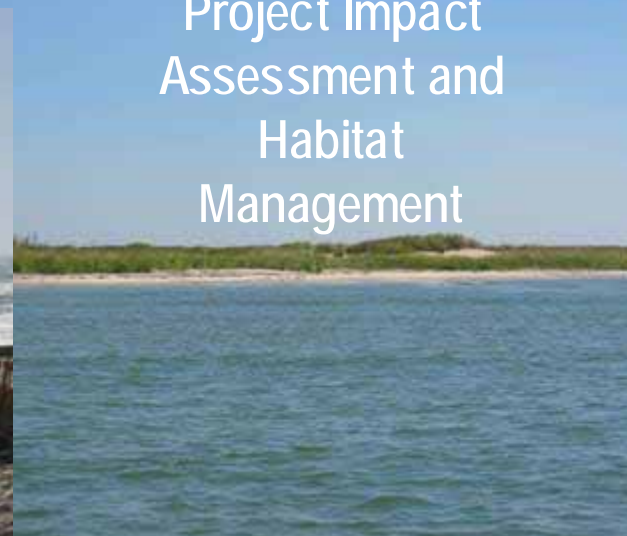




U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Distribution of Piping Plover and Coastal Birds in Relation to Federal Activities on the Southern Coast of Long Island

Implications for
Project Impact
Assessment and
Habitat
Management



Long Island Field Office

Rosemarie Gnam - Supervisor

Jill Olin- FW Biologist

Steve Sinkevich – FW Biologist

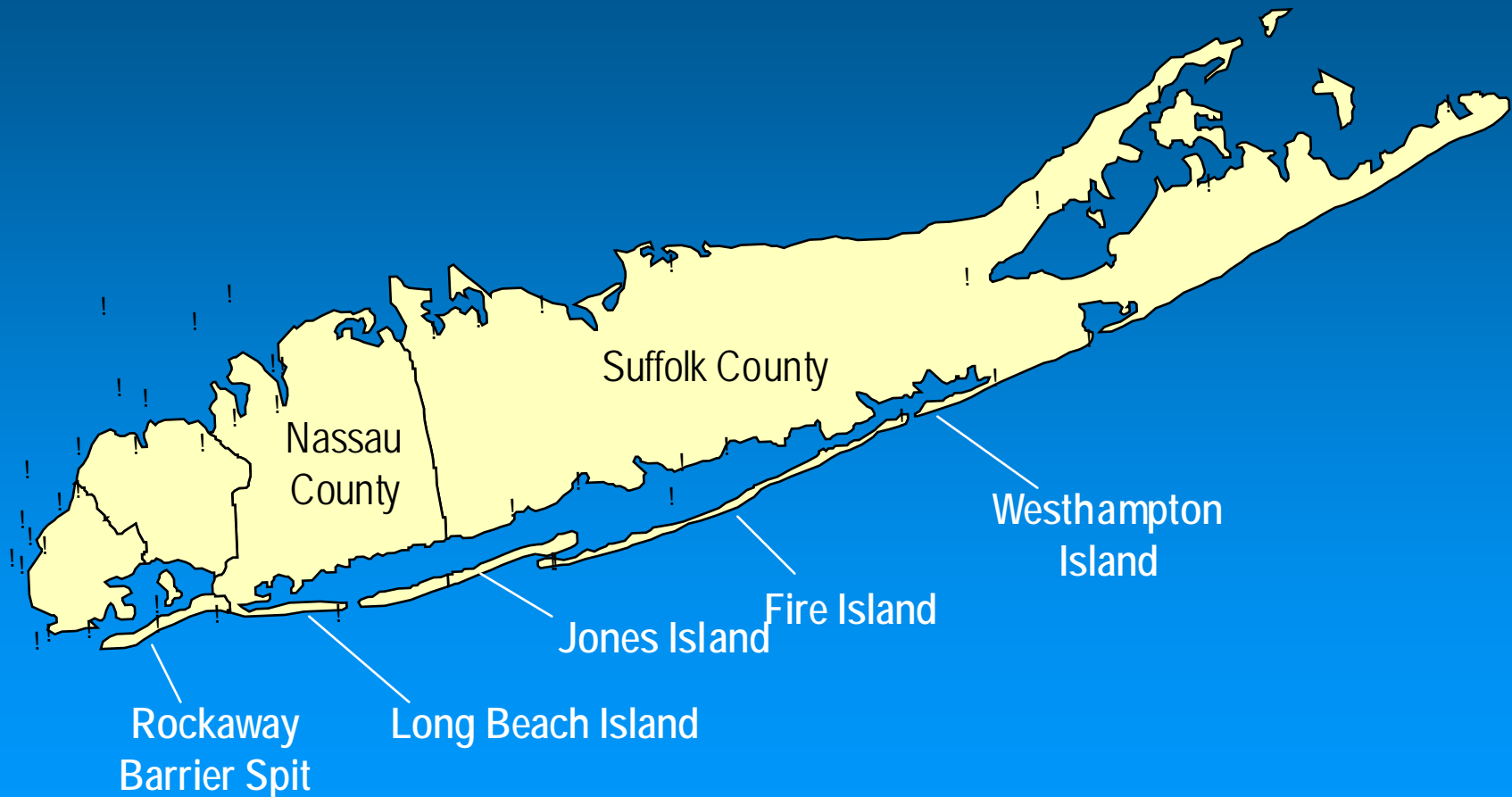
Outline

- Corps Activities on LI
- Distribution of Piping Plover, Migratory Shorebirds, and Waterbirds on Southern LI

Implications:

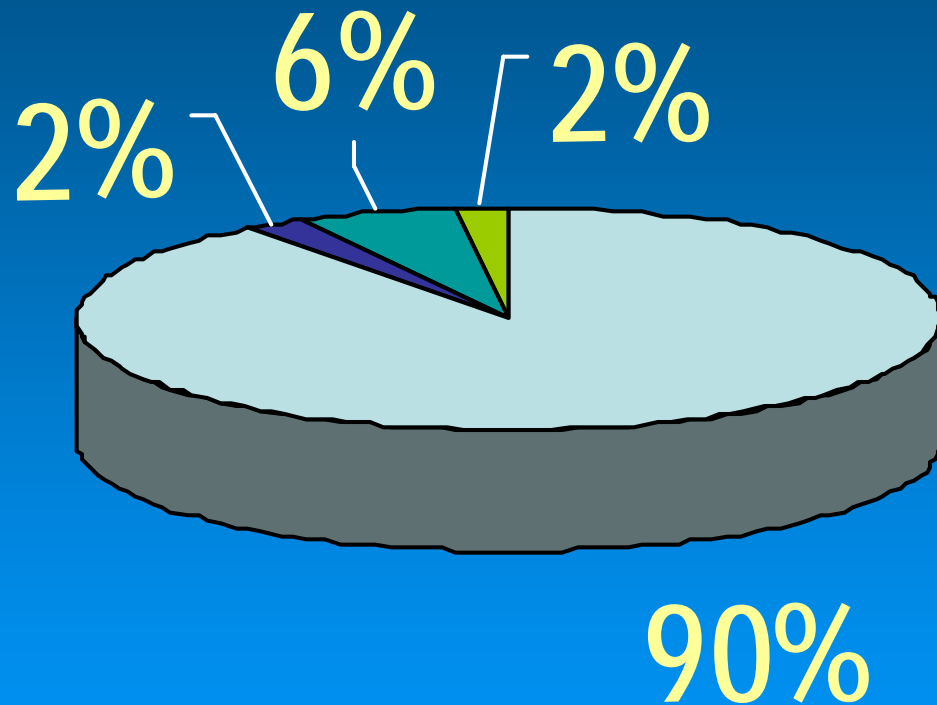
- Impact Assessment - Applicable Federal Laws, Available Data, Conservation Plans, etc
- Habitat Management

