

# USGS Coastal 3DEP – Coastal National Elevation Database (CoNED) Status Report

*Presented by Wayne Wright and John Brock, USGS Coastal and Marine Geology  
Program, Reston, VA*

# + What is the 3D Elevation Program?

## A call for action to...

- Accelerate the acquisition of high quality light detection and ranging (lidar) data in the conterminous U.S. (CONUS), Hawaii, and the U.S. Territories; and interferometric synthetic aperture radar (ifsar) data in Alaska
- Completely refresh the National Elevation Dataset (NED) with new lidar and ifsar elevation data products and services
- Leverage collaboration among federal, states, local and tribal partners to systematically complete national 3D elevation data coverage in eight years
- Raise governance to the executive level and build on the structure already in place at the operational level under the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP)
- Increase the overall investment in 3D elevation to \$146 million annually to return more than \$690 million annually in new benefits



Natural Resource  
Conservation



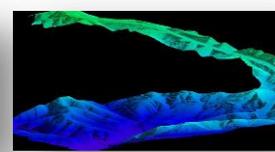
Infrastructure  
Management



Flood Risk Mitigation



Precision Farming



Land Navigation  
and Safety



Geologic Resources  
and Hazards Mitigation



# National Enhanced Elevation Assessment

## At a Glance

- Sponsored by the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP) and funded by USGS, NGA, FEMA, NRCS and NOAA to:
  - Document national requirements for lidar and ifsar data
  - Estimate the benefits and costs of meeting these requirements
  - Evaluate multiple national program scenarios considering data quality, update frequency, geographic coverage and to optimize benefits
- 602 mission-critical activities that require enhanced elevation data were identified by:
  - 34 Federal agencies and 50 states
  - A sampling of local governments, tribes, private and not-for profit organizations
- **A national program has the potential to generate \$1.2 billion to \$13 billion in new benefits each year**

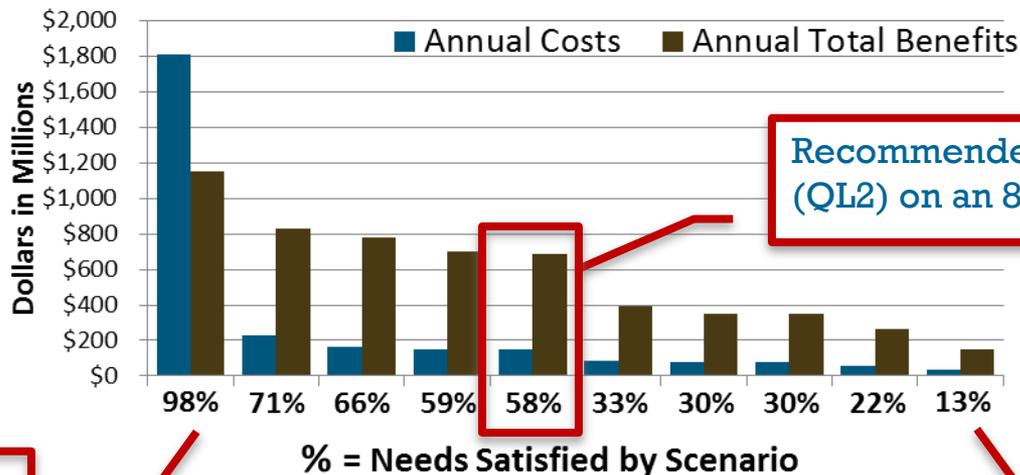
# + Benefits for Top Business Uses

Rank		Annual Benefits	
		Conservative	Potential
1	Flood Risk Management	\$295M	\$502M
2	Infrastructure and Construction Management	\$206M	\$942M
3	Natural Resources Conservation	\$159M	\$335M
4	Agriculture and Precision Farming	\$122M	\$2,011M
5	Water Supply and Quality	\$85M	\$156M
6	Wildfire Management, Planning and Response	\$76M	\$159M
7	Geologic Resource Assessment and Hazard Mitigation	\$52M	\$1,067M
8	Forest Resources Management	\$44M	\$62M
9	River and Stream Resource Management	\$38M	\$87M
10	Aviation Navigation and Safety	\$35M	\$56M
:			
20	Land Navigation and Safety	\$0.2M	\$7,125M
<b>Total for all Business Uses (1 – 27)</b>		<b>\$1.2B</b>	<b>\$13B</b>

# + National Program Recommendation

## Multiple Scenarios Considered

- Average annual costs: \$146M
- Average annual benefits: \$690M
- Average annual net benefits: \$544M
- Benefit Cost Ratio - 4.7:1
- Total Benefits Satisfied: 58%



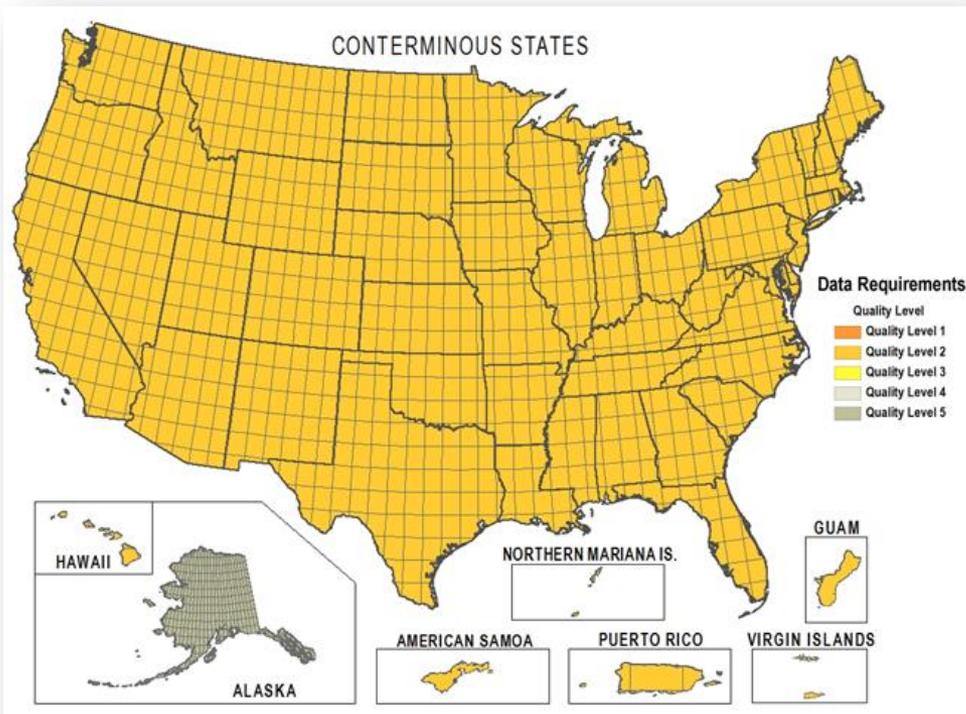
Highest quality level (QL1) on an annual cycle

Recommended program (QL2) on an 8 year cycle

QL3 on a 25 year cycle (closest to existing program)

# + 3D Elevation Program (3DEP)

## Recommended Uniform Higher Quality



- QL2 lidar data for the conterminous United States, Hawaii, and the territories on an eight-year cycle (compared to QL3 commonly acquired to date)
- QL5 ifsar data for Alaska
- Lidar point cloud data and other products to be publically accessible
- Goal to be operational in early 2015

# + 3D Elevation Program

## Quality Levels

Quality Level	Source	Vertical Accuracy RMSE <sub>z</sub>	Nominal Pulse Spacing (NPS)	Nominal Pulse Density (NPD)	DEM Post Spacing
QL1	Lidar	10 cm	0.35 m	8 points/sq. meter	1 meter
QL2	Lidar	10 cm	0.7 m	2 points/sq. meter	1 meter
QL3	Lidar	20 cm	2.0 m	0.7 points/sq. meter	3 meters
QL4	Imagery	139 cm	5 m	0.04 points/sq. meter	5 meters
QL5	Ifsar	185 cm	5 m	0.04 points/sq. meter	5 meters

# + 3DEP Products and Services

## Initial Products

Product	Planned Coverage on Release Date	Source(s)	Planned Product	Planned Availability and Product Release Dates
<b>1 meter DEM</b>	Partial Coverage U.S. and some Territories	Lidar	Tiles (TBD) by download	The National Map in January 2015 (new data) and TBD for pre-2014 data
<b>5 meter DEM</b>	Partial Alaska	Ifsar	Tiles (TBD) by download	Earth Explorer in October 2013, from The National Map in April 2014
<b>1/9 arc-second DEM - legacy</b>	Partial Coverage U.S. and some Territories	Lidar, Ifsar, Photogrammetry	15 min block by download	The National Map now
<b>1/3 arc-second DEM</b>	CONUS, HI, some Territories, partial Alaska	Lidar, Ifsar, Photogrammetry	1x1 degree block by download	The National Map now
<b>1 arc-second DEM</b>	CONUS, HI, AK and U.S. Territories	Lidar, Ifsar, Photogrammetry	1x1 degree block by download	The National Map now
<b>2 arc-second DEM</b>	Alaska	Lidar and Ifsar, Photogrammetry	1x1 degree block by download	The National Map now
<b>Elevation Point Query</b>	CONUS, HI, some Territories, AK	1/3 arc-second, 1 arc-second in AK	Application service	The National Map now
<b>Hillshade</b>	CONUS, HI, some Territories, AK	1/3 arc-second, 1 arc-second in AK	Viewing service	The National Map now
<b>5 to 120 foot Contours</b>	CONUS, HI, some Territories, AK	1/3 arc-second, 1 arc-second in AK	1 degree block by download and viewing service	The National Map now

# + 3DEP Products and Services

## Source Data

Source Data	Planned Coverage on Release Date	Source(s)	Planned Product	Planned Availability and Service Release Dates
<b>Lidar Full Point Cloud - Unclassified</b>	Partial Coverage – U.S.	Lidar – QL1, QL2, QL3	Project areas by special request	EROS by special request now (pre-2014 data) NGTOC now (data acquired 2014 and later)
<b>Lidar Full Point Cloud - Classified</b>	Partial Coverage – U.S.	Lidar - QL1, QL2, QL3	Project tiles by download	Earth Explorer now. The National Map in October 2014
<b>Ifsar Digital Surface Model</b>	Partial Coverage – Alaska	Ifsar – QL5	Project tiles by download	Earth Explorer now, The National Map in January 2015
<b>Orthorectified Ifsar Intensity Image</b>	Partial Coverage – Alaska	Ifsar – QL5	Project tiles by download	Earth Explorer now, The National Map in January 2015
<b>Source resolution DEM</b>	Partial Coverage U.S. and some Territories	Lidar, Ifsar	Project tiles by download	The National Map now (new data) and TBD for pre-2014 data

# + 3DEP Budget Outlook

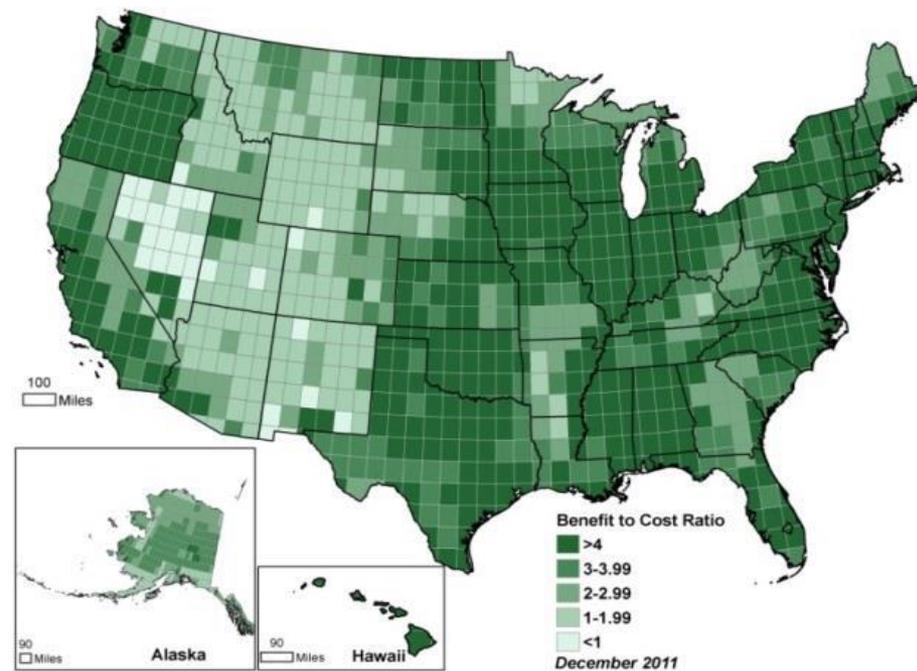
## USGS Component

- **FY14 President's Budget** – USGS 3DEP increase of \$9M plus \$1M for Alaska ifsar; Omnibus resulted in \$760K increase for Alaska and \$1M in USGS Coastal Marine Geology for Coastal National Elevation Dataset
- **Endorsements** – 3DEP was endorsed or received letters of budget support from:
  - American Association of State Geologists (AASG)
  - American Association of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)
  - Association of State Floodplain Managers
  - Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO)
  - Management Association of Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)
  - National Geospatial Advisory Council (NGAC)
  - National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)
  - National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)
- **FY15 President's Budget** – USGS 3DEP \$5M, Alaska Mapping \$236K, Ecosystems: Columbia River \$350K and Puget Sound \$450K
- **National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) report** - The November, 2013 report entitled “**FEMA Flood Mapping: Enhancing Coordination to Maximize Performance**” included the following recommendation:

*“The Office of Management and Budget should use the 3DEP implementation plan for nationwide elevation data collection to guide the development of the President’s annual budget request.”*

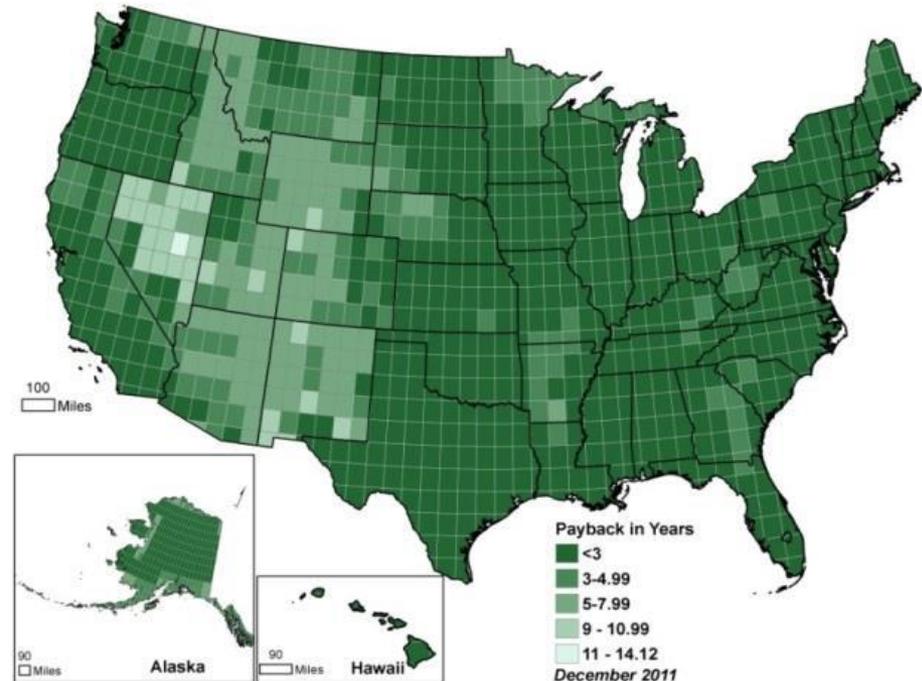
**The National Enhanced Elevation Assessment determined that coastal zone lidar mapping investments have a:**

- **High benefit to cost ratio**
- **Short payback time**



## **Two Outcomes of the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment:**

- **Initiation of the 3D Elevation Program**
- **Redefinition of the CoNED Project as the coastal component of the 3DEP**



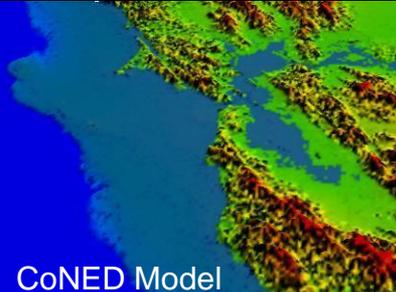
# Regional (to national) coastal zone lidar collection and assimilation for scientific (and other) applications:

## The Coastal National Elevation Database Applications (CoNED) Project

Goal: To systematically construct the coastal component of the 3DEP as topobathymetric elevation models first built over key coastal regions with highly vulnerable infrastructure and natural resources.

