

# 3D Geospatial Information for Sustainable Coasts: Emerging Solutions and Applications

Michael J. Starek, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi





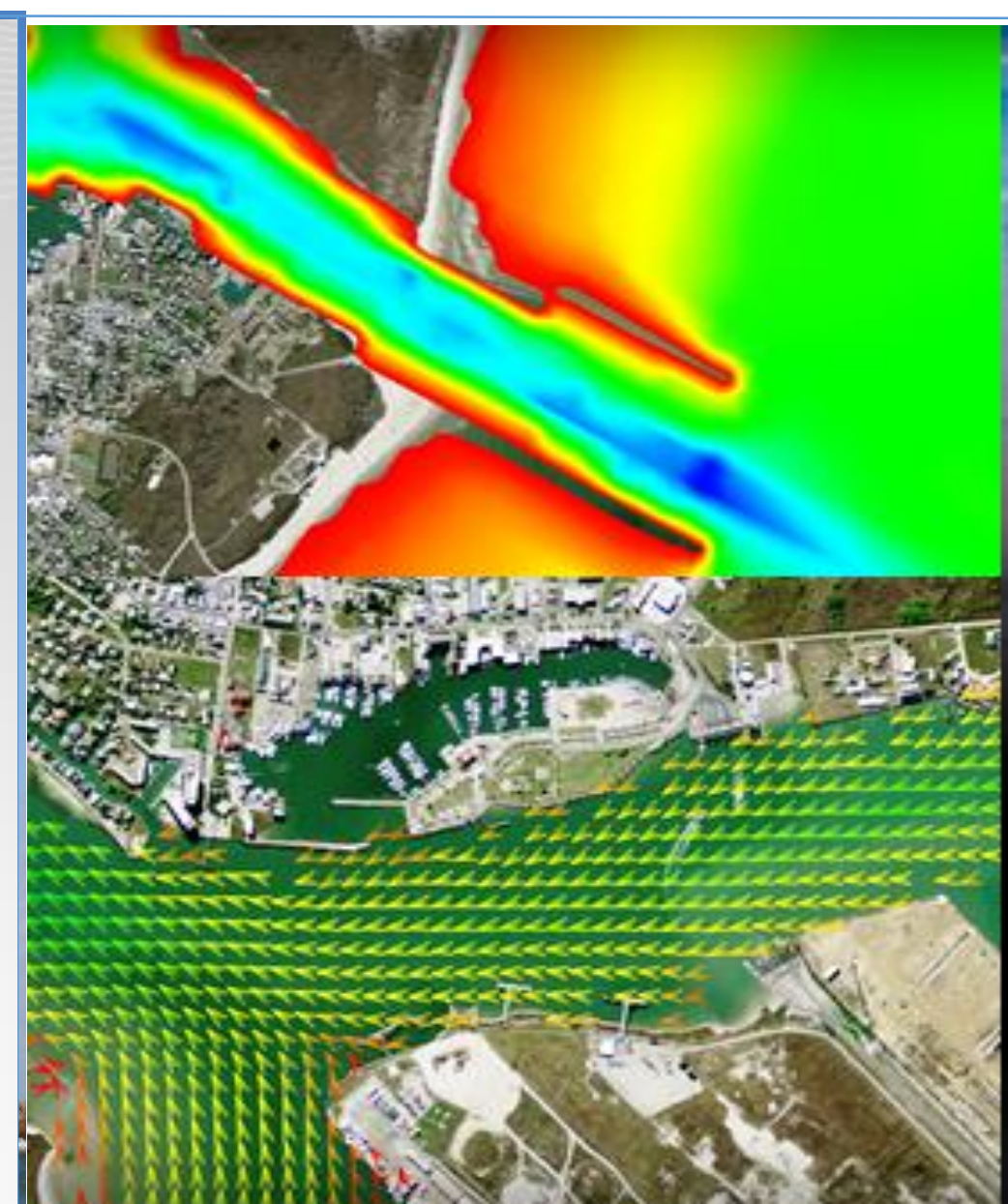
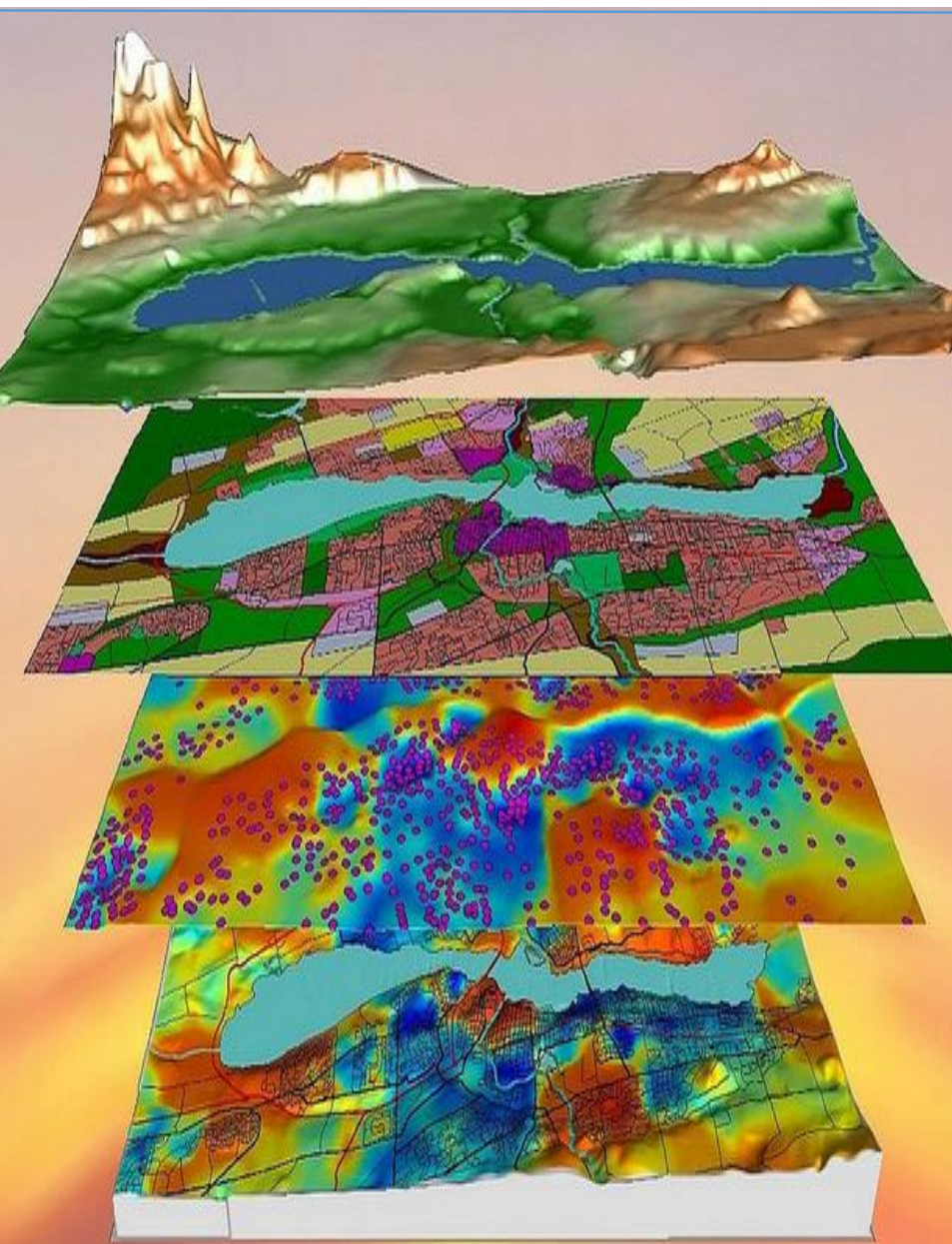
# Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying & Science

Dedicated May 1987 - Blucher Family: surveyors of South Texas (1882-1954)

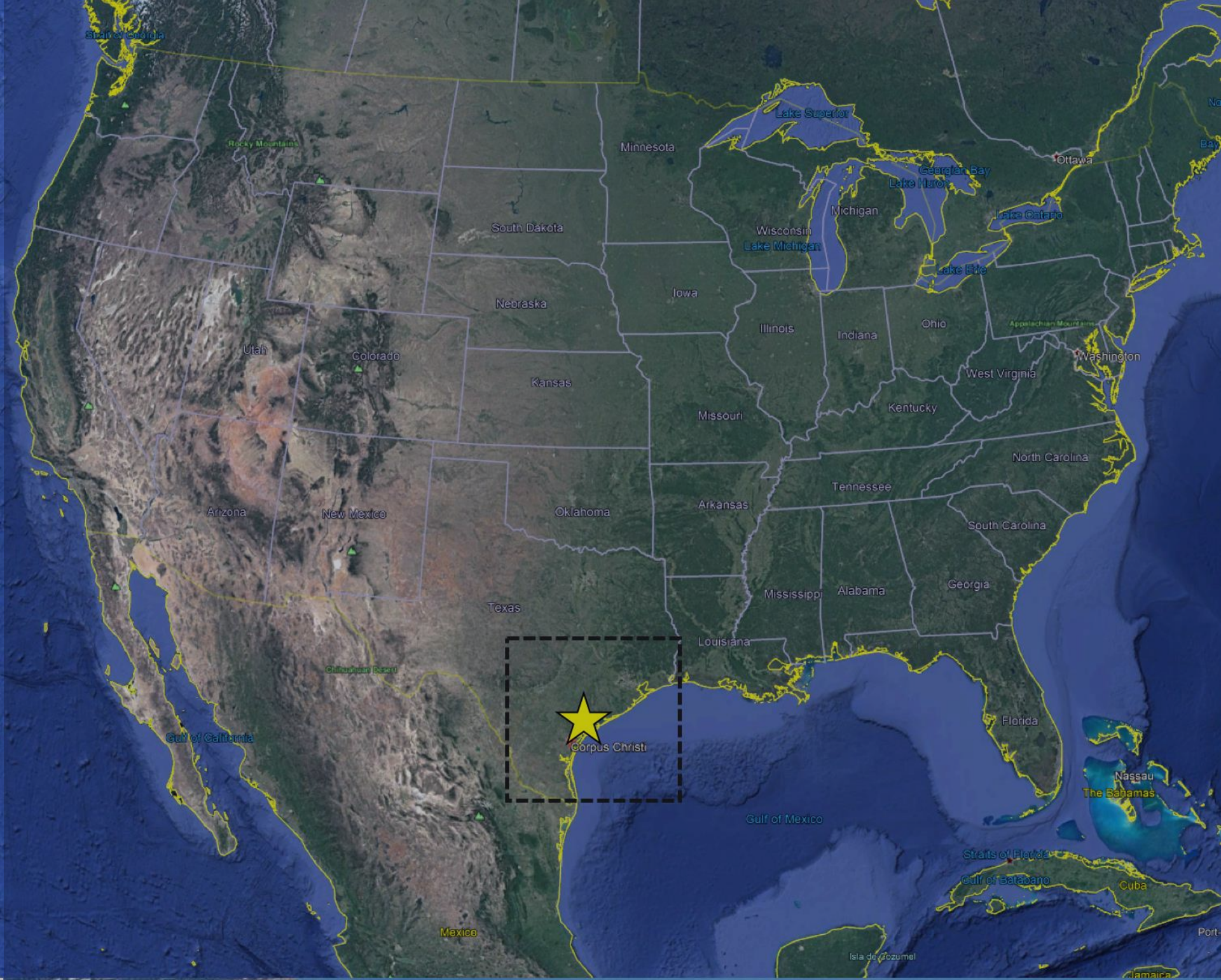
Support of academic programs (BS – MS – PhD)

Research in coastal and environmental observation and modeling, geomatics, GIS...