Long Island Federal Projects Around LI



(Source Corps Digital Project Notebook)

Federal Project Breakdown



Navigation Projects

Beach Erosion Projects

Flood Control Projects

Flood Control Studies

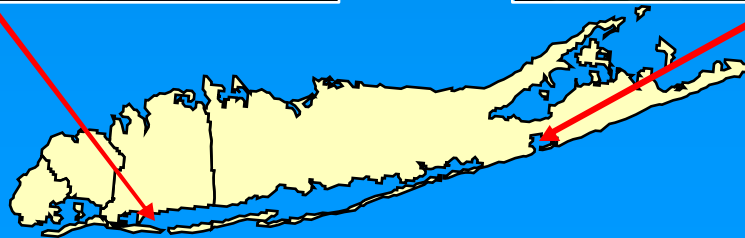
(Source Corps Digital Project Notebook)

Maintenance of Stabilized Ocean Inlets

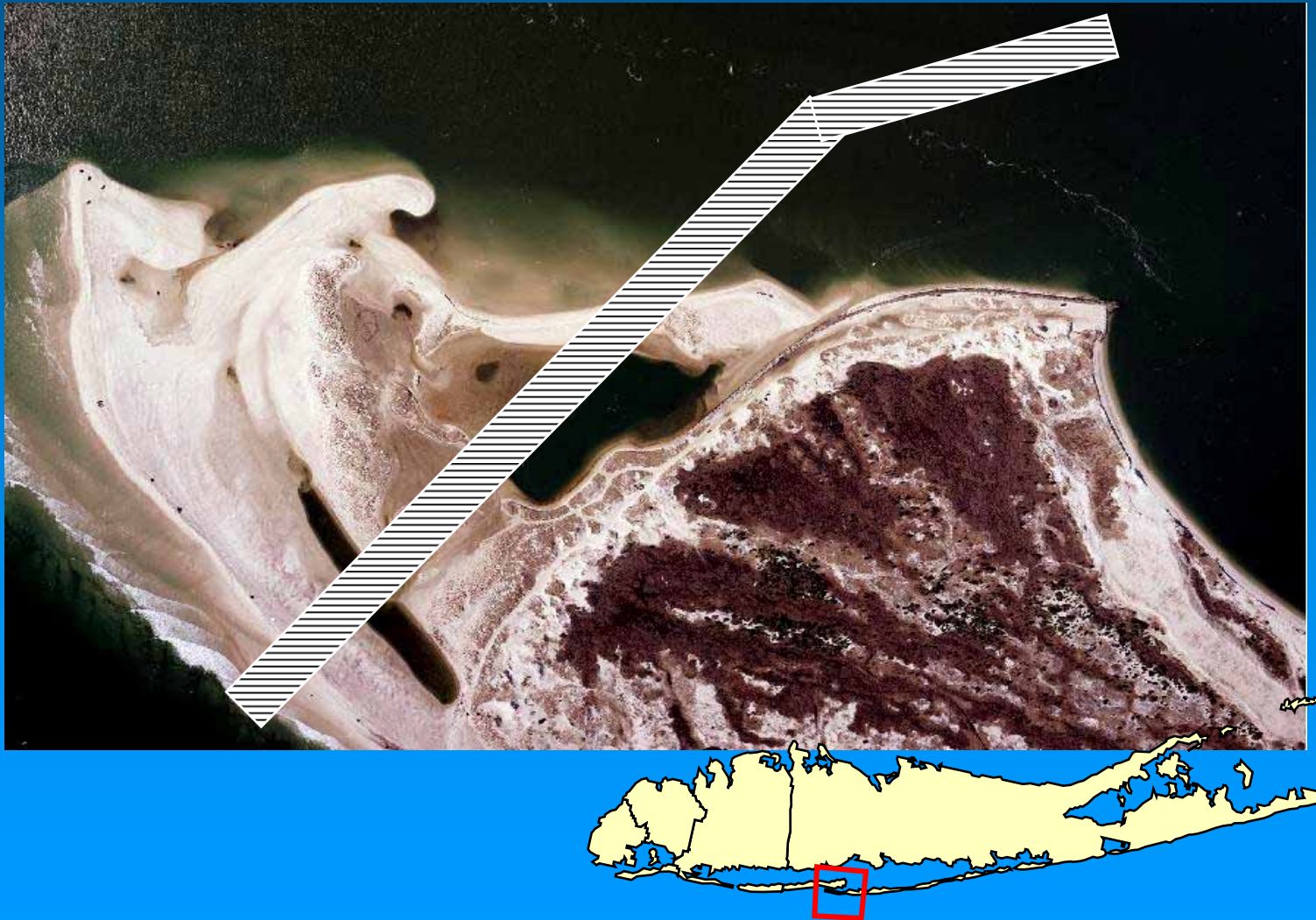
Jones Inlet Navigation Project



Shinnecock Inlet Navigation Project



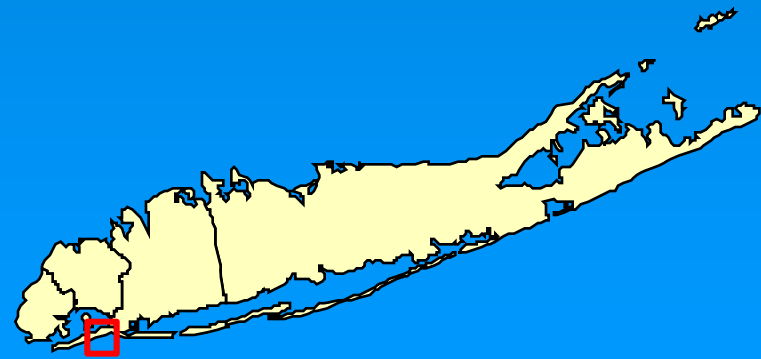
Democrat Point - Fire Island Inlet Federal Navigation Channel



