

Kiawah Island 2017 Beach Monitoring

Steven Traynum

Coastal Science & Engineering

straynum@coastalscience.com

Kiawah Island

- ~10 miles of beach along a mostly eastwest configuration
- Stono Inlet to east, Captain Sams Inlet to west
- Most of the island has accreted over past several decades (1-10 ft/yr)
- Developed <u>after</u> studies of the beach processes completed



Shoal Bypassing at Stono Inlet









Large-scale shoal bypassing







High Value Services Sustainable Solutions

2006 Restoration Project

Moved ~550,000 cy

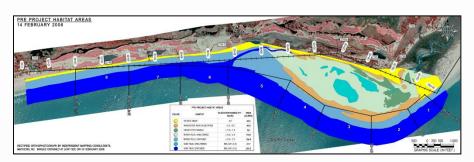
 Inlet realignment plus beach restoration

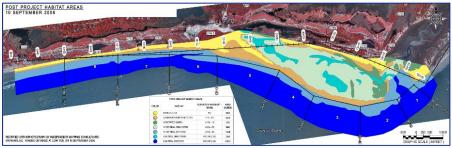
Used land-based equipment

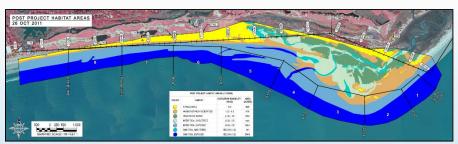


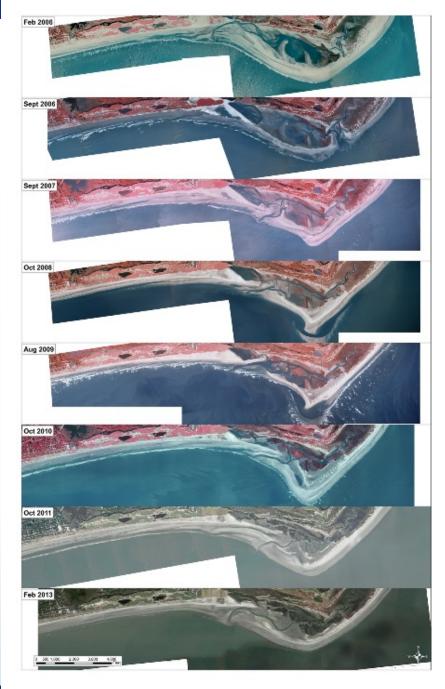


Post-Project Monitoring









2015 Project



2015 Channel Realignment Project

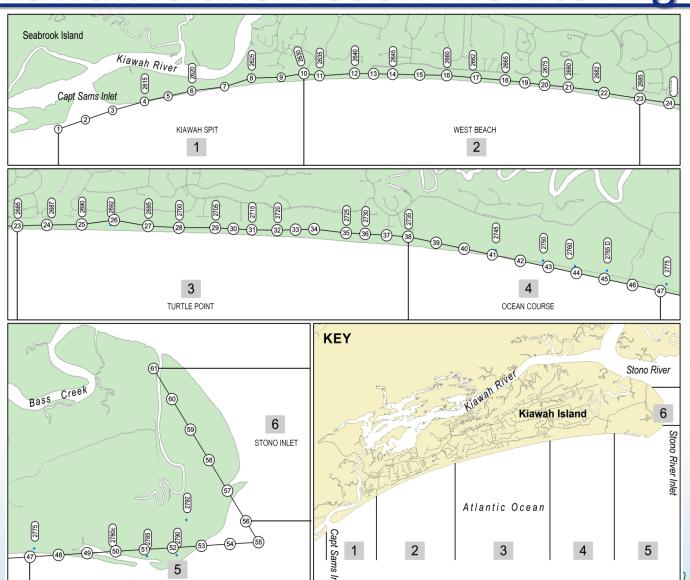
- Moved 100,000 cy
- Limited beach restoration
- Focus on habitat conservation







