

Application of the USACE International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Beaches and Dunes

Chris Mack February 3, 2022







# Agenda

- Defining the Beach and Dune System
- 2. Values of the Beach & Dune System
- 3. Management Strategy
- 4. Design Principles and Pathways
- 5. Performance, Benefits, and Cost



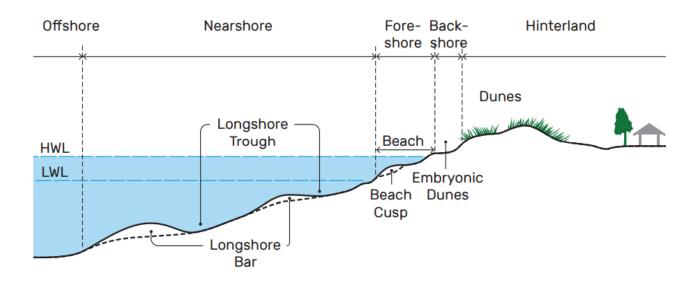
#### **Section One**

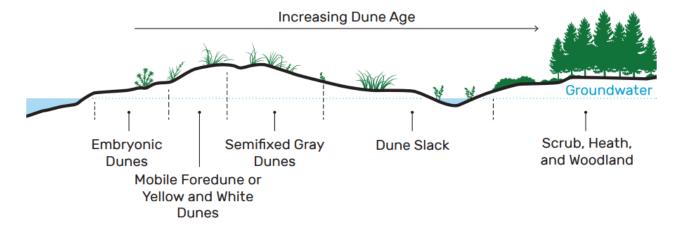
Defining the Beach and Dune System

### **Definitions**

#### **Features**

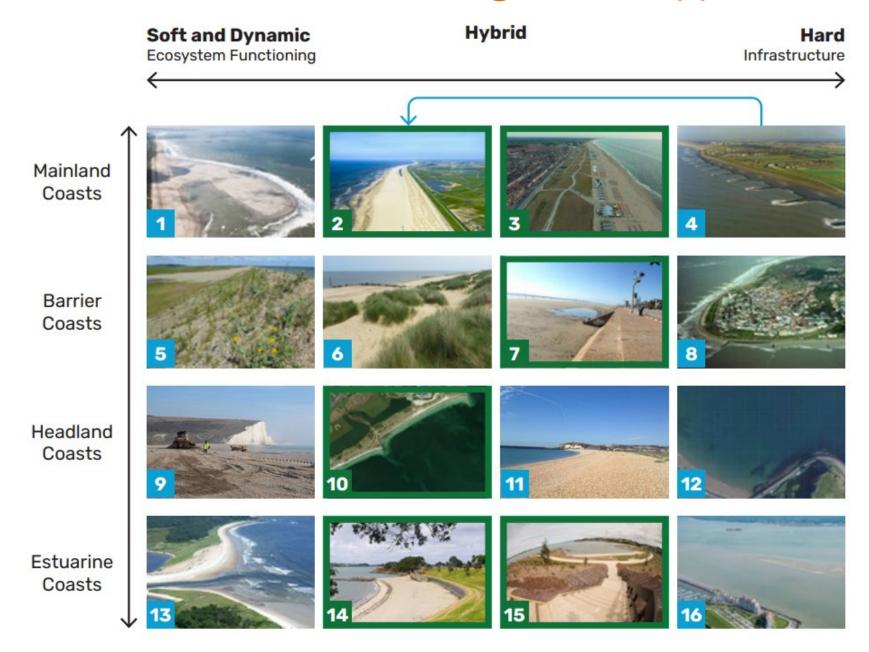
- Dynamic!
- Unconsolidated & noncohesive sediments
- Vegetated dunes
- First line of defense
- Sediment reservoir







# Function of Solutions, Setting, and Type





#### **Section Two**

Values of the Beach and Dune System

### First Line of Defense

#### Dunes and Beaches provide:

- Attenuation of waves (height & overtopping)
- Protection against storm surge
- Reduction of erosion rates (root integration)
- Buffering erosive events (sacrificial supply)
- Increasing size & elevation with recharge and recycling





Vilano Beach, FL (Hurricane Matthew)