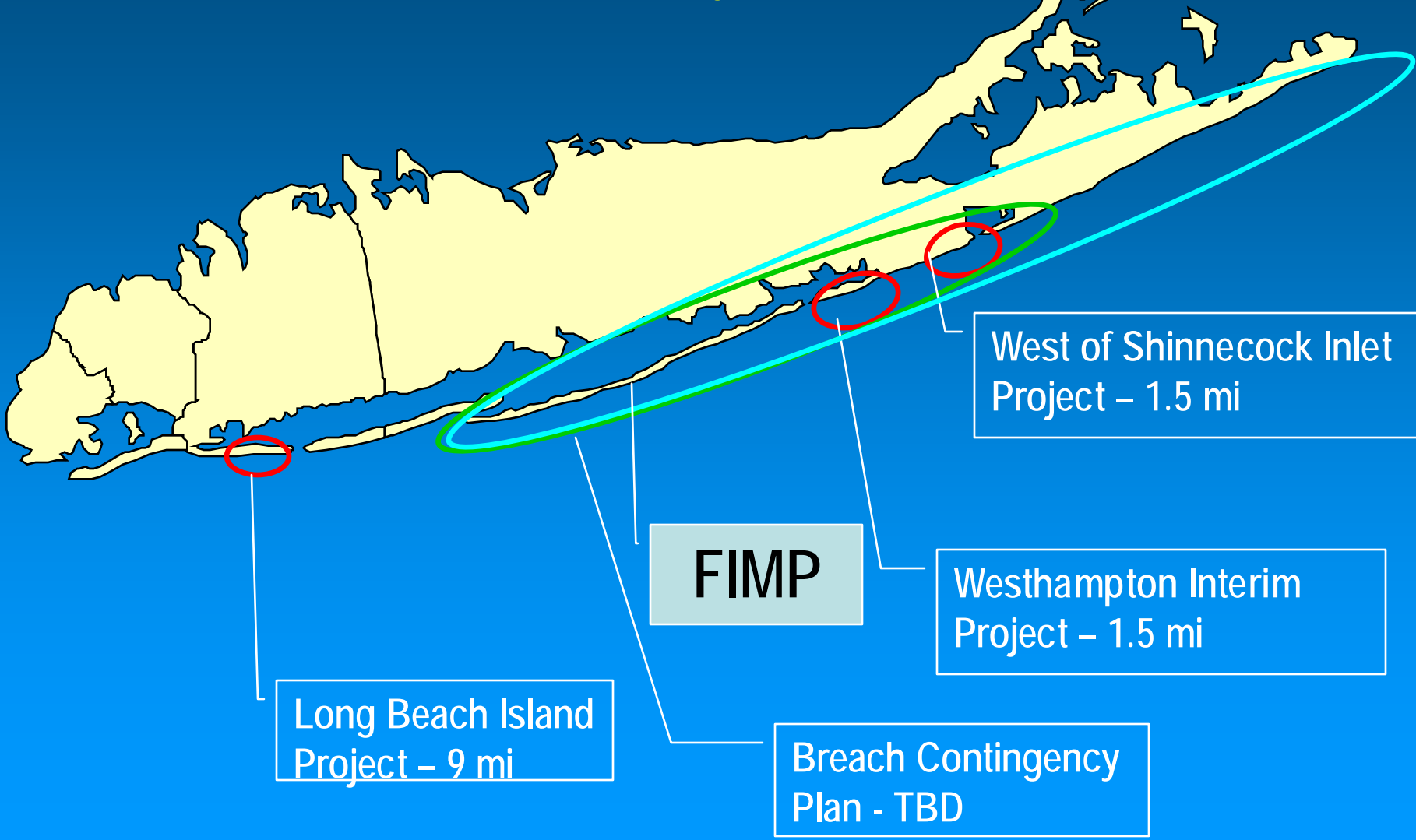
Beach Nourishment and Groin Maintenance



Urban Area Ocean
Shoreline Flood
Control Project –
East Rockaway, NY



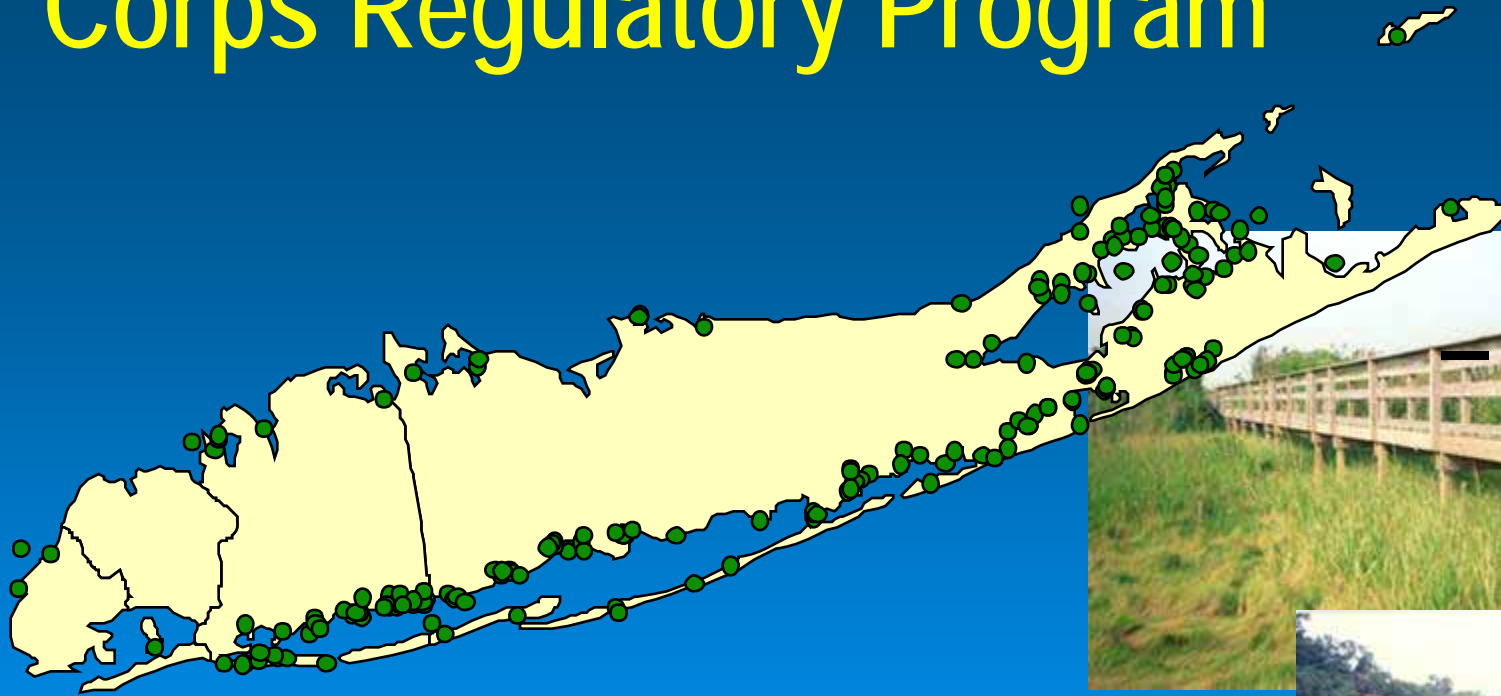
Addendum - Digital Project Notebook Does Not Reflect All Corps' Projects on Long Island



Area Impacted by Project Type

- Digital Project Notebook does not provide areas to allow calculation
- However, fairly self-evident that although beach nourishment projects are fewer in number than navigation projects, they impact far greater area of habitat.