**Alaskan North Slope**

**San Francisco Bay**

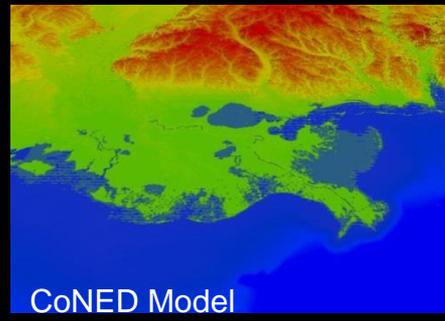


**Resilience Issues:**  
Earthquakes  
Tsunamis  
Sea Level Rise  
Habitat Quality



**Resilience Issues:**  
Wetland Loss  
Storm Surge  
Sea Level Rise

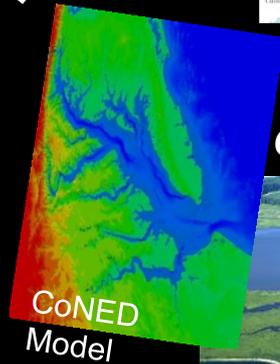
**Northern Gulf of Mexico**



**Hx Sandy Impact Northeast Region**



**Chesapeake Bay**

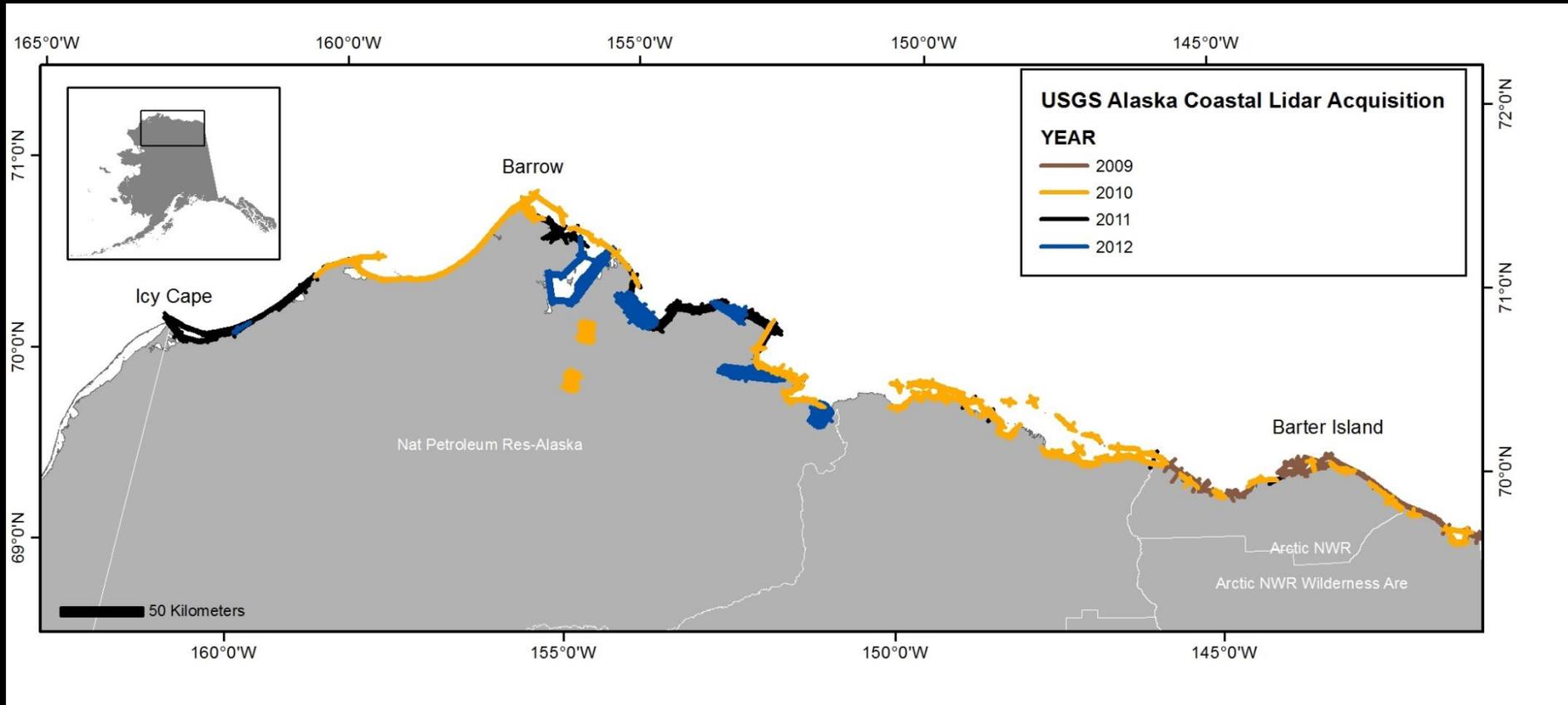


**Resilience Issues:**  
Water Quality  
Habitat Quality  
Sea Level Rise

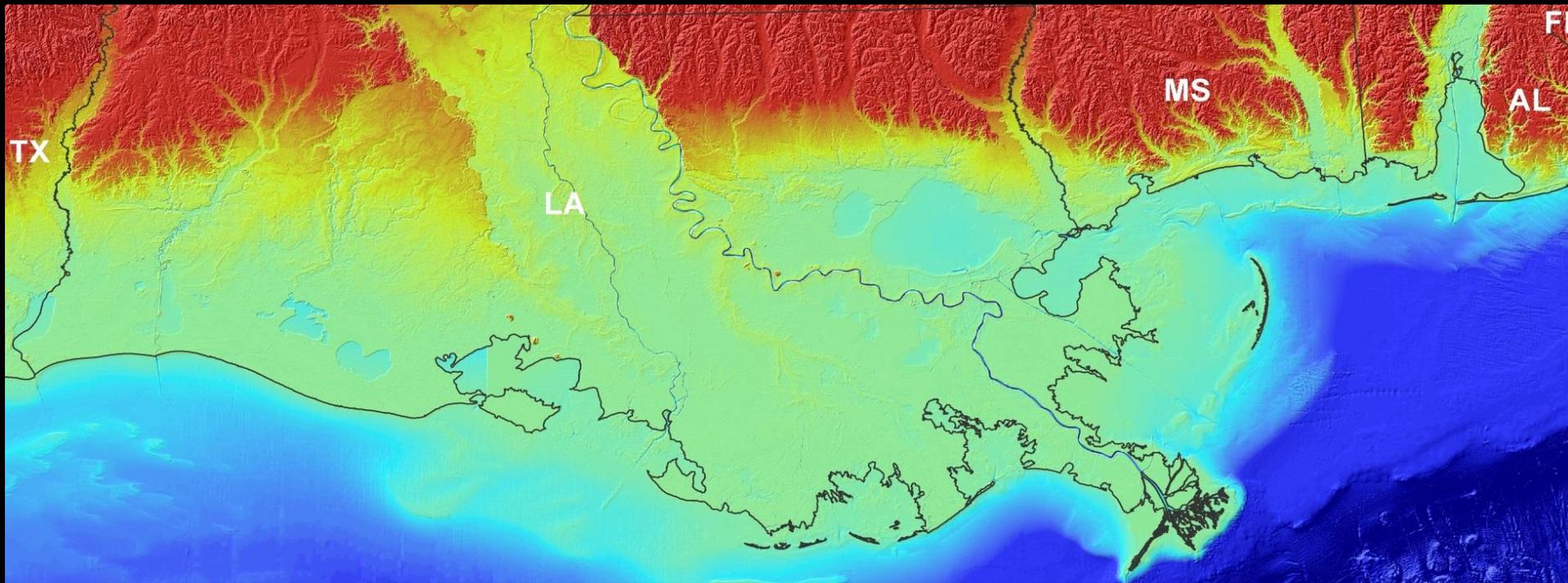


# Alaskan North Slope CoNED Progress

- 7,119 line-km (~ 11 K km<sup>2</sup>) acquired between 2009 and 2012
- Icy Cape to the US-Canadian Border
- Mainland coast and barrier islands (limited delta and estuary ; FWS-ALCC)
- Waterline to approximately 1.5 km inland; 2-4 overlapping passes
- ~ 1m point spacing, 30 cm vertical accuracy (0.14 RMSE)
- Funding : *USGS NGP, CMG Program, Alaska Science Center; USFWS-ALCC; BLM*



# Louisiana CoNED Version 1.0



## Integrated Topobathymetric Model:

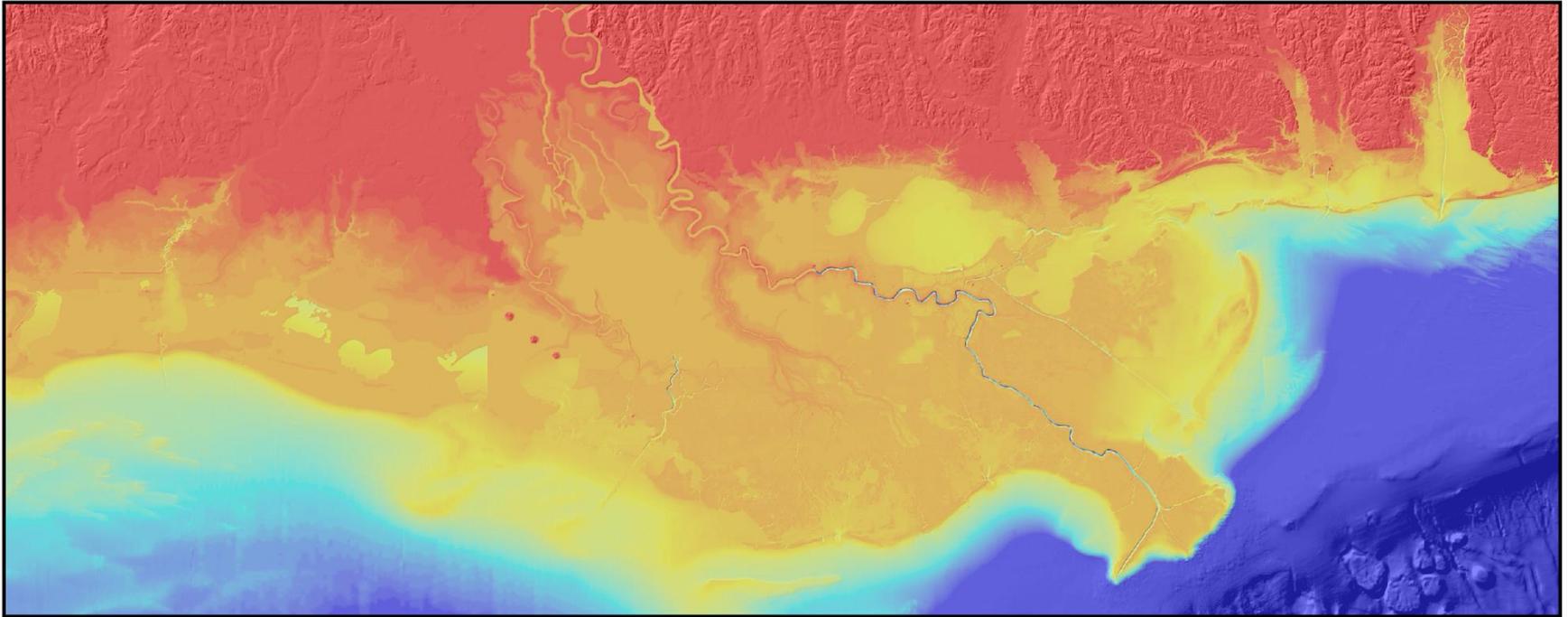
Raster Size = 65 Gigabytes, 82,842 rows X 206,733 columns

Elevation Range: -2358 to 171 meters NAVD88

Temporal Date Range: 1888 - 2013

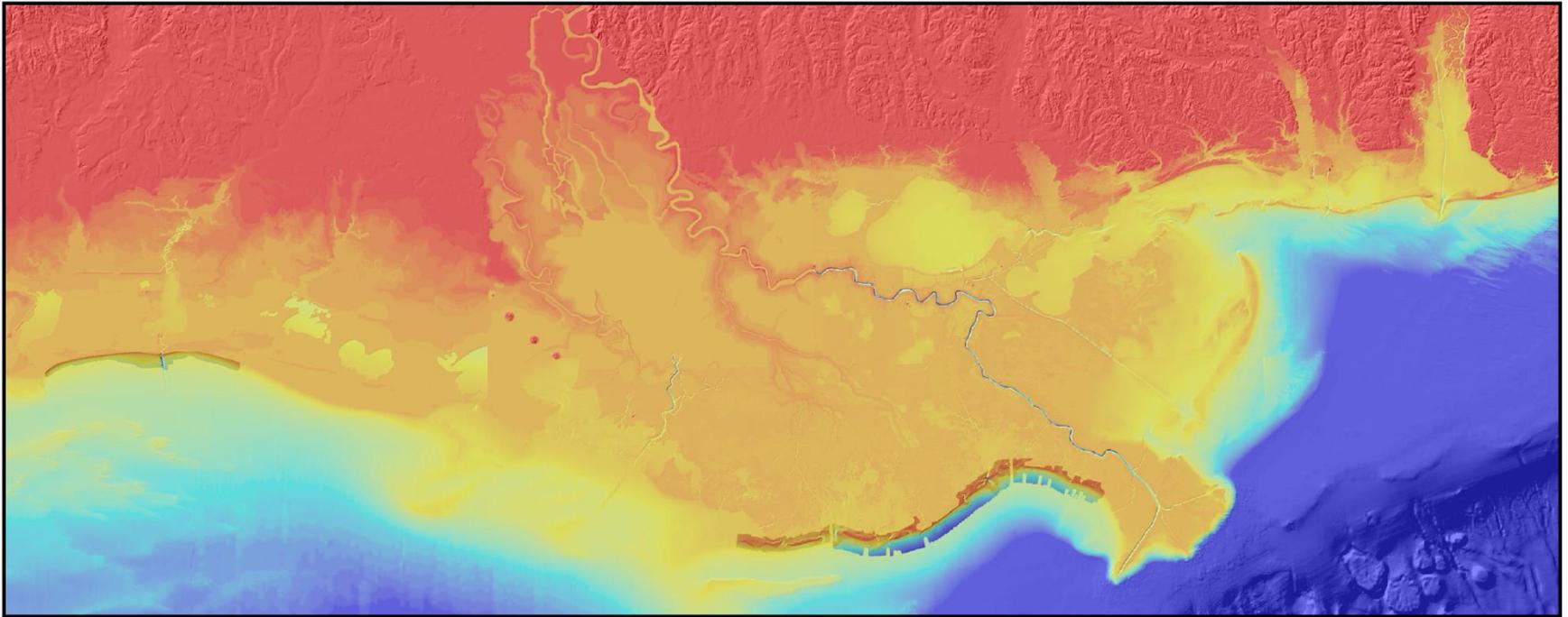
Incorporates over 150 separate topographic and bathymetric datasets