Kiawah Island Beach Monitoring Stations











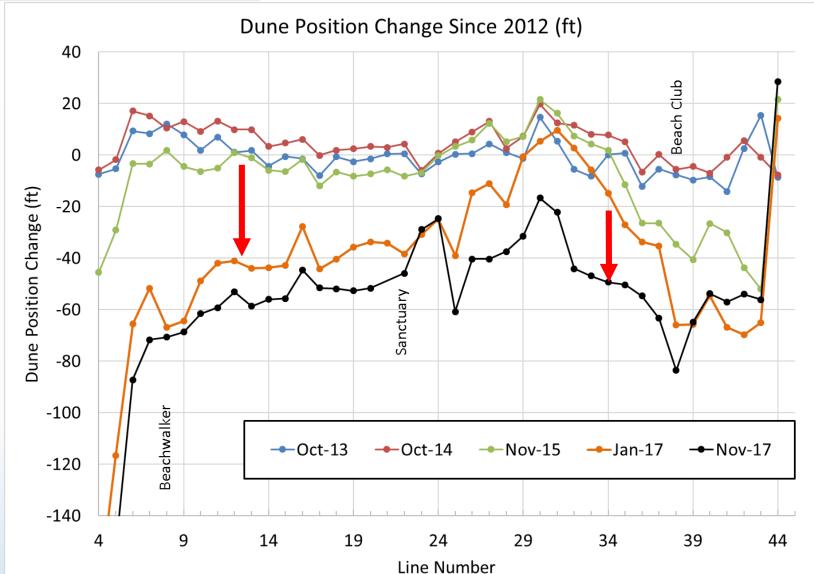
Key Events 2015-2017

- Channel Realignment Projects Spring 2015
- Hurricane Joaquin October 2015
- 2015 Survey November
- Hurricane Matthew October 2016
- 2016 Survey Jan 2017 (delayed for environmental monitoring)
- Hurricane Irma September 2017
- 2017 Survey November 2017 (expedited to document Irma conditions)

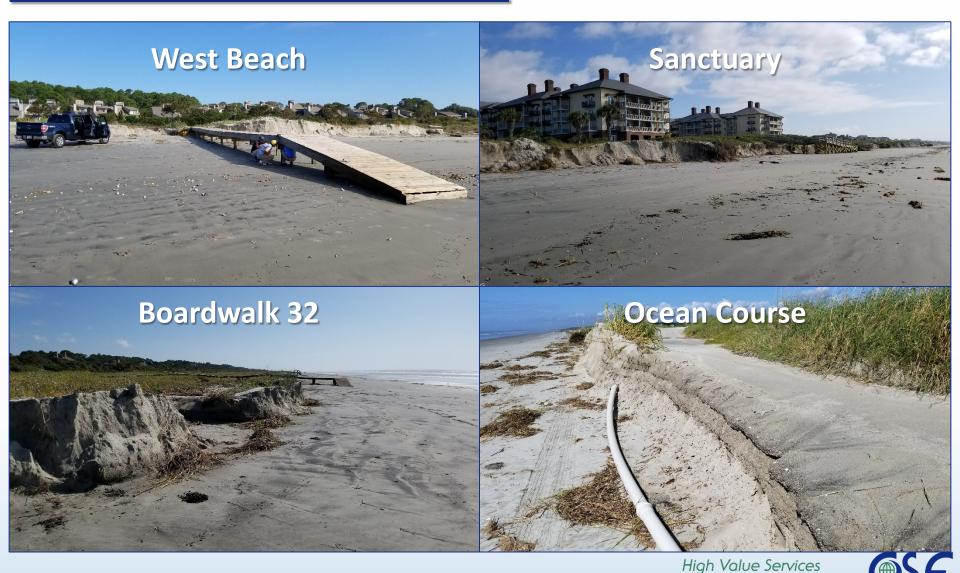
Hurricane Impacts

- Matthew impacted the beach around 8 October 2016 as a weak Category 2 storm. Winds in Charleston ~75 mph.
- Resulted in significant dune recession (20-60 ft typical), damaged walkovers, minor flooding
- Irma passed to the west, however, higher water levels that Matthew.
- Additional 10-30 ft of dune erosion

