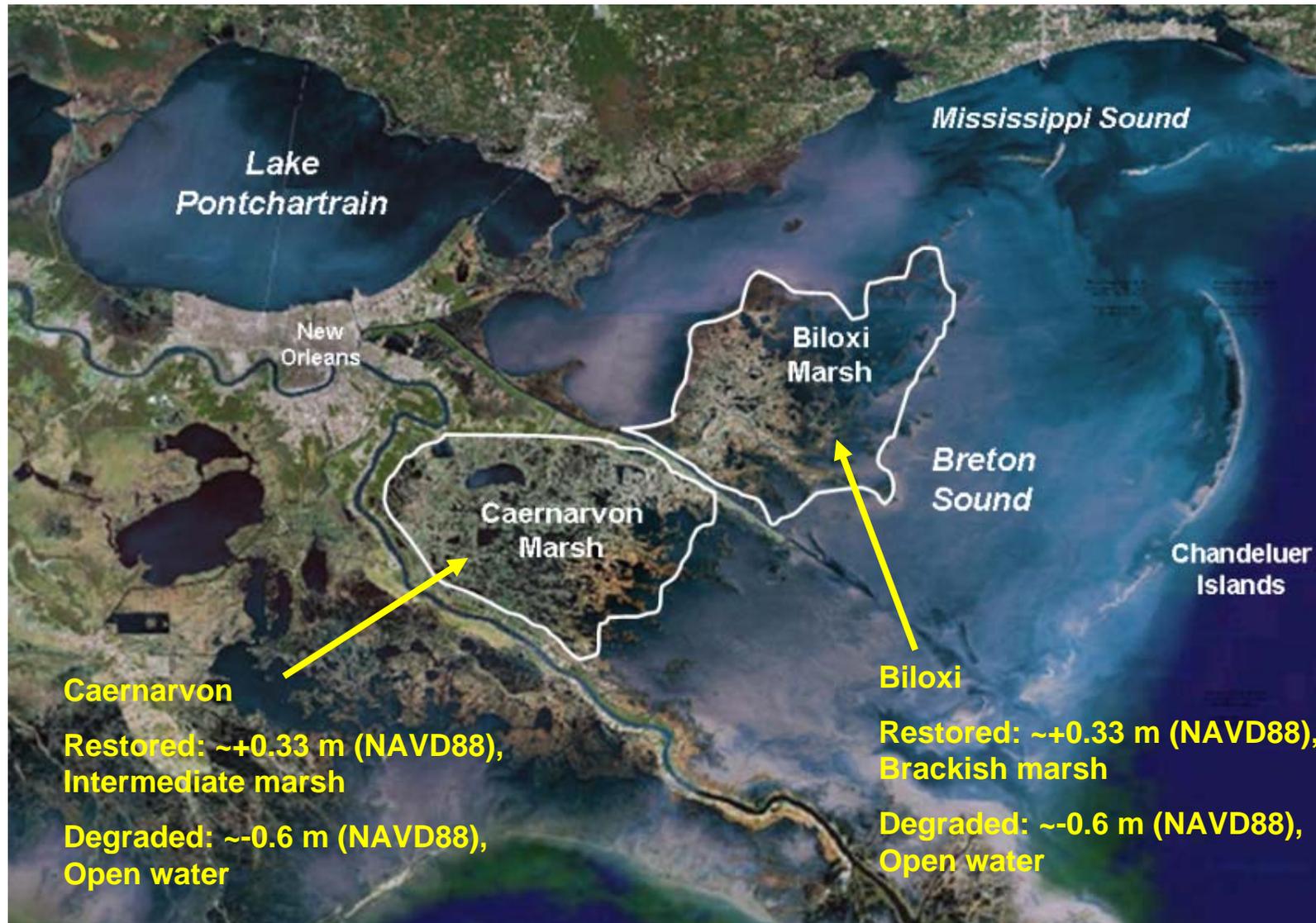
- Factors influencing Manning-n value.



Turbulence  $\uparrow \Rightarrow n \downarrow$   
Veg "damage"  $\uparrow \Rightarrow n \downarrow$   
Modeling a 3D process  
with a depth-integrated  
model??  $\Rightarrow n \downarrow$

More data needed!

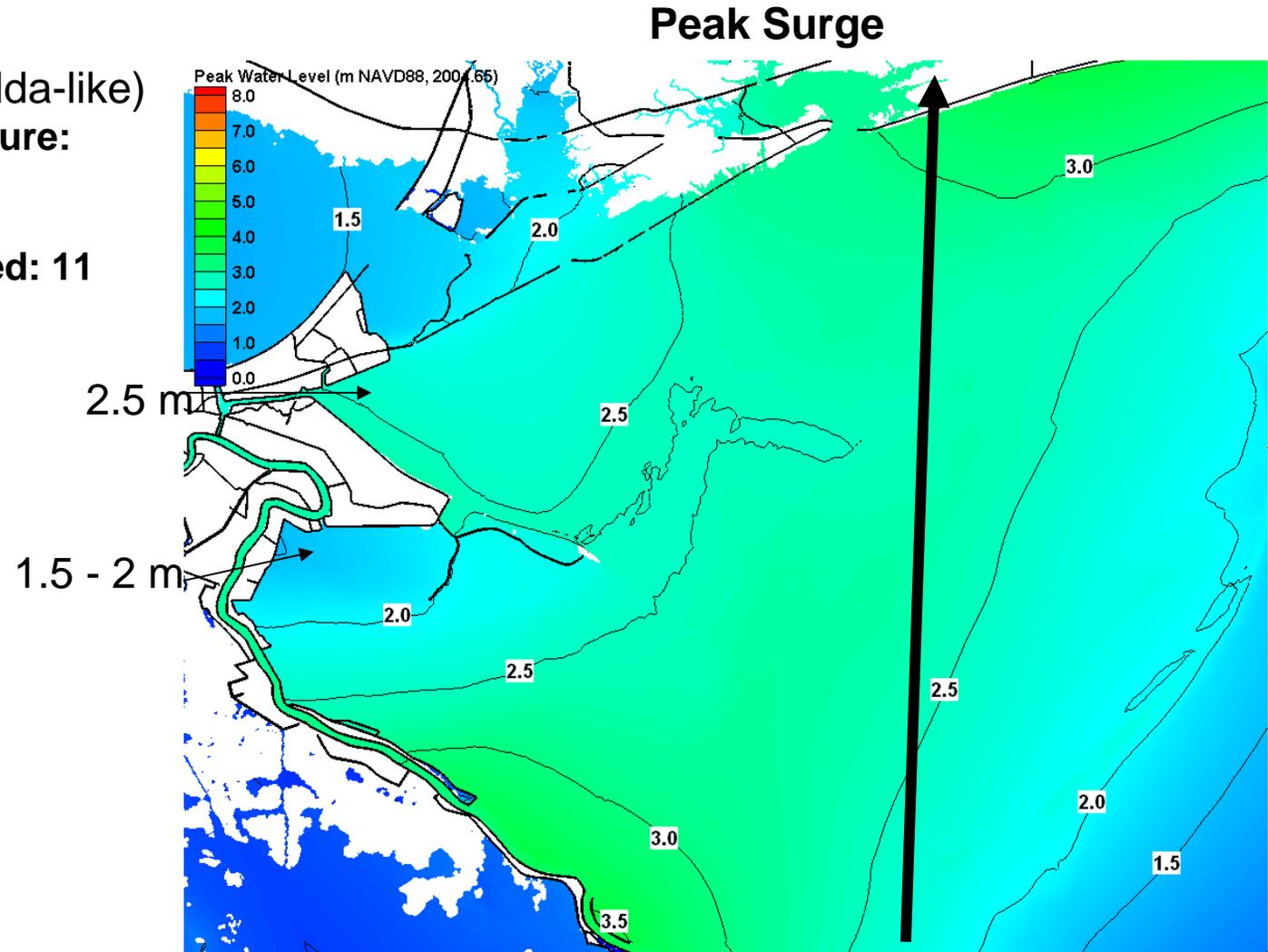
# Wetland Restoration/Degradation



# Storm HUR1

HUR1 (Hurricane Hilda-like)

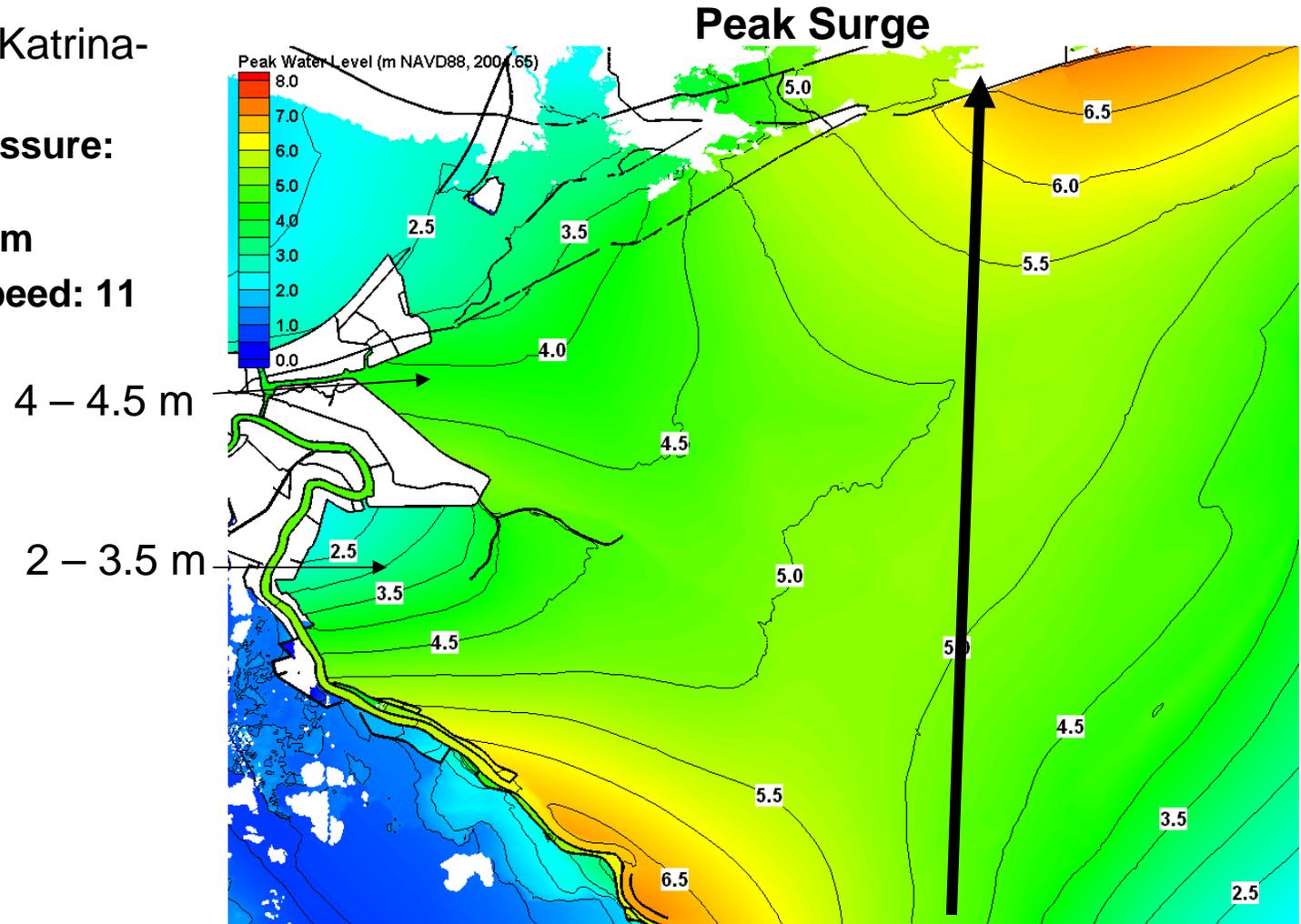
- Central Pressure: 960 mb
- Rmax: 22 nm
- Forward Speed: 11 knots



# Storm HUR2

HUR2 (Hurricane Katrina-like)

