DEVELOPING A COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sloane Stephens – St. Johns County
Albert E. Browder, Ph.D., P.E., BC.CE – Foth|Olsen
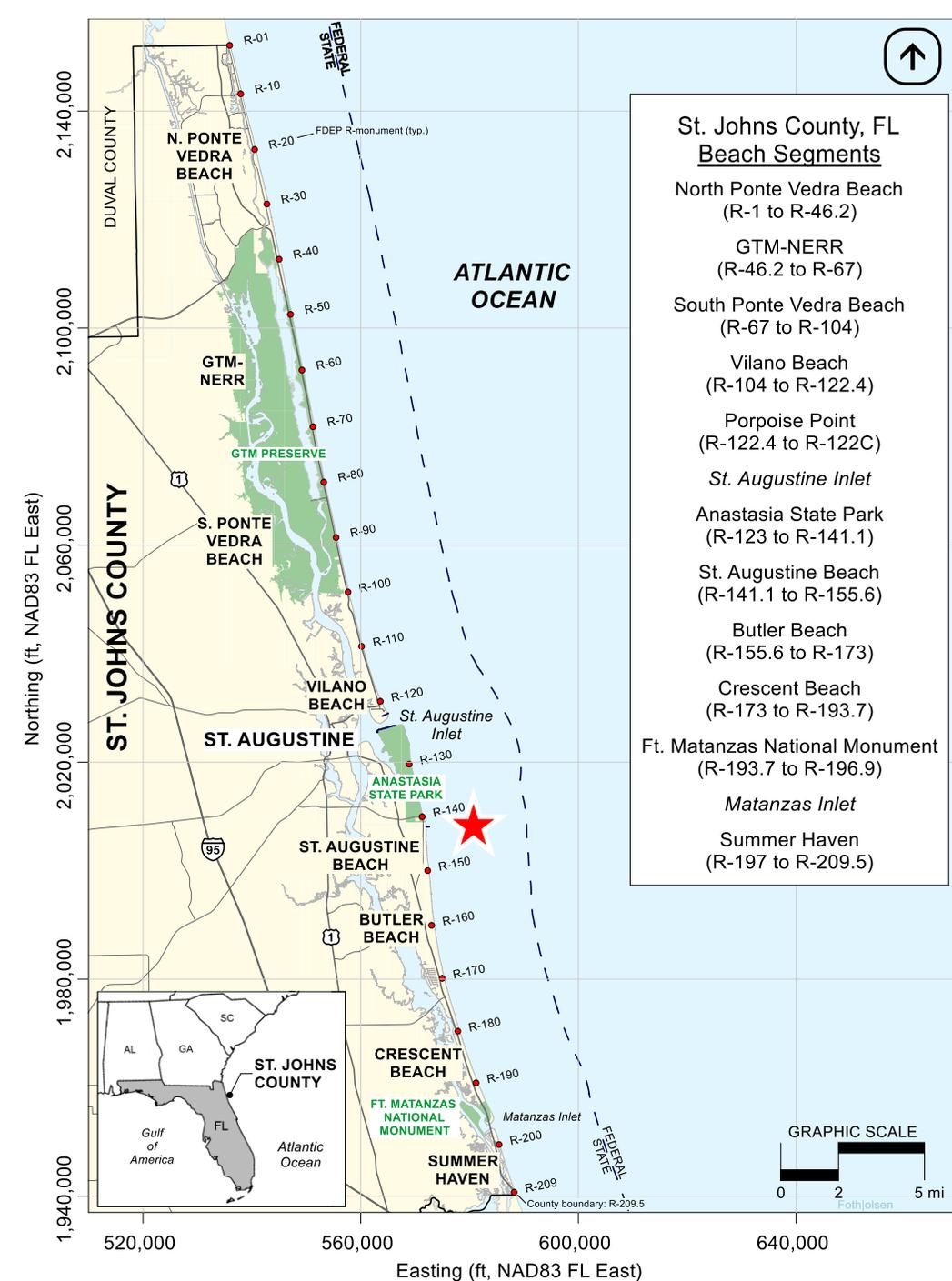

Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association
National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology
February 6, 2026   St. Augustine Beach, FL