# Southern Louisiana Topobathymetric Elevation Model Data Sources



9) NOAA low & medium res topobathy

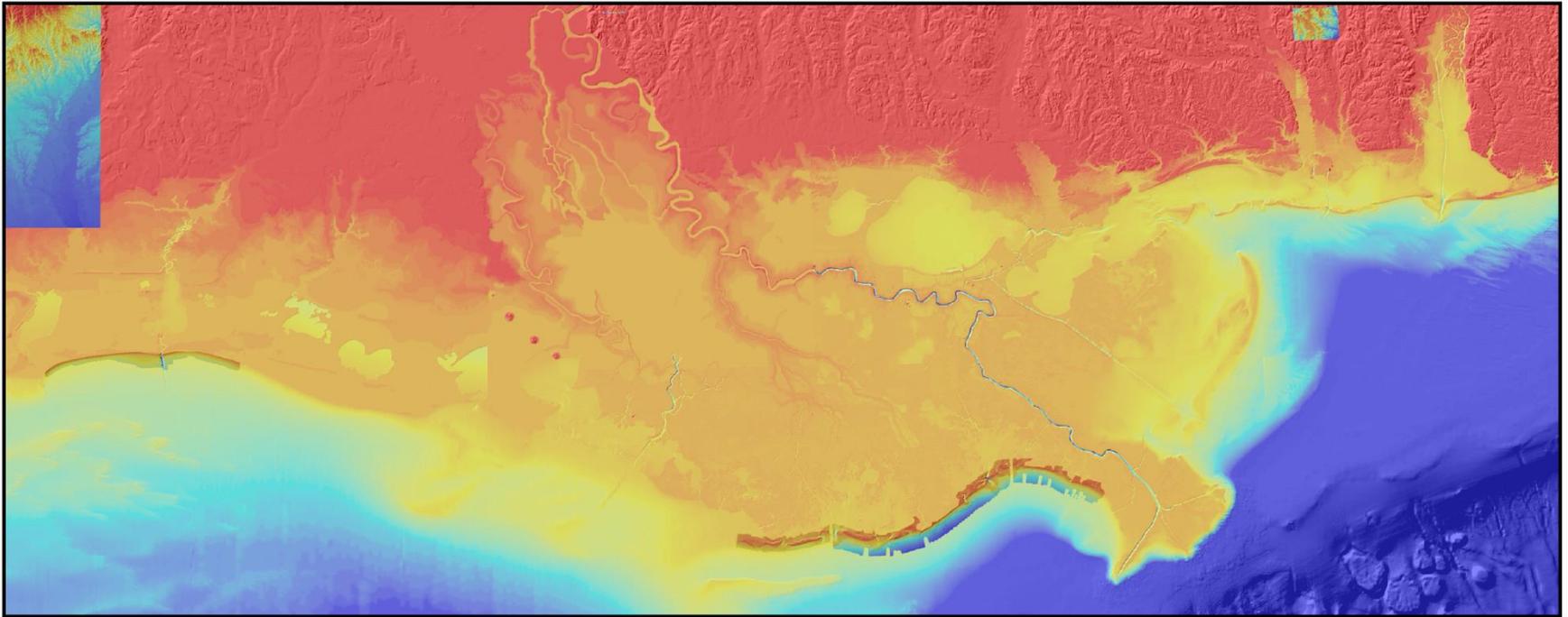
# Southern Louisiana Topobathymetric Elevation Model Data Sources



8) BICM bathy

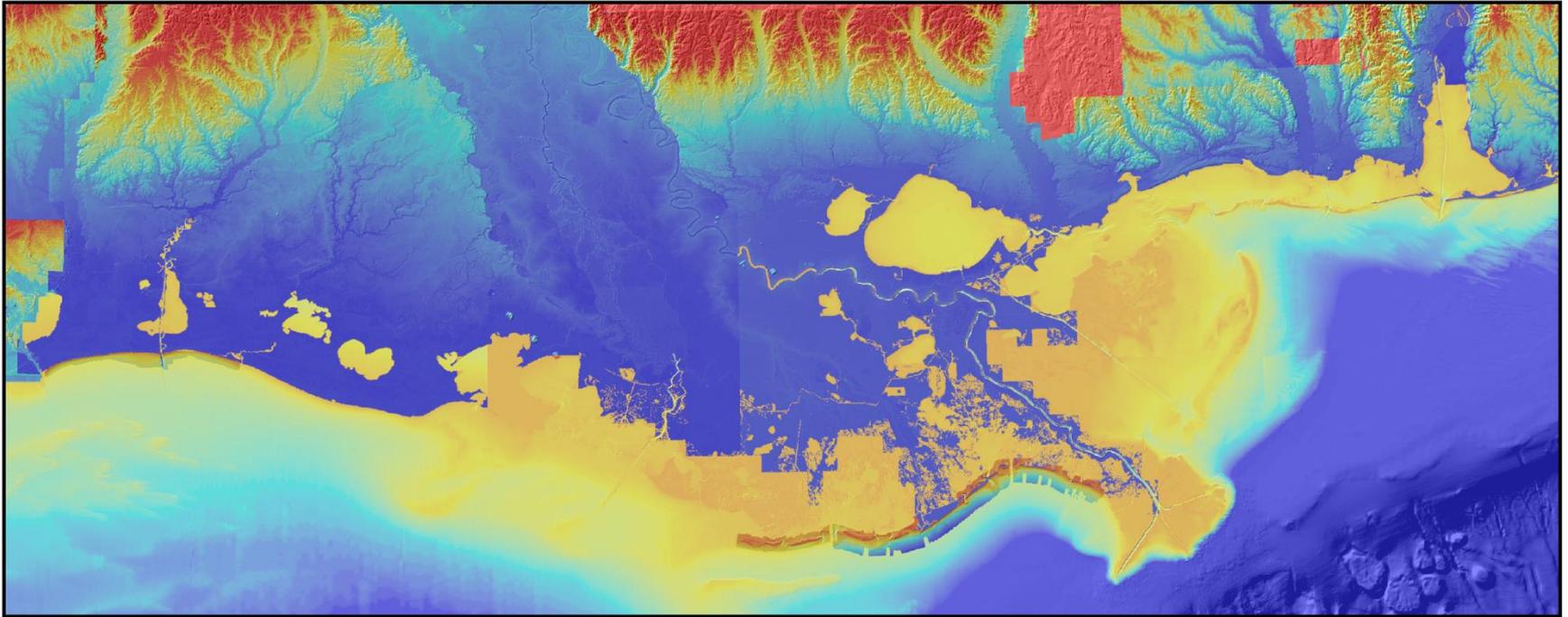
9) NOAA low & medium res topobathy

# Southern Louisiana Topobathymetric Elevation Model Data Sources



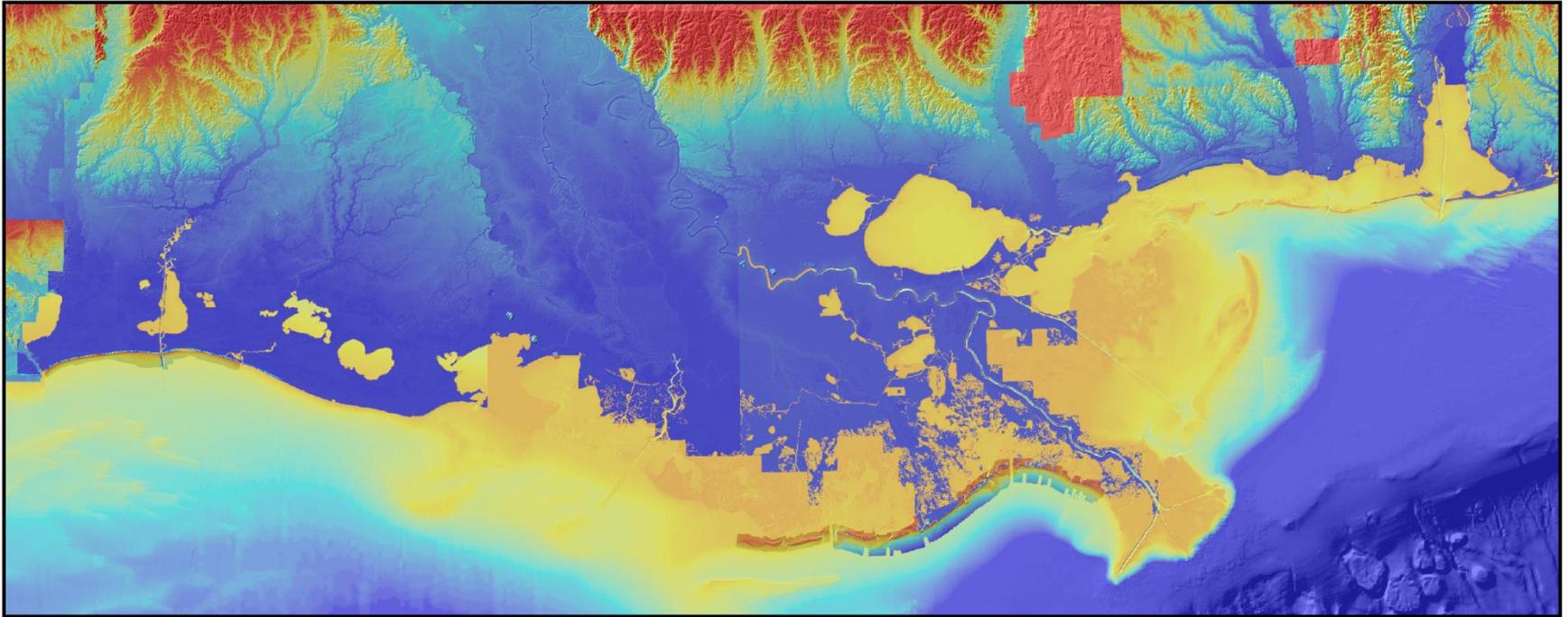
- 7) NED 1/3"
- 8) BICM bathy
- 9) NOAA low & medium res topobathy

# Southern Louisiana Topobathymetric Elevation Model Data Sources



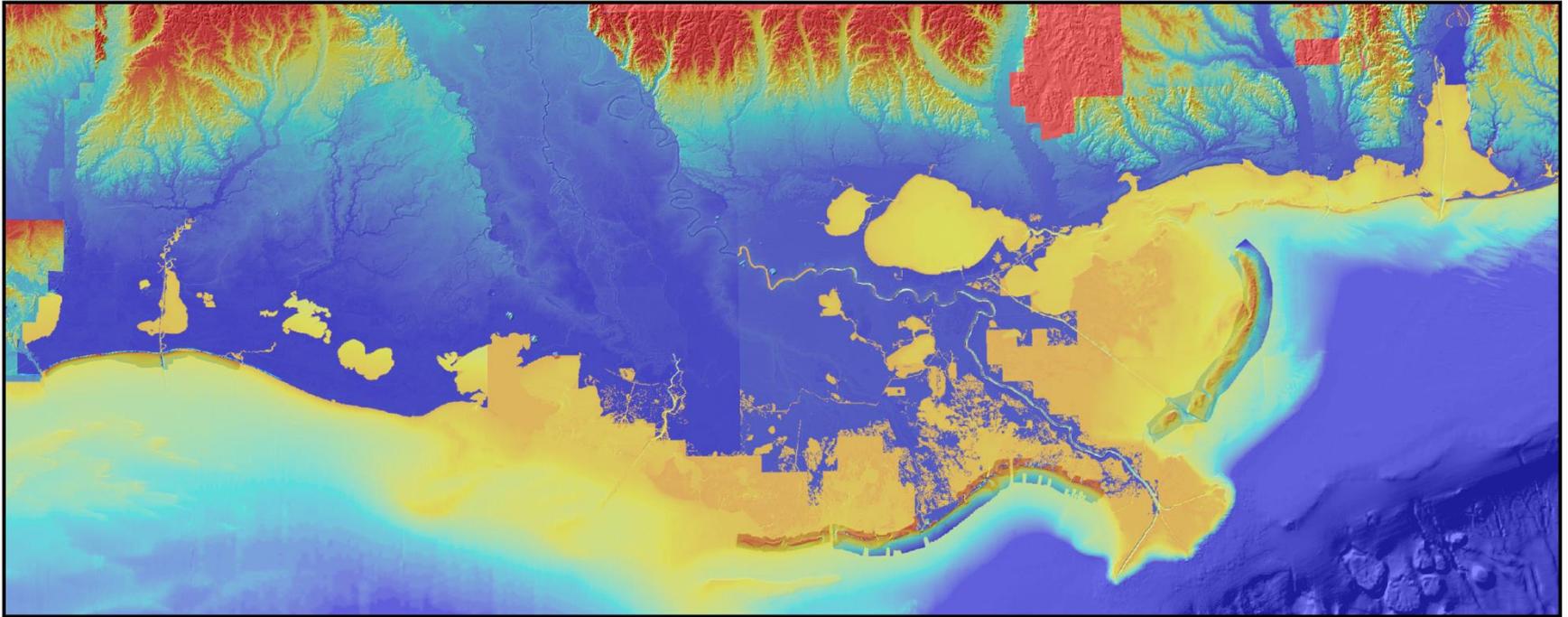
- 6) NED 1/9" & lidar mosaics
- 7) NED 1/3"
- 8) BICM bathy
- 9) NOAA low & medium res topobathy

# Southern Louisiana Topobathymetric Elevation Model Data Sources



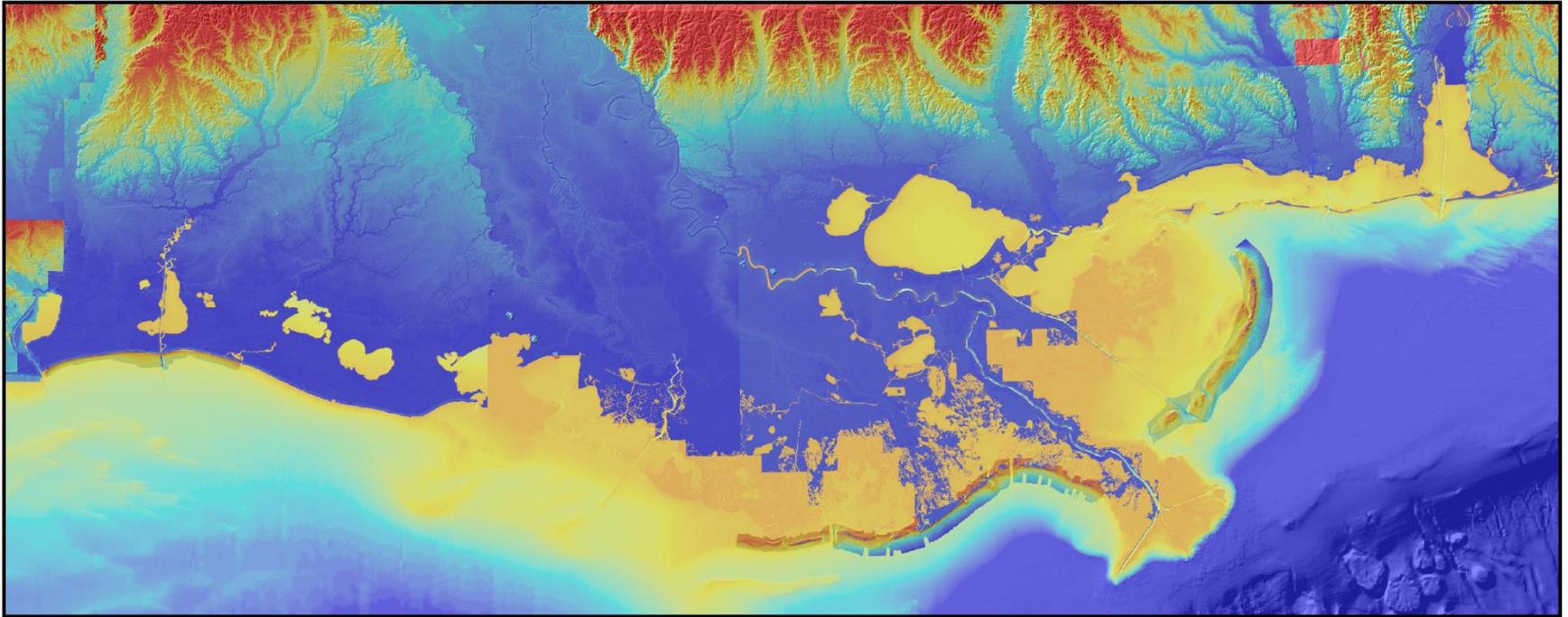
- 5) BICM topo
- 6) NED 1/9" & lidar mosaics
- 7) NED 1/3"
- 8) BICM bathy
- 9) NOAA low & medium res topobathy