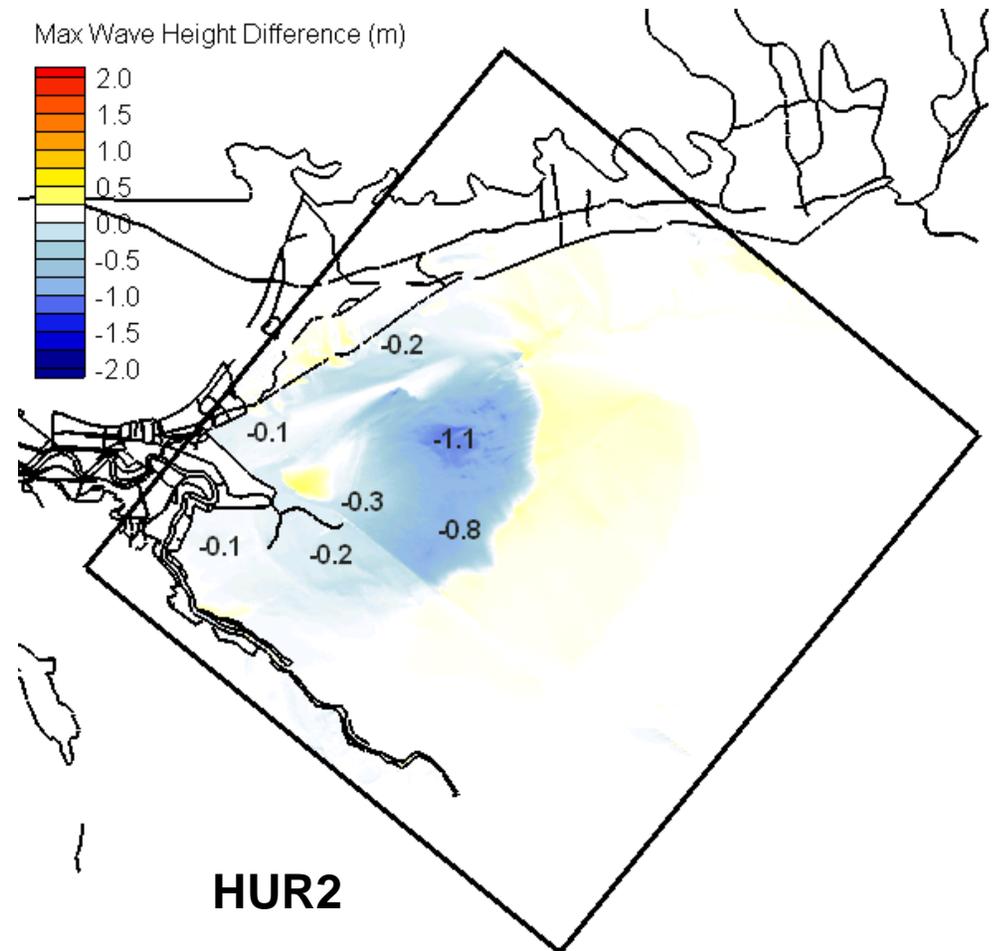
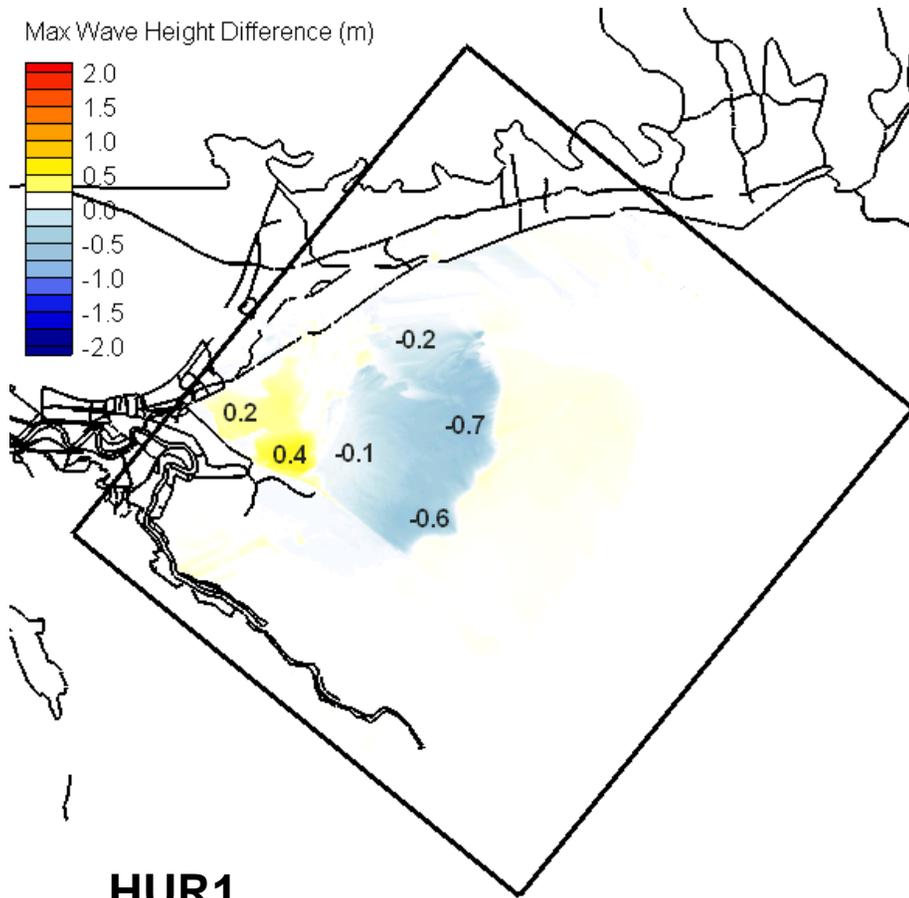
- Central Pressure: 900 mb
- Rmax: 22 nm
- Forward Speed: 11 knots