St. Johns County, FL Beach Segments

North Ponte Vedra Beach (R-1 to R-46.2)

GTM-NERR (R-46.2 to R-67)

South Ponte Vedra Beach (R-67 to R-104)

Vilano Beach (R-104 to R-122.4)

Porpoise Point (R-122.4 to R-122C)

St. Augustine Inlet

Anastasia State Park (R-123 to R-141.1)

St. Augustine Beach (R-141.1 to R-155.6)

Butler Beach (R-155.6 to R-173)

Crescent Beach (R-173 to R-193.7)

Ft. Matanzas National Monument (R-193.7 to R-196.9)

Matanzas Inlet

Summer Haven (R-197 to R-209.5)

LOCATION: You are here!

St. Johns County, FL

- 42 miles of Atlantic Ocean shoreline
- 11 distinct shoreline segments
- 2 tidal inlets
- 24 miles of Critically Eroded Shoreline
- ***10+ engineered beach projects!!!***

North Ponte Vedra Beach

- Beach restoration in 2024

- Hurricanes Debby/Milton – Oct 2024

- Current FEMA Category G Claim

23 May 2024
olsenassociates, inc.

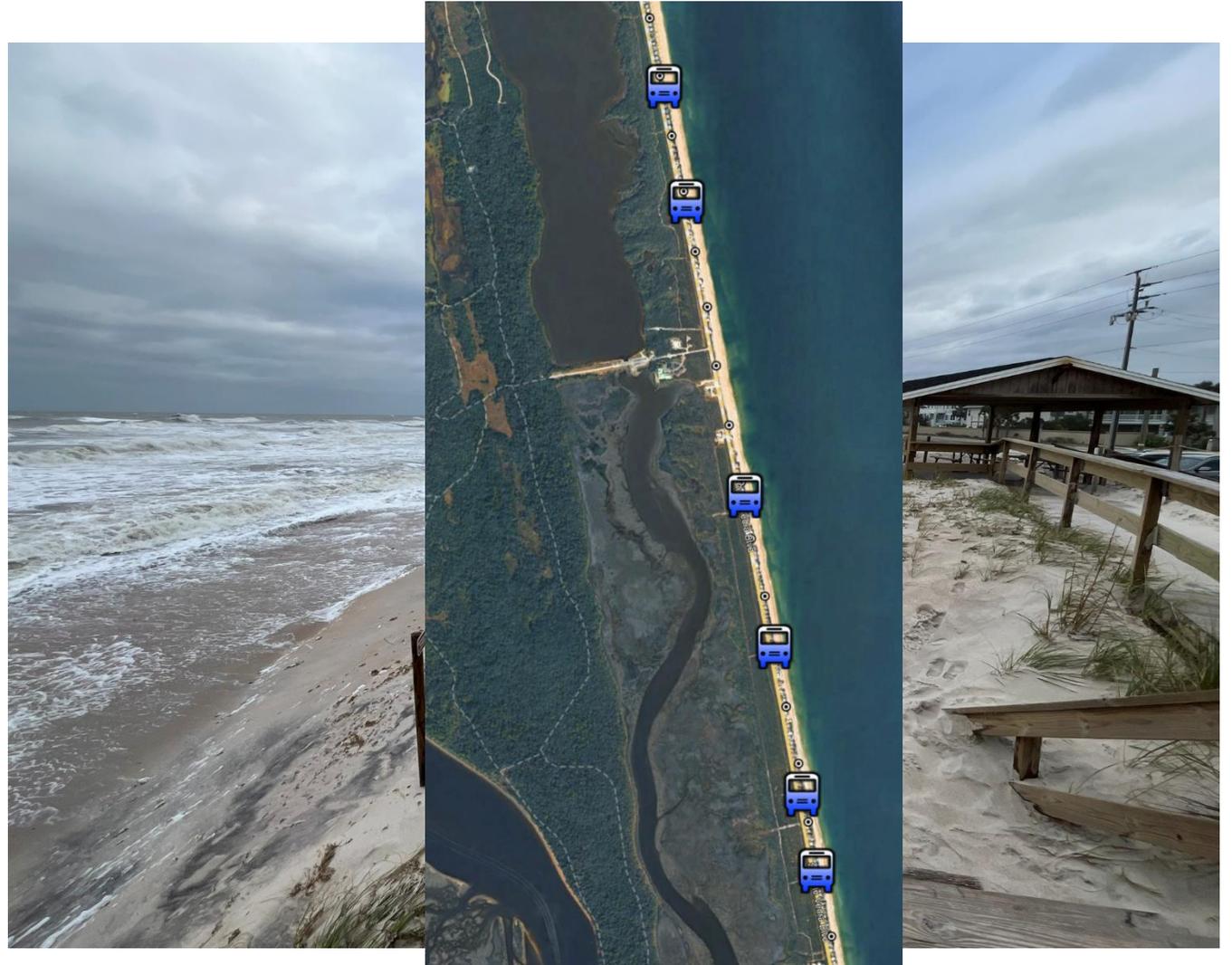# Recent & Upcoming Projects

SJC

South Ponte Vedra Beach

- Hurricane Ian/Nicole - Fall 2022

- Hurricane Debby – Oct 2024

- FEMA Category G Project – 2026

Recent & Upcoming Projects

more work in SPV...