Work critical for resiliency planning, emergency response, ...







# Topic 1.

**Relative sea level rise (RSLR)** poses a threat to coastal sustainability along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Rates can highly vary locally due to land subsidence.

## Observations



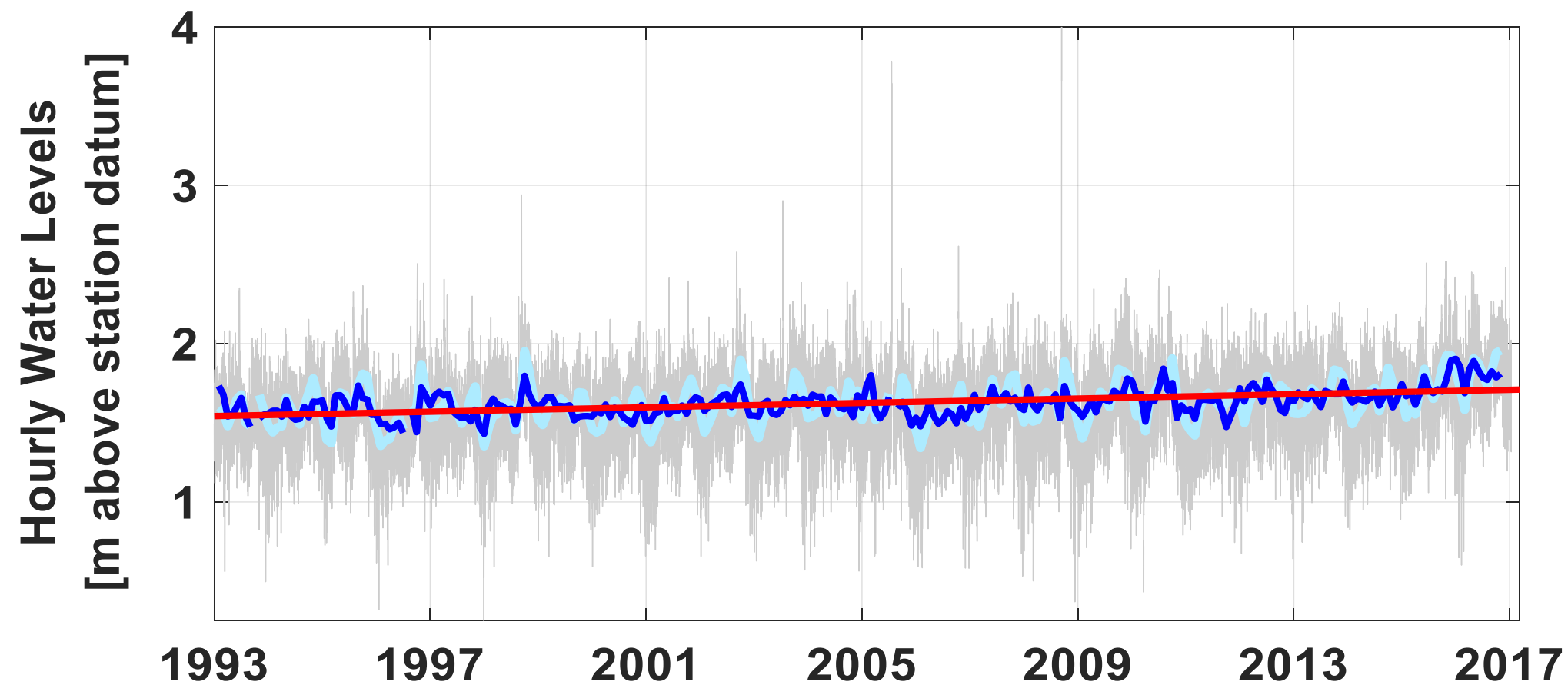
Tidal Gauges



Continuously operating GPS stations (cGPS)



