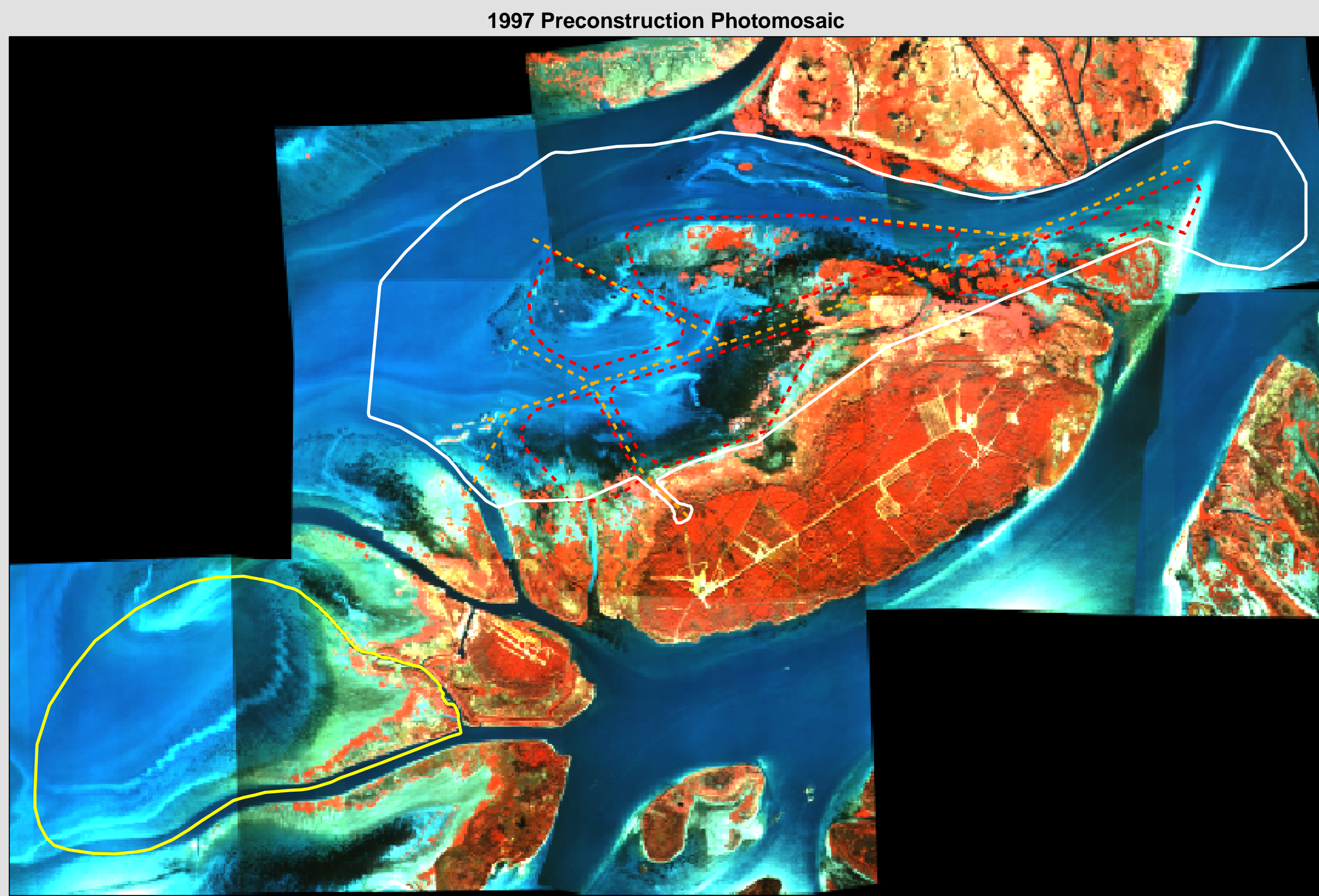
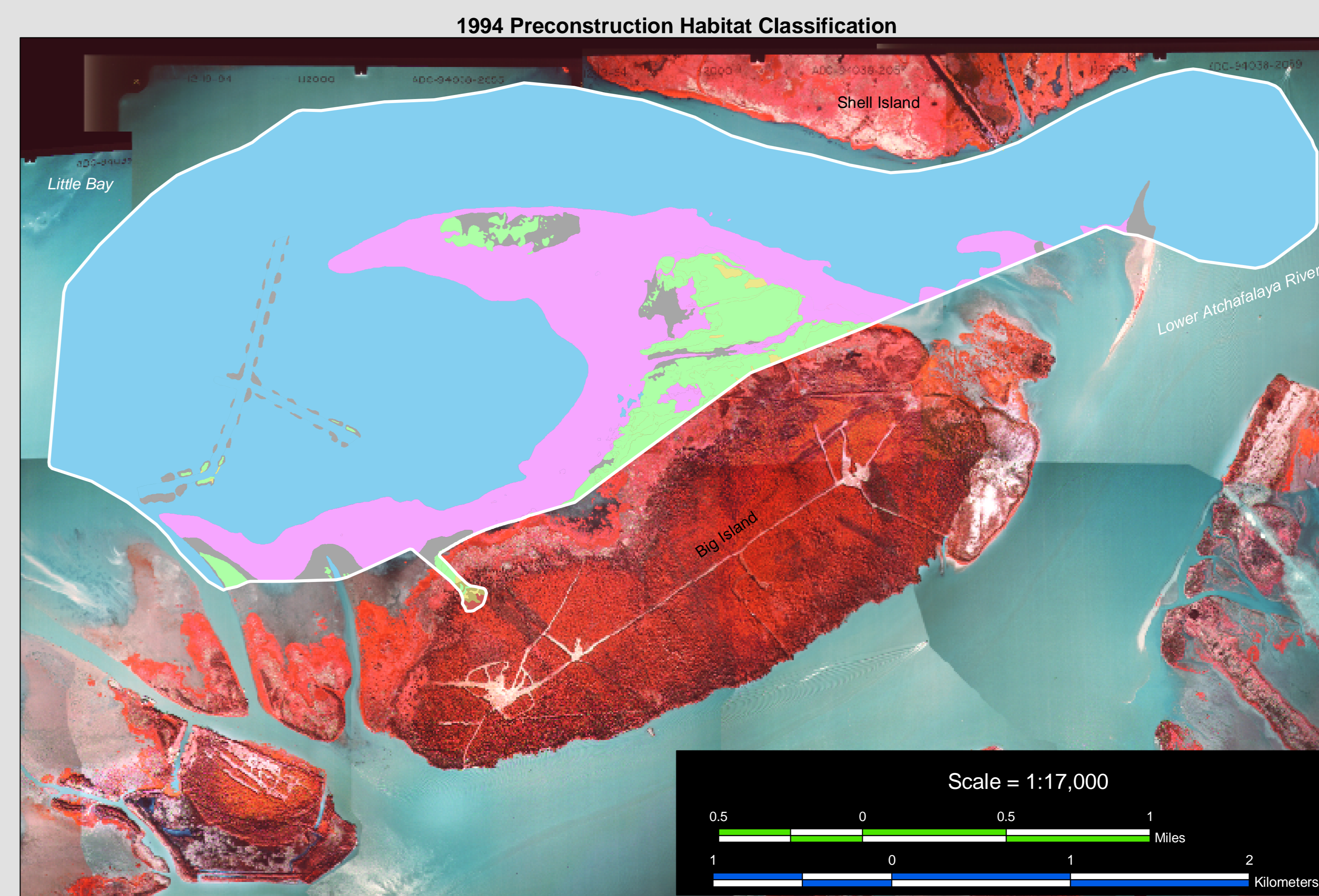


