



# Low-Profile Short Groins along a mostly low energy coastline

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CUBA

HAITI

JAMAICA

Montego Bay

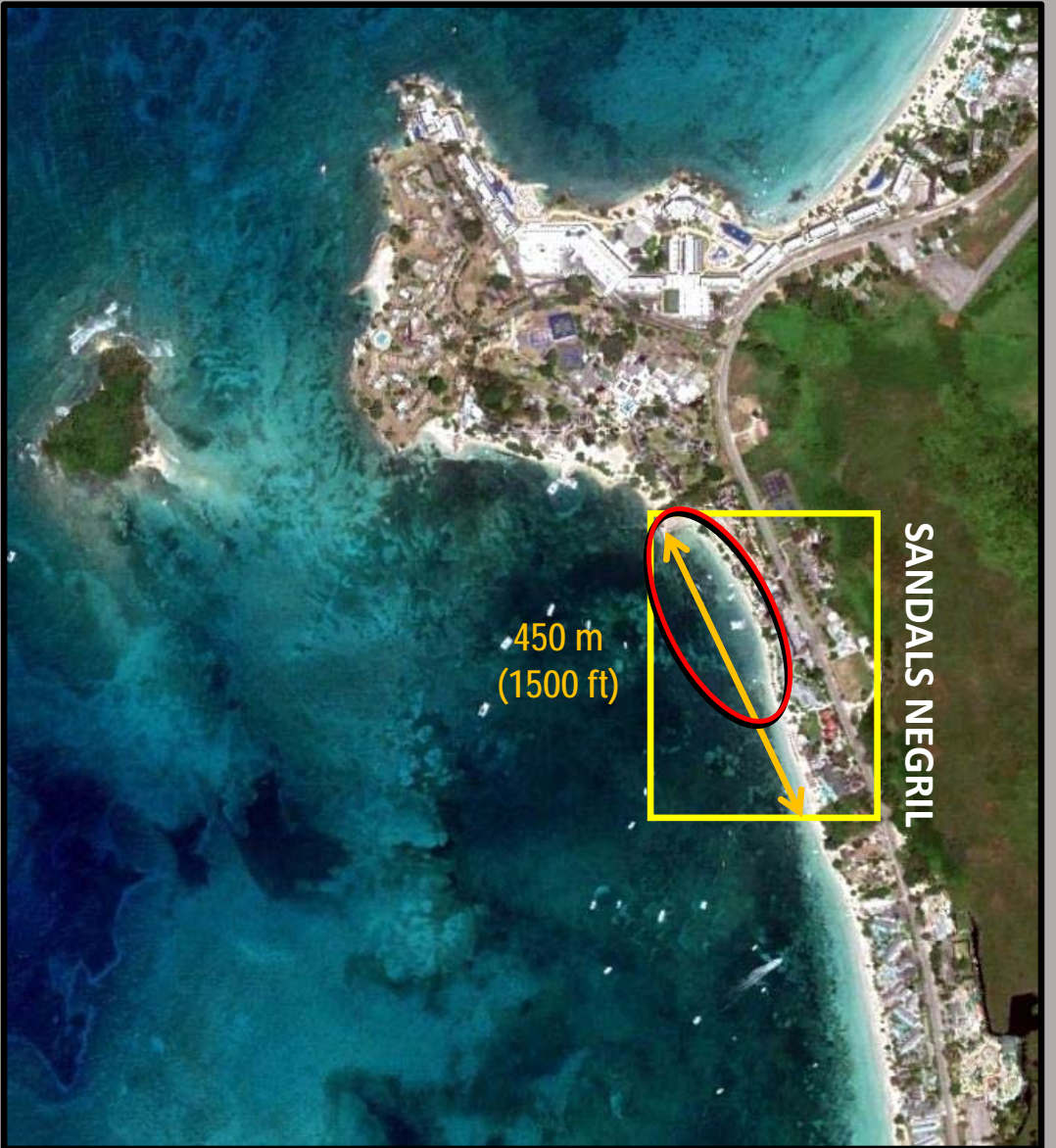
Kingston

**SANDALS  
NEGRIL BEACH  
(2020)**

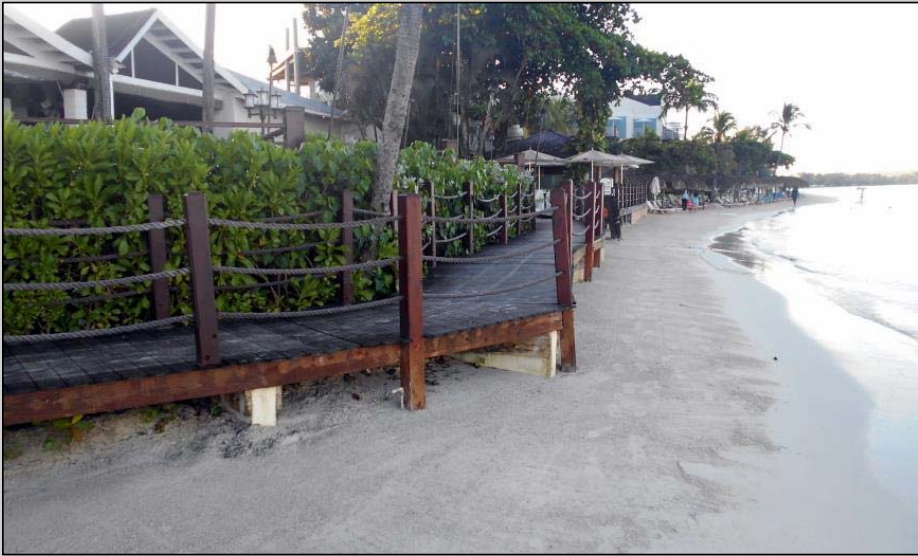
**SANDALS  
SOUTH COAST,  
WHITEHOUSE  
(2016 - 17)**





