**Galveston Pier 21**

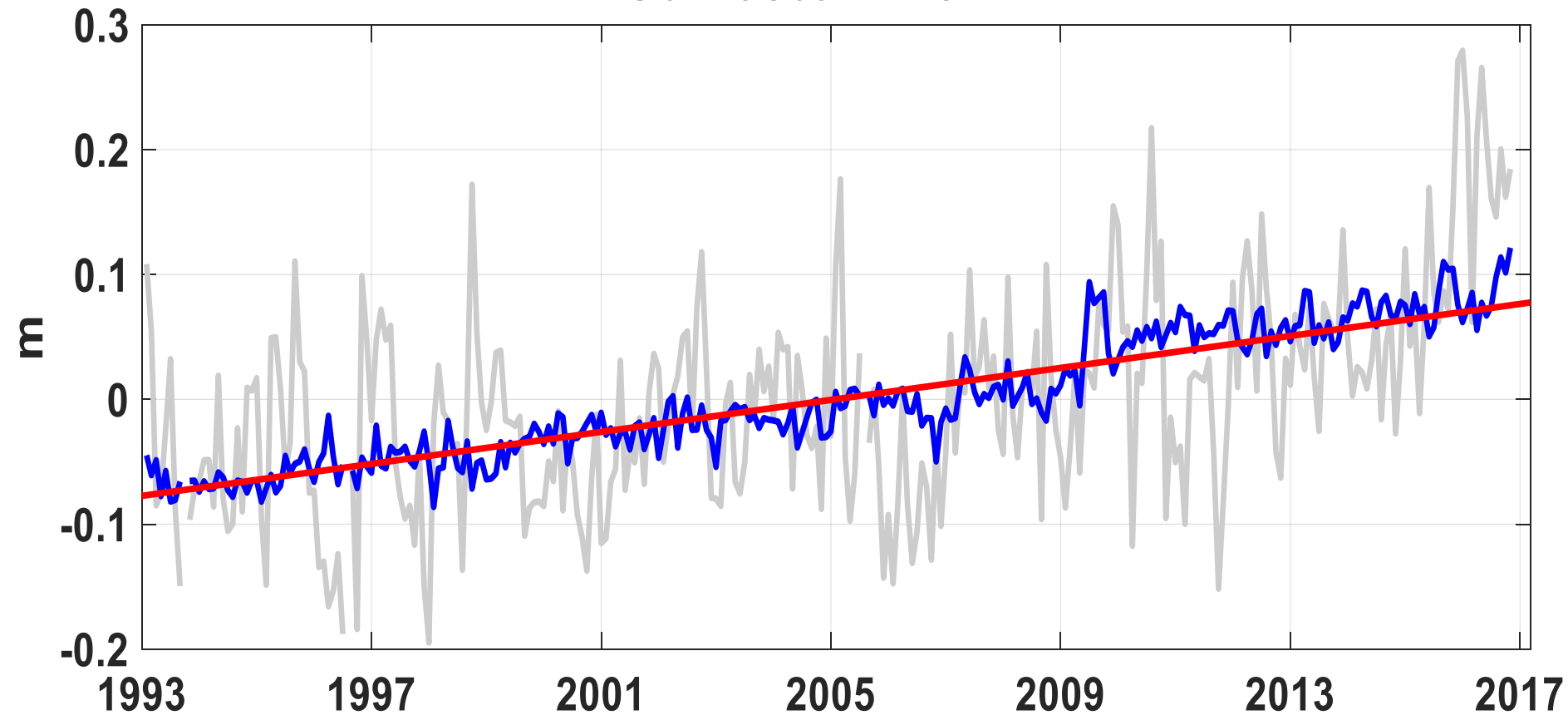


(1993-2017)  
 6.4 +/- **2.5 mm/year**

**Remove regional low frequency  
 oceanographic signal**

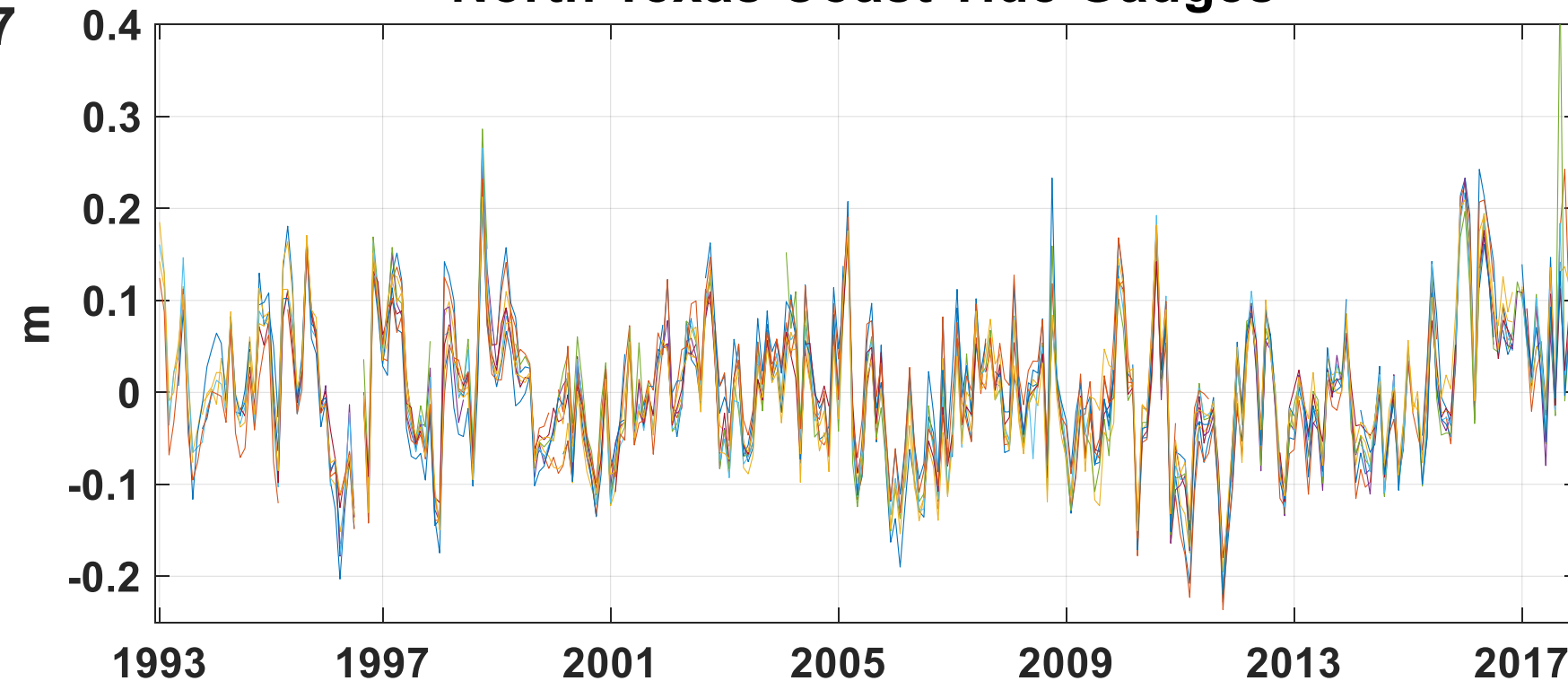


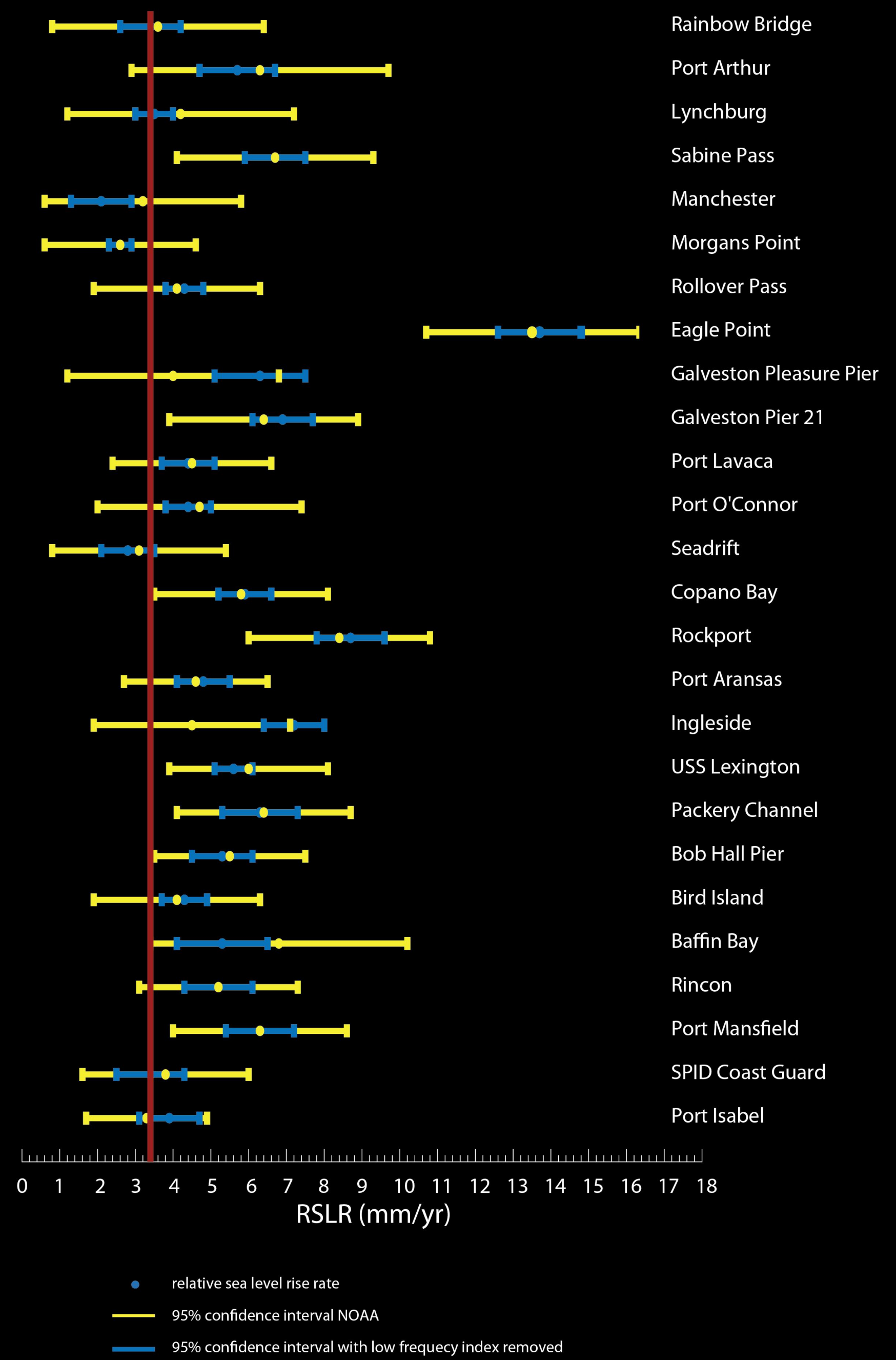
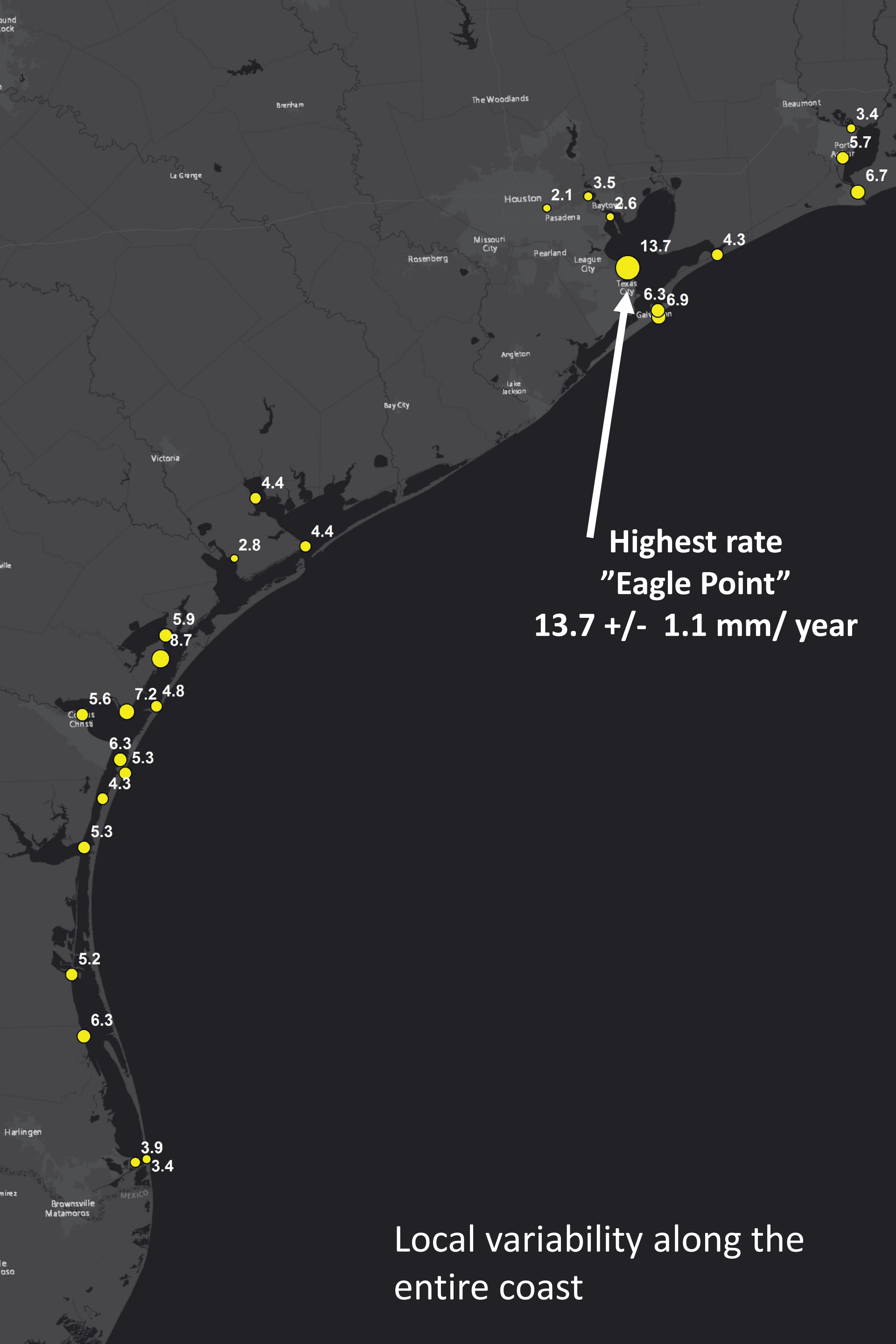
**Galveston Pier 21**



(1993-2017)  
 6.9 +/- **0.8 mm/year**

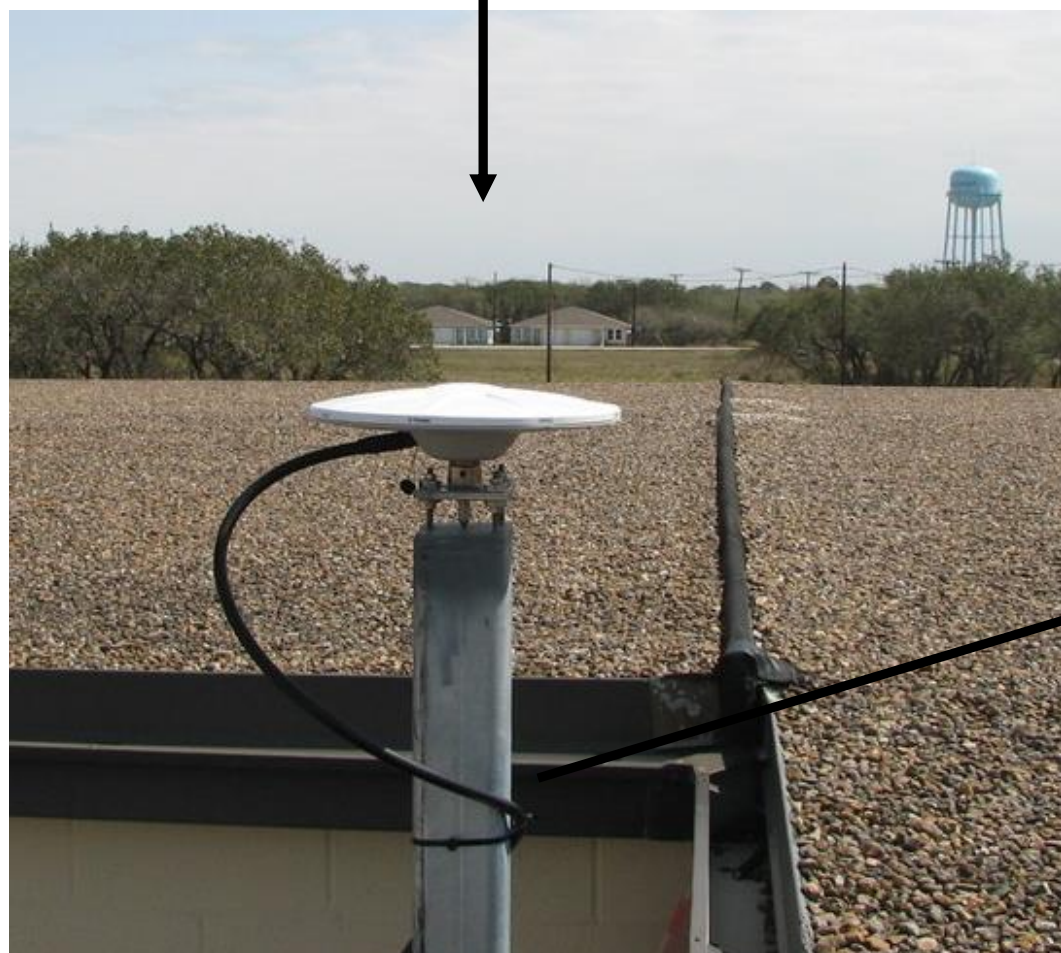
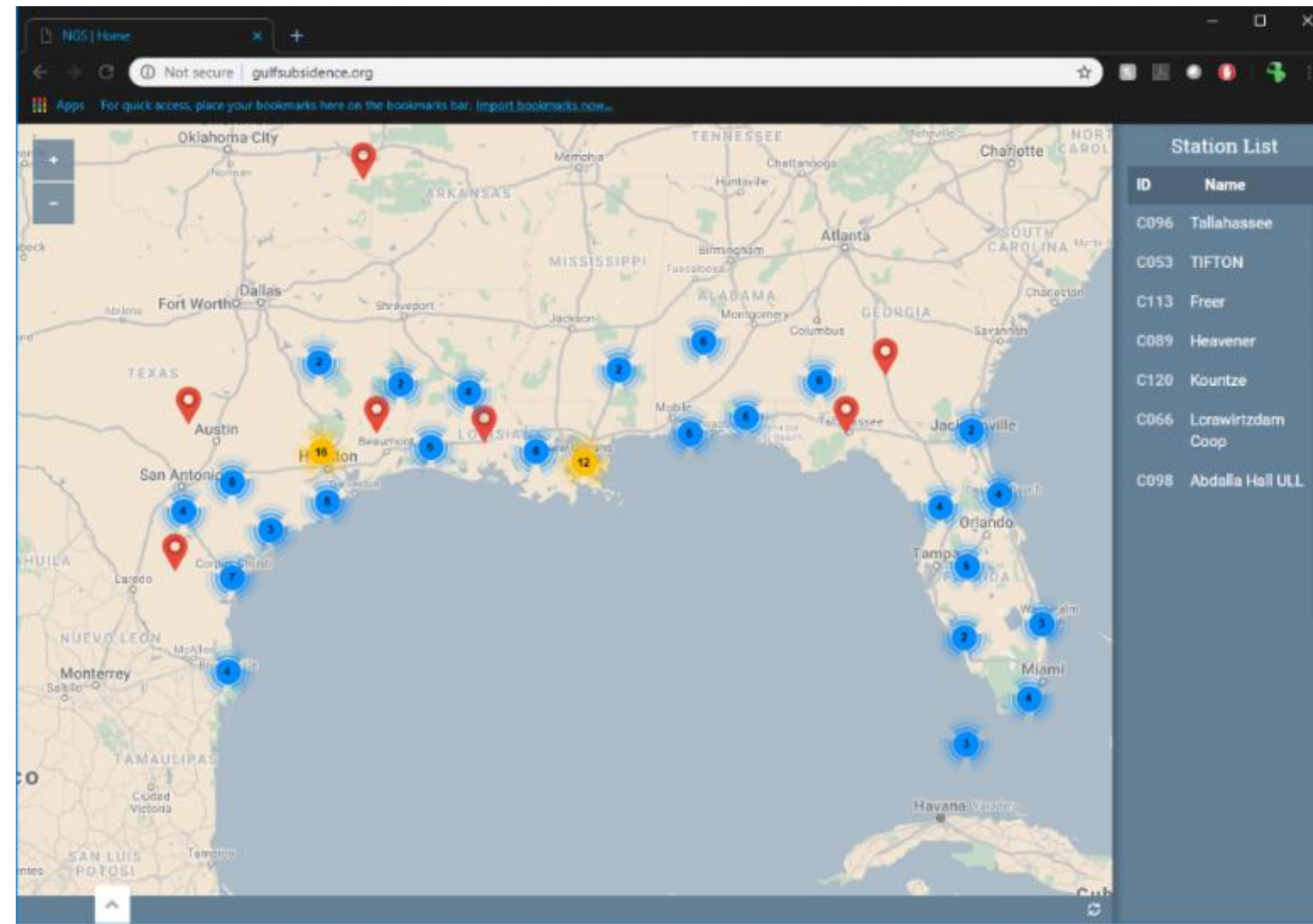
**North Texas Coast Tide Gauges**



