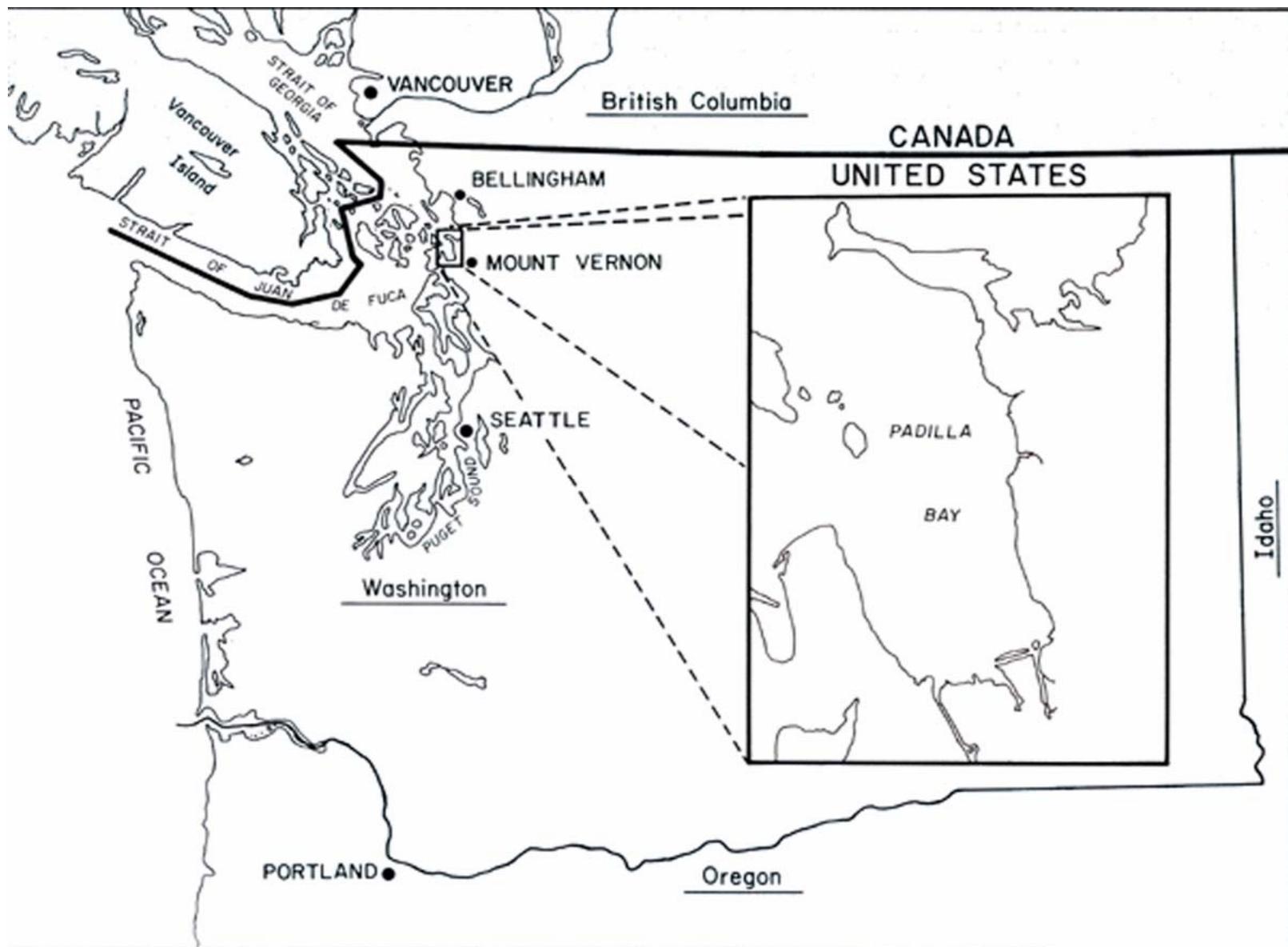
An aerial photograph of a coastal estuary. The foreground is dominated by dense, green seagrass beds. The middle ground shows a wide expanse of calm water with several birds scattered across the surface. In the far distance, a low-lying coastline with mountains is visible under a clear blue sky.

# Budget-Conscious Coastal Vegetation Mapping

Suzanne Shull and Douglas Bulthuis

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, WDOE



# NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVES

A network of 27  
protected areas



1. Wells, Maine

2. Great Bay, New Hampshire

3. Waquoit Bay, Massachusetts

4. Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island

5. Hudson River, New York

6. Jacques Cousteau, New Jersey

7. Delaware

8. Chesapeake Bay, Maryland

9. Chesapeake Bay, Virginia

10. North Carolina

11. North Inlet-Winyah Bay, South Carolina

12. ACE Basin, South Carolina

13. Sapelo Island, Georgia

14. Guana Tolomato Matanzas, Florida

15. Rookery Bay, Florida

16. Apalachicola, Florida

17. Weeks Bay, Alabama

18. Grand Bay, Mississippi

19. Mission-Aransas, Texas

20. Tijuana River, California

21. Elkhorn Slough, California

22. San Francisco Bay, California

23. South Slough, Oregon

24. Padilla Bay, Washington

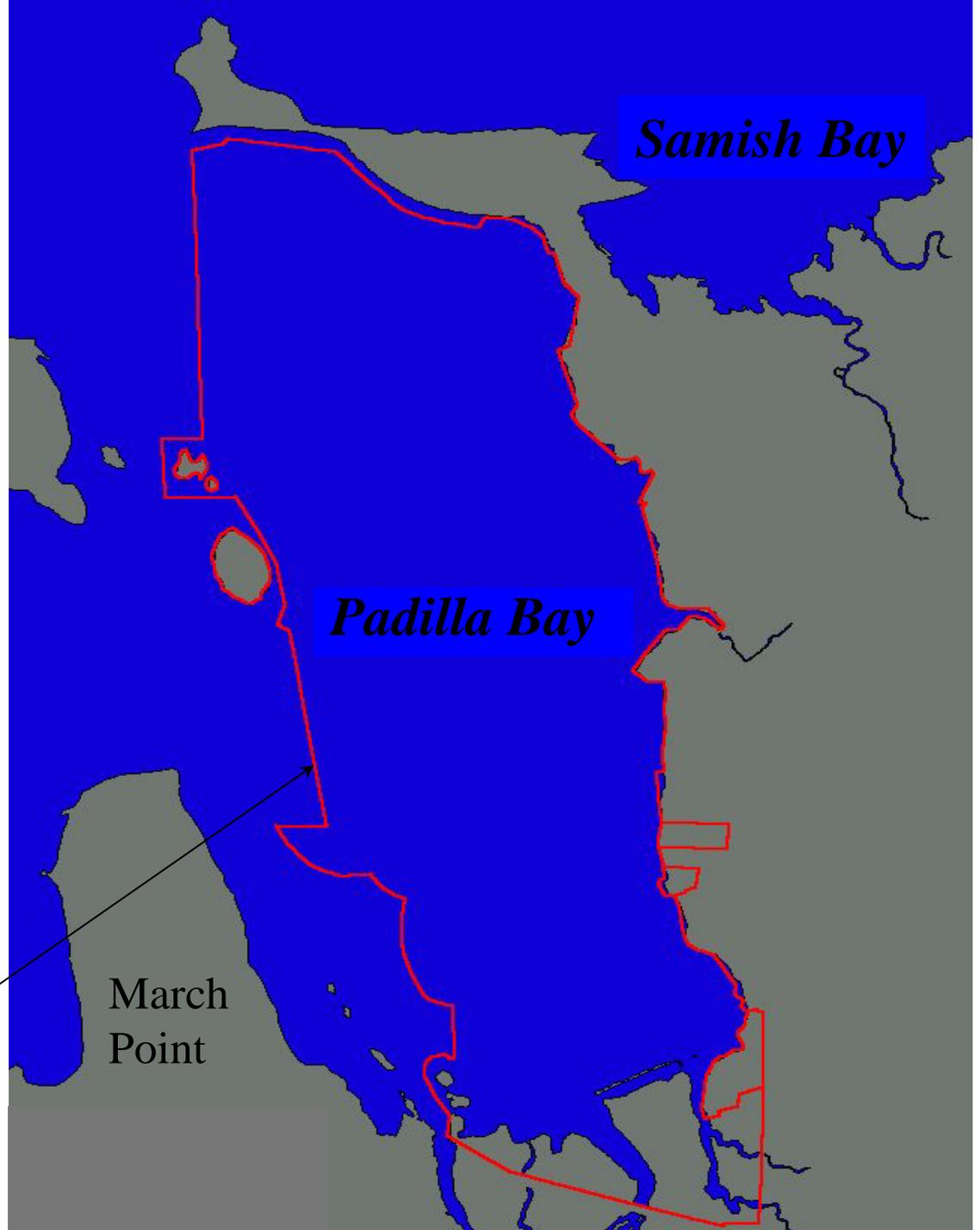
25. Old Woman Creek, Ohio

26. Proposed—St. Lawrence River, New York

27. Kachemak Bay, Alaska

28. Jobos Bay, Puerto Rico

# Education And Research



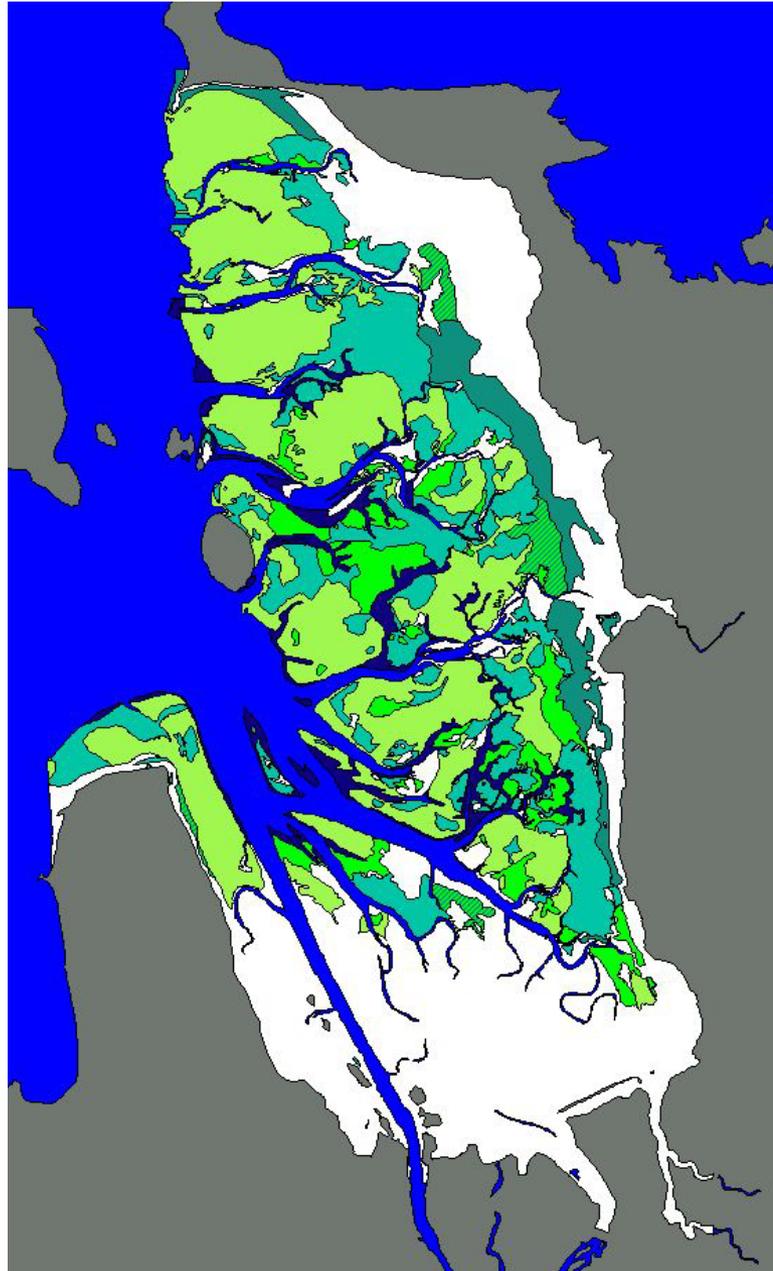
*Samish Bay*

*Padilla Bay*

March  
Point

Padilla Bay NERR Boundary

# Intertidal Habitats of Padilla Bay



Macroalgae  
and  
Eelgrass

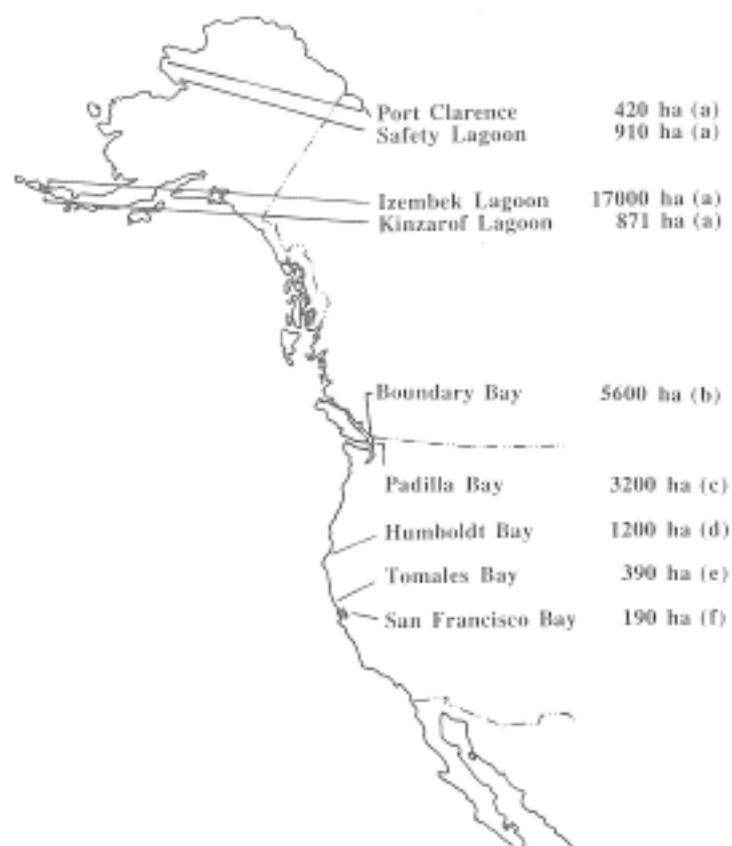
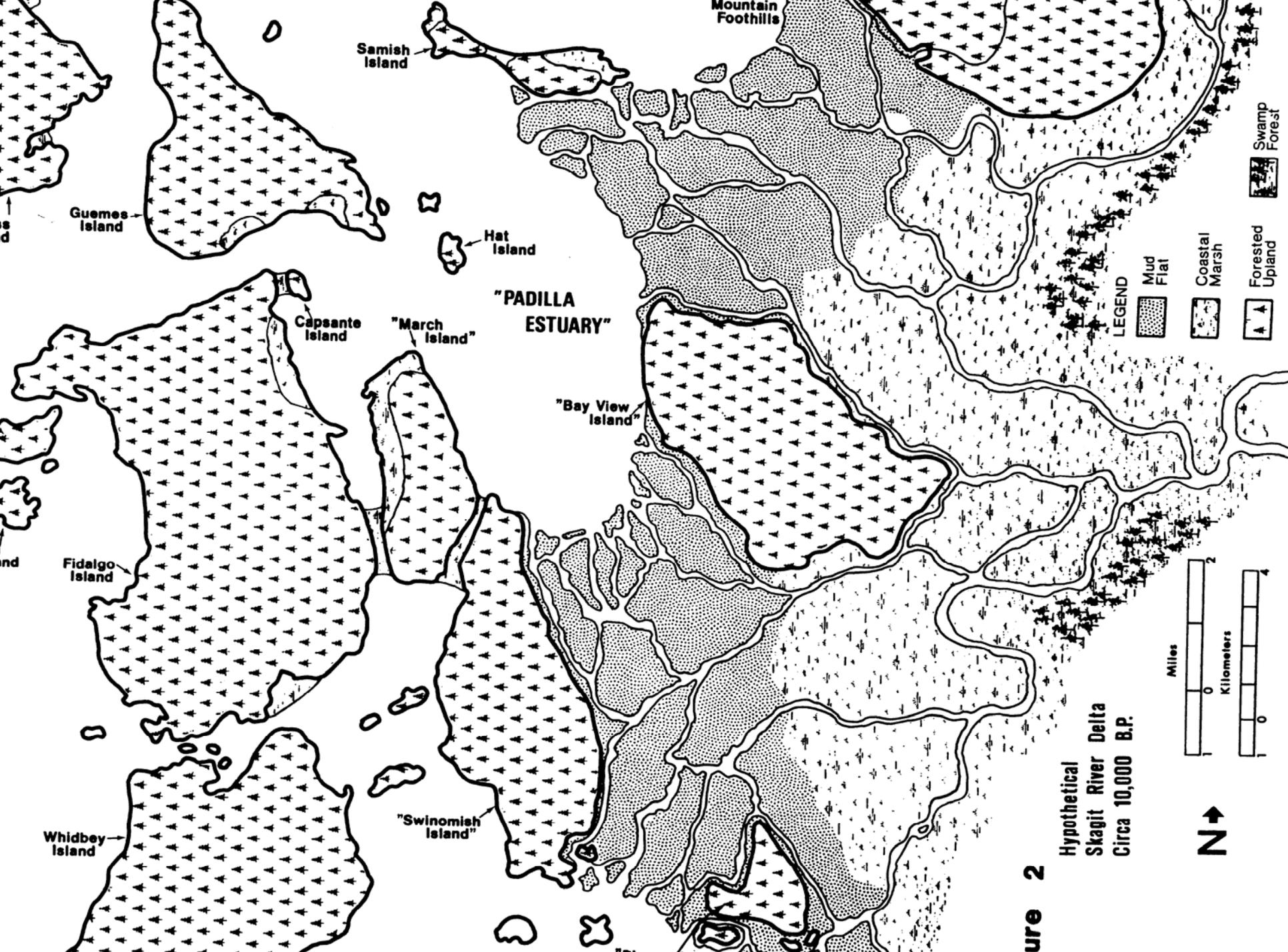


Fig. 2. Area covered by seagrasses in nine bays along the Pacific coast of North America for which published estimates exceed 100 ha. Sources are: (a) McRoy (1970); (b) Baldwin and Lovvorn (1994); (c) present study; (d) Harding and Butler (1979); (e) Spratt (1989); (f) Wyllie-Echeverria (1990).



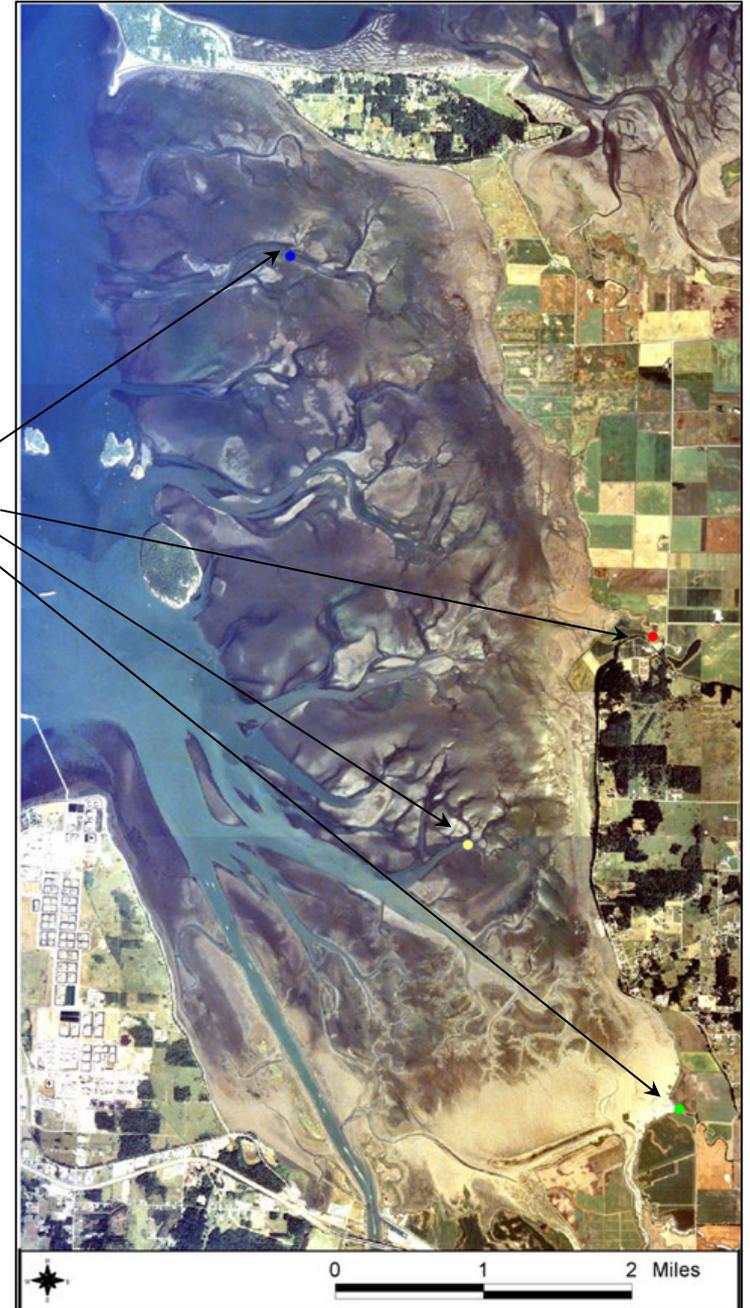
Padilla Bay



**Figure 2**  
 Hypothetical  
 Skagit River Delta  
 Circa 10,000 B.P.

# One of the largest eelgrass meadows in North America

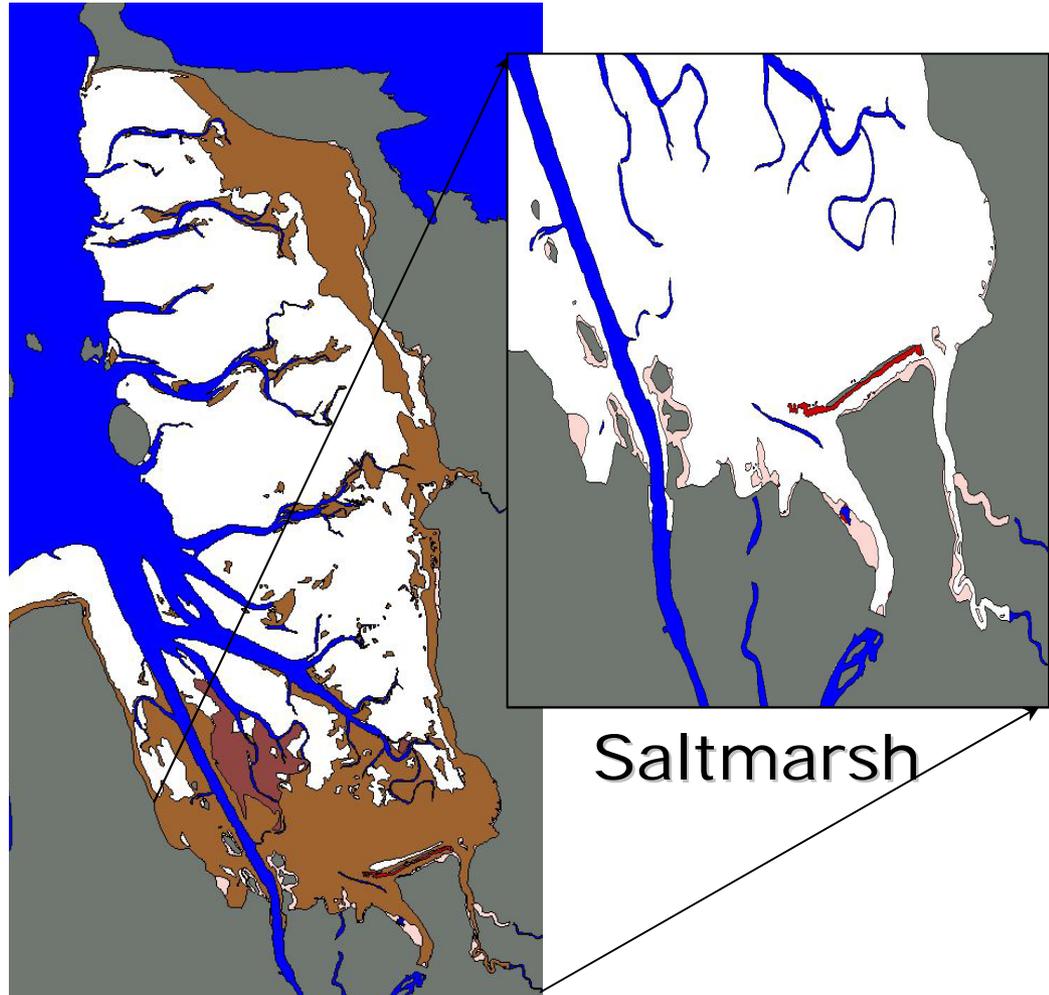
YSI Water Quality Instruments



# Other Habitats of Padilla Bay



Bare  
Subtidal



Bare Intertidal  
(mud and sand flats)