Corps Regulatory Program

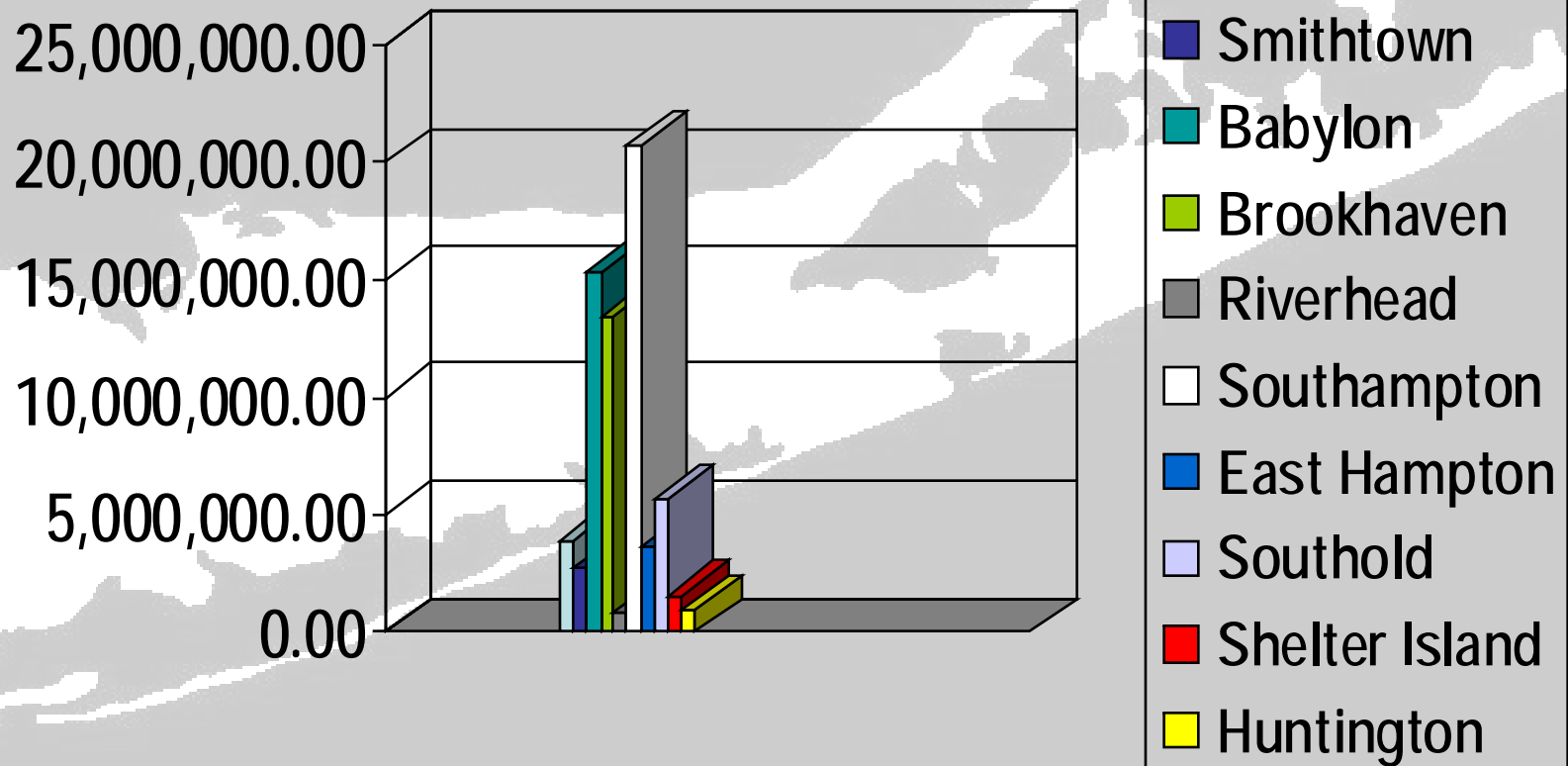


Over 250 Permits reviewed each year

**Non-Federal Dredging Projects* *

Pier and Dock Structures

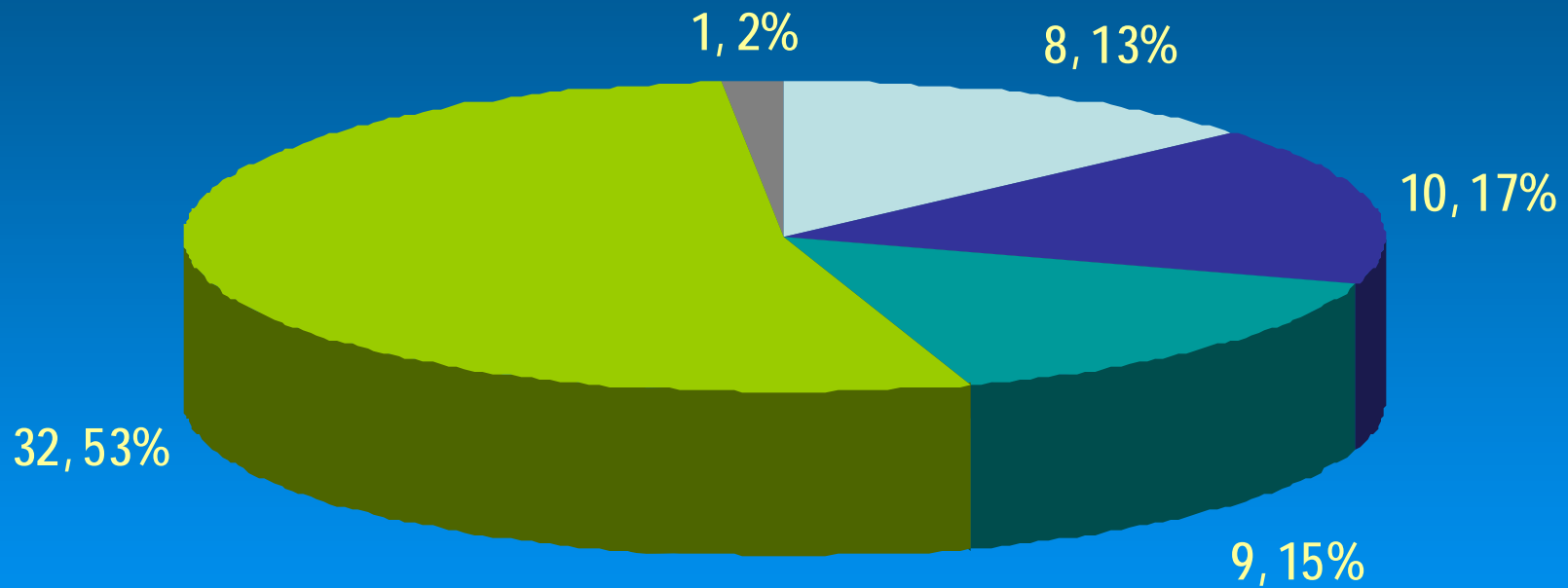
Non-Federal Maintenance Dredging in Suffolk County (n=136 Sites; 1995)



