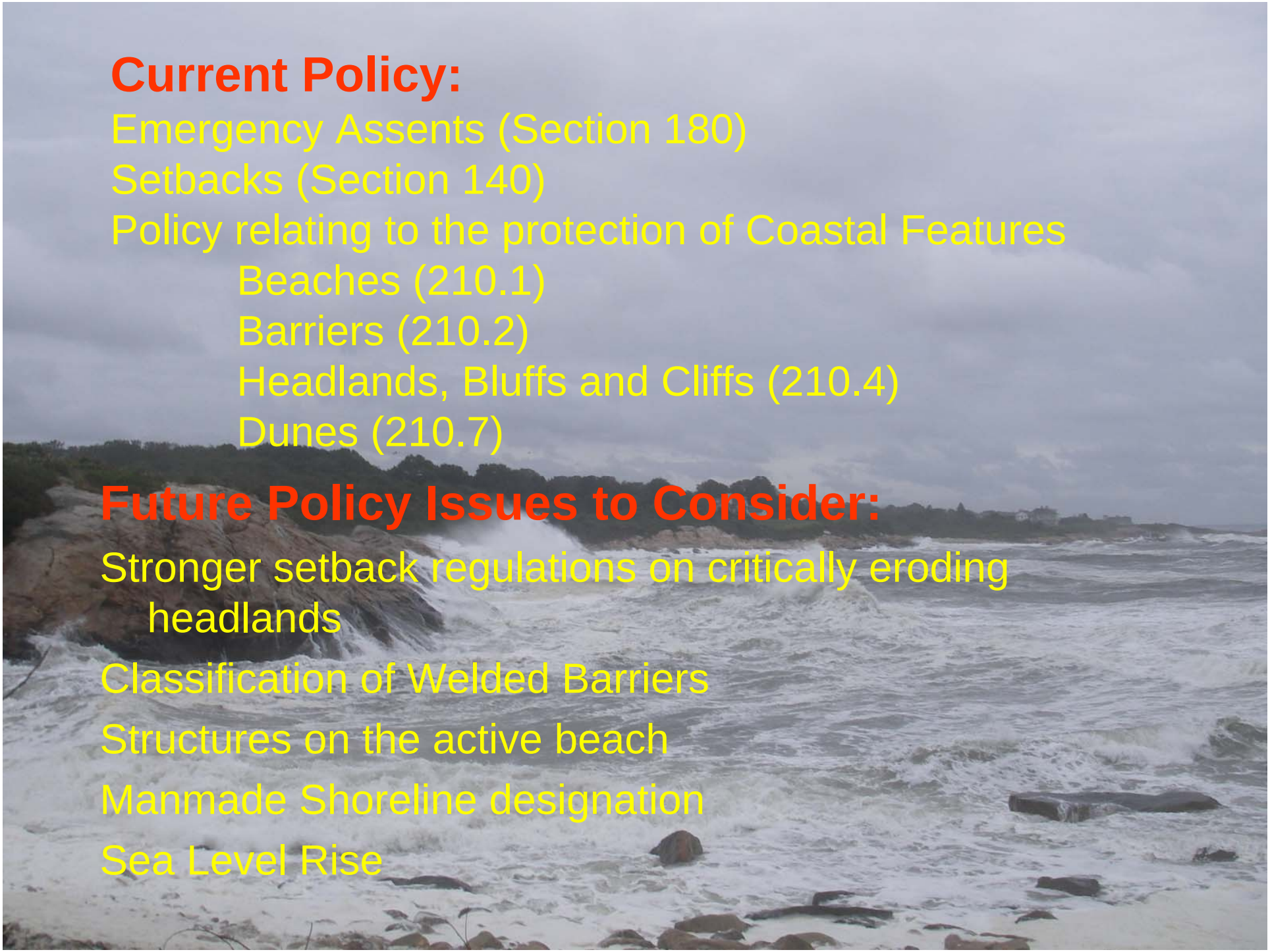
CRMC Policy Relating to Coastal Hazards
Successes and Gaps

CRMC Semi-monthly meeting

September 26, 2006



Current Policy:

Emergency Assents (Section 180)

Setbacks (Section 140)