- Recently approved CSRM project

- Federal PED funds

- Trolley system in the works

Recent & Upcoming Projects

SJC

Vilano Beach

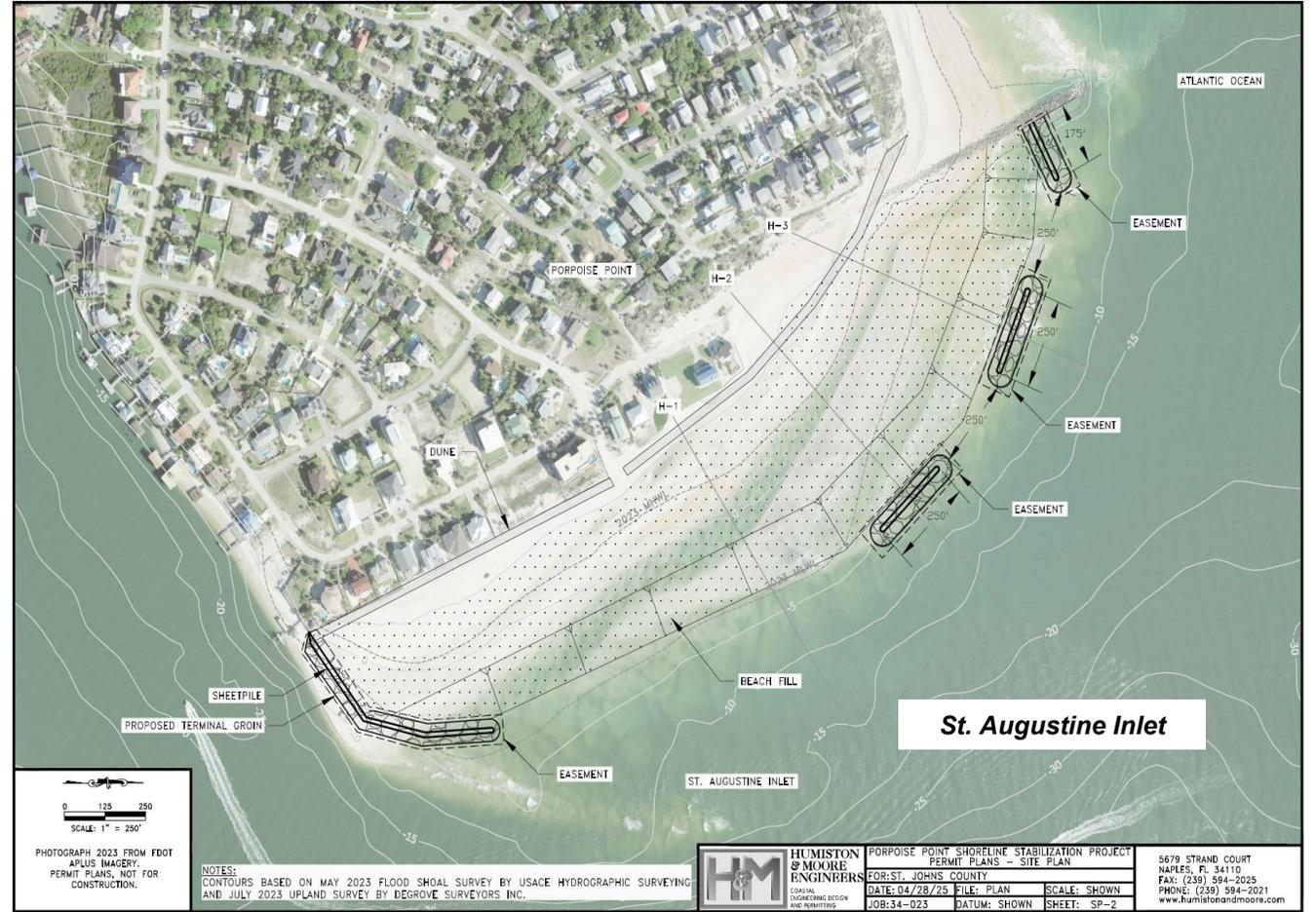- CSRM Nourishment in 2024

- Assessing 2025 impacts

- Close to 100% PBSDREs

Recent & Upcoming Projects

Porpoise Point

- Inlet shoreline stabilization

- PED ongoing

- Seeking construction funds