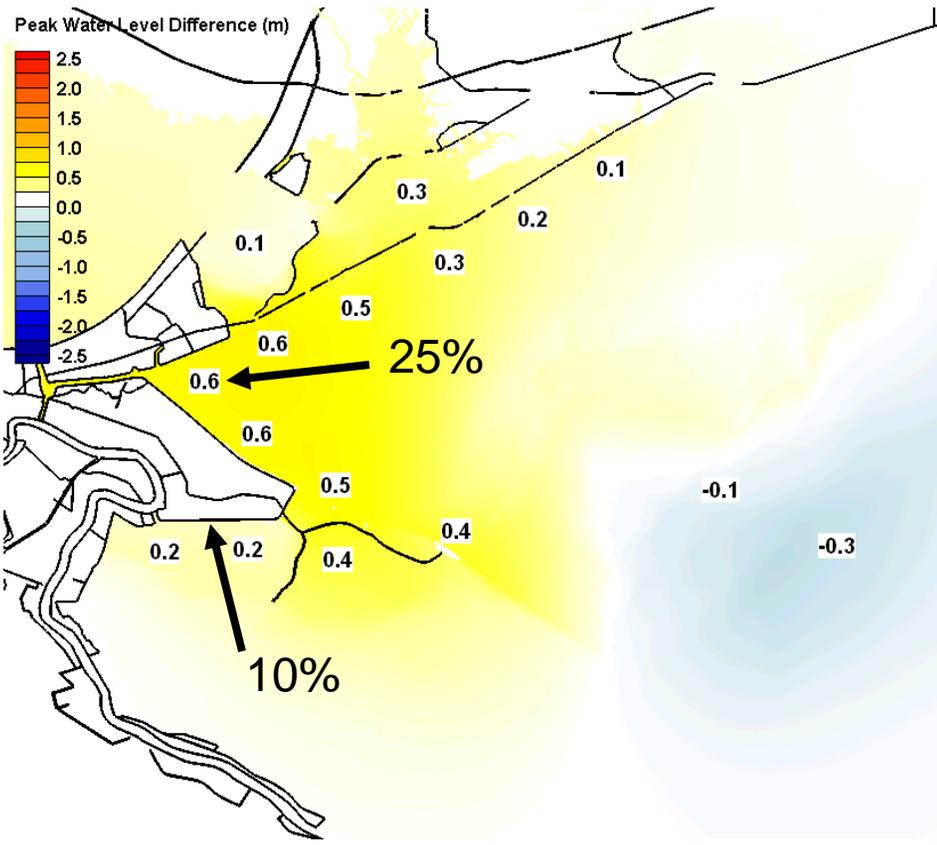
# Biloxi Restoration

## Waves: Restored - Base

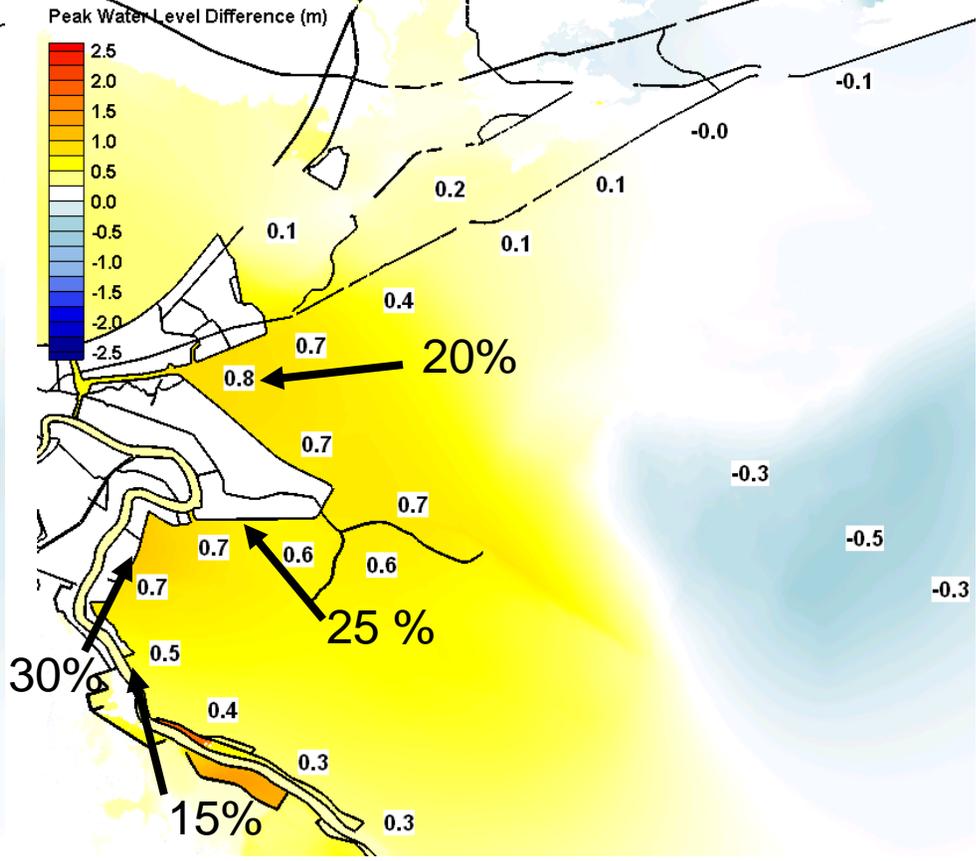


# Biloxi Degradation

Surge: Degraded - Base



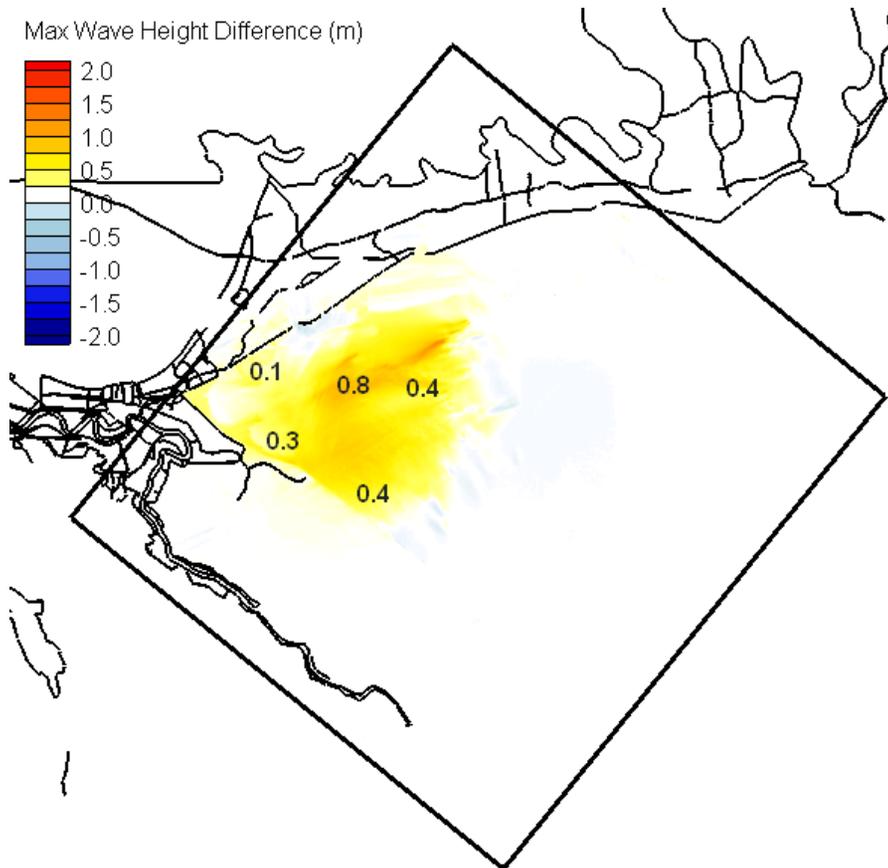
HUR1



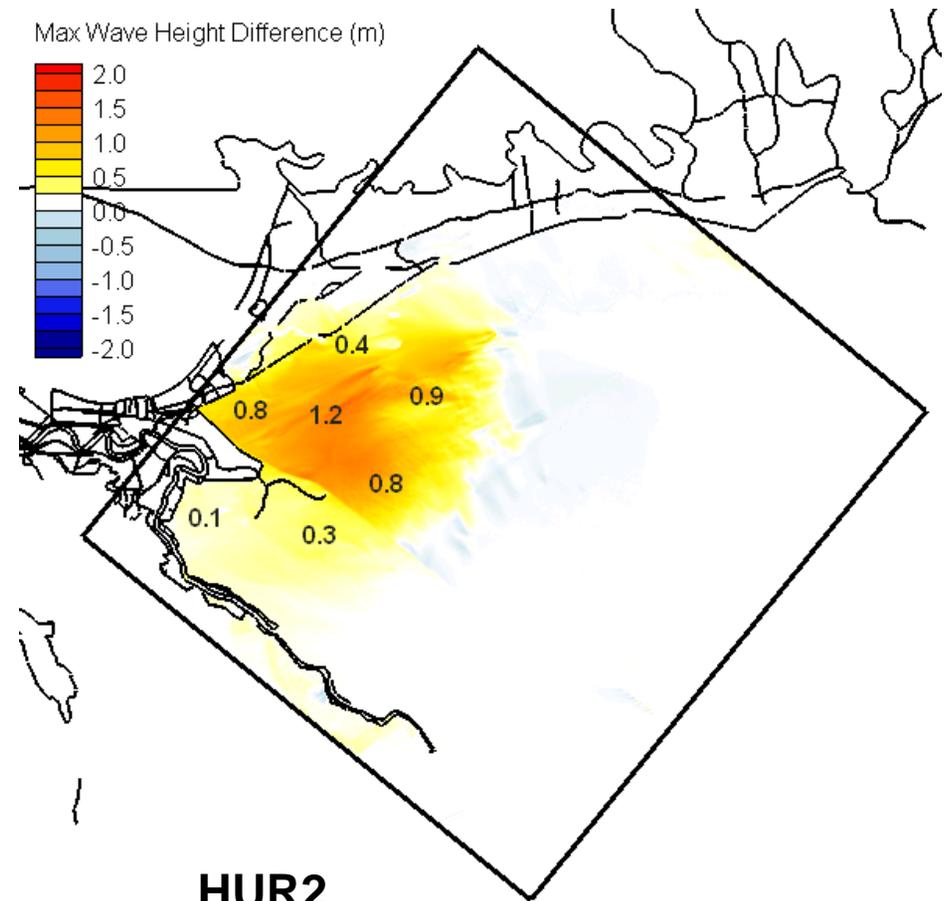
HUR2

# Biloxi Degradation

## Waves: Degraded - Base

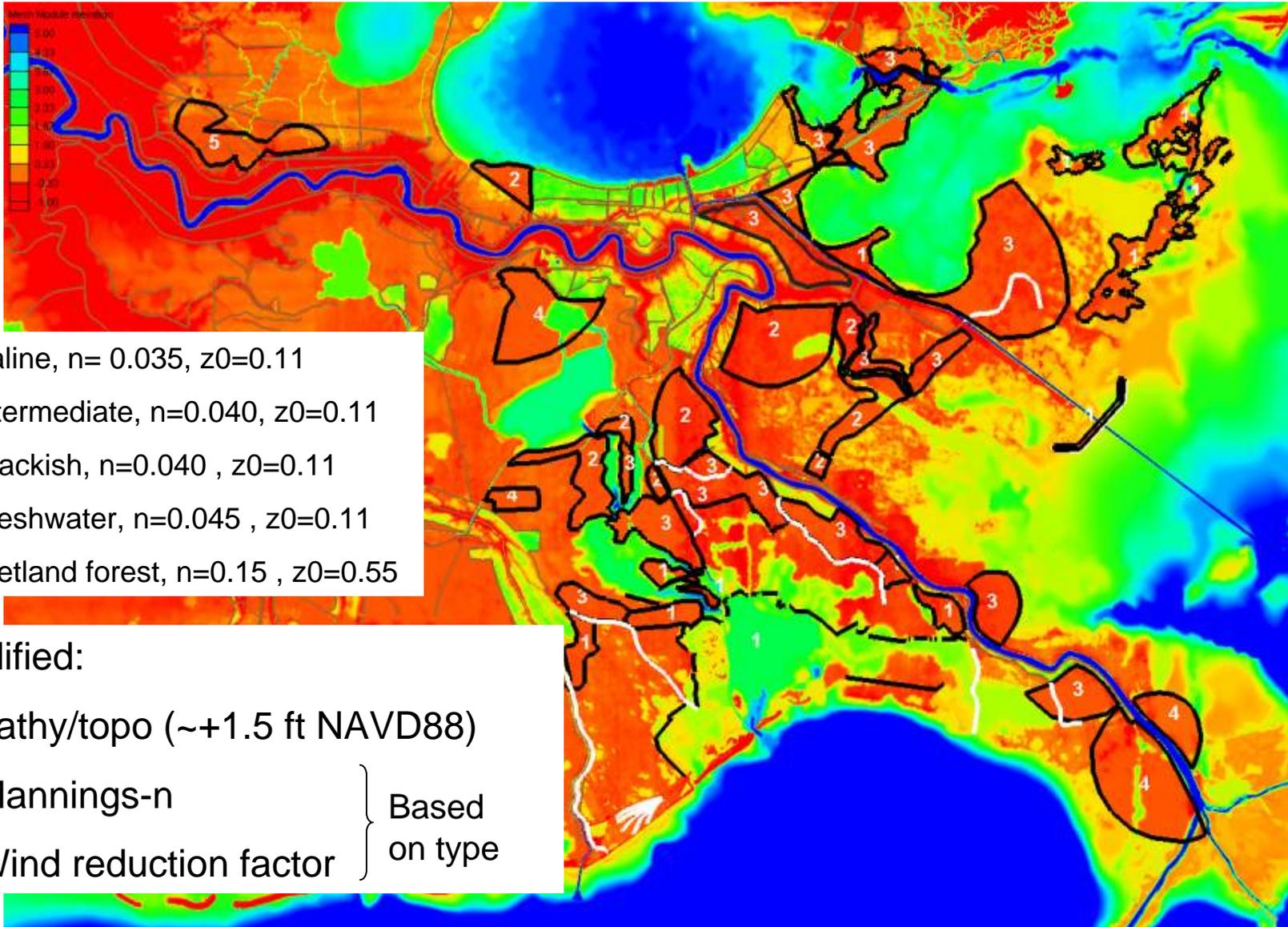


HUR1



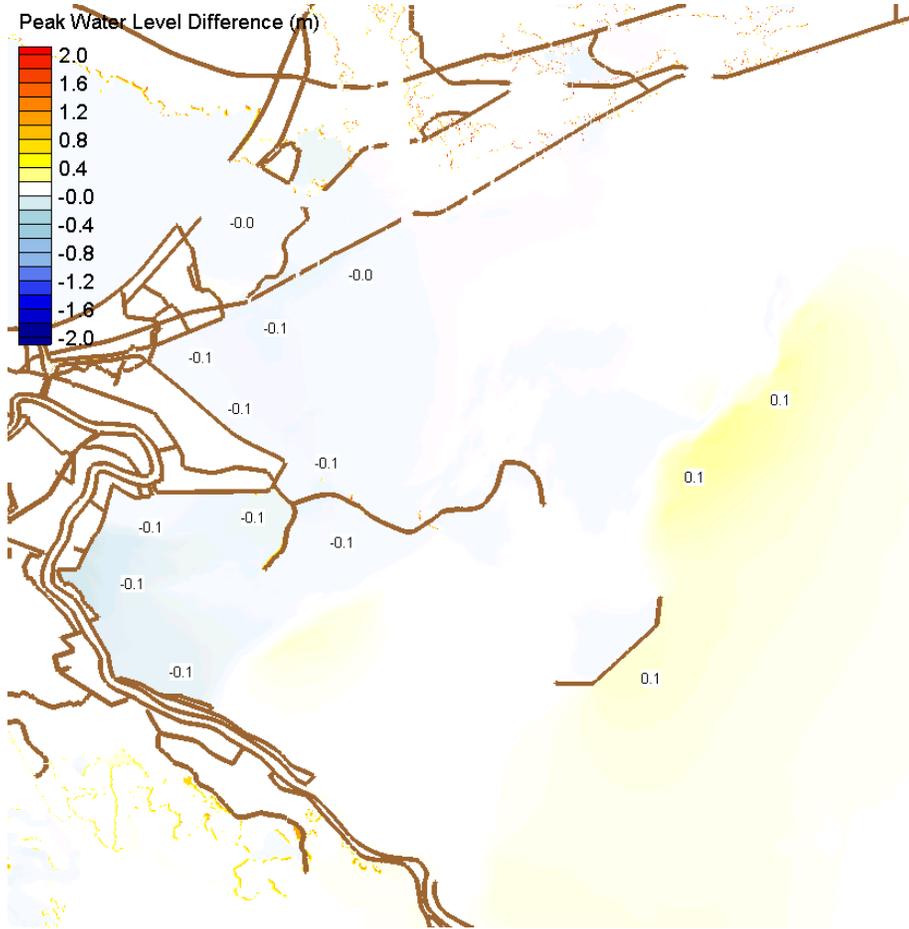
HUR2

# Restored Landscape - LaCPR

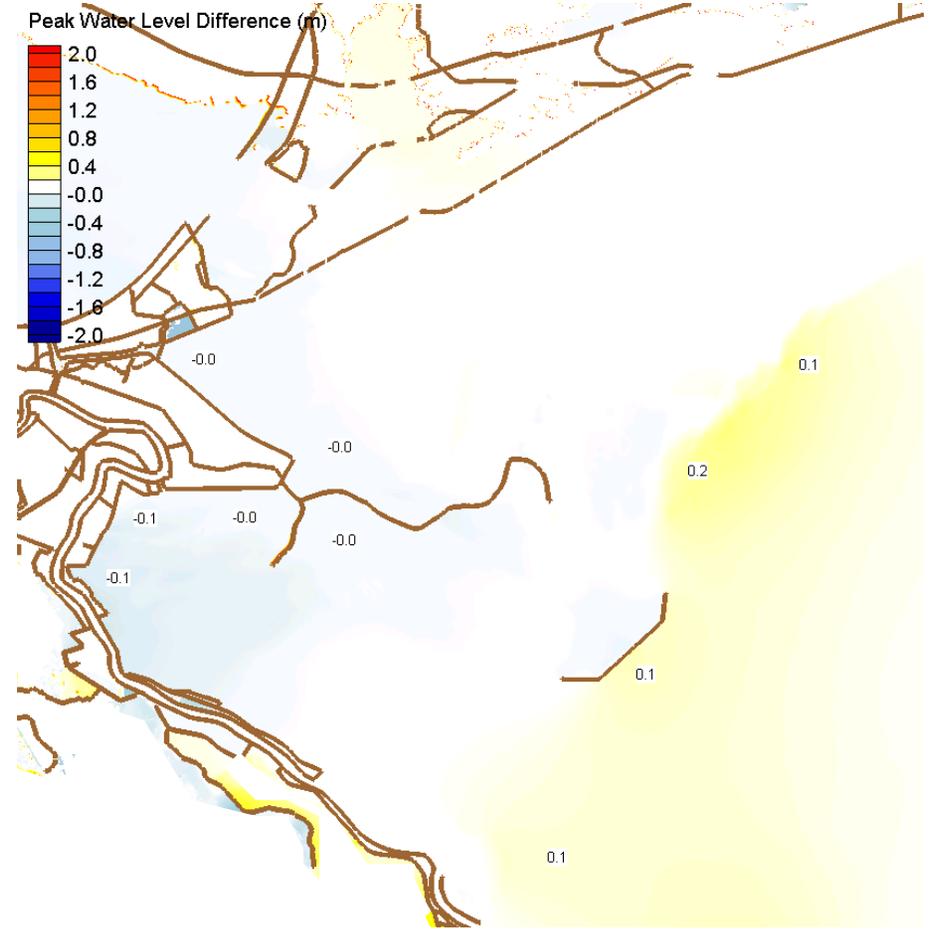


# Restored Landscape

## Surge: Restored - Base



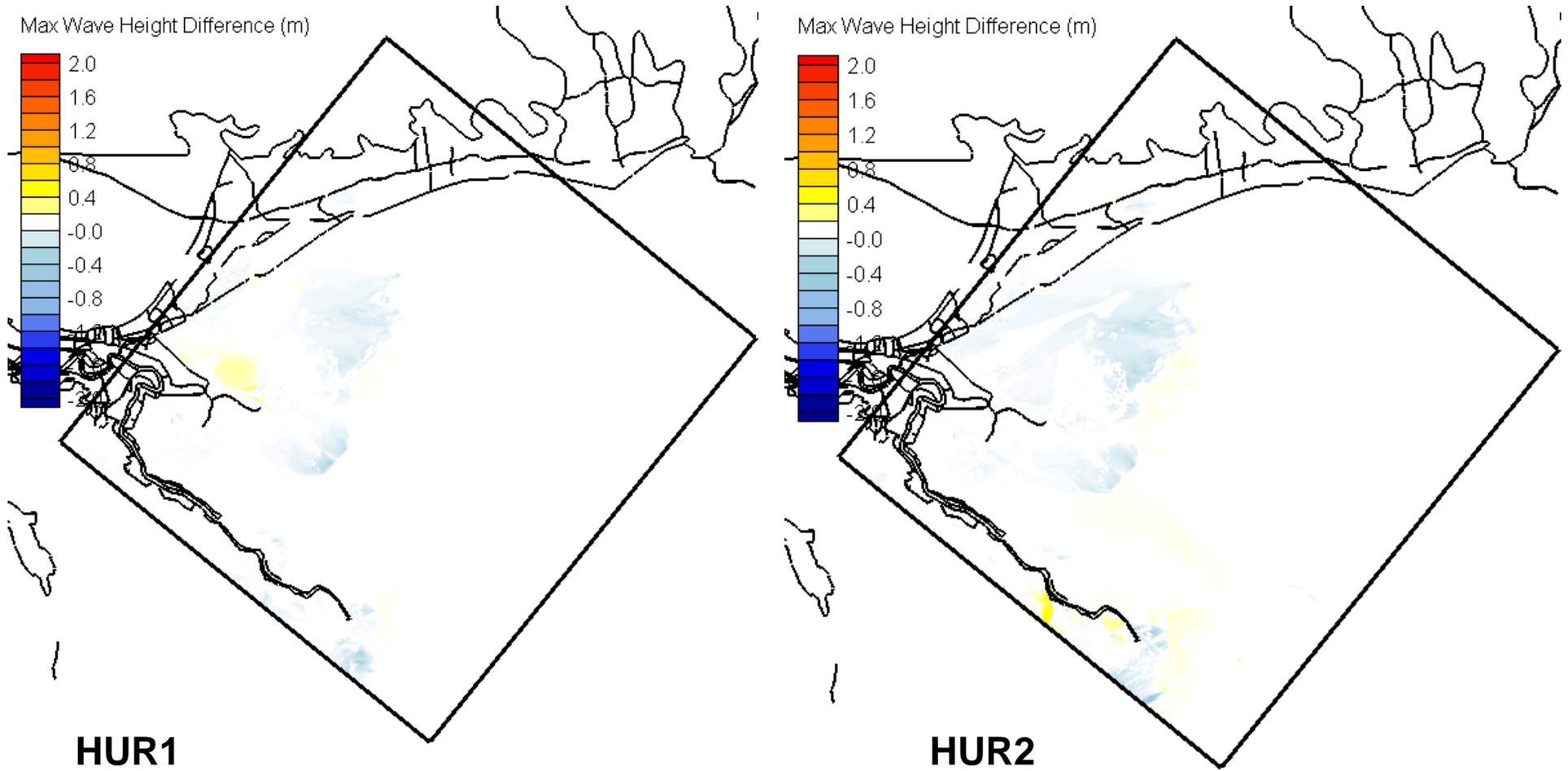
HUR1



HUR2

# Restored Landscape

## Waves: Restored - Base

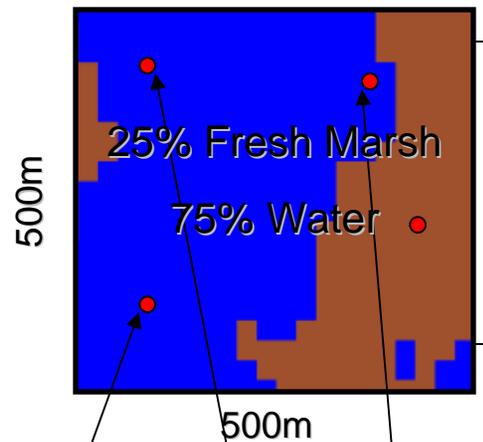


# Future No Increased Action Coastal Landscape CLEAR Output => ADCIRC

Bathy/Topo