Project Description

The Big Island Mining project is located in the north-western region of the Atchafalaya River delta and is bounded by Shell Island to the north and the Lower Atchafalaya River to the east and southeast. The project is located within the Louisiana Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area in the southeastern corner of St. Mary Parish, La. The Atchafalaya River delta is bisected by the Lower Atchafalaya River, which is annually dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for navigational purposes. The continuously increasing channel depth, combined with dredged material deposition along the channel banks, has created an efficient conduit for river sediment to the Gulf of Mexico. Dredged material deposited along the western portion of the navigation channel formed Big Island. The project is enhancing natural delta building processes by creating an avenue for sediment transport to areas north and west of Big Island. The project consists of dredging a 21,000 ft (6,400 m) secondary distributary channel from the Lower Atchafalaya River along the northern side of Big Island, with four smaller, tertiary distributary channels to emulate an emerging delta. The main distributary channel starts with a bottom width of 800 ft (244 m) at National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) elevation -20.0 ft (-6.1 m) and reduces to 400 ft (122 m) bottom width at NGVD elevation -10 ft (-3 m) to create a venturi effect to accelerate flow and keep sediment in suspension. A total of 3.34 million cubic yd (2.54 million cubic m) of dredged material was placed in 5 dredge disposal areas at NGVD elevations between +3.0 ft and +1.50 ft (+0.9 and +4.5 m). The dredging and the placement of the material began on January 25, 1998 and ended on October 8, 1998.