**Tide Range ~ 0.6 m (2 ft)**

**Wave Height < 0.2 m (0.65 ft) typical daily;  
at oblique angle (both directions)**

**Storm Waves ~ 1 m (3.3 ft)... both directions**

**Upland Beach Berm: +1.1 m (+3.6 ft)**

**Mean Sea Level: 0.0 m ( 0 ft )**

**Ambient Seabed: -1.5 m (-5 ft)**





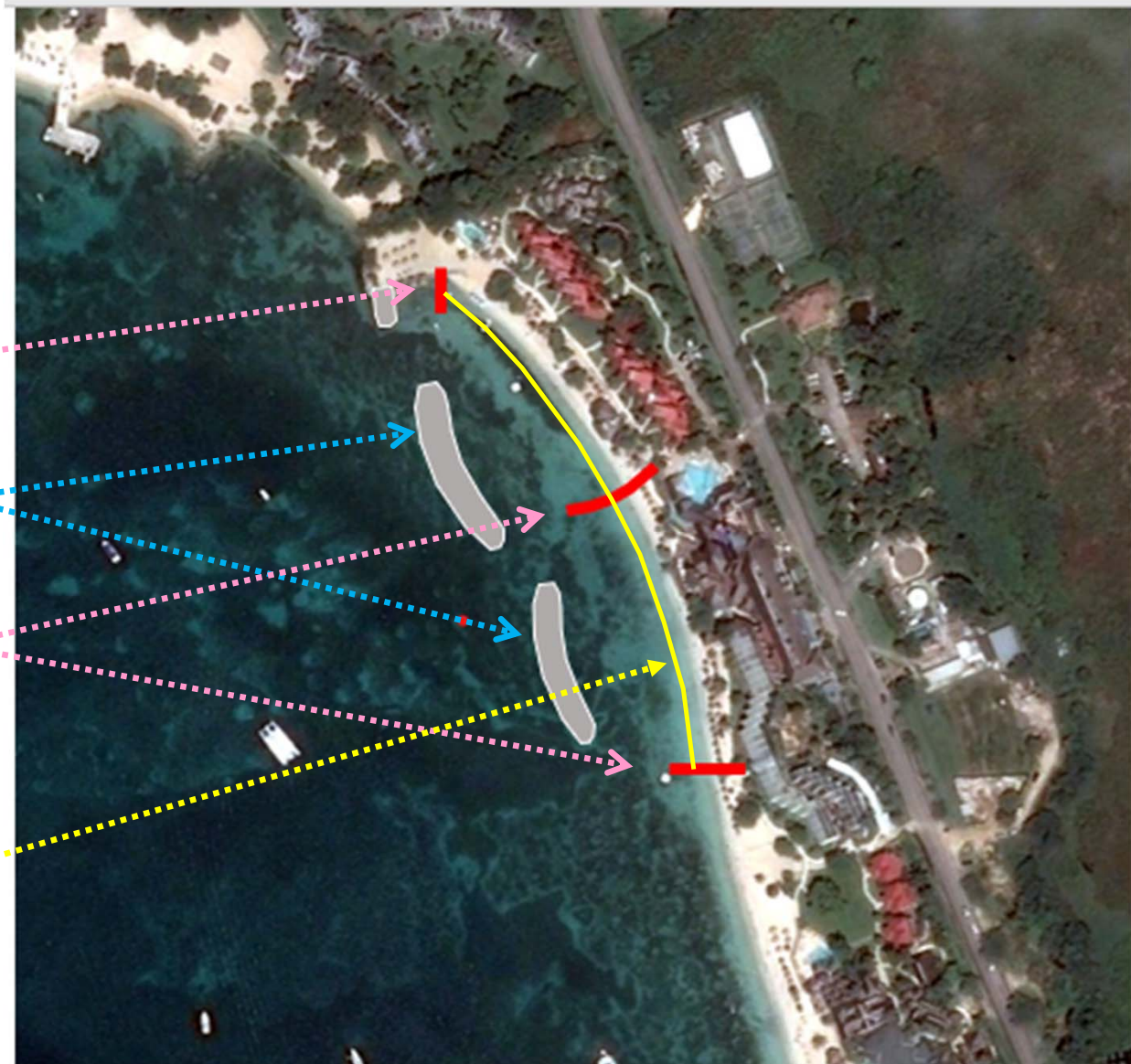
Originally Proposed Plan  
(by others)

Relocate spur groin to shore

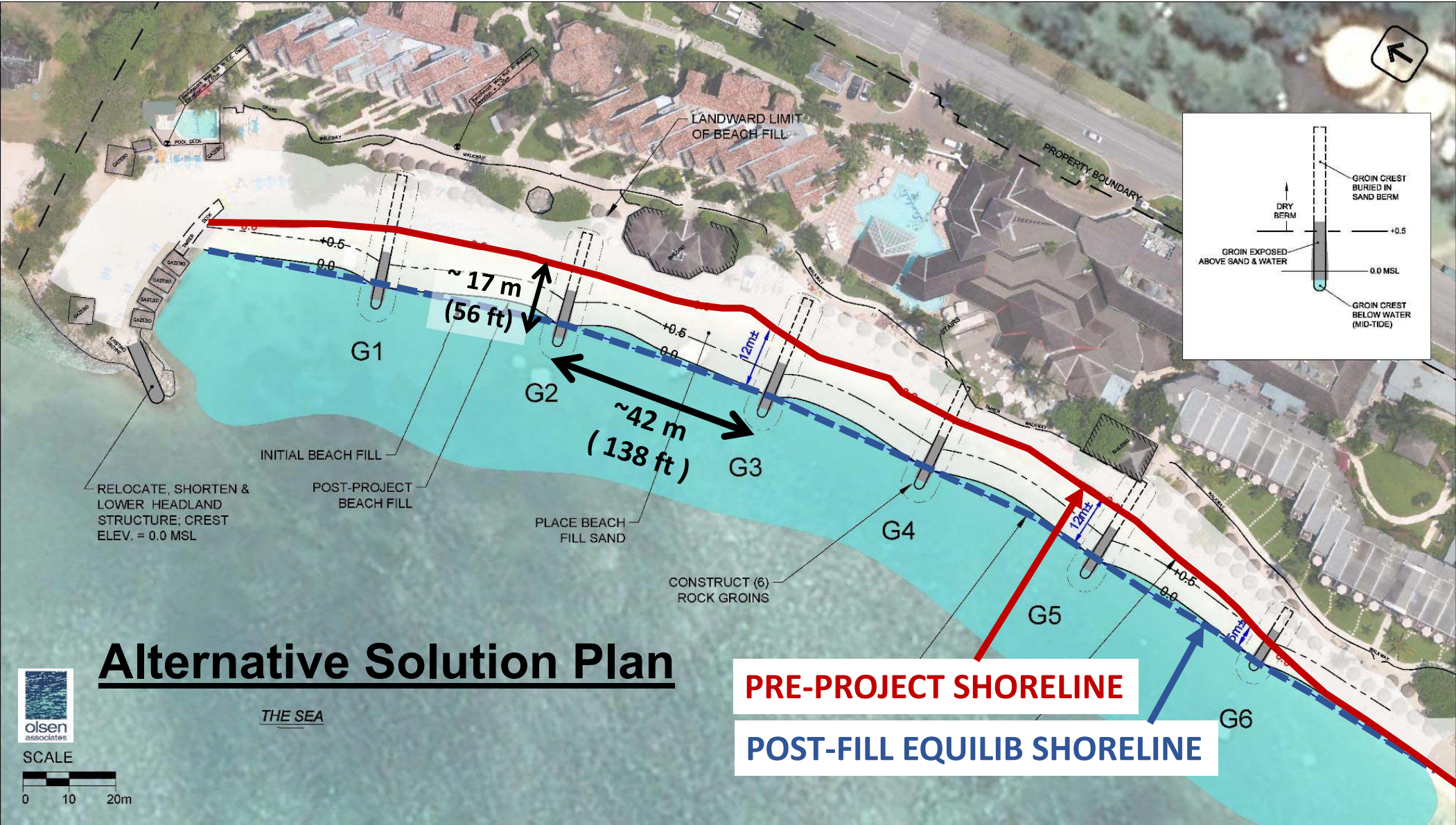
Two semi-emergent rock breakwaters atop seagrass beds

