

# Large Corals in Florida Bay: Faithful Recorders of the Environmental Conditions Over the Past 200 Years

Peter K. Swart, Remy Okazaki, & Chris Langdon

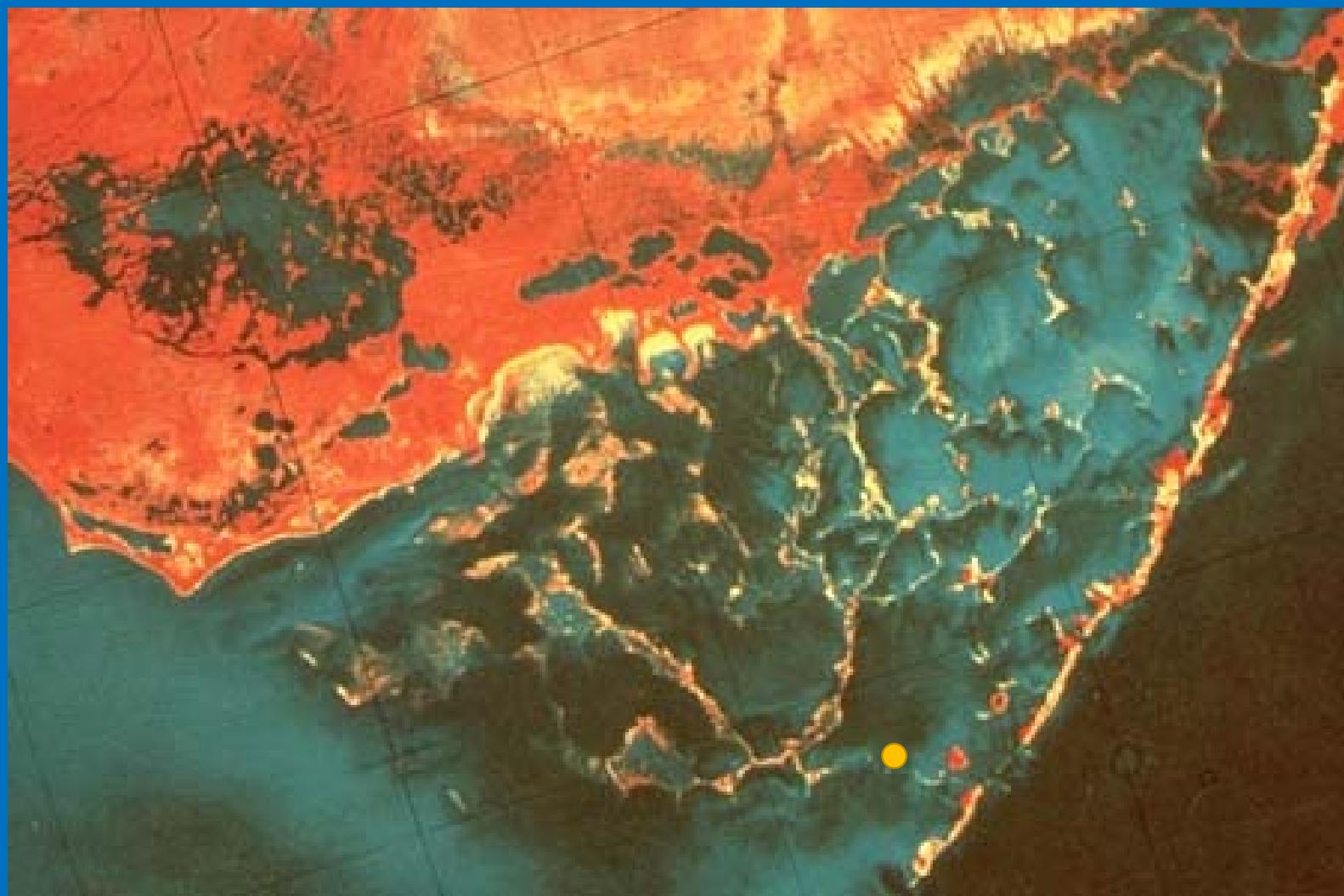
Department of Marine Geosciences/ Marine Biology and Ecology  
RSMAS, University of Miami

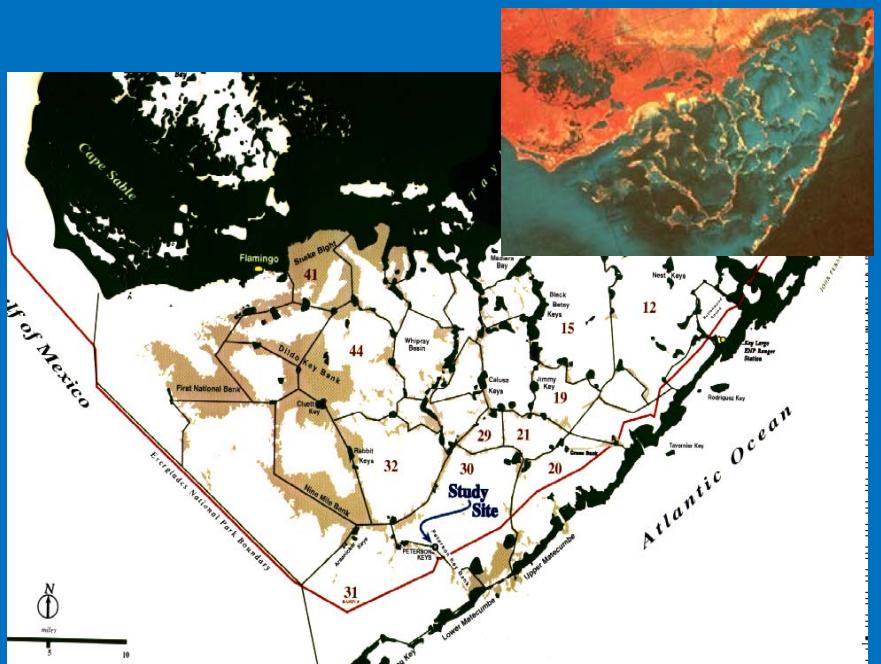
Genny Healy, Phil Kramer, Dave Rudnick  
Funding : SFWMD, NSF  
FIU

GEER 2015

# Key Points

- Florida Bay is changing
  - Sea level rise
    - More dominated by marine waters
    - Less Variable
  - The monitoring which was carried out by FIU between 1989 and 2007 was very far sighted
  - Although it was unfortunately discontinued, based on these data and data collected previously we have a picture of what has happened in the Bay over the past 50 years.
  - There are corals which have grown in FB for 200 years, but the manner in which the corals respond to salinity and temperature has changed because of sea level and anthropogenic manipulation.

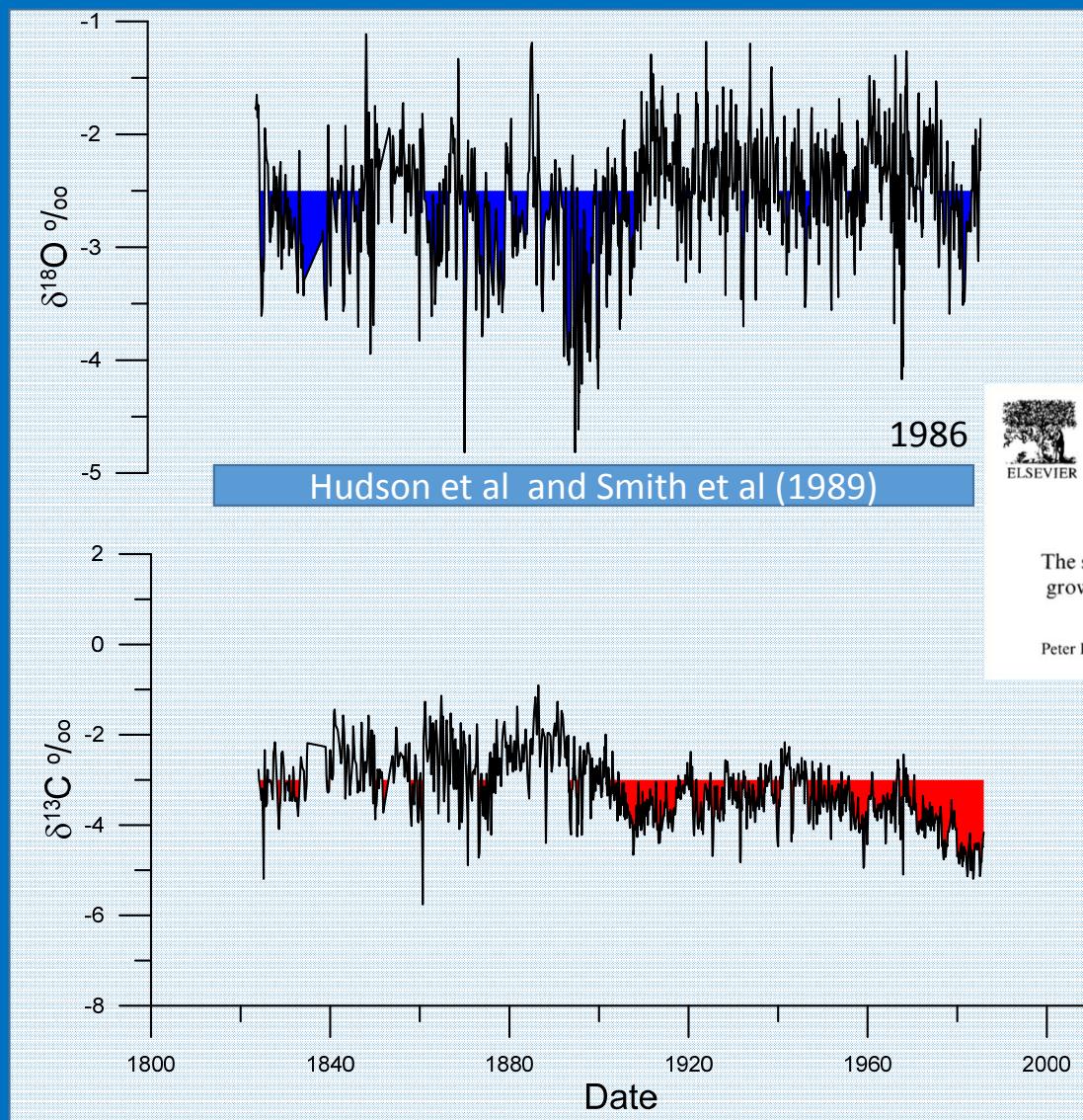
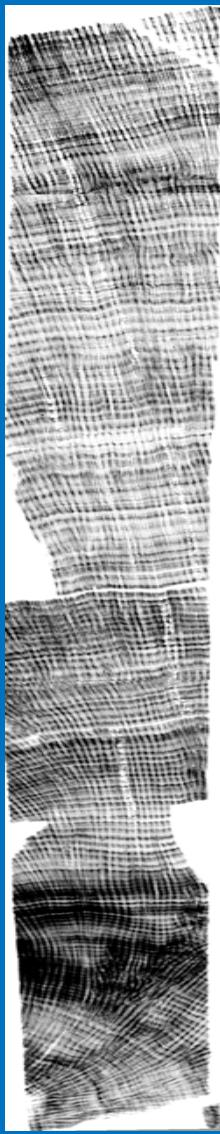




## 1986- Cored by Harold Hudson

Hudson, J.H., Powell, G.V.N., Robblee, M.B. and Smith, T.J. (1989)  
A 107-Year-Old Coral From Florida Bay - Barometer Of Natural  
And Man-Induced Catastrophes. *Bull. Mar. Sci.*, 44, 283-291.

Smith, T.J., Hudson, J.H., Robblee, M.B., Powell, G.V.N. and  
Isdale, P.J. (1989) Fresh-Water Flow From The Everglades To  
Florida Bay - A Historical Reconstruction Based On Fluorescent  
Banding In The Coral *Solenastrea bournoni*. *Bull. Mar. Sci.*, 44,  
274-282.



Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology 123 (1996) 219–237

PALAEO

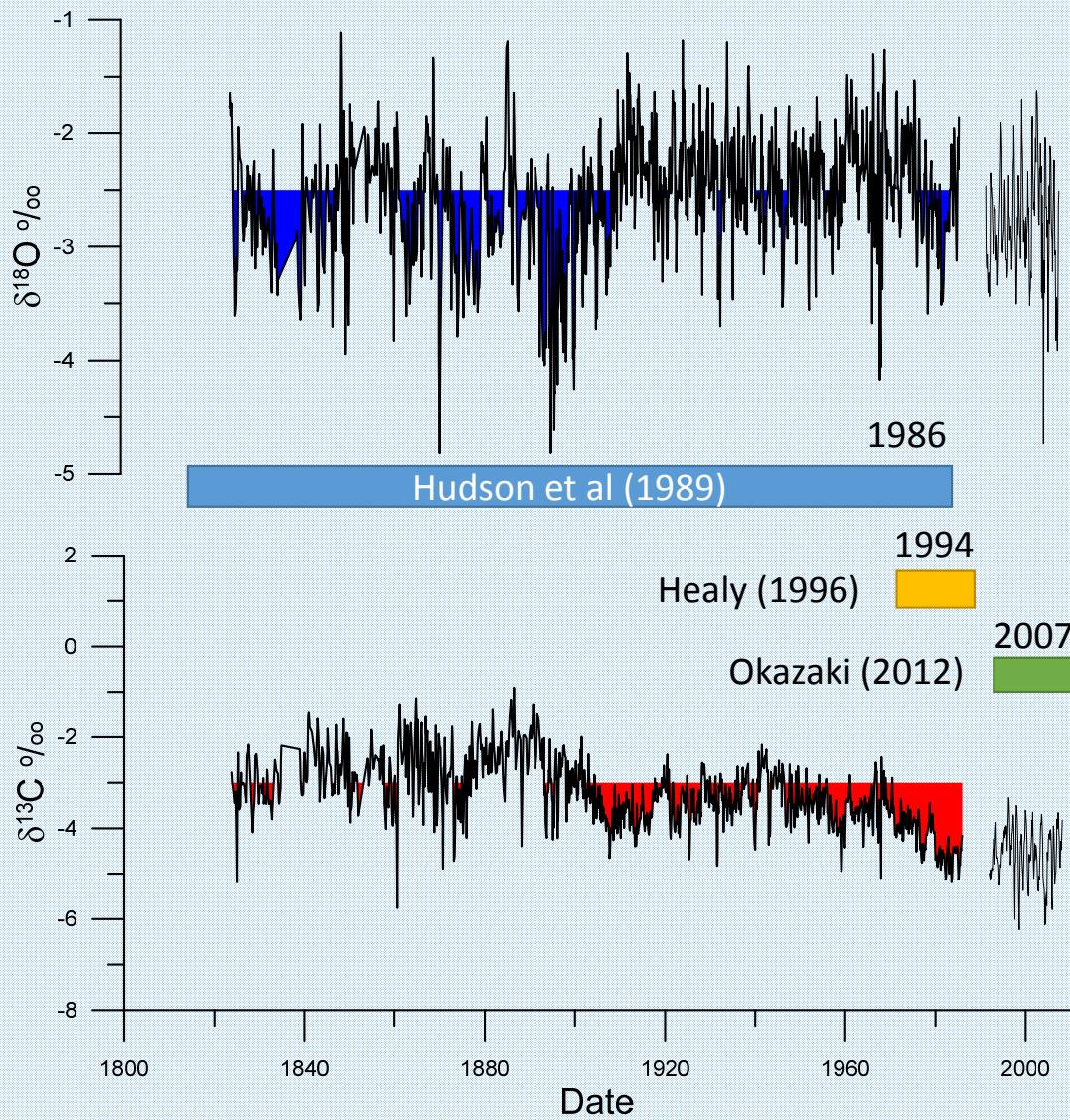
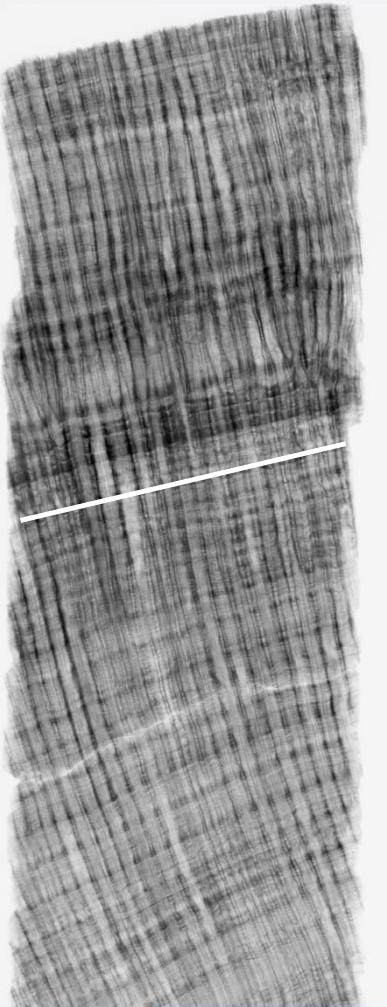
The stable oxygen and carbon isotopic record from a coral growing in Florida Bay: a 160 year record of climatic and anthropogenic influence