Policy relating to the protection of Coastal Features

- Beaches (210.1)
- Barriers (210.2)
- Headlands, Bluffs and Cliffs (210.4)
- Dunes (210.7)

Future Policy Issues to Consider:

Stronger setback regulations on critically eroding headlands

Classification of Welded Barriers

Structures on the active beach

Manmade Shoreline designation

Sea Level Rise

Section 180. Emergency Assents

Catastrophic Storm Assents

- Immediate threat to public health and safety
- Immediate and significant adverse environmental impacts
- Consistent with the policies of the program

Imminent Peril Assent

- Bodily harm or threat to public health
- Significant adverse environmental impacts
- Significant economic loss to the state

Post Hurricane and Storm Permitting Procedures

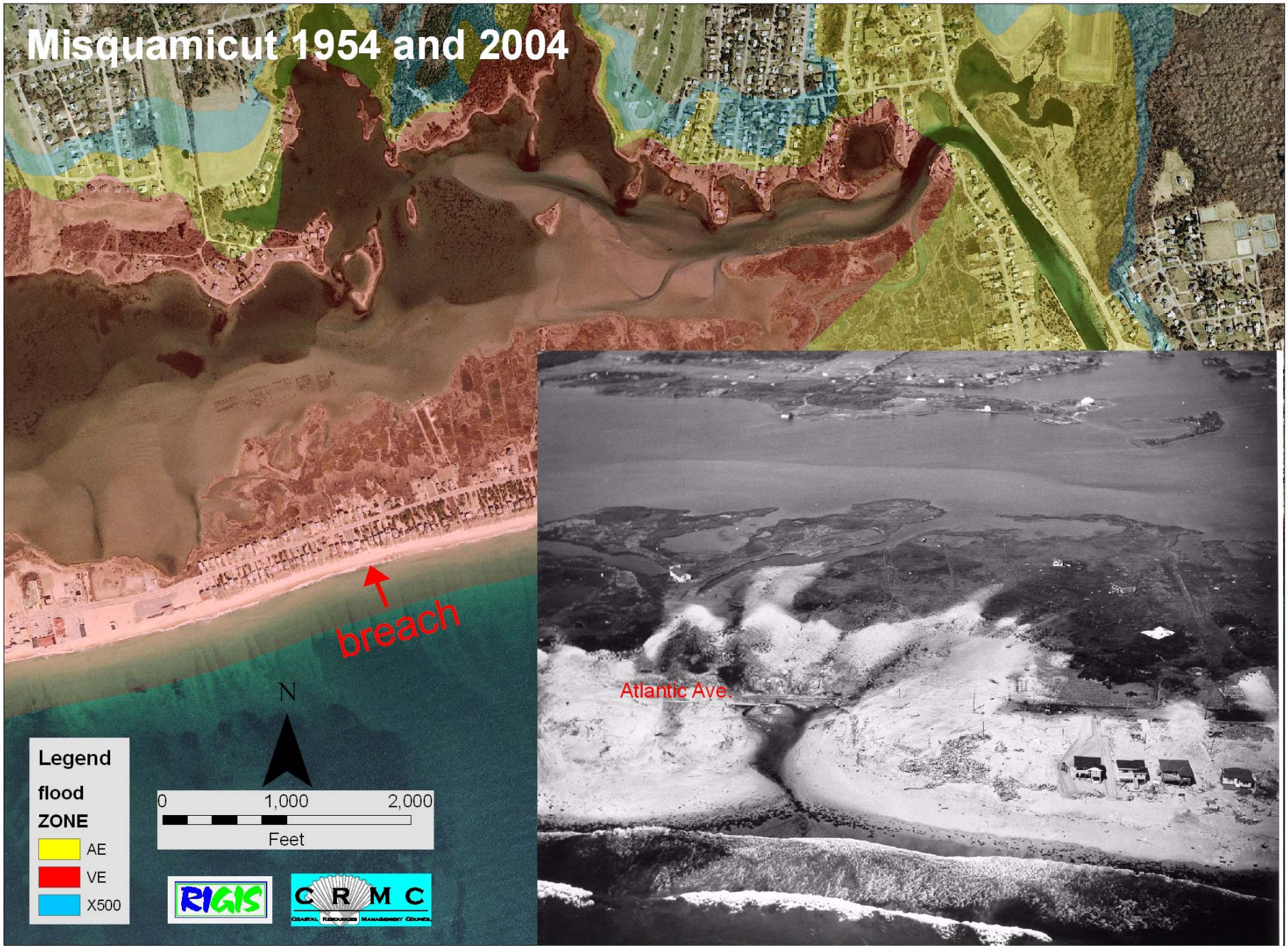
Disaster declaration

Priority given to essential public facilities (roads, bridges, utilities)