Conventional Rock groins

Beach fill







# Alternative Solution Plan

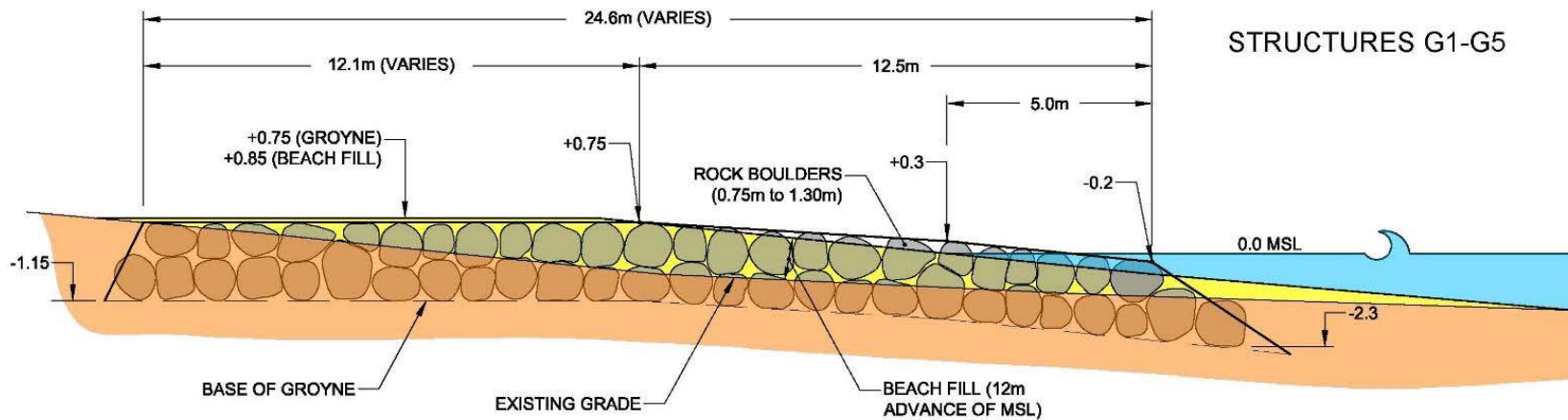
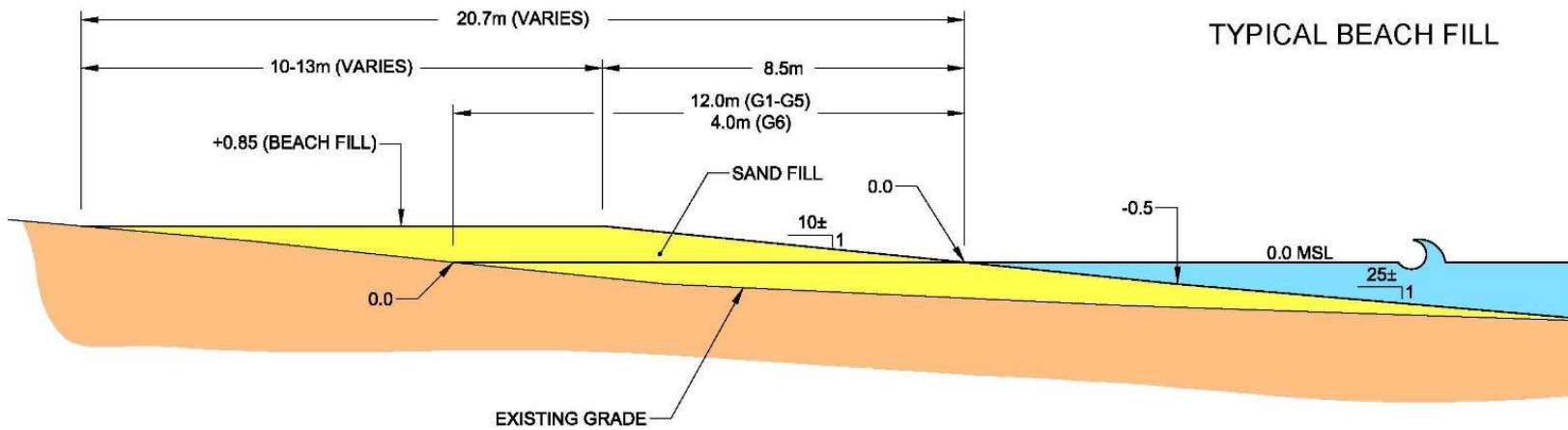
**PRE-PROJECT SHORELINE**