# Padilla Bay Eelgrass



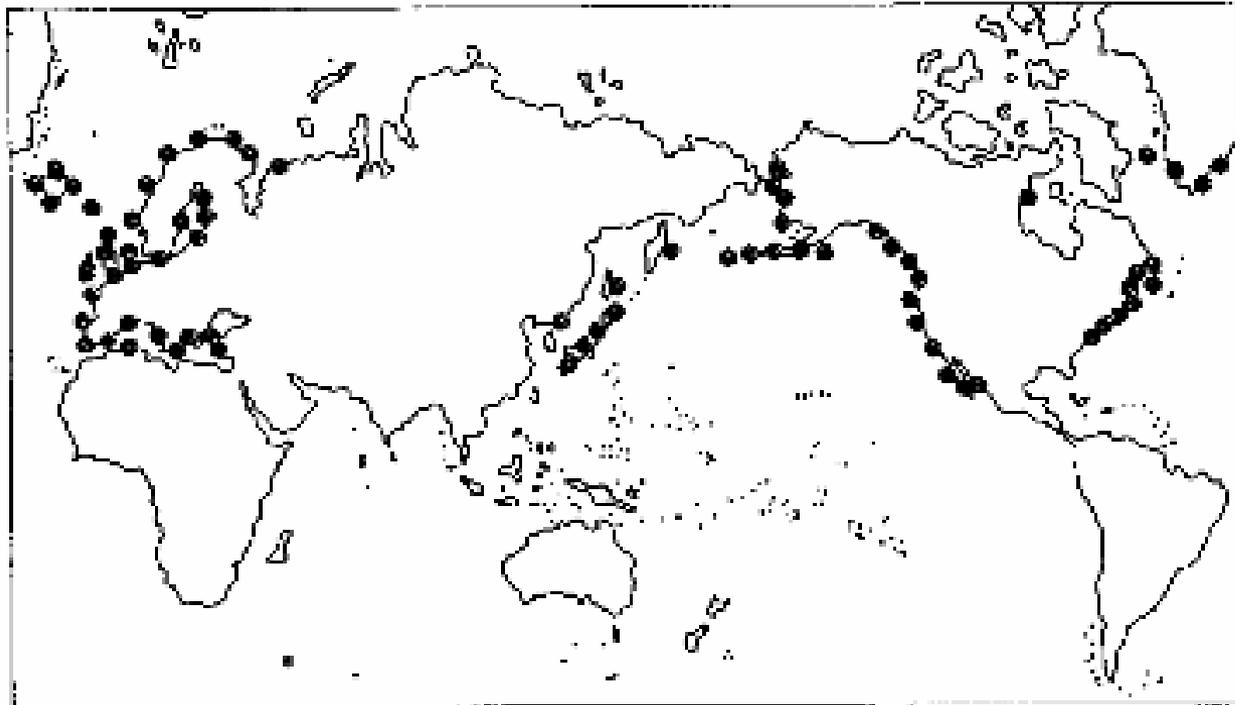
- **Zostera marina** (native species)  
found in subtidal to mid-upper intertidal

- **Zostera japonica** (introduced species)  
found in upper intertidal



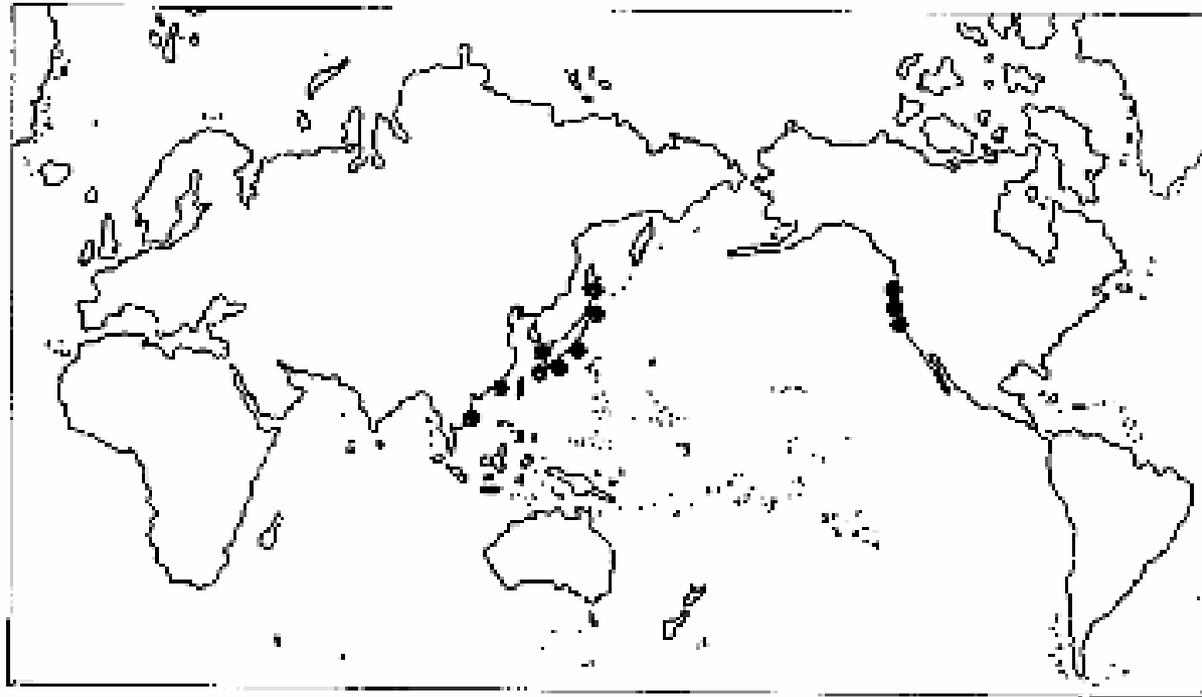
## *Zostera marina* distribution

MAP 3  
*Zostera marina*



## *Zostera japonica* distribution

MAP 6  
*Zostera japonica*











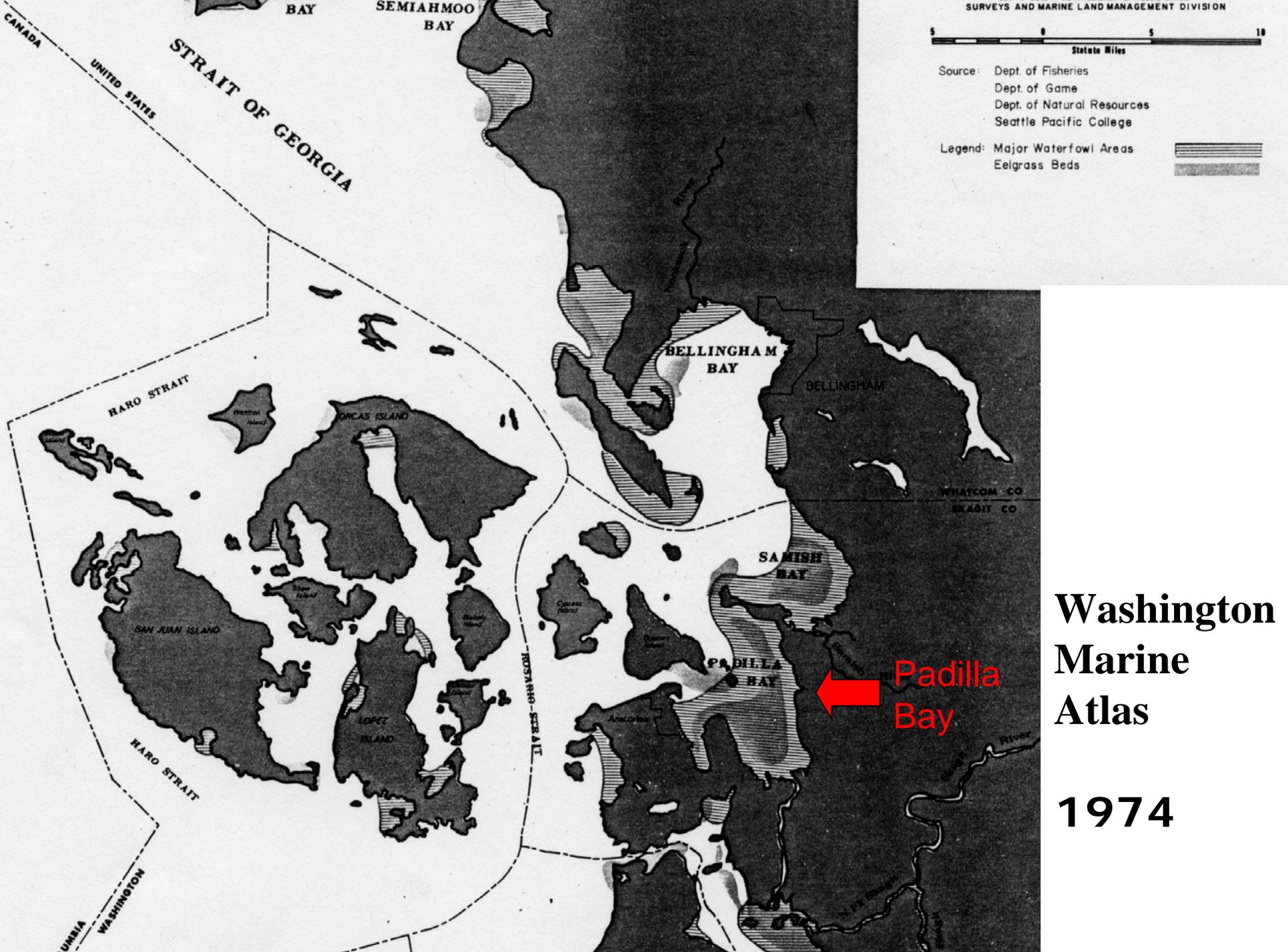
# Importance of Eelgrass

- Provides food and/or shelter for:



- juvenile herring
- juvenile salmon
- Dungeness crab
  - Black brant

# Previous Mapping



# Landsat 1986

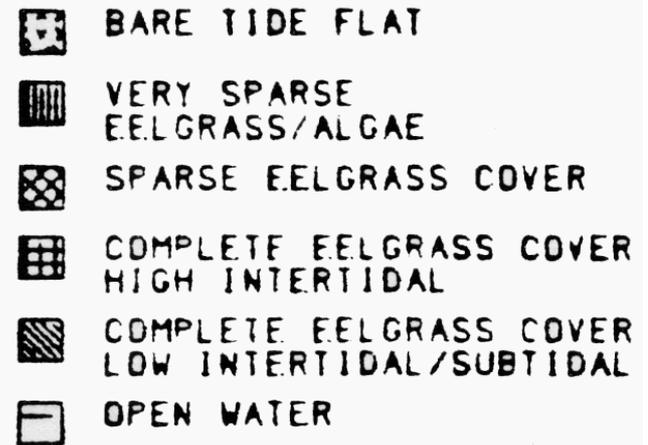
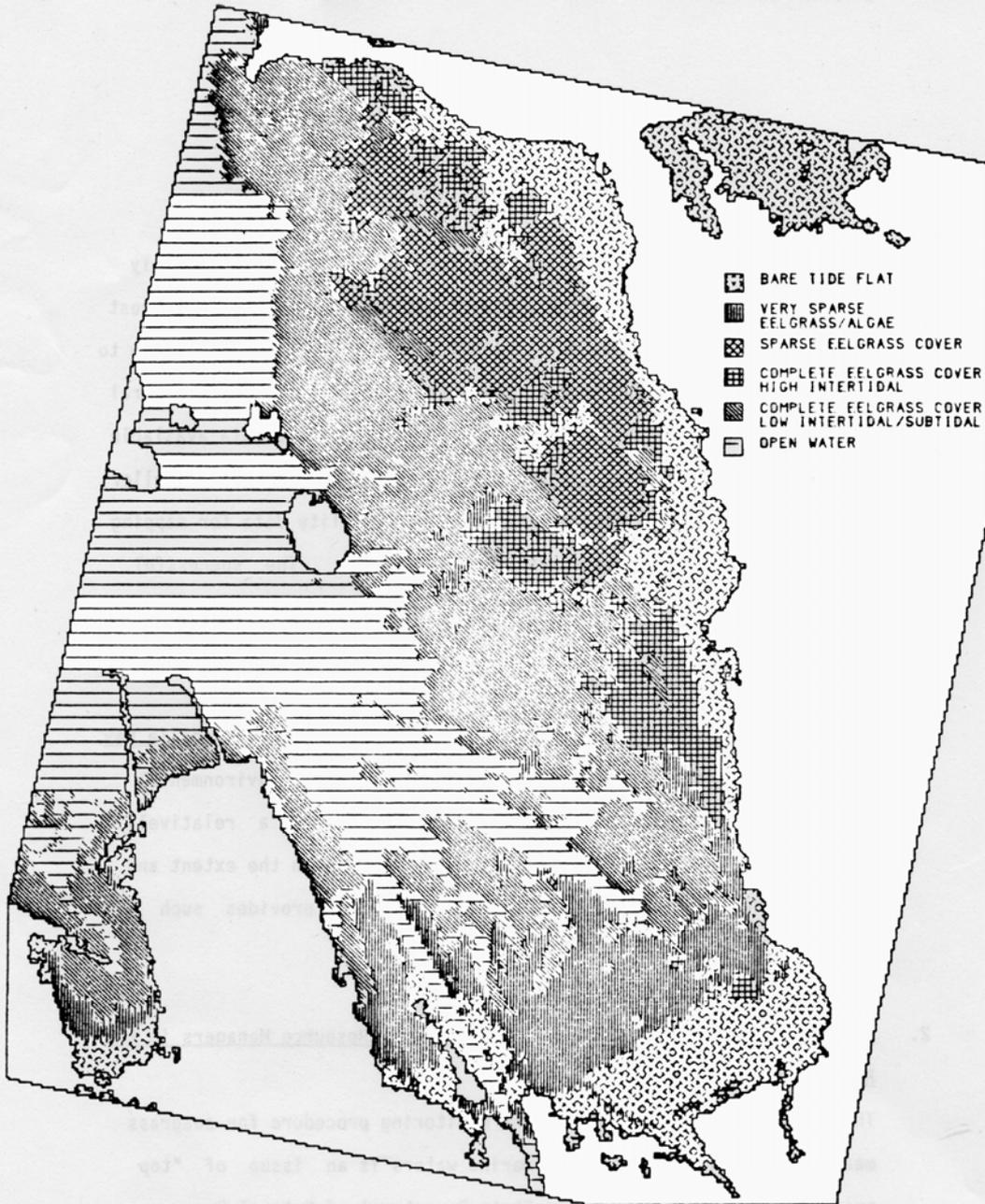


Figure 18

Black and white reduction of the 1:2,4000 map showing the distribution of seagrass cover types in Padilla Bay.

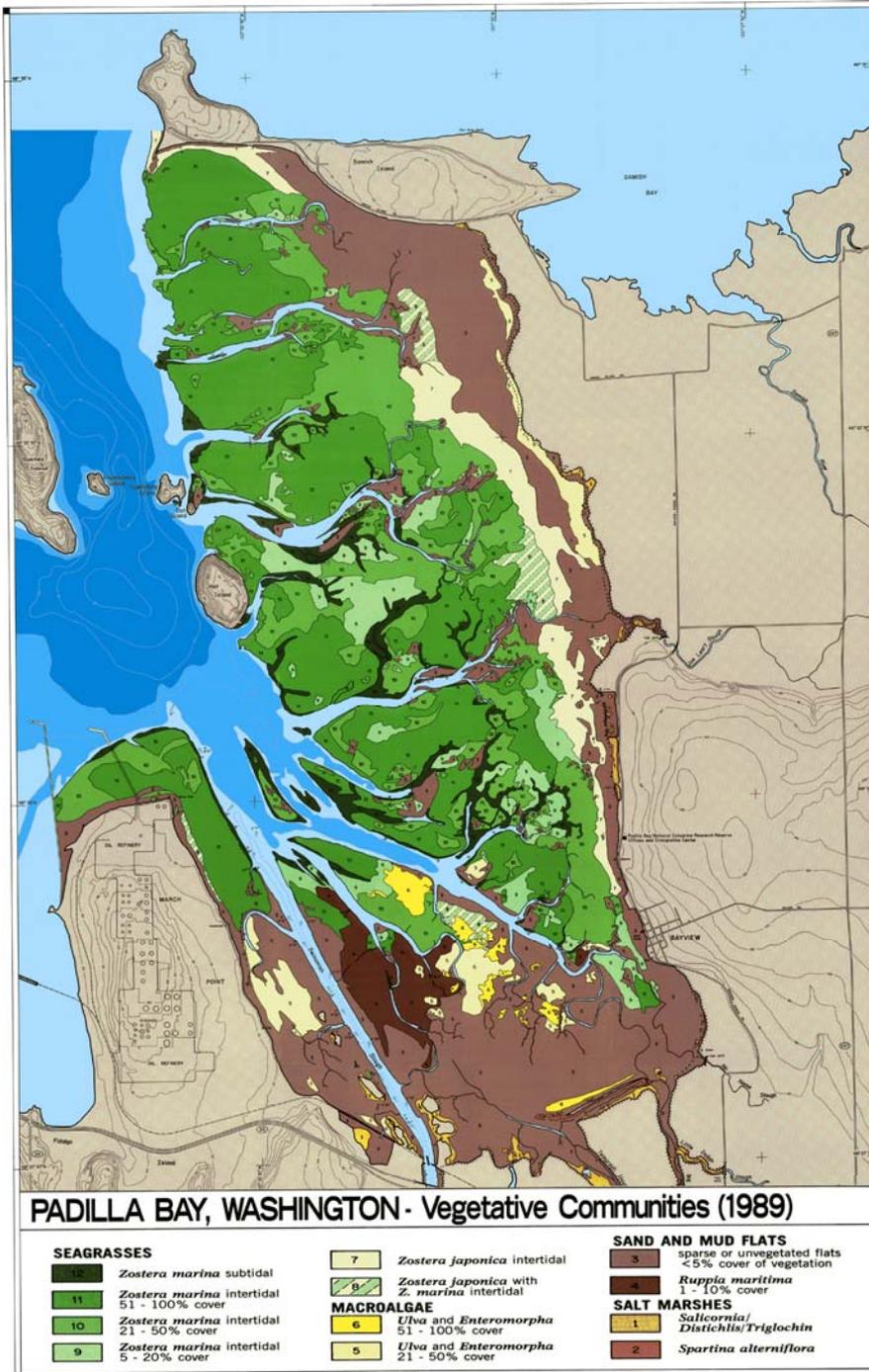
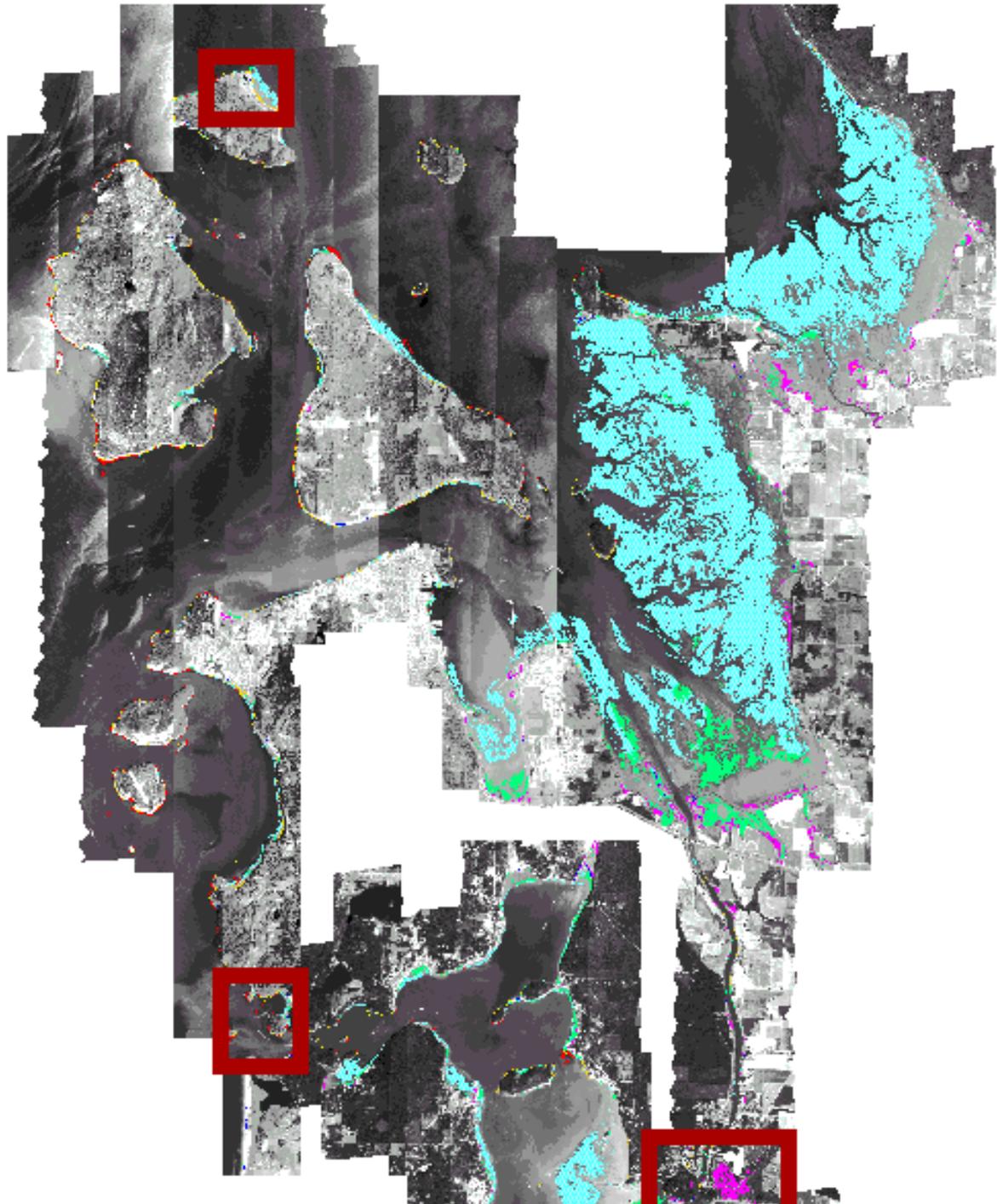


Figure 1. Padilla Bay Habitat Map.