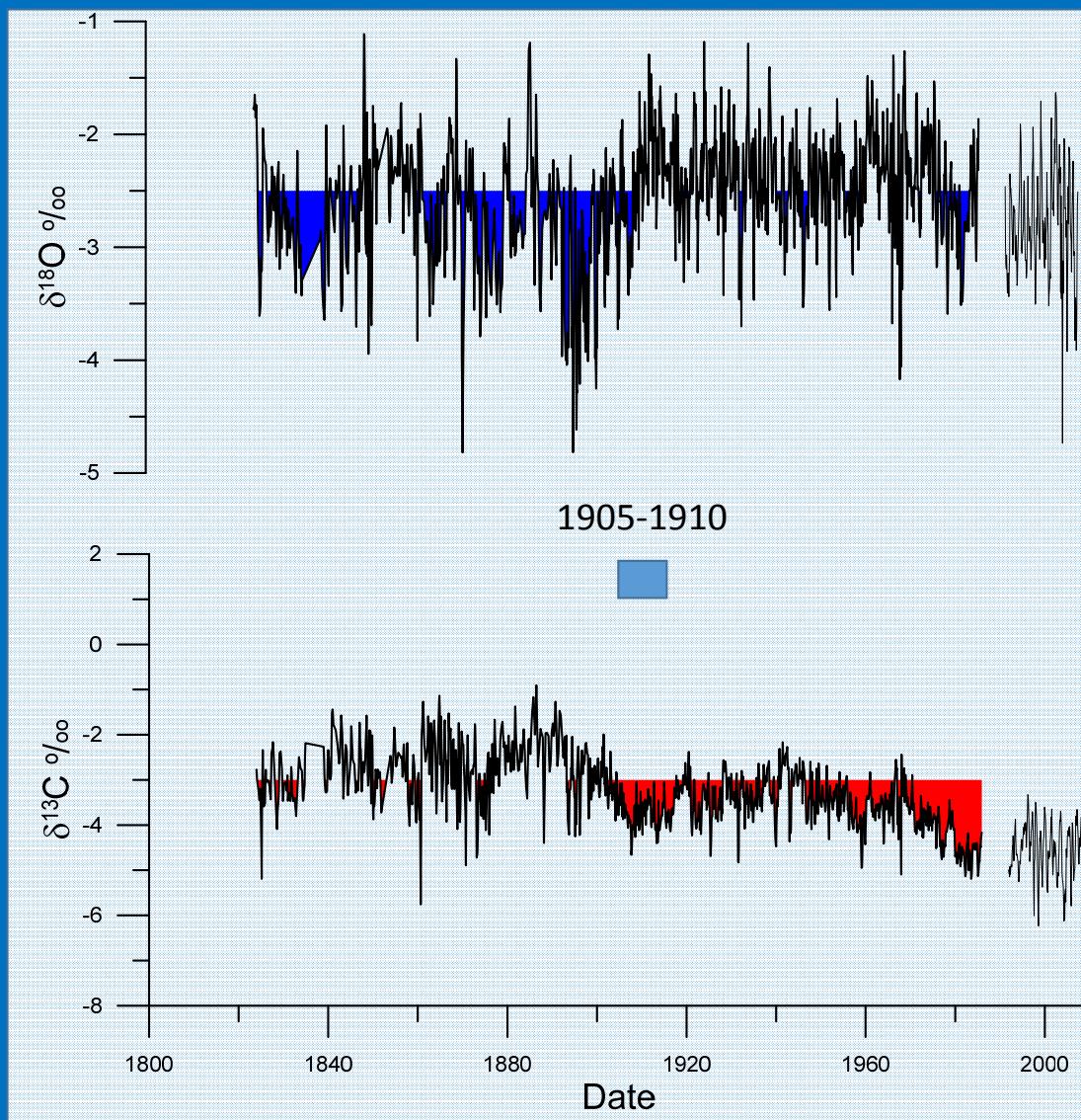
Peter K. Swart <sup>a</sup>, Genevieve F. Healy <sup>a</sup>, Richard E. Dodge <sup>b</sup>, Philip Kramer <sup>a</sup>,  
J. Harold Hudson <sup>c</sup>, Robert B. Halley <sup>d</sup>, Michael B. Robblee <sup>e</sup>

1986



2007



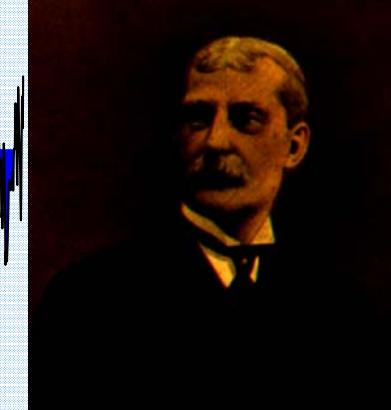
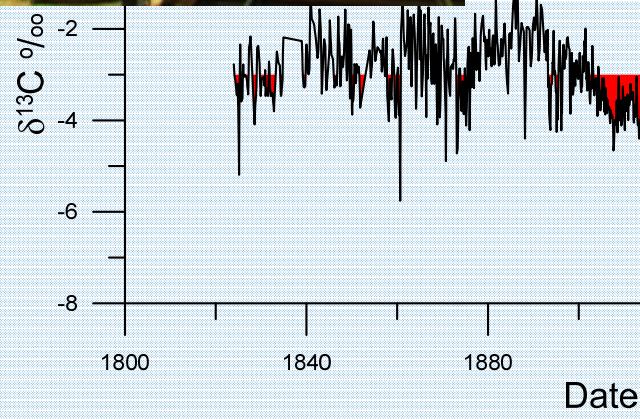
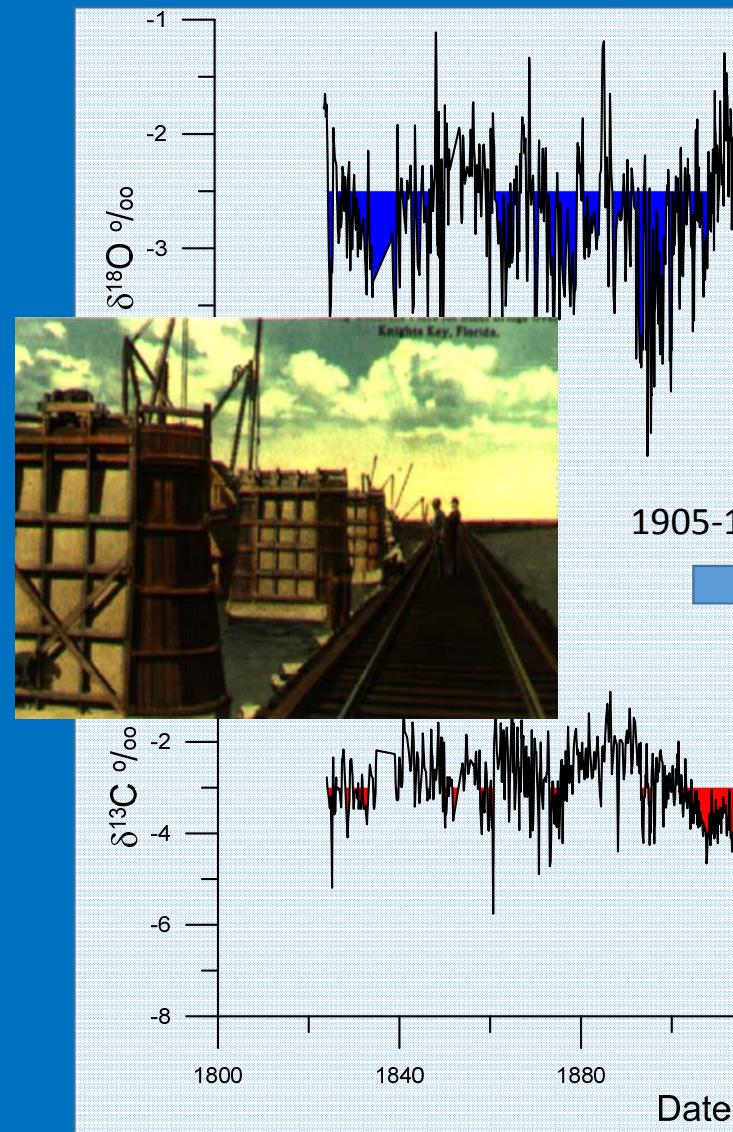
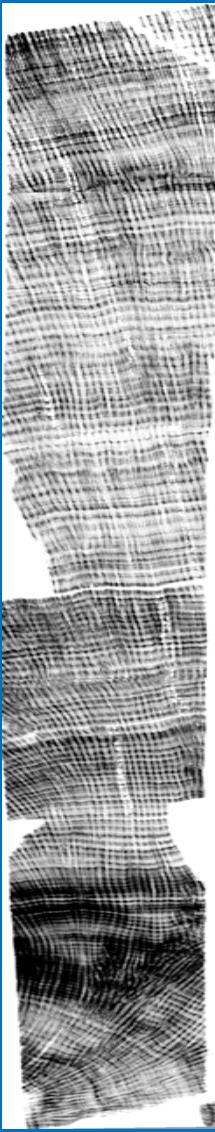


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The stable oxygen and carbon isotopic record from a coral  
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Peter K. Swart <sup>a</sup>, Genevieve F. Healy <sup>a</sup>, Richard E. Dodge <sup>b</sup>, Philip Kramer <sup>a</sup>,  
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## Bay's decline traced to railway

By NANCY KLEINER  
Herald Staff Writer

**Instead of a porous boundary, Florida Bay's edge became a wall.**

devastating Labor Day hurricane of 1935. But the rotted remains and now carries the Overseas Highway, which was built over the remains of the ambitious railroad that ran 120 miles from Key West to Miami.

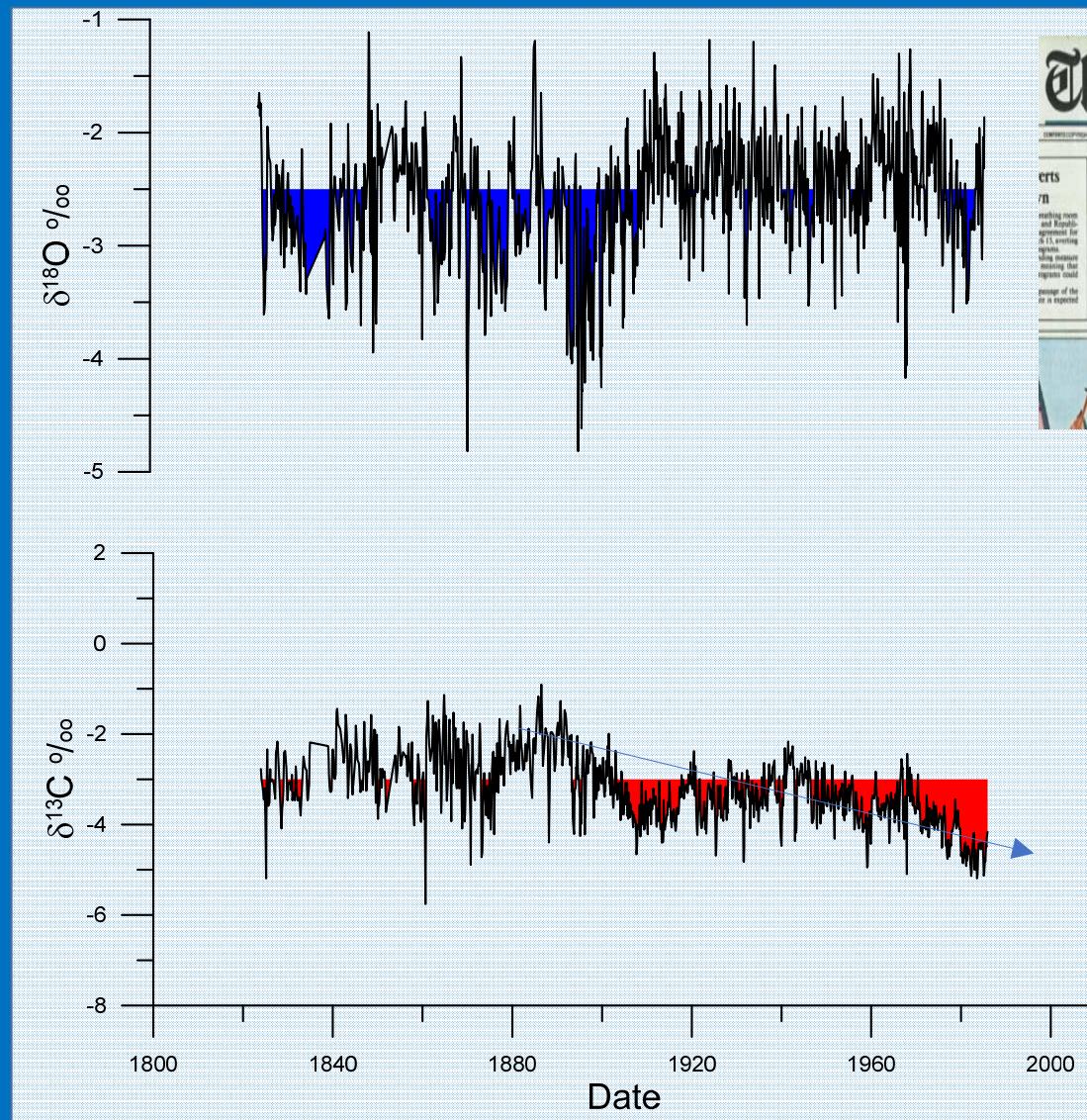
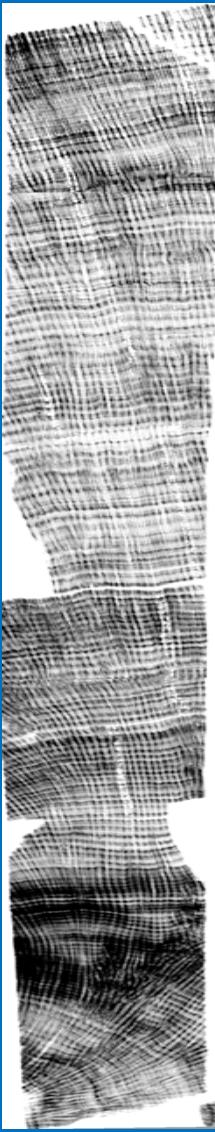
When Flagler's engineers designed the railway, they not only planned massive bridges, like the Seven Mile, but filled in many of the gaps between the islands with sand.