**POST-FILL EQUILIB SHORELINE**

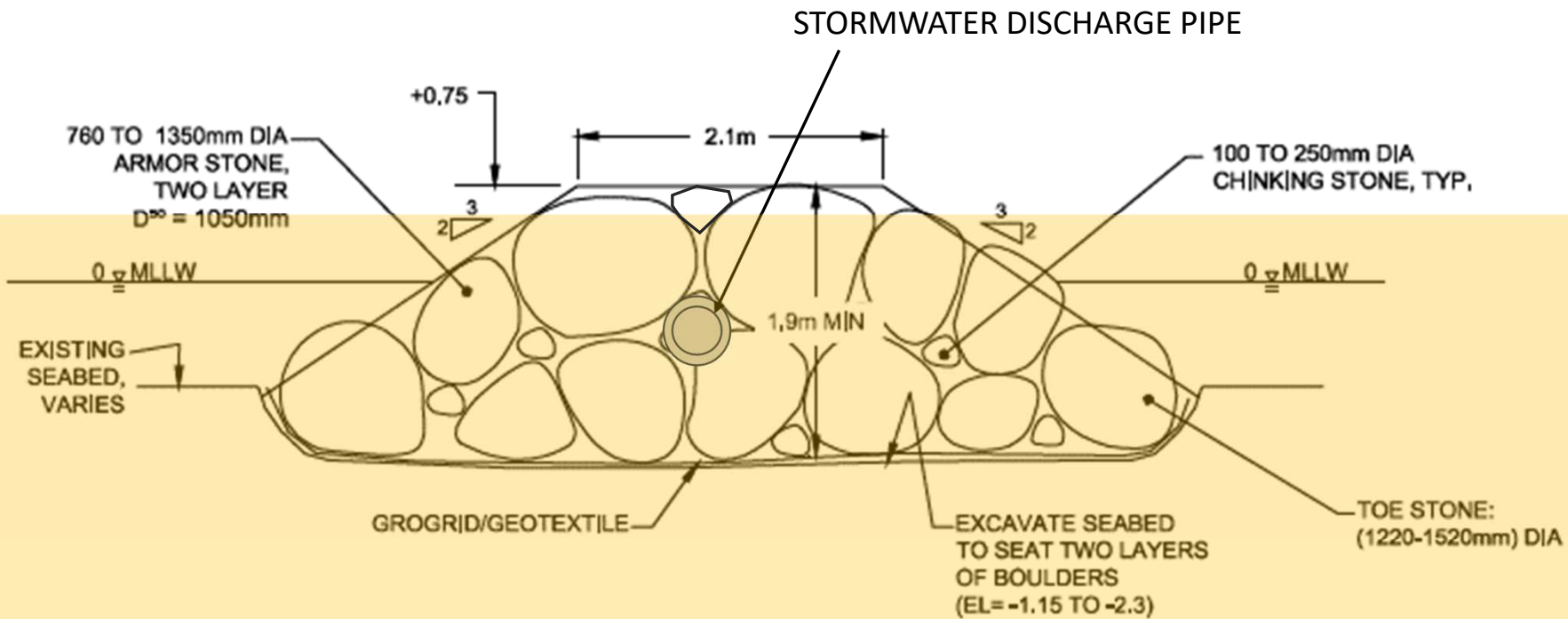
  
 olsen  
 associates  
 SCALE  


THE SEA





## Alternative Solution Plan





**Summer 2020 - Construction**





**Summer 2020 - Construction**

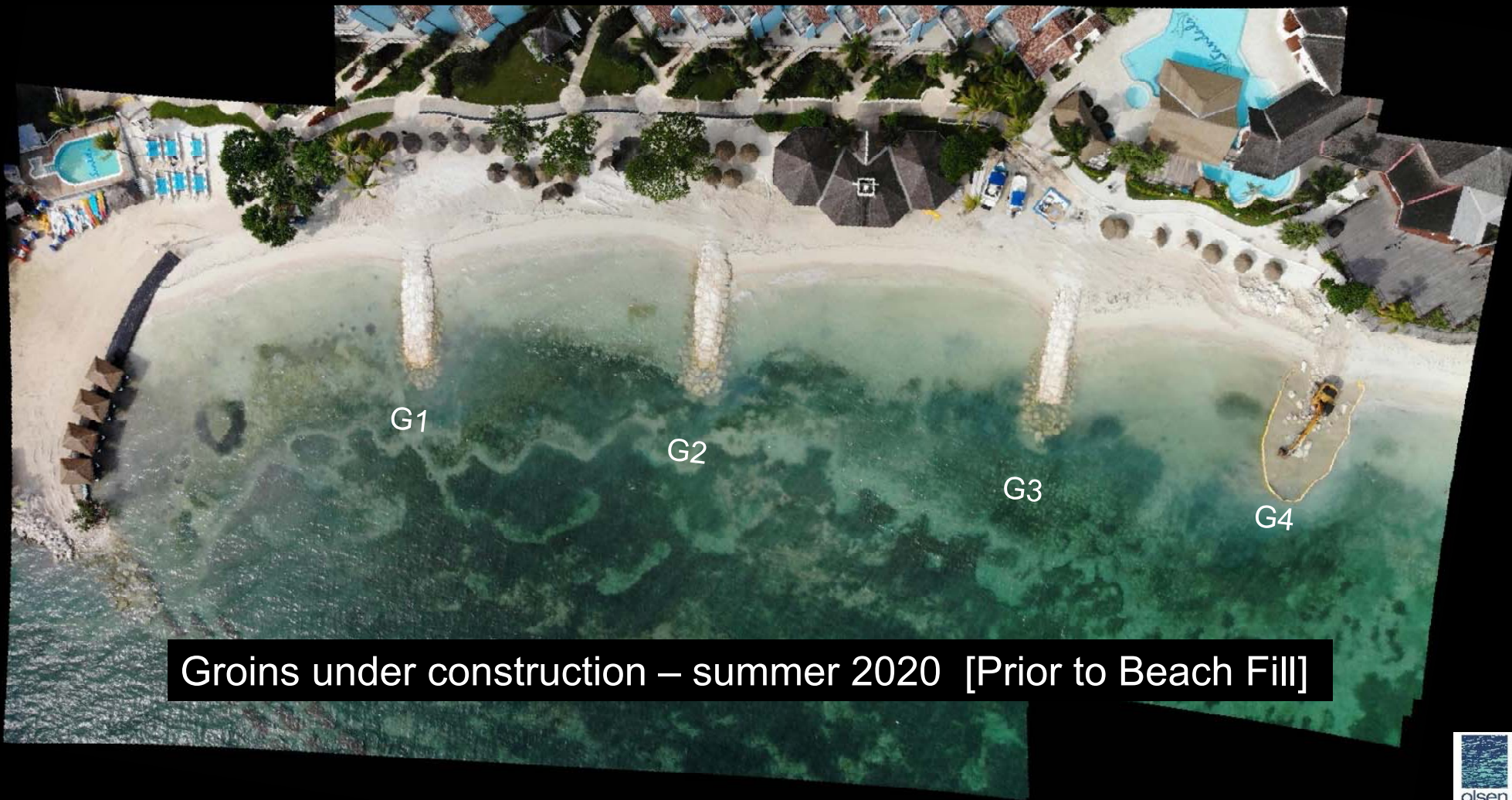






**Summer 2020 - Construction**





Groins under construction – summer 2020 [Prior to Beach Fill]



April 2021 (6-month post-construction)





**May 2021 - 7 months post-construction**





**May 2021 - 7 months post-construction**



May 2021 - 7 months post-construction



Pre-Project





Groin field area

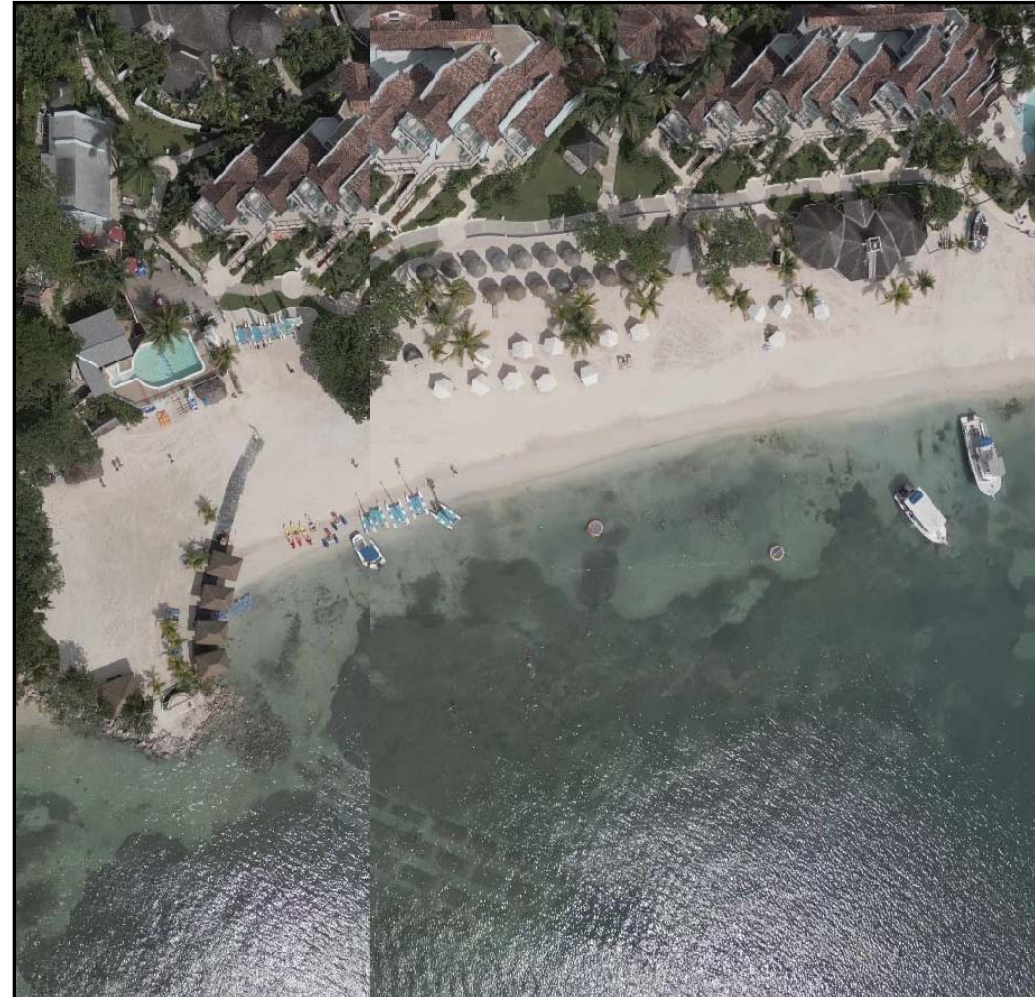
October 2021 (1-yr post-construction)





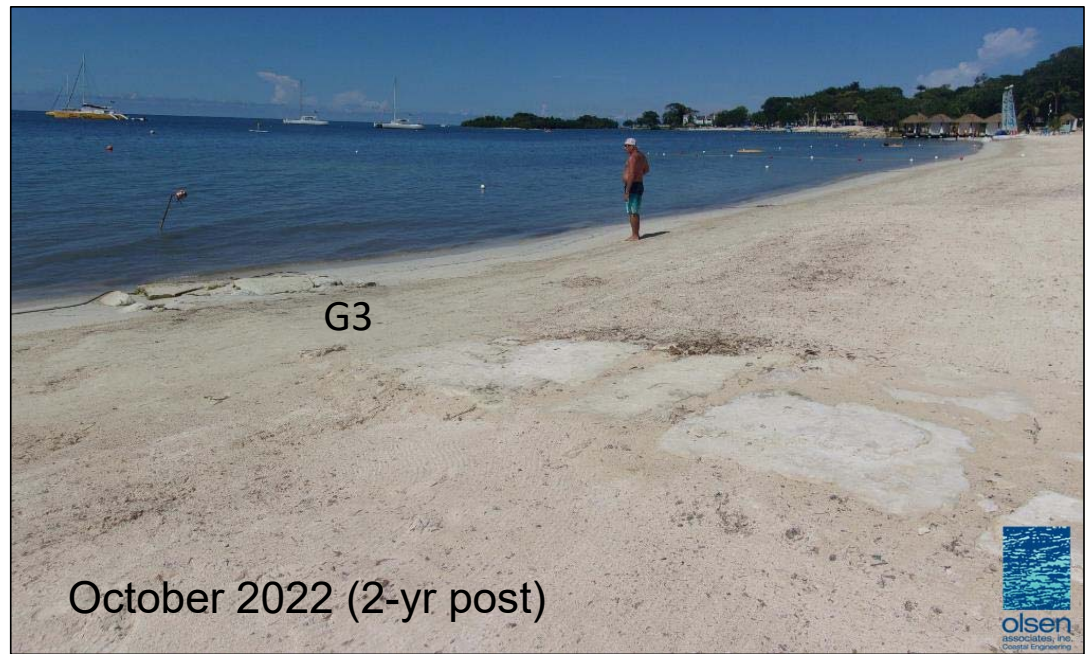
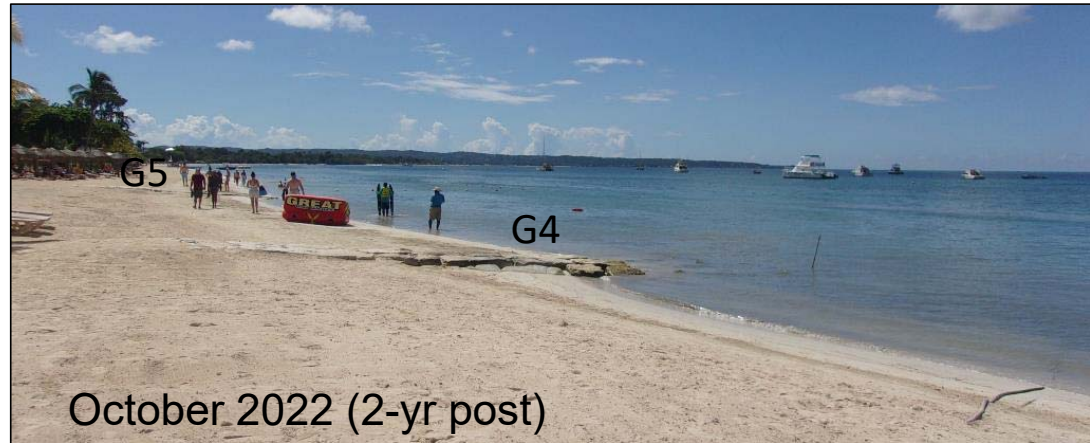