Moratorium on assents for:

- Applications for non-storm related activities
- Reconstruction of structures destroyed 50% or more by storm induced flood, wave, or wind damage

Purchase of open space or other mitigation responses in high damage areas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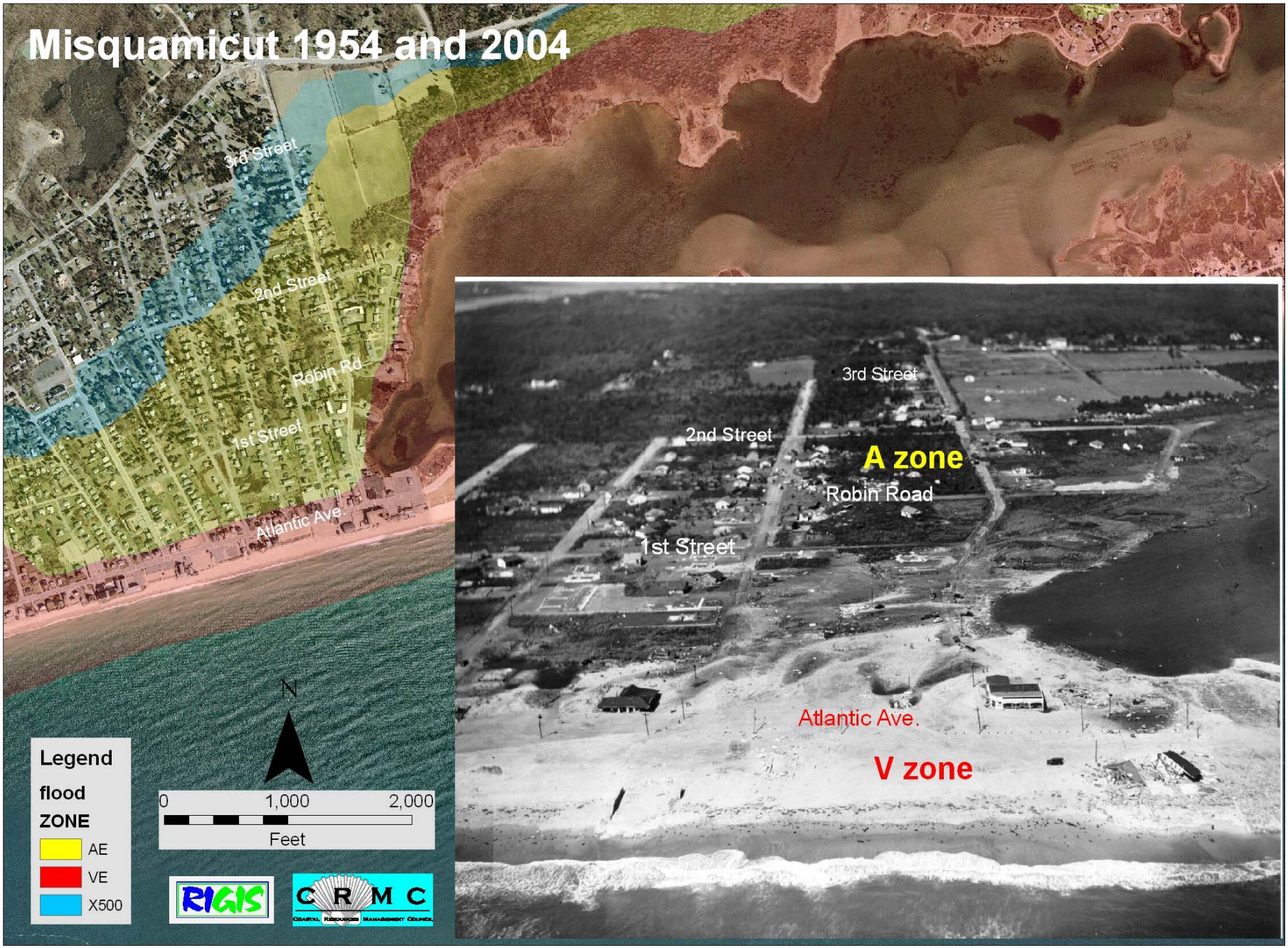
Misquamicut 1954 and 2004
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Interagency Coordination