## CLEAR Input Cell Year 0

- LULC Data at 25m Res
- Each node falls in one habitat type



**50%**  
increase  
in Fresh  
Marsh

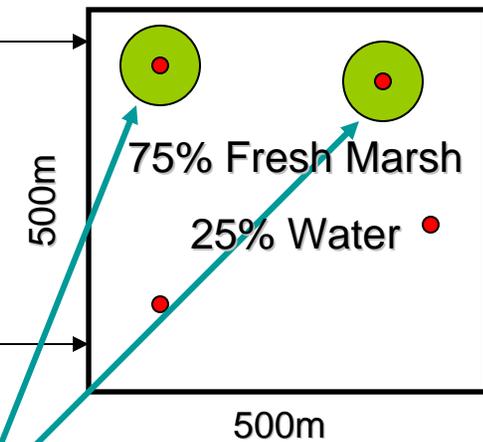
**2 water**  
nodes need  
to change to  
Fresh Marsh

**CLEAR 50 Yr Model Run**

**Most likely candidates for  
change from water to fresh  
marsh as they were the  
shallowest nodes in Year 0**

## CLEAR Output Cell Year 50

- Spatial uncertainty



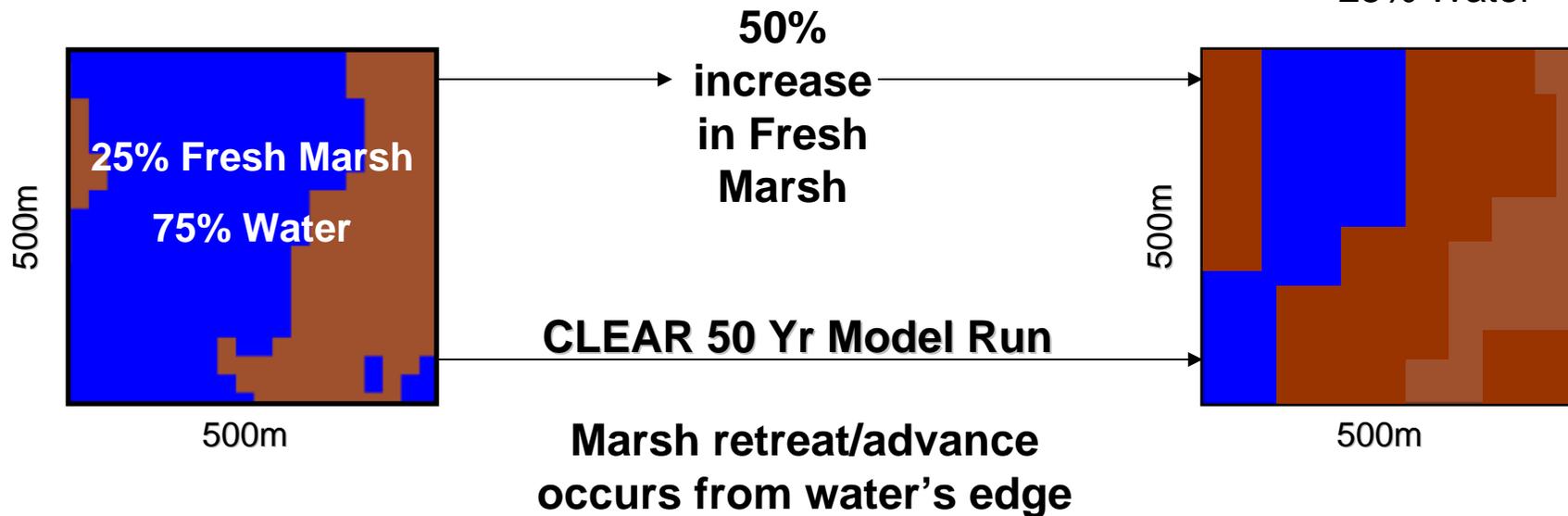
Slide provided by Brady  
Couvillon, USGS National  
Wetlands Research Center

CLEAR => Coastal Louisiana Ecosystem  
Assessment and Restoration

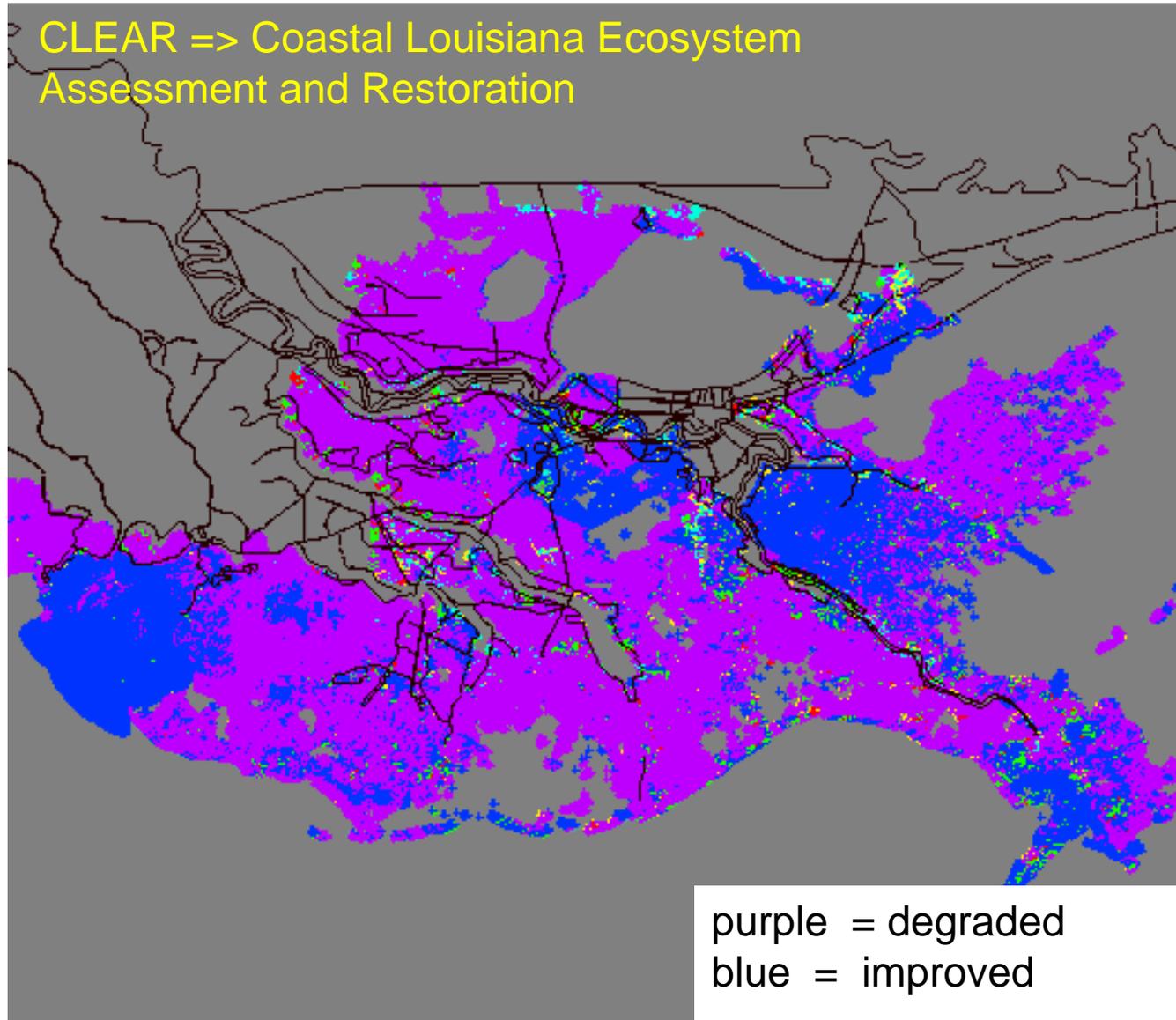
# NLCD/GAP Source Datasets Updated for Manning-n and z0