**FEB 2022**  
**16 Months Post-Construction**

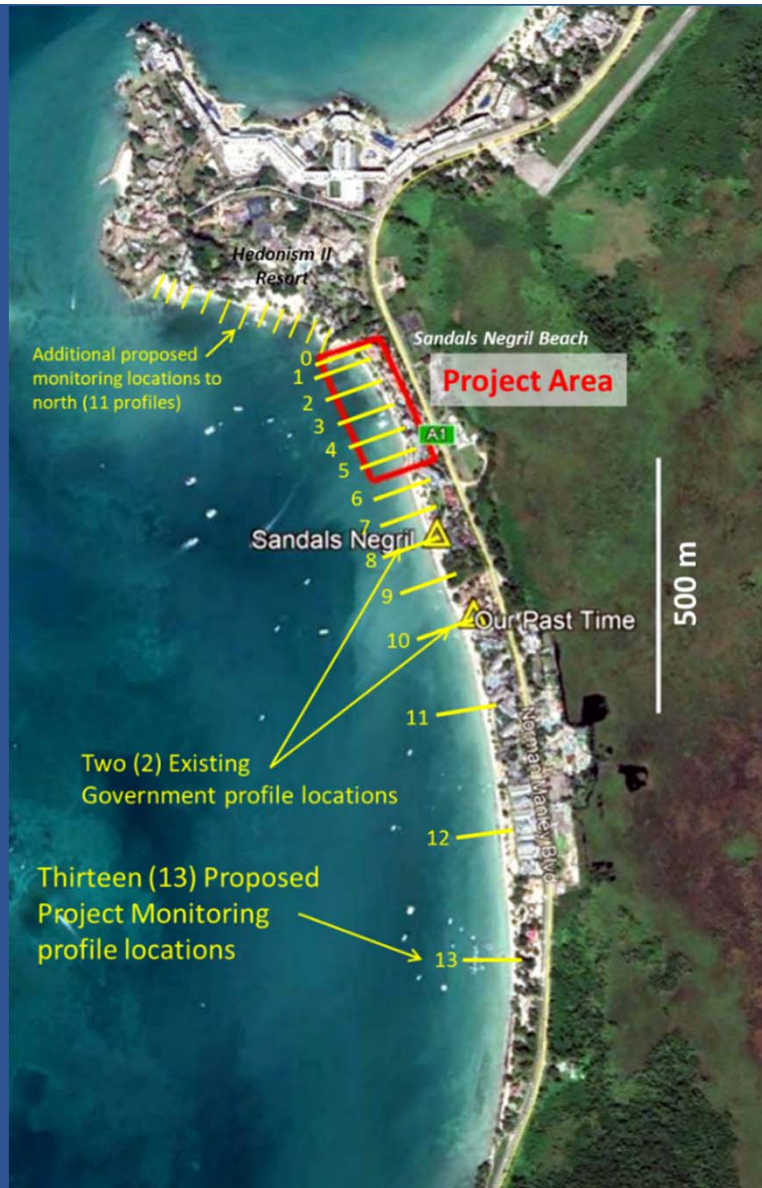


**OCT 2022**  
**24 Months Post-Construction**







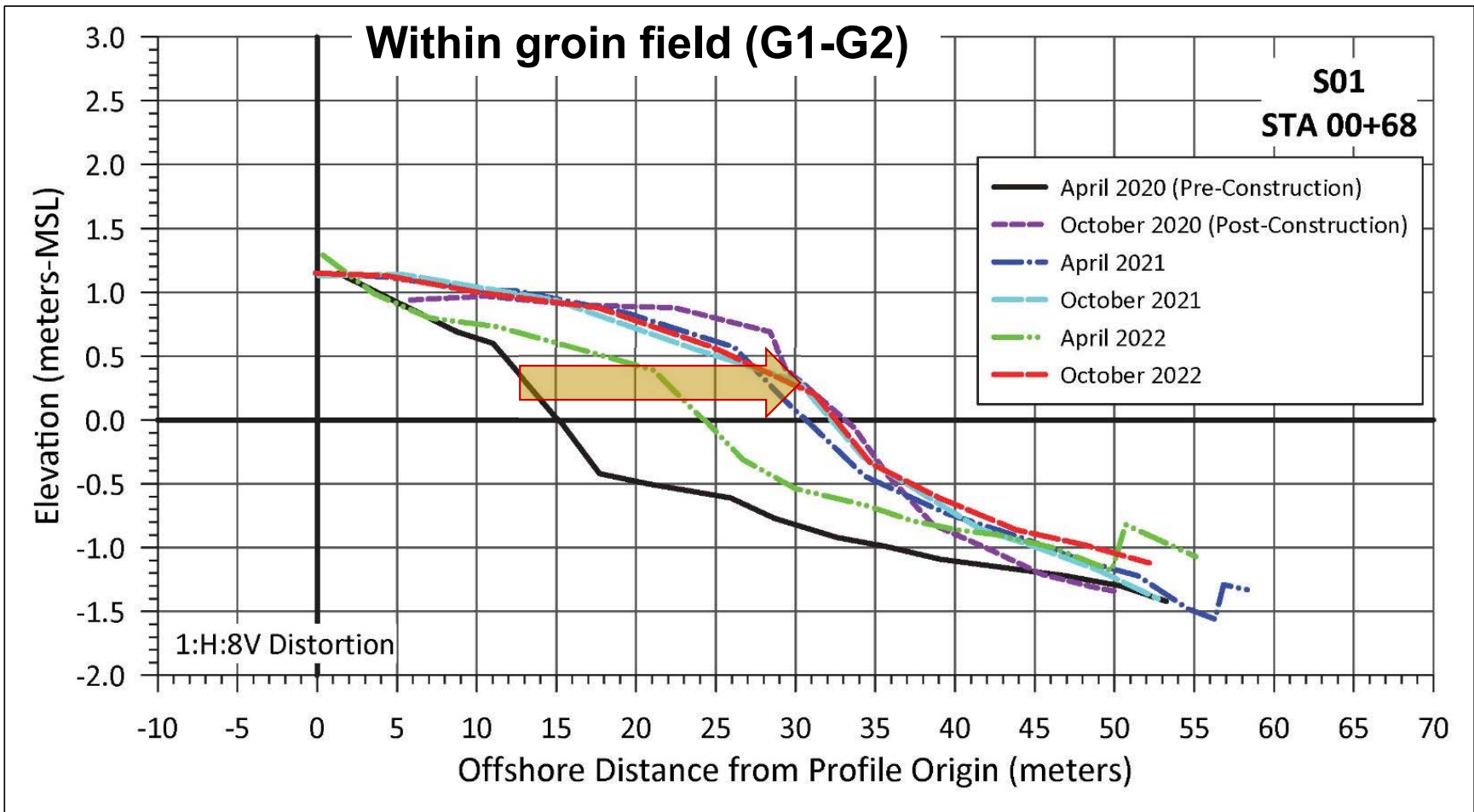


## Beach Monitoring Program

- 24 beach profile transects, from 0.5 km west to 1 km south of project
- April 2020 – Oct 2022  
0.5-Yrs Pre- to 2-Yrs Post-Construction

About 9 storm events occurred during the 2-yr post-construction monitoring.