CRMC role in the Emergency Operation Plan

Identify impacts so that they can make key policy and permitting decisions

Issue Emergency permits

Provide recommendations for rebuilding infrastructure

Review policies for rebuilding based on specific events

ISDS Repair Guidance in Critical Erosion Areas

0-50 feet from eroding edge of coastal feature = zero discharge system

50-100 feet from eroding edge of coastal feature = zero discharge or IA System

>100 feet from eroding edge of coastal feature = any system that complies with other applicable regulations

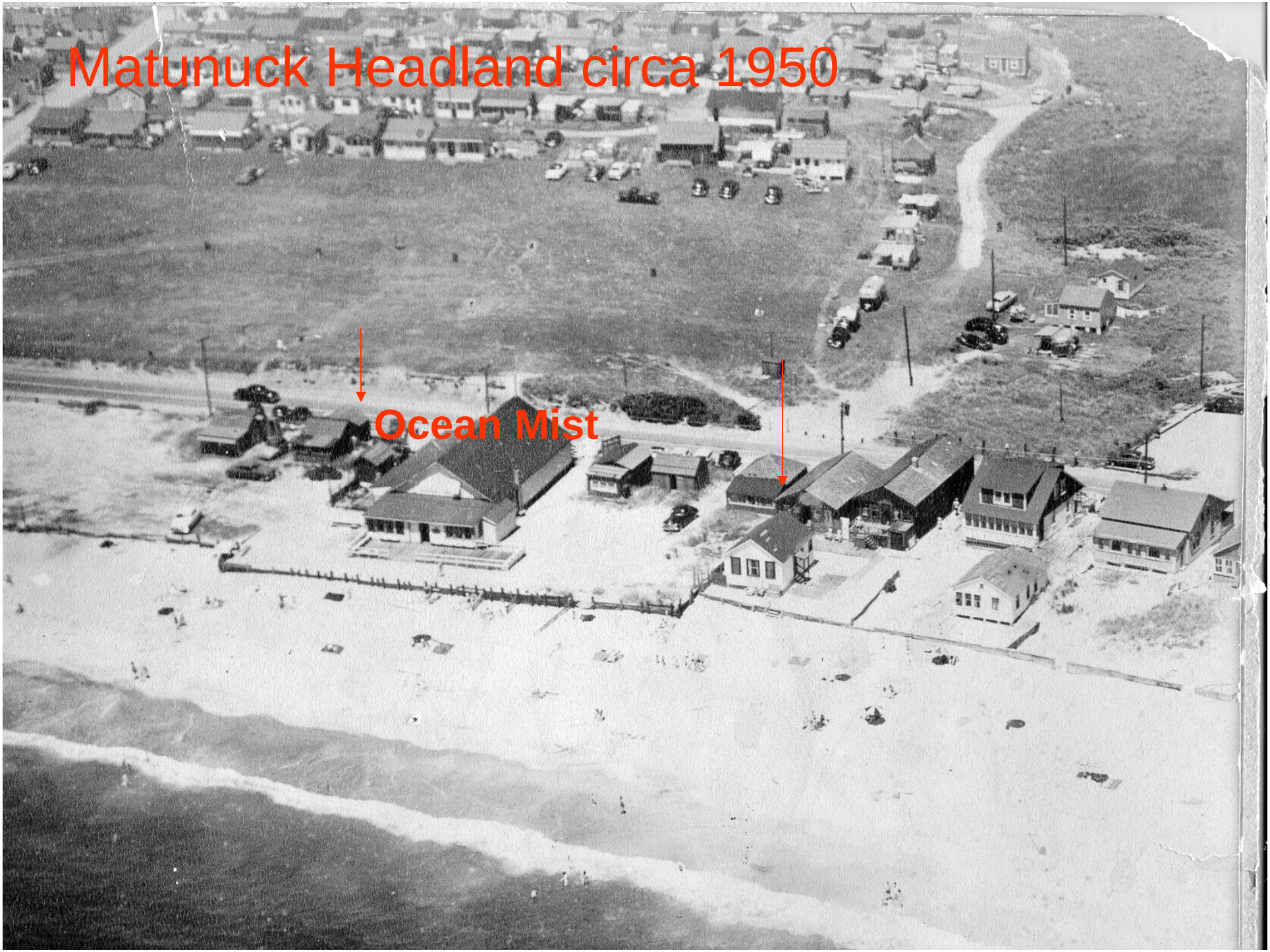
Setbacks in Critical Erosion Areas

Residential (<6 units) = 30 times the average annual erosion rate
Commercial and > 6 units = 60 times the average annual erosion rate

Beaches and Barriers: the minimum setback from the coastal feature is fifty feet.
Residential and ISDS construction and is prohibited in the fifty foot setback area.
A variance may be granted for construction in the setback area between 50 feet and the area determined by the average annual erosion rate

Headlands: the minimum setback is fifty feet, but there are no prohibitions for construction in the setback area

Foredune Zones on Barriers: the minimum setback from the coastal feature is fifty feet.
Residential and ISDS construction and is prohibited in the fifty foot setback area.
A variance may be granted for construction in the setback area between 50 feet and the area determined by the average annual erosion rate