**NLCD/GAP Data Year 0**

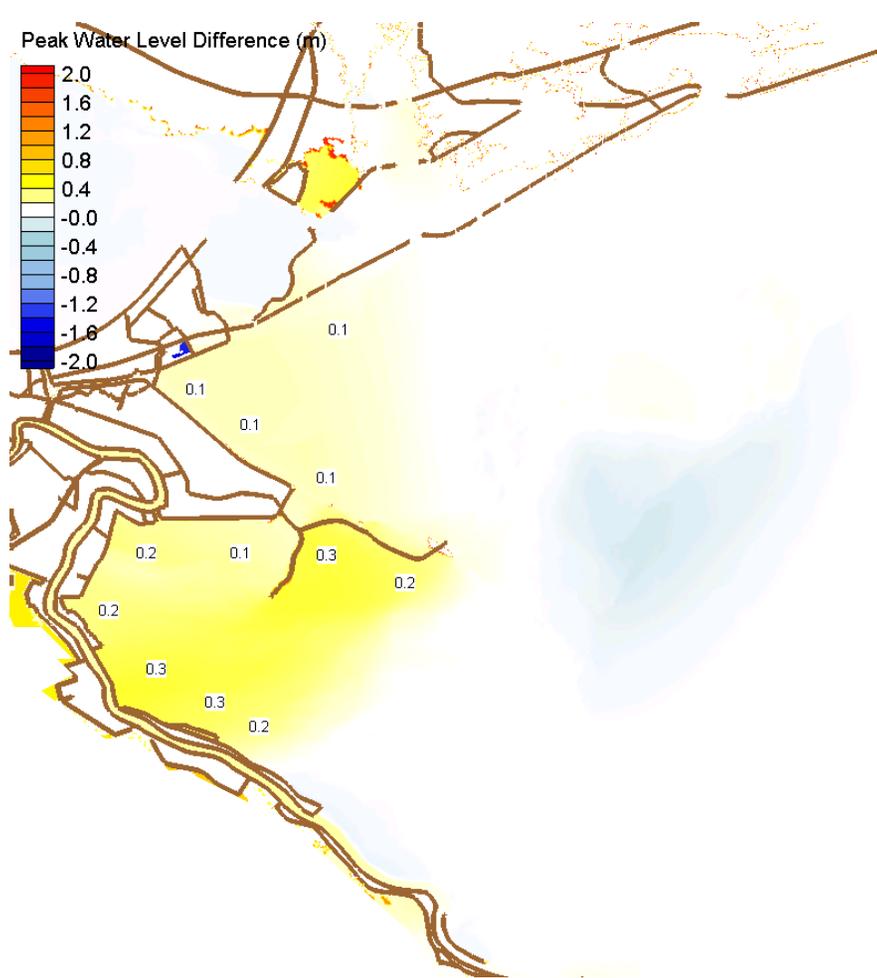
**CLEAR Output Cell Year 50**  
Spatial uncertainty - 75% Fresh Marsh  
25% Water