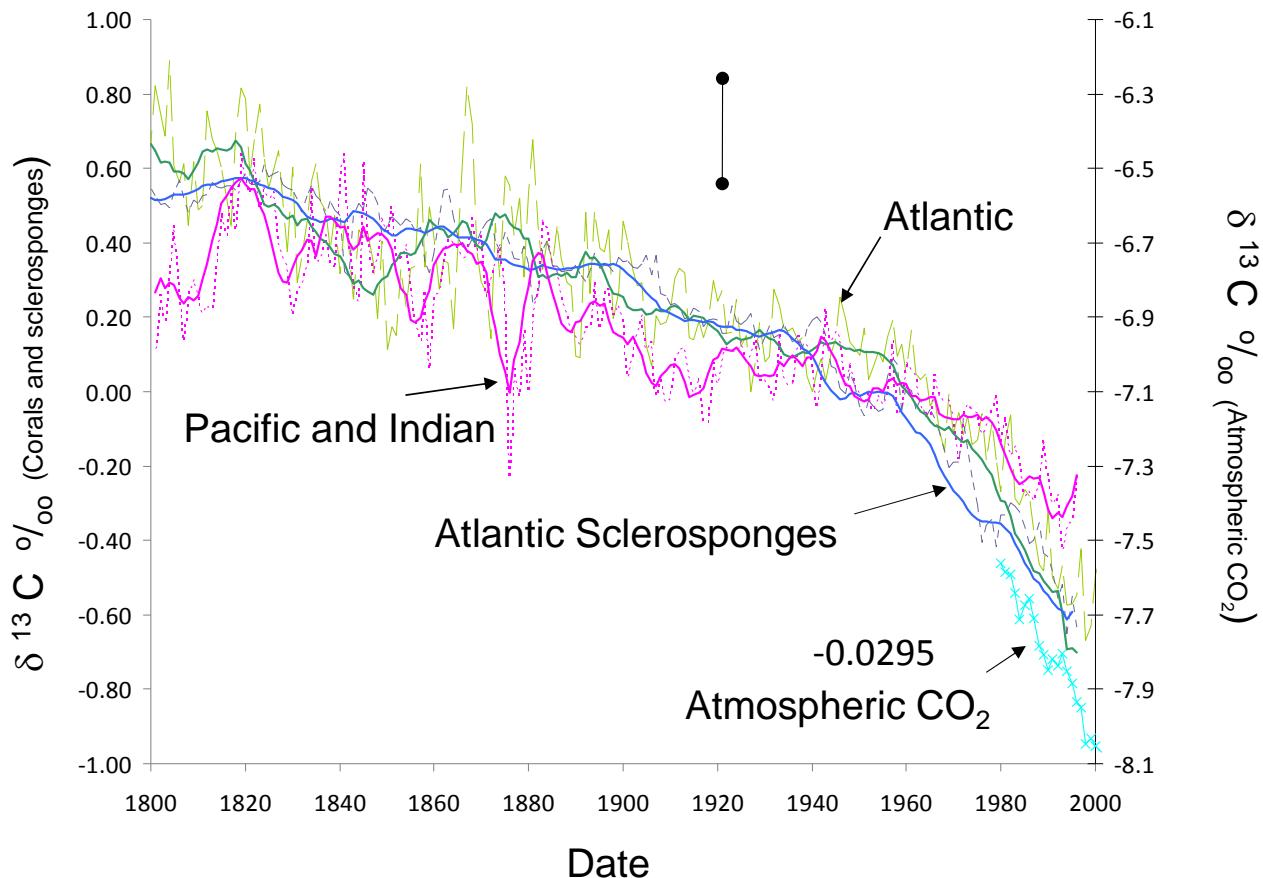
One of the largest was Indian Key Fill, a mile-long stretch of land.

PLEASE SEE RAILROAD, TA

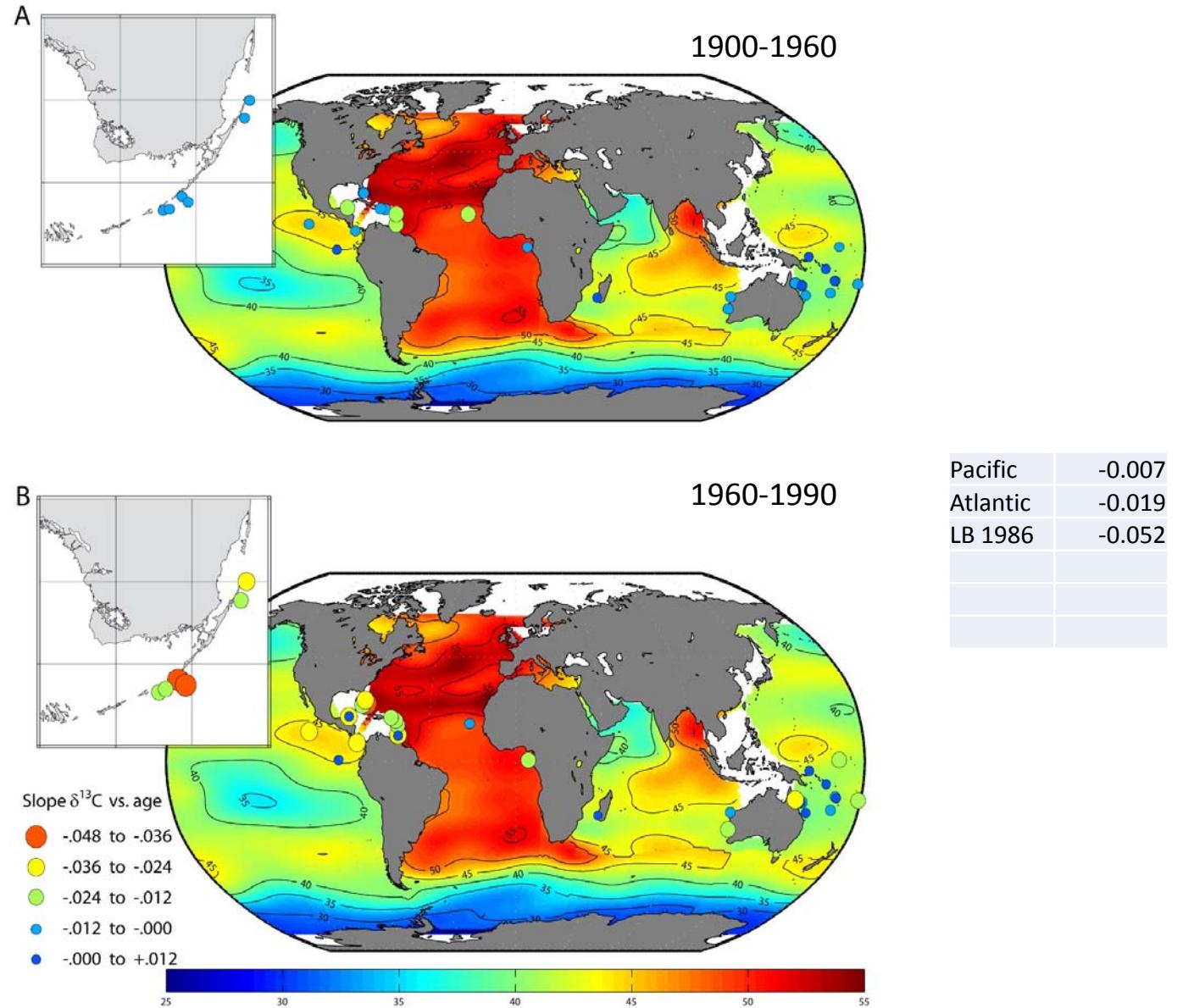
**Hoping Frisco fumbles**

South Florida

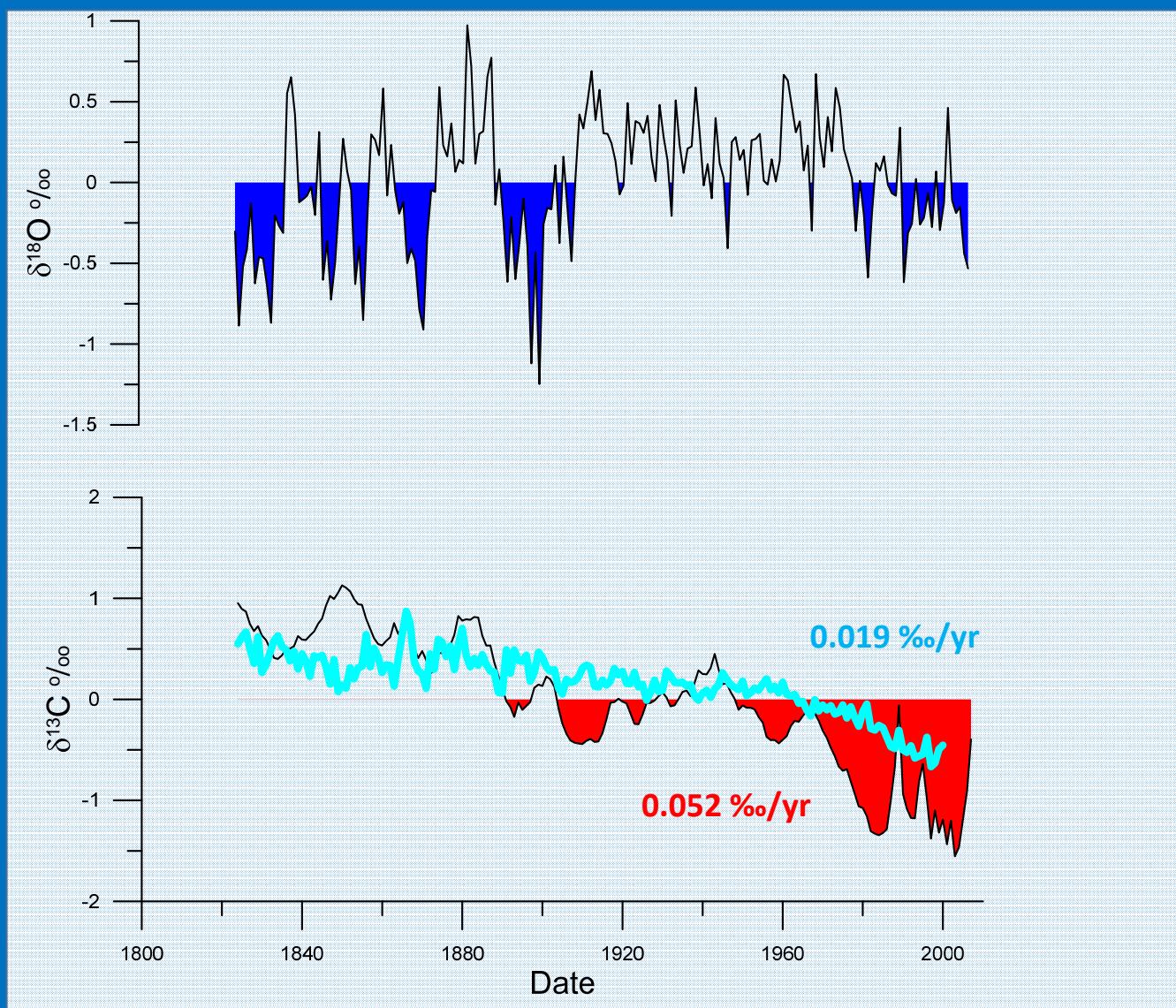


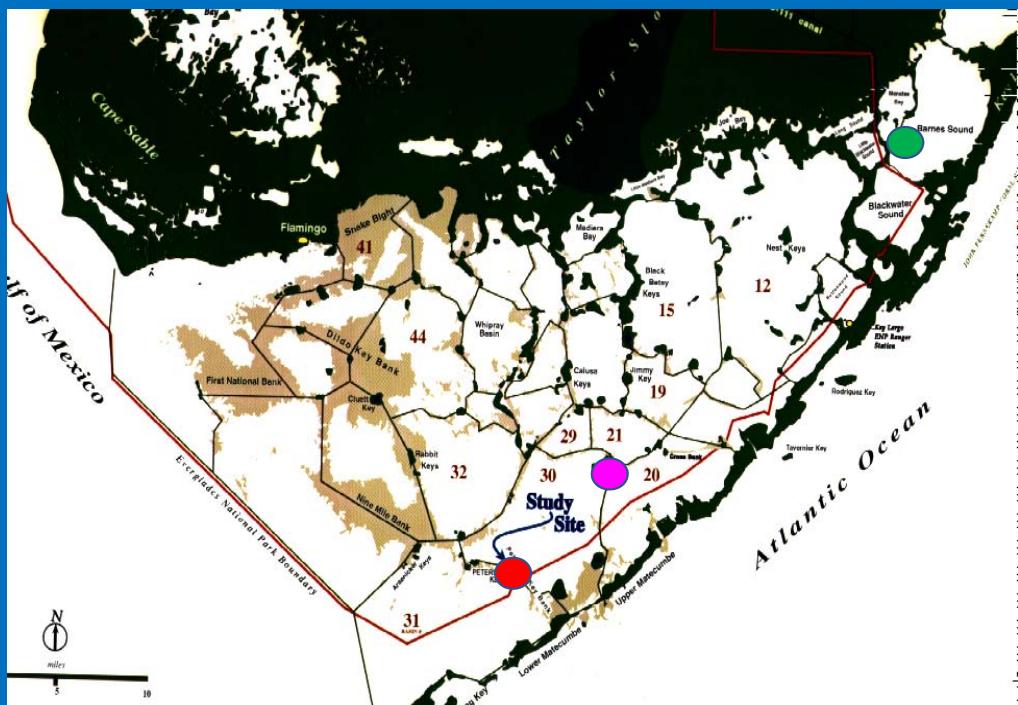
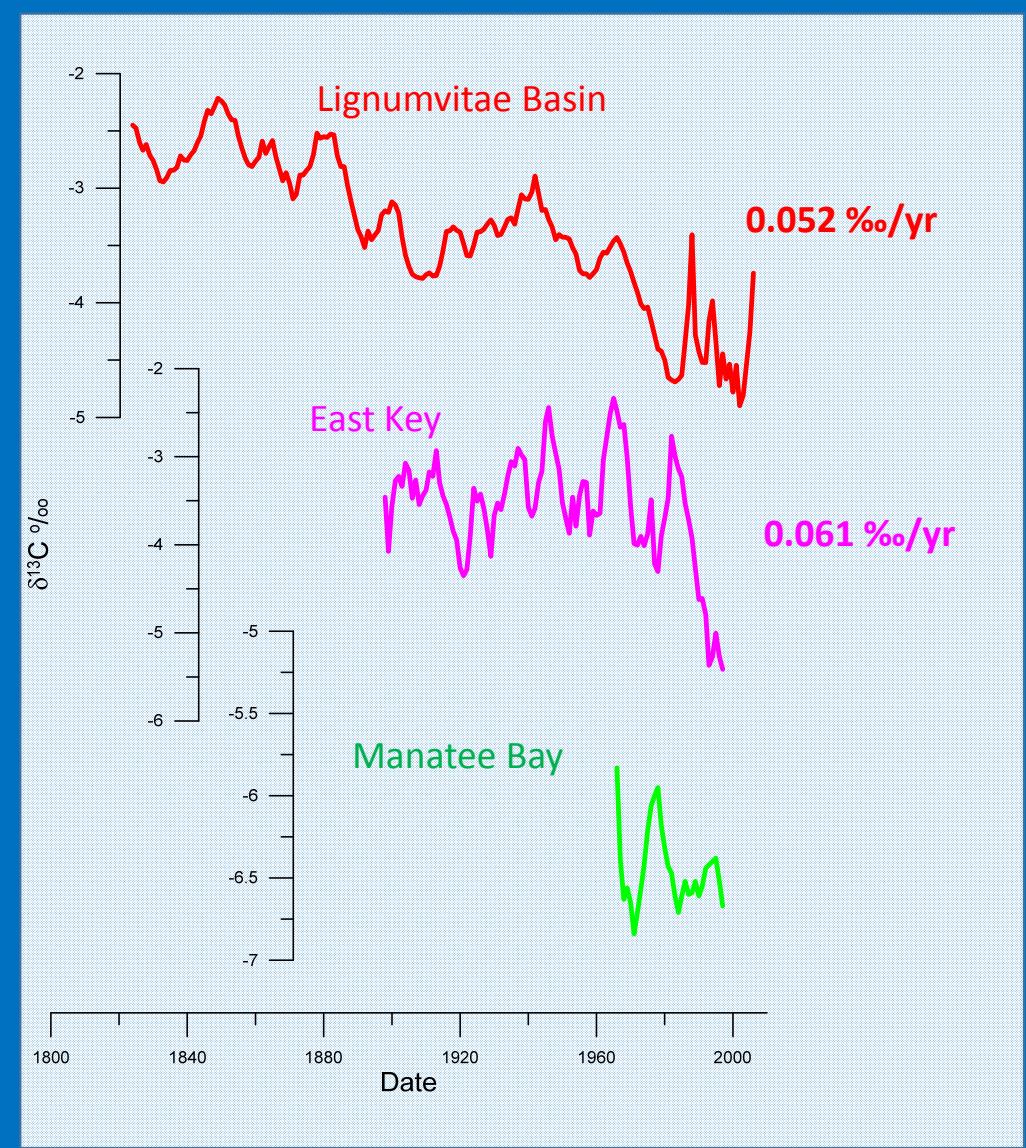