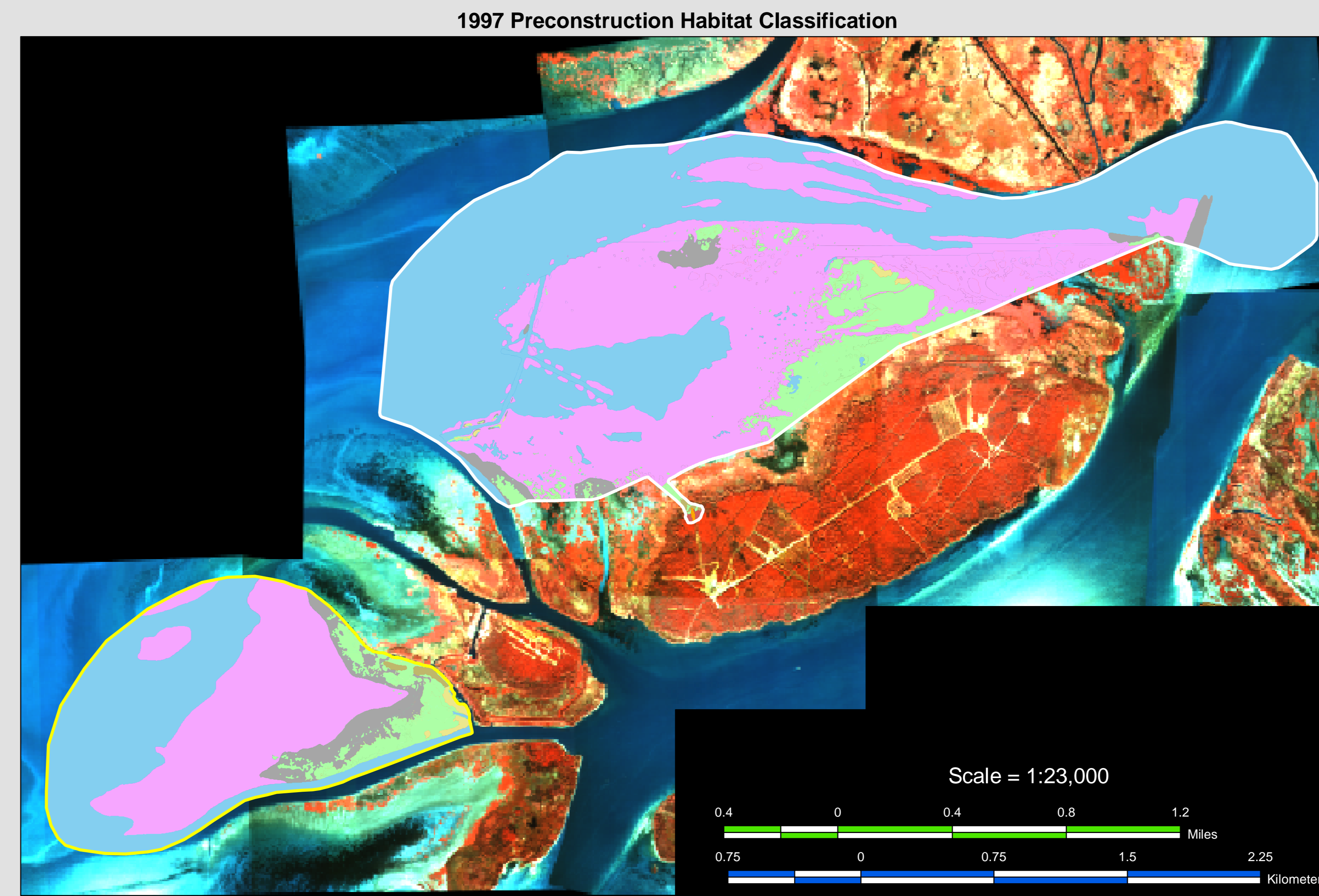


Project Features

- Project Area
- Reference Area
- Future Dredged Channels
- Future Disposal Areas
- Dredged Channels
- Disposal Areas

Habitat Classes

- Agriculture/Range
- Beach/Bar/Flat
- Fresh Marsh
- Open Water - Fresh
- Submerged Aquatics
- Upland Barren
- Upland Scrub-Shrub
- Wetland Forested
- Wetland Scrub-Shrub