CASI 1996

# Objectives in 2004

Methods for annual monitoring of distribution of SAV  
in Padilla Bay

SAV distribution in Padilla Bay in 2004

Is Zostera japonica areal coverage increasing?

Is there evidence of interannual variation?

# Methods

Image acquisition: true color aerial photography

Image processing: an orthorectified photomosaic

Geodatabase and classification scheme in ArcGIS 9

Ground reference data collection

On-screen delineation

Change detection

# Photo Specifications:

1:12K and 1:42K contact prints  
30% Sidelap  
60% Overlap  
narrow tidal window

## Orthophotography

June 4, 2004

-3.9' Tide

0.5' resolution

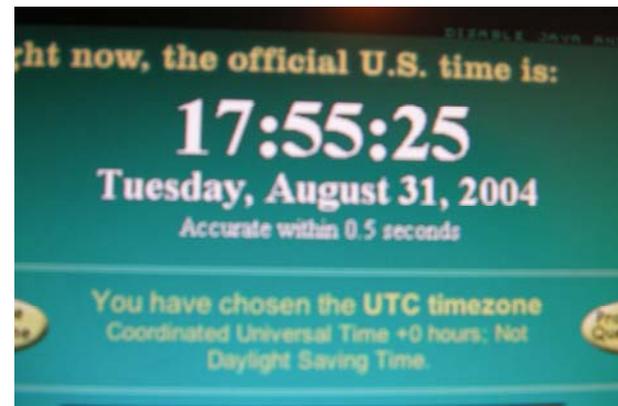


## Equipment:

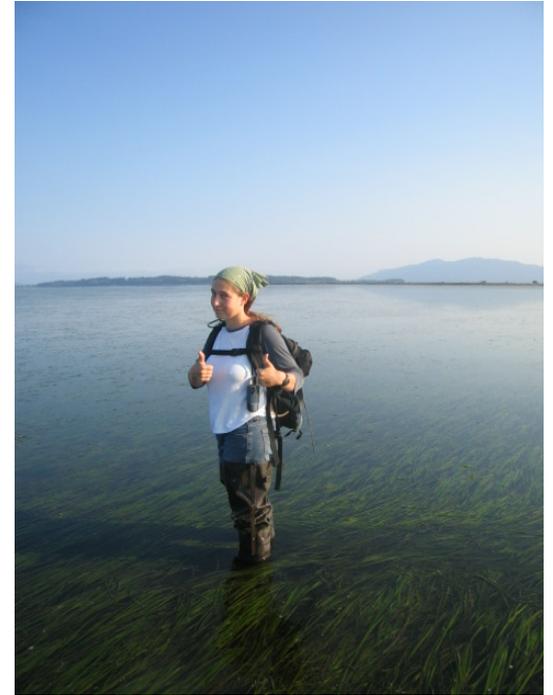
- ArcGIS 9 (ESRI)
- Dual Xeon 2.66 GHz Processor
- Touchscreen display
- Dual monitor
- Trimble GeoXT & Garmin

## Extensions:

- Red Hen Systems Pixpoint



# Groundtruth

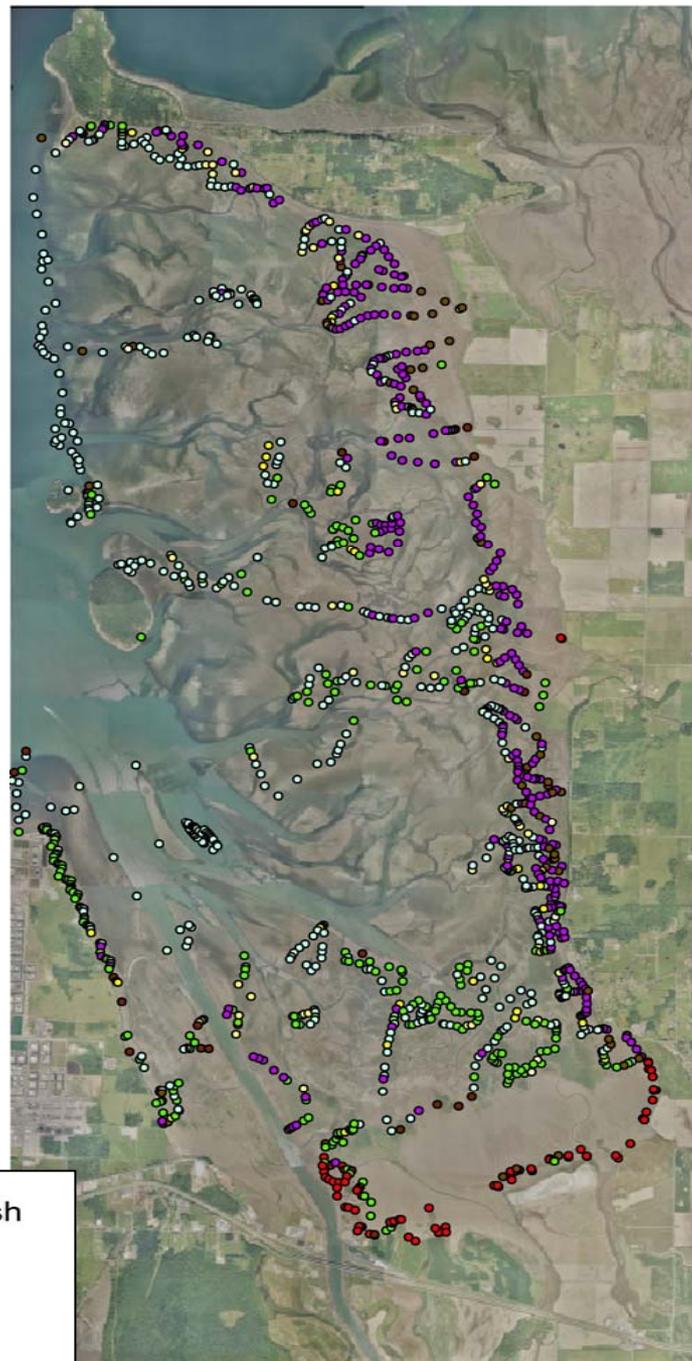


Date	Time	Site	Observer	Lat_degre	Lat_minut	Lon_degre	Lon_minut	%_category	%_composit	Trans_vs.	Comments
20000731	930	666	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32	>10%	Mostly ZJ, some G. Al	WH	Patchy with large bare areas
20000731	931	667	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32	11-50%	mix of ZJ and ZM	WH	Even, thin cover, not as patchy as site 96
20000731	1030	668	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31		almost all ZJ	Transition	>10% to the west, 51-100% to east, transition with bare to west and ZJ < 50% to east
20000731	1033	669	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31	51-100	100% ZJ	WH	90% cover
20000731	1040	6700	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31	51-100	60% Ulva, 40% Entero.	WH	much softer sediment than previous sites, lots of sediment on top of algae
20000731	1043	6701	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31	Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent	WH	algae about 3 inches deep with ZM floating on surface
20000731	1055	6702	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31	51-100	80% ZM, 20% G. Algae	WH	50% cover, strip of ZM along channel about 30-40 inches wide from site 101 to 102
20000731	1100	6703	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31	Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent	WH	Edge of channel, west edge in line with north edge of channel flowing east
20000731	1105	6704	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31	Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent	WH	Similar to site 101
20000731	1112	6705	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31	Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent	WH	Same as site 101
20000731	1120	6706	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32	51-100	80% Ent., 20% ZM	WH	
20000731	1126	6707	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32	Full Cover	90% ZM, 10% G. Algae	WH	
20000731	1135	6708	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32				Marking channel line comes out by channel marker #16, on east side by tributary channel
20000731	1145	6709	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32	Full Cover	70% ZM, 30% G. Algae	WH	
20000731	1150	6710	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32	Full Cover	80% ZM, 40% G&S Algae	WH	1 meter long ZM
20000731	1155	6711	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32			Transition	1 meter long ZM, midway between 2 channels
20000731	1157	6712	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32	Full Cover	100% Ulva	Transition	Transition between site 110 type and site 112 type
20000731	1203	6713	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31			WH	about 4 inches deep
20000731	1207	6714	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31			Transition	West is similar to site 112, east is 100% cover w/ 90% ZM (in tall), appears same to ch
20000731	1215	6715	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	31			Transition	To south and east is full cover tall ZM, west and toward that island is like site 112
20000731	110	6716	Karen Watsco	48	29	122	32	11-50%	mixed ZM, ZJ and bare	WH	thinner than other places, tall full cover ZM to east and Ulva to west
20000731	120	6717	Karen Watsco	48	28	122	31	51-100	100% ZJ	WH	Marking edge of Swainsonish channel between Edna B and site, strip about 30-40ft wide, in
20000731	124	6718	Karen Watsco	48	28	122	31	51-100	100% ZJ	WH	Even, thin covering of ZJ
20000731	130	6719	Karen Watsco	48	28	122	31	51-100	100% ZJ	Transition	Similar to site 117 to the west and bare to east, SE appears very bare, north looks pa
20000731	140	6720	Karen Watsco	48	28	122	31	51-100	100% ZJ	WH	East of 119 bare band about 30 meters wide on channel edge
20000731	147	6721	Karen Watsco	48	28	122	31	11-50%	75% G. Algae, 25% ZM	WH	90% cover, occasional green algae
20000731	151	6722	Karen Watsco	48	28	122	31	Full Cover	60% ZM, 40% G. Algae	WH	
20000731	157	6723	Karen Watsco	48	28	122	31			WH	ZM tall (about 1 meter), green algae is Ulva and Enteromorpha
											Junction of tributary channel

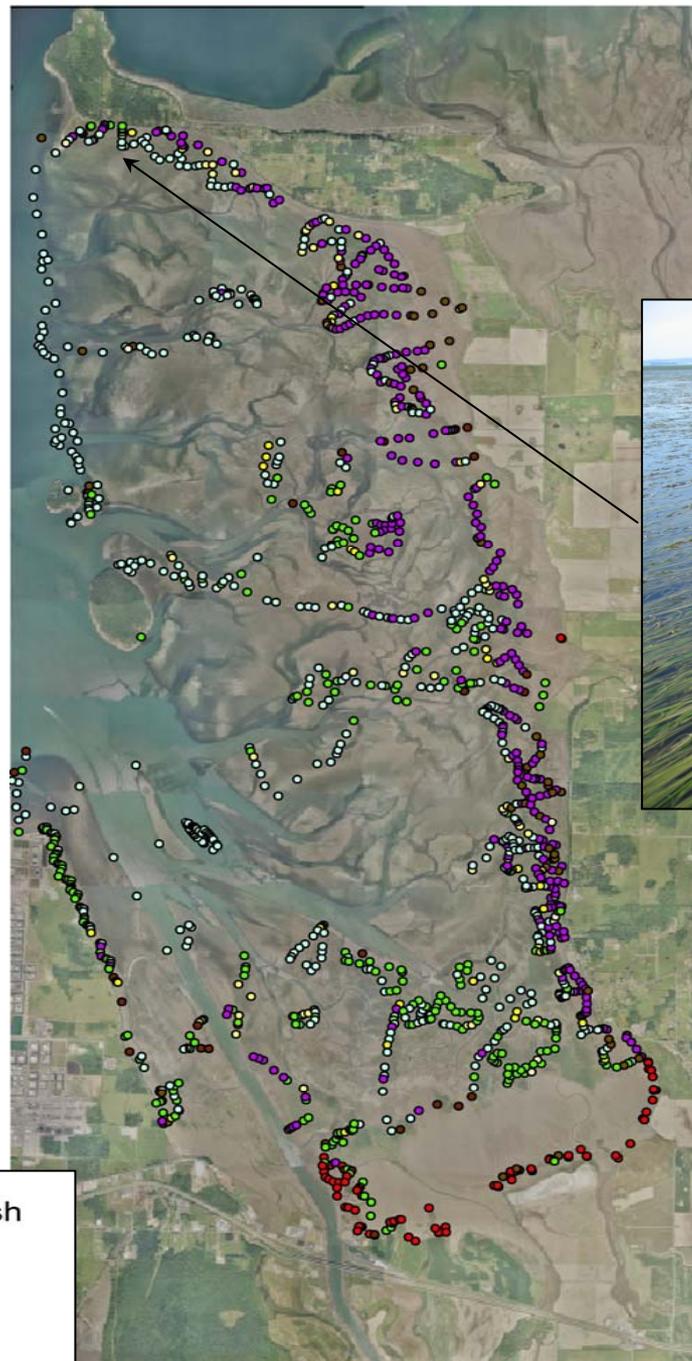
% Category	% Composition	Trans. Vs.	WH	Comments
>10%	Mostly ZJ, some G. Algae	WH		Patchy with large bare areas
11-50%	mix of ZJ and ZM	WH		Even, thin cover, not as patchy as site 96
	almost all ZJ	Transition		>10% to the west, 51-100% to east, transition with bare to w
51-100	100% ZJ	WH		90% cover
51-100	60% Ulva, 40% Entero.	WH		much softer sediment than previous sites, lots of sediment c
Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent.	WH		algae about 3 inches deep with ZM floating on surface

1360 Sites

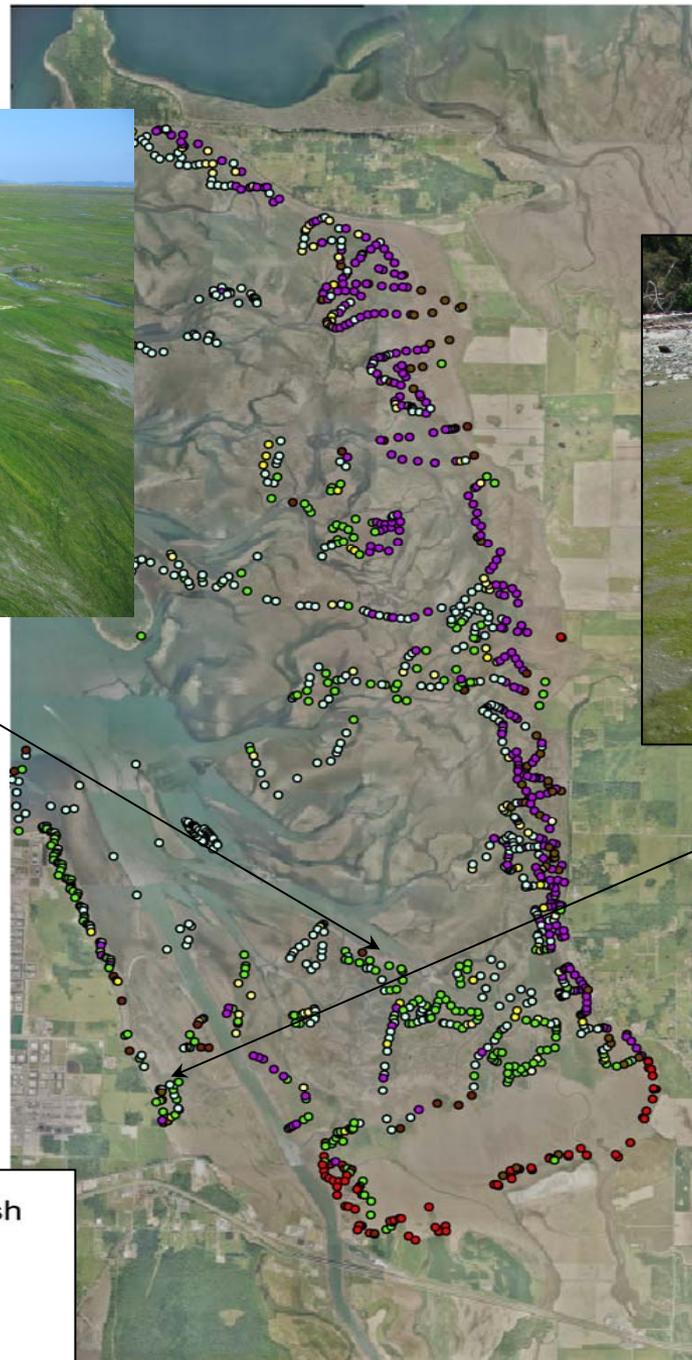




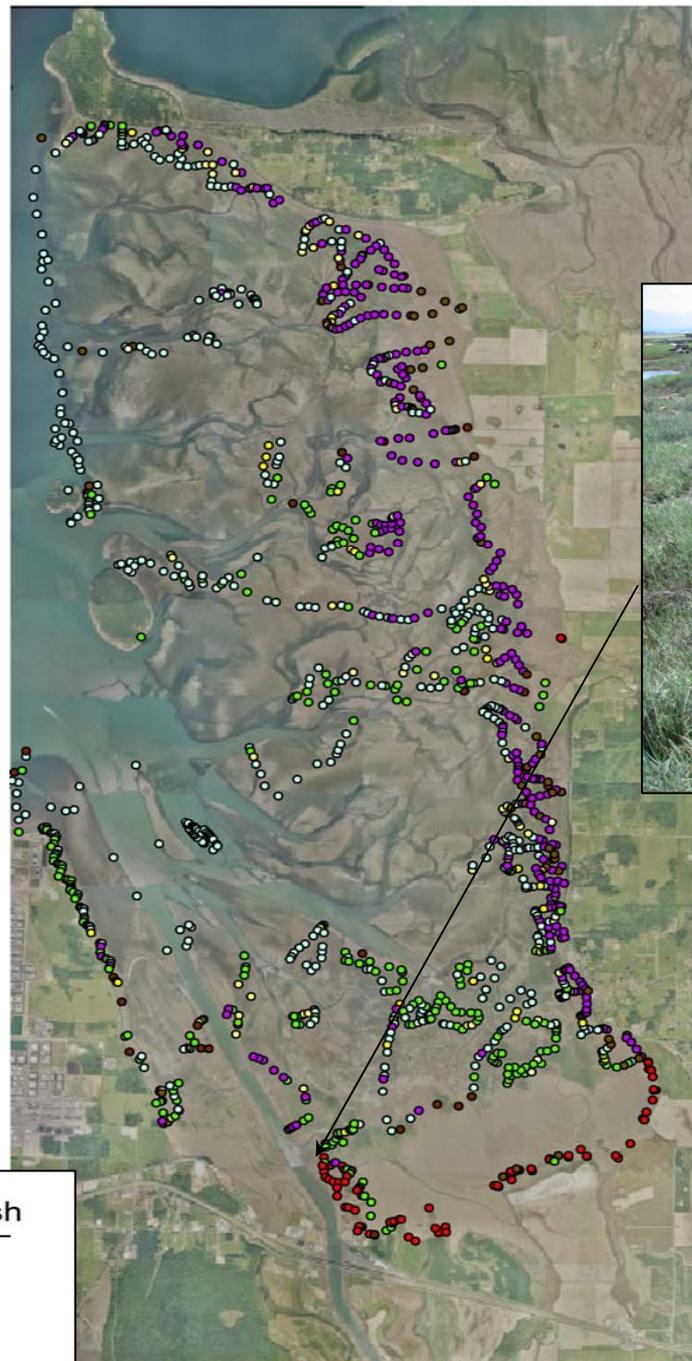
- |   |             |   |            |
|---|-------------|---|------------|
| ○ | Z. marina   | ● | Salt Marsh |
| ● | Z. japonica | ○ | <=10%      |
| ● | Algae       | ● | Bare       |
| ● | Mixed       |   |            |