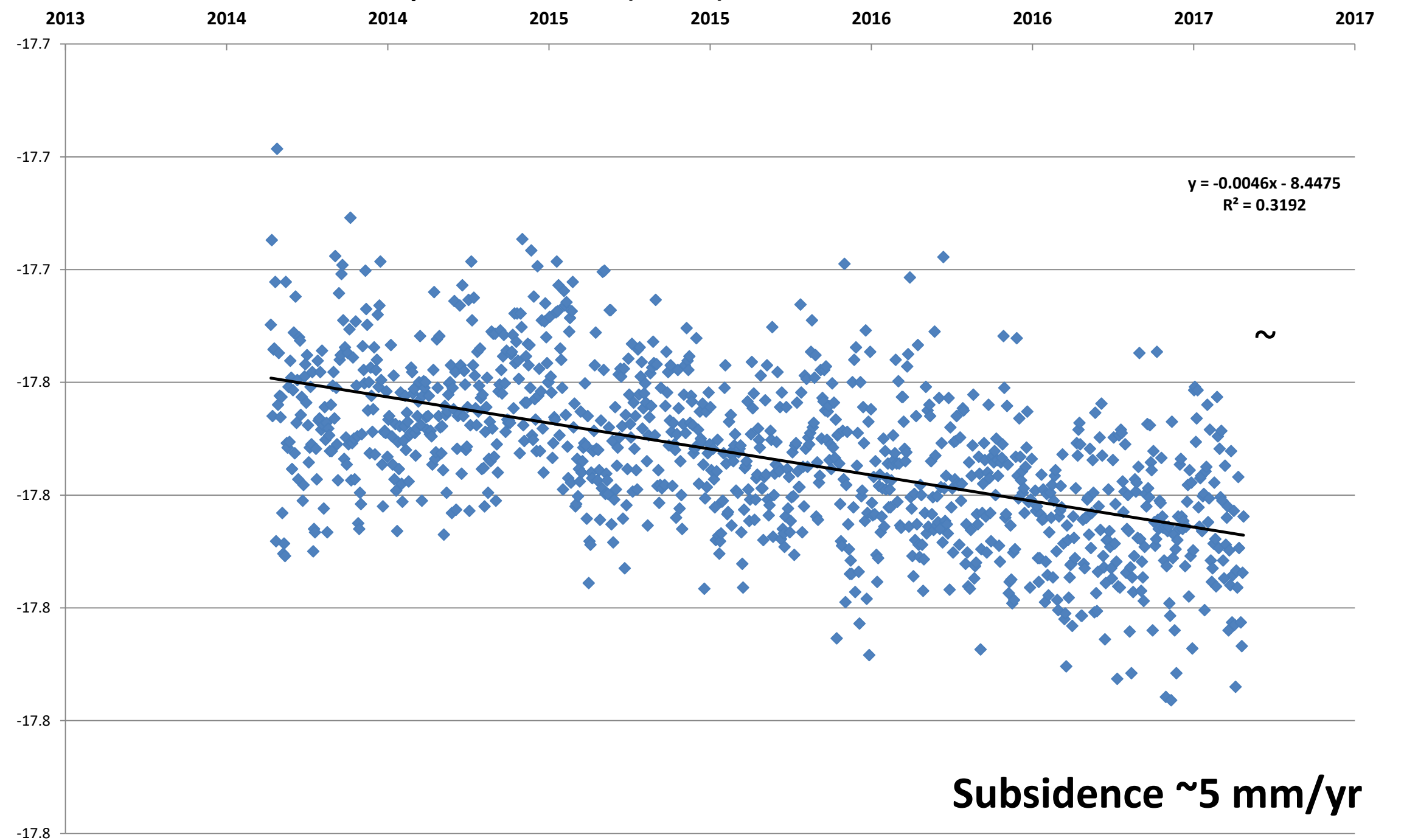




# Densify Observations with cGPS

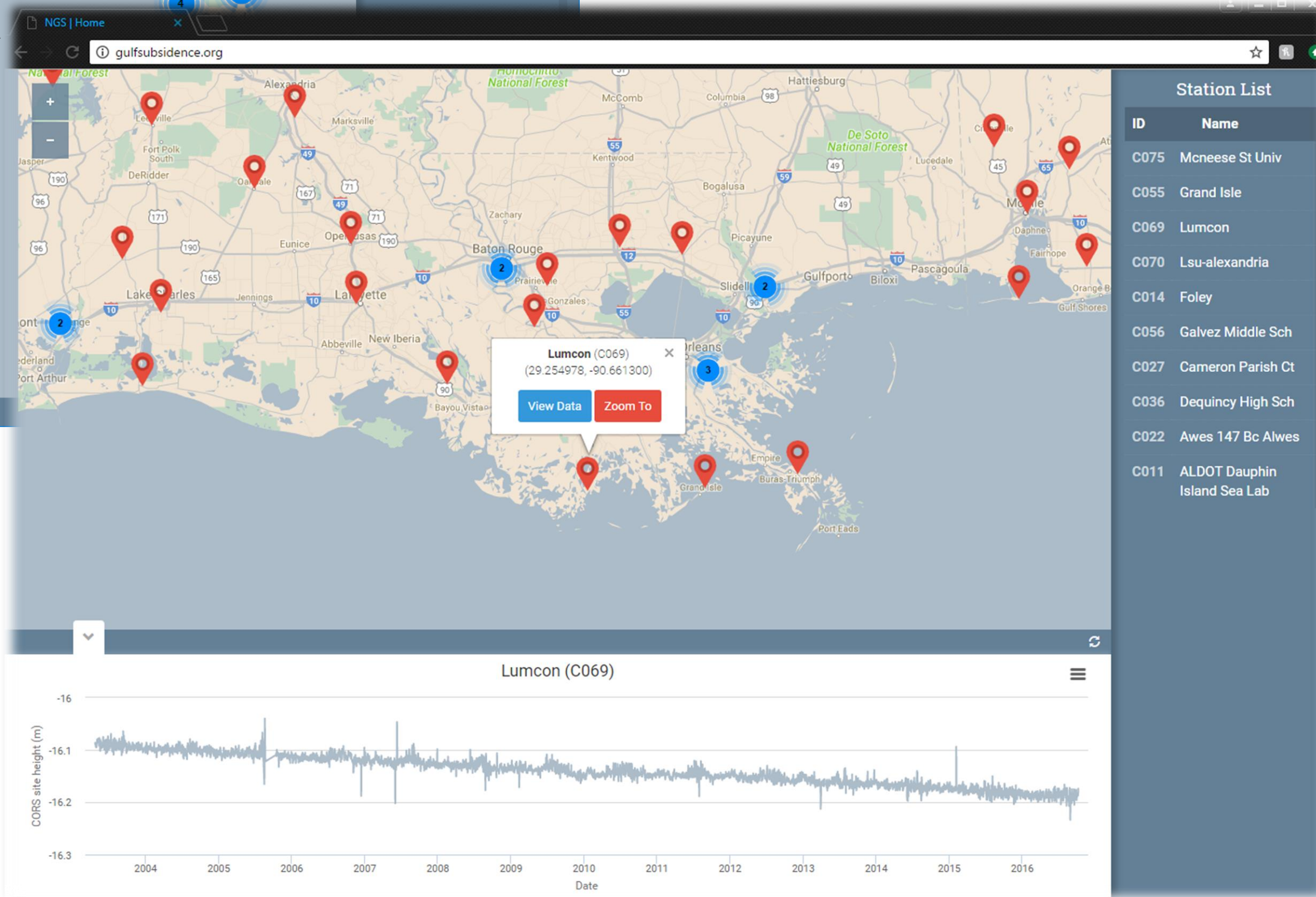
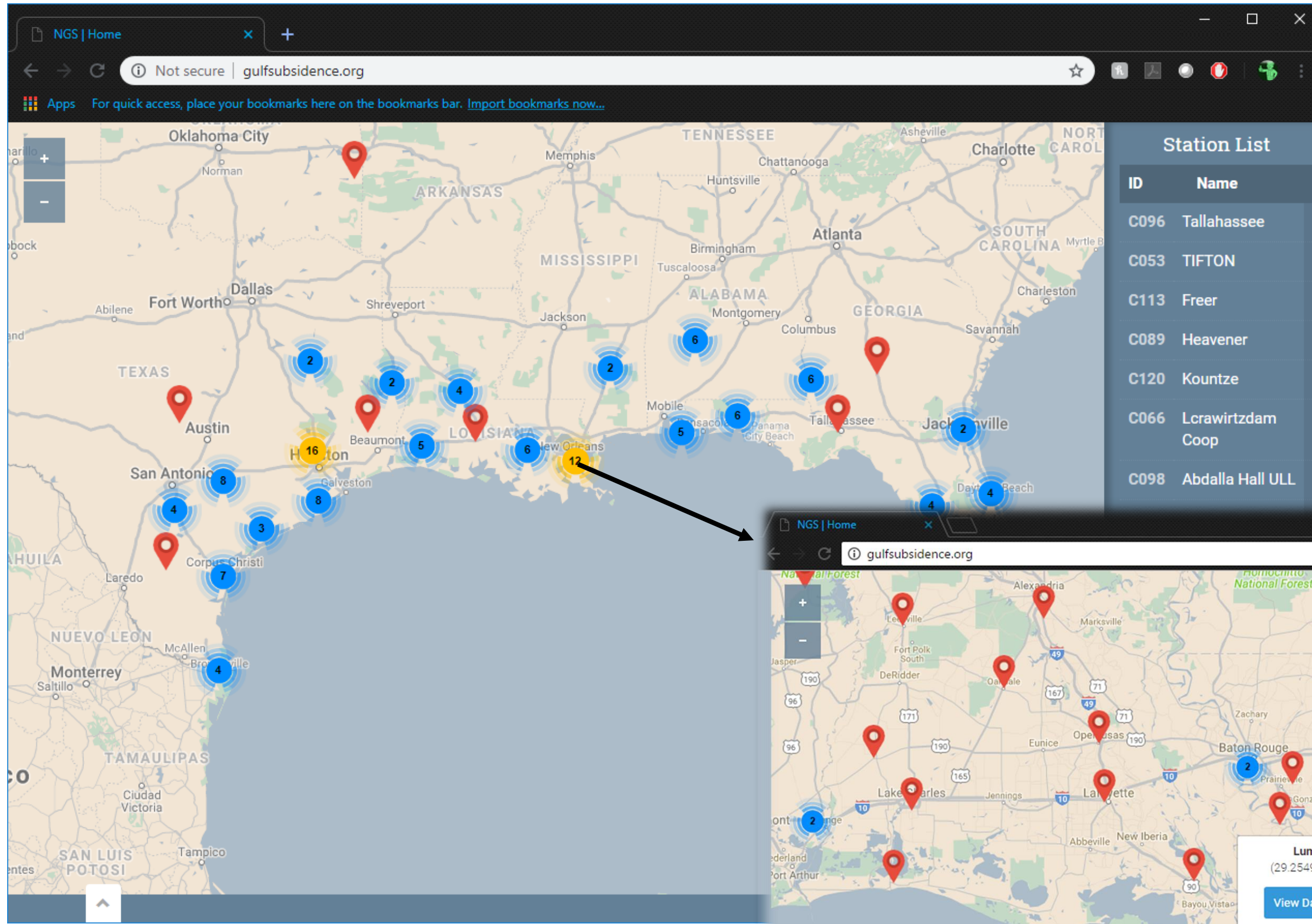