Matunuck Headland circa 1950
Ocean Mist


Ocean Mist


ISDS
Joyces Pub
Deck Now
Open

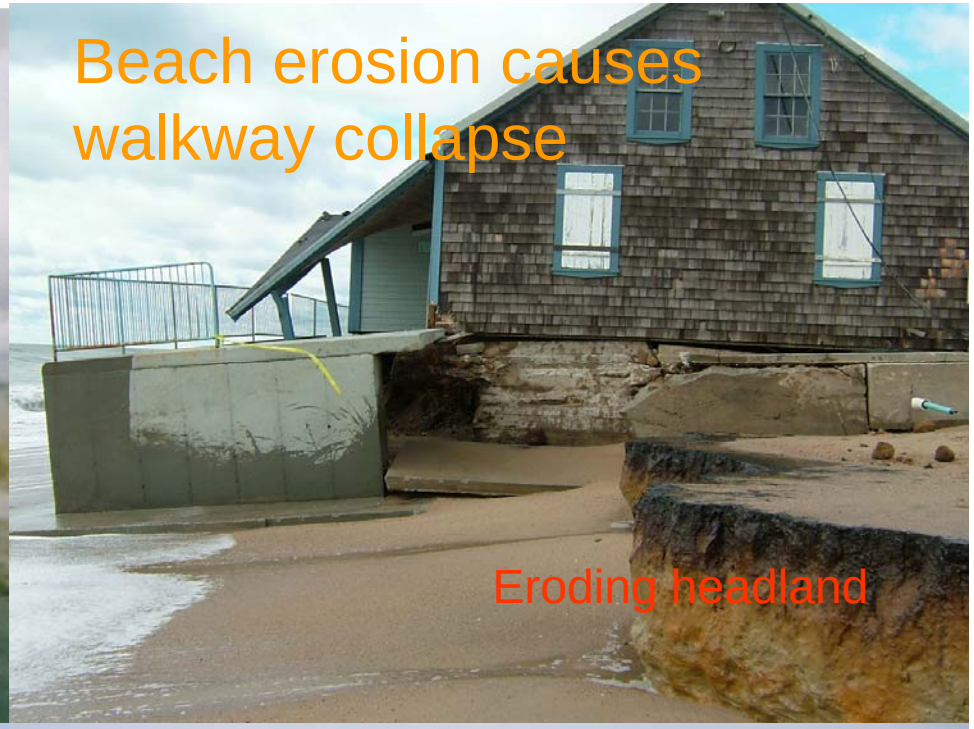
Emergency Assent 1998

←

2005-2006 winter storms

→


October 2005
Reflective profile