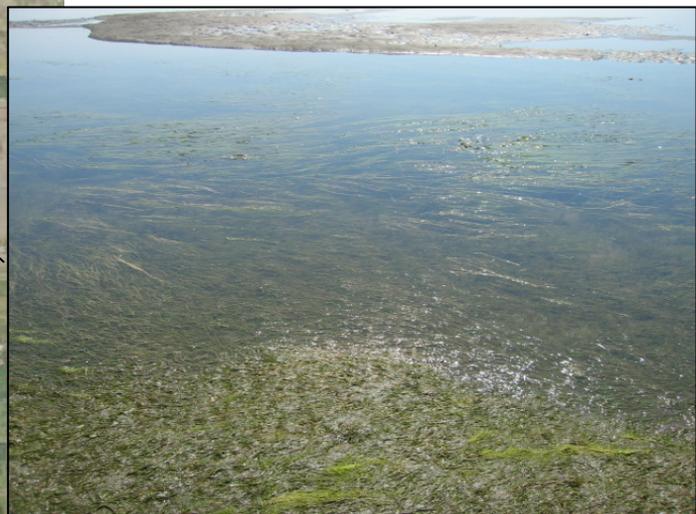
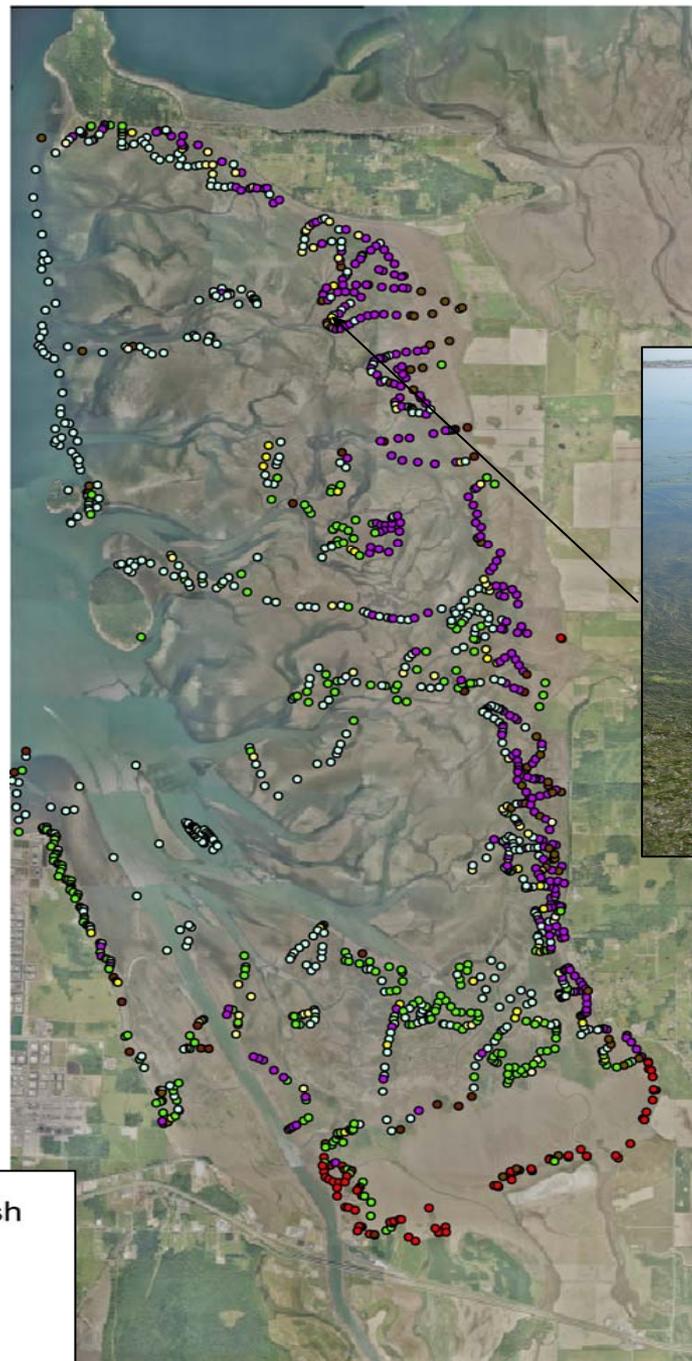
- |   |                  |   |            |
|---|------------------|---|------------|
| ○ | <u>Z. marina</u> | ● | Salt Marsh |
| ● | Z. japonica      | ○ | ≤10%       |
| ● | Algae            | ● | Bare       |
| ● | Mixed            |   |            |



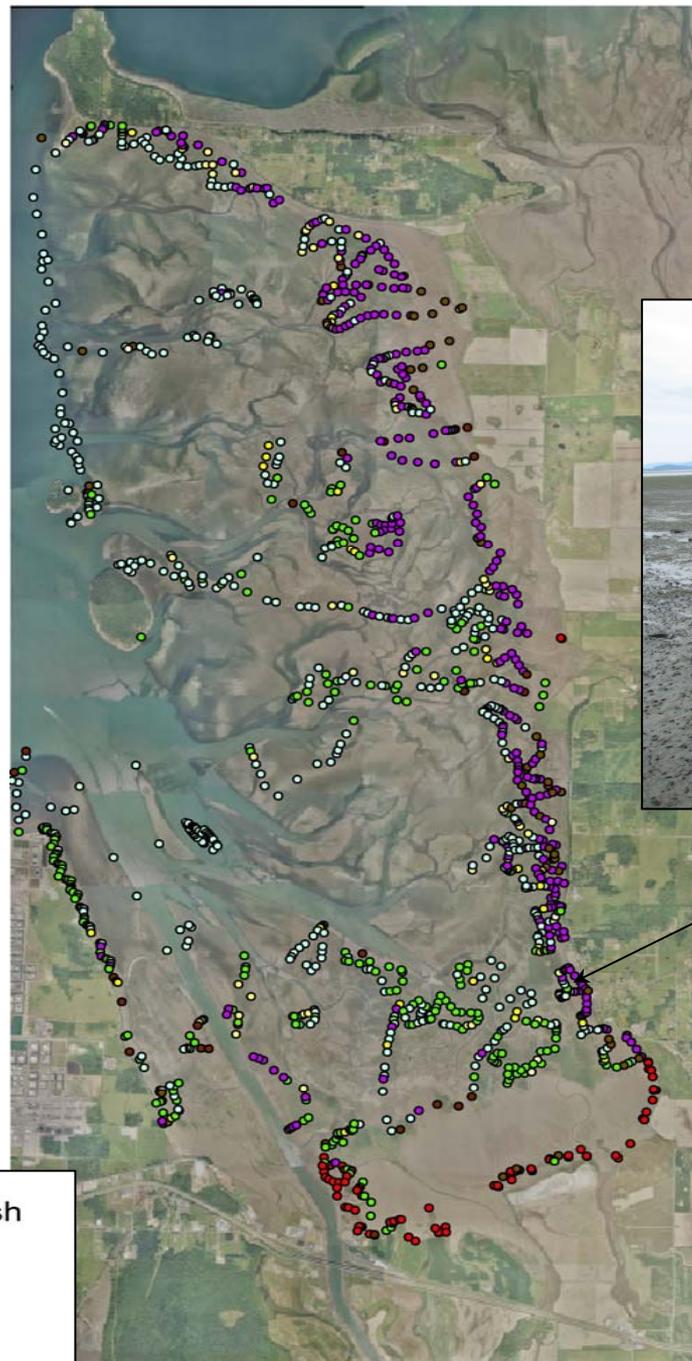
- |   |             |   |            |
|---|-------------|---|------------|
| ○ | Z. marina   | ● | Salt Marsh |
| ● | Z. japonica | ○ | <=10%      |
| ● | Algae       | ● | Bare       |
| ● | Mixed       |   |            |



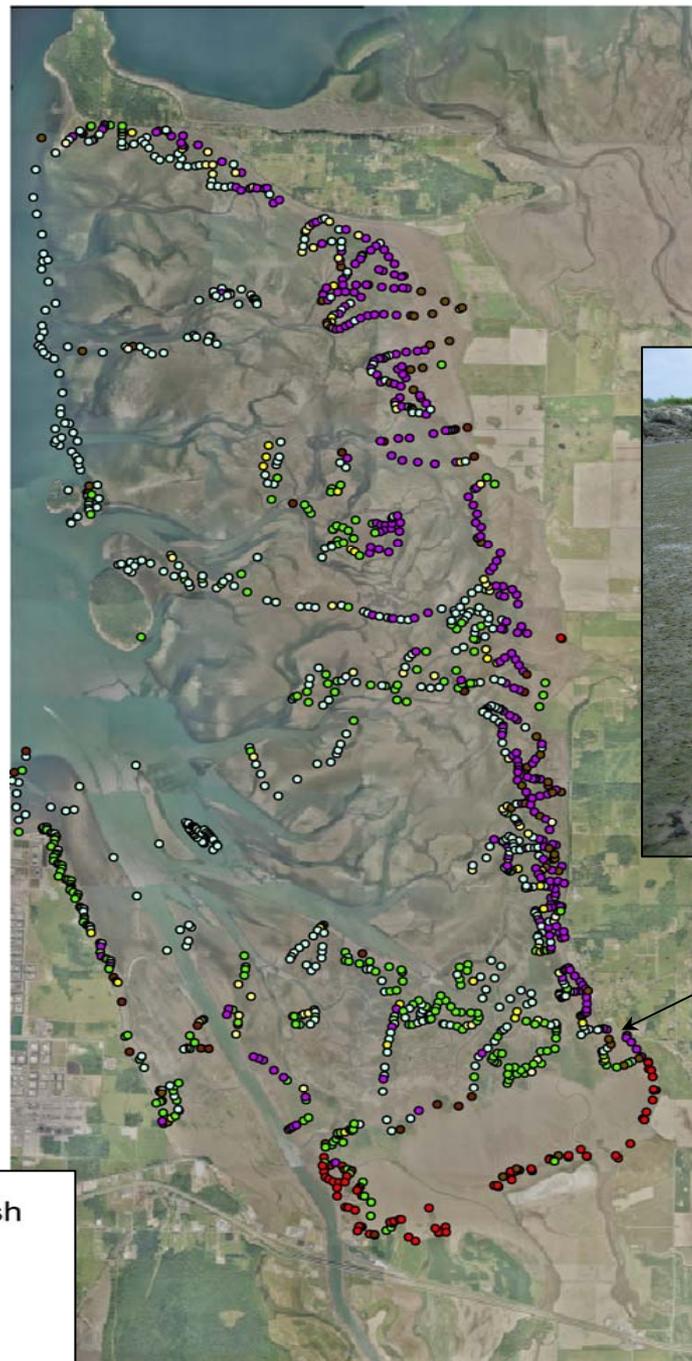
- |   |             |   |            |
|---|-------------|---|------------|
| ○ | Z. marina   | ● | Salt Marsh |
| ● | Z. japonica | ○ | <=10%      |
| ● | Algae       | ● | Bare       |
| ● | Mixed       |   |            |



- |   |             |   |            |
|---|-------------|---|------------|
| ○ | Z. marina   | ● | Salt Marsh |
| ● | Z. japonica | ○ | <=10%      |
| ● | Algae       | ● | Bare       |
| ● | Mixed       |   |            |



- |   |             |   |            |
|---|-------------|---|------------|
| ○ | Z. marina   | ● | Salt Marsh |
| ● | Z. japonica | ○ | <=10%      |
| ● | Algae       | ● | Bare       |
| ● | Mixed       |   |            |



- |   |             |   |            |
|---|-------------|---|------------|
| ○ | Z. marina   | ● | Salt Marsh |
| ● | Z. japonica | ○ | ≤10%       |
| ● | Algae       | ● | Bare       |
| ● | Mixed       |   |            |

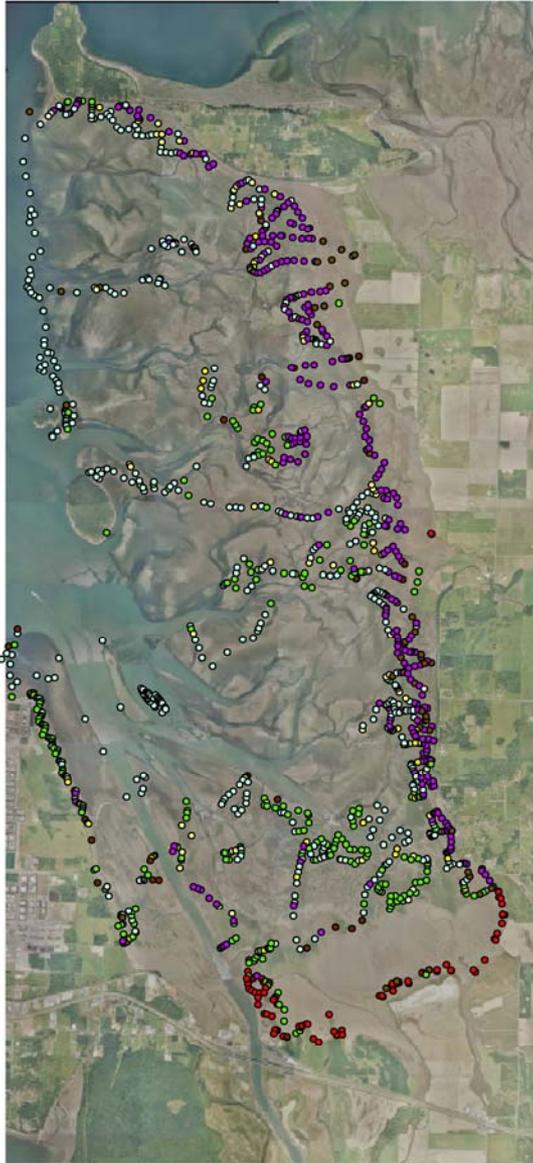
# Random Point Selection

- *Z. marina*
- *Z. japonica*
- Macroalgae
- Bare
- Saltmarsh

20 points per category excluding Transition sites

2004

1360 Ground Reference Sites



100 Accuracy Assessment Sites



# Geodatabase

- Schema
  - Subtypes
  - Domains

Based Habitat Digitizer Extension  
by James Byrne (NOAA)

- Topology Rules
  - Must Not Overlap
  - Must Not Have Gaps
- Snapping Rules
  - Snap to shoreline layer

Insert Selection Tools Window Help

Layers>

Task: Cut Polygon Features Target

1:6,303

Arial

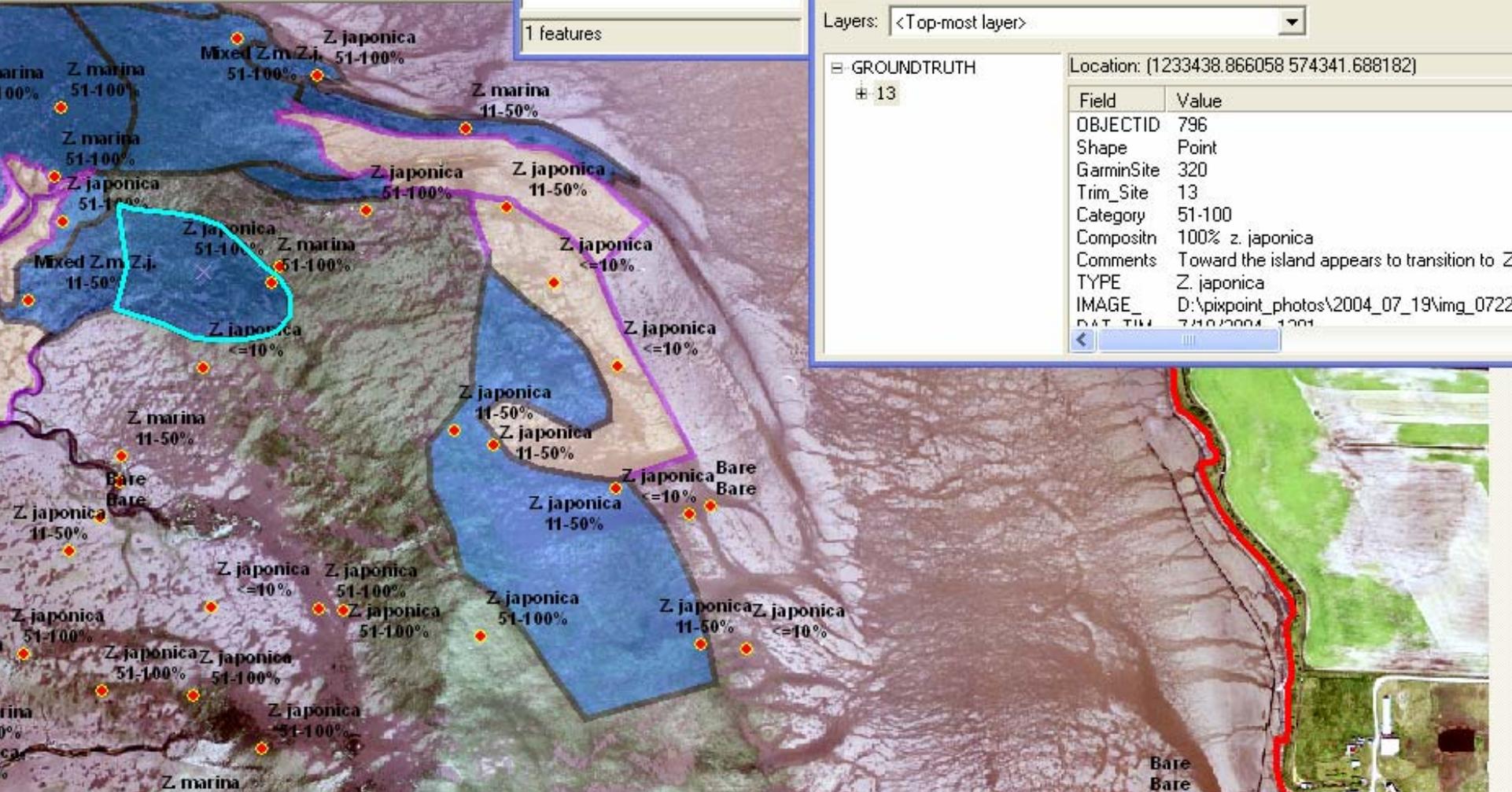
Attributes

HABITATS\_2004

INT

1 features

Property	Value
OBJECTID	221
Habitat	Vegetated
Zone	INTERTIDAL
Representative ...	Zostera marina
Type of Habitat	Continuous Z. marina (51-100% Co...
SHAPE_Length	1745.61
SHAPE_Area	189115.093
COVER	Between 51-100% vegetated cover
TEMP	<Null>



Identify Results

Layers: <Top-most layer>

GROUNDTRUTH

13

Location: (1233438.866058 574341.688182)

Field	Value
OBJECTID	796
Shape	Point
GarminSite	320
Trim_Site	13
Category	51-100
Compositn	100% z. japonica
Comments	Toward the island appears to transition to Z.
TYPE	Z. japonica
IMAGE_	D:\pixpoint_photos\2004_07_19\img_0722
DATE	7/19/2004 1:00



### Attributes

HABITATS\_2004 # 222

Property	Value
OBJECTID	222
Habitat	Vegetated
Zone	<Null>
Representative ...	<Null>
Type of Habitat	INTERTIDAL
SHAPE_Length	1360615.91
SHAPE_Area	
COVER	<Null>
TEMP	<Null>