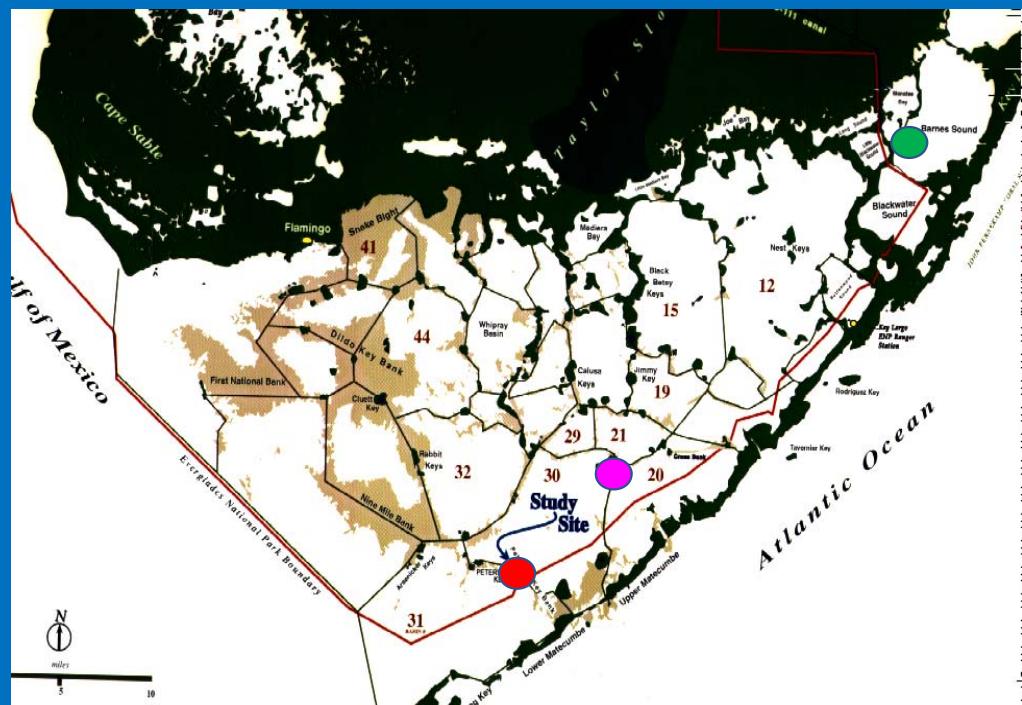
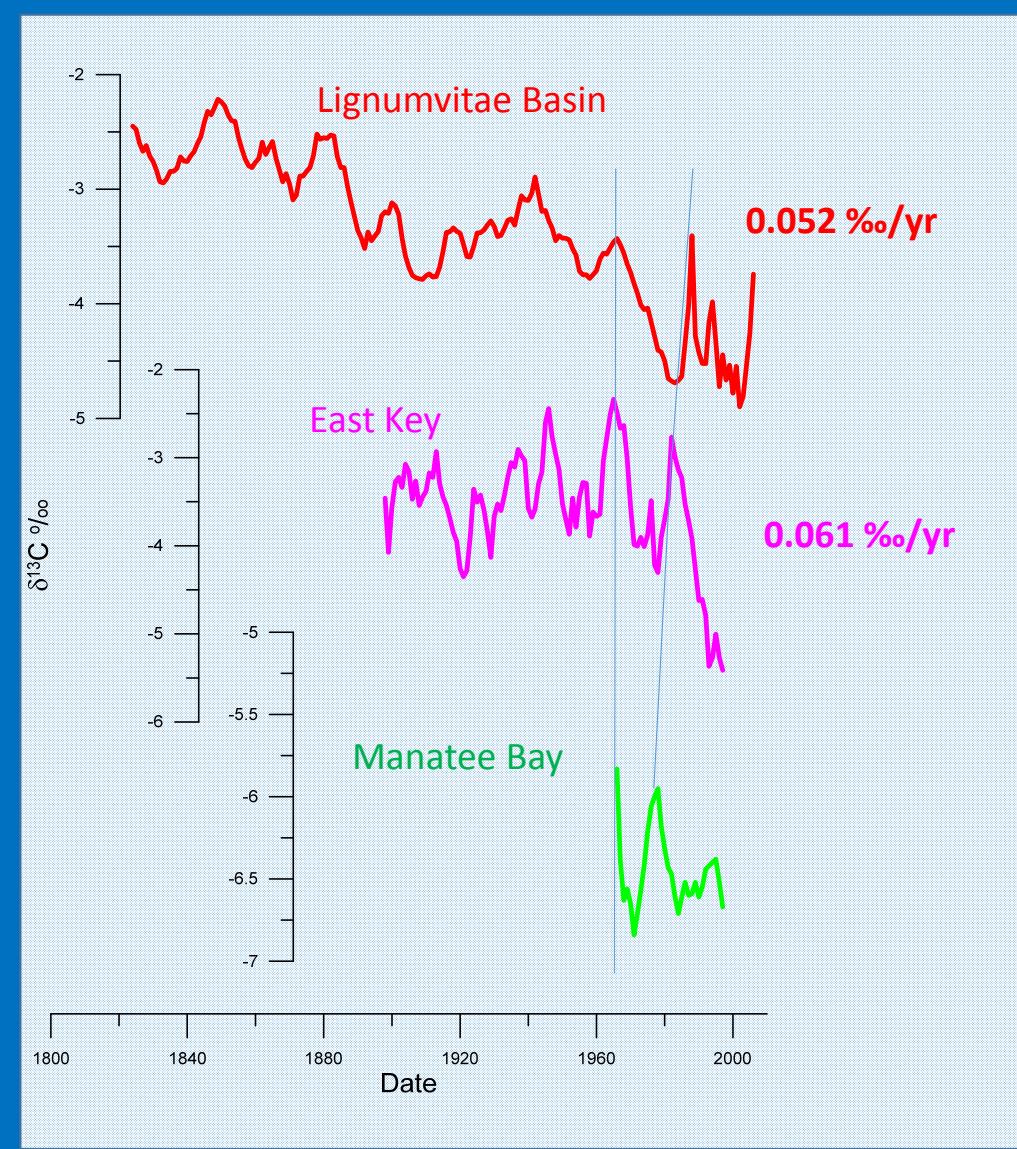
Swart, P.K., Greer, L., Rosenheim, B.E., Moses, C.S., Waite, A.J., Winter, A., Dodge, R.E. and Helmle, K. (2010) The C-13 Suess effect in scleractinian corals mirror changes in the anthropogenic  $\text{CO}_2$  inventory of the surface oceans. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 37.

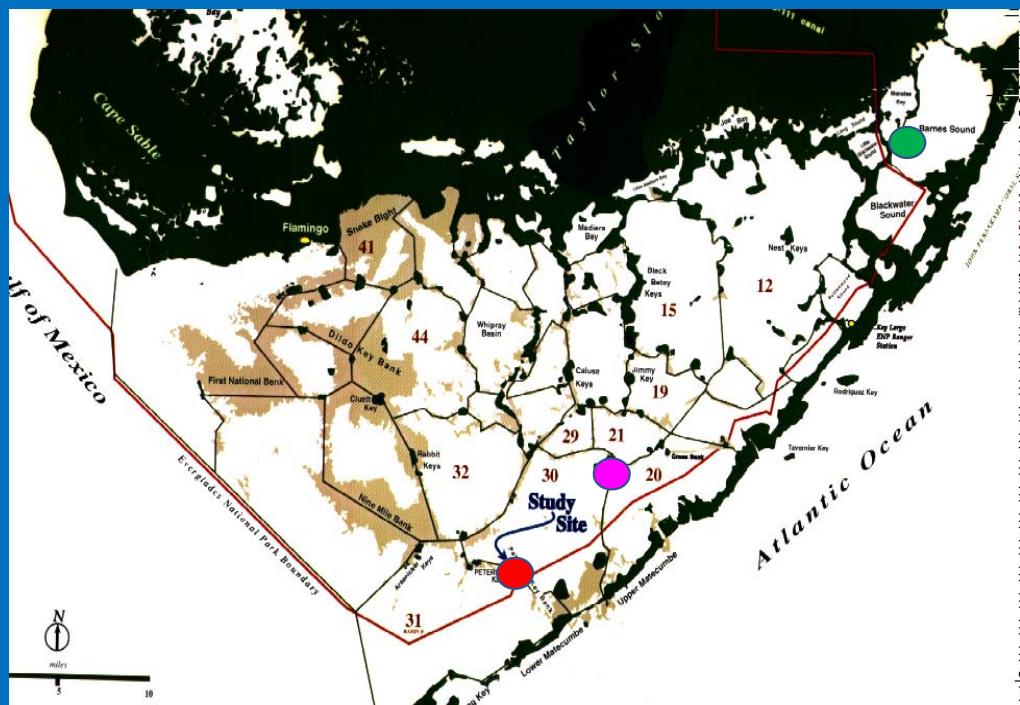
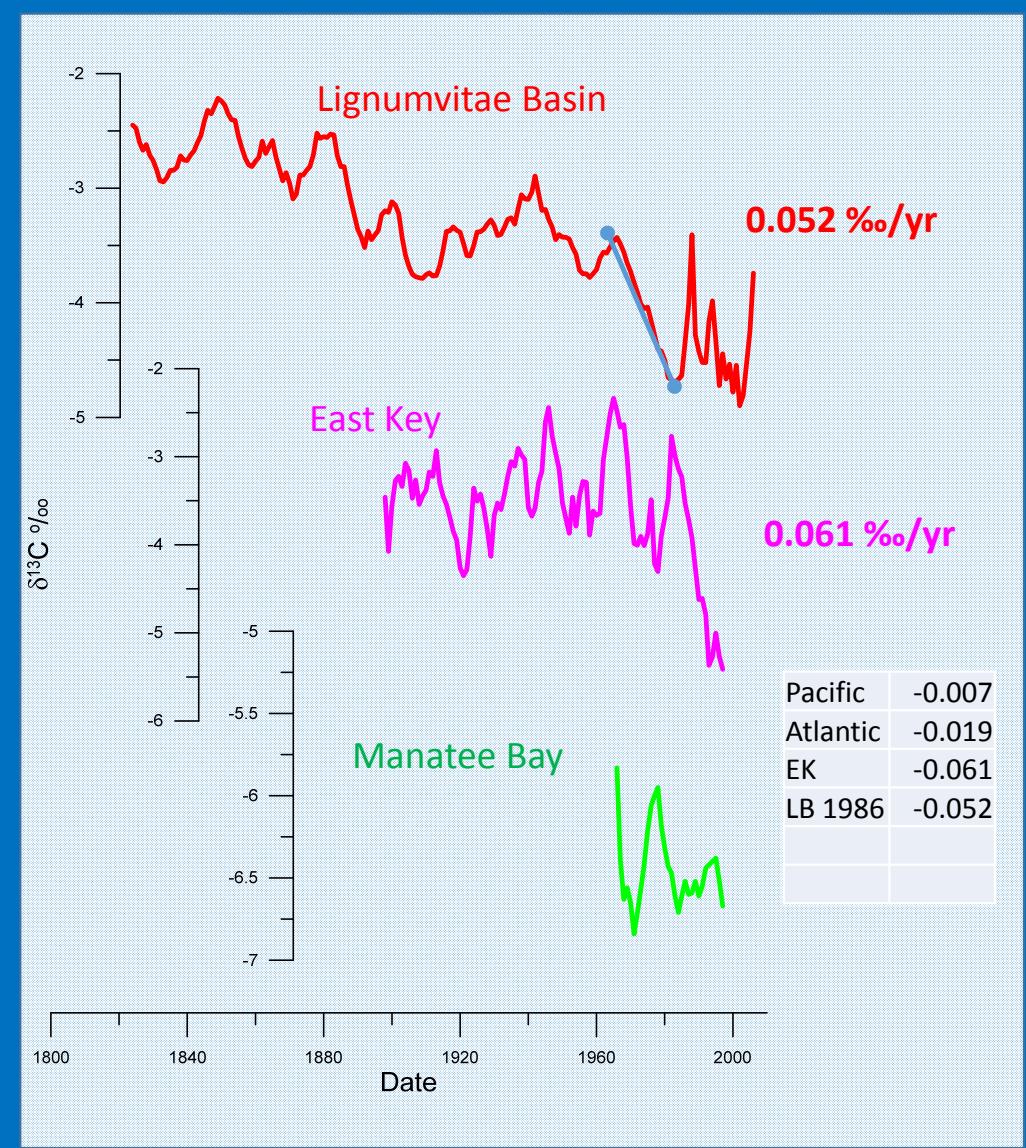