Beach erosion causes
walkway collapse
Eroding headland


Structure relocation


Setback buys time

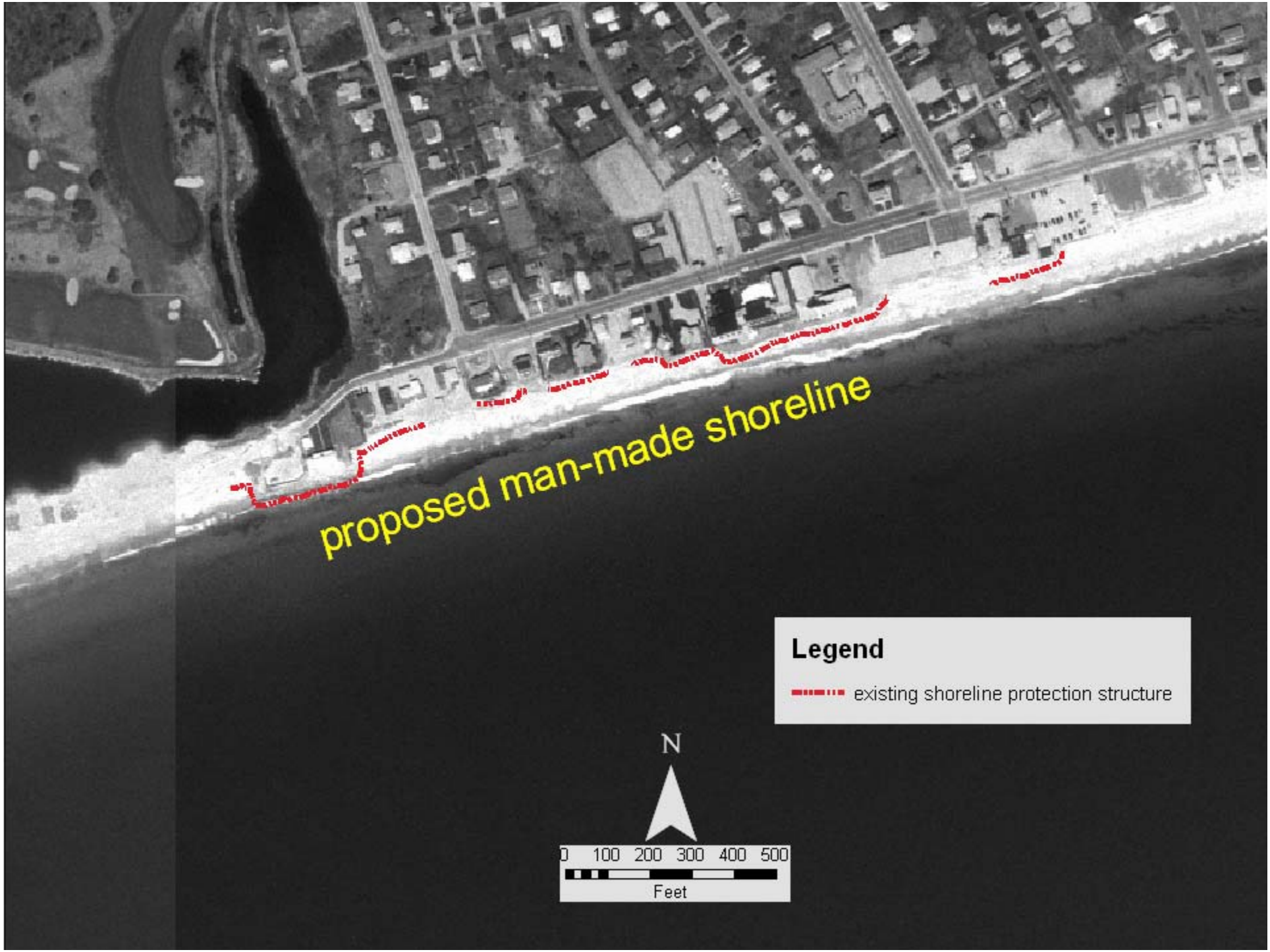
Block Island
2001

Larger setbacks on critically eroding headlands?