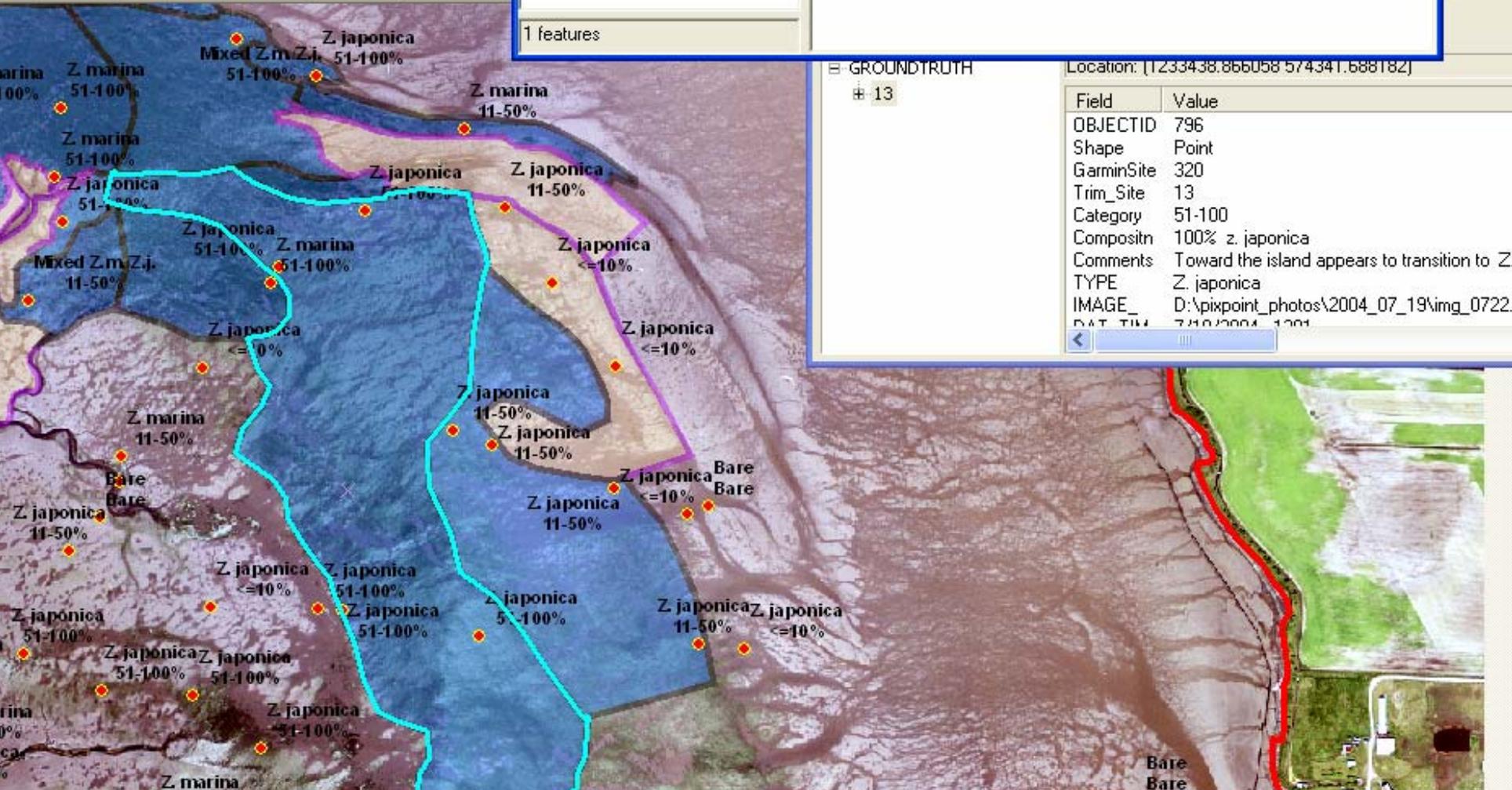
1 features

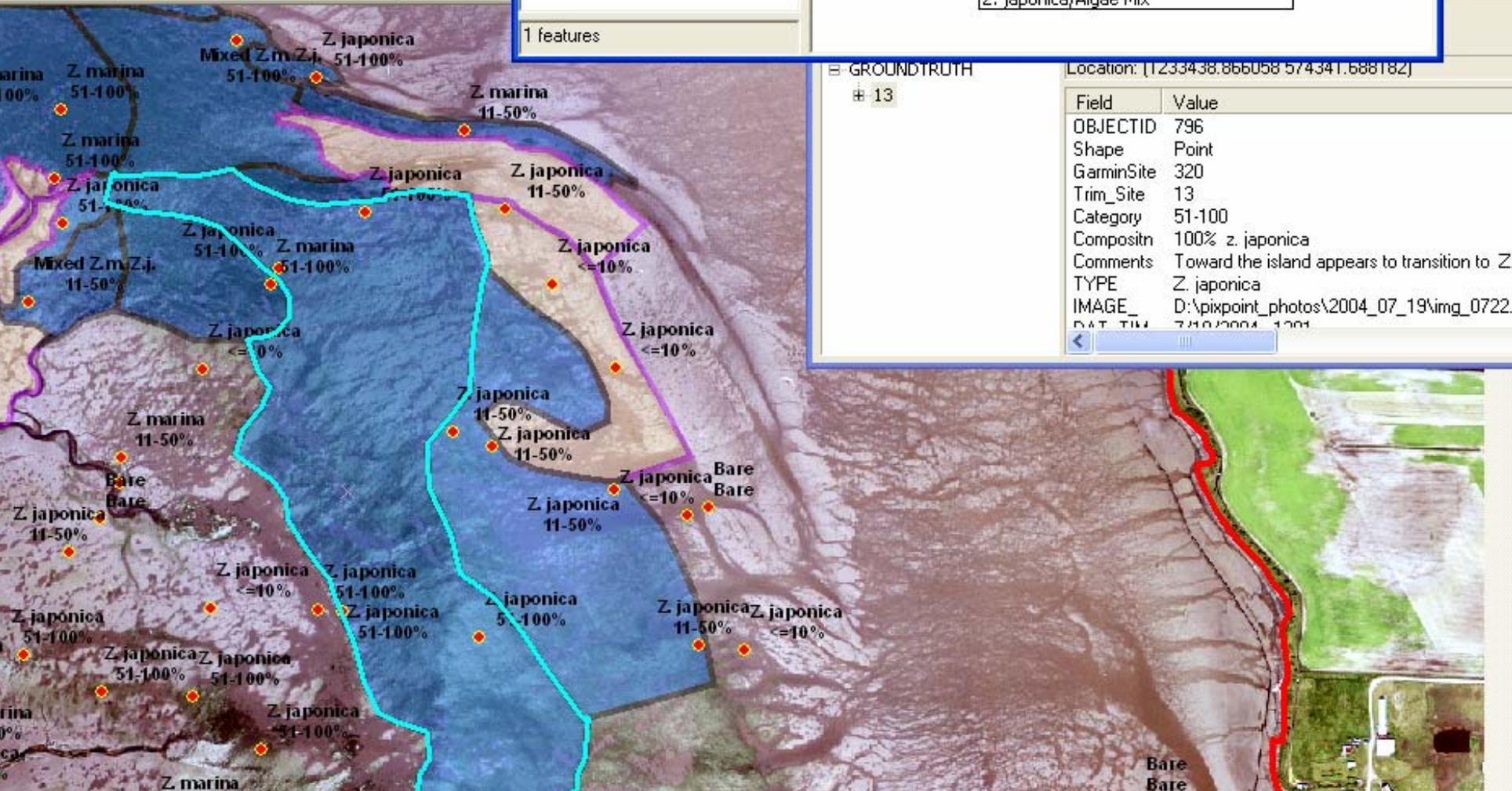
### GROUNDTRUTH

# 13

Location: [1233438.866058 574341.688182]

Field	Value
OBJECTID	796
Shape	Point
GarminSite	320
Trim_Site	13
Category	51-100
Compositn	100% z. japonica
Comments	Toward the island appears to transition to Z.
TYPE	Z. japonica
IMAGE_	D:\pixpoint_photos\2004_07_19\img_0722
DATE_T	7/19/2004 1:00





Attributes

HABITATS\_2004  
# INT

Property	Value
OBJECTID	222
Habitat	Vegetated
Zone	INTERTIDAL
Representative ...	Zostera japonica
Type of Habitat	<Null>
SHAPE_Length	Zostera marina
SHAPE_Area	Zostera japonica
COVER	Macroalgae
TEMP	Z. marina/Z. japonica Mix
	Z. marina/Z. japonica/Algae Mix
	Z. marina/Algae Mix
	Z. japonica/Algae Mix

1 features

GROUNDTRUTH  
# 13

Location: [1233438.866058 574341.688182]

Field	Value
OBJECTID	796
Shape	Point
GarminSite	320
Trim_Site	13
Category	51-100
Compositn	100% z. japonica
Comments	Toward the island appears to transition to Z.
TYPE	Z. japonica
IMAGE_	D:\pixpoint_photos\2004_07_19\img_0722
DAT_TIM	7/19/2004 1:00

**Attributes**

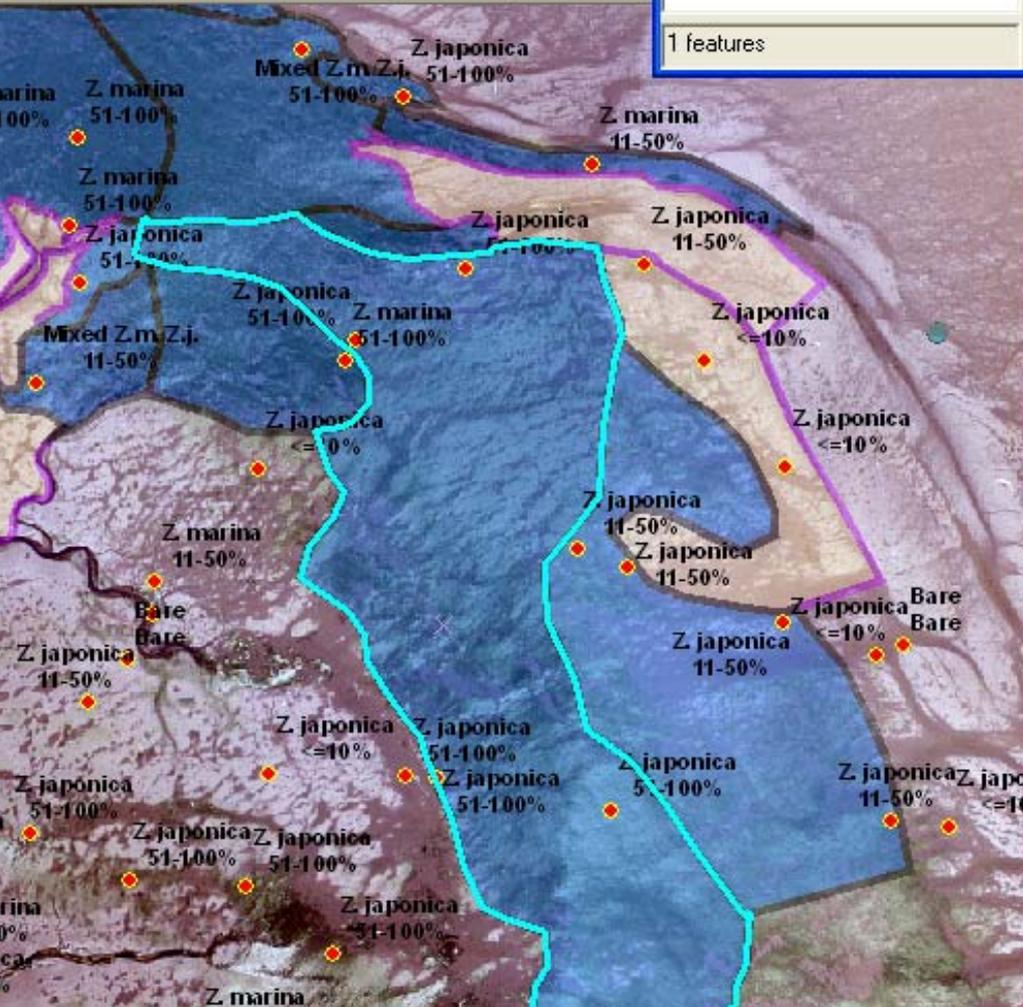
HABITATS\_2004

- INT

Property	Value
OBJECTID	222
Habitat	Vegetated
Zone	INTERTIDAL
Representative ...	Zostera japonica
Type of Habitat	Continuous Z. japonica (11-50% Co...
SHAPE_Length	7085.972
SHAPE_Area	1360615.91
COVER	<Null>
TEMP	<Null>

COVER dropdown menu:

- <Null>
- Less than 10% vegetated cover
- Between 11-50% vegetated cover
- Between 51-100% vegetated cover



GROUNDTRUTH

# 13

Location: [1233438.866058 574341.688182]

Field	Value
OBJECTID	796
Shape	Point
GarminSite	320
Trim_Site	13
Category	51-100
Compositn	100% z. japonica
Comments	Toward the island appears to transition to Z.
TYPE	Z. japonica
IMAGE_	D:\pixpoint_photos\2004_07_19\img_0722
DAT_TIM	7/19/2004 1:00

# Results

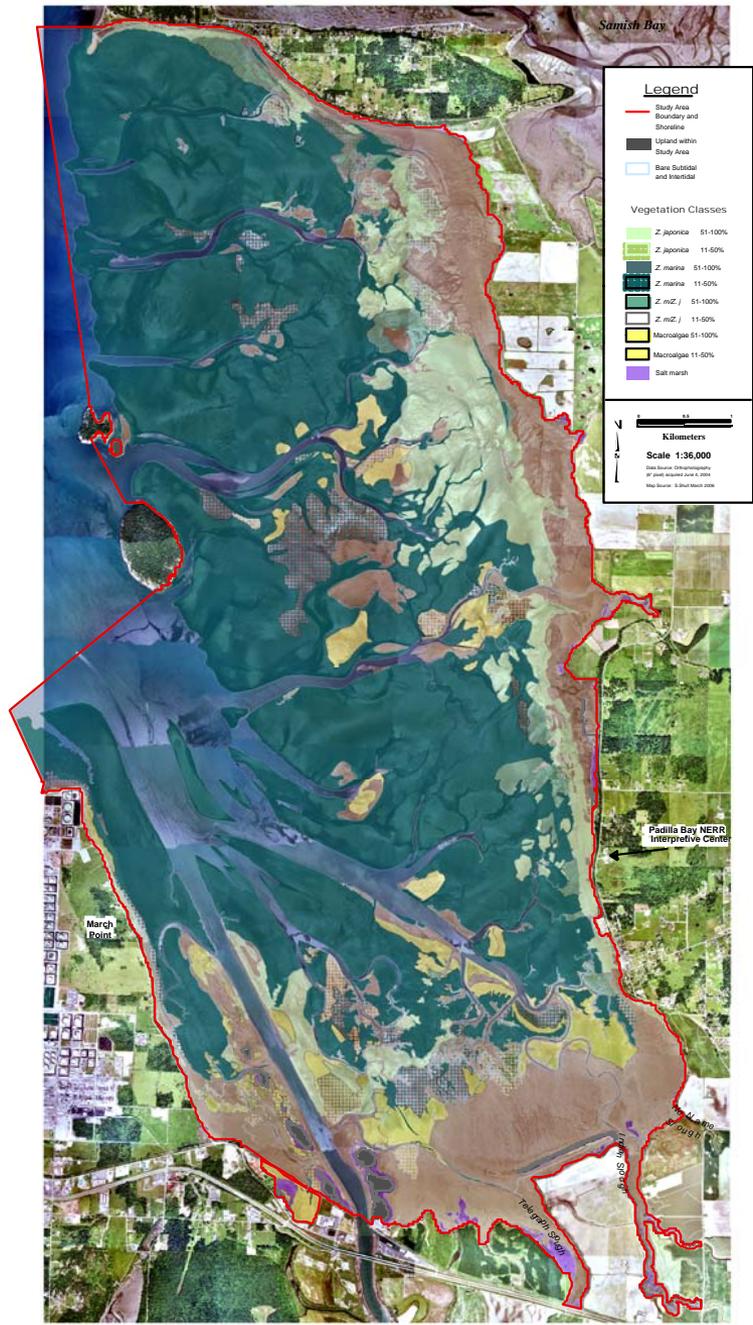
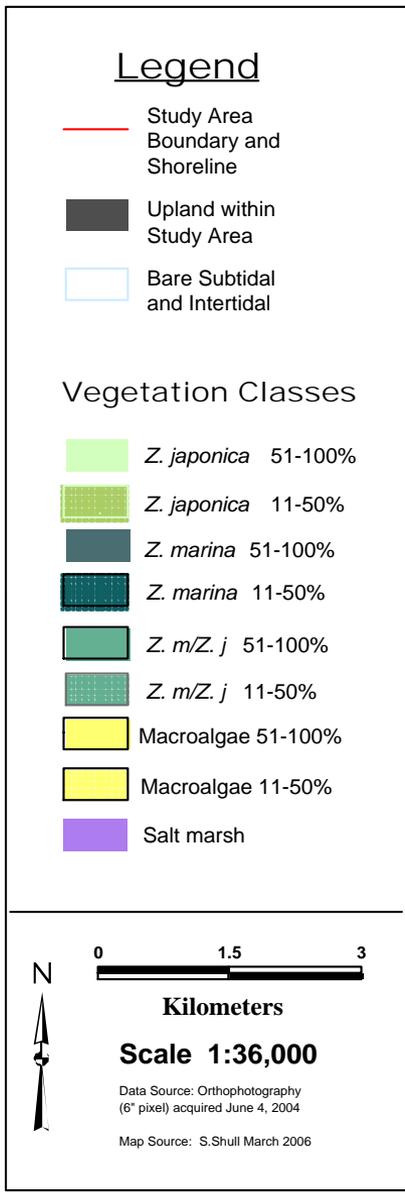


Figure 7. Distribution of all percent cover classes of eelgrasses, macroalgae, and salt marshes in Padilla Bay, Washington in June 2004.

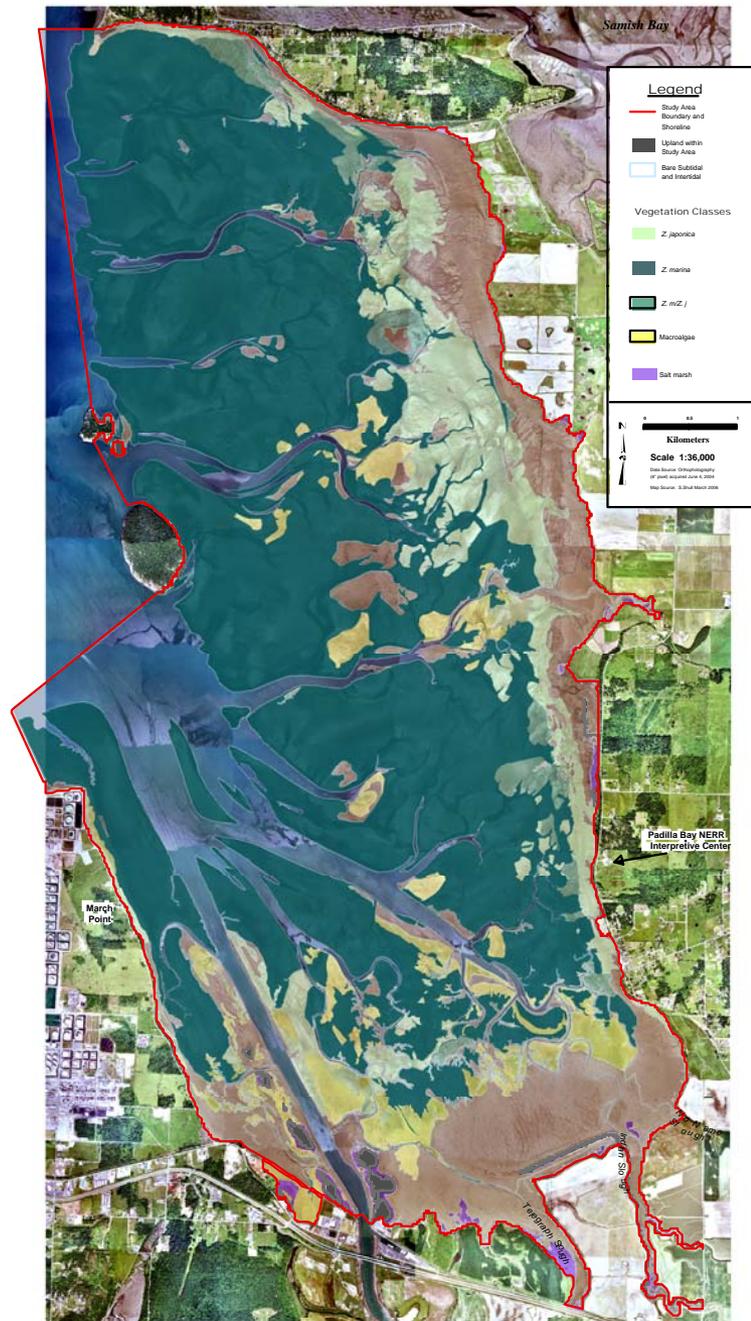
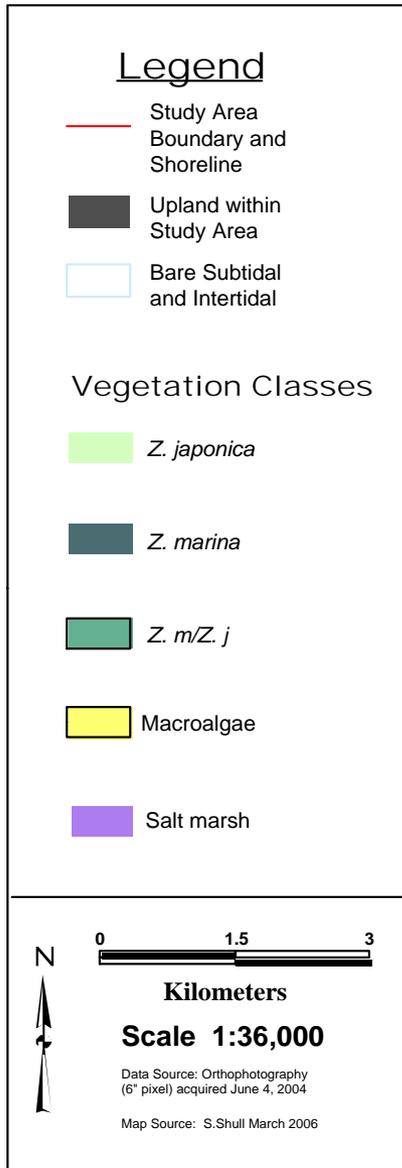


Figure 6. Distribution of eelgrasses, macroalgae, and salt marshes in Padilla Bay, Washington in June 2004.

# 2004

## Interpreted Map Class

Ground Reference

	Z. marina	Z. japonica	Algae	Bare	Salt Marsh	N/A		Producer's Accuracy
Z. Marina	19	0	0	1	0	0	20	95.0%
Z. Japonica	1	14	0	5	0	0	20	70.0%
Algae	4	0	12	4	0	0	20	60.0%
Bare	1	2	1	16	0	0	20	80.0%
Salt Marsh	0	0	0	6	12	2	20	60.0%
	25	16	13	32	12	2	100	
User's Accuracy	76.0%	87.5%	92.3%	50.0%	100.0%			

Overall accuracy = 73%

# **Patterns of stability and change**

**1989 to 2004**

- **Methods 1989**

- True color aerial photos 1:12,000
- Ground truth investigations at more than 100 sites
- Photointerpretation and mapping with Zoom Transfer Scope onto enlarged USGS quads
- Area of apparent vegetation units measured with planimeter

- **Methods 2000**

- Establish ground control points
- True color aerial photos 1:12,000
- Ground truth investigations at more than 250 sites
- Aerial photos scanned
- Georectification and mosaic of 1:12,000 photos with ArcView 3.x and extensions
- Delineation on screen with habitat digitizer
- Area of apparent vegetation units calculated with ArcView queries.