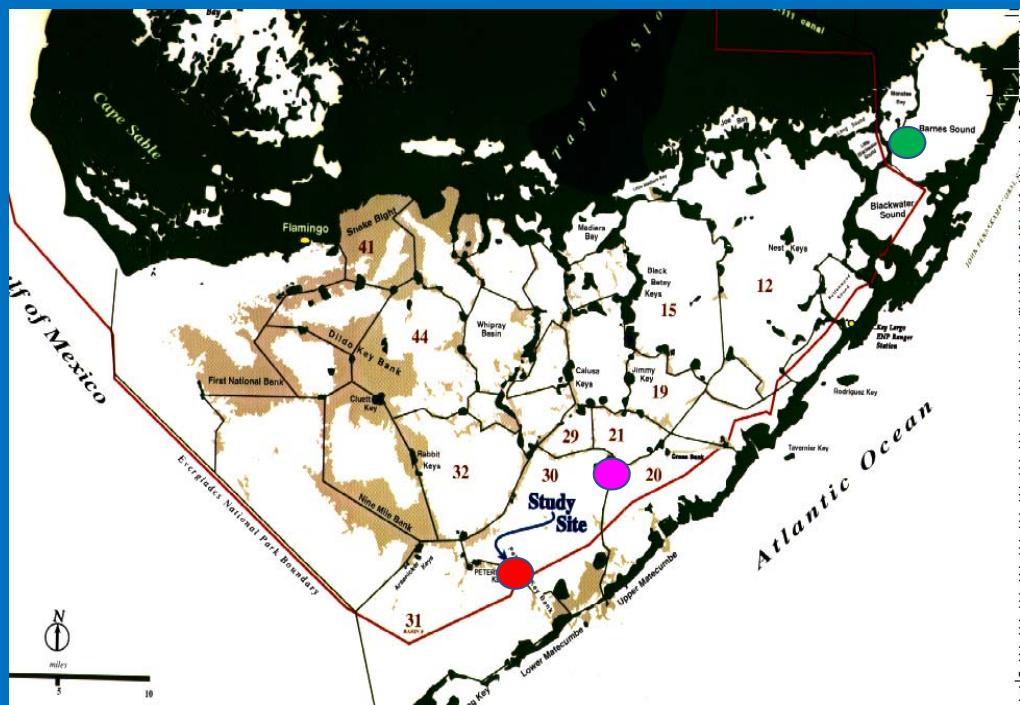
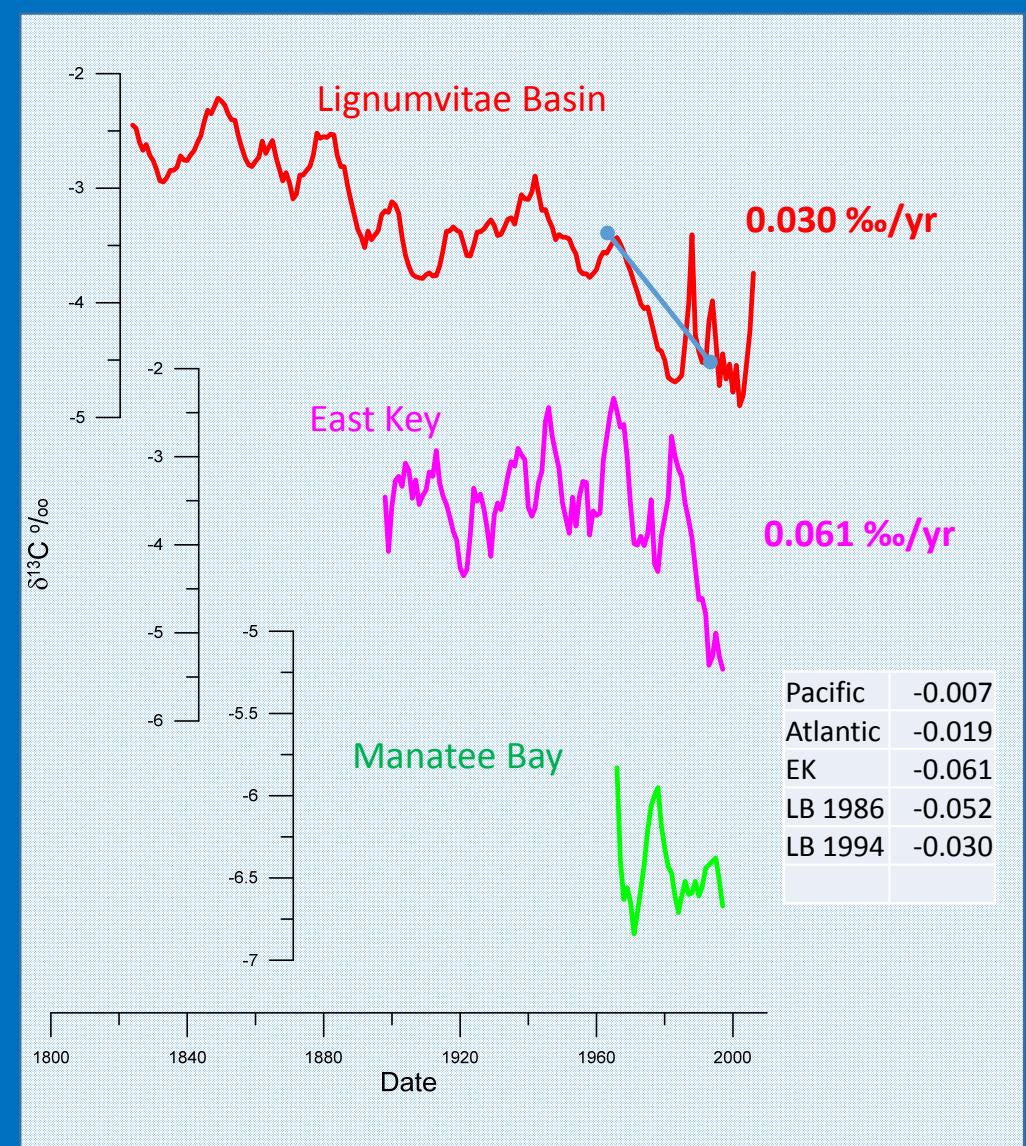
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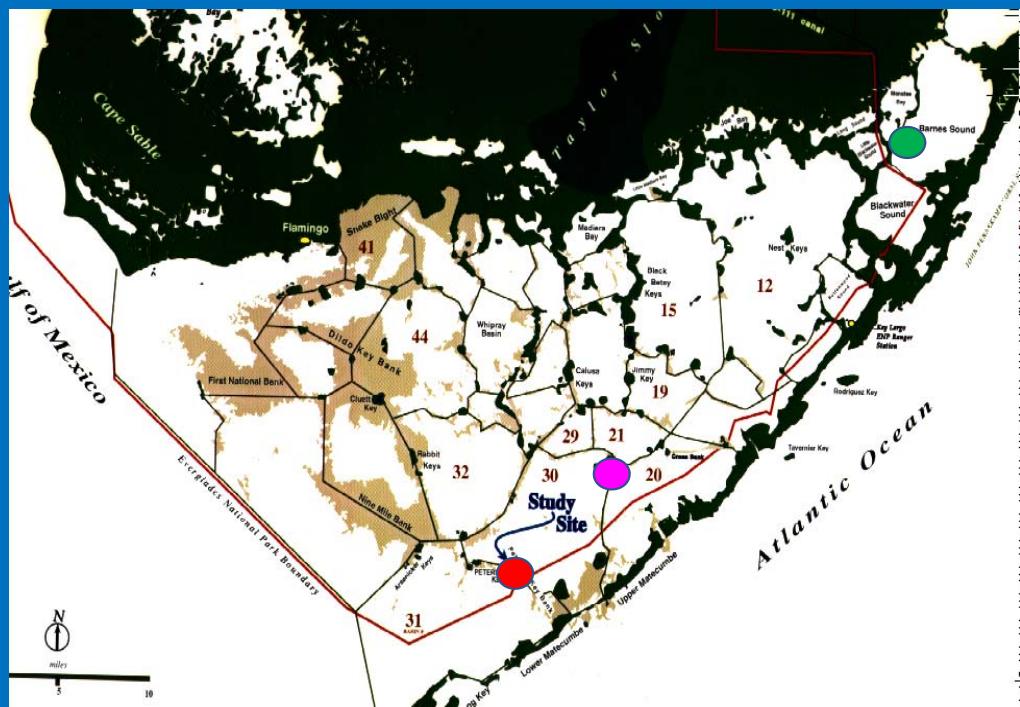
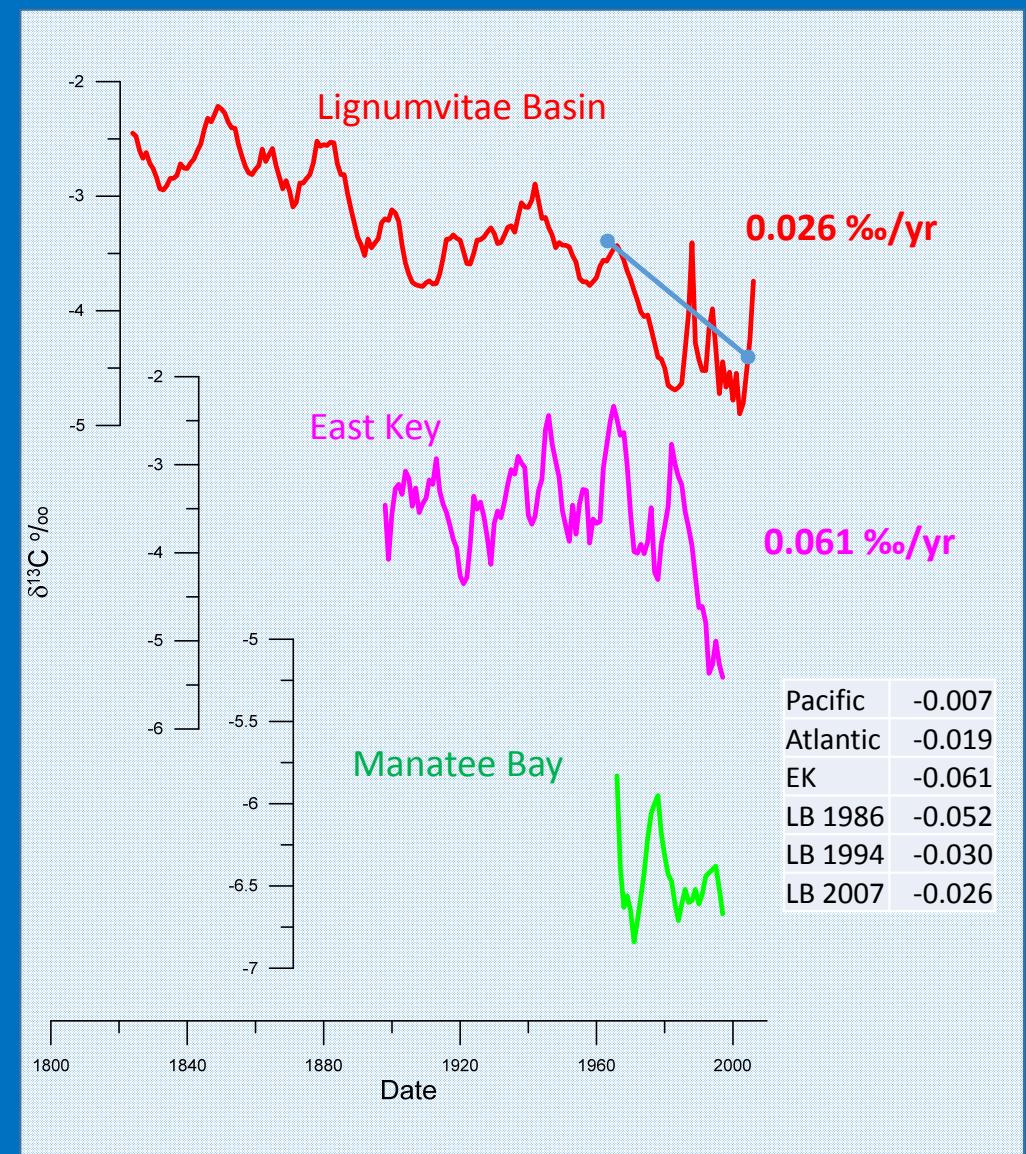












## Windowed Regression

x	y
9.17167	4.906609
9.196699	4.748279
9.209477	4.478991
9.239608	4.42316
9.22858	4.741372
9.199365	4.802283
9.164409	4.962246
9.106221	4.893308
9.134055	5.061498
9.156272	4.375838
9.17167	4.906609
9.196699	4.748279
9.209477	4.478991

Slope= ?  
Regression ?

## Windowed Regression

x	y	x	y
9.17167	4.906609	9.17167	4.906609
9.196699	4.748279	9.196699	4.748279
9.209477	4.478991	9.209477	4.478991
9.239608	4.42316	9.239608	4.42316
9.22858	4.741372	9.22858	4.741372
9.199365	4.802283	9.199365	4.802283
9.164409	4.962246	9.164409	4.962246
9.106221	4.893308		
9.134055	5.061498		
9.156272	4.375838		
9.17167	4.906609		
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Slope= S1  
Regression =R1

## Windowed Regression

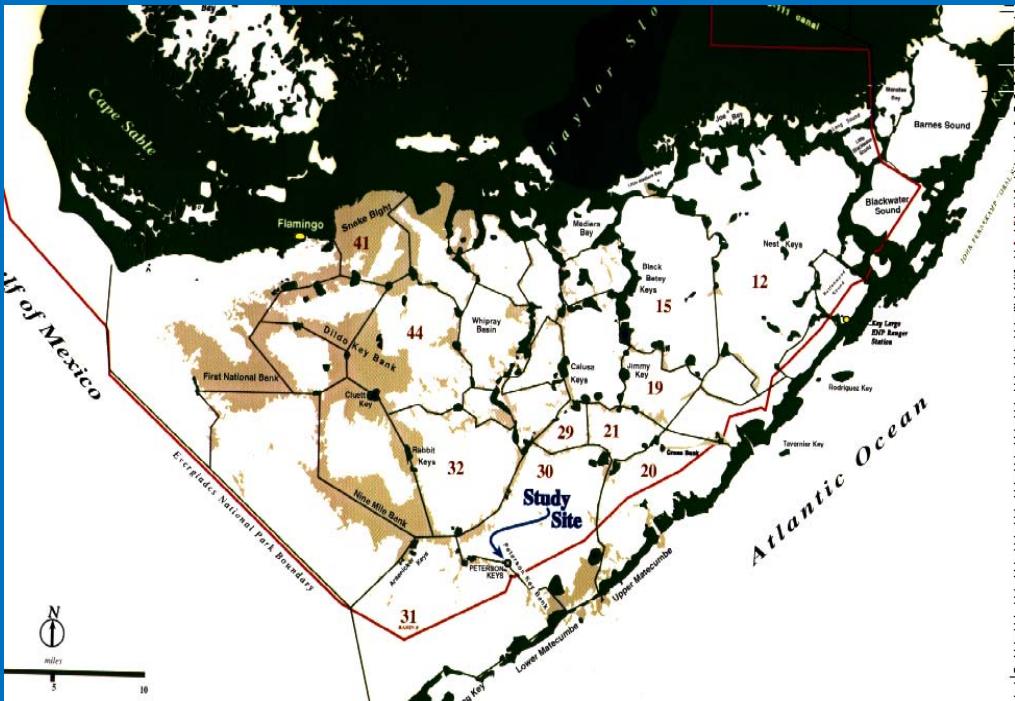
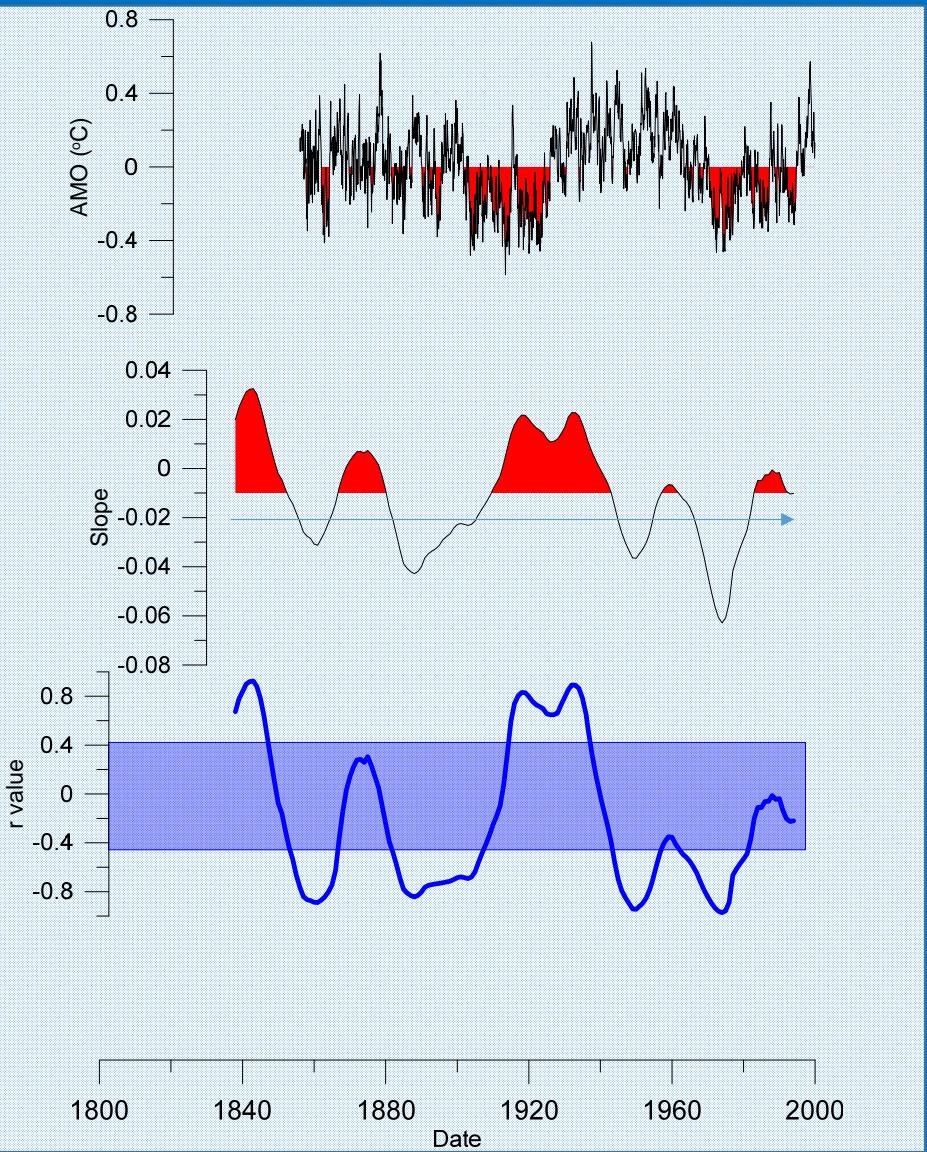
<b>x</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>y</b>
9.17167	4.906609		
9.196699	4.748279	9.196699	4.748279
9.209477	4.478991	9.209477	4.478991
9.239608	4.42316	9.239608	4.42316
9.22858	4.741372	9.22858	4.741372
9.199365	4.802283	9.199365	4.802283
9.164409	4.962246	9.164409	4.962246
9.106221	4.893308	9.106221	4.893308
9.134055	5.061498		
9.156272	4.375838		
9.17167	4.906609		
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9.209477	4.478991		