# Southern Louisiana Topobathymetric Elevation Model Data Sources



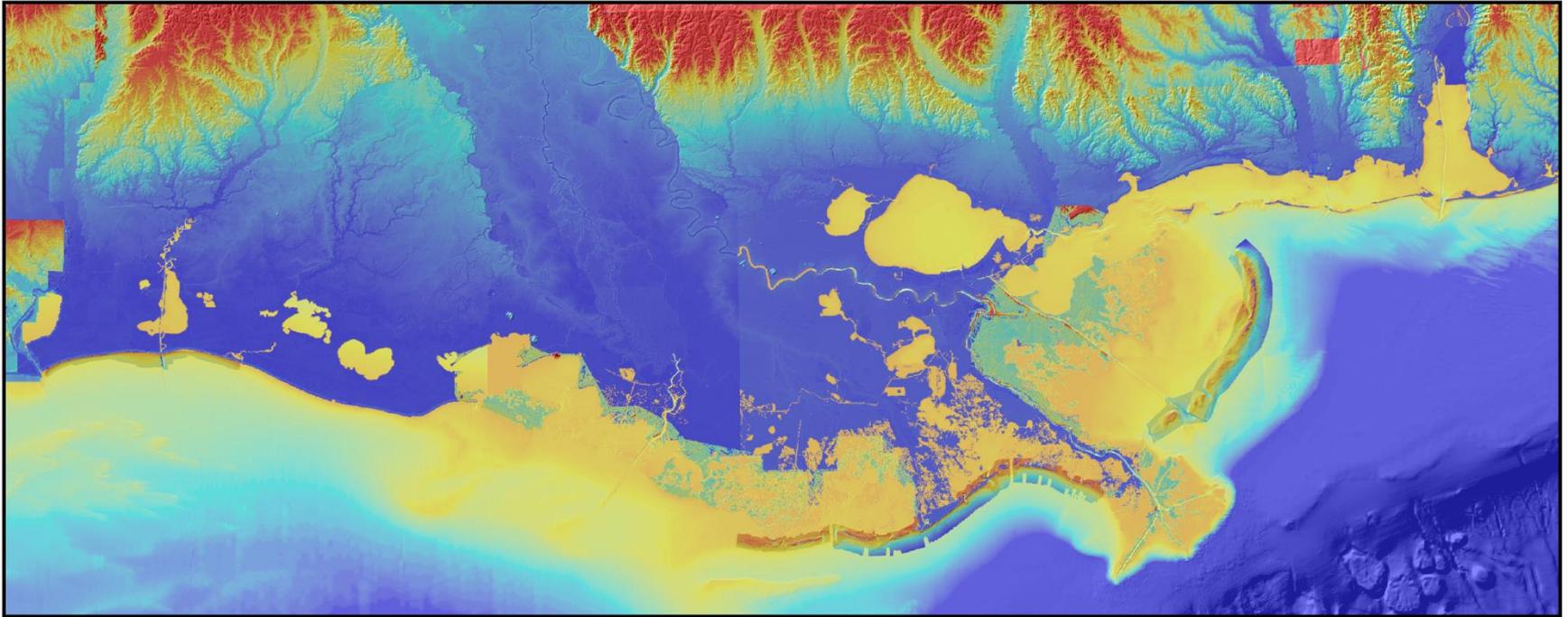
- 4) Chandaleur Islands
- 5) BICM topo
- 6) NED 1/9" & lidar mosaics
- 7) NED 1/3"
- 8) BICM bathy
- 9) NOAA low & medium res topobathy

# Southern Louisiana Topobathymetric Elevation Model Data Sources



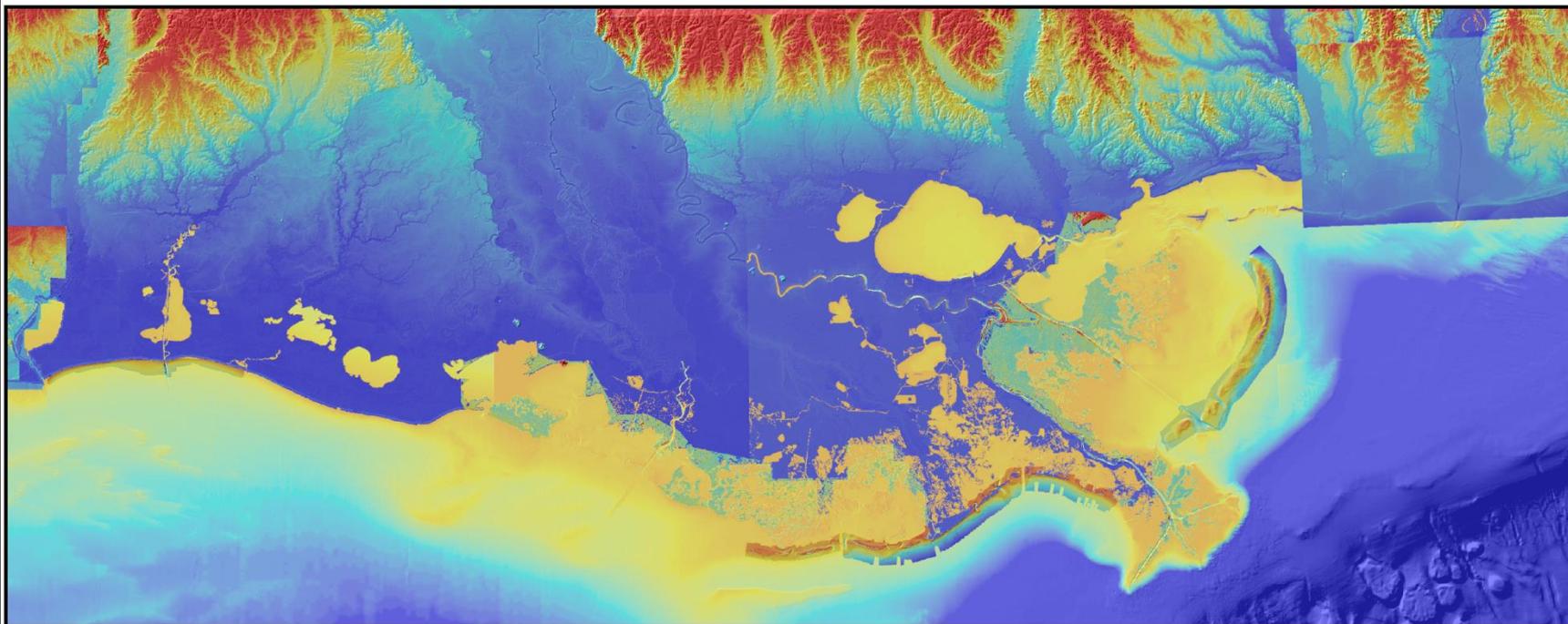
- 3) Lidar mosaic
- 4) Chandeleur Islands
- 5) BICM topo
- 6) NED 1/9" & lidar mosaics
- 7) NED 1/3"
- 8) BICM bathy
- 9) NOAA low & medium res topobathy

# Southern Louisiana Topobathymetric Elevation Model Data Sources



- 2) ARRA
- 3) Lidar mosaic
- 4) Chandeleur Islands
- 5) BICM topo
- 6) NED 1/9" & lidar mosaics
- 7) NED 1/3"
- 8) BICM bathy
- 9) NOAA low & medium res topobathy

# Southern Louisiana Topobathymetric Elevation Model Data Sources

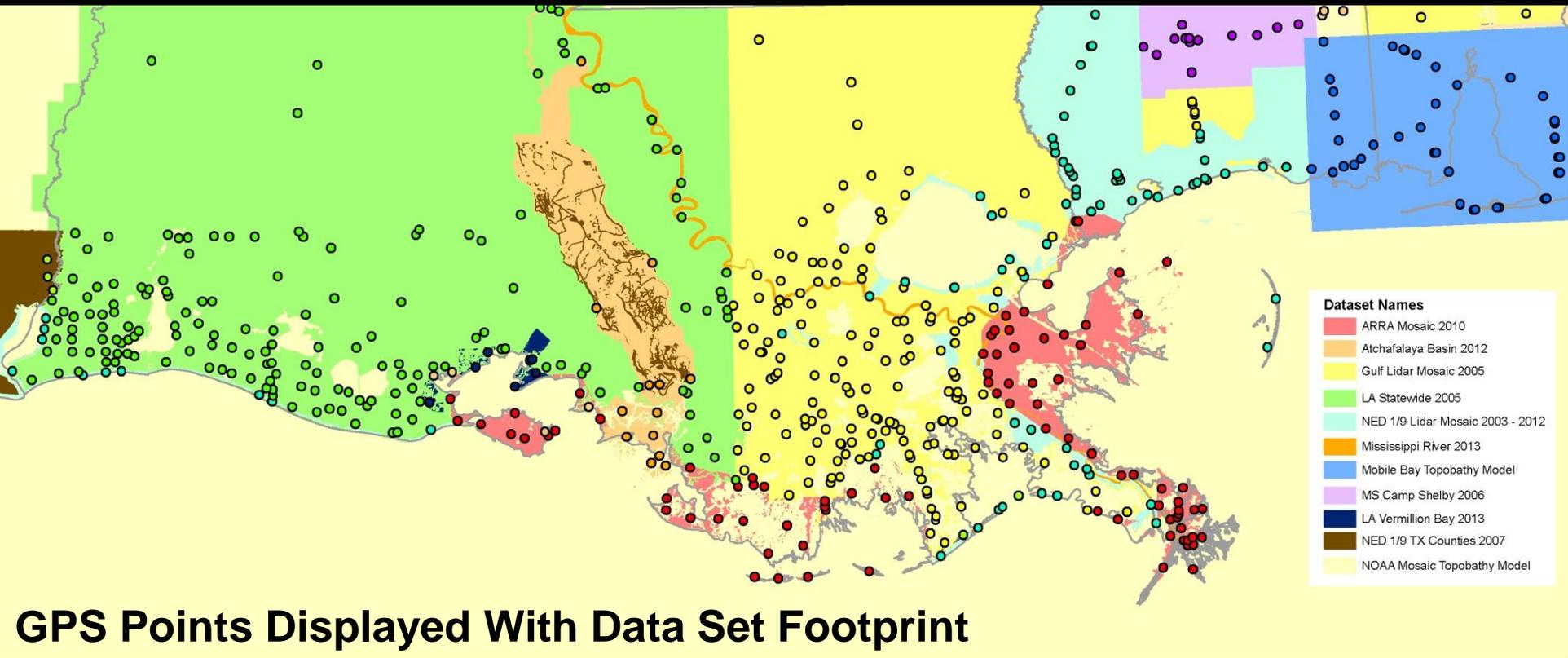


- 1) Mobile Bay topobathy
- 2) ARRA
- 3) Lidar mosaic
- 4) Chandeleur Islands
- 5) BICM topo
- 6) NED 1/9" & lidar mosaics
- 7) NED 1/3"
- 8) BICM bathy
- 9) NOAA low & medium res topobathy

# Specifications of the LA CoNED Topobathymetric Elevation Model Version 1.0

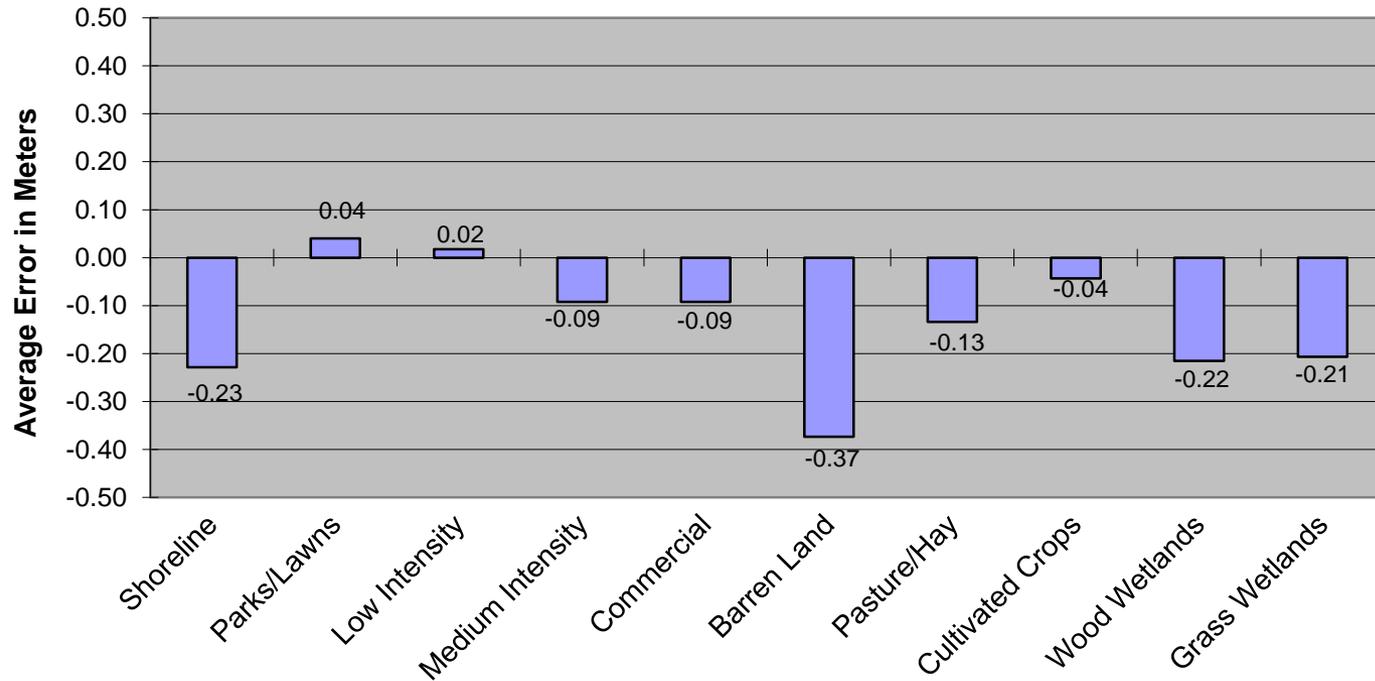
- **Horizontal datum / projection – NAD83, UTM**
- **Vertical datum – NAVD88 (Geoid12A)**
- **Vertical Accuracy: Recent Lidar - 9.25 cm RMSE (ie, 3DEP QL2)  
Older Lidar – 15 cm RMSE (but variable)**
- **Cell size – 3 meter**
- **Nesting – Consistent resampling, cell alignment (pixel edge), and aggregated resolutions**
- **Updating – Spatially Referenced Metadata**
- **Gap-filling / interpolation – Terrains and empirical bayesian kriegging**
- **File format – GeoTIFF**