Dune Erosion



Post-Irma Conditions



Sustainable Solutions

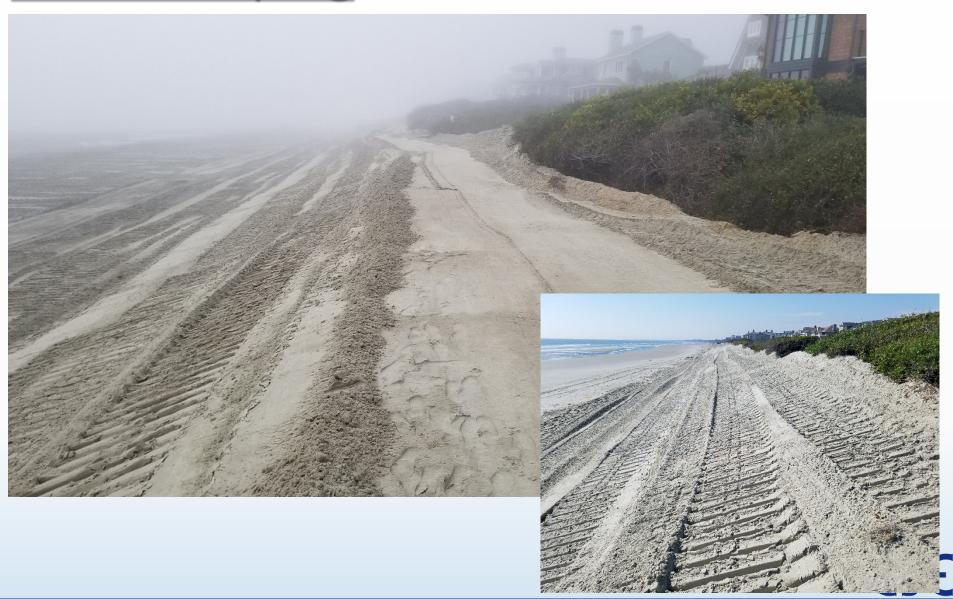
Post-Storm Conditions



Dune Scraping



Dune Scraping



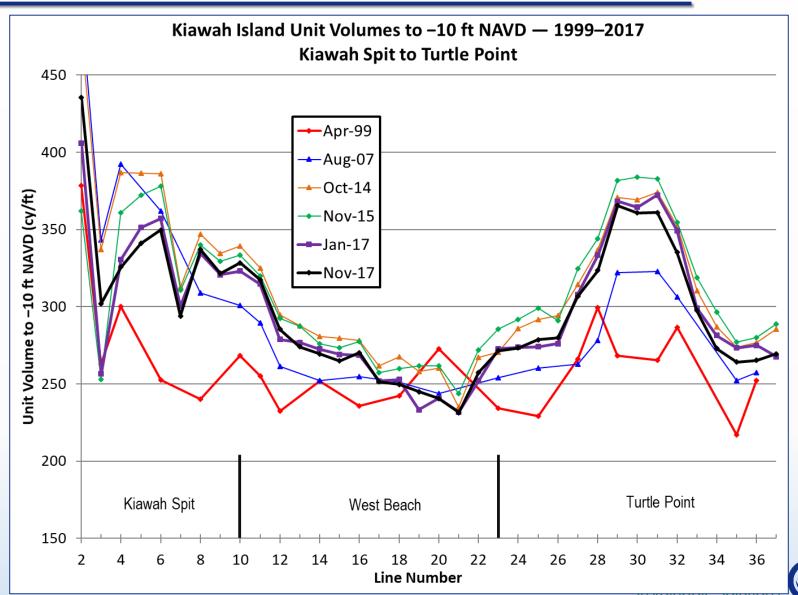
2017 Volume Changes

Reach	Name	Jan-Nov 2017 Unit Volume Change	2015-2017 Total Volume Change	2007-2017 Average
1	Kiawah Spit	18.9	166,319	-8.0
2	West Beach	1.2	13,818	0.9
3	Turtle Point	-3.7	-49,869	2.3
4	Ocean Course	1.6	14,695	6.2
5	Lagoon	-33.7	-269,902	-1.7
6	Stono Inlet	-14.3	-85,861	-8.0
1-6	All	-3.7	-210,800	-0.6

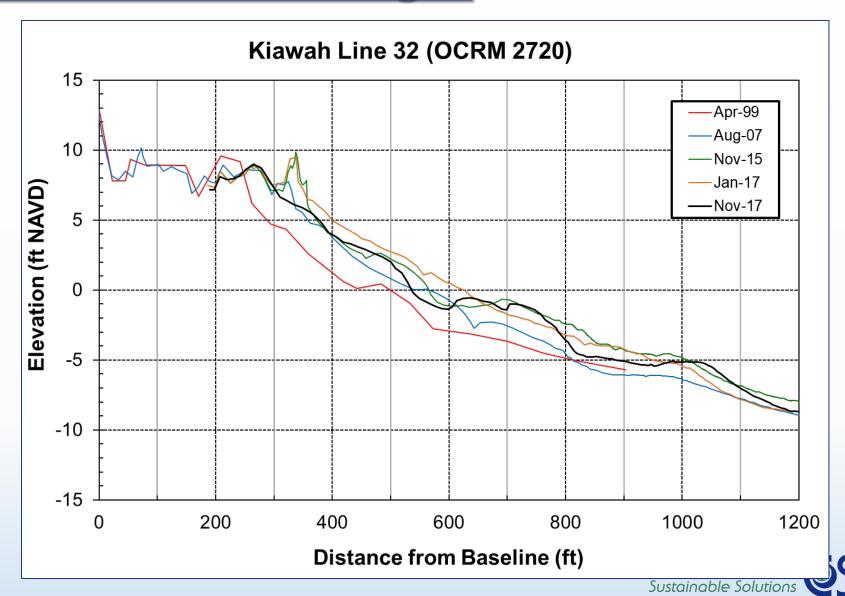
<u>January – November 2017 Volume Changes</u>