Slope= S2  
 Regression =R2

## Windowed Regression

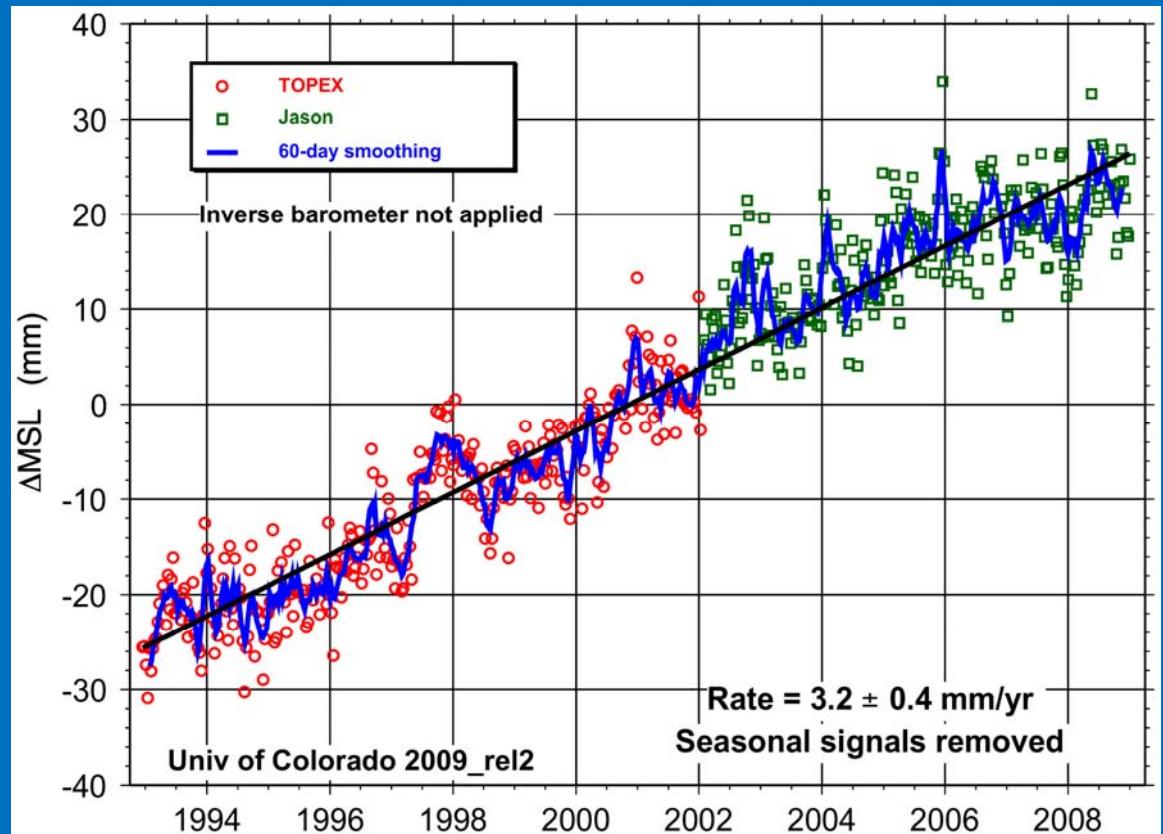
x	y	x	y
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9.196699	4.748279		
9.209477	4.478991	9.209477	4.478991
9.239608	4.42316	9.239608	4.42316
9.22858	4.741372	9.22858	4.741372
9.199365	4.802283	9.199365	4.802283
9.164409	4.962246	9.164409	4.962246
9.106221	4.893308	9.106221	4.893308
9.134055	5.061498	9.134055	5.061498
9.156272	4.375838		
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Slope= S3  
Regression =R3

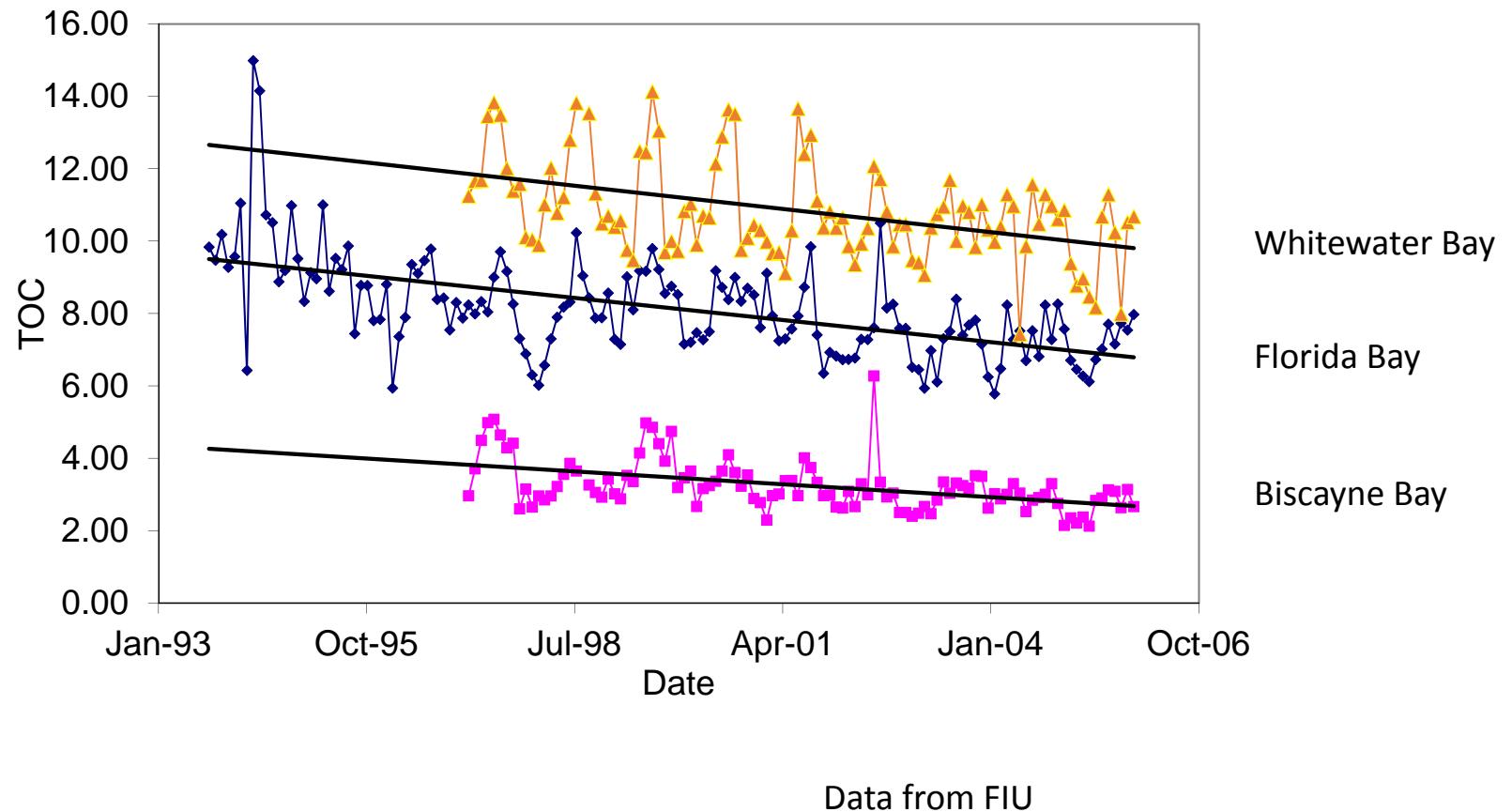


# What is Changing in Florida Bay

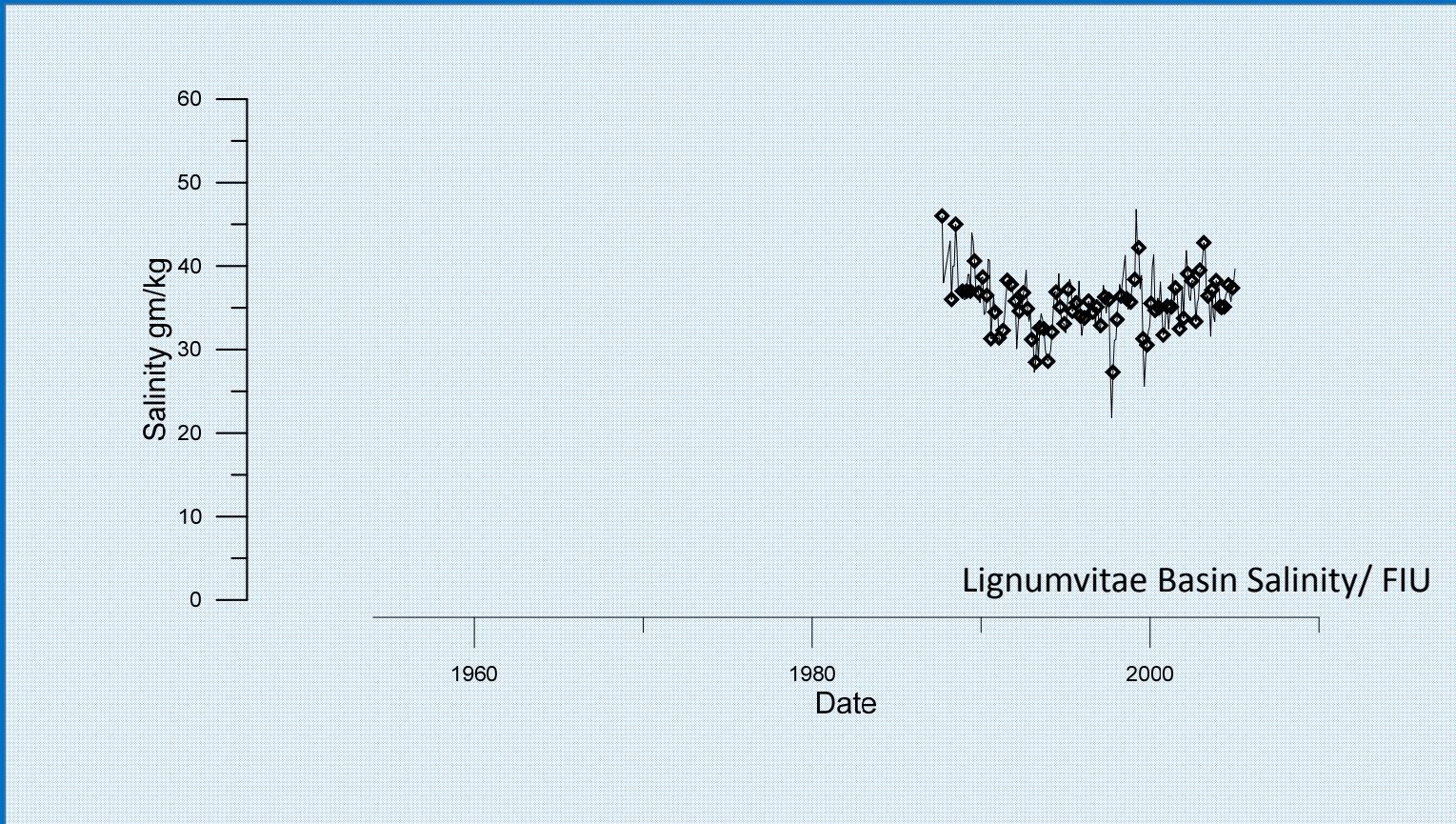
- Water Supply
  - C111?
- Supply of Nutrients
  - Organic material
  - Direct input
- Sea-Level