*Total area is 1,582 acres

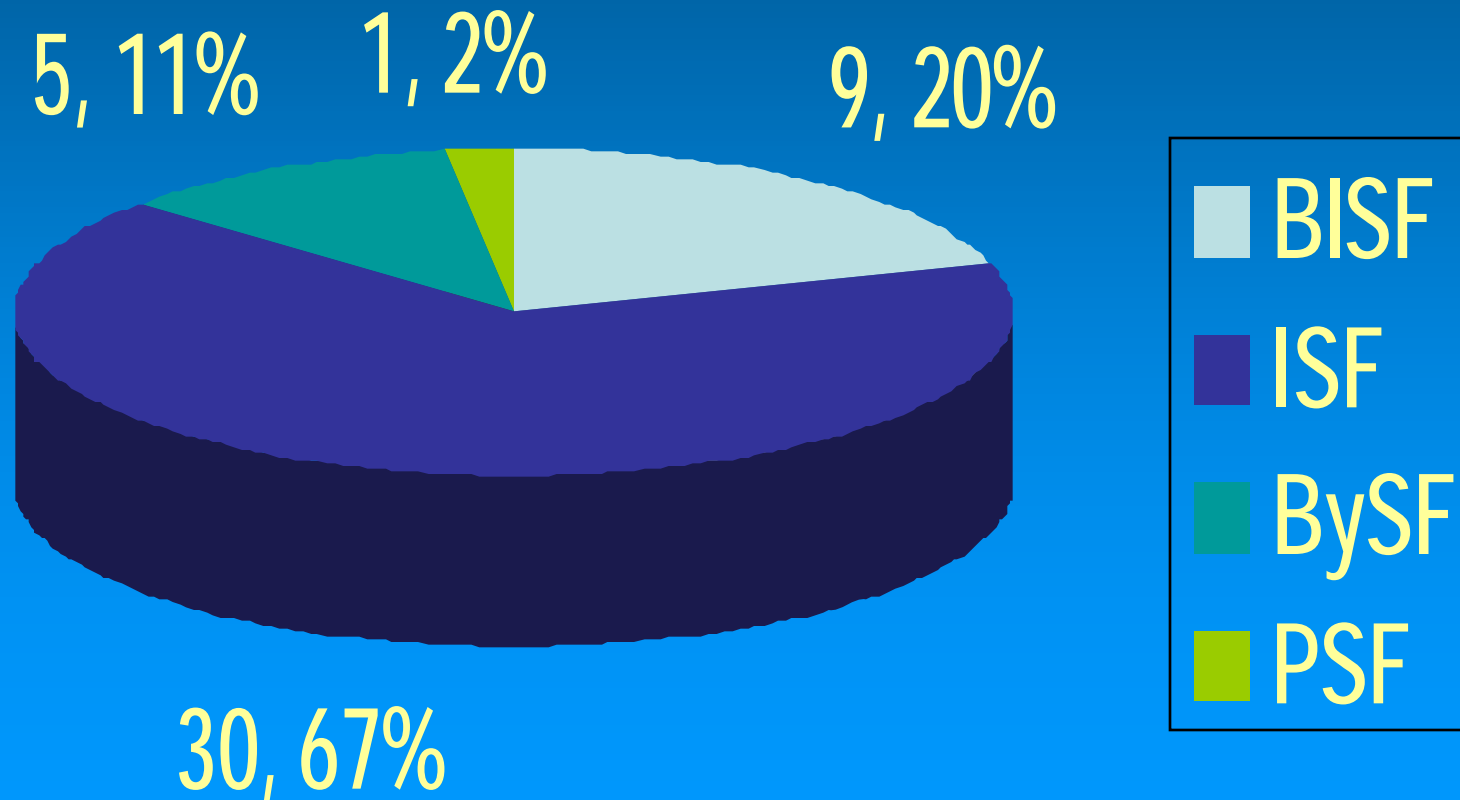
Source: Eldon Associates (1995)

Number Spoil/Fill Sites by Landform LI Total



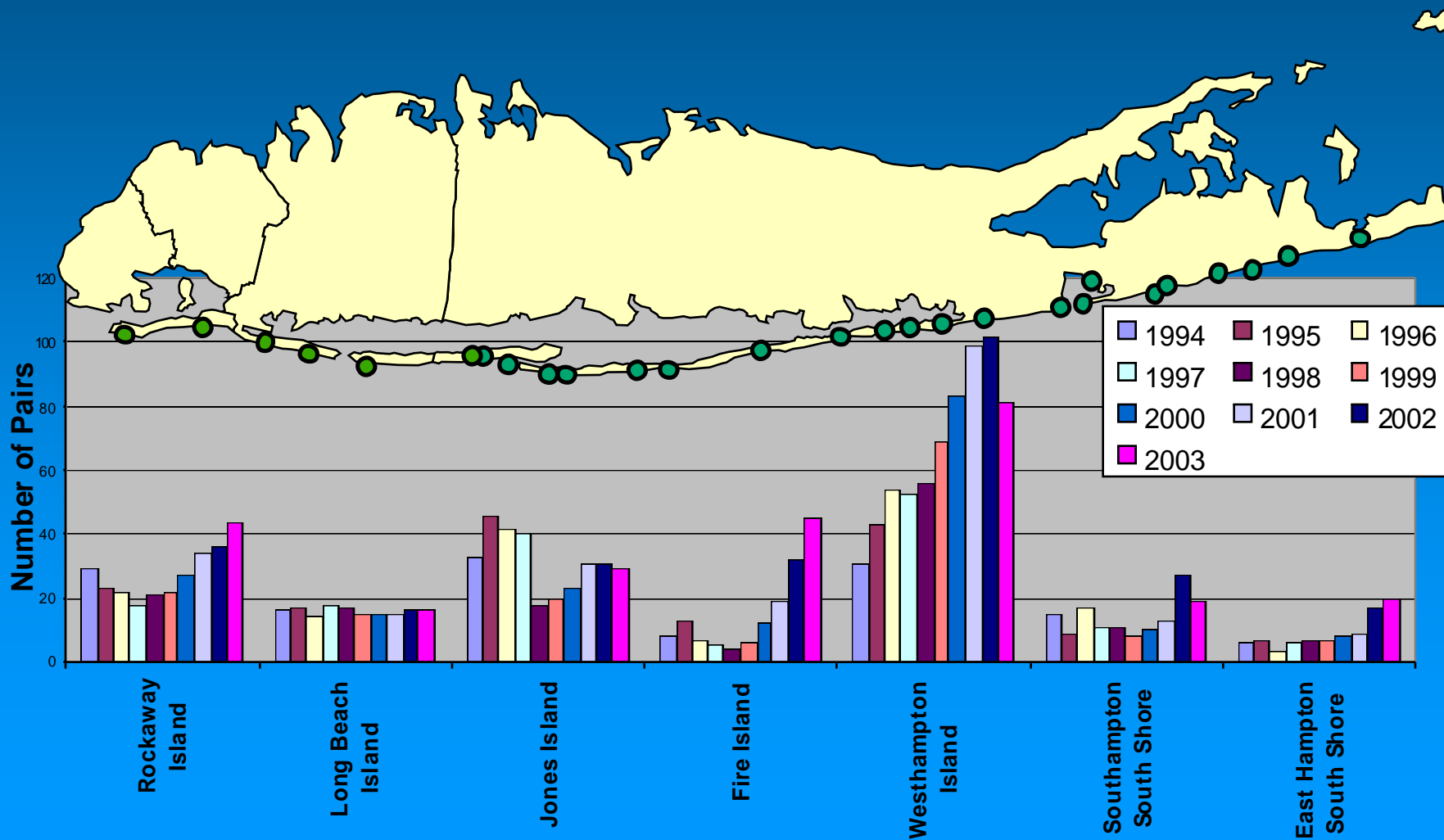
Source: Downer and Liebelt (1990)

