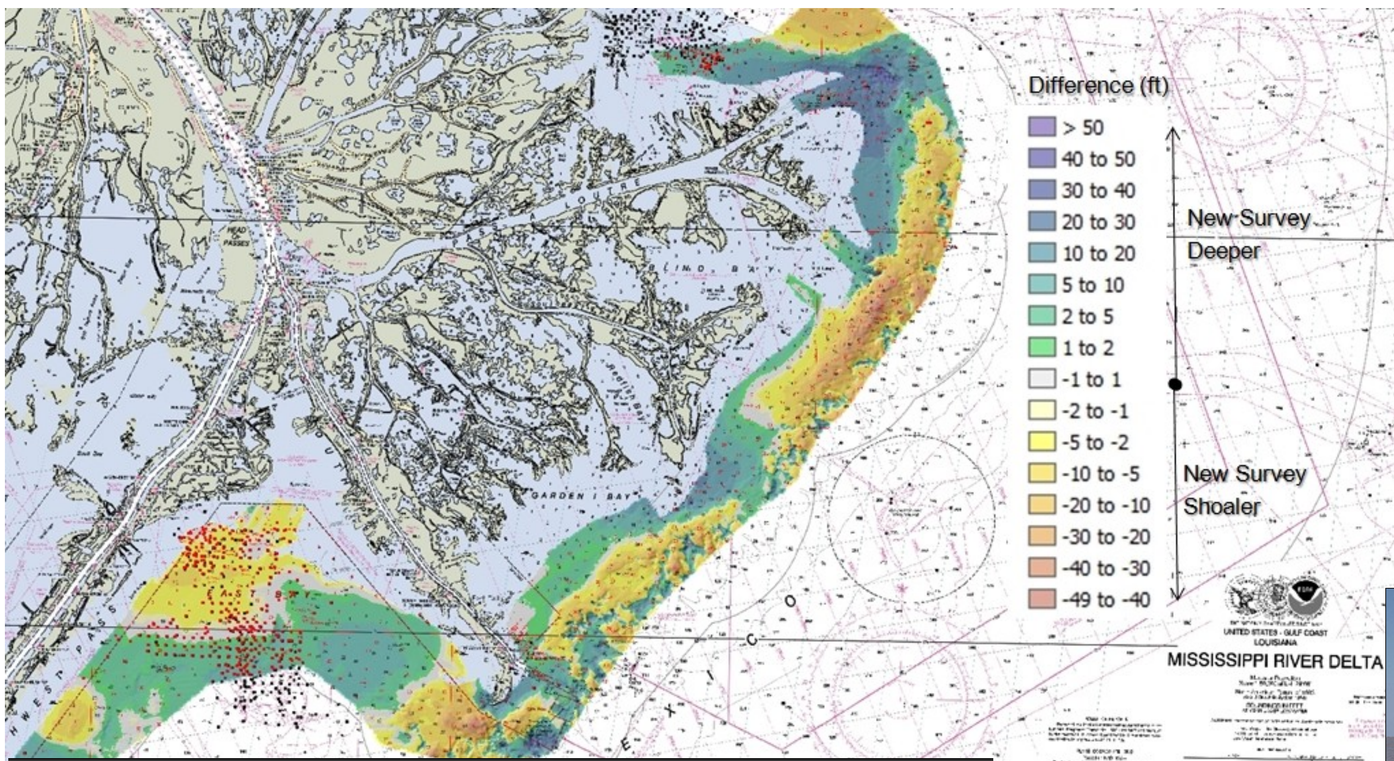
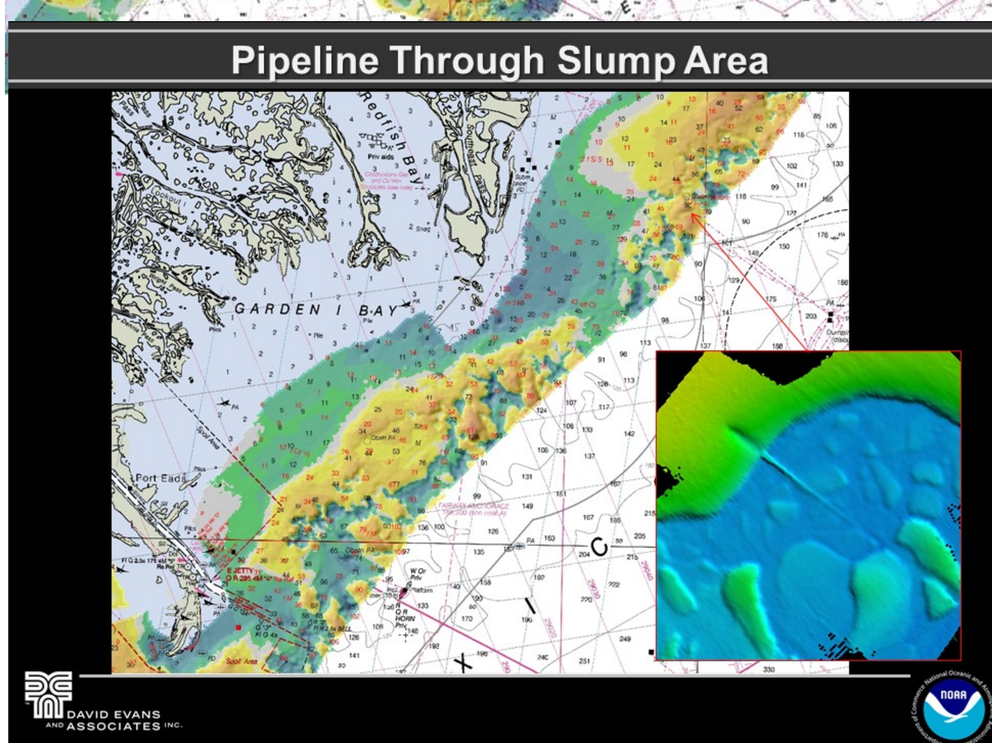
Mapping And Surveying Our "Other Coast" Critical Findings and Uses of Coastal Bathymetry in a Rapidly Changing Coastal Environment