## Ecological Services & Co-benefits

#### Societal and Ecological Services

- Cultural services including recreation and tourism, education, and aesthetic (landscape) benefits
- Supportive services including habitat provision, refuge and forage areas, and water cycling
- Provisioning services including fresh water, food, construction materials, alternative energy resources, and landing for fishing boats



St. Augustine Beach, FL



#### **Section Three**

# Management Strategy

# Contexts for Application of Beach and Dune NNBF

# Guidelines for augmenting Dune and Beach Systems:

- One terminal groin vs a full groin field (reduce erosion rates)
- Dune fence or thatching (increase in the size and volume of dunes)
- Seawall with beach (hybrid)
- Recharging the rear (landward face) to mimic natural rollback versus placing sediment on the erosive beachface

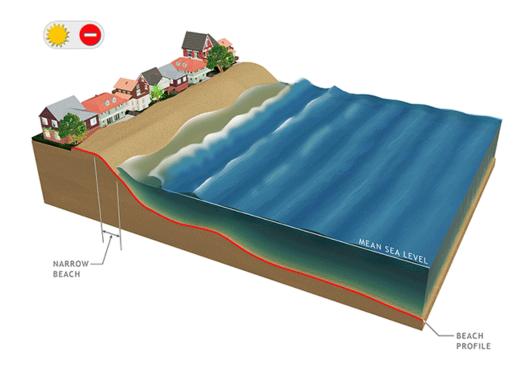


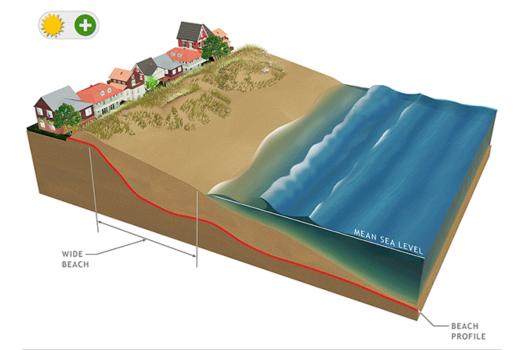
Where natural beaches and dunes are present, restoring, maintaining, or enhancing processes, features, and dynamics should be the first goal of managers seeking to reduce flood and erosion risk, given the benefits provided by naturally functioning systems.

### Management Decisions

#### **Strategies**

- Advance the line New defenses are planned to extend the land area seaward.
- Hold the line The current alignment of the defense is maintained.
- Retreat, rollback, or managed realignment The shoreline can move landward to an agreed
  position.
- Do nothing No active intervention is planned.