Spoil Sites By Landform - South Shore

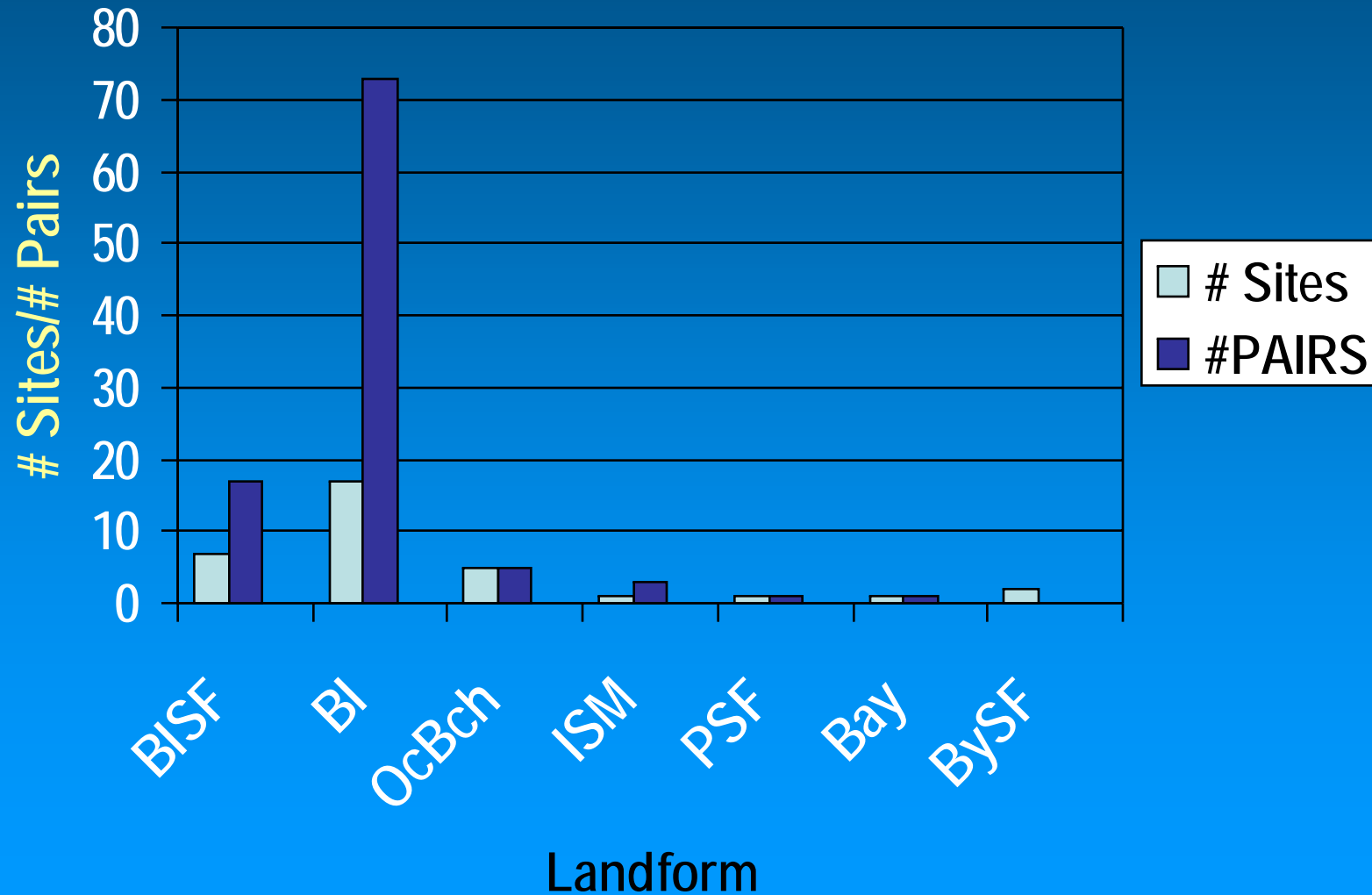


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Atlantic Shore Piping Plover Distribution 1994-2003



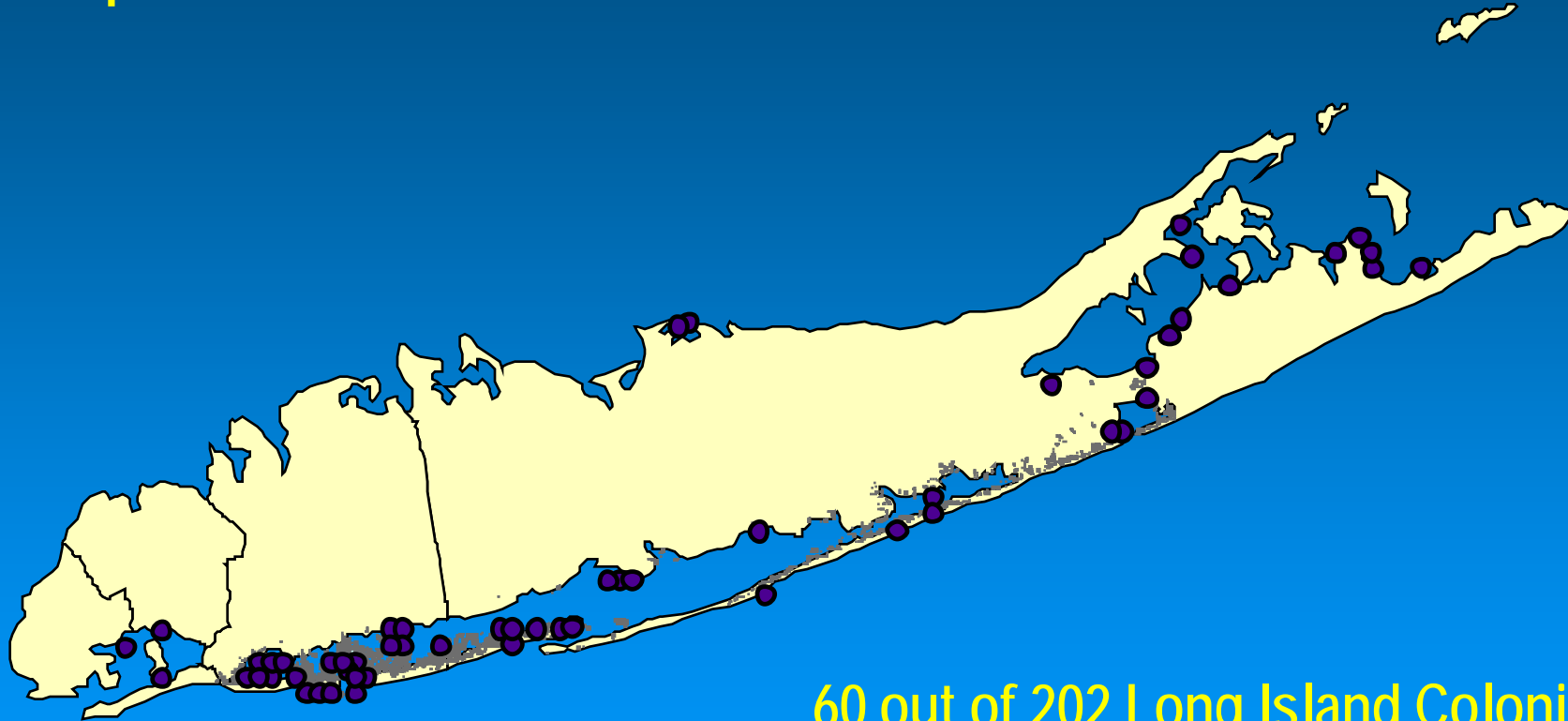
Plover Distribution by Landform (1989)