Recent & Upcoming Projects

St. Augustine Beach

- Renourishment in 2024

- Assessing 2025 impacts

- Updating Easements to PBSDREs

Recent & Upcoming Projects

Summer Haven

- Managed retreat underway

- FDEP grant secured to assist

- Community engagement

Recent & Upcoming Projects

Coastal Management Plan
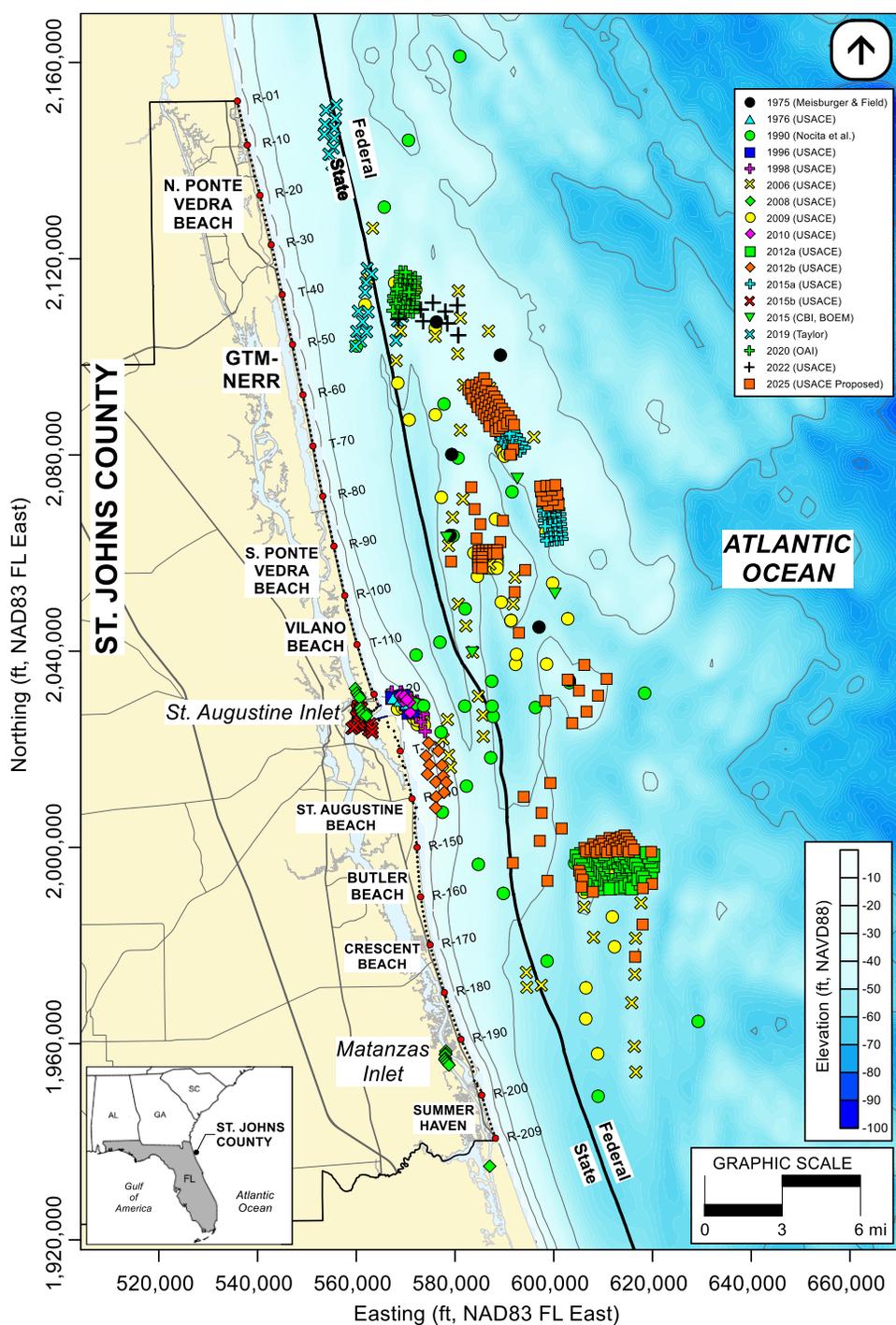
CMP Purpose & Elements