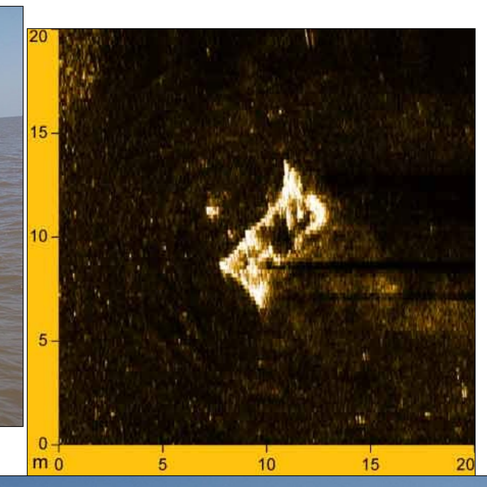
Jon Dasler, David Evans and Associates, Inc. / Tim Osborn, NOAA

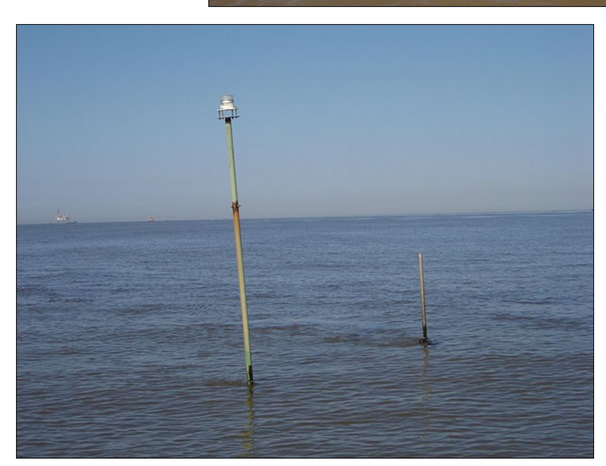
Mid 1930s Surveys Compared to NOAA Funded Surveys of 2009
Large Changes in Depths, Lost Coastal Areas and Subsidence