2004 Piping Plover Distribution - Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point Storm Damage Control



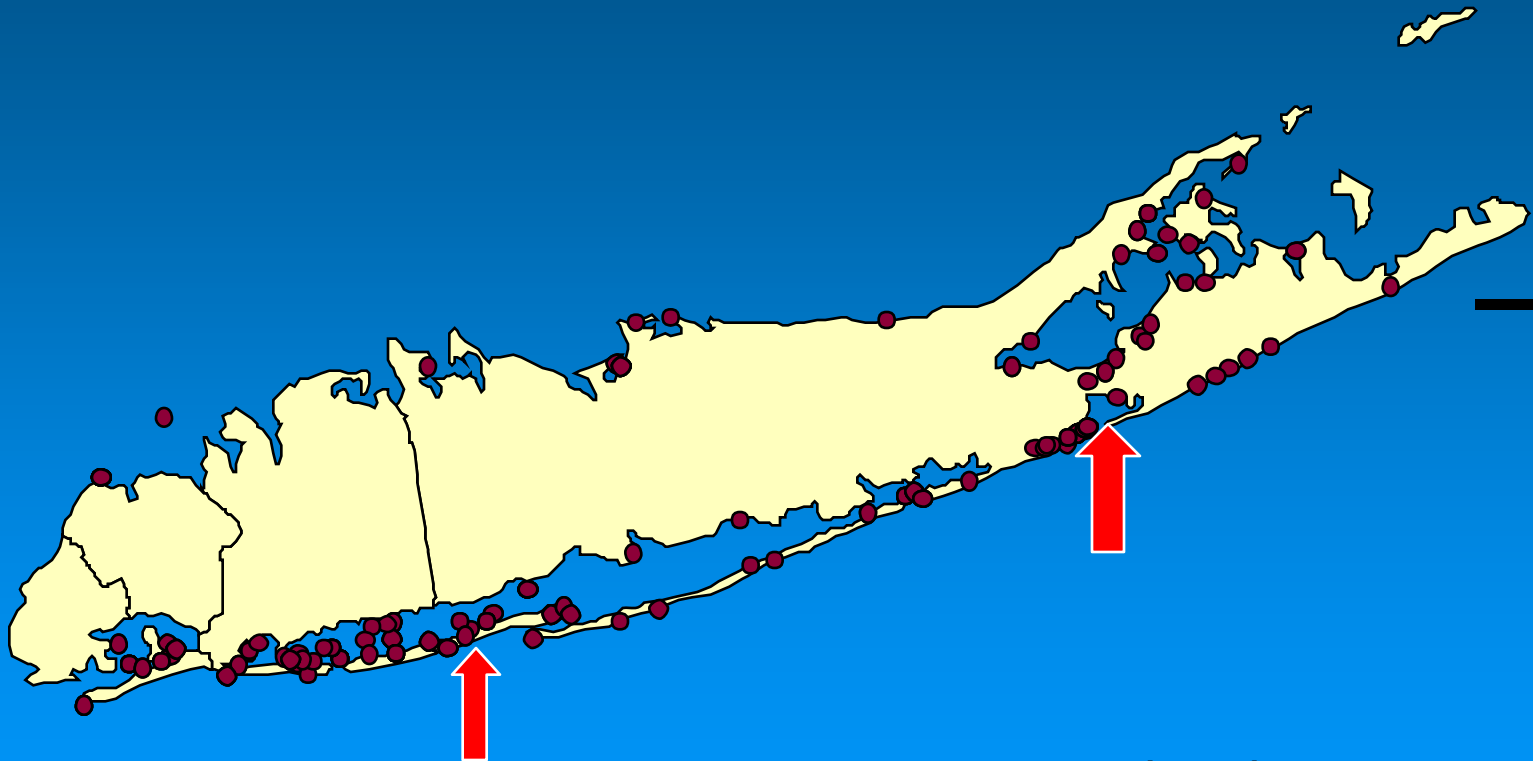
Spoil/Fill Sites Monitored for Waterbird Use



60 out of 202 Long Island Colonial Waterbird and Piping Plover survey sites described as spoil/fill sites.

Source Downer and Liebelt (1990)