- Catalog past and current activities

- Document tasks & permit status for all projects

- Compile environmental resources & habitat needs

- Characterize littoral processes and sand needs

- Evaluate economic impact

SJC

Littoral Processes

~25+ years of designed beach work

- Evaluate background erosion rates
  - Integrate with inlet sediment budgets
  - Tie to projected sand needs
- Review engineering strategies for each segment

SJC

Sand Resources & Needs

30+ miles of beach to nourish

- 20-year horizon

- Risk considerations – STORMS!

- **Can we identify 30M+ cubic yards of sand?**

- Offshore, inlets, and upland sources

Environmental Resources

~20,000* acres of coastal habitat

- Coastal Conservation Group, LLC

- 24+ Endangered/Threatened Species to consider

- 2 Critical Habitat areas + EFH

- 6 Coastal Barrier Resource Areas (inc. OPAs)

- Multiple Biological Opinions and Permits
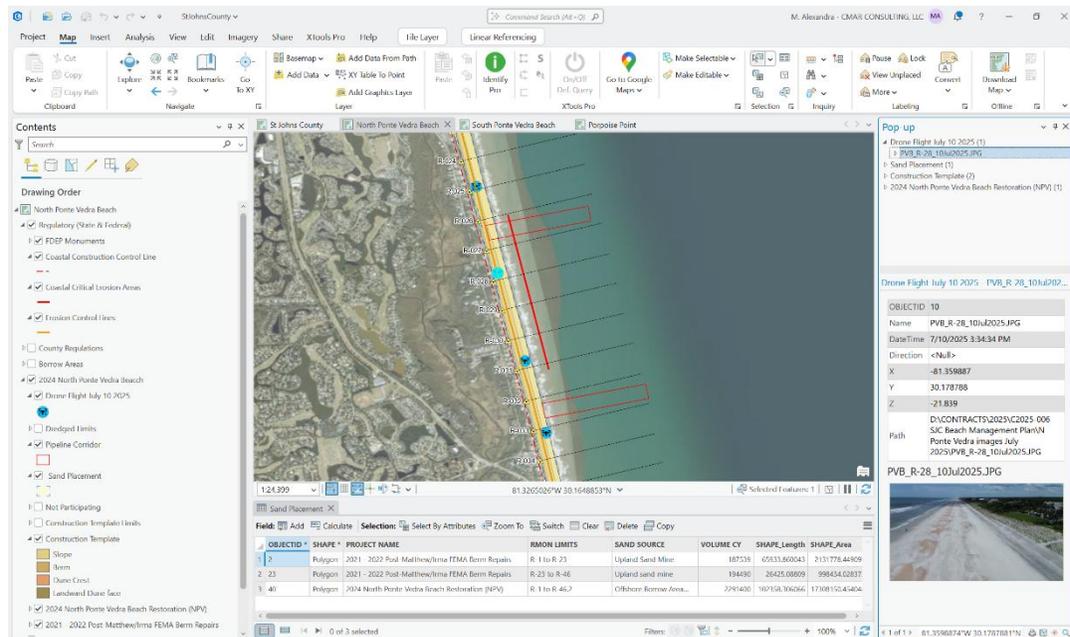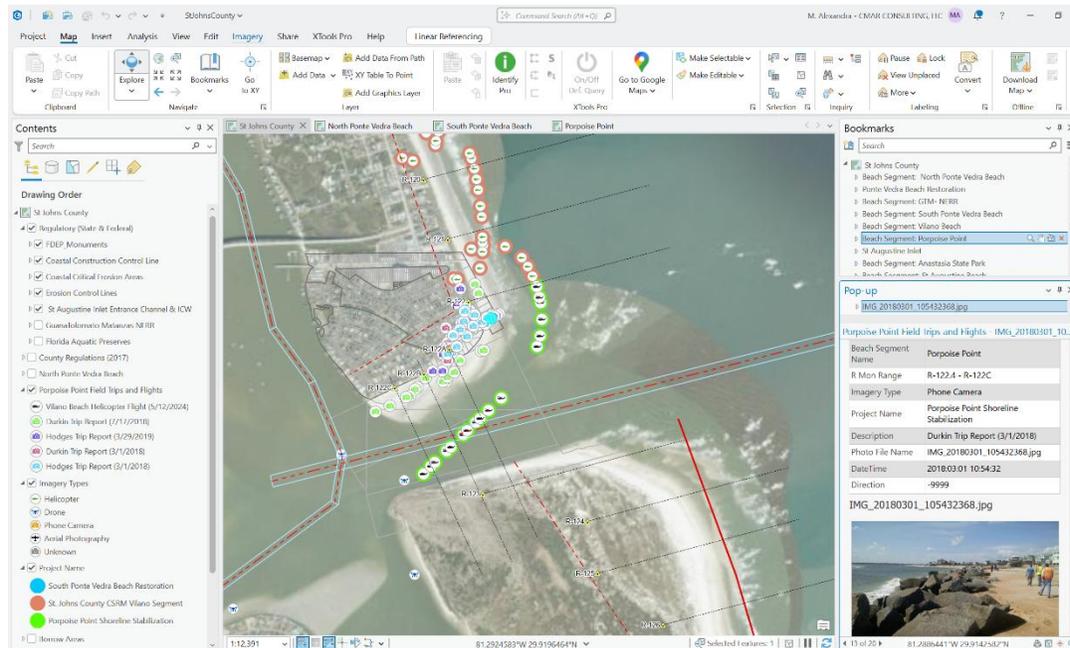
- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

*42 miles of shoreline, 0.75 mile-wide coastal zone (avg.)

SJC

Coastal Geodatabase

Integrate CM data into County GIS

- CMAR Consulting, LLC

- Provide a common framework for all projects

- Store and provide access to:

  - Boundaries and permits

  - Survey and geotech data

  - Historic performance info

  - Photography

2025 Countywide Surveys & Analyses for Economic Impact

- Downs & St. Germain Research - Tallahassee

- In-person and online surveys assessing visitor experiences

- Surveys included in-town and beach visitation

- 3,052 surveys collected

- 11 different in-person survey locations, including 7 beach access spots

Tourism & Economic Impact Study

SJC

Tourism Study Highlights

Almost 2.8 million visitors in 2025

- 2.4 million room nights

- $1.6B in direct spending

- $24.5M in Tourist Development Tax collection

- 48% of all County visitors came for the beach

- 70% of all visitors went to the beach

- Overall beach quality: 4.8 of 5

Beach Driving

~12 miles of drivable beach in SJC

- 78,810 driving passes issued in 2025

- 186,599 vehicles logged through accesses

- DSG Research surveys

  - Average beach driver experience : 4.5 of 5

  - Average non-driver experience at same beach: 4.7 of 5

- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

In summary...

- Beach tourism generates over $800 million per year in direct spending in St. Johns County

- The Coastal Management Department oversees more than 10 beach projects over 42 miles

- Coastal Management Plan is underway to document and streamline operations

THANK YOU!