# Validation of the LA CoNED Version 1.0



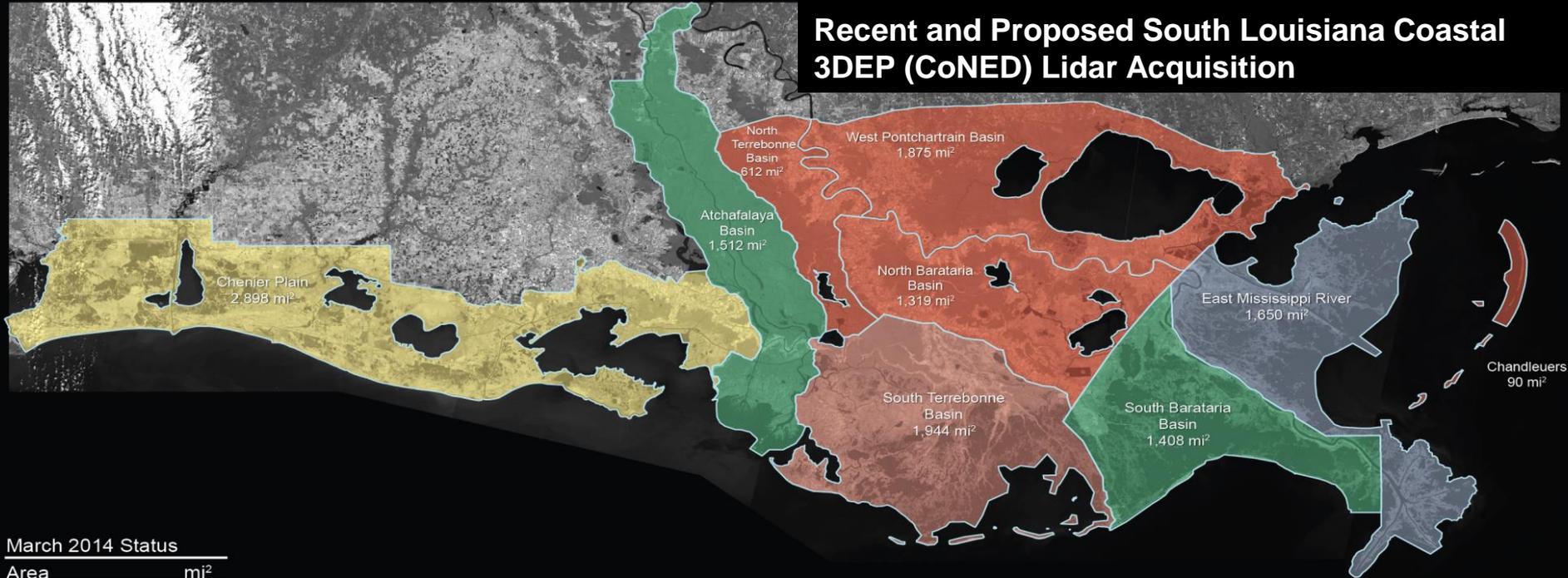
# Average Error By Landcover Type

Southern Louisiana Topobathy Model  
Average Error By Landcover Type



# Plans to Construct LA CoNED Version 2.0

## Recent and Proposed South Louisiana Coastal 3DEP (CoNED) Lidar Acquisition



### March 2014 Status

Area	mi <sup>2</sup>
Completed	4,570
Proposed	8,737
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,307</b>

### Explanation

- 2011 winter completed regional lidar acquisitions
- 2013 winter completed regional lidar acquisitions
- 2014 winter proposed regional lidar acquisition
- 2014 or 2015 winter proposed regional lidar acquisition
- 2016 winter proposed regional lidar acquisition

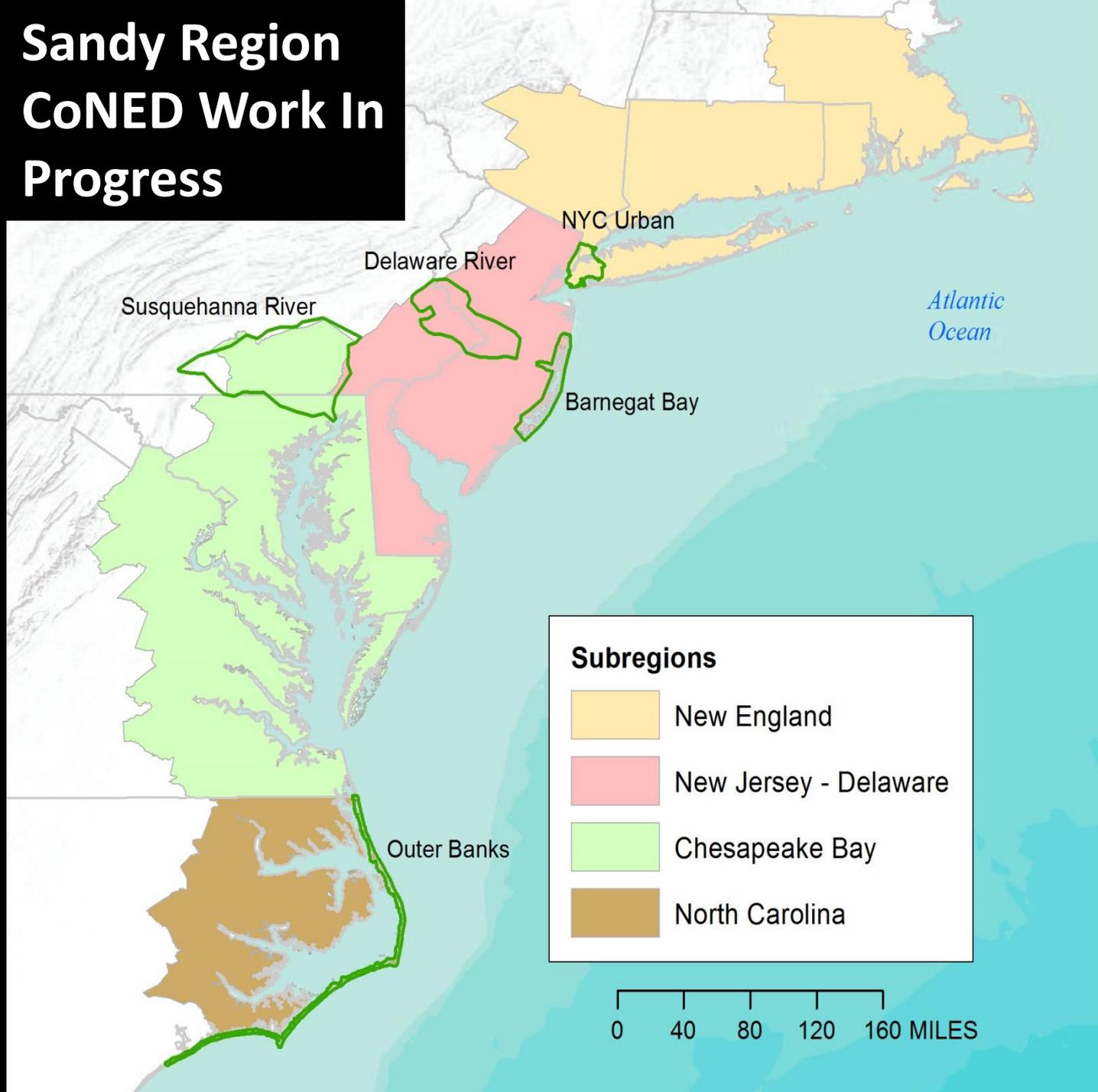


Image Source:  
Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper Satellite Imagery is provided by the USGS Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science. Imagery was acquired between Oct. 3 and Nov. 11, 2011.

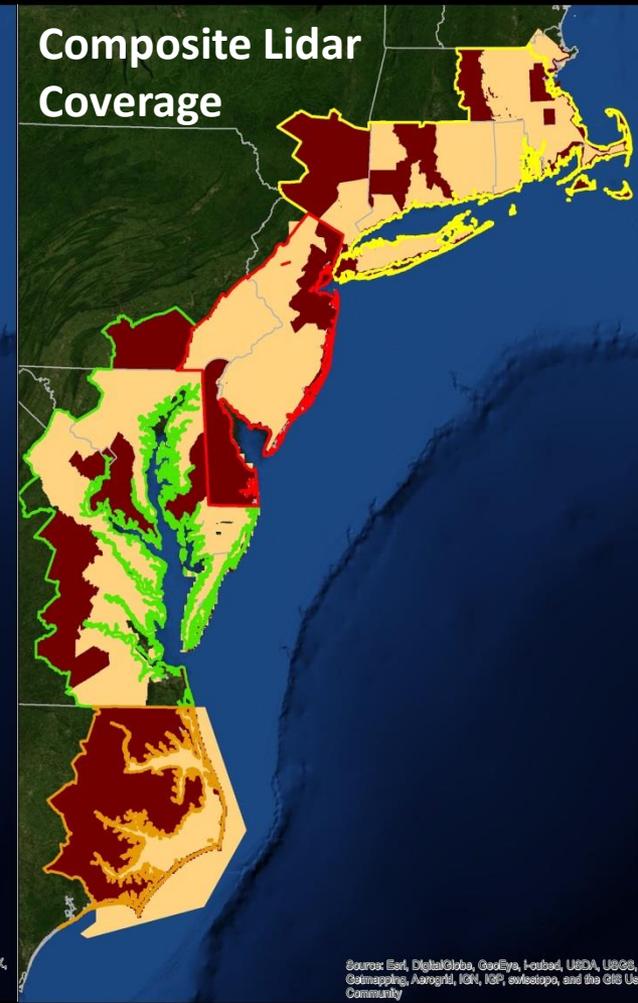
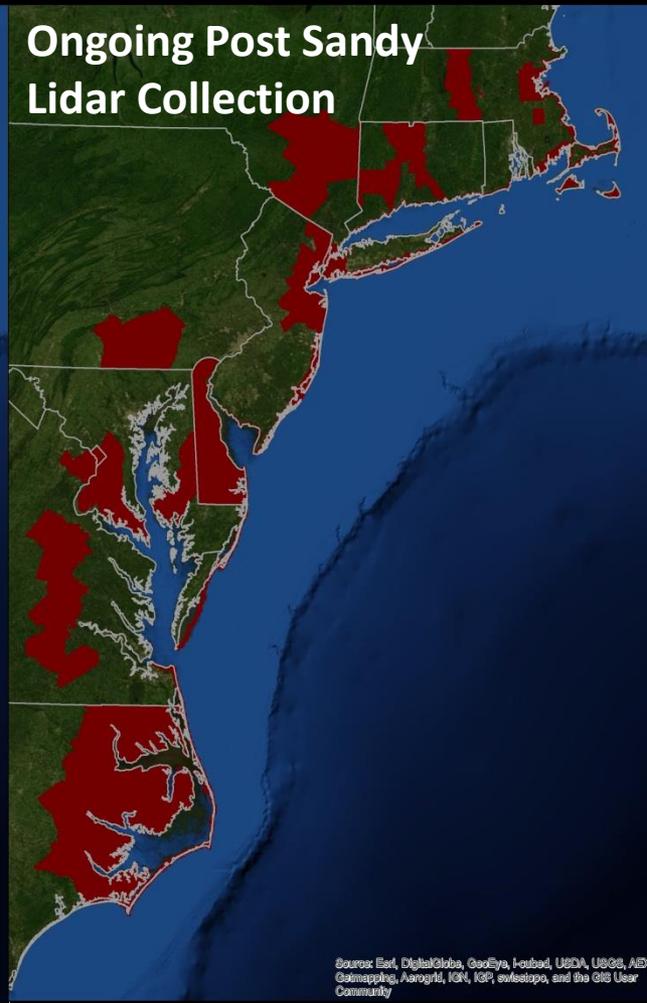
# LA CoNED Version 1 Incorporates Mississippi River Bathymetry: Inland Bathymetry will be Emphasized in LA CoNED Version 2