Watch Hill Headland
(welded barrier)
0
500
Feet


House on active beach
Exposed septic tank


Shoreline Protection Structures
(beaches or structures?)
PRIVATE BEACH
•Loss of access
•Disruption of sediment transport
•Localized erosion


proposed man-made shoreline
Legend
existing shoreline protection structure
N
0 100 200 300 400 500
Feet

Beach Replenishment


EPA 2005

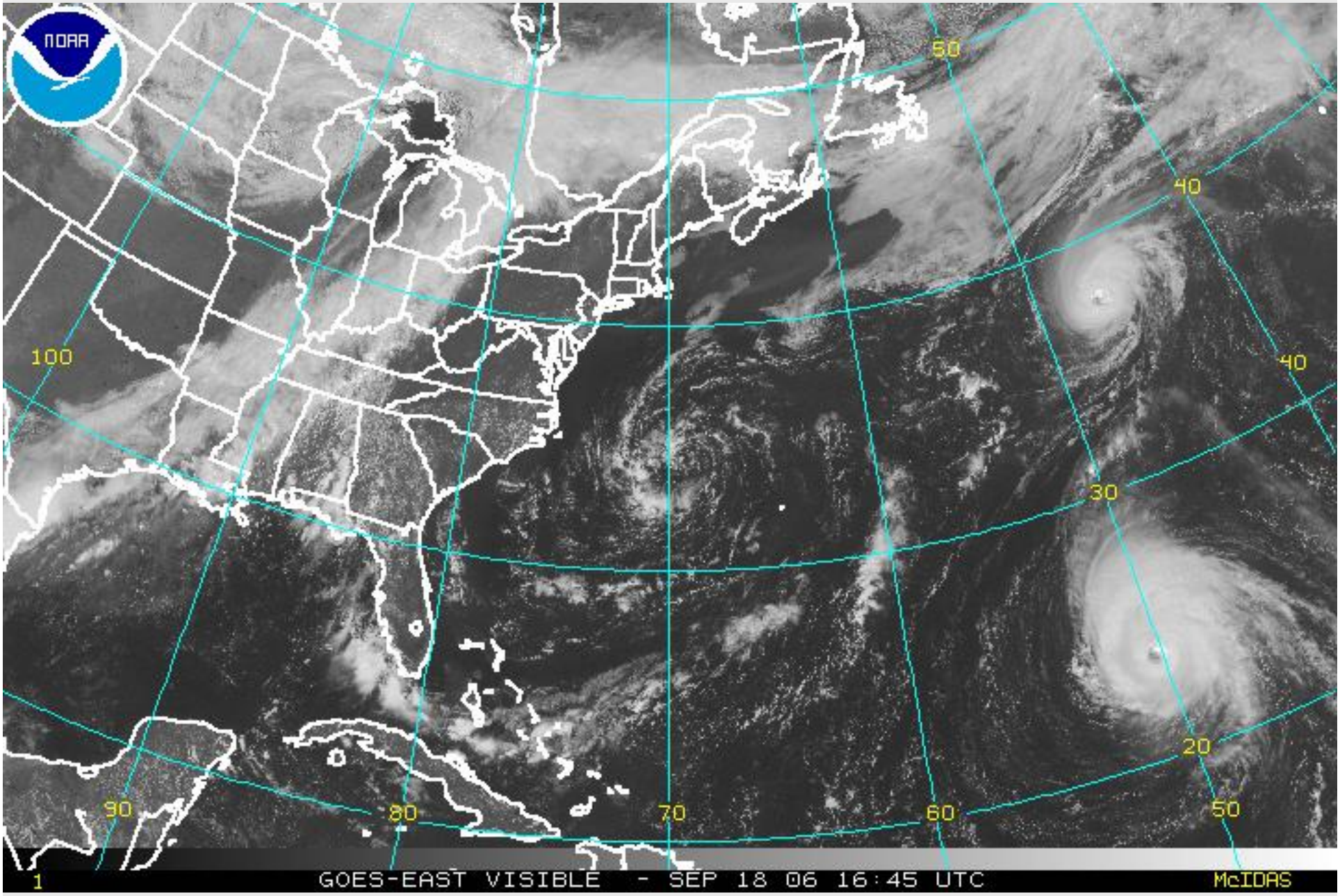

catchment basin
August 2006


Charlestown Beach
August 2006

Allin’s Cove restoration project
showing spit relocation for erosion control

Inlet undercutting bank

New spit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