Project Area Acreages

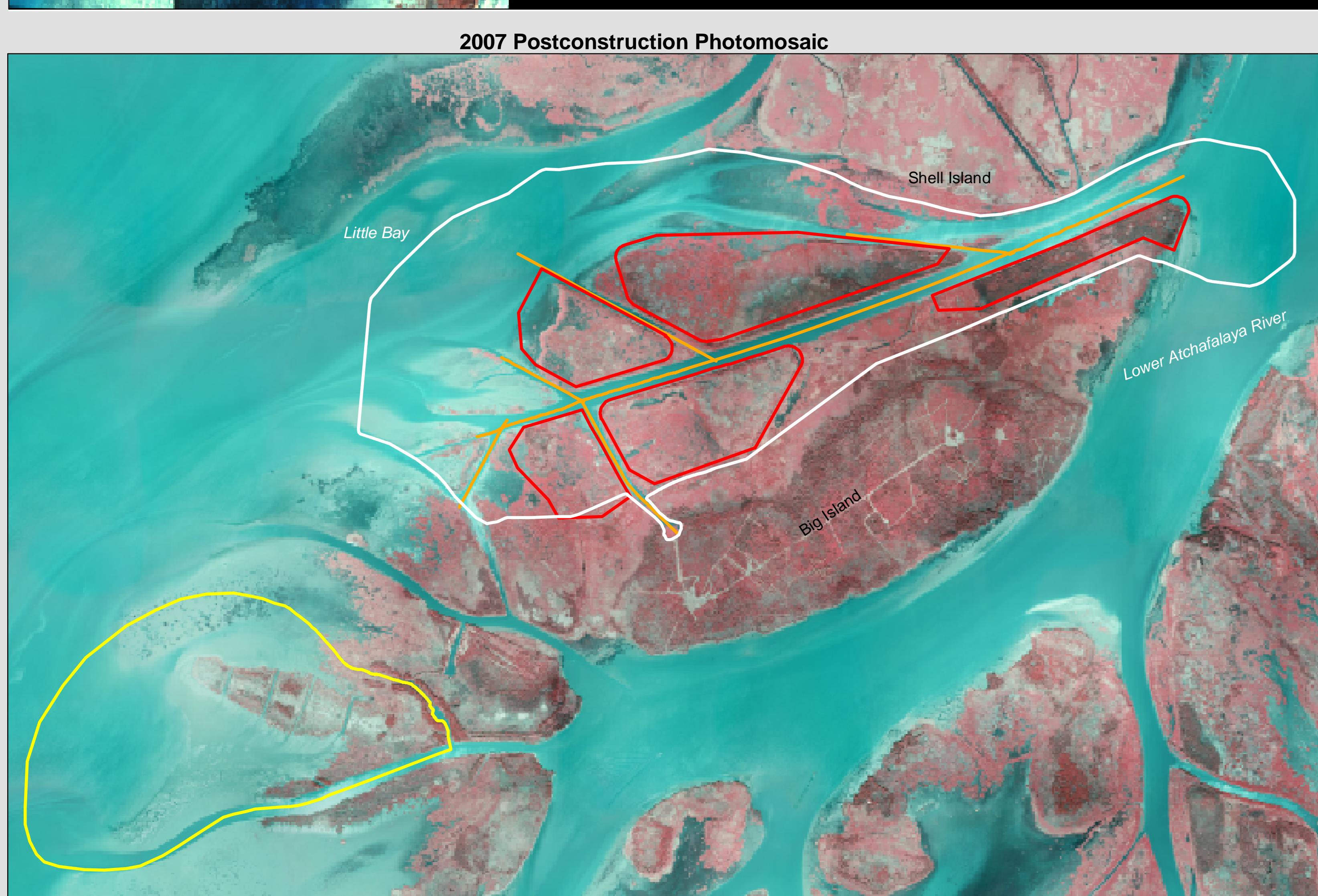
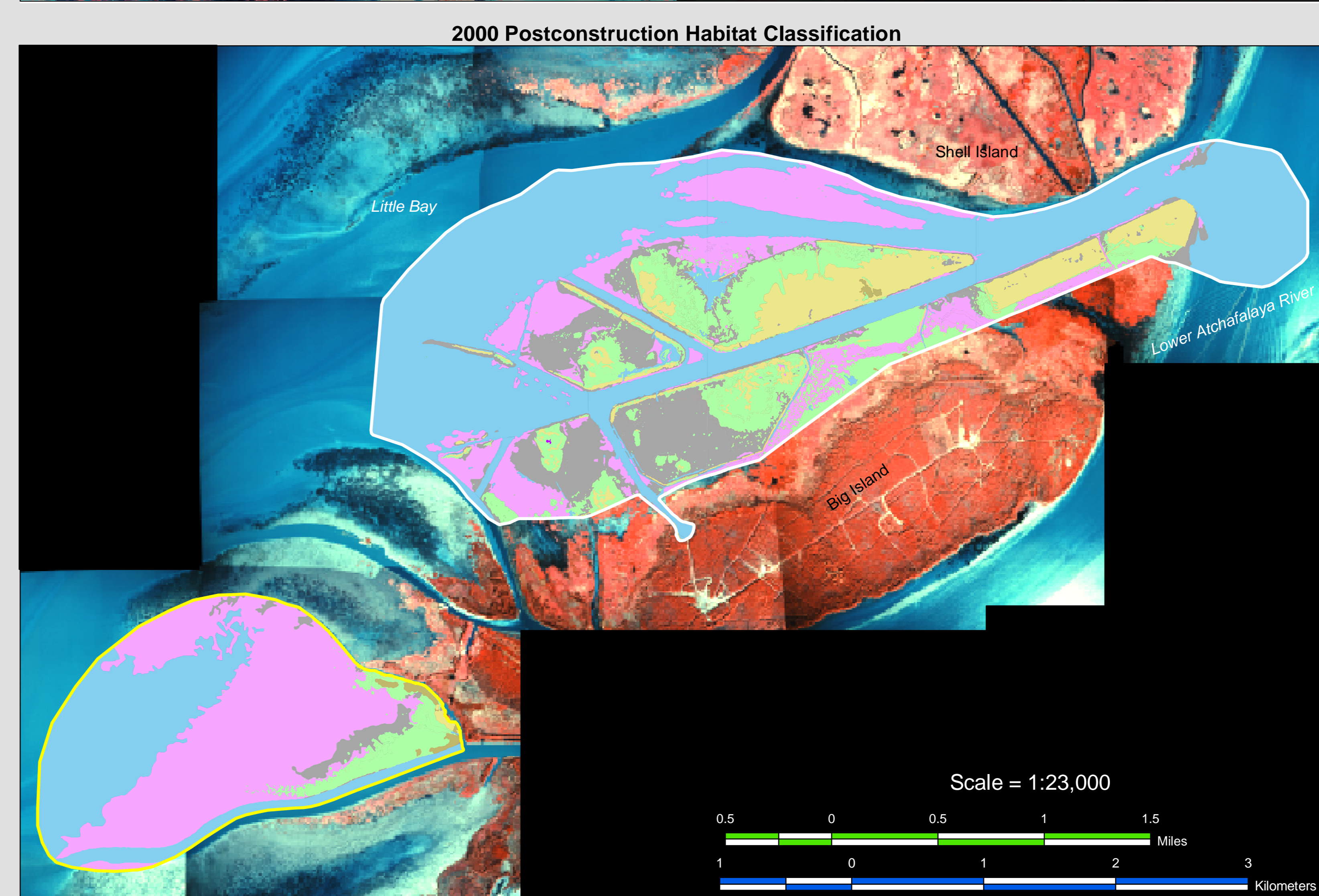
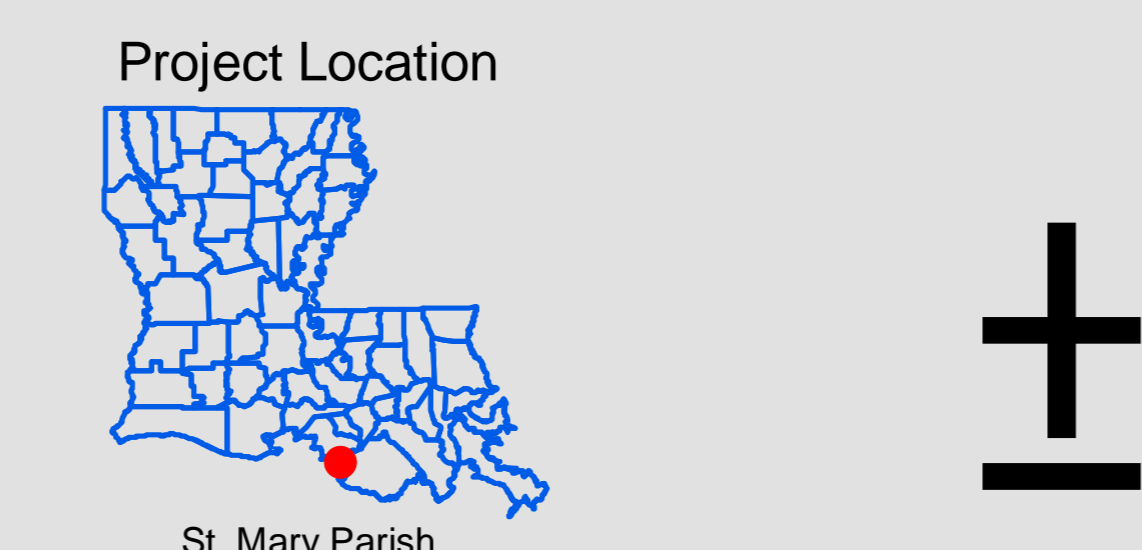