Rockport - TXRP CORS (TXDOT)



**Subsidence ~5 mm/yr**









# 「 Topic 2. 」

**Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)** equipped with cameras and sensors are changing how we survey our coastal zone

## small UAS



Low-cost mapping at local scales



Flexible acquisition



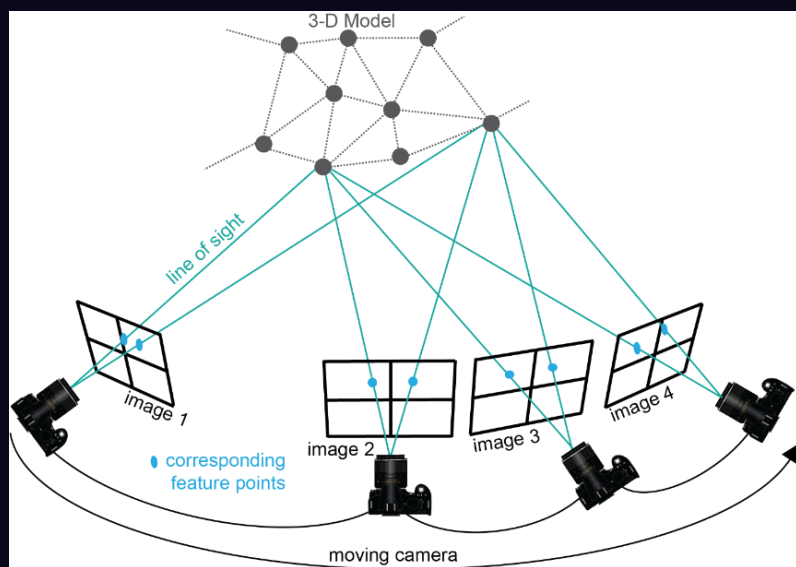
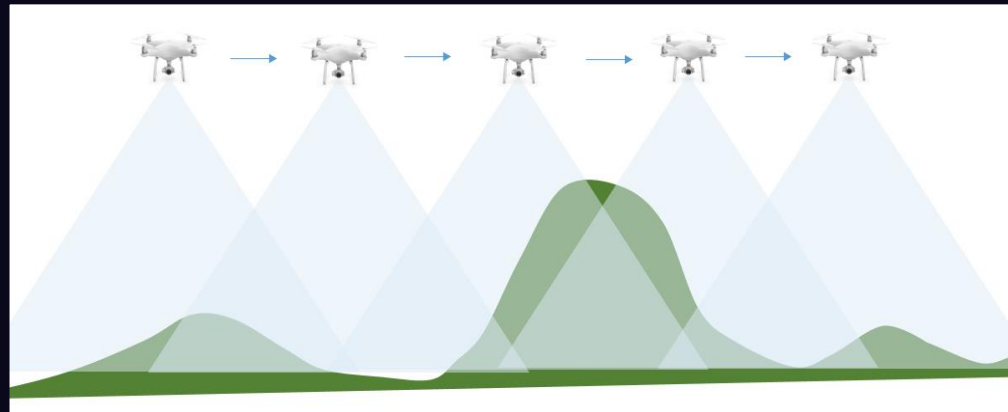
Hyperspatial resolution