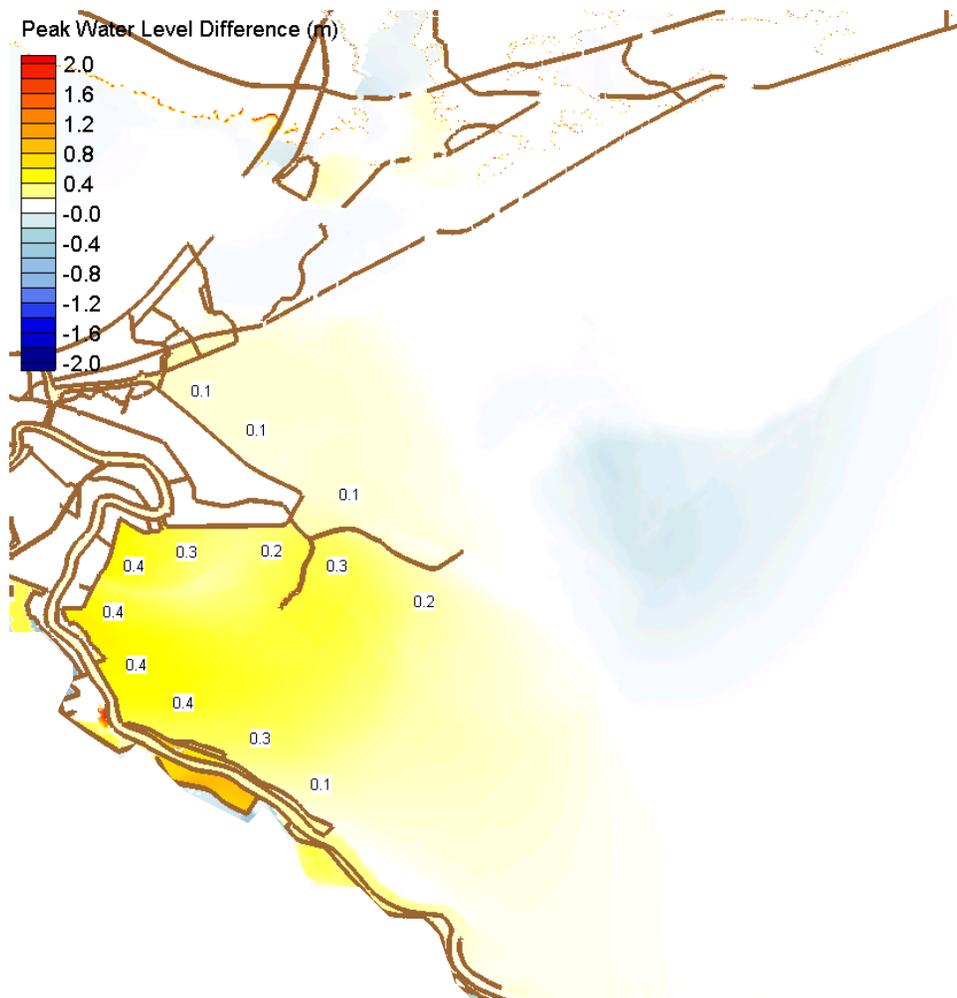
# Future NIA Landscape Changes



# Future NIA

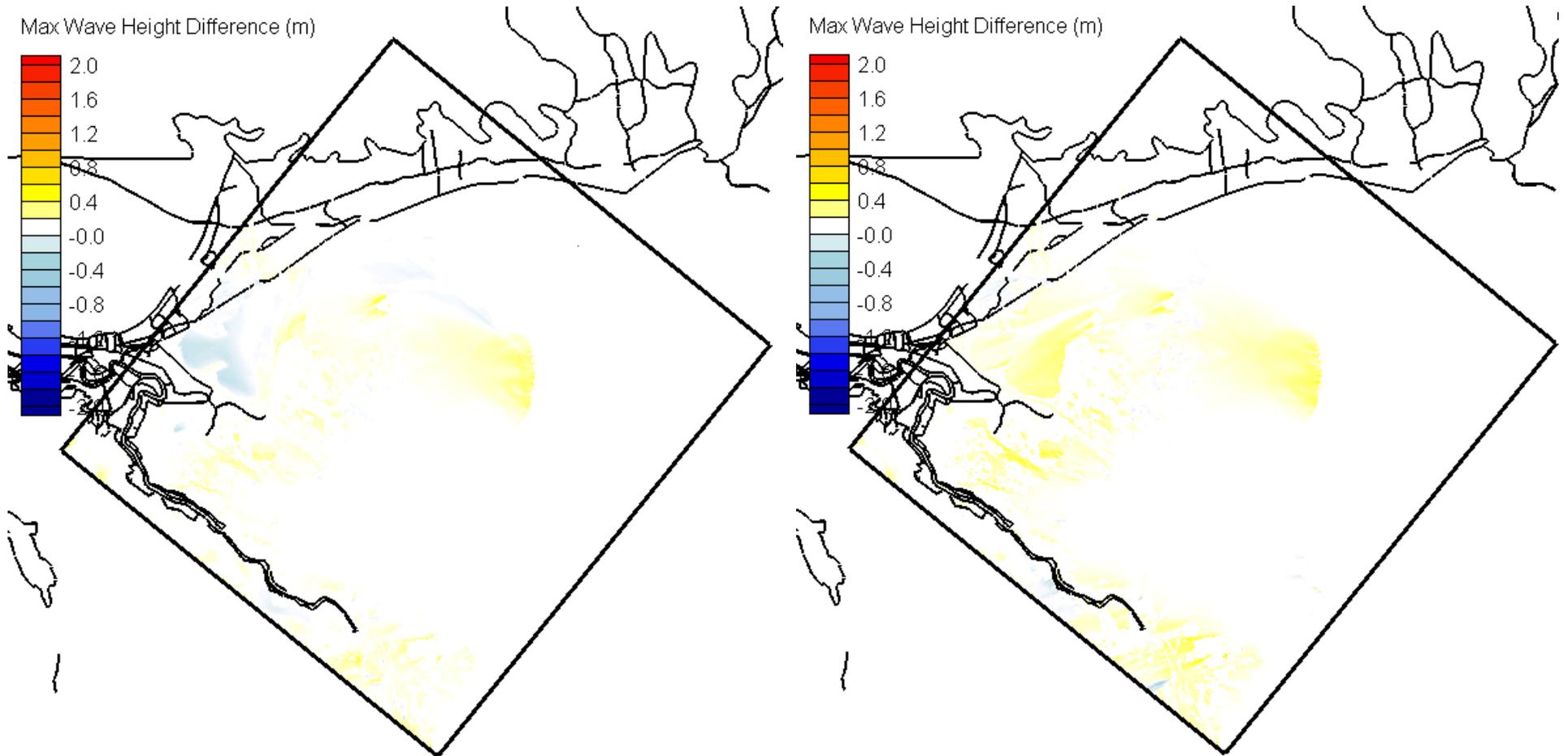


**HUR1**



**HUR2**

# Future NIA

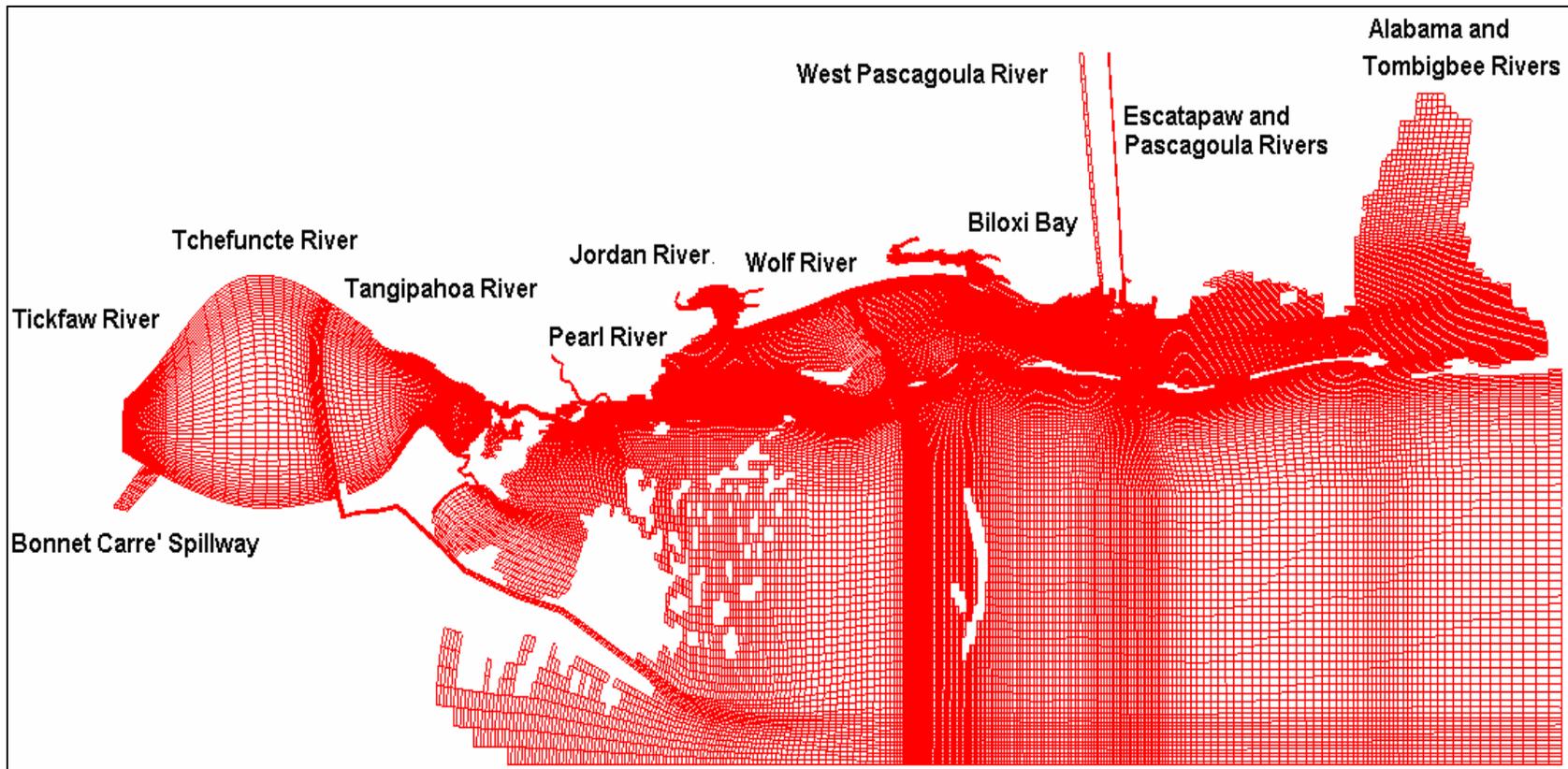


# Wetlands Summary

- Simulations indicate that vegetated landscape features do have surge and wave reduction potential.
- Large continuous restorations provide maximum benefit.
- Keep what we have!
- Impact can be amplified in areas with levee “pockets”.
- Absolute quantitative determinations should not be made.
- More research is needed.

# Water Quality Modeling

## Hydrodynamic and Water Quality Model Grid



- Regional grid
- CH3D-ICM linkage has been extensively tested and applied to numerous systems over several years

# Opportunities/Problems and Objective

- Freshwater diversions can reduce salinity, thus increasing and improving habitat for oysters
- Freshwater diversions can also introduce elevated levels of nutrients, suspended sediment, thus increasing productivity, but decreasing underwater light, potentially impacting other resources, e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation

**Objective: Develop Hydro-WQ model to screen alternatives and impacts of freshwater diversions**

# Modeling Approach

- Coupled, 3D, Hydro (CH3D-sigma) and WQ (CEQUAL-ICM) models
- Included adjacent water bodies that can impact the Sound
- Used 1998 for calibration and scenario testing
- Derived off-shore tides from ADCIRC
- Did not activate full model capabilities and limited the level of calibration due to fast time track of the study

# CH3D

- 3D, time-varying, free surface Hydro model
- Transports salinity and temperature for density coupling and baroclinic forcing
- Curvilinear, non-orthogonal, boundary-fitted coordinates, finite difference method
- Block grid structure for parallelization

# CEQUAL-ICM

- Multi-dimensional, finite volume surface water quality and eutrophication model
- Must provide hydro
- Developed on Chesapeake Bay, but has been applied to many other systems
- Over 30 state variables ranging from temperature, salinity, and nutrients to sea grass and lower food chain
- Benthic diagenesis sub-model for predicting bed-water column fluxes
- Domain decomp. with MPI for parallelization (using 32 processors on Cray XT3 for this study)

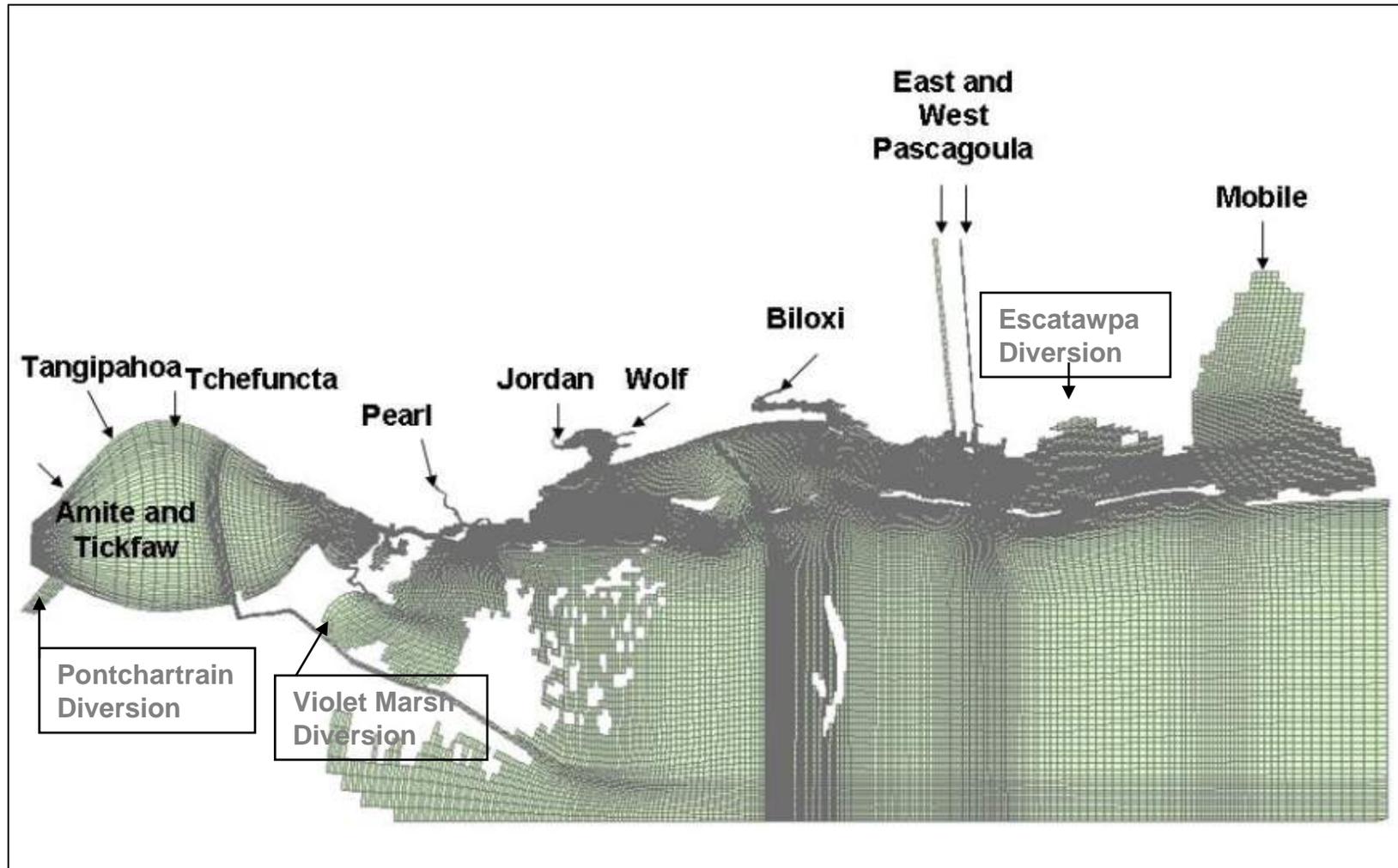
# WQ Model State Variables for MS Sound Model

- Temperature
- Salinity
- Inorganic suspended solids
- Dissolved oxygen
- Phytoplankton carbon
- Total inorganic P
- Nitrate + nitrite N
- Ammonium N
- DOC
- POC
- DON
- PON
- DOP
- POP
- TSS (derived)
- Underwater light (derived)
- Chlorophyll a (derived)
- TOC (derived)
- TKN (derived)

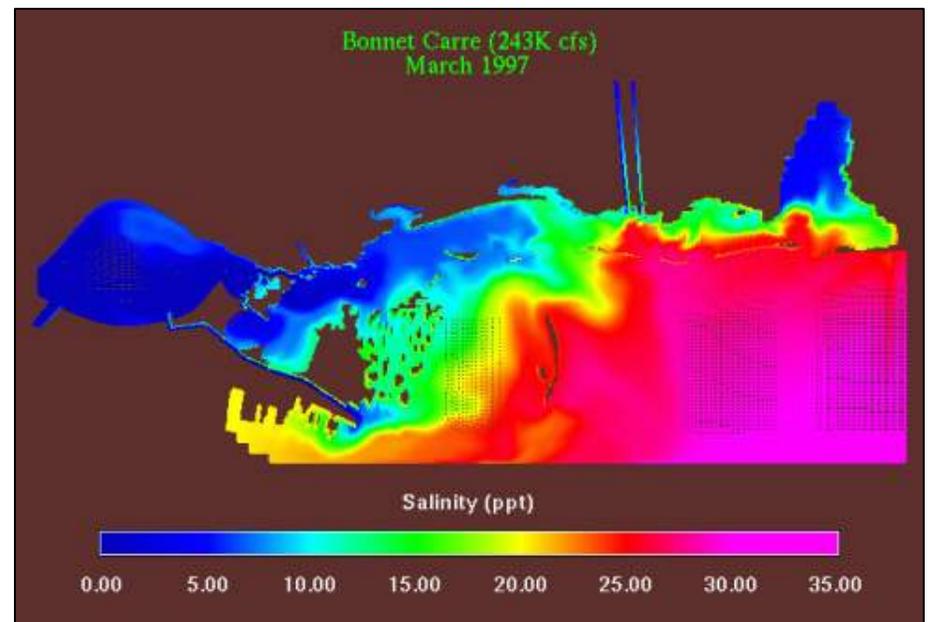
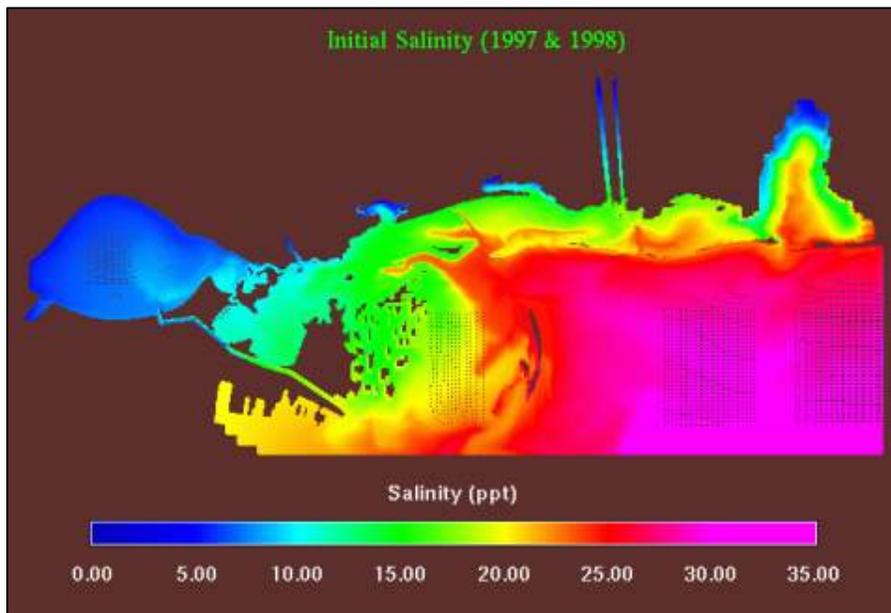
# Model Domain

(5 layers, 202,030 cells)