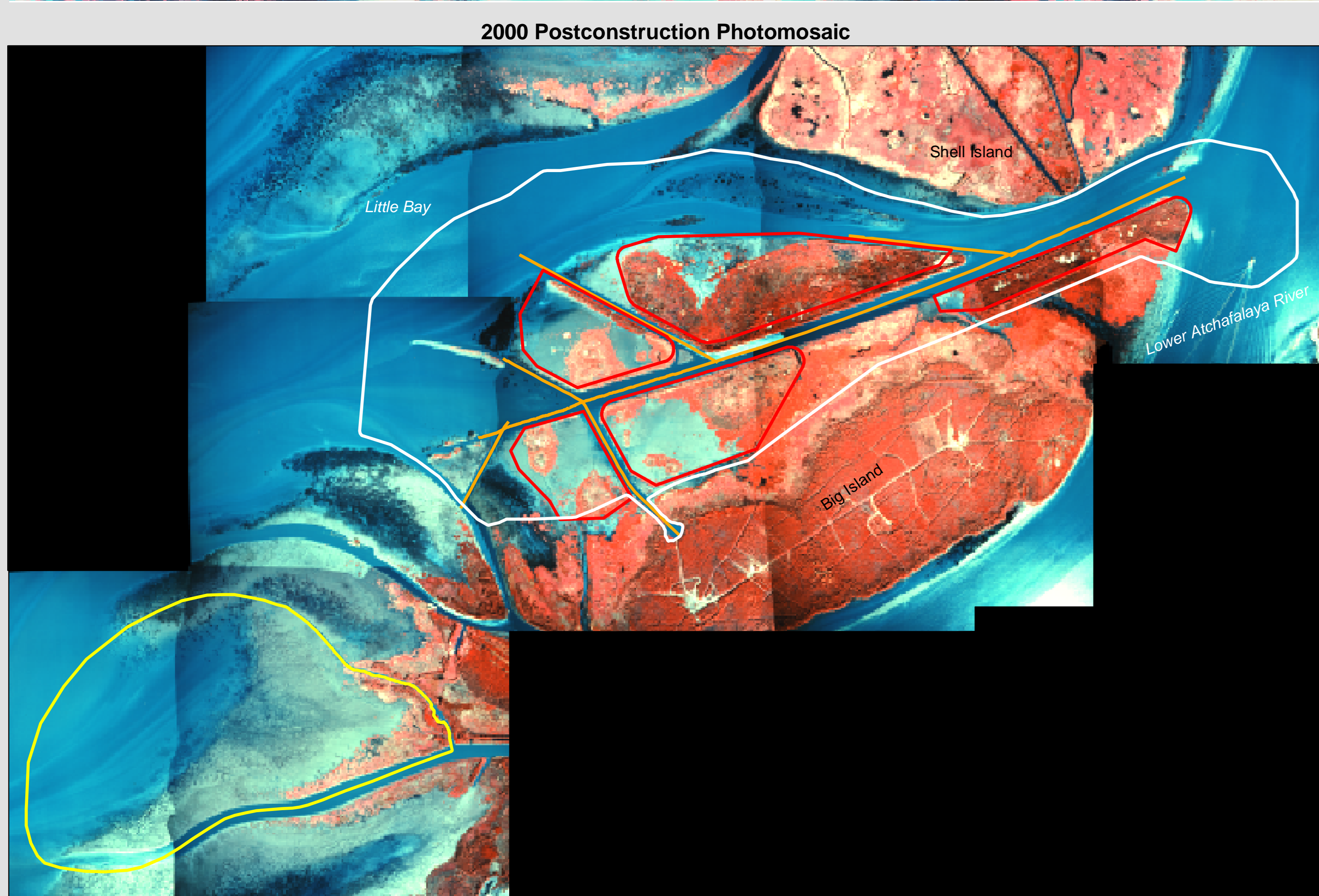
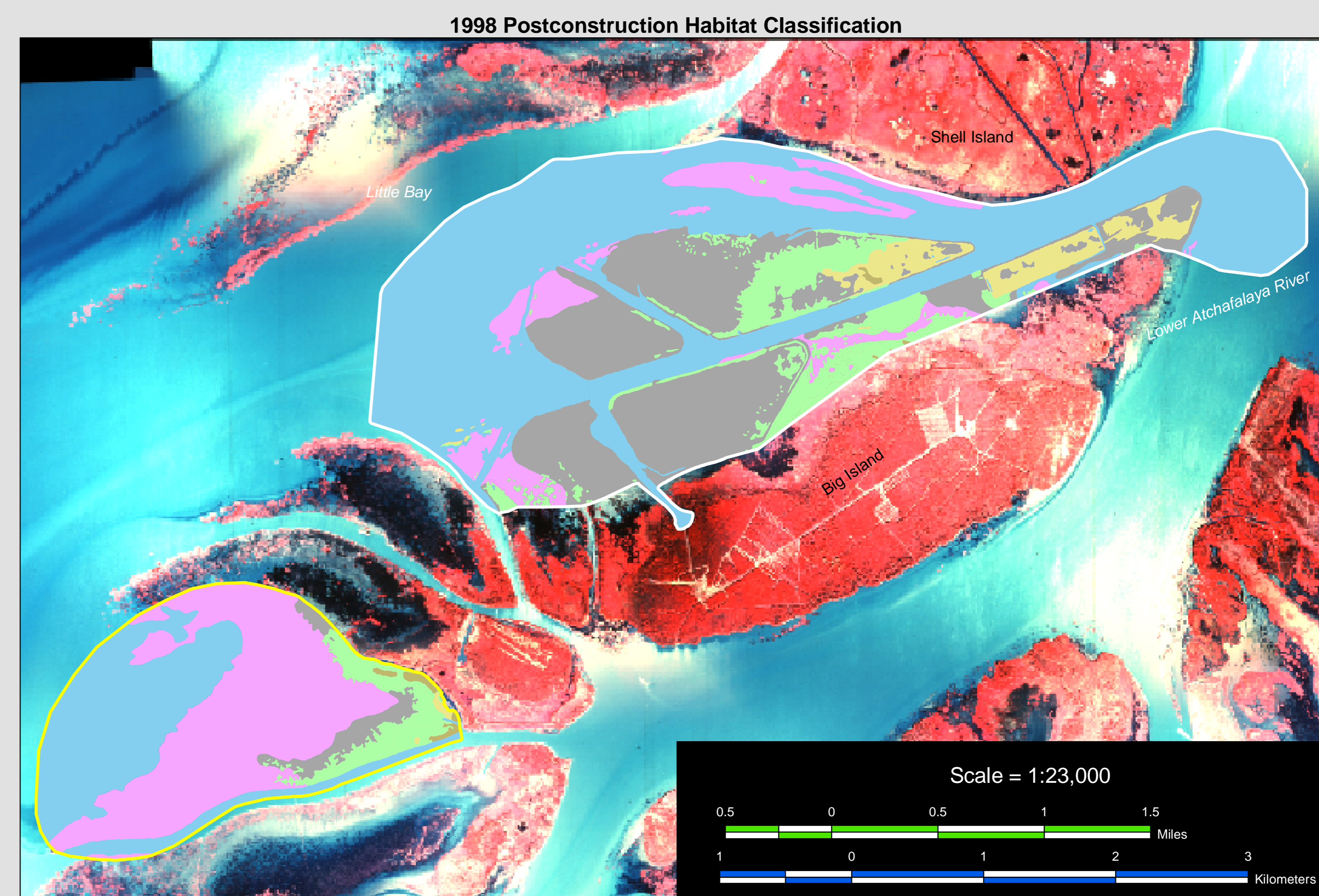
Habitat Class	1994	1997	1998	2000	2007
Agriculture/Range	0	1	1	0	0
Beach/Bar/Flat	77	55	726	350	280
Fresh Marsh	155	196	247	372	628
Open Water - Fresh	2,036	1,398	1,439	1,318	1,266
Submerged Aquatics	488	1,116	239	464	373
Upland Barren	0	0	0	1	<1
Upland Scrub-Shrub	2	2	0	1	0
Wetland Forested	2	2	2	2	175
Wetland Scrub-Shrub	5	5	111	257	43
TOTAL	2,765	2,765	2,765	2,765	2,765