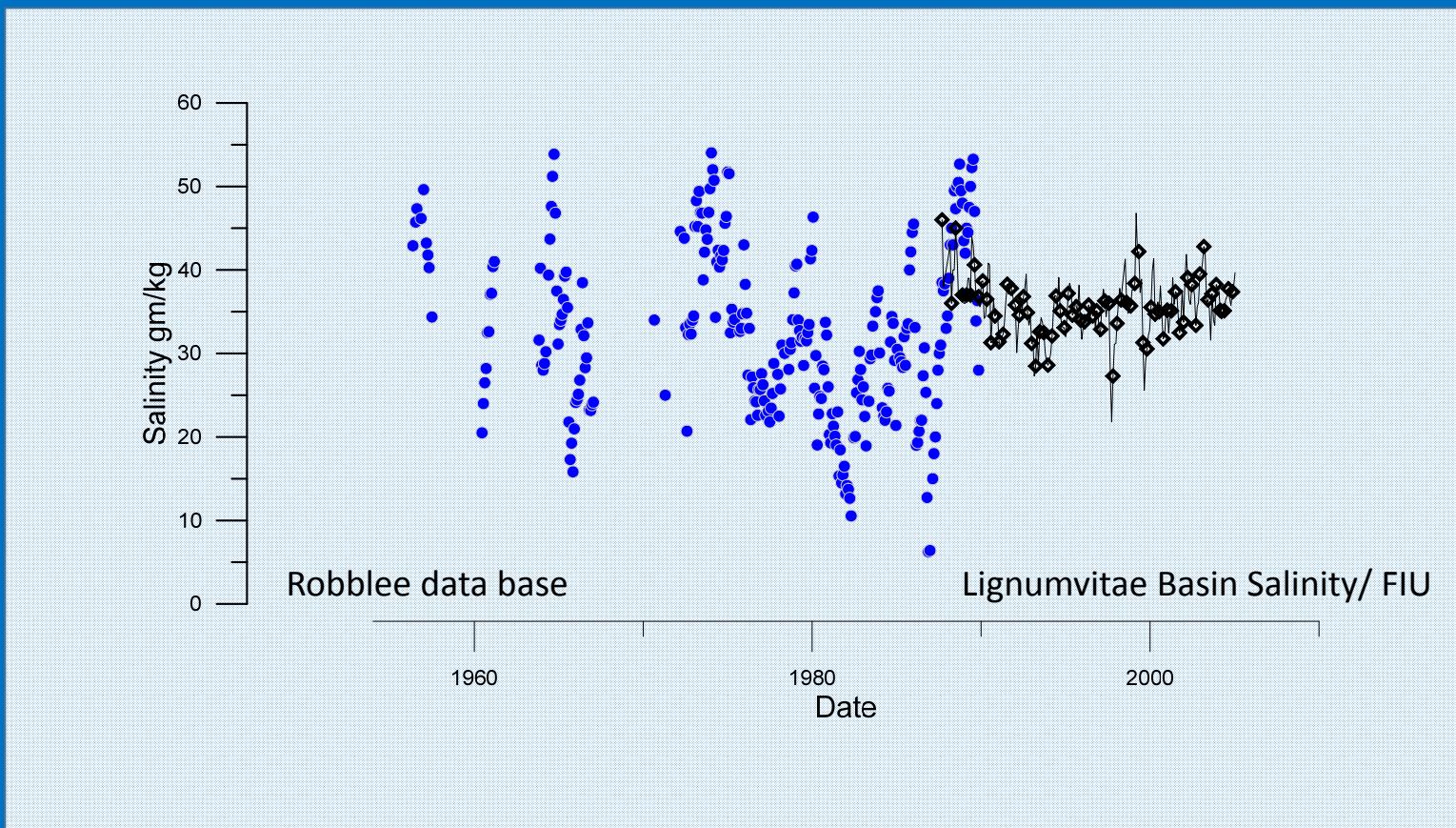
## Supply of Organic Material



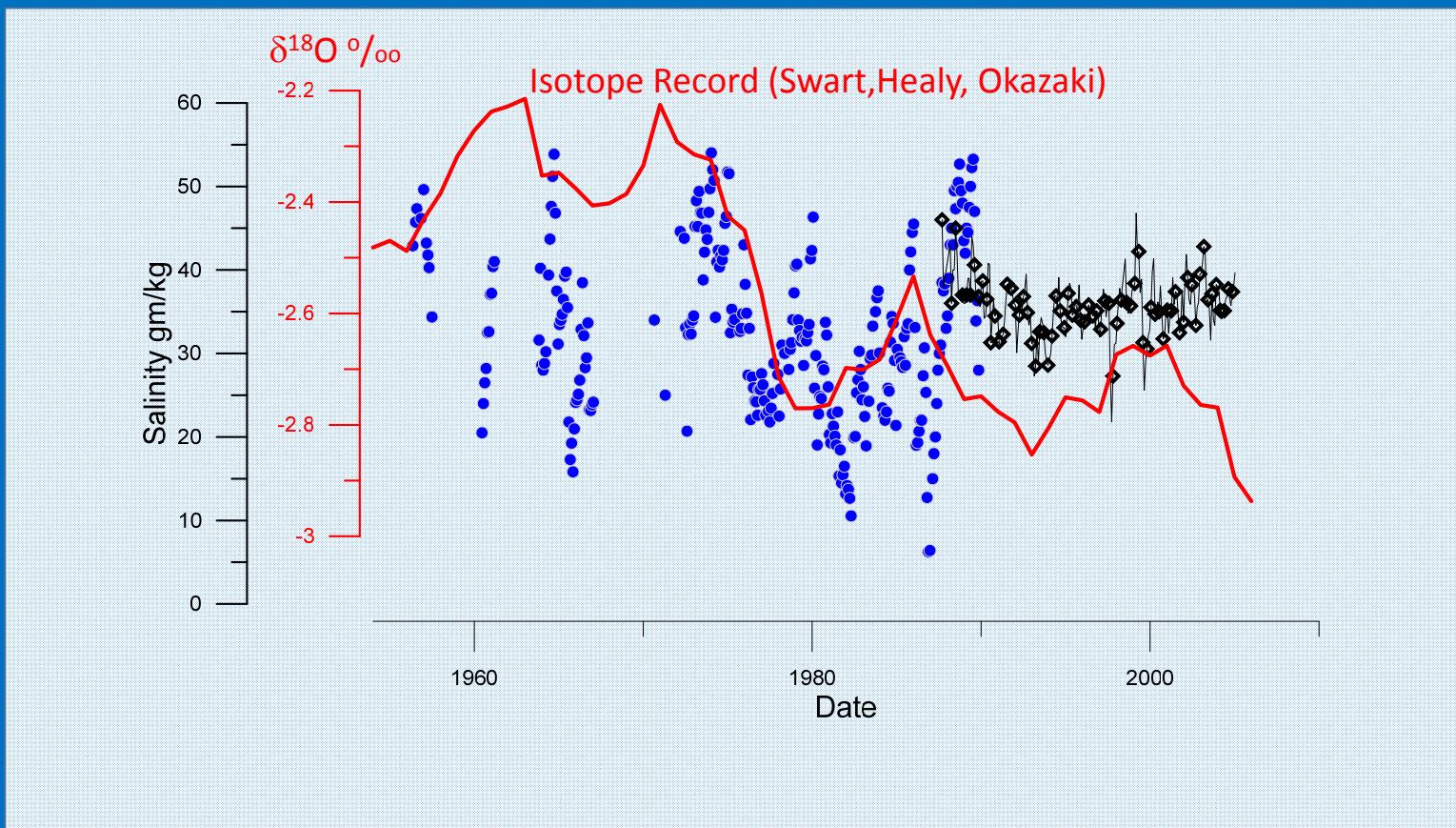
## Water Supply



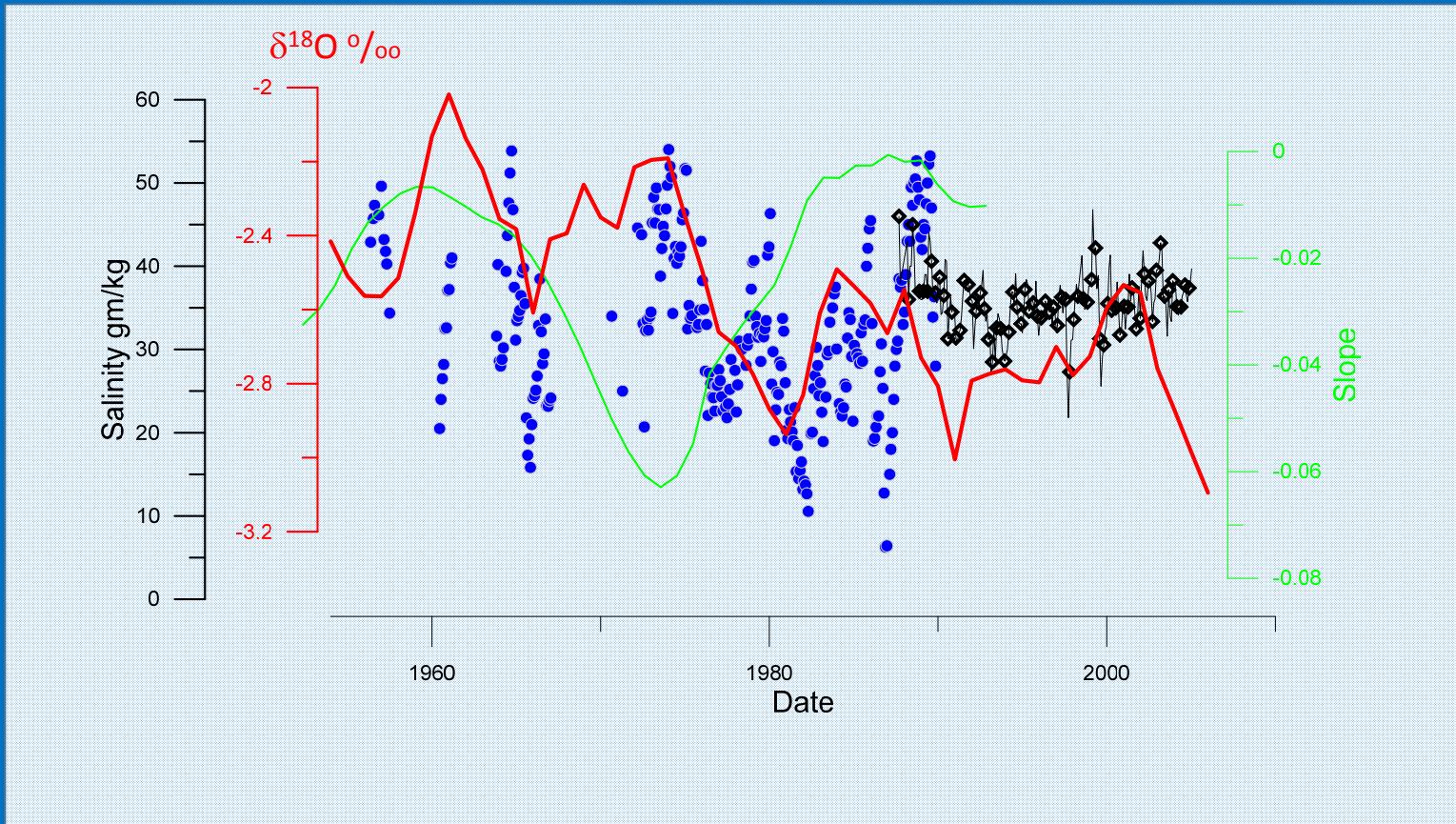
## Water Supply



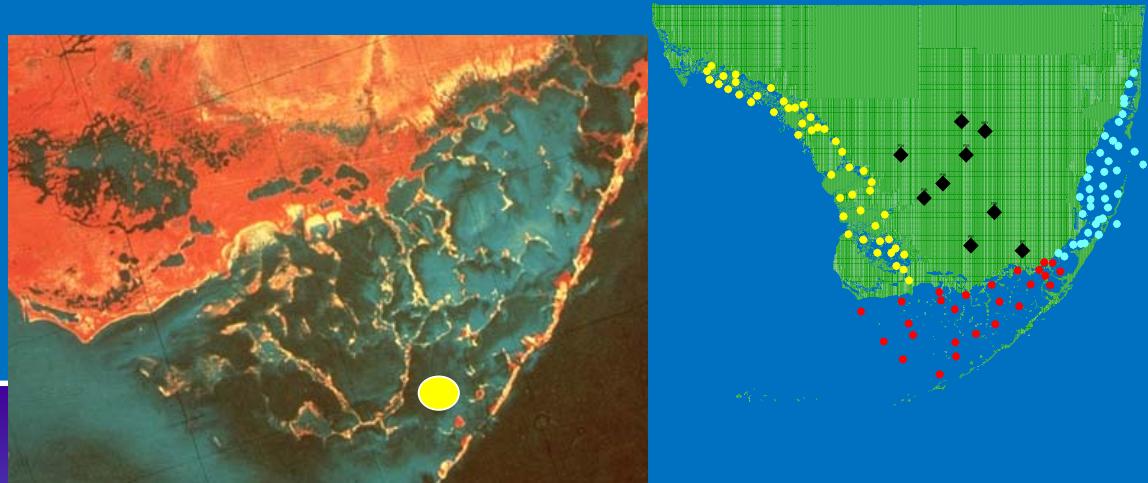
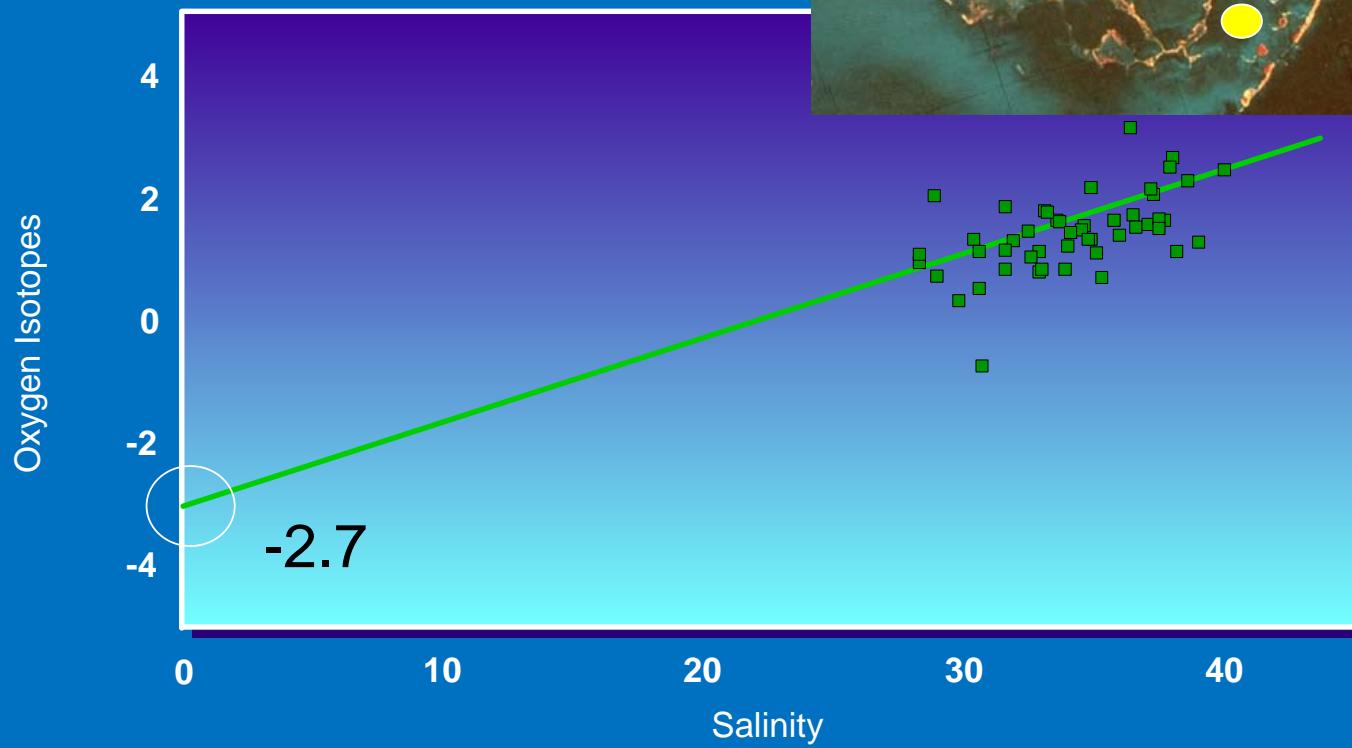
## Water Supply