# Methods 2004

Image acquisition: true color aerial photography

Image processing: an orthorectified photomosaic

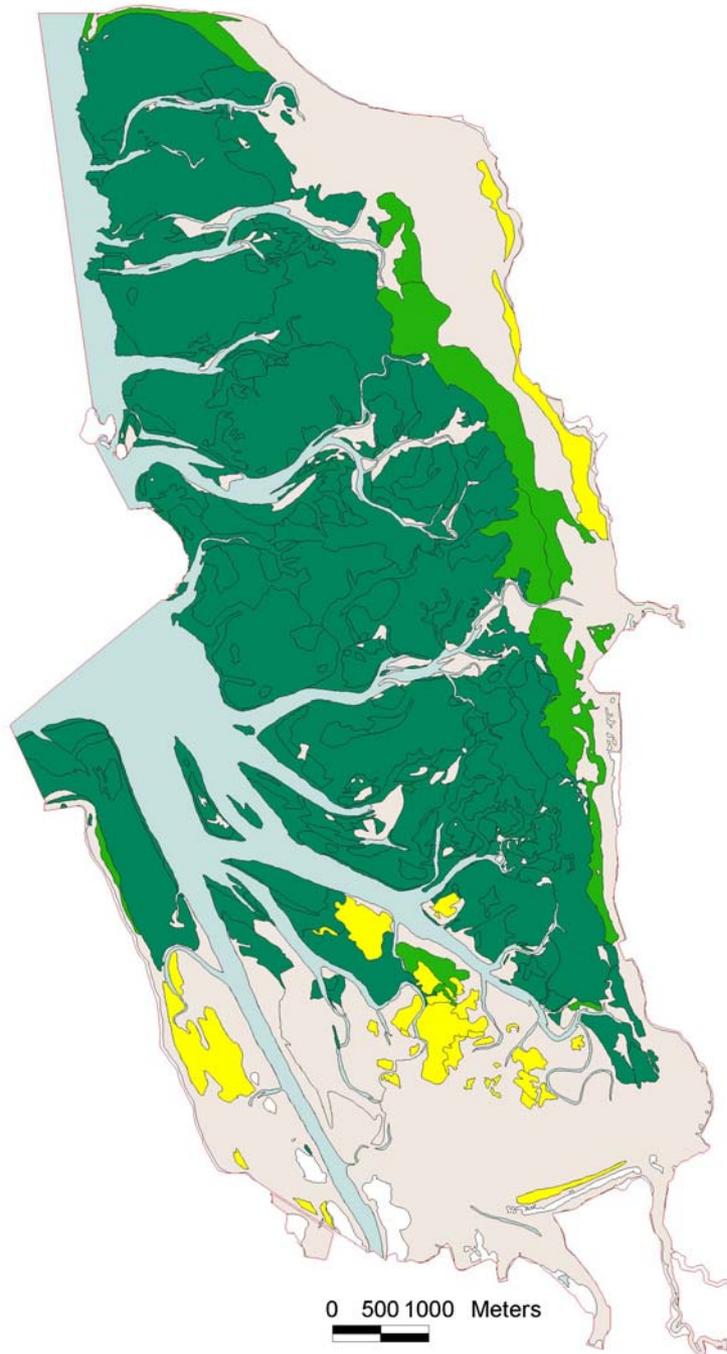
Geodatabase and classification scheme in ArcGIS 9