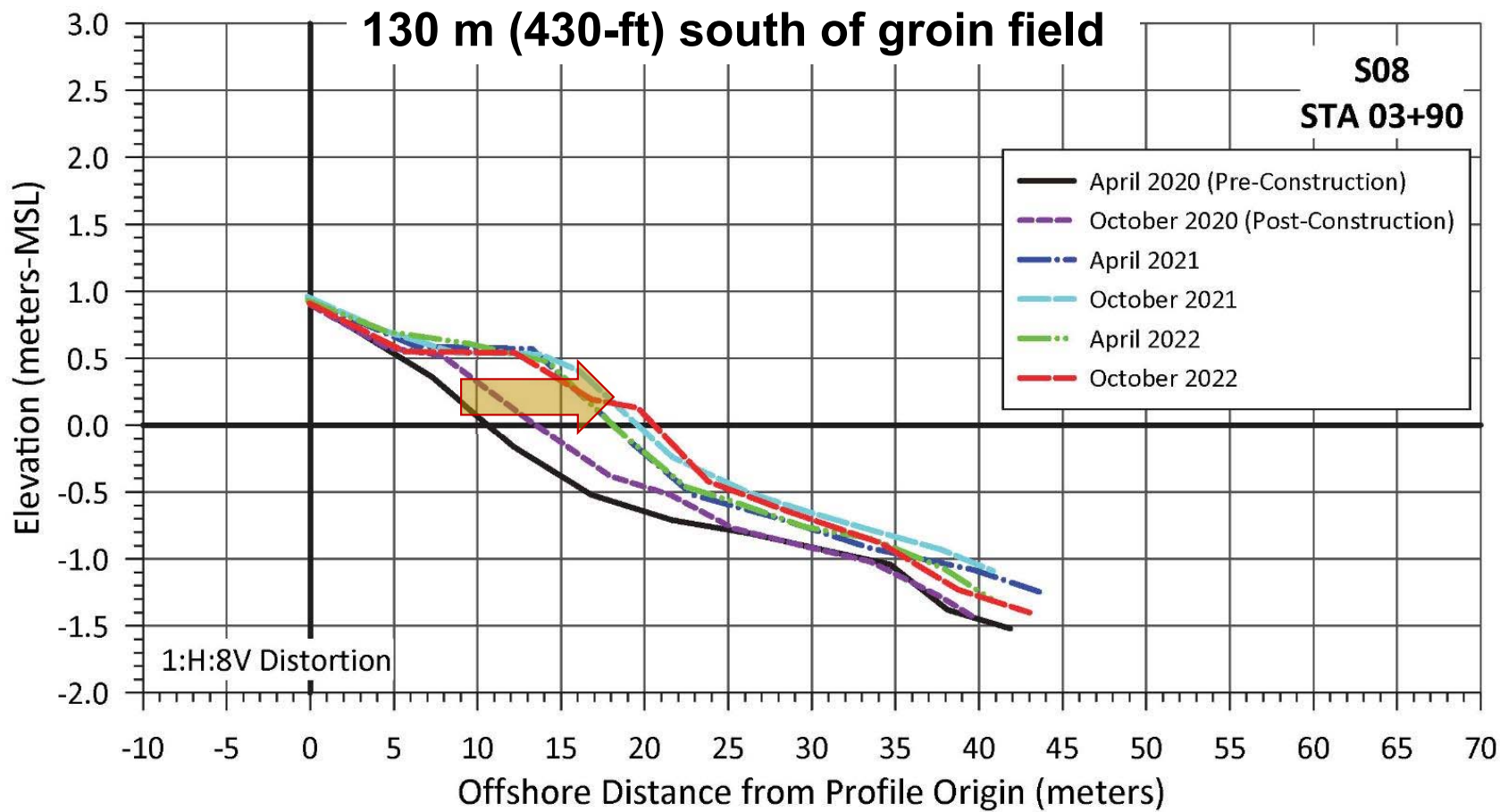






# 130 m (430-ft) south of groin field

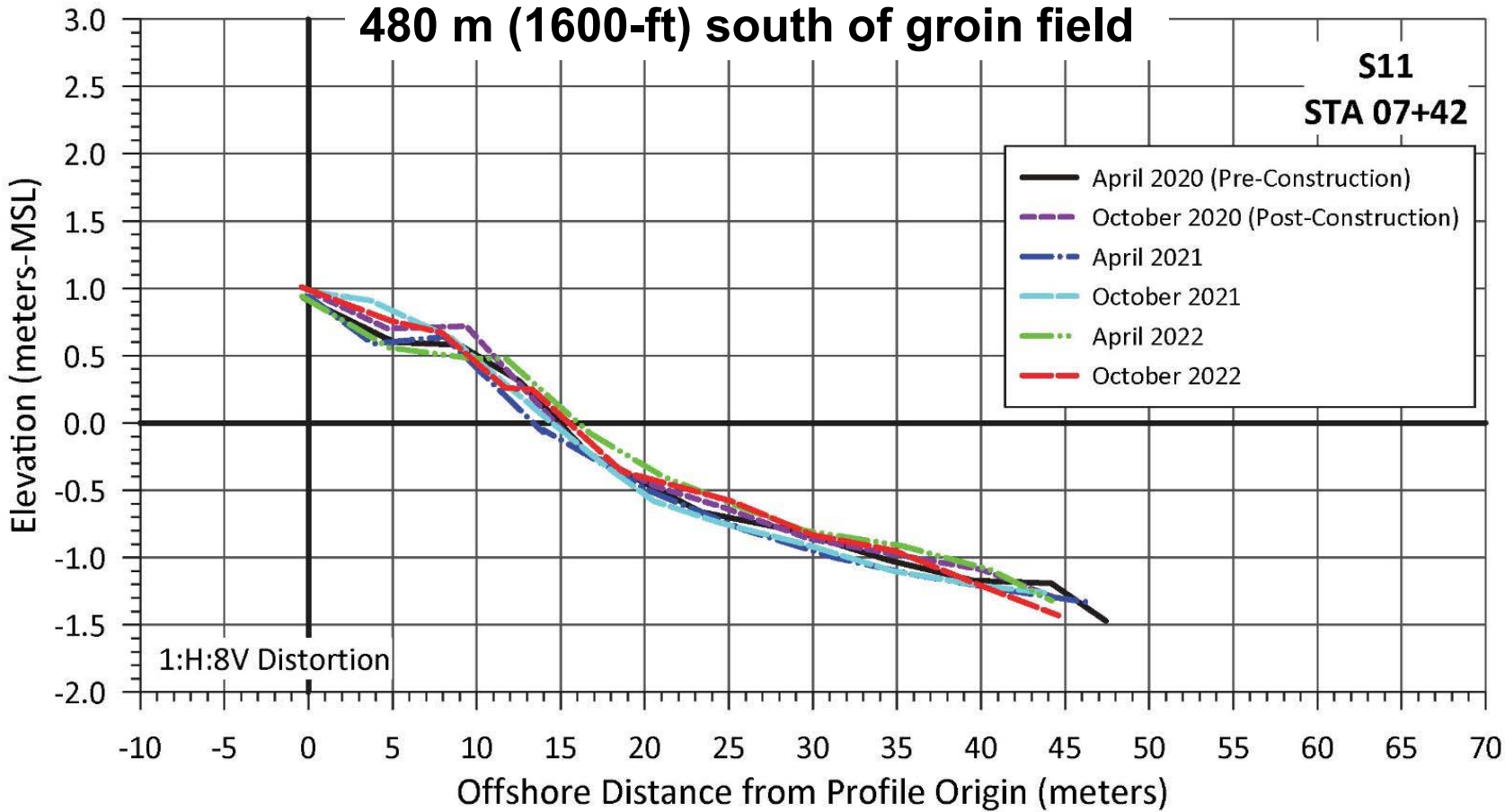
S08  
STA 03+90





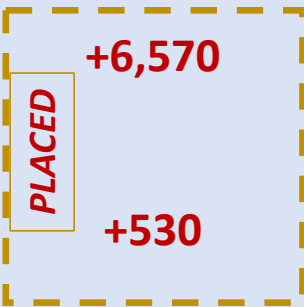
# 480 m (1600-ft) south of groin field

S11  
STA 07+42



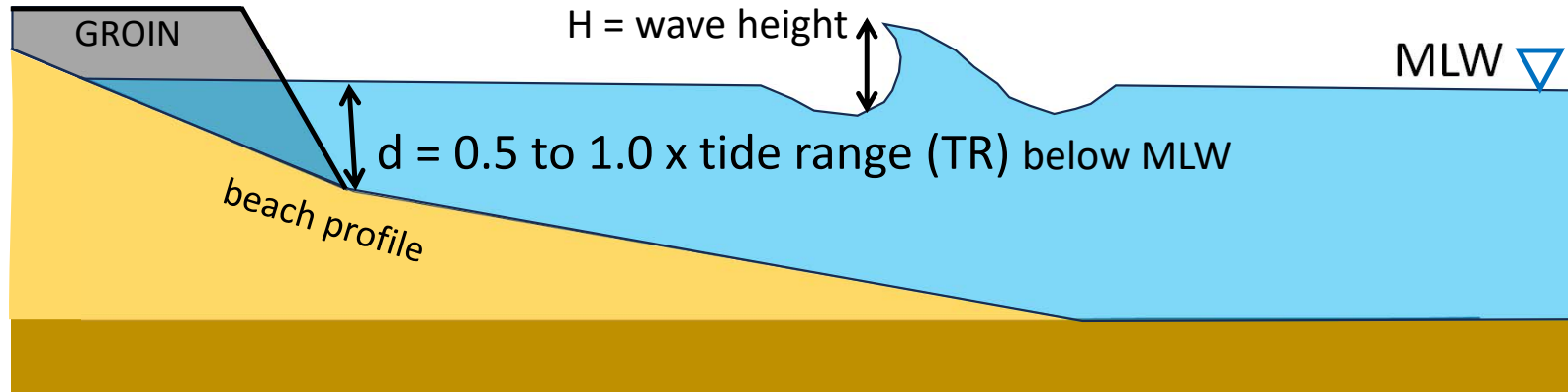
# Net Beach Volume Changes (m<sup>3</sup>)

	<b>6-months CONSTRXN (April 2020 – Oct 2020)</b>	<b>24-months POST-CONSTRXN (Oct 2020 – Oct 2022)</b>
West of Groin Field (360 m)	+100	-400
Groin Field (290 m)	+6,570	+780
South of Groin Field (270 m)	+530	+2,340
Far-field South of Groins (270 to 1000 m south)	+700	+1,430
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+7,900</b>	<b>+4,150</b>