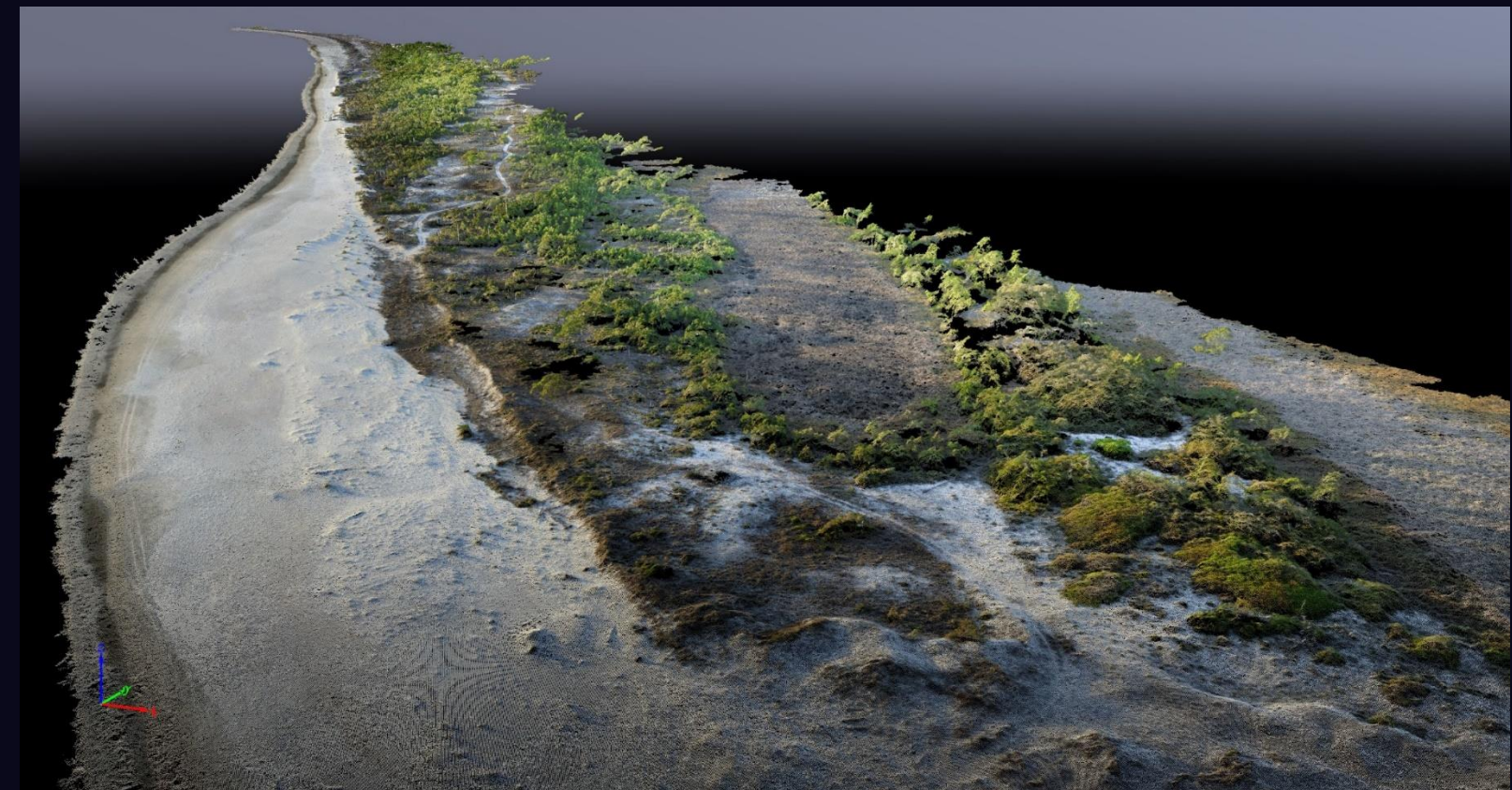
Temporal repeatability



# UAS + SfM aerial surveying



imagery is processed using **structure-from-motion (SfM)** photogrammetry



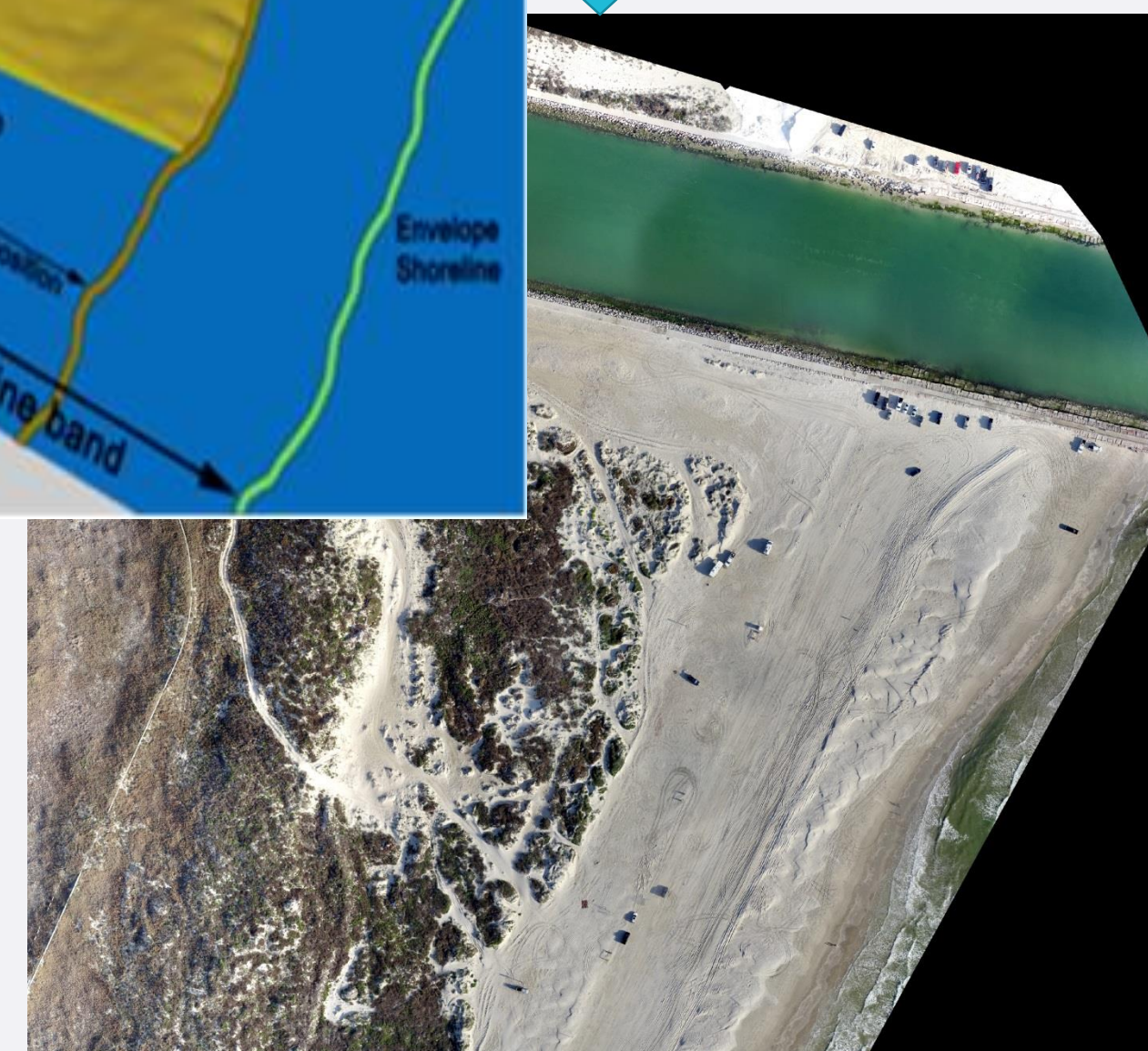
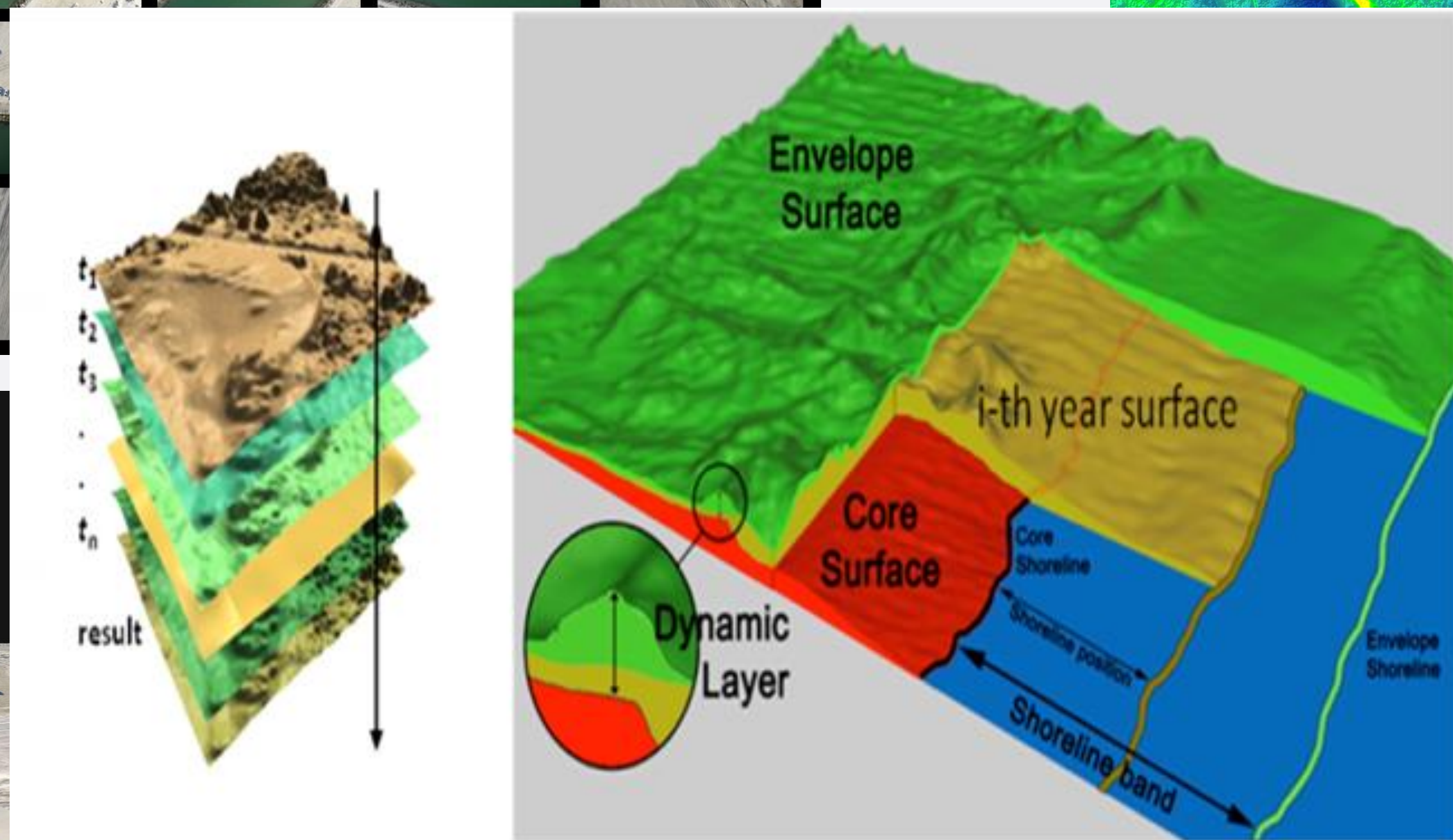
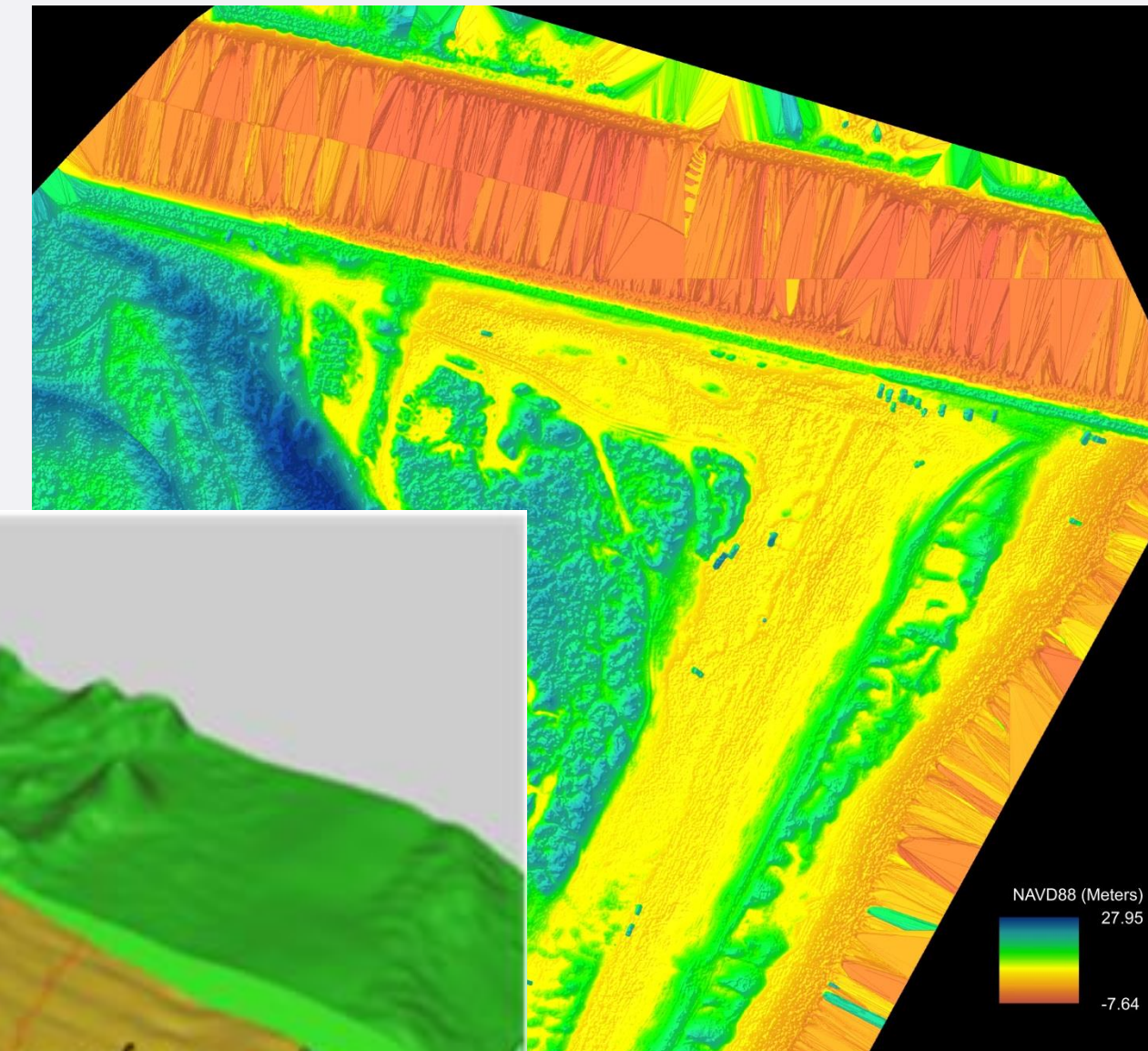
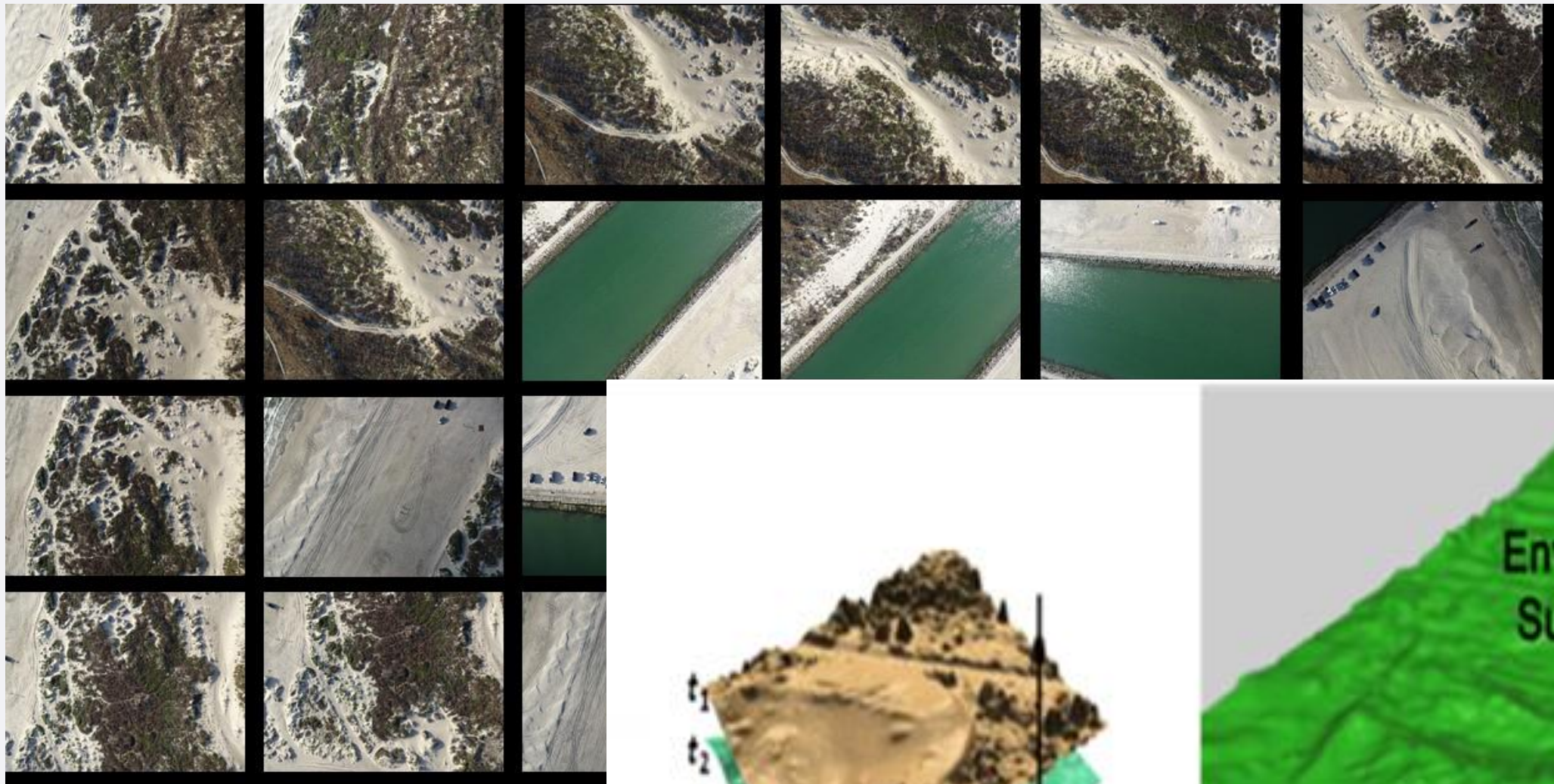
Dense, textured 3D point cloud, Little St. George Island, FL