NOTE: In the 2007 AT-03 project area, 12 acres of PEM02AB3 (Palustrine Emergent nonpersistent/ Aquatic Bed Floating Vascular) and 290 acres of PEM02AB4 (Palustrine Emergent nonpersistent/ Aquatic Bed Floating Vascular) are classified as Open Water Fresh. In all previous years PEM02AB3 and PEM02AB4 are classified as Fresh Marsh.

Reference Area Acreages

Habitat Class	1994	1997	1998	2000	2007
Agriculture/Range	N/A	0	0	0	0
Beach/Bar/Flat	N/A	79	46	34	428
Fresh Marsh	N/A	79	90	71	176
Open Water - Fresh	N/A	437	394	375	404
Submerged Aquatics	N/A	447	510	561	14
Upland Barren	N/A	0	0	0	0
Upland Scrub-Shrub	N/A	0	0	0	0
Wetland Forested	N/A	5	9	10	13
Wetland Scrub-Shrub	N/A	7	3	3	22
TOTAL	N/A	1,054	1,054	1,054	1,057

NOTE: At the time of the 1994 flight, the reference area had not been selected.



Data Source

The 1994 preconstruction habitat data were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared aerial photography acquired on December 19, 1994. The postconstruction habitat data of 1998 were derived from 1:40,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained November 3, 1998. The postconstruction habitat data of 2000 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained November 15, 2000. The postconstruction habitat data of 2007 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained October 29, 2007. Habitat classes are based on "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States" (Cowardin and others 1979; FWS/OBS-78/31) as modified for the National Wetlands Inventory mapping conventions. Uplands were aggregated from the Anderson classification scheme (Anderson et al., 1976; USGS, 1992).

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