## Water Supply

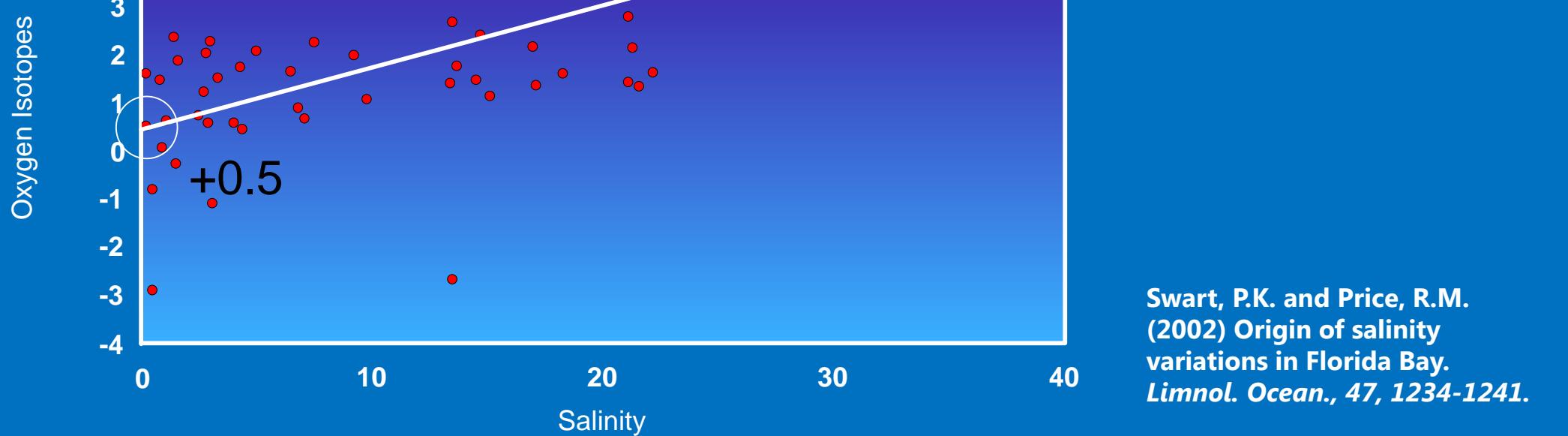
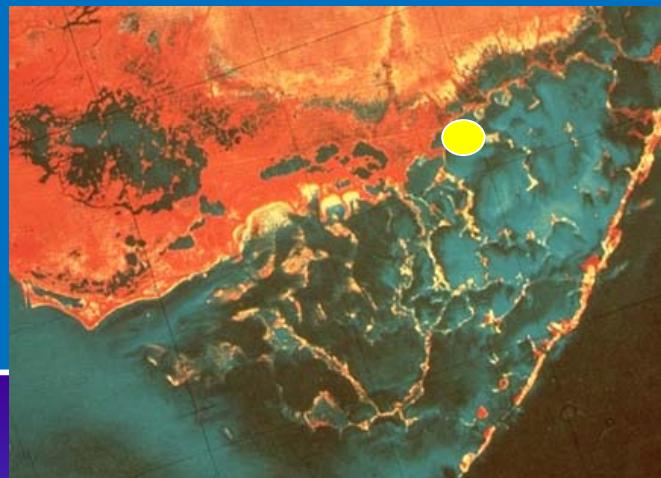


# Lignumvitae Basin

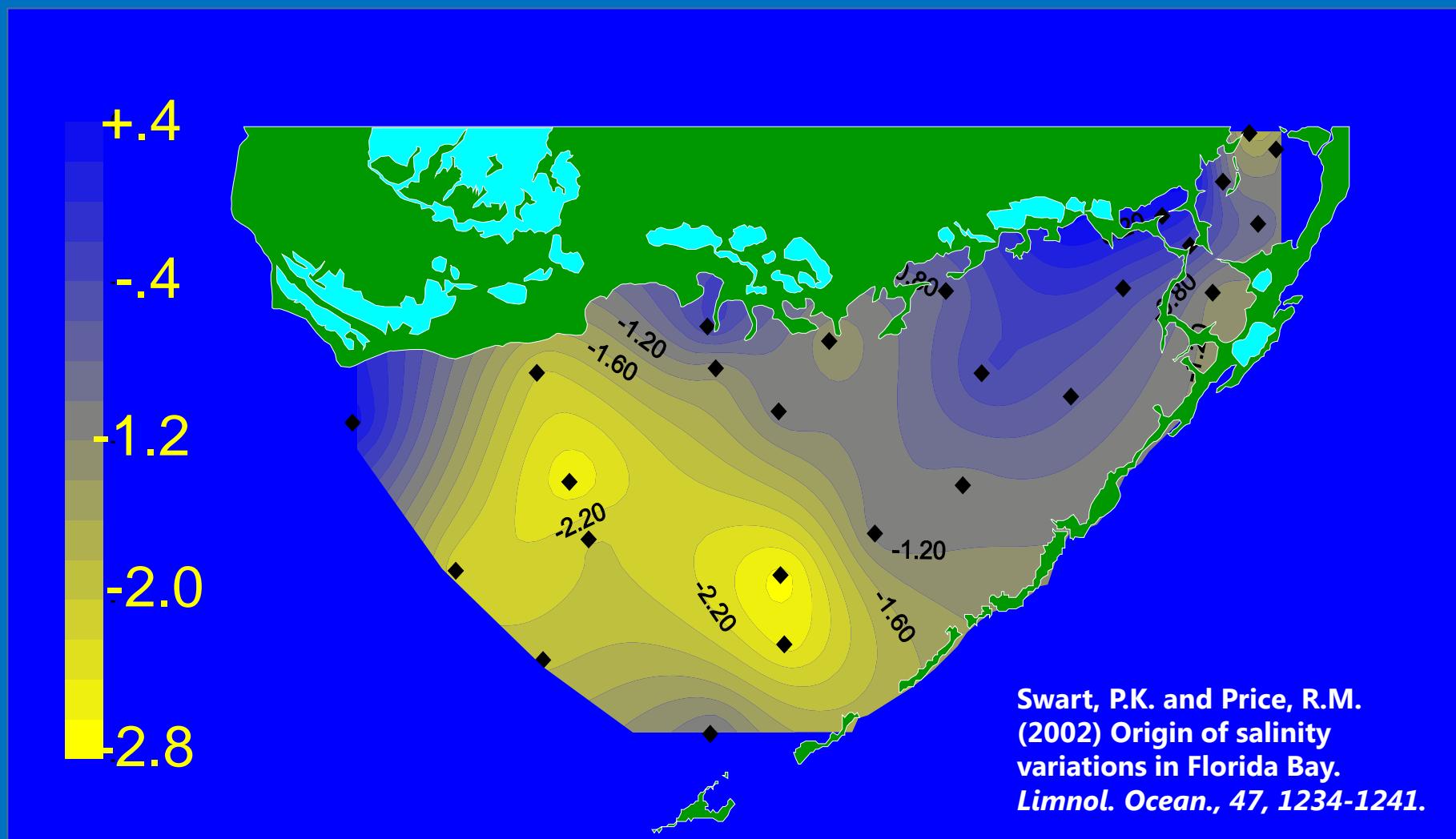


Swart, P.K. and Price, R.M.  
(2002) Origin of salinity  
variations in Florida Bay.  
*Limnol. Ocean.*, 47, 1234-1241.

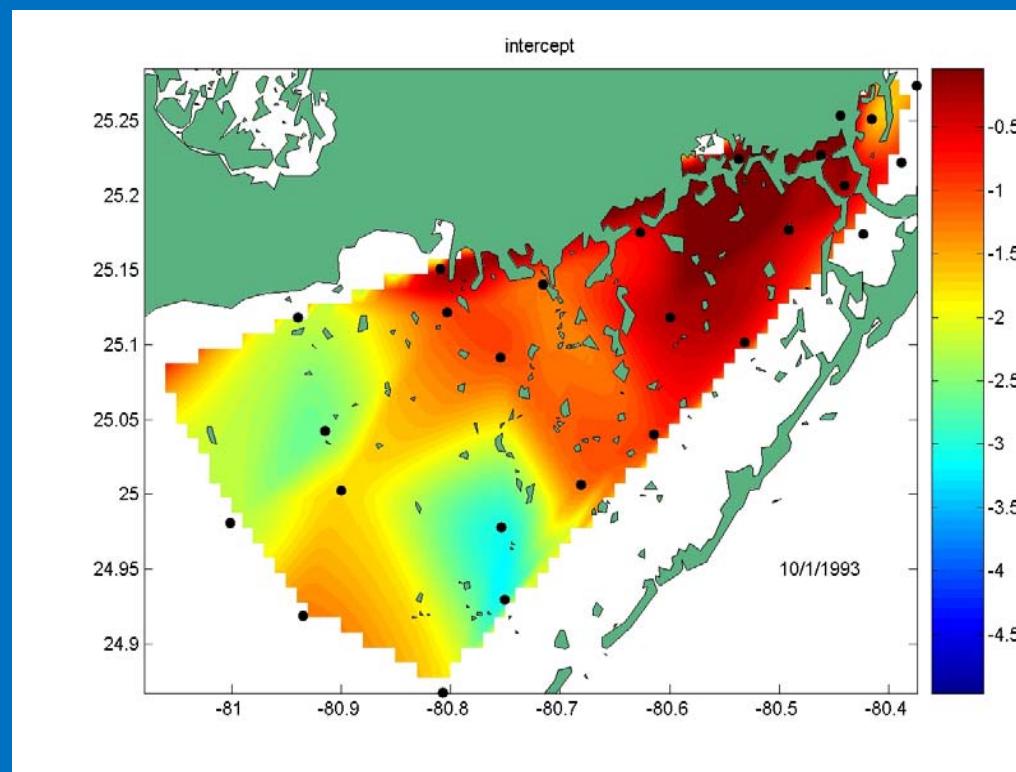
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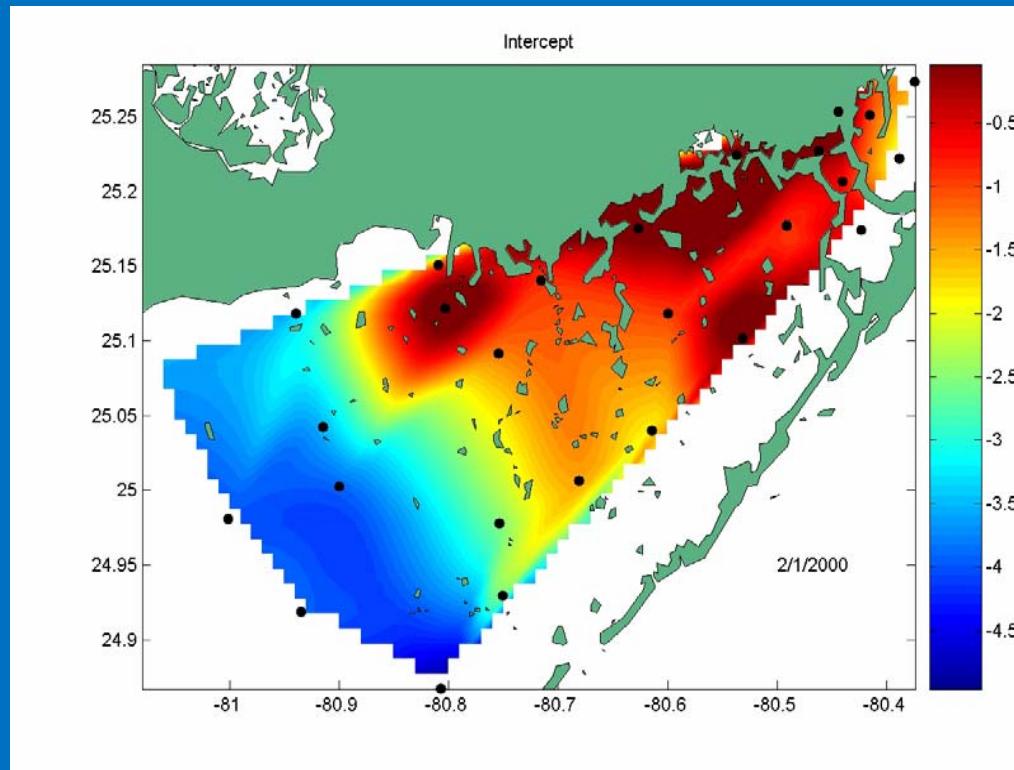


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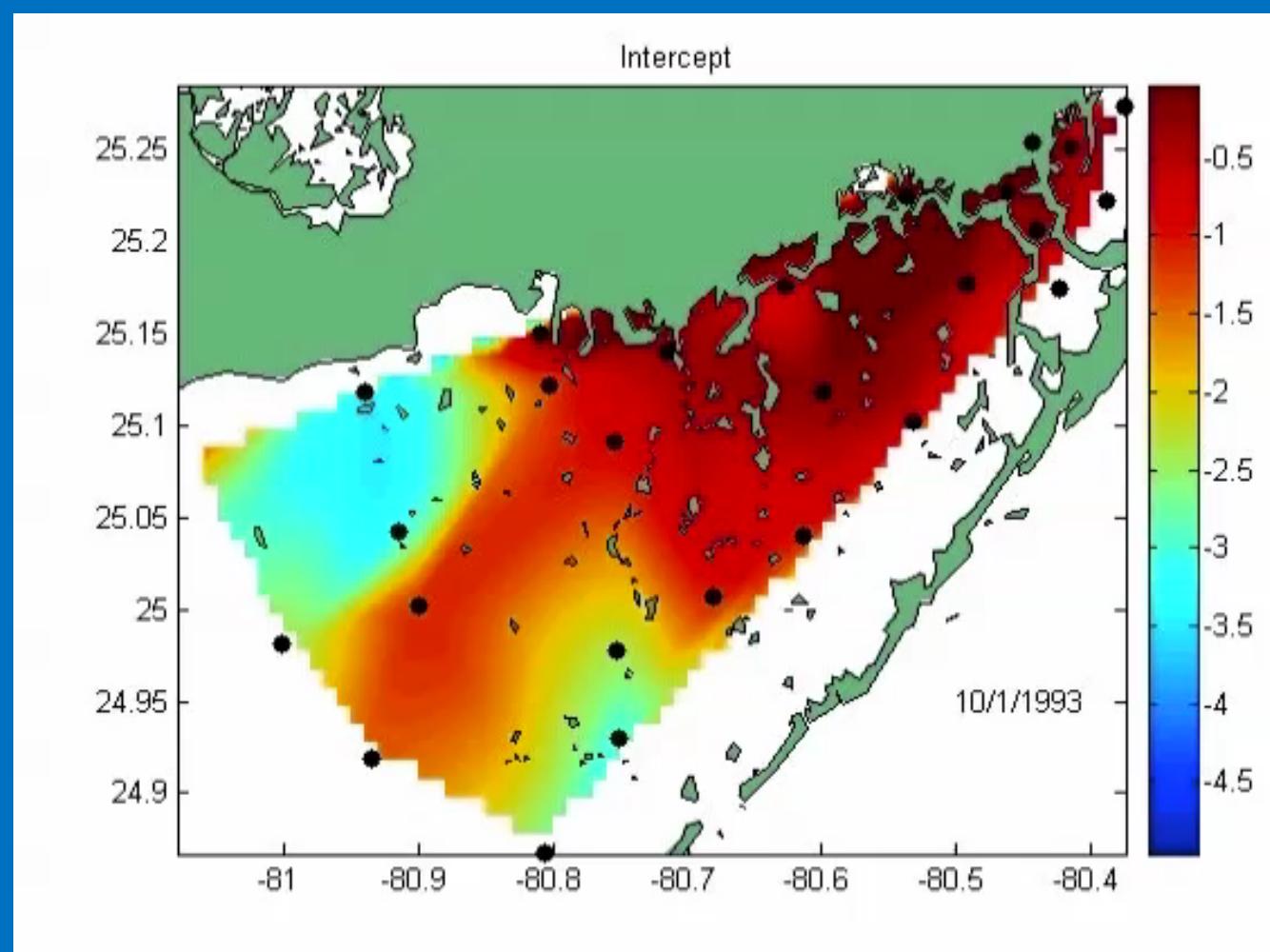


## Water Supply





Water Supply



# Conclusions

- Florida Bay is changing
  - Sea level rise
    - More dominated by marine waters
    - Less Variable
  - Is this related to increased freshwater supply from the C111?
  - Salinity more related to rainfall than freshwater input
- The manner in which coral skeletal chemistry have responded to salinity and temperature has changed