➤ 1000 pts/m<sup>2</sup>



# Example North Padre Island, TX

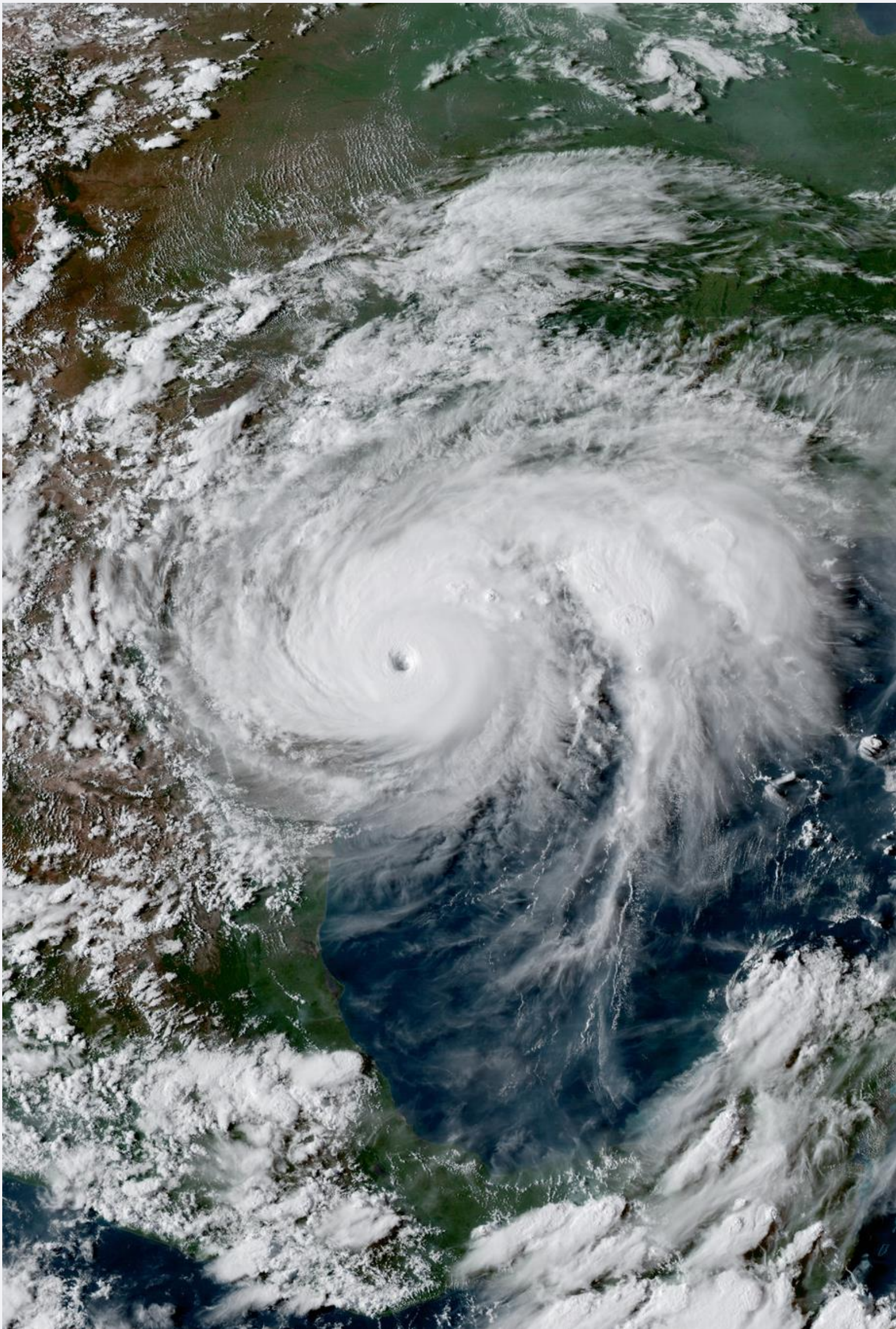
Digital Elevation Model (DEM)





# Hurricane Harvey

August 25, 2017



## Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Category 1 - 5

1

WIND: 74-95 mph

DAMAGE: Very dangerous winds will produce some damage

2

WIND: 96-110 mph

DAMAGE: Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage

3

WIND: 111-129 mph

DAMAGE: Devastating damage will occur

4

WIND: 130-156 mph

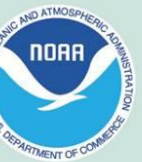
DAMAGE: Catastrophic damage will occur

5

WIND: 157 mph or higher

DAMAGE: Catastrophic damage will occur

**209 km/hr+**



Made landfall near Rockport, Texas as a Category 4 Hurricane with sustained winds of 209 km/hr