Why might this work?



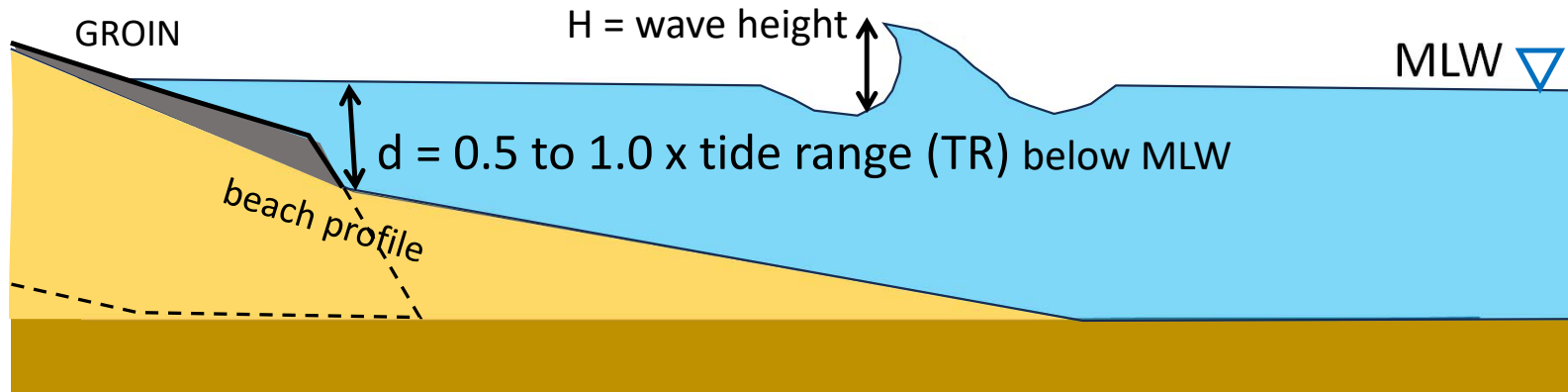
↙ breaking wave index  
**If  $H \ll r \times d$  ...** then breaking ("surf zone") occurs *landward* of groin

$$H \ll 0.8 \times (0.5 \text{ to } 1.0 \times \text{TR})$$

$$\frac{H}{\text{TR}} \ll 0.4 \text{ to } 0.8$$

At these sites...  
$$\frac{H}{\text{TR}} = \frac{0.2 \text{ m}}{0.6 \text{ m}} = 0.33$$
  
so *daily* wave breaking occurs *landward* of groins

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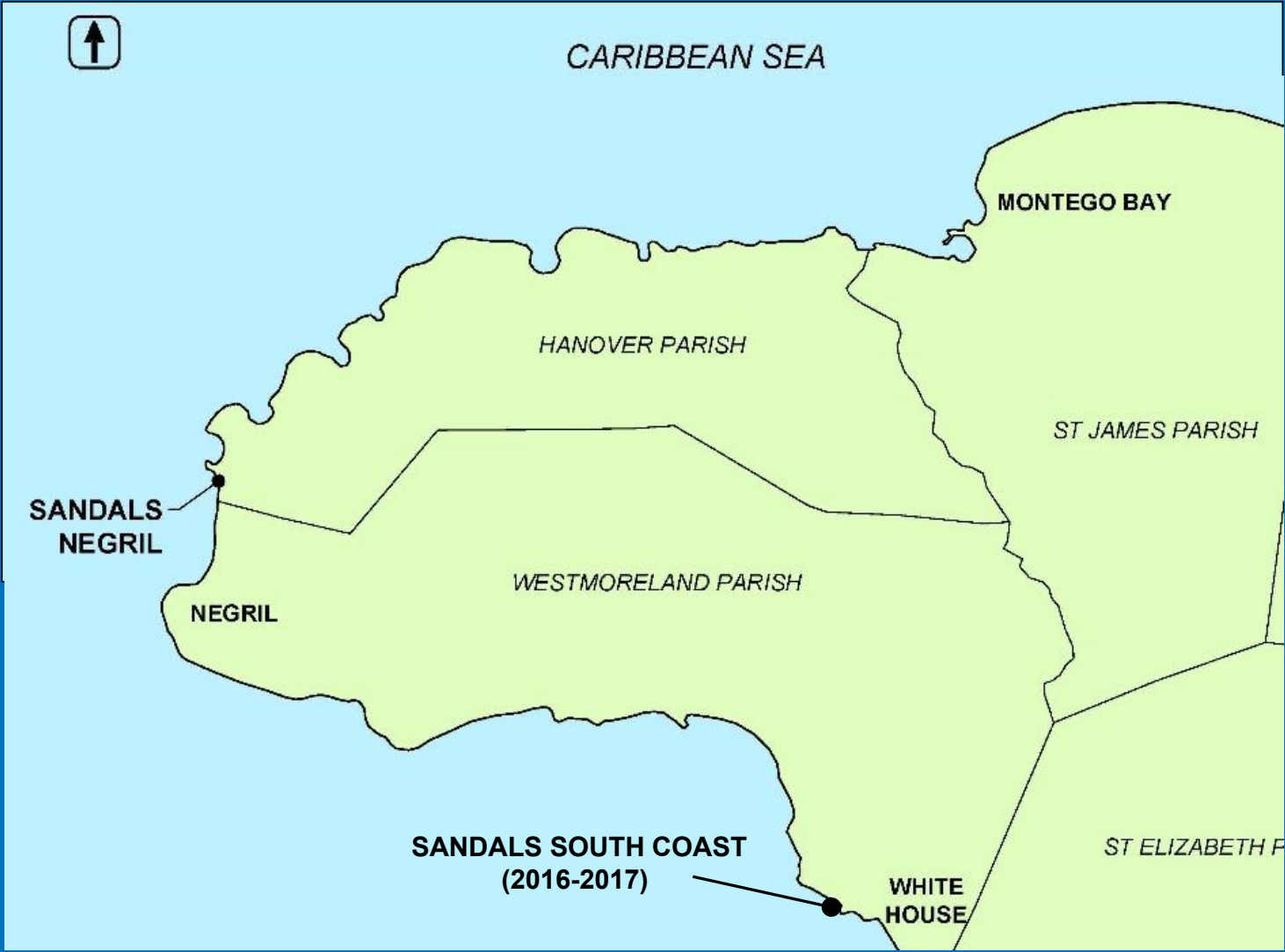
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*Sandals South Coast (Whitehouse)  
(2009 Image)*