- Overall the island lost ~210,800 cy of sand (compared to ~750,000 cy lost previous year)
- Erosion mostly restricted to area east of Ocean Course driving range
- Residential zone lost ~21,000 (compared to ~370,000 cy previous year)
- Erosion most severe along Flyway Dr.

Residential Area Beach Volumes



Beach Profile Changes



Beach Recovery

- Calm weather promotes beach recovery.
- Sand moves from underwater bars to the dry sand berm and dune.
- Sand lost from system needs to be replaced by new sand from upcoast.
- Evidence of recovery in early 2018 and substantial by April 2018.
- Scraped dunes have remained stable, which is a positive sign that additional erosion is minimal.

Post Storm and Recovery Conditions



September 2017



April 2018

High Value Services
Sustainable Solutions

Post Storm and Recovery Conditions



September 2017



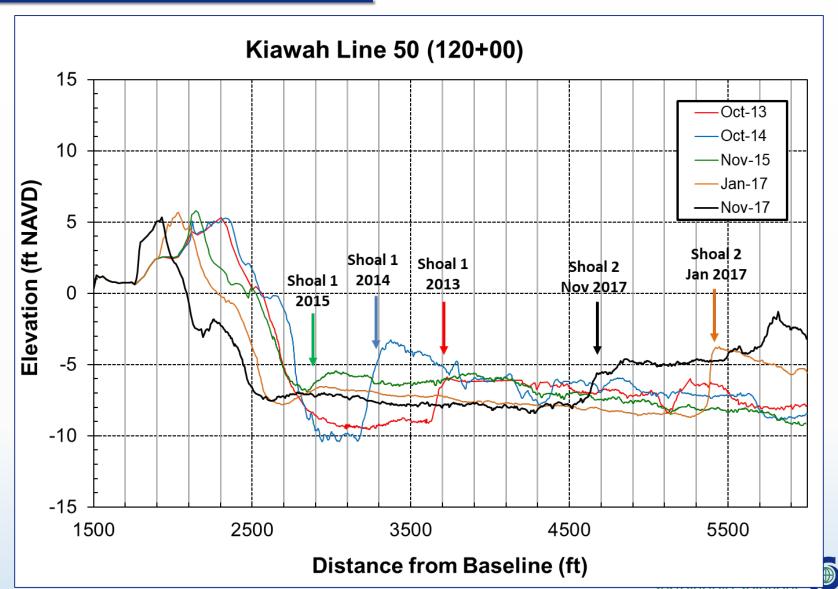
April 2018

East End





Shoal Attachment



Captain Sams Inlet

- Inlet relocated ~3,000
 ft east in 2015
- 140,000 cy removed from new inlet basin
- Migrated ~325 ft from July 2015 to Jan 2017.
- Historical rate 200-300 ft/yr
- End of spit is rebuilding normal shape



Capt Sams



Captain Sams Inlet



Summary and Recommendations

- Overall the island lost ~280,000 cy of sand from Jan to Nov 2017, mostly due to Hurricane Irma.
 Erosion was widespread.
- Dune erosion between 10 and 30 ft along residential area in addition to Matthew losses
- Emergency dune restoration performing well
- Natural dune building ongoing, no additional action needed; however, planting may promote more rapid recovery
- Sand fencing not necessary; but should be as close to the primary dune as possible if installed

Summary and Recommendations

- The east end project area continues to evolve as a washover attaching shoal
- Constructed channel has closed, lessening threat to Ocean Course
- Permit allows for another project to be completed, if necessary, but triggers are not met
- An additional survey can be obtained to document recovery of upper beach profile