Colonial Waterbird Breeding Sites on LI

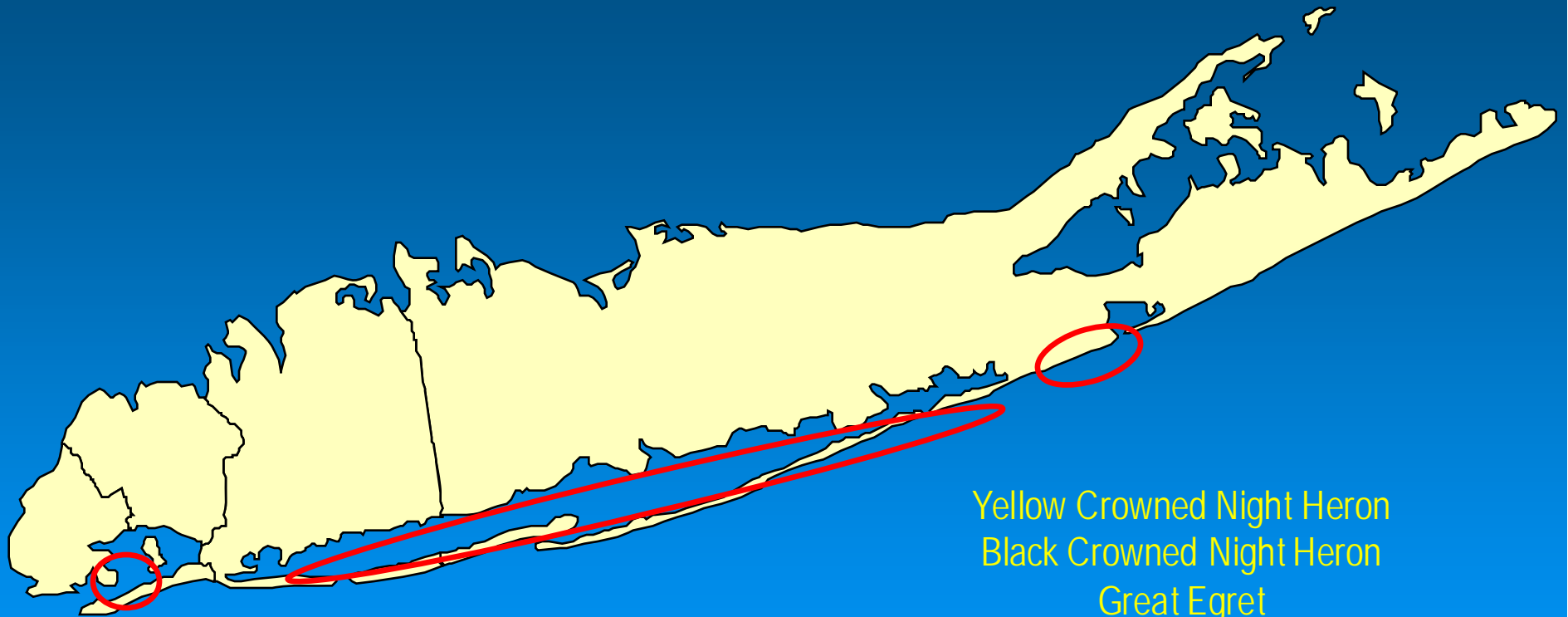


Legend

● Colonial Waterbird Sites on LI

Source NABCI Website

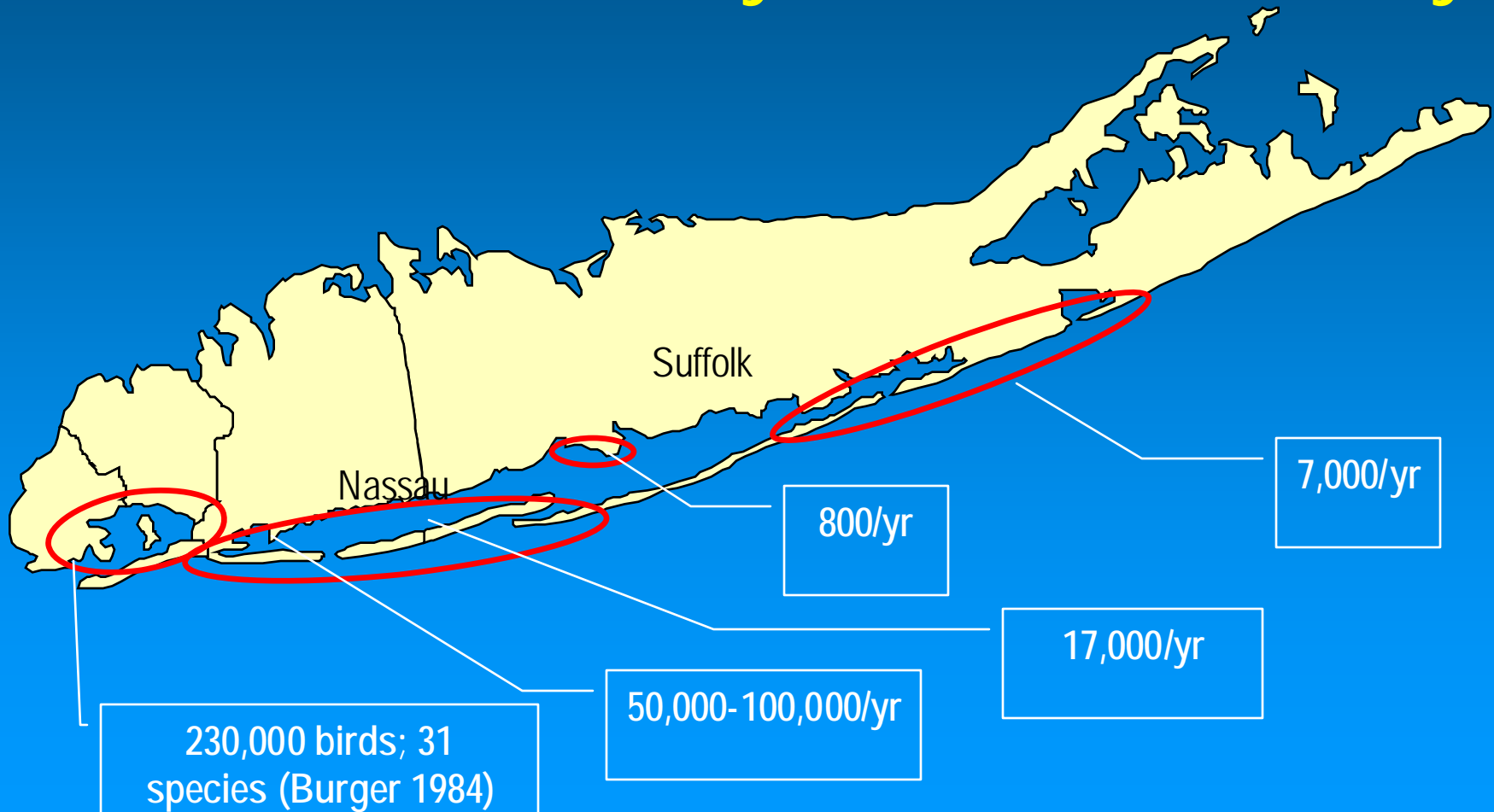
Waterbird Use Sites - South Shore



- Yellow Crowned Night Heron
- Black Crowned Night Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Least Tern
- Common Tern
- Roseate Tern
- Herring Gull
- Glossy Ibis
- Black Skimmer

Source NYSDOS and USFWS
1998

Migratory Shorebird Concentration Areas – Jamaica Bay to Shinnecock Bay



Implications For Impact Assessment



Implications for Impact Assessment

Federal Laws

- Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act – Requires Federal agencies consult w/FWS & NMFS when proposed action may affect listed species. Also authorizes Fed. agencies to utilize their authorities to promote recovery of endangered species.
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act – Ensures equal consideration of fish and wildlife resources in the planning of water resource development projects.

Conservation/Recovery Plans

Shorebird Conservation Plans (e.g., piping plover, red knot, willet, dunlin, whimbrel, ruddy turnstone, short billed dowitcher)

Waterbird Conservation Plans (e.g., black skimmer, gull-billed tern, common tern, roseate tern, least tern, snowy egret)

Listed Species Piping Plover and Roseate Tern Recovery Plans

Should be considered in project planning and impact analysis.

Utilize Existing Local Conservation and Management Plans; Initiatives; Agency/Organization Expertise

- e.g., The majority of the south shore of Long Island is included in the South Shore Estuary Reserve. A Technical Management Group was formed consisting of environmental managers and biologists and they developed recommendations pertaining to bird conservation. This and other plans should be adopted whenever possible into project planning

Implications for Habitat Management



South Shore Corps Projects that overlap piping plover and colonial waterbird breeding sites and migratory shorebird concentration areas

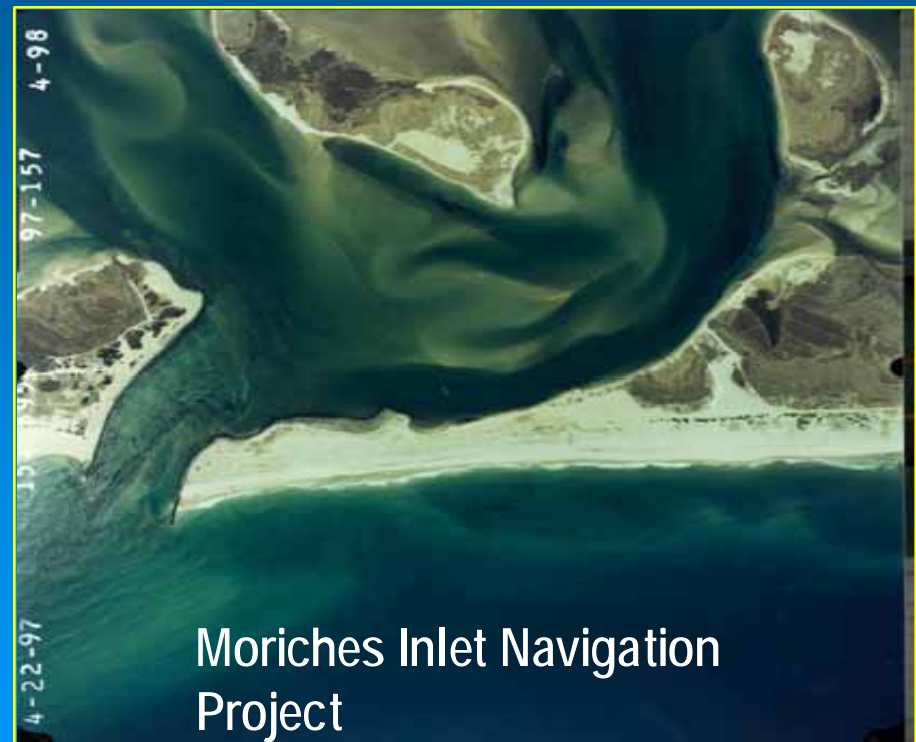


Democrat Point - Fire Island Federal Navigation Channel



Long Term Planning and Commitments to Habitat Management – Case Study

- About 9 of the 44 Navigation Projects (~20%) have been maintained over the last 10 years.
- Of these nine, two projects (Moriches Inlet Navigation and Intracoastal Waterway Project) have provided material for back bay island habitat enhancement on the south shore of LI



Time Series Moriches Inlet



Summary

Invite Resource Agencies Early in Planning Process

Consider Cross Program Activities

Assemble/Incorporate Regional Physical and Biological Databases/Conservation Plans

Incorporate Research Design/Results into Project Plans

Develop Case Studies to Assist in Future Planning

Develop Funding Commitments

Thanks

- Steve Couch, USACE
- Bob Kurtz, USACE
- Dan Rosenblatt, NYSDEC
- Mike Wasilco, NYSDEC
- Michelle Gibbons, NYSDEC
- Casey Lott, Amer. Bird. Cons.