**~70 Billion USD → ~490 Billion Yuan in damage**





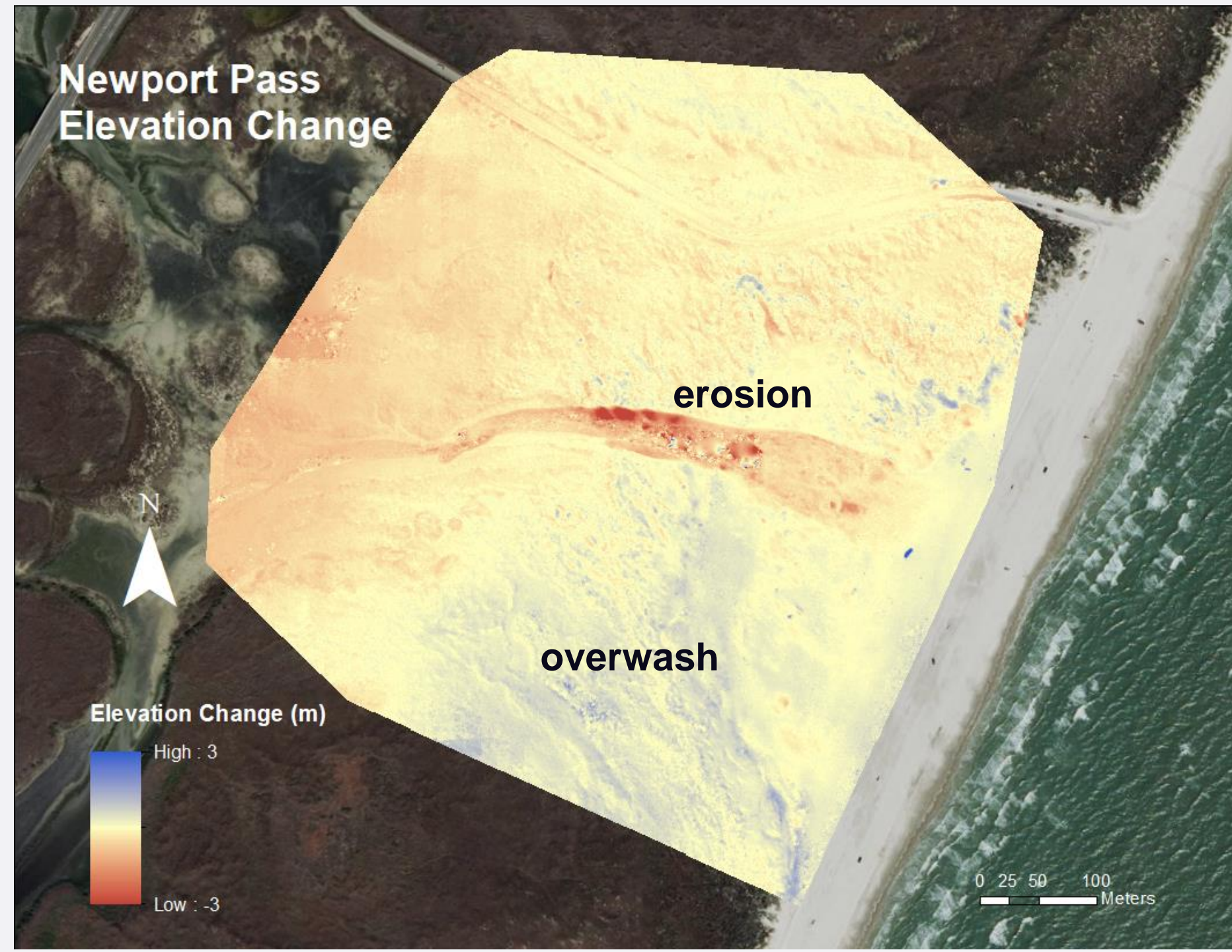
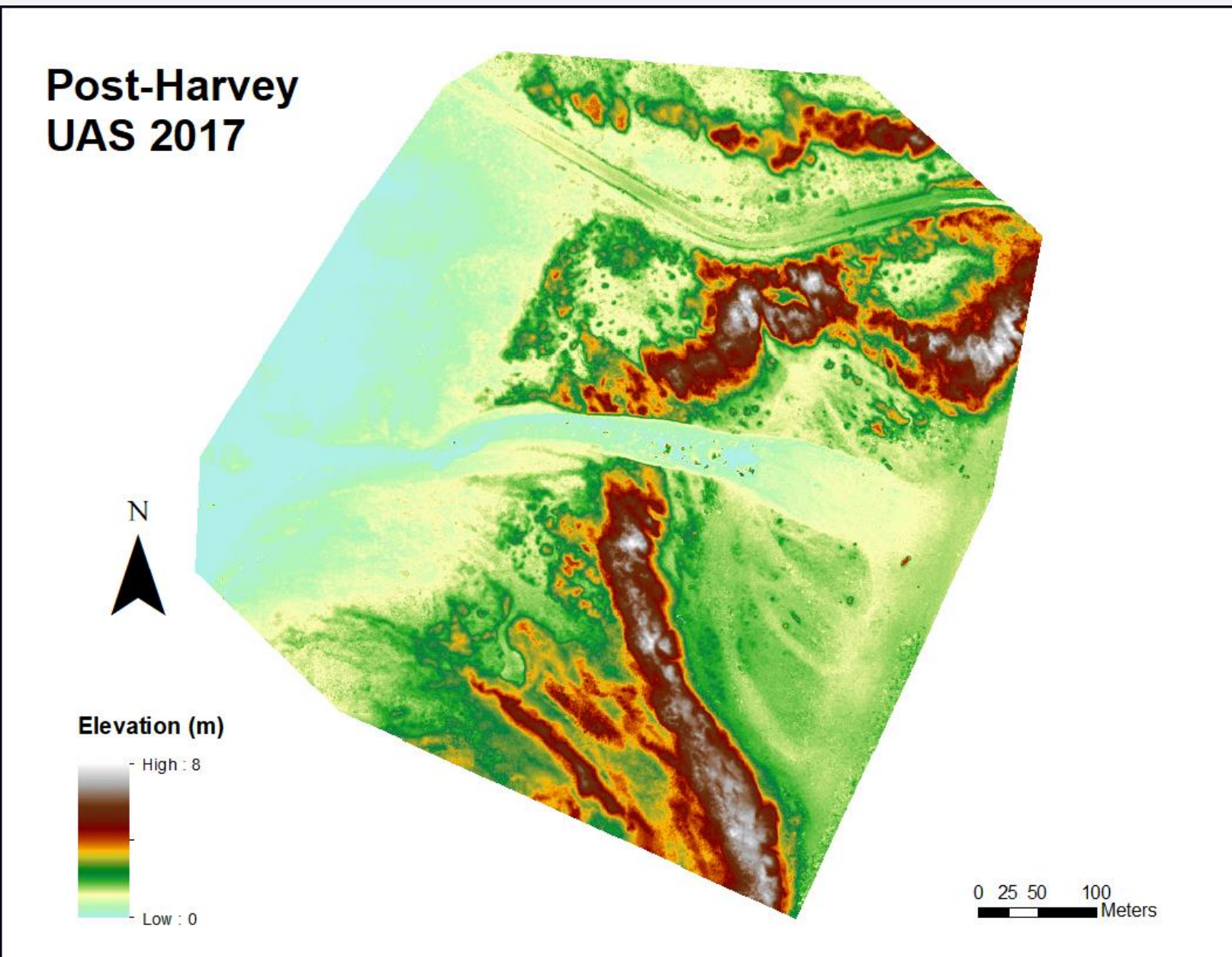
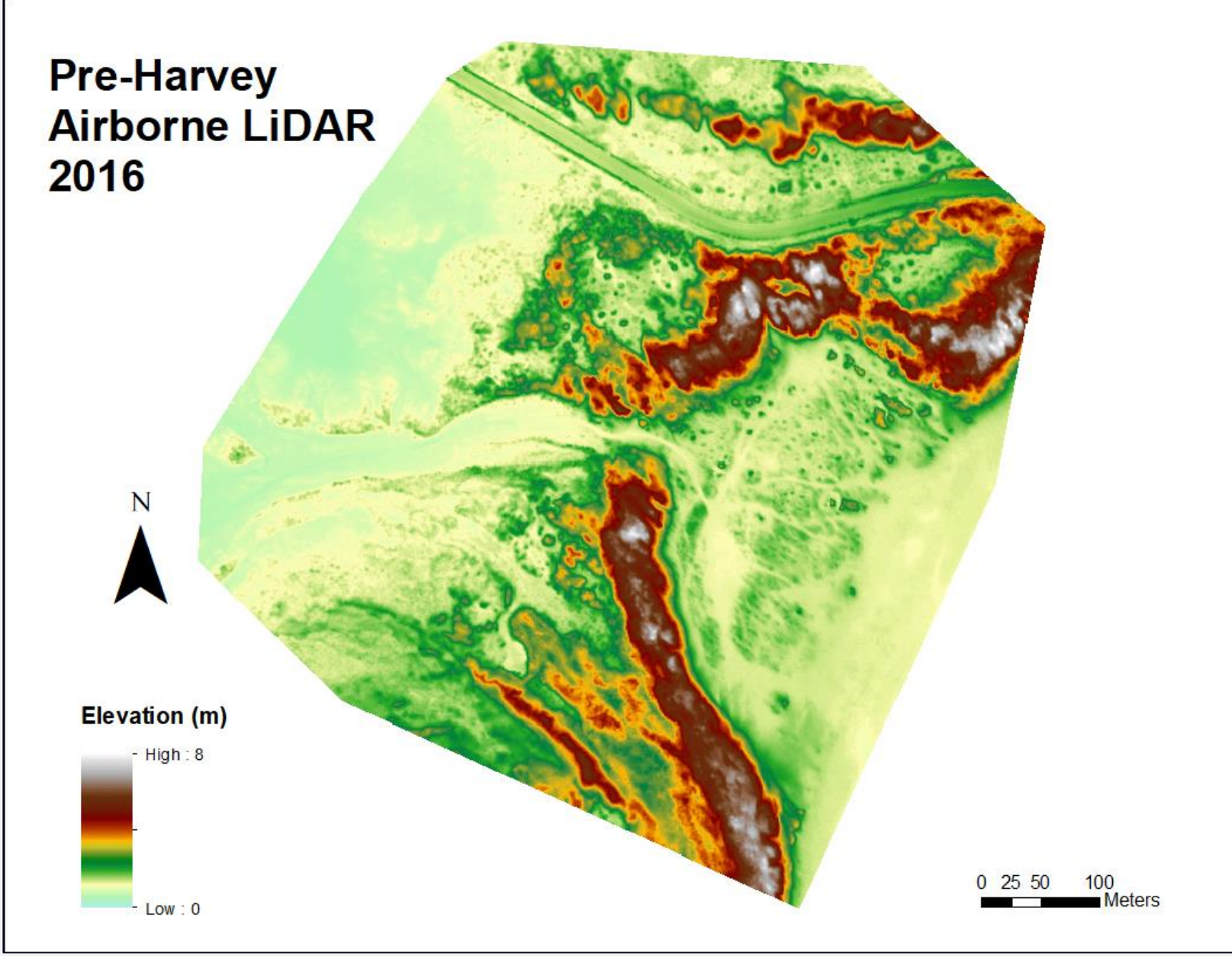
# Study Site: Newport Pass (Before Harvey)





# Measuring Elevation Change

Airborne Lidar and UAS DEM





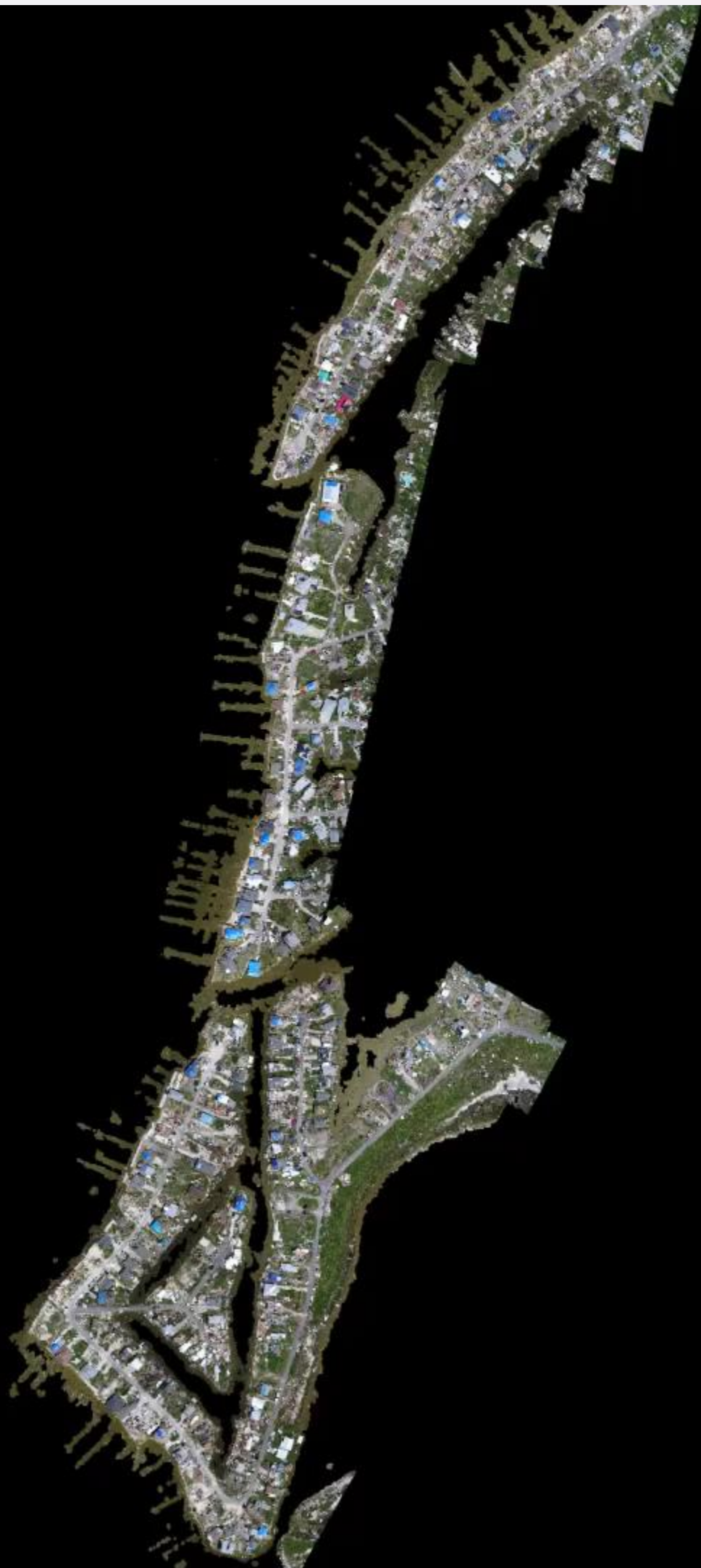
# Ground Zero



Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance  
*Turning Disaster into Knowledge*  
Sponsored by the National Science Foundation









# Concluding Thoughts

- **Geodetic Infrastructure**
  - GNSS stations, tidal gauges
  - Necessary to track RSLR
  - Needs to be densified
- **UAS (drones)**
  - Rapid response
  - Routine monitoring
  - Regulations and adaptation

Contact  
Michael.starek@tamucc.edu



**CONRAD BLUCHER  
INSTITUTE**  
FOR SURVEYING AND SCIENCE