Ground reference data collection at 1360 sites

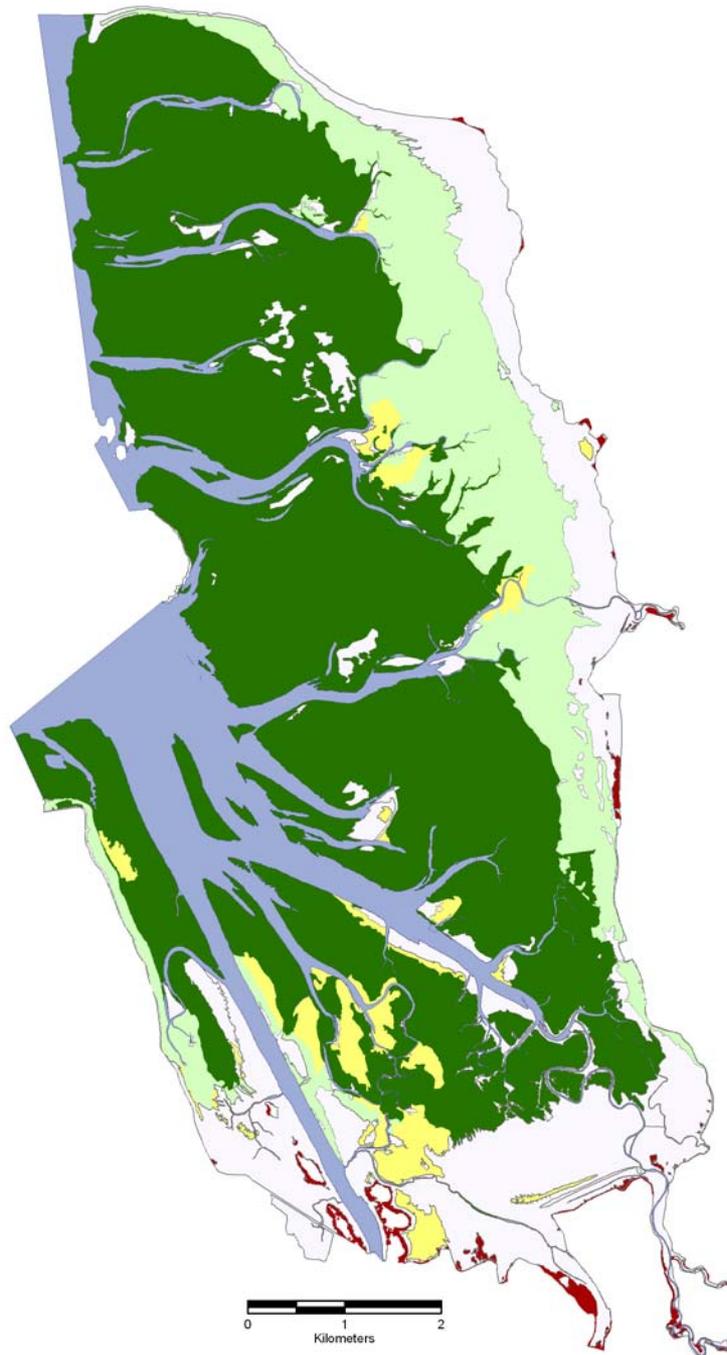
On-screen delineation

Change detection using ArcGIS 9

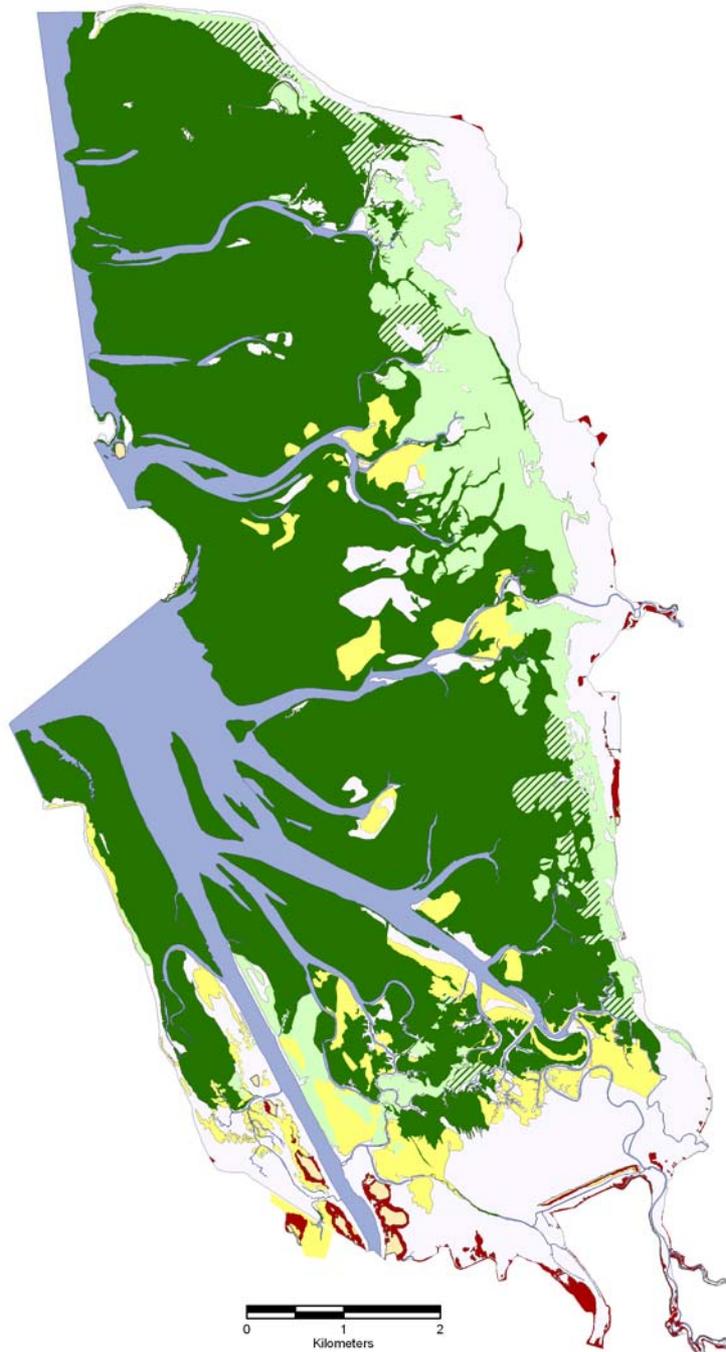
## Distribution in 1989



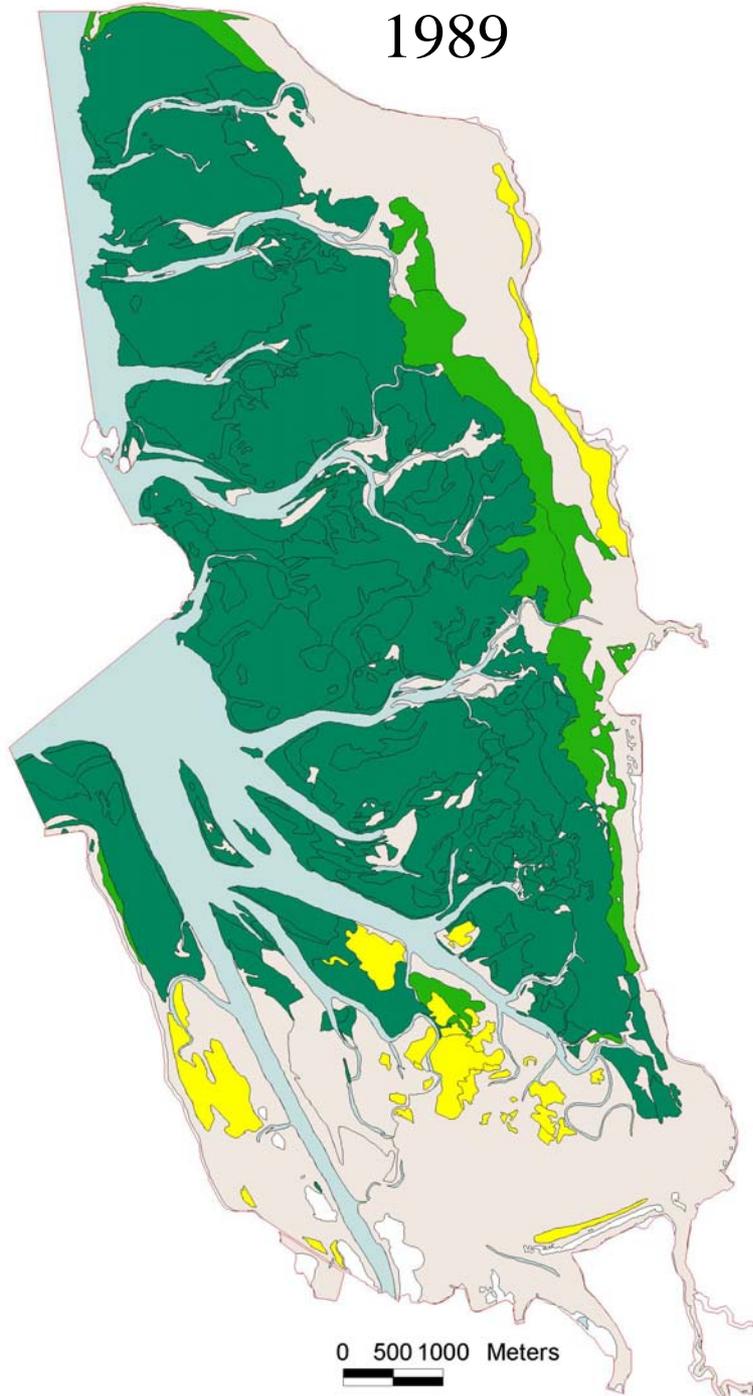
## Distribution in 2000



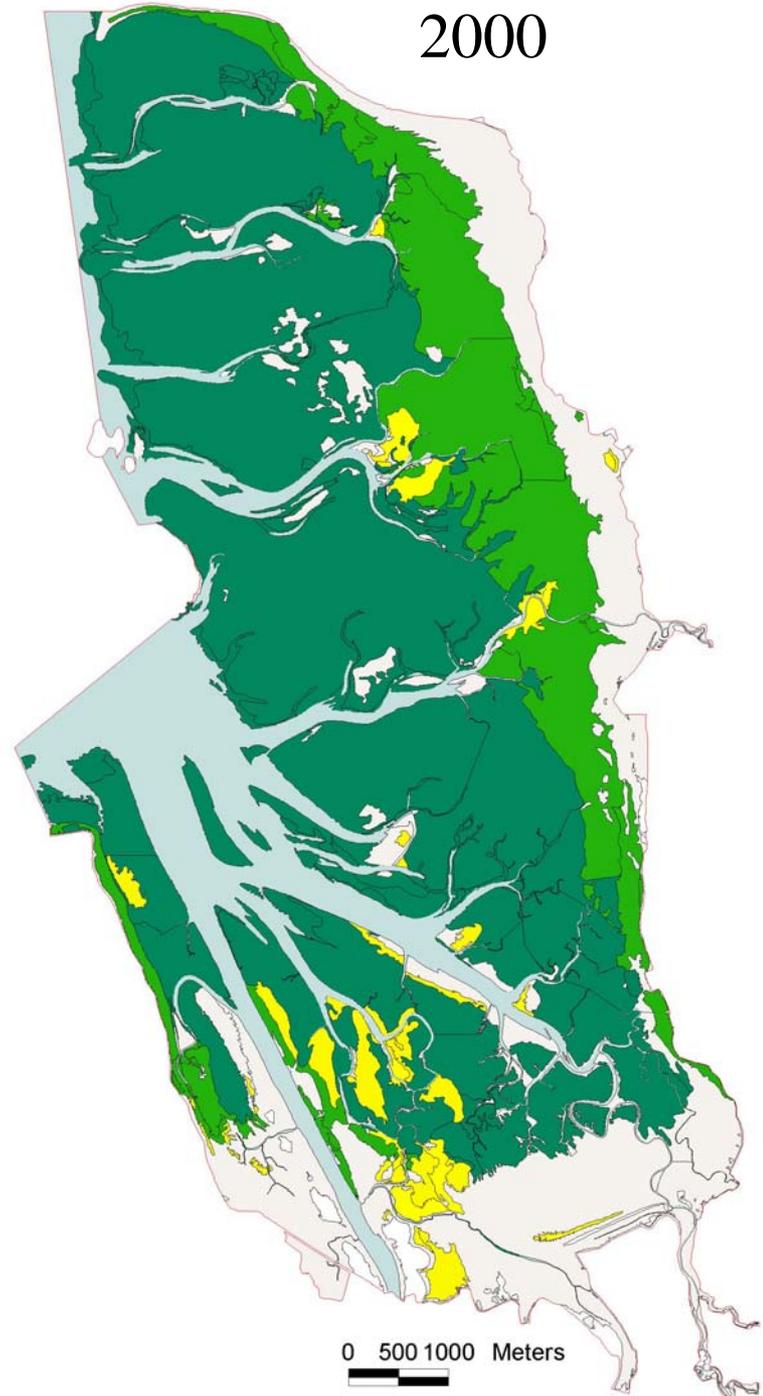
## Distribution in 2004



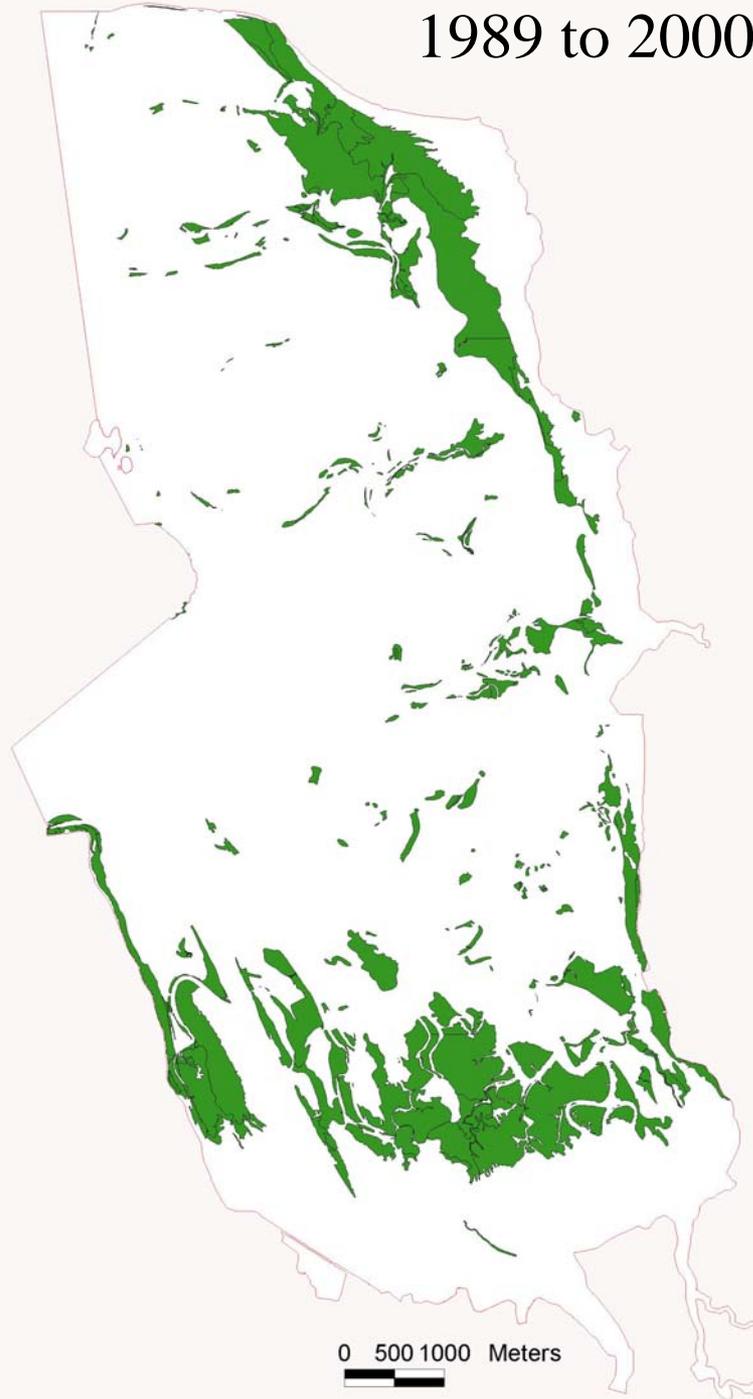
1989



2000



1989 to 2000



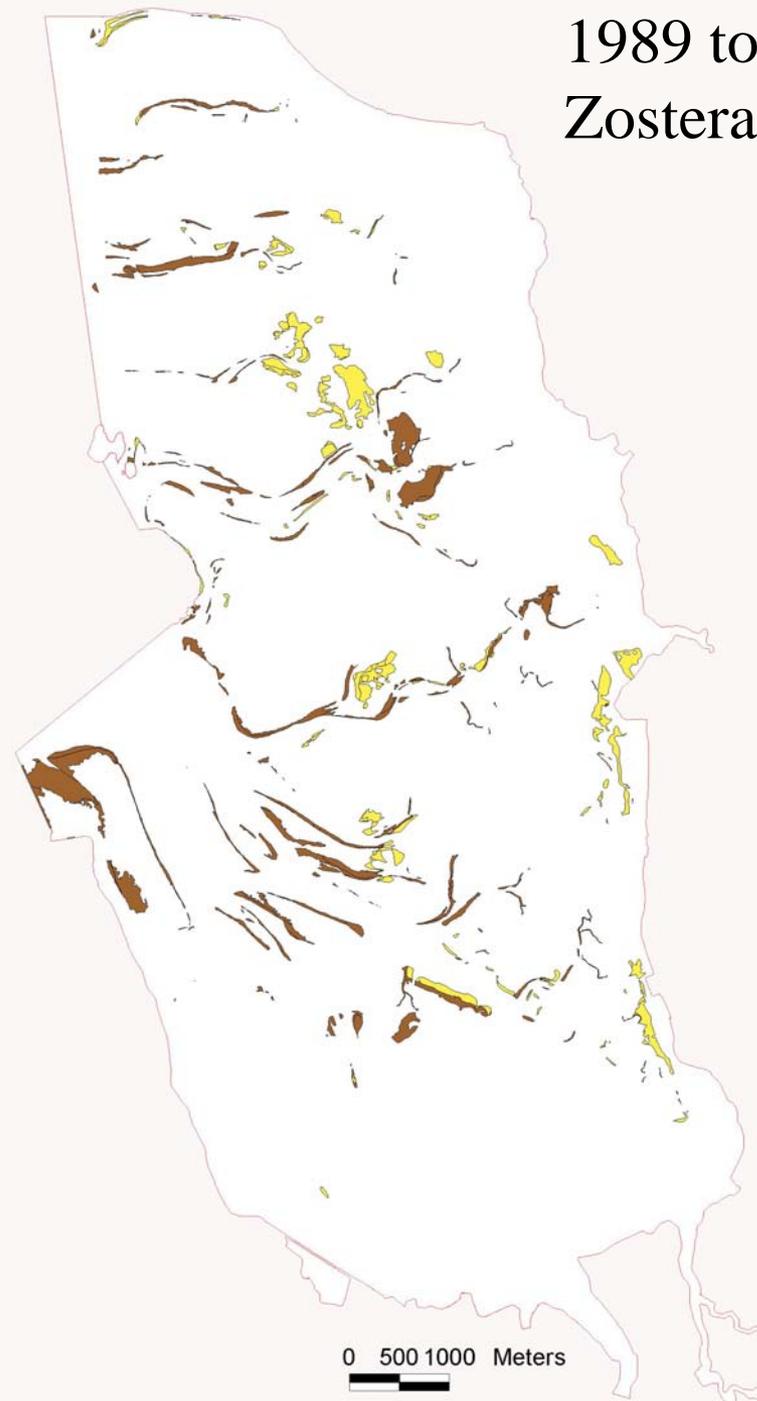
***Zostera* Gains**



**Study Area**



1989 to 2000  
Zostera Losses



**Macroalgae**



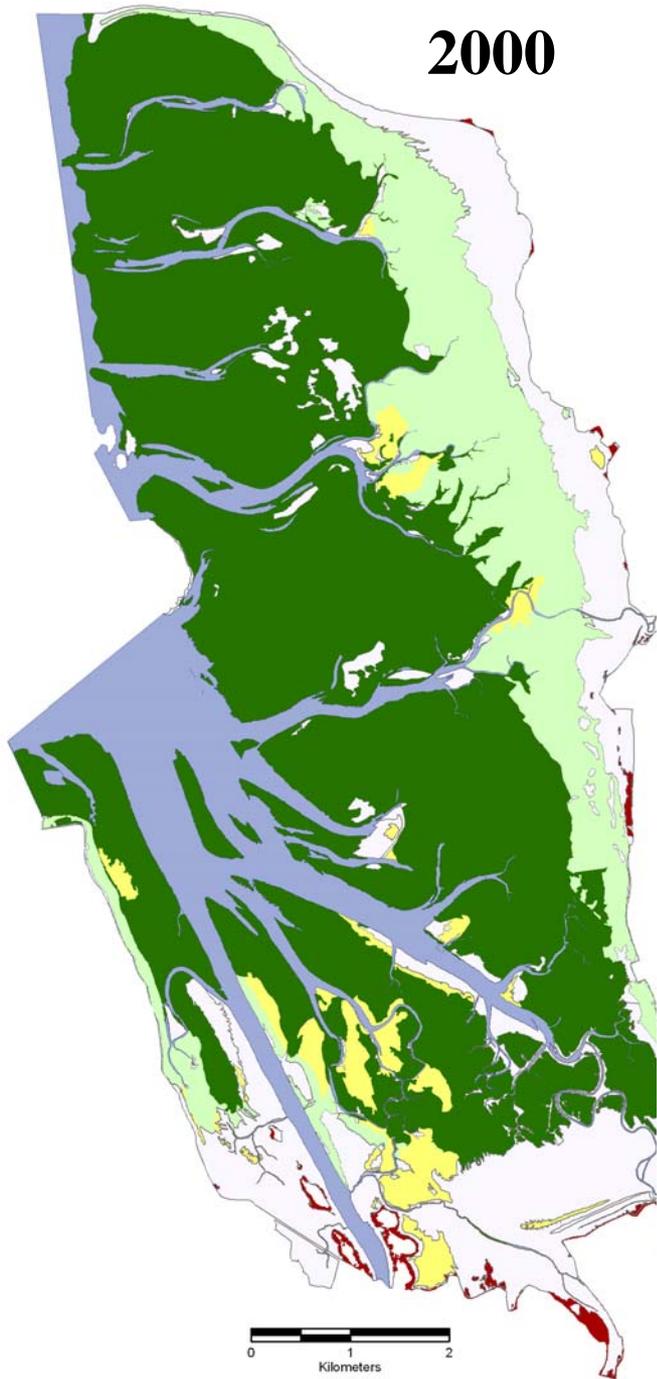
**Bare Intertidal**

**Study Area**

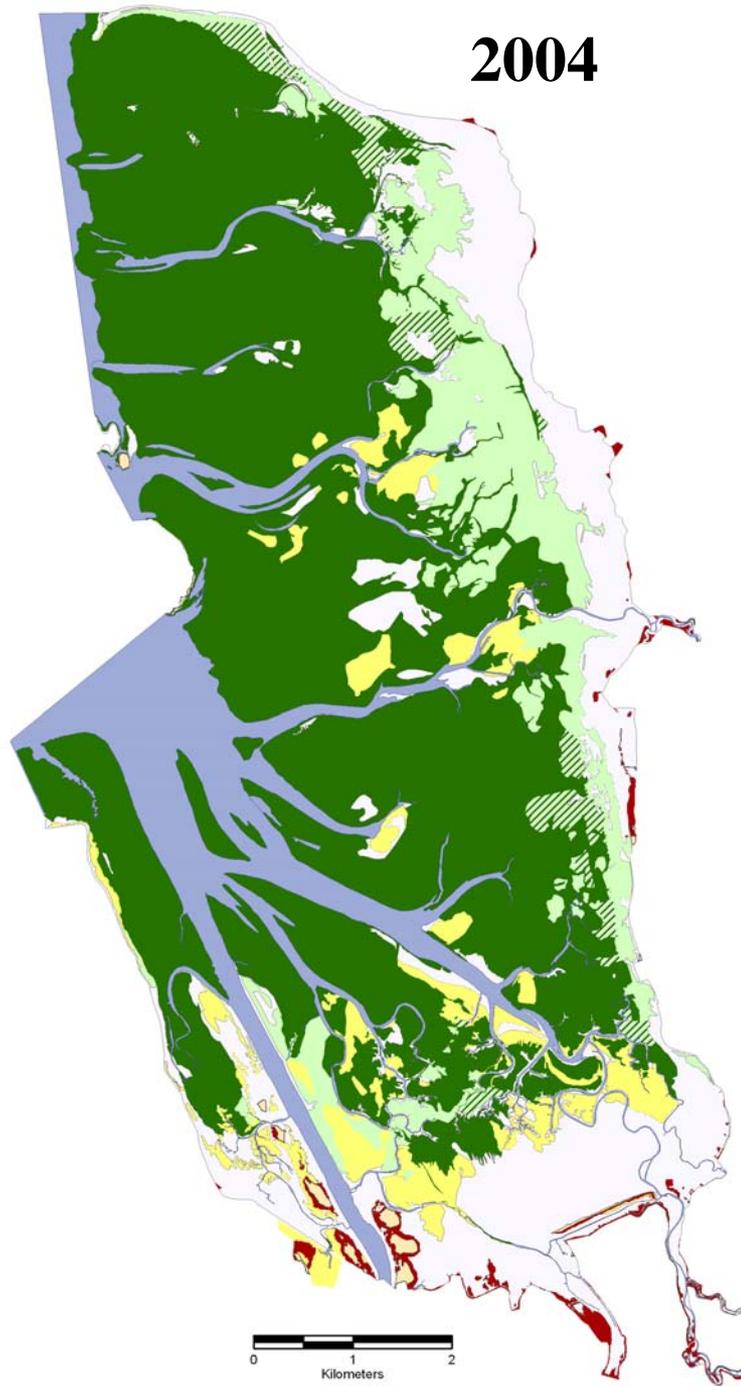
0 500 1000 Meters



2000



2004



# 2000 to 2004

## *Zostera* losses

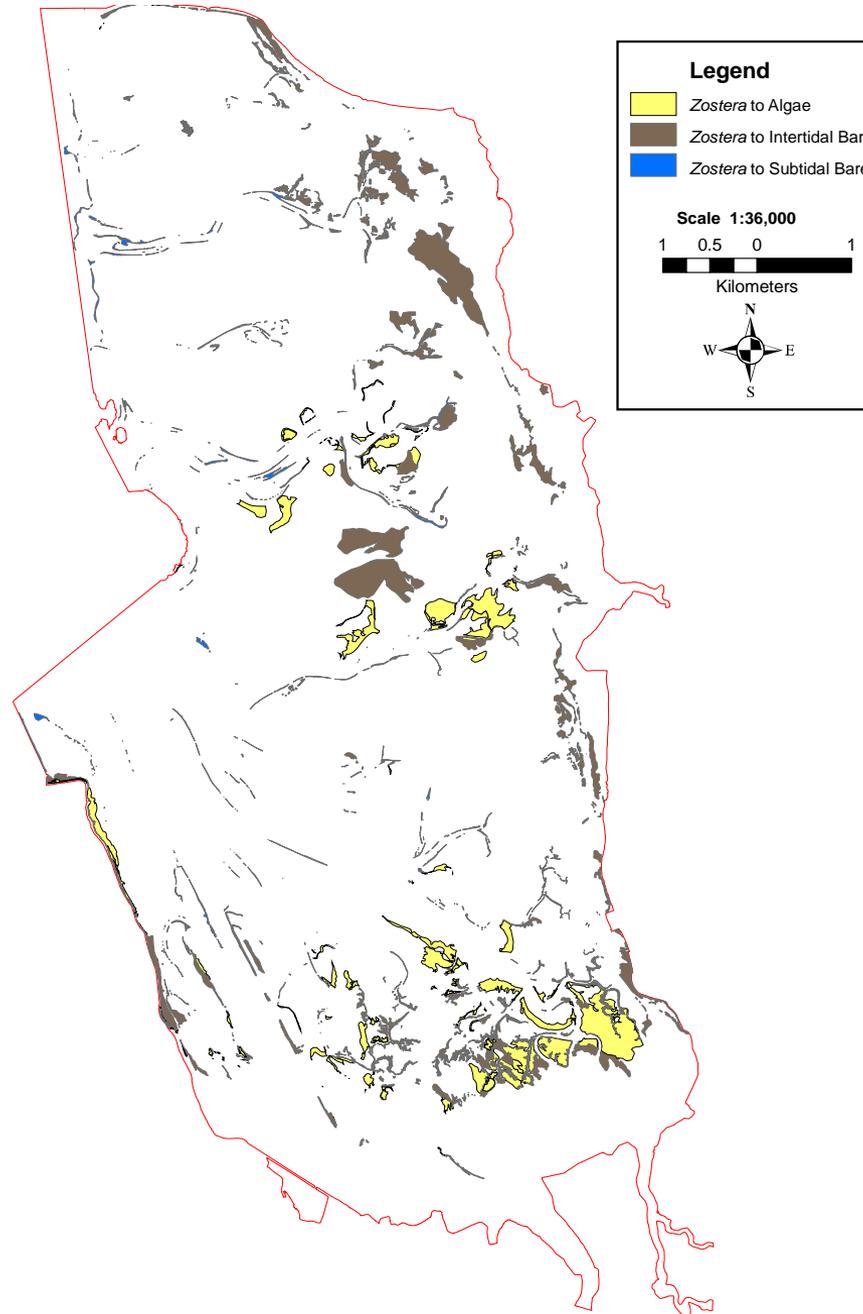


Figure 3. Areas of *Zostera* in 2000 that have been lost to areas of algae or bare substrate in 2004, Padilla Bay, WA.

**2000 to 2004**

***Zostera* gains**

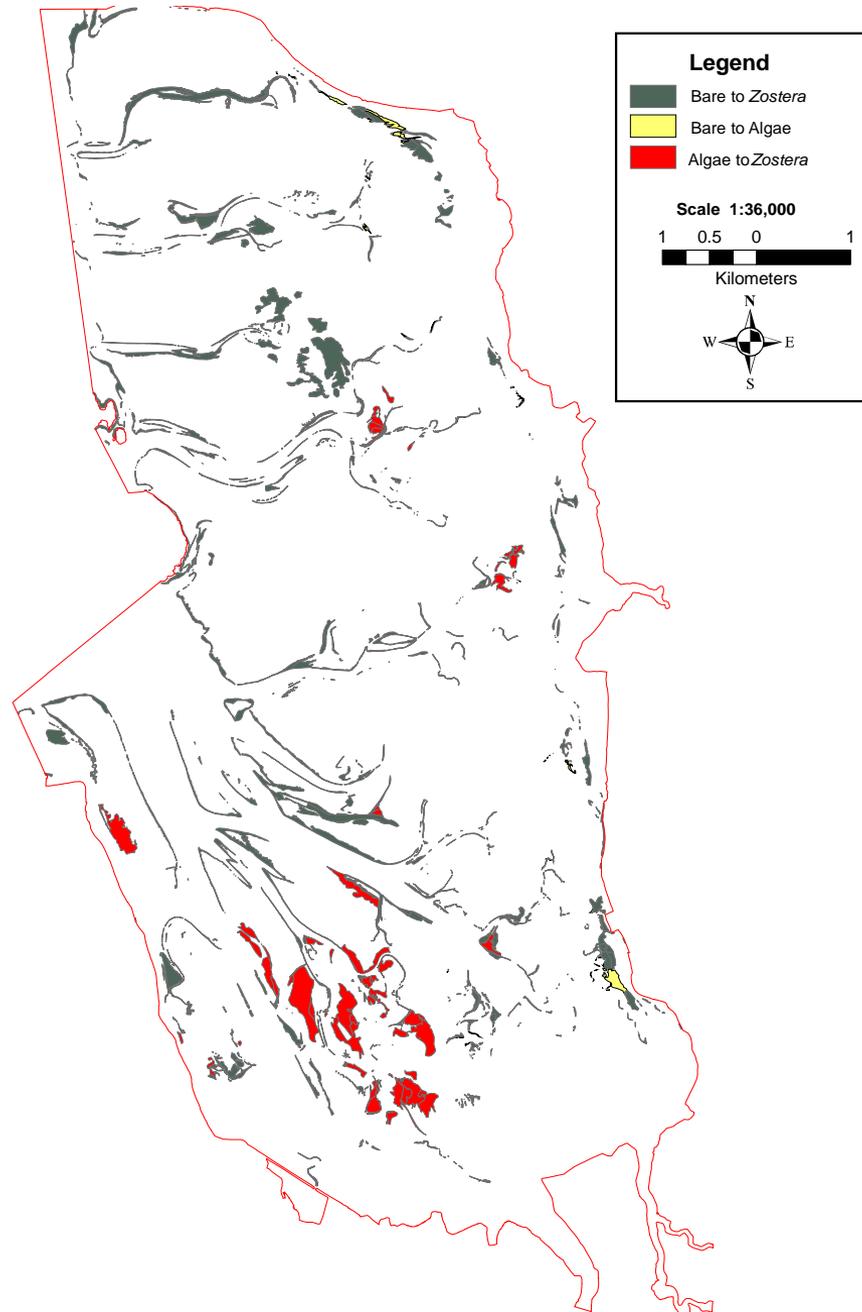


Figure 3. Bare or algae areas in 2000 that have become of *Zostera* areas in 2004, Padilla Bay, WA.

**2000 to 2004**

***Zostera marina* and  
*Z. japonica* changes**

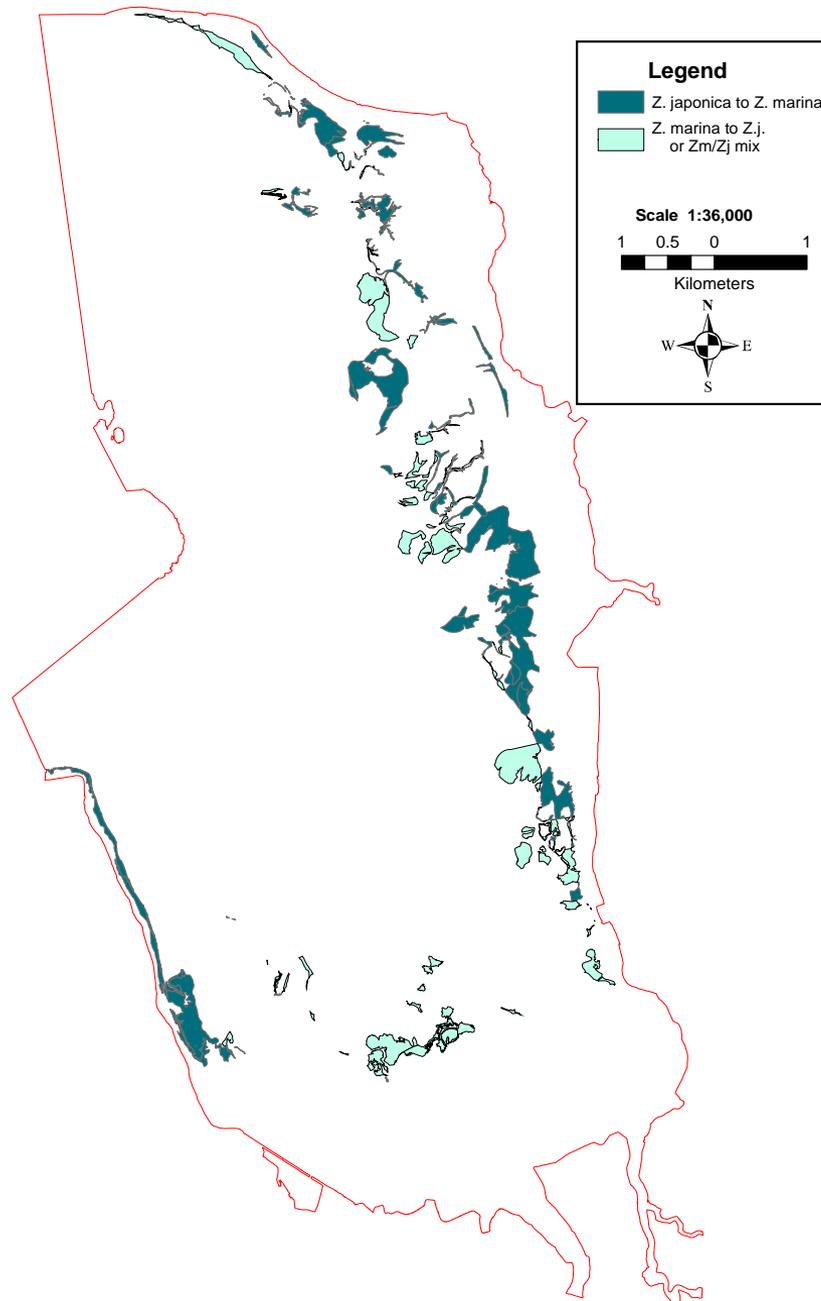
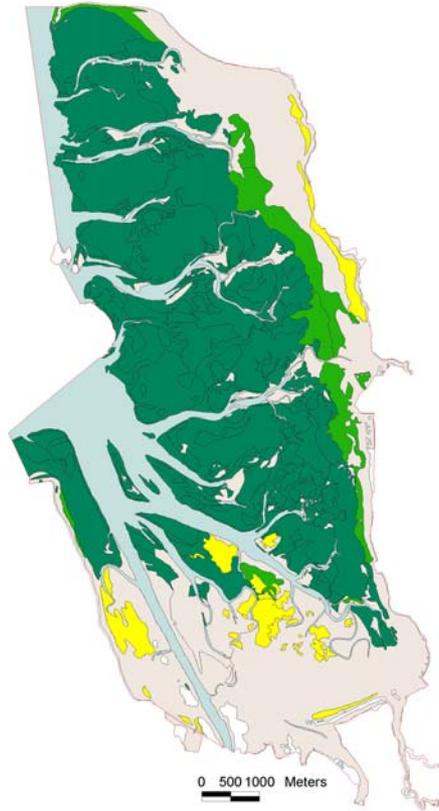
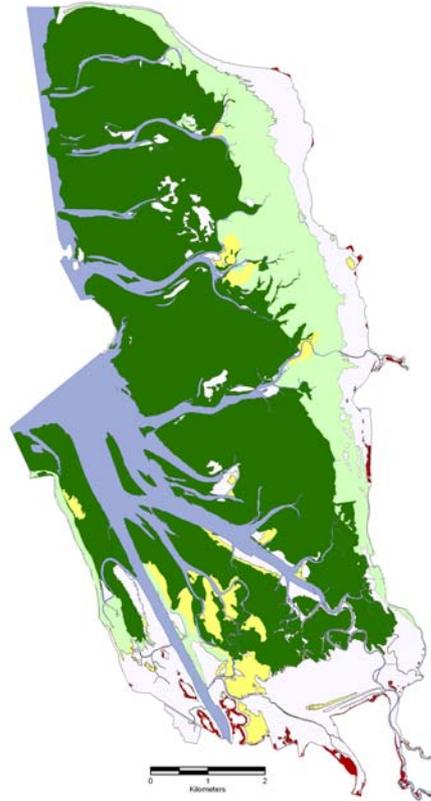


Figure 3. Areas of *Zostera* in 2000 that switched to the opposite species of *Zostera* in 2004, Padilla Bay, WA.

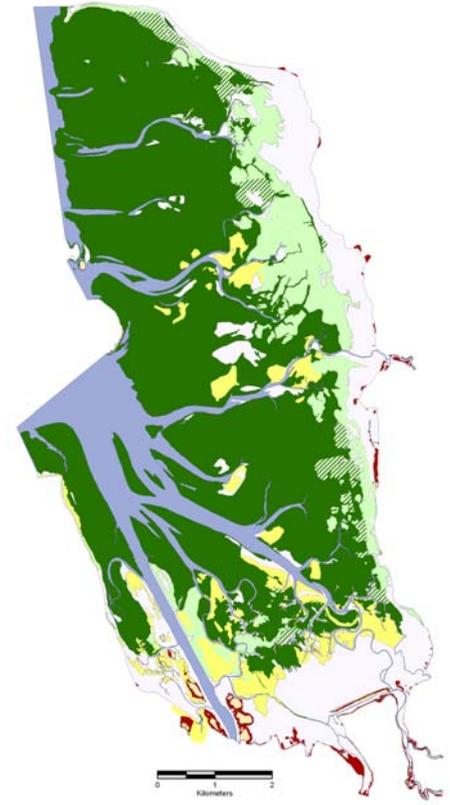
**1989**



**2000**



**2004**



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<b>Vegetation Classes</b>	<b>Area (hectares) 1989</b>	<b>Area (hectares) 2000</b>	<b>Area (hectares) 2004</b>
<b>Total <i>Zostera marina</i></b>	<b>2884</b>	<b>3030</b>	<b>3140</b>
<b>Total <i>Zostera japonica</i></b>	<b>236</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>476</b>
<b>Total <i>Zostera j/m</i> <i>Zostera j/m/algae</i></b>	<b>(88)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(175)</b>
<b>Total <i>Zostera sp.</i></b>	<b>3208</b>	<b>3865</b>	<b>3800</b>
<b>Total macroalgae</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>351</b>

---

# Summary

Stability of mid and lower intertidal and subtidal *Z. marina*

Overall gains in *Zostera* spp. coverage over 15 years

Macroalgae highly variable year to year in location

Overall *Z. japonica* coverage increasing over 15 years

*Z. marina* and *Z. japonica* dominance shifting back and forth year to year

# Results are not typical

- Westcott Bay, San Juan Island

*posted 09/19/03 San Juan Islander*

In 2000 approximately 45 acres of eelgrass (*Z. marina*) grew in Westcott Bay on San Juan Island. In 2003 it was virtually eliminated. Eelgrass is also gone from Garrison Bay. The areas include documented herring spawn sites. According to a [recently released report](#): This sequence strongly suggests that the *Z. marina* population in Westcott Bay ceased to be self-sustaining at some point between 1998 and 2000, began to thin, and then crashed in 2003.