500 m  
(1640 ft)

Google Earth

Image © 2024 Maxar Technologies



*Sandals South Coast (Whitehouse)  
(2009 Image)*





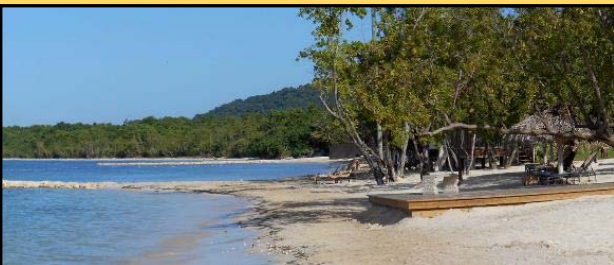
*Sandals South Coast (Whitehouse)  
(2009 Image)*

2015: Two  
long groins  
(by others)

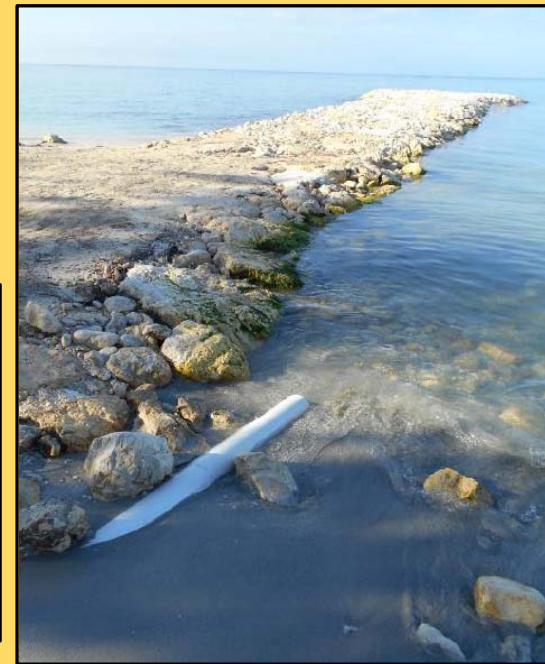
2015 Shoreline







**November  
2015**





*Sandals South Coast (Whitehouse)  
(2009 Image)*

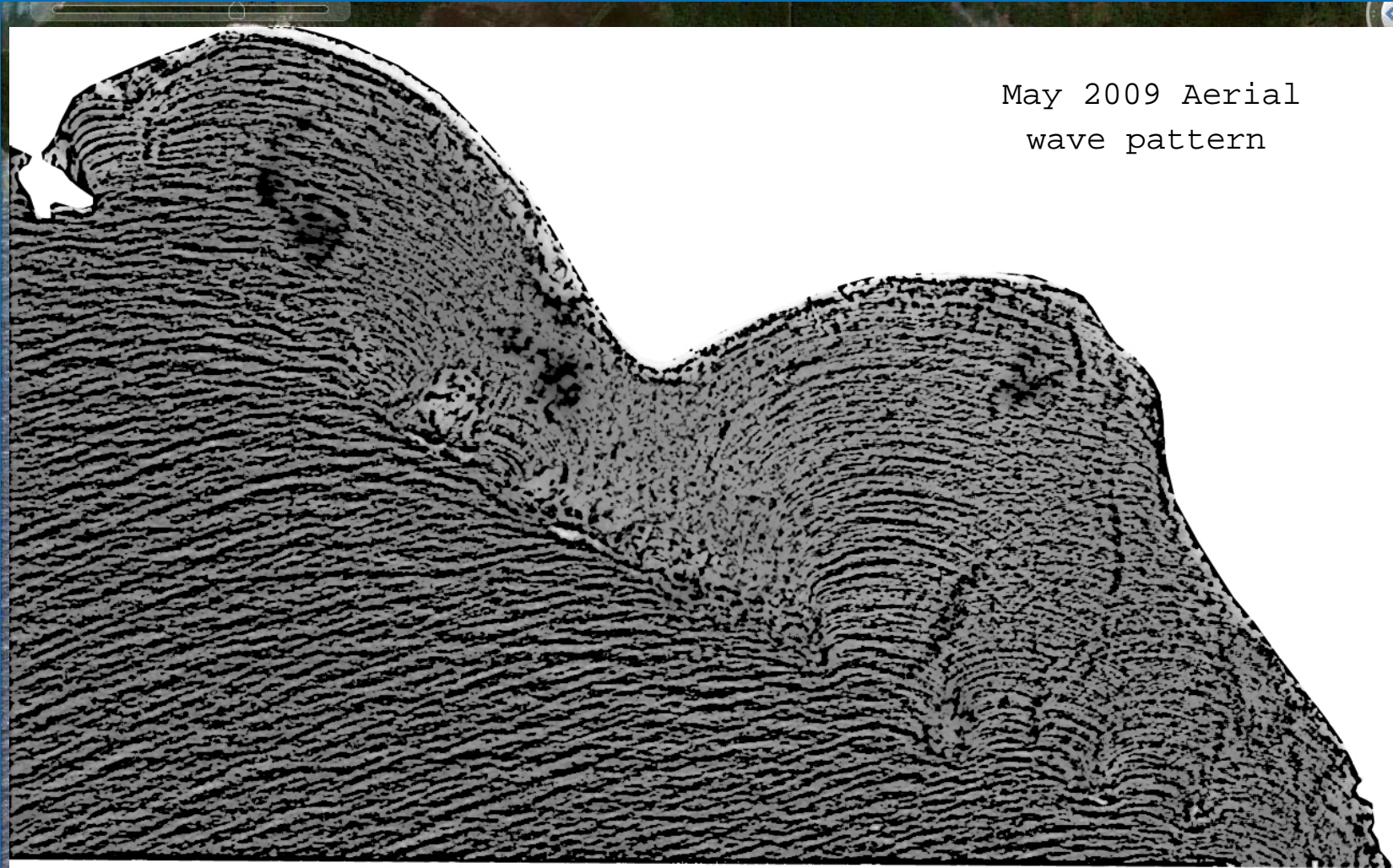
2015: Two  
long groins  
(by others)

Plan: Remove Cobble, Place Beach Fill,  
Notch Long Groins, Construct 10 Short Groins  
phased over 2 Years

2015 Shoreline







May 2009 Aerial  
wave pattern











*November 2023*





Opening & Concluding Comment:

This approach is not suitable for high-energy open coastlines, such as, say, the ocean shoreline along most of Florida's east coast. However, it may be useful at low energy shorelines such as along estuaries and other sheltered shorelines for which shoreline restoration & stabilization is becoming increasingly important in this era of rising sea level and the need for resiliency.

## Low-Profile Short Groins along a mostly low energy coastline



olsen  
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Coastal Engineering

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