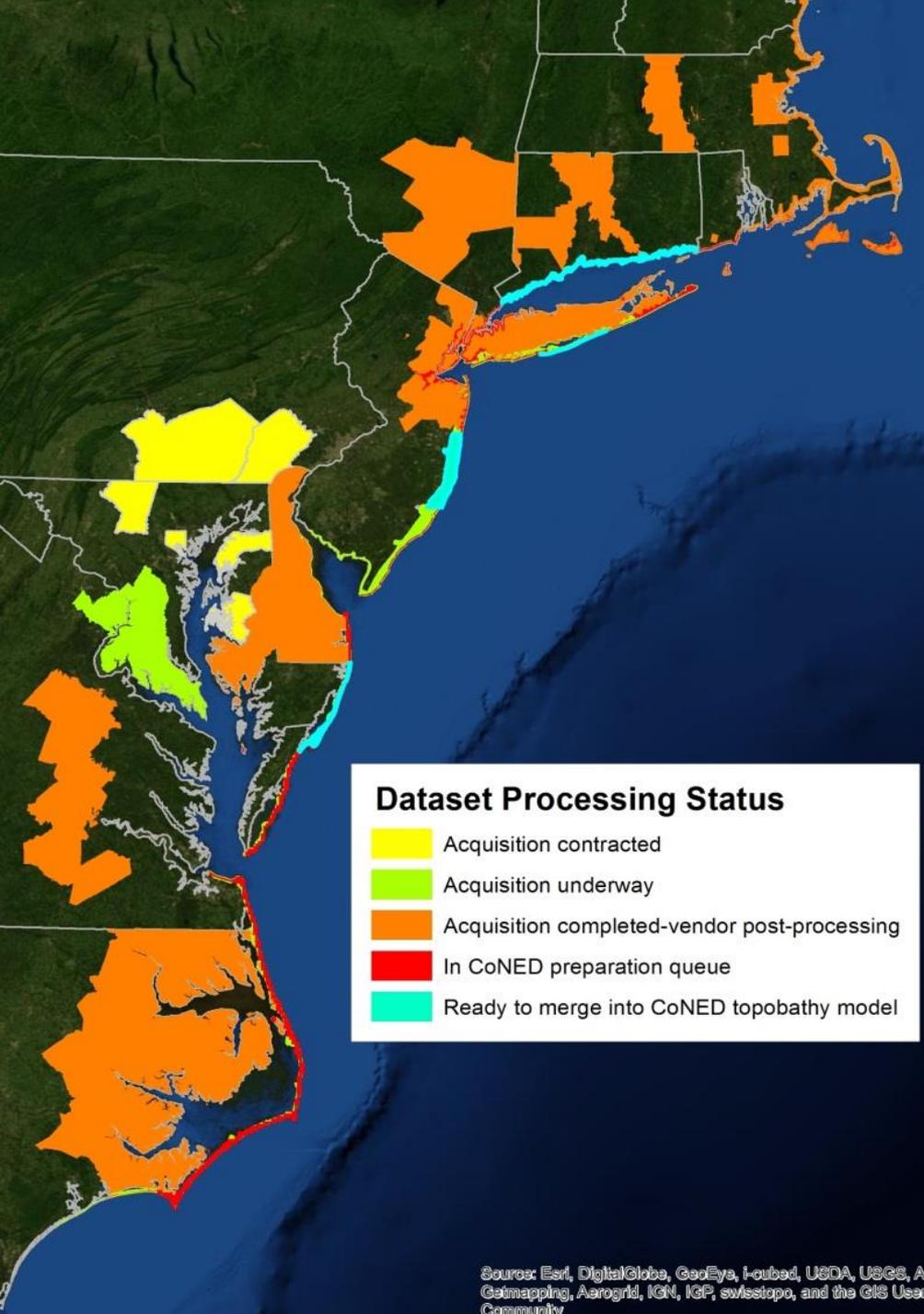


# Sandy Region CoNED Work In Progress



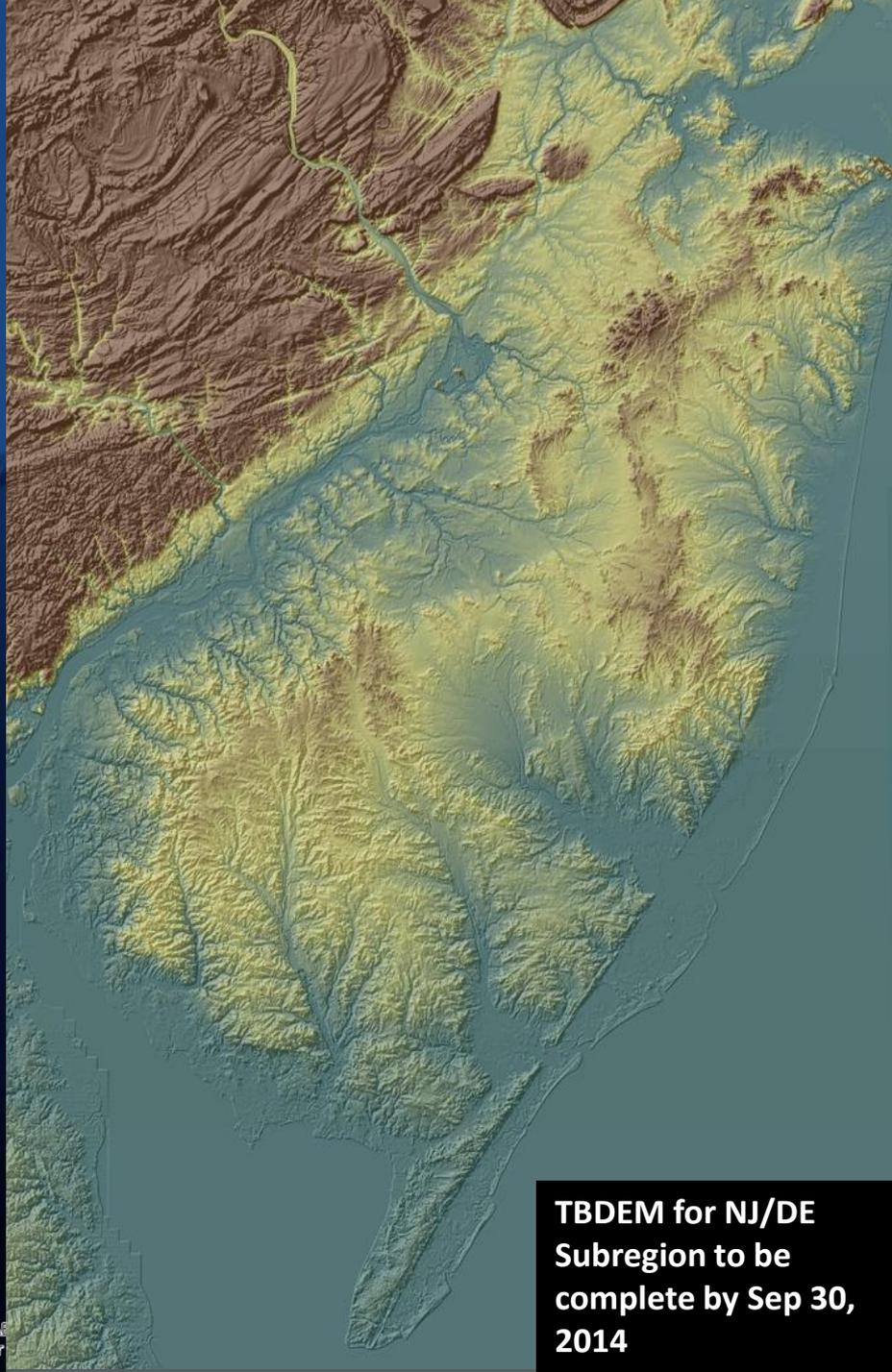
# Lidar Data Coverage for the Sandy CoNED Task





### Dataset Processing Status

- Acquisition contracted
- Acquisition underway
- Acquisition completed-vendor post-processing
- In CoNED preparation queue
- Ready to merge into CoNED topobathy model



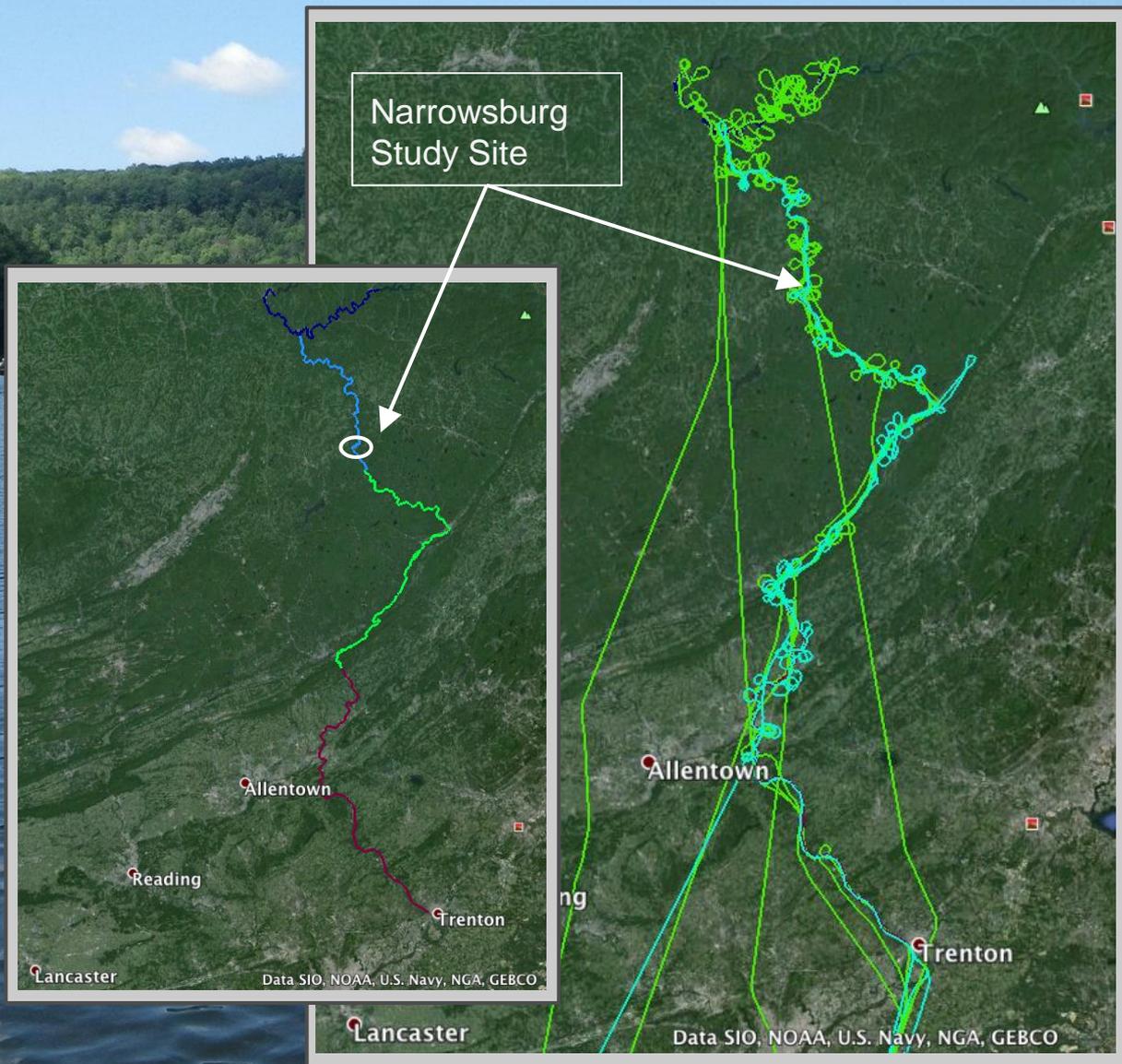
**TBDEM for NJ/DE  
Subregion to be  
complete by Sep 30,  
2014**

# Specifications of the Sandy Region CoNED Topobathymetric Elevation Models Now Under Construction

- **Horizontal datum / projection – NAD83, UTM**
- **Vertical datum – NAVD88 (Geoid12A)**
- **Vertical Accuracy: Post Sandy Lidar - 9.25 cm RMSE (ie, 3DEP QL2)**  
**Pre Sandy Lidar – 15 cm RMSE (but variable)**
- **Cell size – 1 meter**
- **Nesting – Consistent resampling, cell alignment (pixel edge), and aggregated resolutions**
- **Multi-temporal database – Outer Banks Focal Area only**
- **Hydro-enforcement – River Focal Areas only**
- **Updating – Spatially Referenced Metadata**
- **Gap-filling / interpolation – Terrains and empirical bayesian kriegging**
- **File format – GeoTIFF**

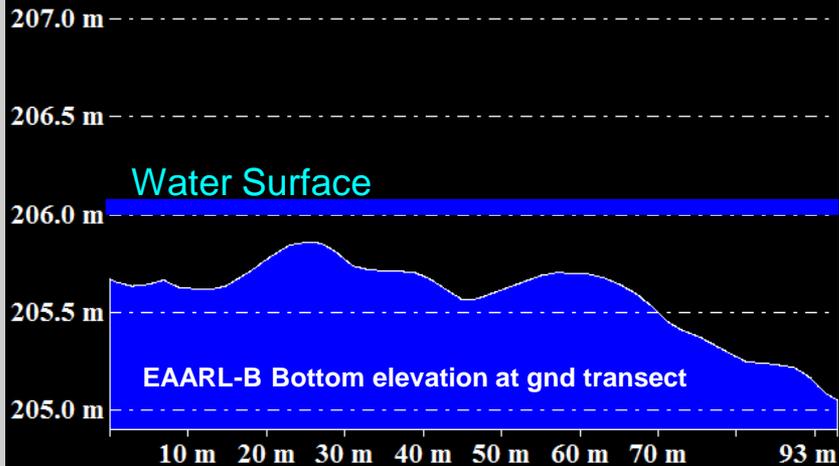
# Delaware River EAARL-B Survey

- Over 250 miles surveyed
- 15 ground survey locations
- Successful EAARL-B bottom detection for > 90% of river
- Detected depths range from .3 to 10m
- Extensive use of both narrow FOV and Wide deep water channels
- 23cm Std. Dev. of gnd vs airborne survey of bottom elevation



# Narrowsburg, Pa. Site 5 of 15

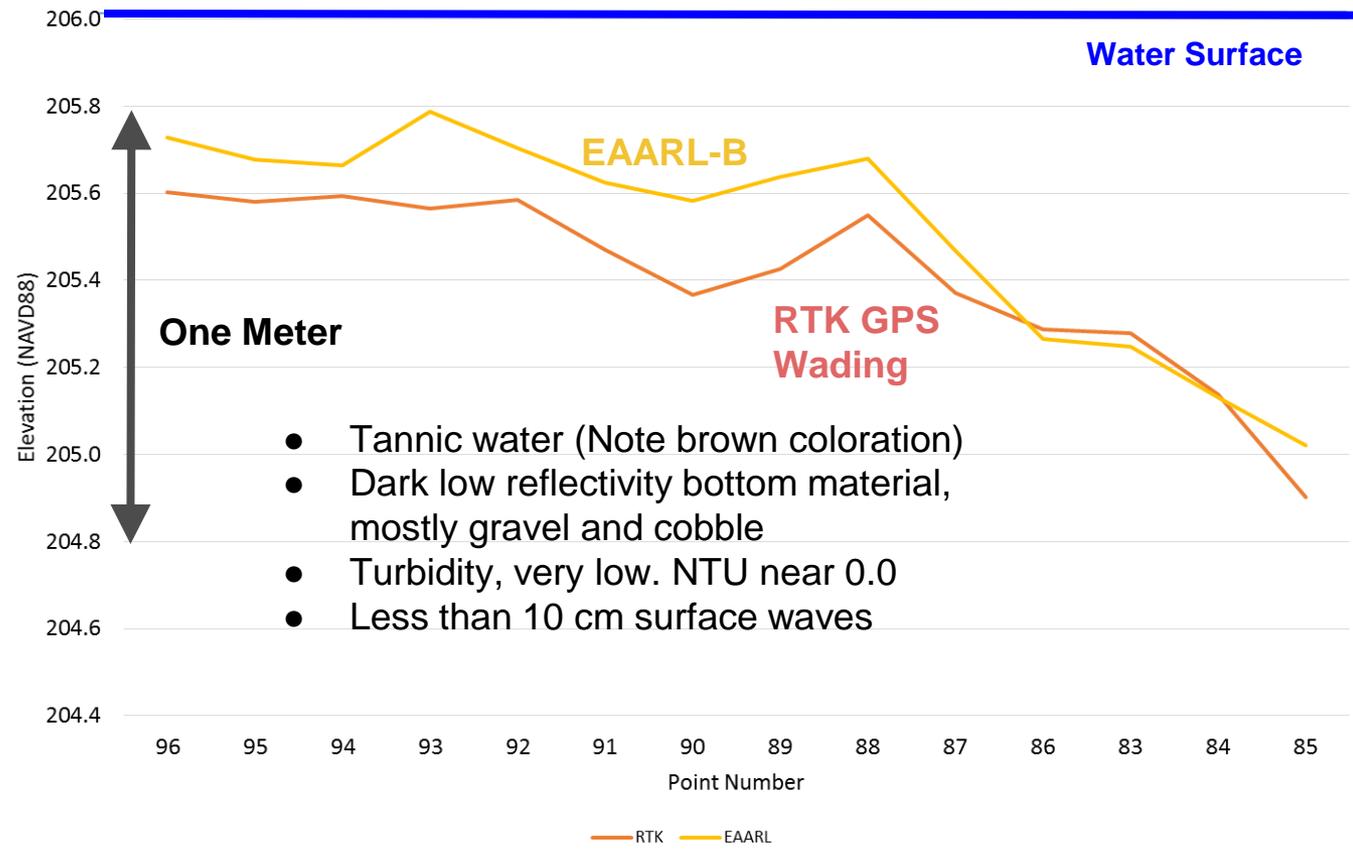
From Pos: 494187.743, 4606442.187 To Pos: 494178.165, 4606534.551



USGS

494000 m

Cross-channel transect comparison  
Narrowsburg Site  
Delaware River



USGS

Source: EST, Digital Globe, GeoEye, Earthstar, United States, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, Esri, Swire, and the GIS User Community