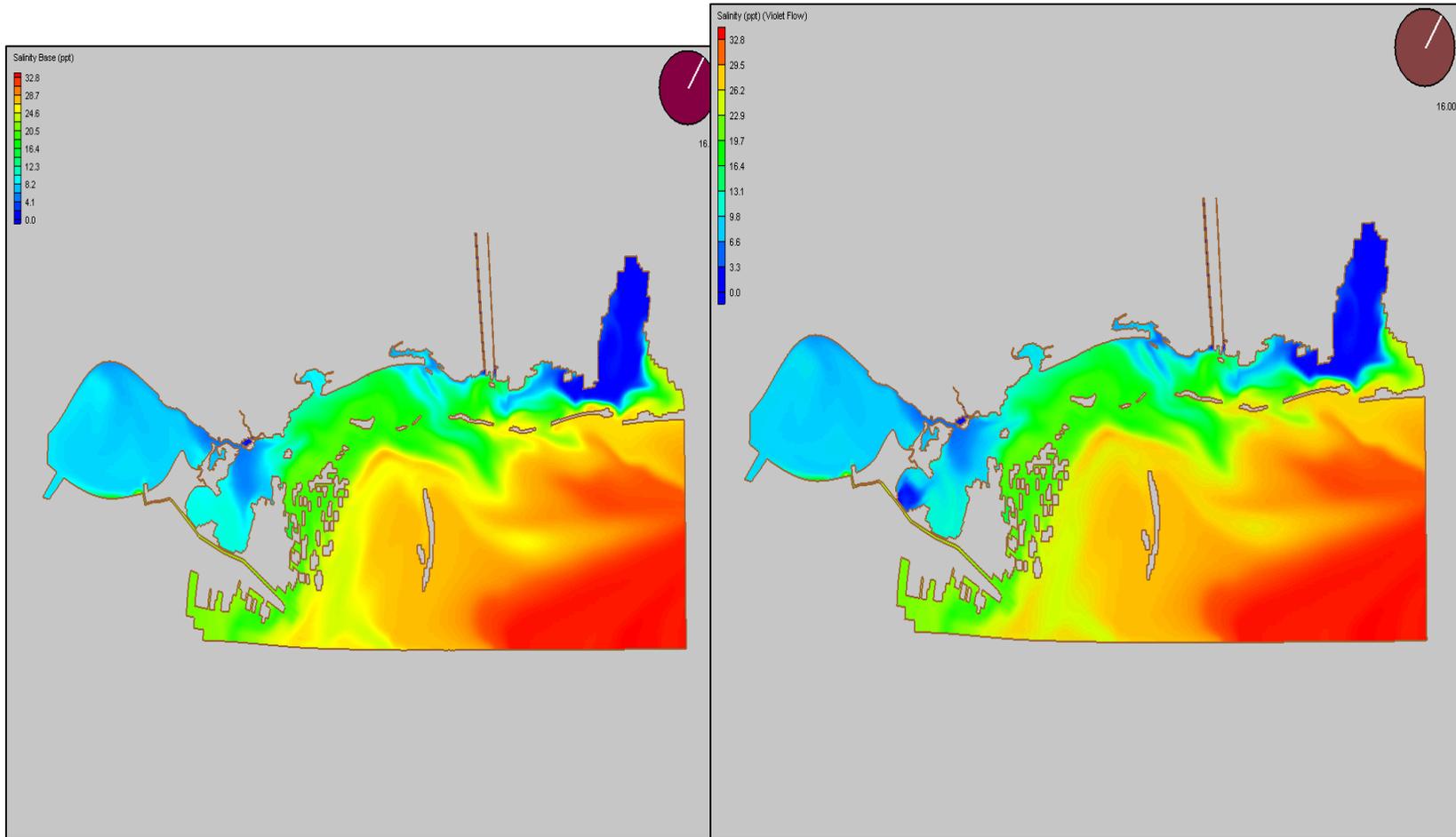
## Modeled Tributaries and Diversions



# Effects of Bonnet Carre Release in 1997



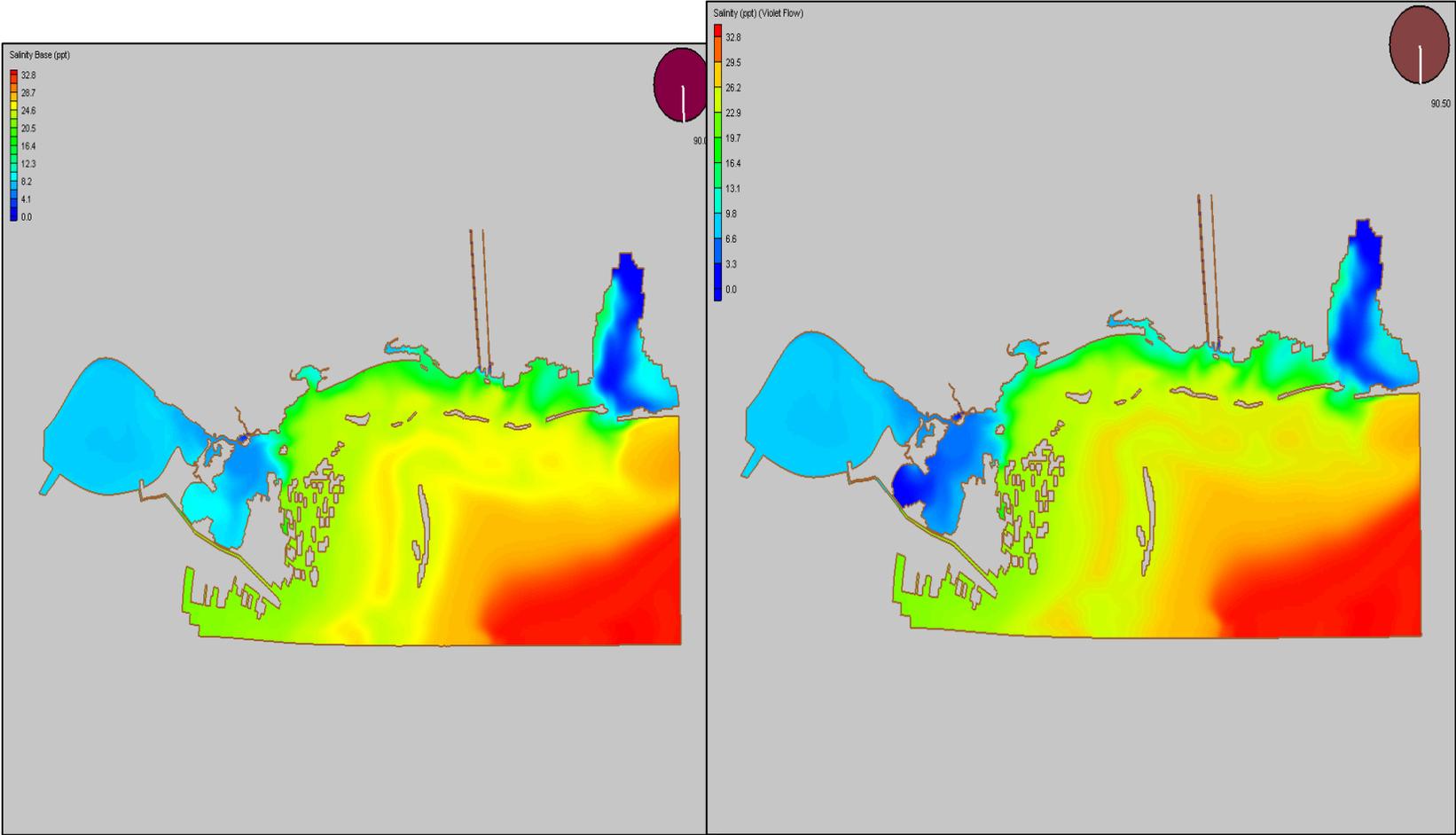
# Salinity, Base and Violet, after 15 Days



Base

Violet

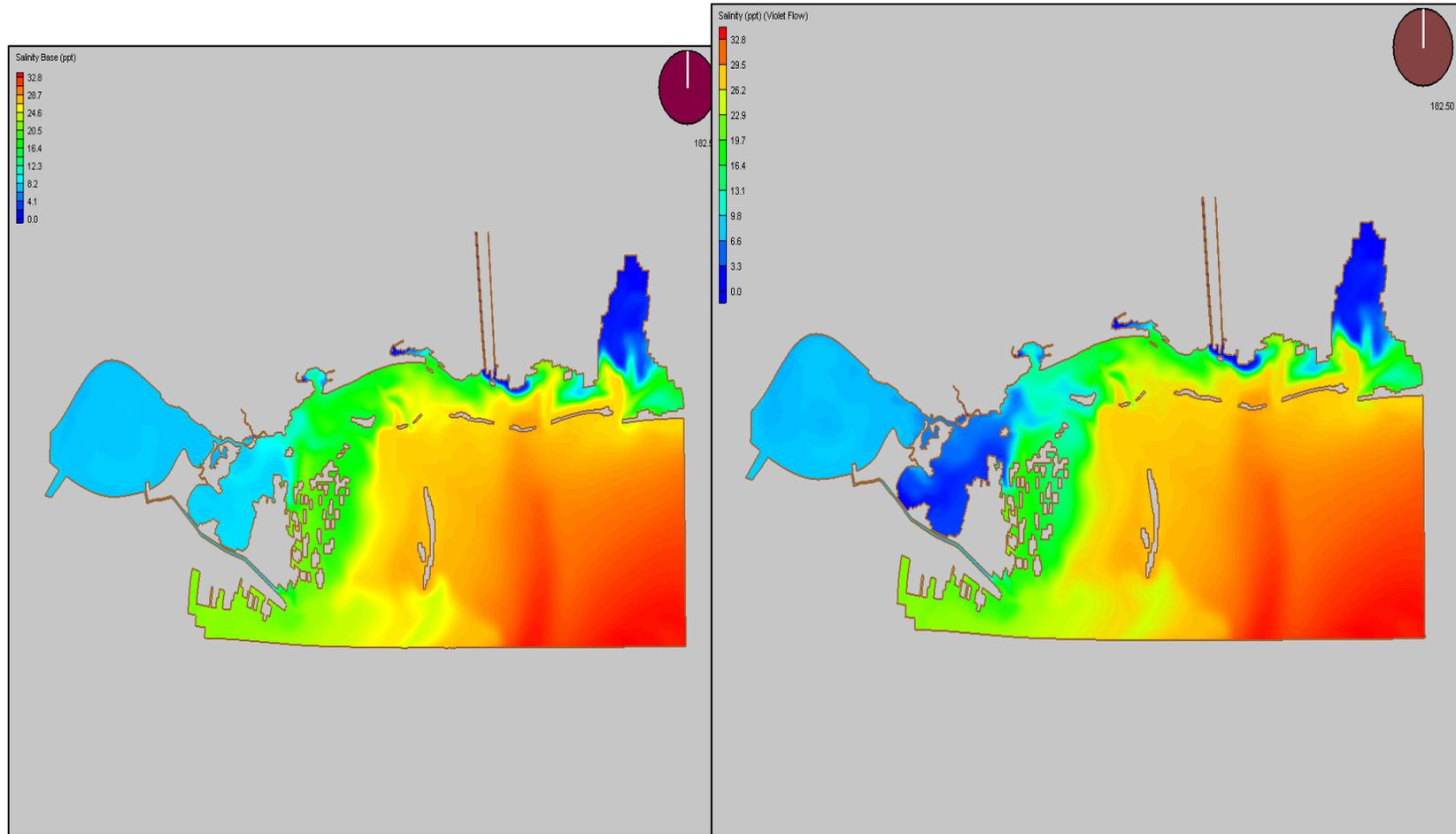
# Salinity, Base and Violet after 90 Days