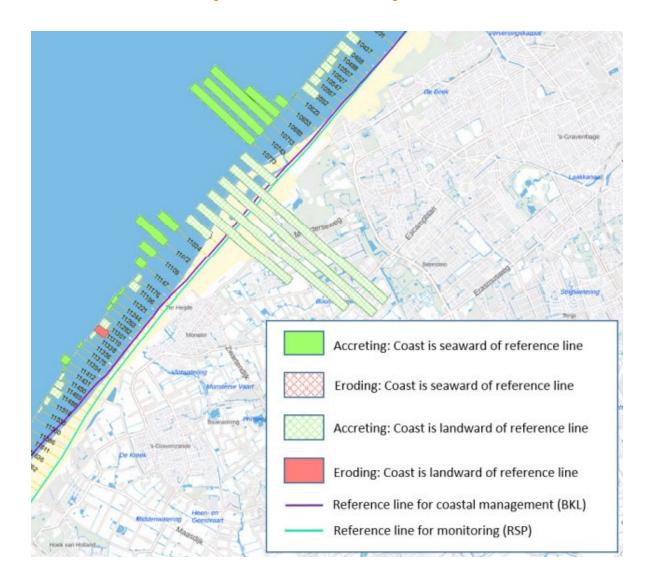


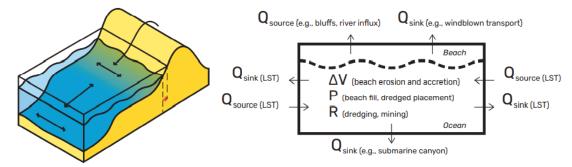


#### **Section Four**

# Design Principles and Pathways

# Conceptual System Understanding





 $\sum$ Qsource - Qsink -  $\Delta$ V + P - R = Residual

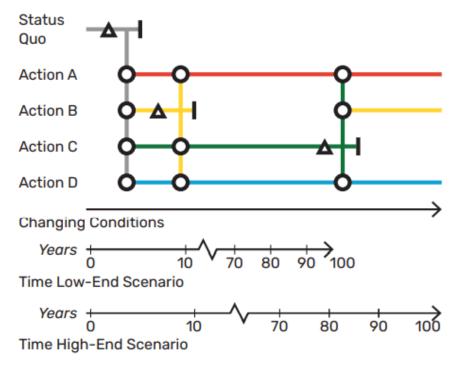
#### **Drivers:**

- Primary forces driving coastal change?
- Contributions of tides, average waves and swells, storm surges, and relative sea-level rise?
- Associated gross and net longshore and crossshore sediment transport rates?
- Quasi-cyclic morphologic behavior is relevant?



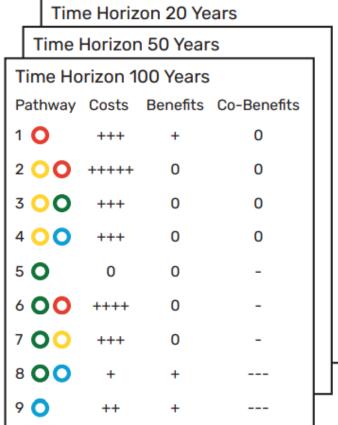
### Dynamic Adaptive Policy Pathways (DAPP)

#### **Adaptation Pathways Map**



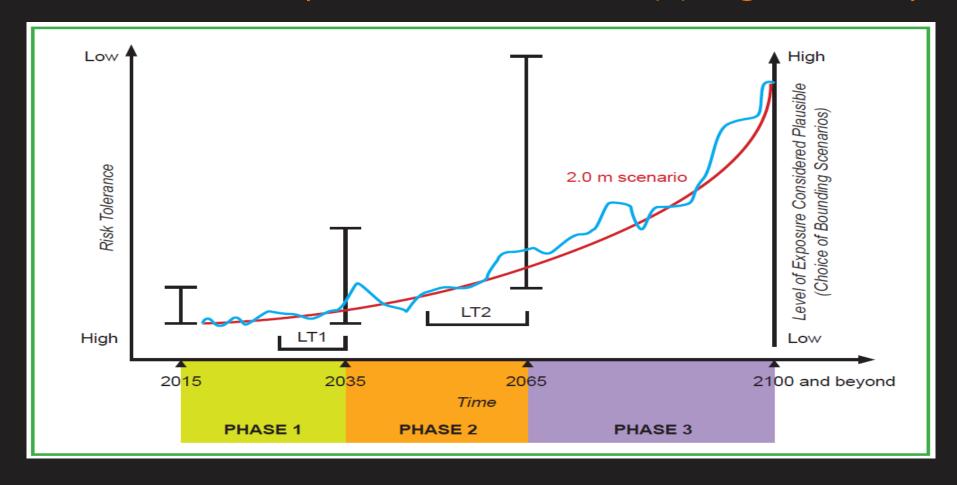
- O Transfer station to new policy action
- Adaptation tipping point of a policy action (terminal)
- Policy action effective
- Decision node

#### Costs and Benefits of Pathways



- 1) Assess uncertainties.
- 2) Assess vulnerabilities (now & future).
- 3) Identify adaptation tipping points & opportunities.
- 4) Identify all potential adaptation actions to achieve objectives as conditions change.
- 5) Use expert knowledge, quick-scan models to narrow this set to a selection of high potential actions.
- 6) Use detailed models for identifying flood risk to determine the adaptation tipping points of individual actions and combinations of actions.
- 7) Develop viable adaptation tipping points and pathways.
- 8) Design an adaptive plan involving cost, co-benefits, feasibility, community acceptance, and ecological impacts.
- 9) Implement the plan, the preferred pathway.
- 10) Commence financial policy requirements for implementation.
- 11) Design a monitoring system and check for DAPP triggers.