# EAARL-B & Ground truth Site 5 of 15

Statistics of nars\_topobathy\_extract\_bed\_points

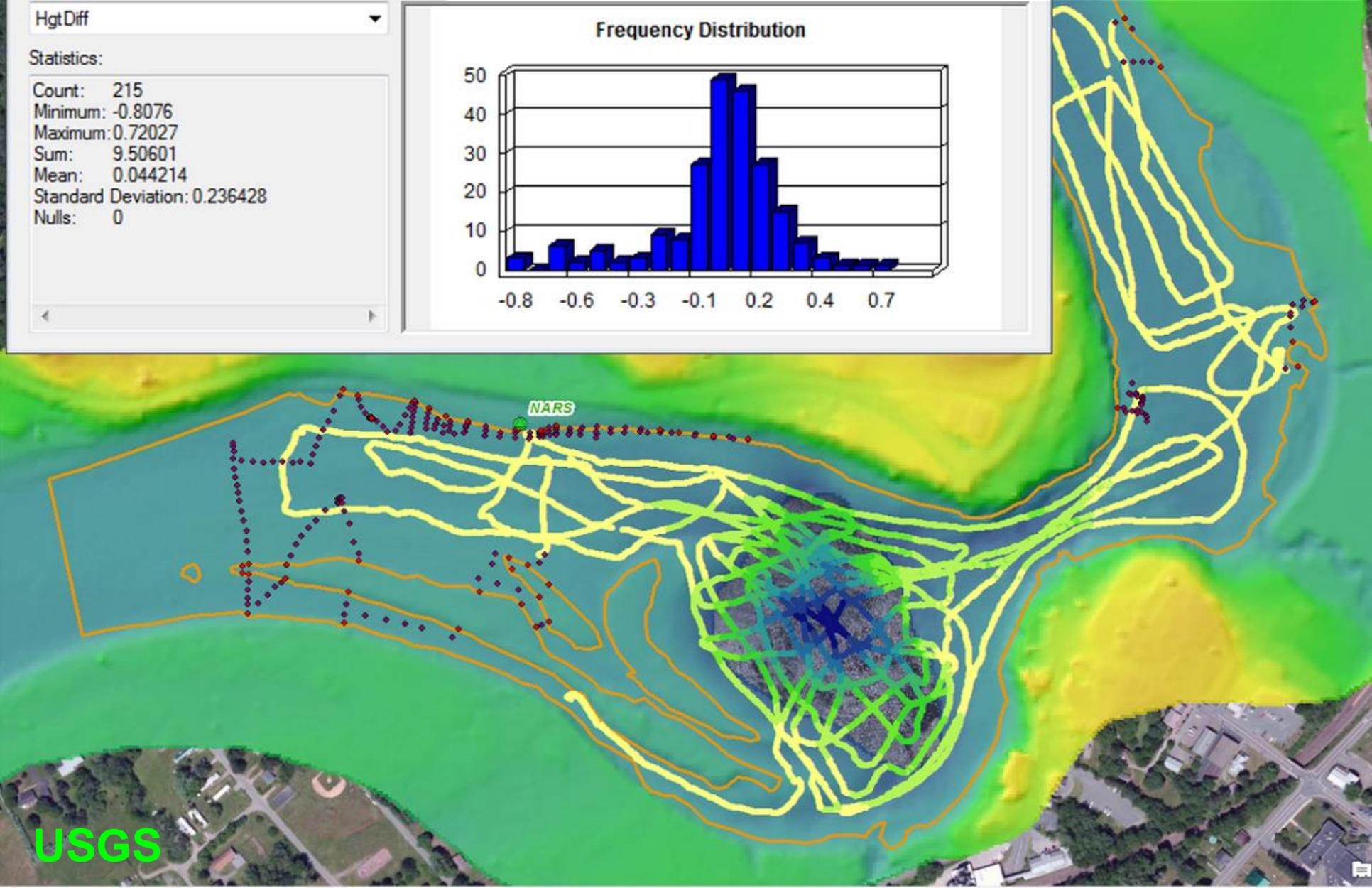
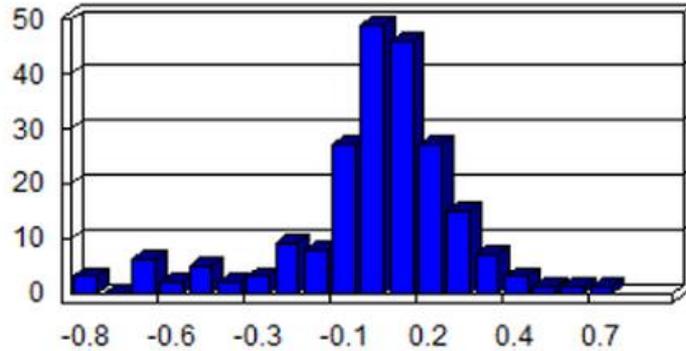
Field

HgtDiff

Statistics:

Count: 215  
Minimum: -0.8076  
Maximum: 0.72027  
Sum: 9.50601  
Mean: 0.044214  
Standard Deviation: 0.236428  
Nulls: 0

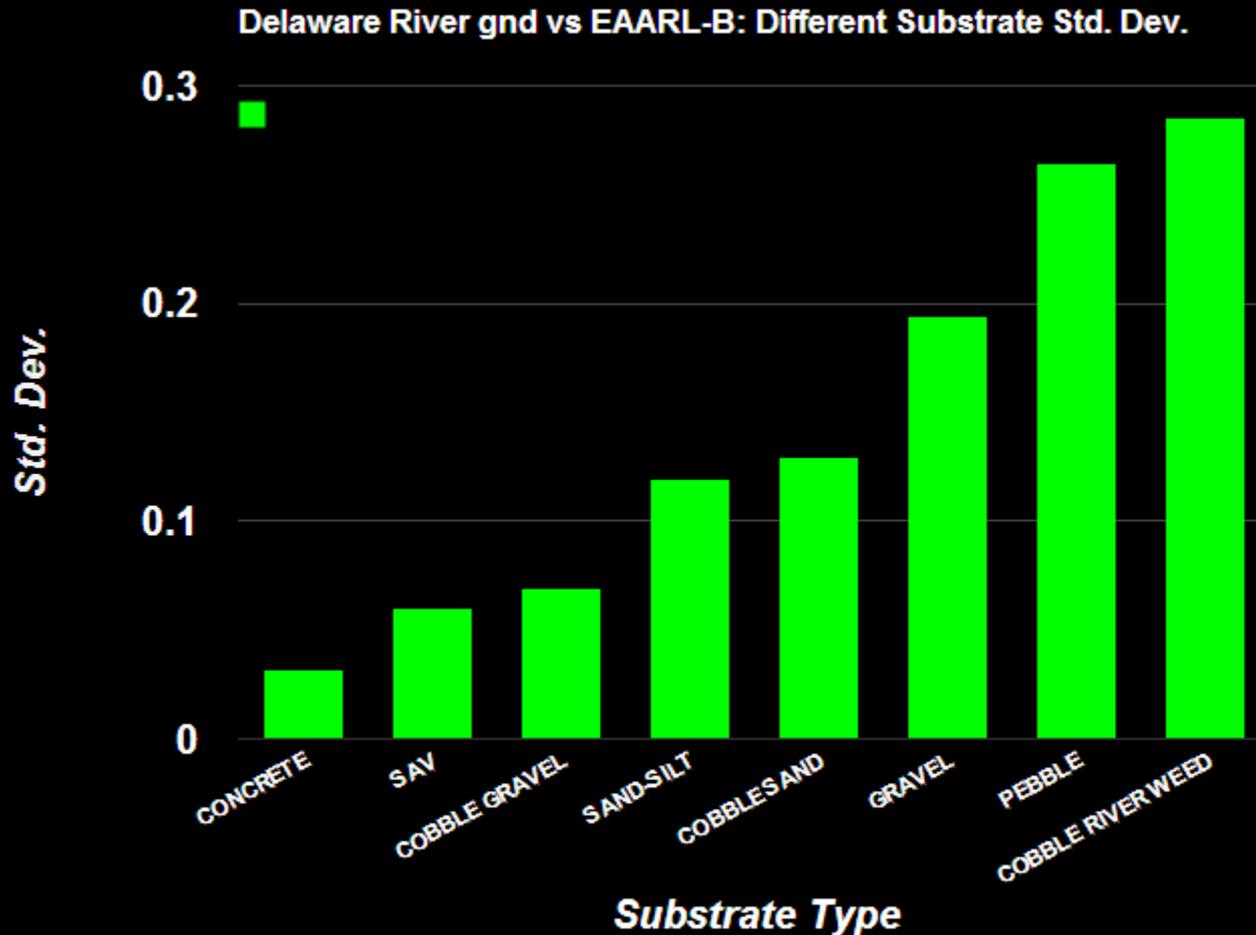
Frequency Distribution



USGS

# Comparison of EAARL-B with Ground Truth Difference by Substrate Type

~23.6 cm overall Std. Dev.





# Simultaneous Narrow & wide FOV on each Laser pulse

Pre Hurricane Sandy, Barnegat bay, Mantoloking NJ:

The EAARL-B captures both small and wide fields-of-view for every pulse.

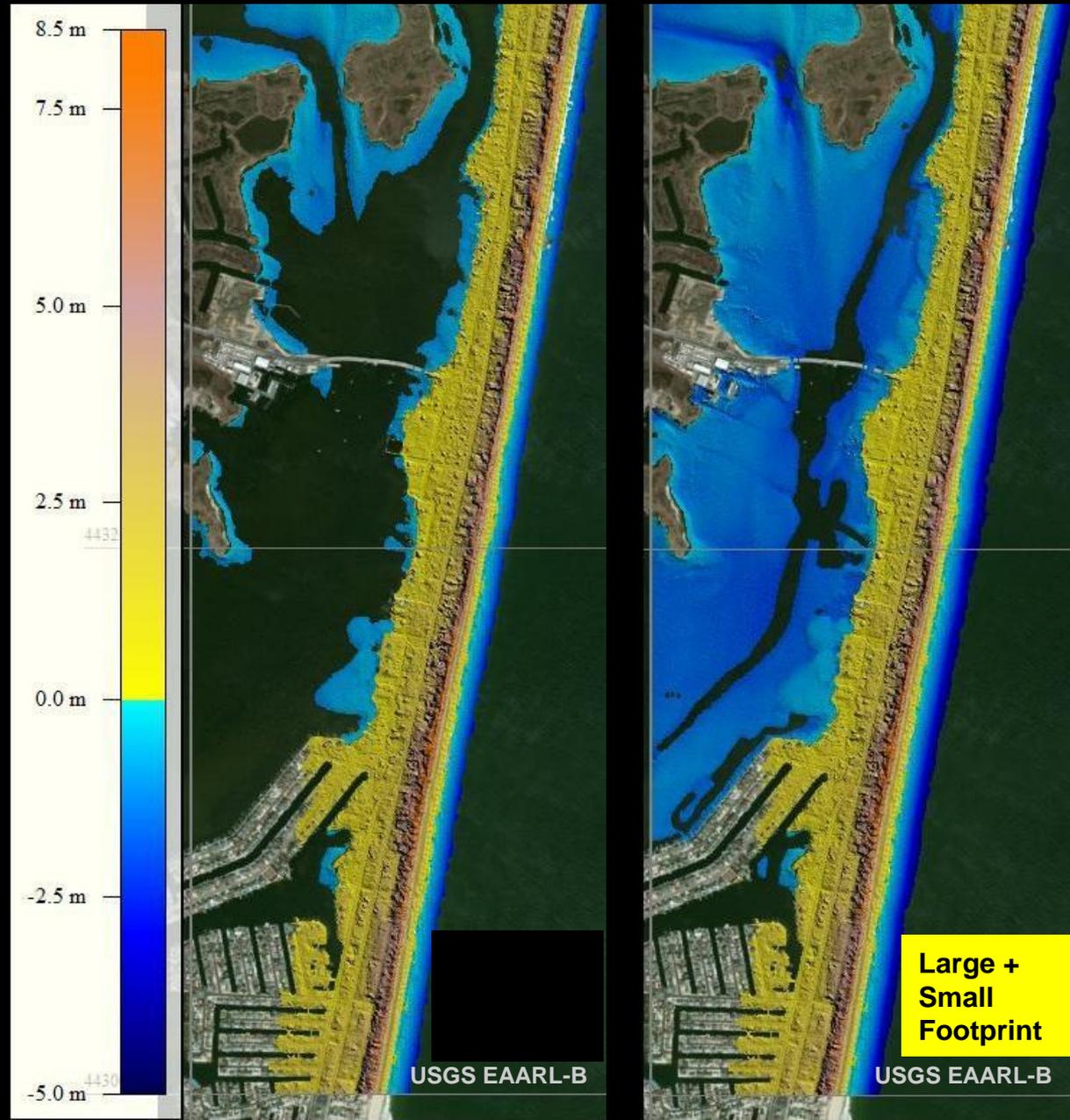
~5 NTU turbidity during survey.

Scattering by suspended sediment and surface wave action severely limits the depth capability of systems with only small foot prints.

The small footprint is adversely affected by small changes in turbidity.

Systems with only large foot prints have difficulty in shallow water (< 2m).