Base

Violet

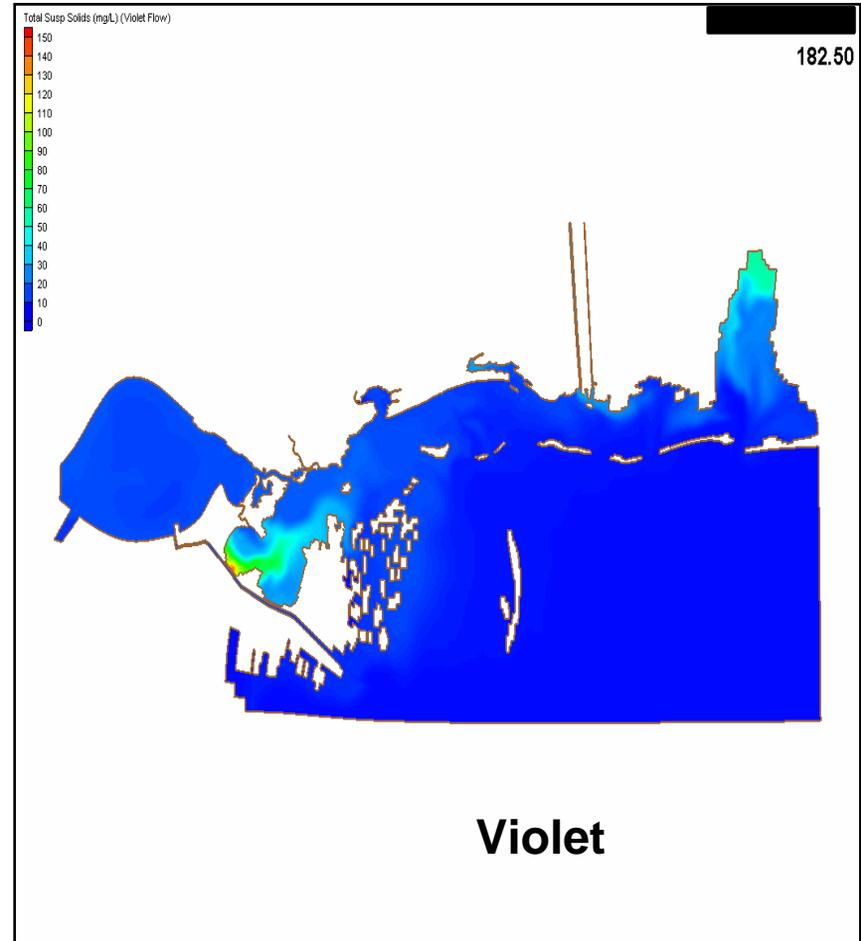
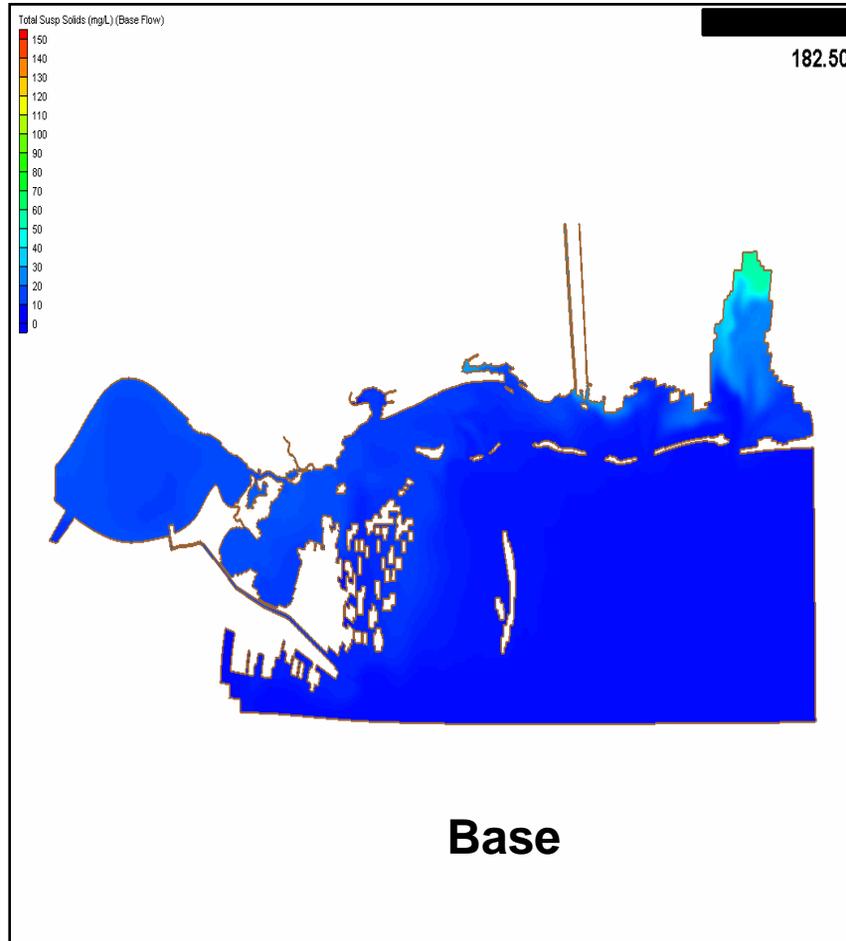
# Salinity, Base and Violet, after 180 days



Base

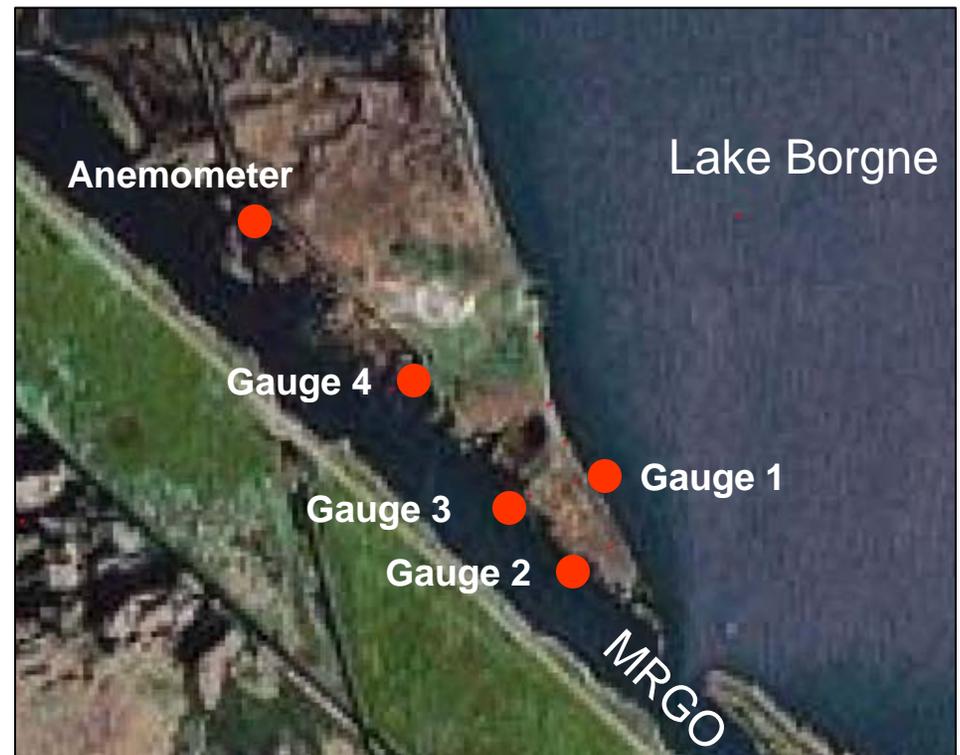
Violet

# TSS, Base and Violet, after 180 Days



# Partnering with LCA

- Utilization of LCA S&T Funding
  - Field measurement wave attenuation and water levels across wetlands
    - 4 non-directional wave/water level gauges
    - Anemometer
    - Botanical characterization
  - Improve roughness estimates for modeling



# Partnering with LCA

- Utilization of LCA S&T Funding to Improve Modeling Capabilities
  - Model scenario testing of “virtual wetlands”

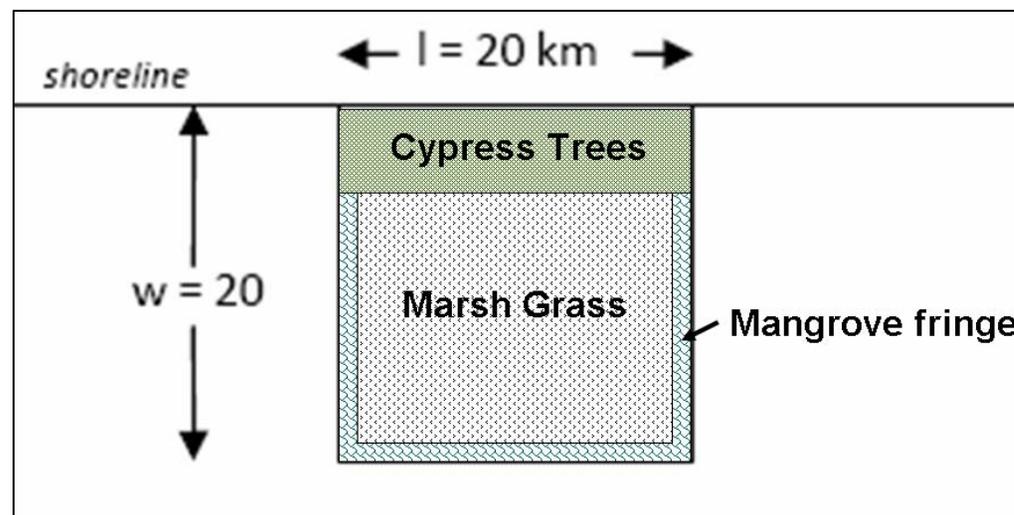
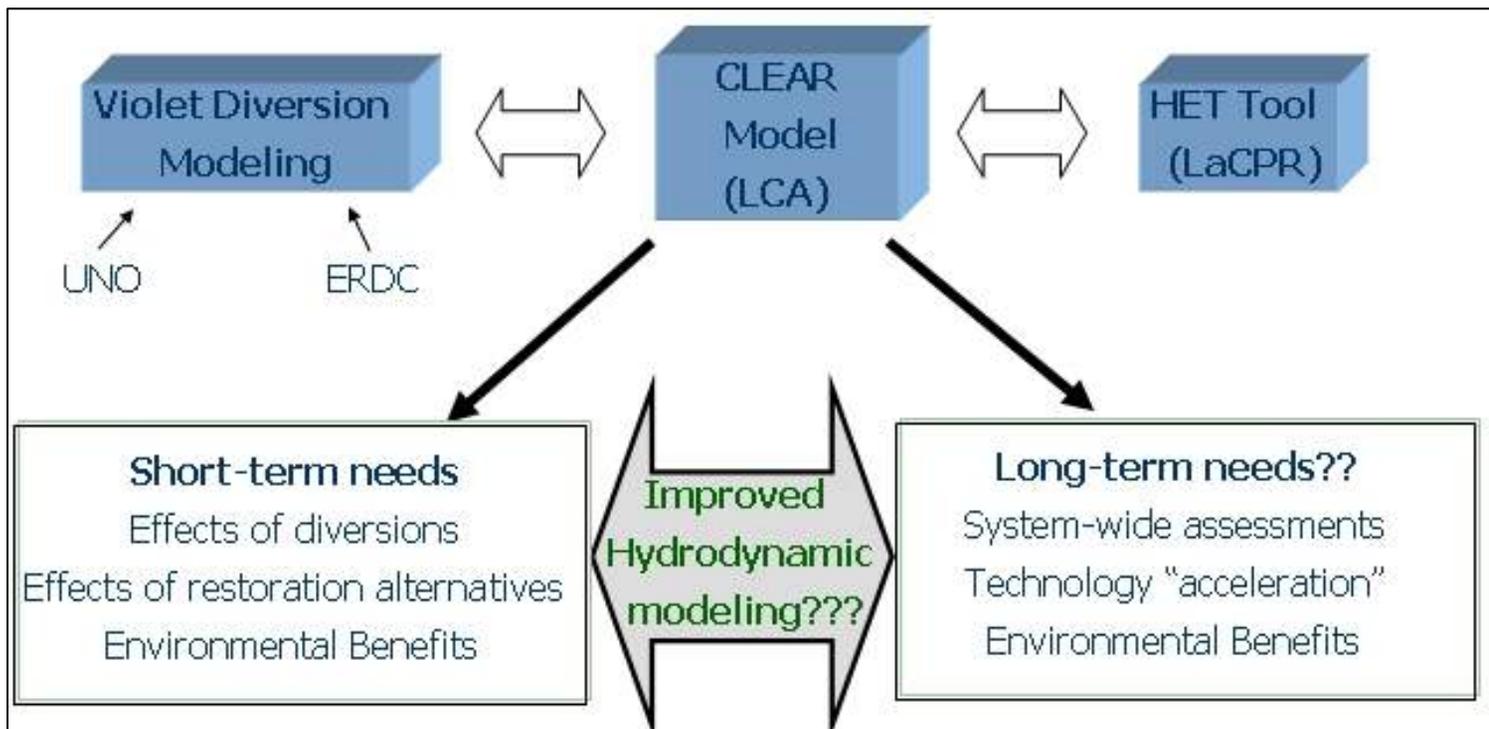


Figure 4. Idealized wetland with combination of vegetation types.

# Partnering with LCA

- Linkage of CLEAR (LSU) ecological models to CH3D/ICM construct



End