**Changes in Distribution of *Zostera*  
in Northeast Section**

**1989, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004**

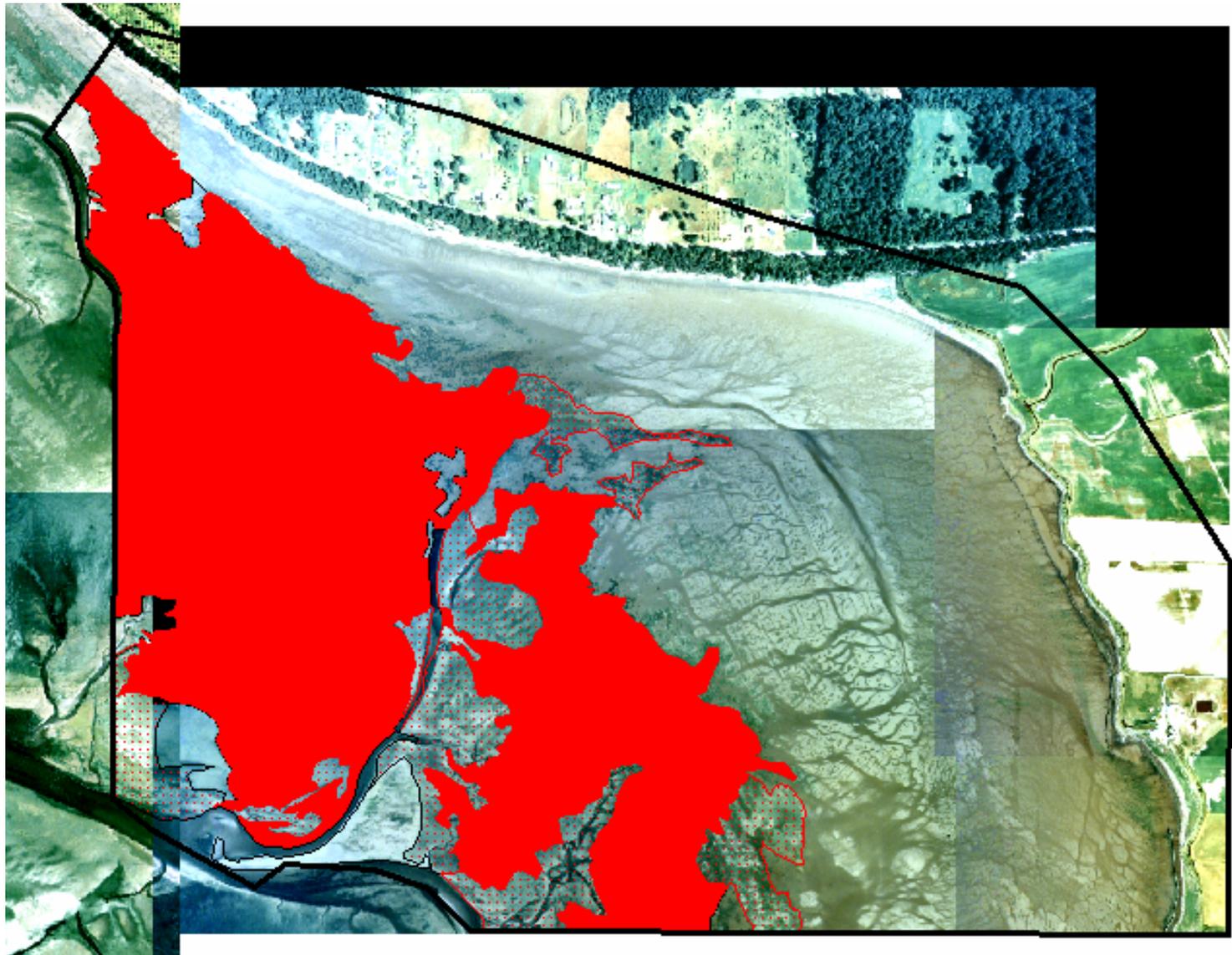
# SELECTION OF PHOTO SERIES

<b>Year</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Scale</b>	1:12,000 1:42,000	1:12,000 1:42,000	1:12,000 1:42,000	1:12,000 1:42,000	1:12,000 1:42,000
<b>Number of Photos</b>	58@12,000 7@42,000	85@12,000 7@42,000	76@12,000 7@42,000	61@12,000 5@42,000	60@12,000 5@42,000
<b>Date Flown</b>	June 3, 1989	July 28, 1992	July 1, 1996	July 30, 2000	June 4, 2004
<b>Company</b>	WSDOT	WSDOT	Sound Aerial Surveys	Sound Aerial Surveys	WSDOT
<b>Tidal Height</b>	-2.5 @ 1342	-2.5 @ 1040	-3.0 @ 1159	-3.4 @ 1217	-3.9 @ 1217

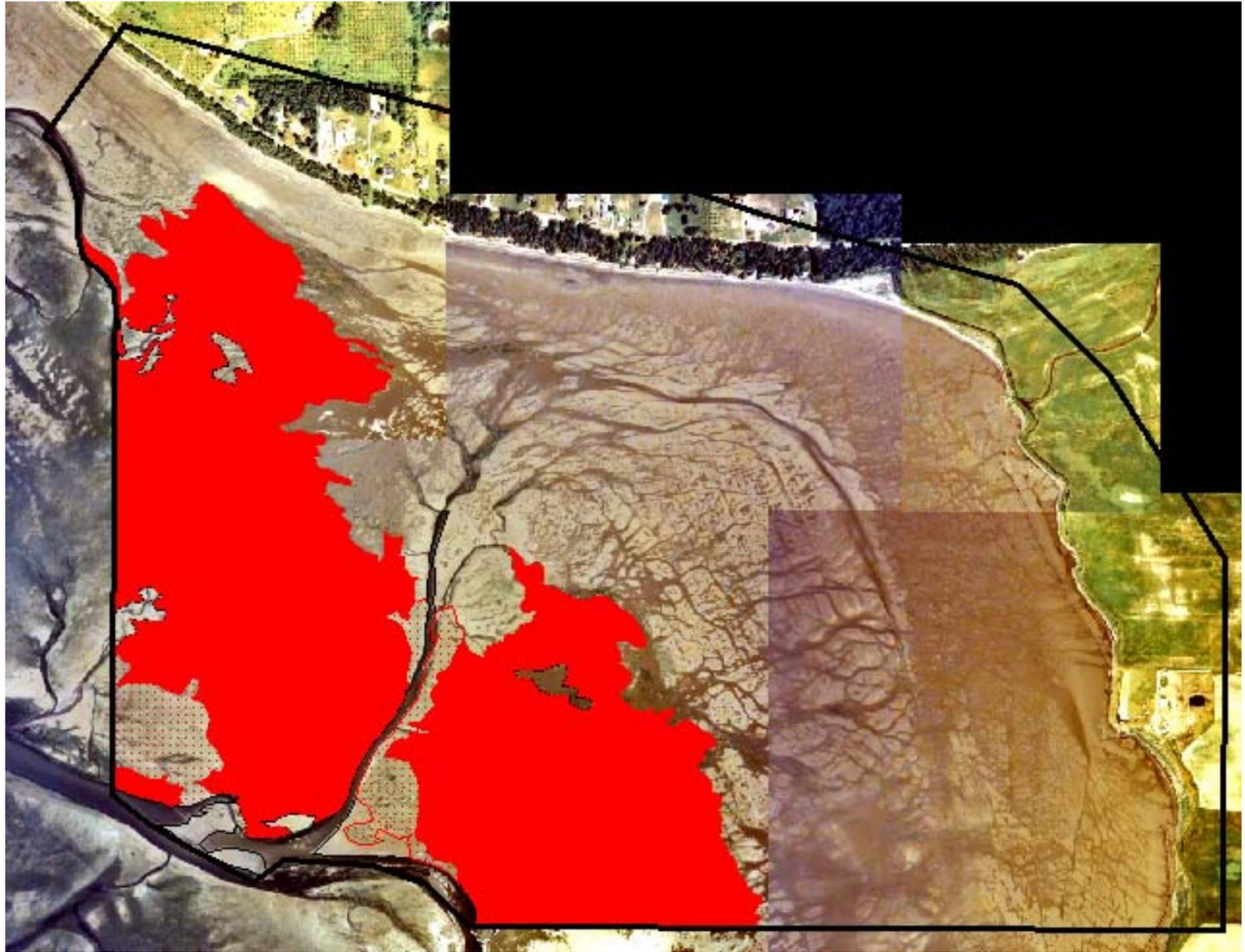
1989



1992



1996



2000



2004



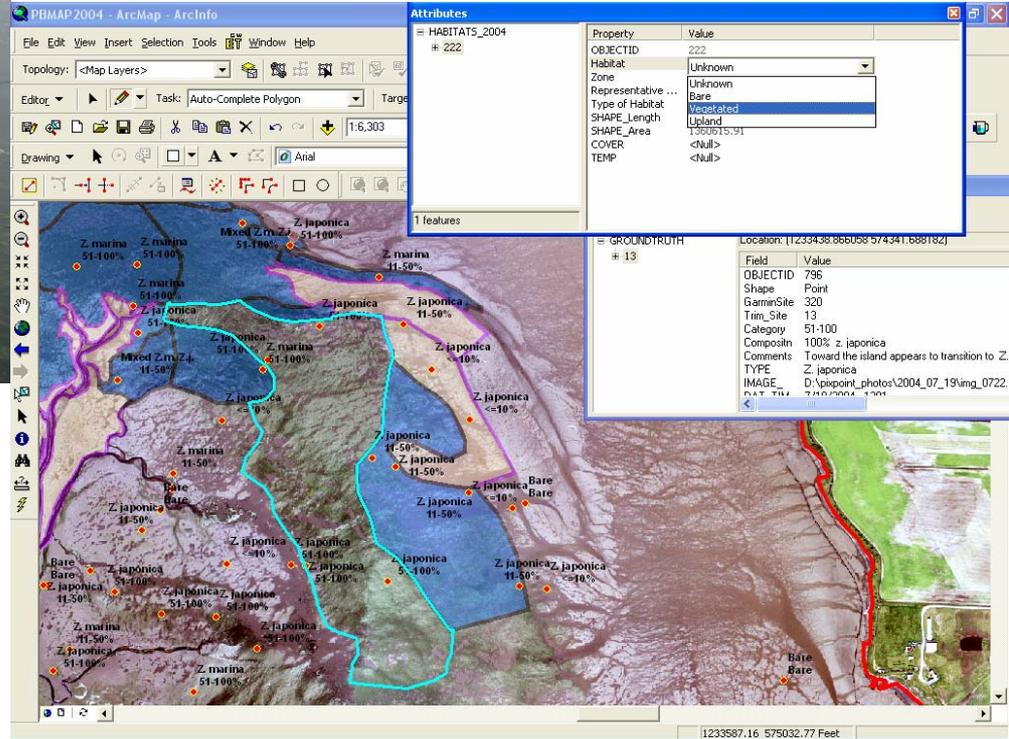
# Northeast Study Area Results

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Continuous eelgrass (hectares)</b>	<b>Sparse eelgrass cover (hectares)</b>	<b>Total eelgrass cover (hectares)</b>
1989	40.6	7.9	48.5
1992	107.3	27.4	134.6
1996	91.9	8.6	100.5
2000	107.3	61.1	168.3
2004	126.5	28.5	155.1

---

# LESSONS LEARNED



**Ground reference data collection was critical.**

**The 315 budget did not cover costs.**



**The budget cycle did not fit the hiring and field work cycle.**



**Summer field staff were critical; two students for three months.**

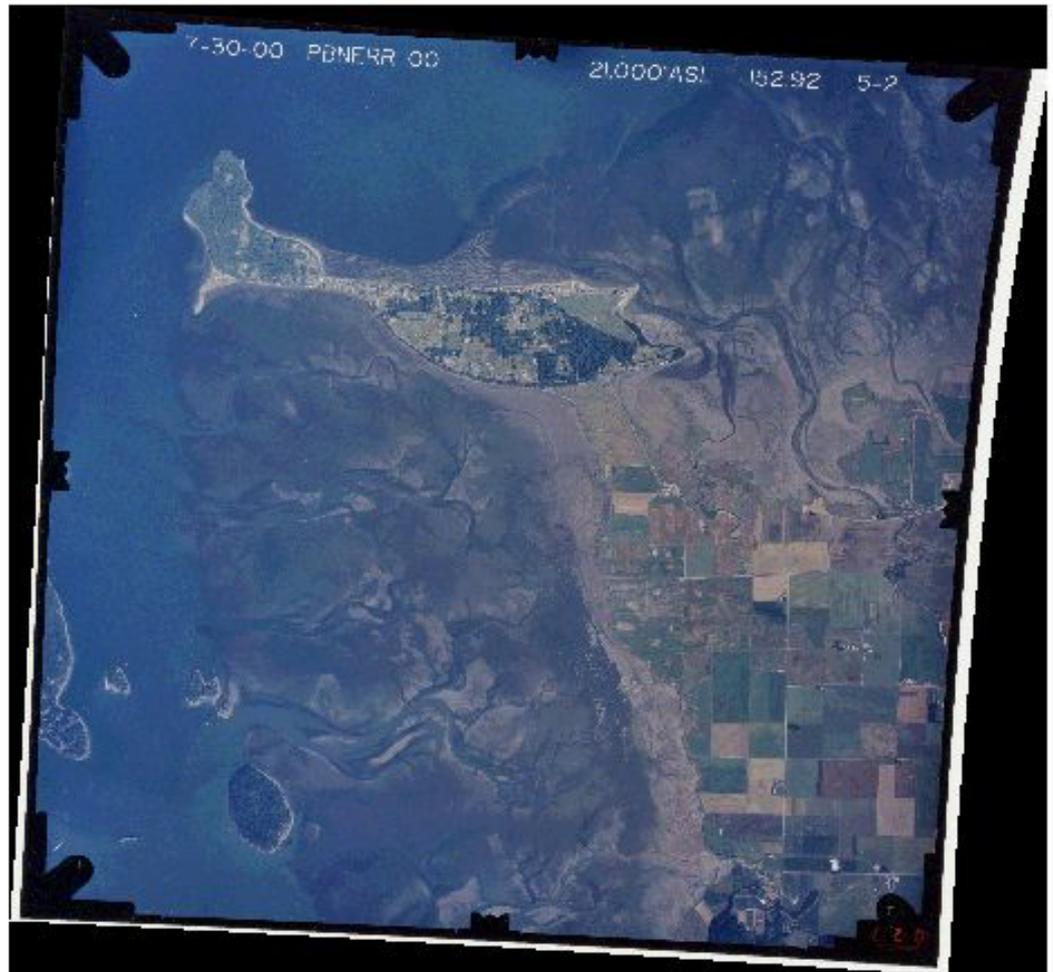


**Vegetation was not stable over the summer months.**

Date	Time	Site	Observer	Lat_deg	Lat_min	Lon_deg	Lon_min	%_category	%_composit	Trans_vs.	Comments
20000731	030	686	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	33	>10%	Mostly ZJ, some G. Al	WH	Patchy with large bare areas
20000731	031	687	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	33	11-20%	mix of ZJ and ZM	WH	Even, thin cover, not as patchy as site 96
20000731	1033	688	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31		mostly all ZJ	Transition	>70% to the west, 40-100% to east, transition with bare to west and ZJ < 50% to east
20000731	1033	689	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31	51-100	100% ZJ	WH	90% cover
20000731	1042	690	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31	51-100	80% Ulva, 40% Entero.	WH	much softer sediment than previous sites, lots of sediment on top of algae
20000731	1043	691	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31	Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent	WH	algae about 3 inches deep with ZM floating on surface
20000731	1055	692	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31	51-100	90% ZM, 20% G. Algae	WH	90% cover, strip of ZM along channel about 30-40 inches wide from site 101 to 102
20000731	1100	693	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31	Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent	WH	Edge of channel, west edge in line with main edge of channel being east
20000731	1102	694	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31	Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent	WH	(Similar to site 101)
20000731	1112	695	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31	Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent	WH	(Same as site 101)
20000731	1122	696	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	32	51-100	80% Ent, 20% ZM	WH	
20000731	1126	697	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	32	Full Cover	90% ZM, 10% G. Algae	WH	
20000731	1132	698	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	32				
20000731	1145	699	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	32	Full Cover	70% ZM, 30% G. Algae	WH	Marking channel west comes out by channel marker #18, on east side by tributary channel
20000731	1152	700	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	32	Full Cover	80% ZM, 40% G&B Algae	WH	Marking long ZM
20000731	1152	701	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	32	Full Cover	80% ZM, 40% G&B Algae	WH	Marking long ZM, midway between 2 channels
20000731	1152	7011	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31			Transition	Transition between site 1101 type and site 112 type
20000731	1157	7012	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	32	Full Cover	100% Ulva	WH	about 4 inches deep
20000731	1202	7013	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31			Transition	West is similar to site 112, west is 100% cover of 90% ZM (in fact), appears same to east
20000731	1207	7014	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31			Transition	10% south and east is full cover with ZM, west and toward that channel is like site 112
20000731	1210	7015	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	31			Transition	border from other station, full full cover ZM to east and Ulva to west
20000731	119	7016	Karen Wabco	46	29	122	32	11-20%	mix of ZJ, ZJ and bare	WH	Marking edge of Suisun channel between E and B and site, deep about 30-40" wide, no
20000731	120	7017	Karen Wabco	46	28	122	31	51-100	100% ZJ	WH	Even, thin covering of ZJ
20000731	124	7018	Karen Wabco	46	28	122	31			Transition	(Similar to site 117 to the west and bare to east, SE appears very bare, north looks pa
20000731	130	7019	Karen Wabco	46	28	122	31	51-100	100% ZJ	WH	Edge of 100 bare band about 20 meters wide on channel edge
20000731	140	7020	Karen Wabco	46	28	122	31	51-100	100% ZJ	WH	
20000731	147	7021	Karen Wabco	46	28	122	31	11-20%	70% G. Algae, 20% ZM	WH	80% cover, occasional green algae
20000731	157	7022	Karen Wabco	46	28	122	31	Full Cover	80% ZM, 40% G. Algae	WH	ZM (at least 1 meter), green algae in Ulva and Enteromorpha
20000731	157	7022	Karen Wabco	46	28	122	31				Transition of tributary channel

% Category	% Composition	Trans. Vs. WH	Comments
>10%	Mostly ZJ, some G. Algae	WH	Patchy with large bare areas
11-50%	mix of ZJ and ZM	WH	Even, thin cover, not as patchy as site 96
	almost all ZJ	Transition	>10% to the west, 51-100% to east, transition with bare to west
51-100	100% ZJ	WH	90% cover
51-100	60% Ulva, 40% Entero.	WH	much softer sediment than previous sites, lots of sediment on top of algae
Full Cover	10% ZM, 45/45 Ulva/Ent.	WH	algae about 3 inches deep with ZM floating on surface

Automated data entry is most efficient.



**Orthorectification of aerial photos was essential, but too costly for routine monitoring. In-house rectification works.**



***Zostera marina* and *Z. japonica* could not always be distinguished on aerial photos.**

**Infra-red ancillary photos were very helpful.**



**Ground photos of reference points were very helpful.**



## Summary

Methods (color aerial photos, ground reference data, on-screen digitizing) are appropriate for Padilla Bay.

*Zostera marina* and *Z. japonica* distribution is dynamic; the long-term trend is not known but *Z. japonica* appears to be expanding in Padilla Bay.

Interannual variation of eelgrasses is high in the mid-intertidal.

Annual monitoring of SAV is needed in Padilla Bay.



[Center Home](#) > [Issues and Solutions](#) >

## Benthic Habitat Mapping

[Spatial Data](#)

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[Acoustics](#)

[Light and Imaging](#)

[Sediment Sampling](#)

[Analyzing Benthic Data](#)

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[Resources](#)

[Funding / Partnership  
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[Active Projects](#)

## Benthic Habitat Mapping

### Mapping Techniques

Benthic habitats are mapped and studied using a variety of tools and techniques. Some methods are used to characterize relatively large areas (that is, on the order of hundreds to many thousands of square meters). For example, satellite images and aerial photographs can be used to identify different habitats along the shore and in shallow water. This type of **broad-scale** data collection provides general information throughout an area of interest.

The following sections provide a brief overview of the optical and acoustical tools used to collect *regional* benthic habitat mapping data. More detailed information describing specific sensors is available from the links within these pages.

- [Satellite Imagery and Aerial Photography](#)

Search Benthic Site:

Go

### Helpful Resources

[South Carolina Oyster  
Mapping Pilot Report](#)  
(PDF)

[Guidance for Benthic  
Habitat Mapping: An  
Aerial Photographic  
Approach](#) (PDF)

[1996 Coral Remote  
Sensing Workshop:  
Proceedings and  
Recommendations](#)  
(PDF)

Technical Report: [Tools  
And Techniques for the  
Acquisition of Estuarine  
Benthic Habitat Data](#)  
(PDF)

# Seafloor Mapping Workshop

## Alternatives

- Sidescan sonar (Smilk Bay)
- Green lidar (needs clear water and may not pick up eelgrass, better for elevations)
- Automated processing of aerial photos, hyperspectral sensors, or satellite imagery

# For Comparison

- This method took approximately 1 year to complete.
  - what is the turnaround and repeatability?
- Project cost \$50,000 plus \$20,000 for orthophotos.
  - Have automated methods come enough down in price?
- Only method that can produce accuracy and detail we require.
  - What classification scheme and accuracy do you need?