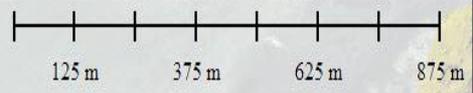
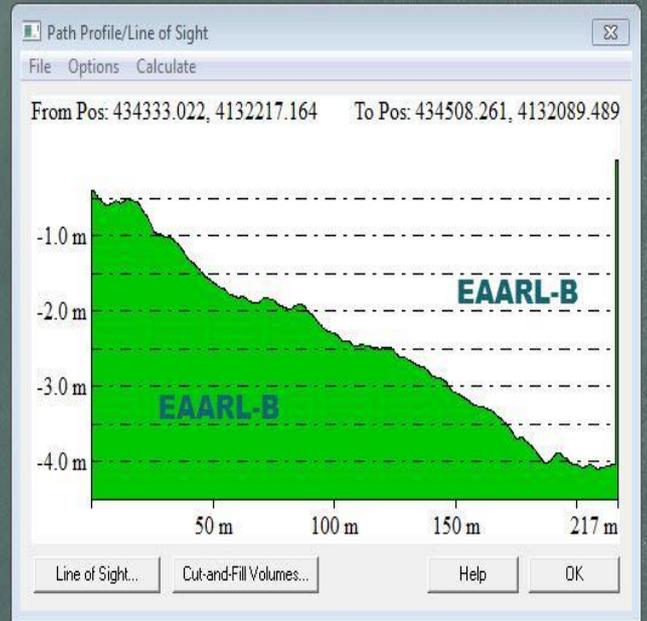
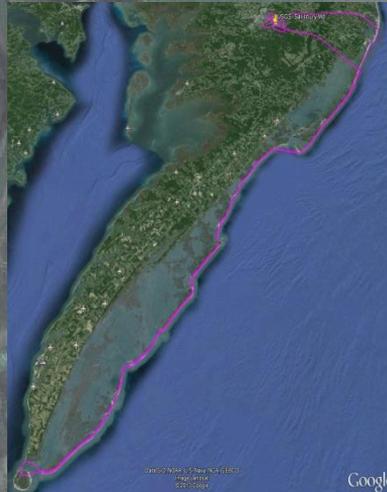
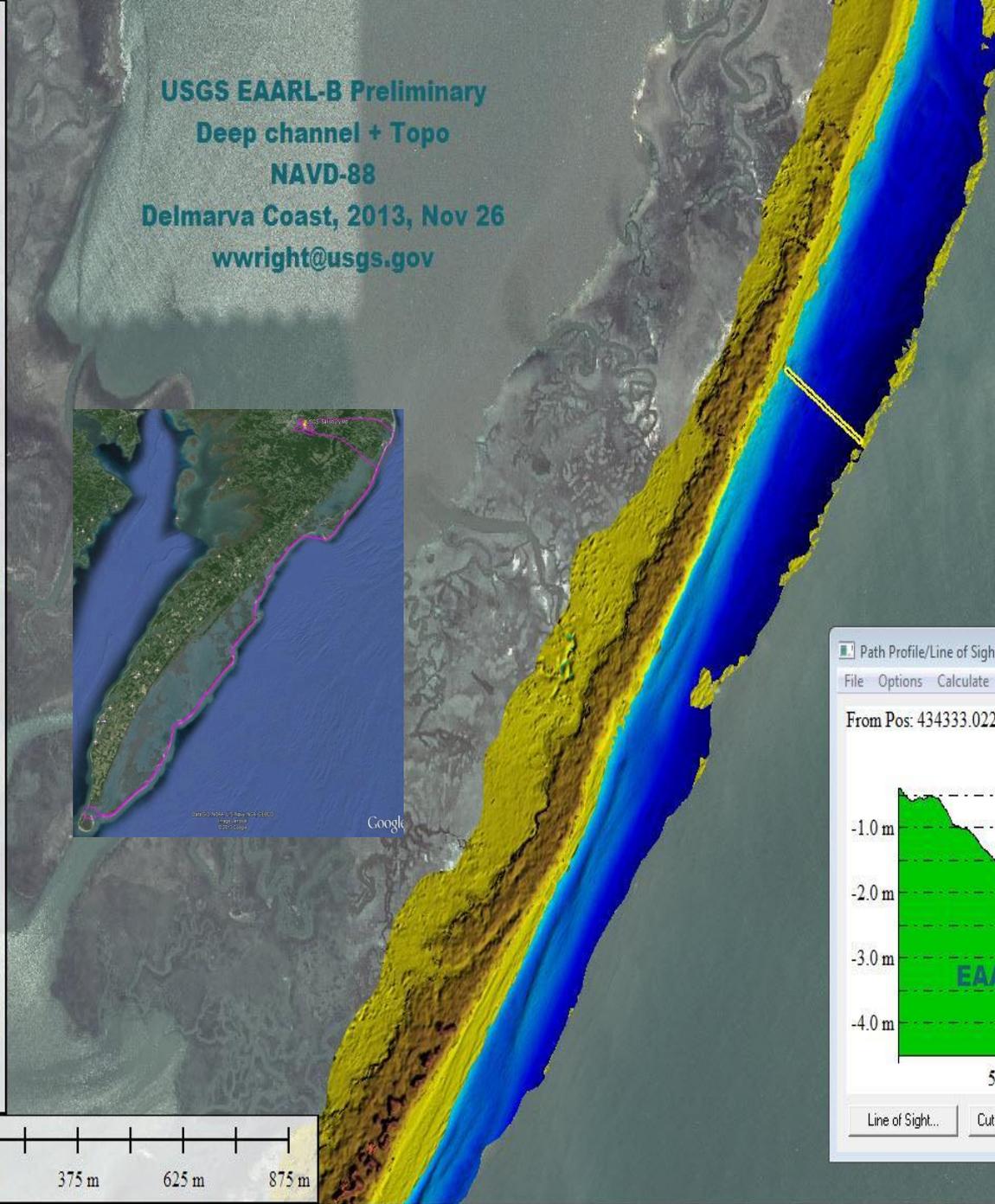
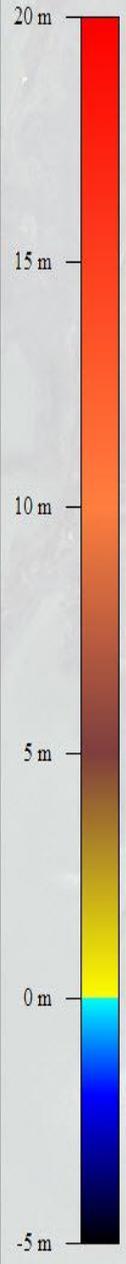
The EAARL-B combines scattered energy from all three beamlets into one large foot print while simultaneously retaining waveforms from the original three beamlets.



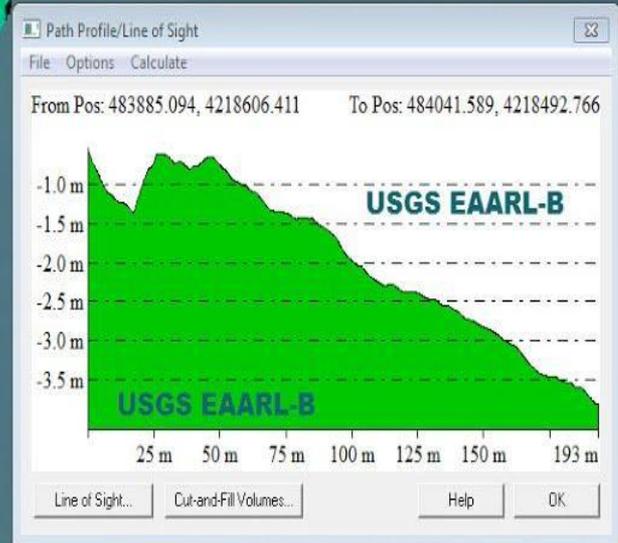
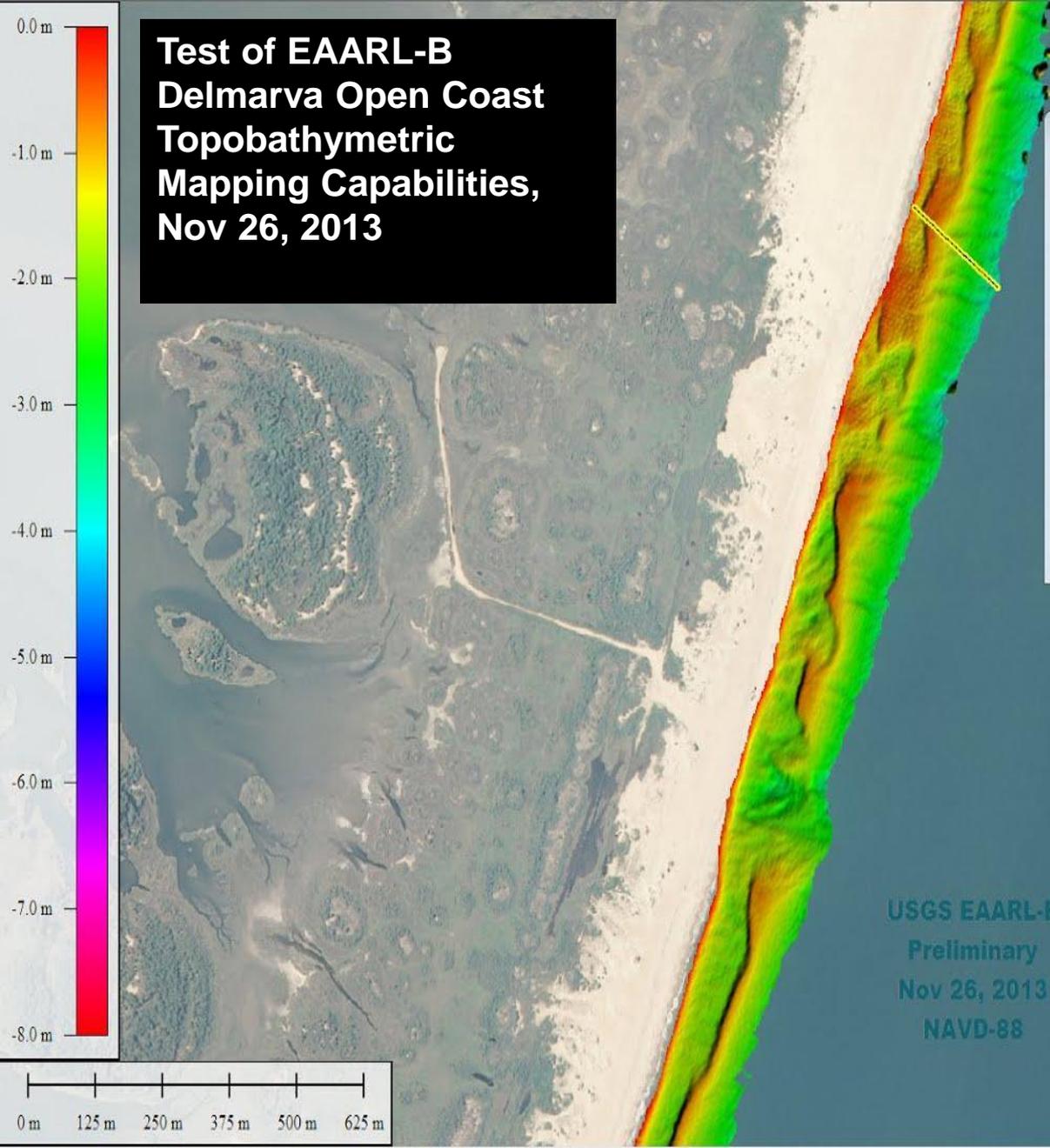
# Test of EAARL-B Delmarva Open Coast Topobathymetric Mapping Capabilities, Nov 26, 2013

USGS EAARL-B Preliminary  
Deep channel + Topo  
NAVD-88  
Delmarva Coast, 2013, Nov 26  
wwright@usgs.gov

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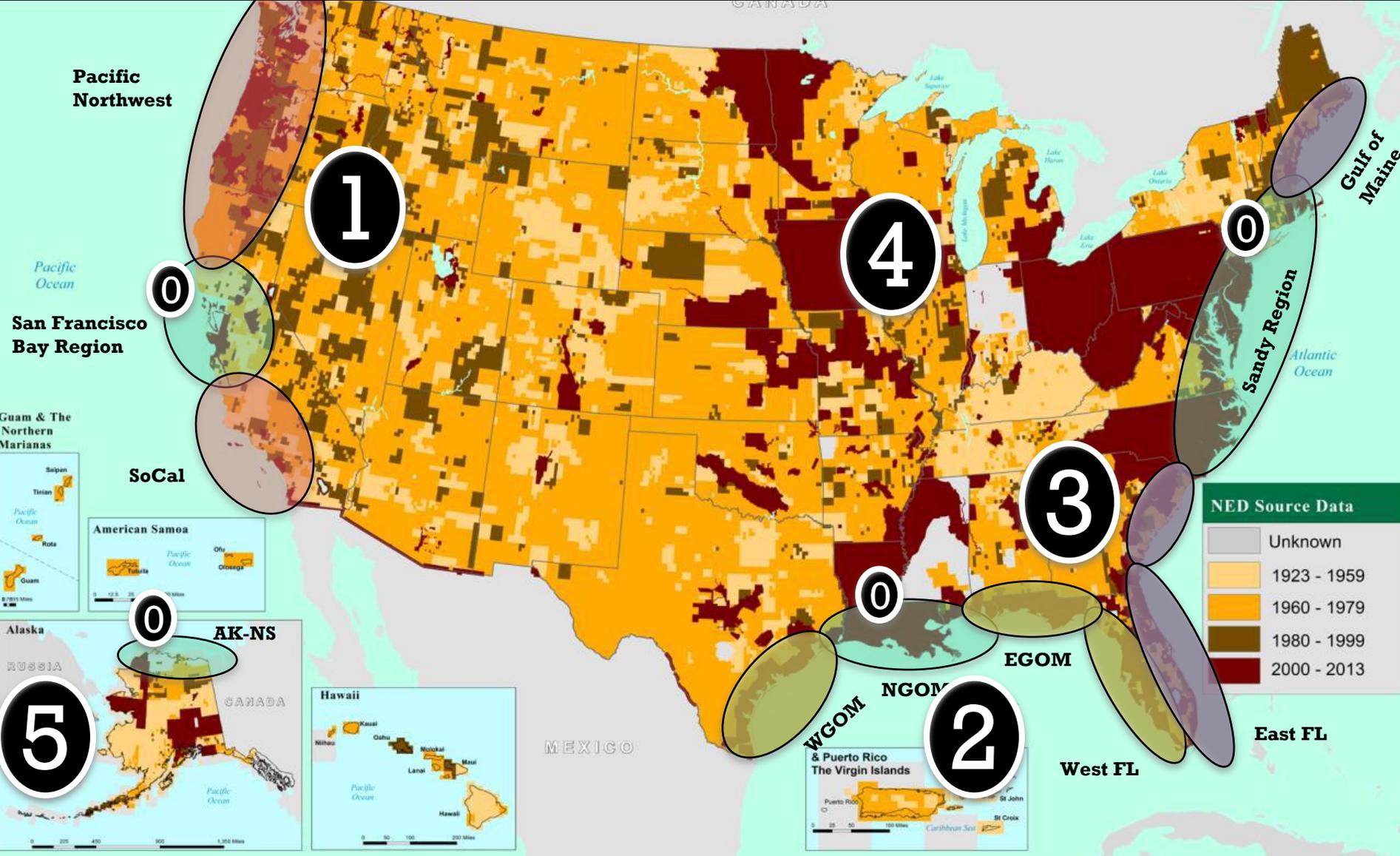


USGS EAARL-B  
Preliminary  
Nov 26, 2013  
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USGS EAARL-B Preliminary  
Deep channel  
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Delmarva Coast, 2013, Nov 26  
wwright@usgs.gov

# Proposed Sequencing of Lidar Collection Focus and Coastal 3DEP Construction Over the Next Decade:



NED Source Data	
	Unknown
	1923 - 1959
	1960 - 1979
	1980 - 1999
	2000 - 2013

- : Phase 0 (FY13-FY15)
- : Phase 1 (FY16-FY18)
- : Phase 2 (FY19-FY21)
- : Phase 3 (FY22-FY24)

Call for Manuscripts for a **Journal of Coastal Research** Issue on:  
**Advances in Topobathymetric Mapping, Models, and Applications**



Detailed knowledge of temporally-varying subaerial and submerged topography is needed by scientists and policy-makers in heterogeneous coastal zones with high-energy physical processes, complex habitats, steep ecological gradients, focused societal infrastructure investments, and concentrated human populations vulnerable to a range of inundation hazards. The latest topographic and topographic-bathymetric (topobathymetric) lidar systems offer greatly enhanced littoral zone mapping capabilities and facilitate generation of merged multi-sensor coastal zone elevation models with continuous but varied resolution keyed to ecosystem zonation. Recently launched satellite sensors combined with radiative transfer modeling is improving the ability to derive bathymetry from multispectral and hyperspectral imagery where conditions permit. Efficient new methodologies are being developed to allow the assimilation of disparate and voluminous multi-sensor, multi-temporal topographic and bathymetric data sets to create seamless, regional-scale topobathymetric digital elevation models (TBDEMs). In parallel, coastal science and coastal zone management communities are devising original applications of these TBDEMs in coastal wetlands mapping and monitoring, storm surge and sea level-rise modeling, benthic habitat mapping, coral reef ecosystem mapping, and a host of related activities.

This Special Issue of the *Journal of Coastal Research* is intended to serve as a forum for researchers to communicate findings on the following broad topics: (1) capabilities of green laser lidar instruments or multispectral imagery to capture dense submerged elevation data under varying turbidity, depth, and substrate reflectance conditions; (2) capabilities of green laser lidar instruments to map ephemeral and morphologically-complex sedimentary structures and benthic habitats; (3) methods for the merging of multi-source elevation data to create seamless cross-shoreline TBDEMs keyed to coastal ecosystem zonation; (4) the application of seamless cross-shoreline TBDEMs within the hydrodynamic modeling and forecasting of tsunamis, storm surge, and flood inundation; (5) the application of cross-shoreline TBDEMs within the prediction of sea-level rise inundation and associated economic costs.

*Submission Deadline:*

**August 31, 2014**

Guest Editors: John C. Brock, Dean Gesch, Christopher E. Parrish, and C. Wayne Wright

Please contact one of the Guest Editors if you intend to submit a manuscript (contact info on next page).

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**Guest Editors:**

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**Please contact one of  
the Guest Editors if  
you plan to submit a  
paper to this JCR  
Special Issue**

A topographic map of a region, likely a coastal plain or river delta, showing elevation contours and water bodies. The map is rendered in shades of green and yellow, with a dark blue overlay. The text "Questions or Comments?" is centered in white.

**Questions or Comments?**