### A Note on Lead Times (Decision Points & Tipping Stations)

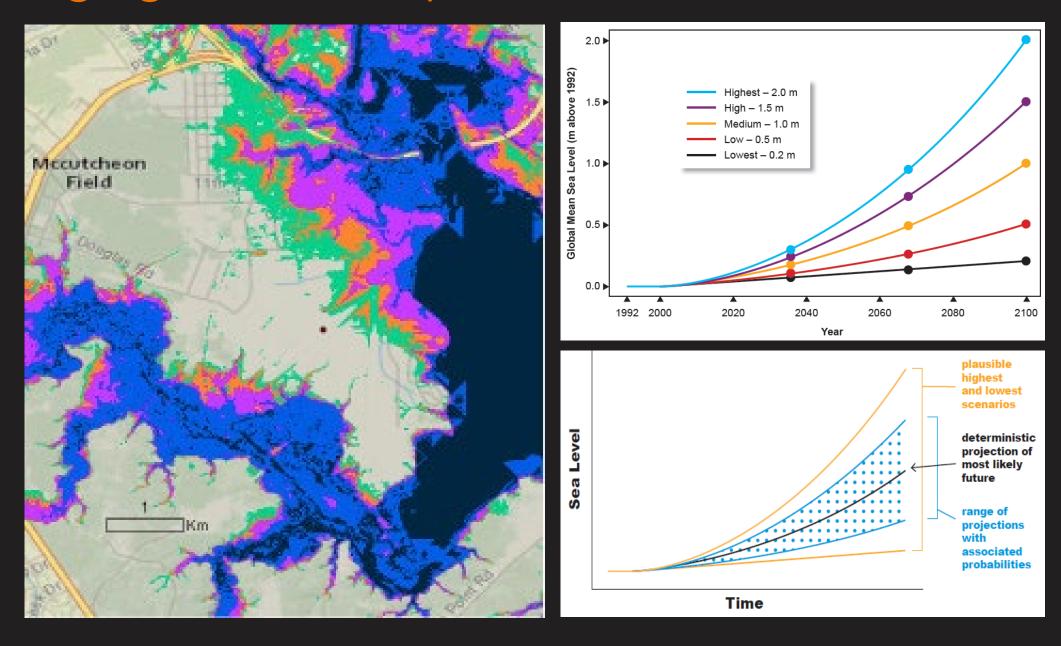


#### **Key Elements:**

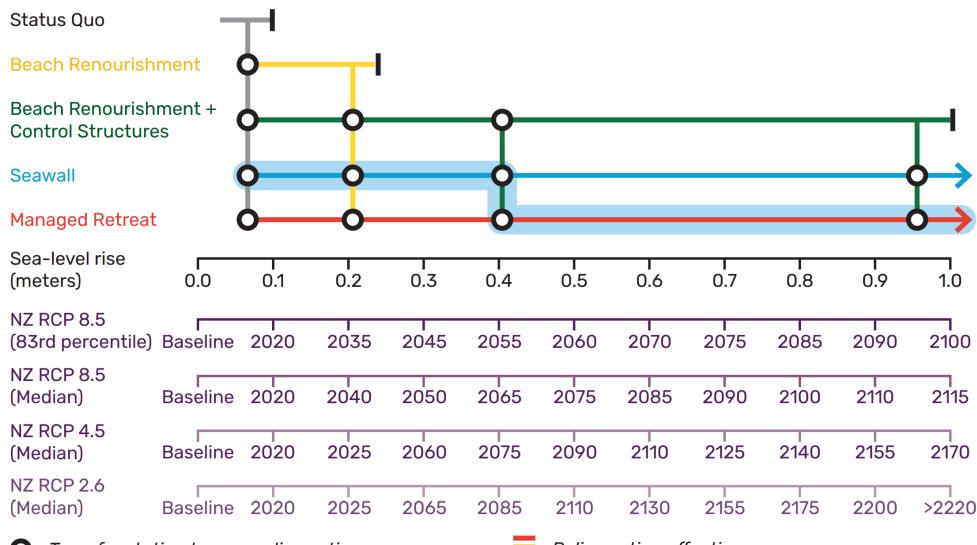
- decision process and points are iterative,
- o choice of bounding scenarios should be robust for the desired timeframe,
- o should not preclude future response options, and
- o facilitate the appropriate timing of the next decision.



# Managing Uncertainty - Plausible Scenarios



### DAPP - Example



Transfer station to new policy action

Policy action effective

Adaptation tipping point of a policy action (terminal)



#### **Section Five**

Performance, Benefits, and Cost



### Performance – Prime Hook NWR







### Costs – Prime Hook NWR

~\$20M Open Coast Nourishment



~\$20M Water Quality Improvements