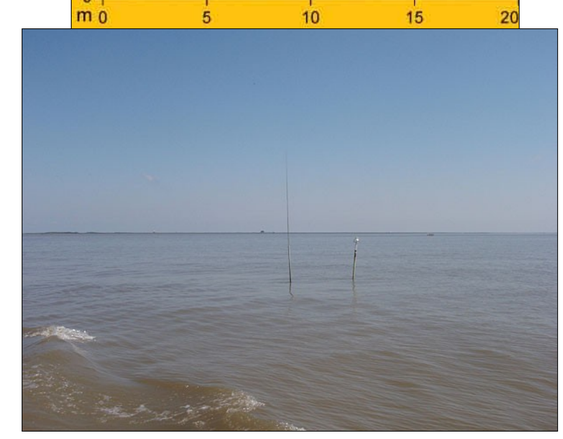


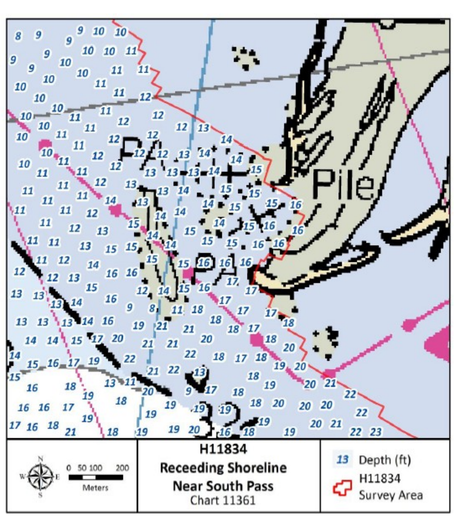
Loss of Coastal Elevations Are Readily Observed in the Coastal Waters Around Louisiana– Above is a relatively new coastal bay production platform—below are photos of platforms that have subsided over the last few to several decades along with associated side scan sonar images of the submerged platforms

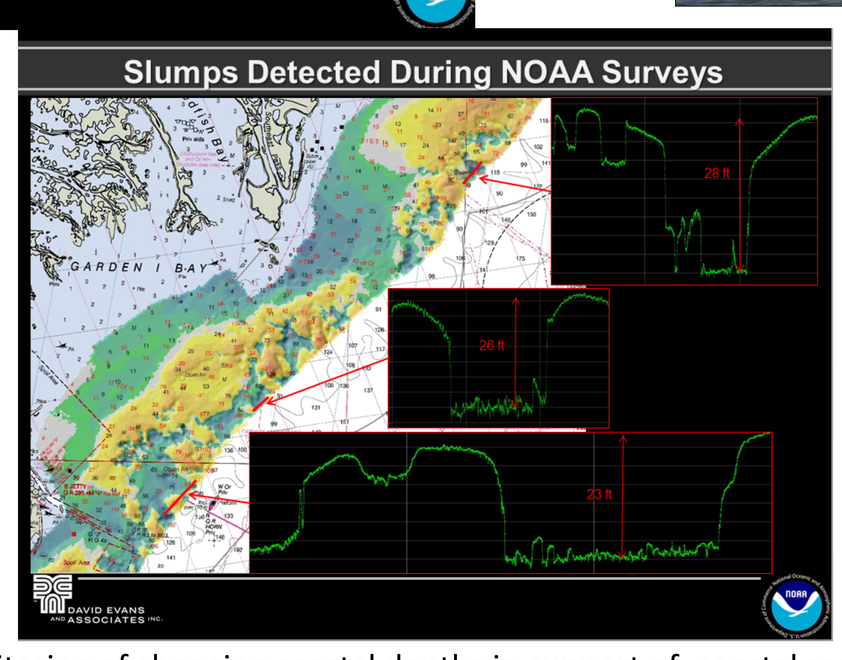


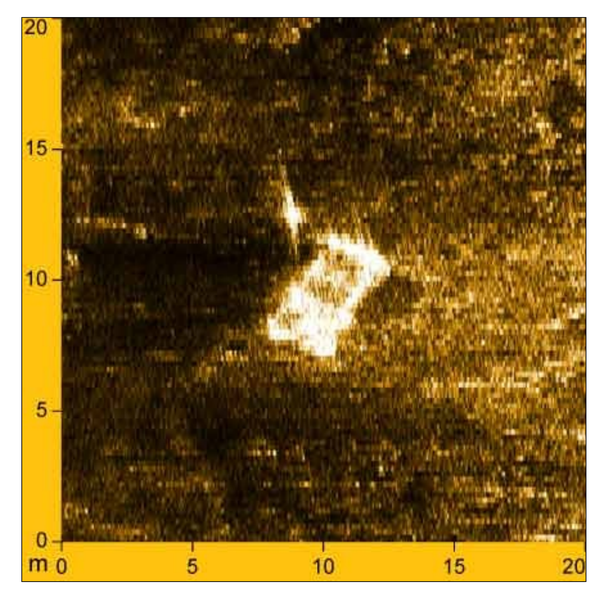












Coastal Surveying is critical for the monitoring of changing coastal depths in support of: coastal restoration design and monitoring; storm surge modeling for coastal flood protection and forecasts; assessment of hurricane impacts; current modeling for oil trajectory forecasts; and for the support of dredging and charting for safe maritime commerce. Without updated and frequent coastal hydrographic surveys, restoration projects and flood protection efforts are not accurately designed, engineered or constructed to the present day environmental conditions of the coast.