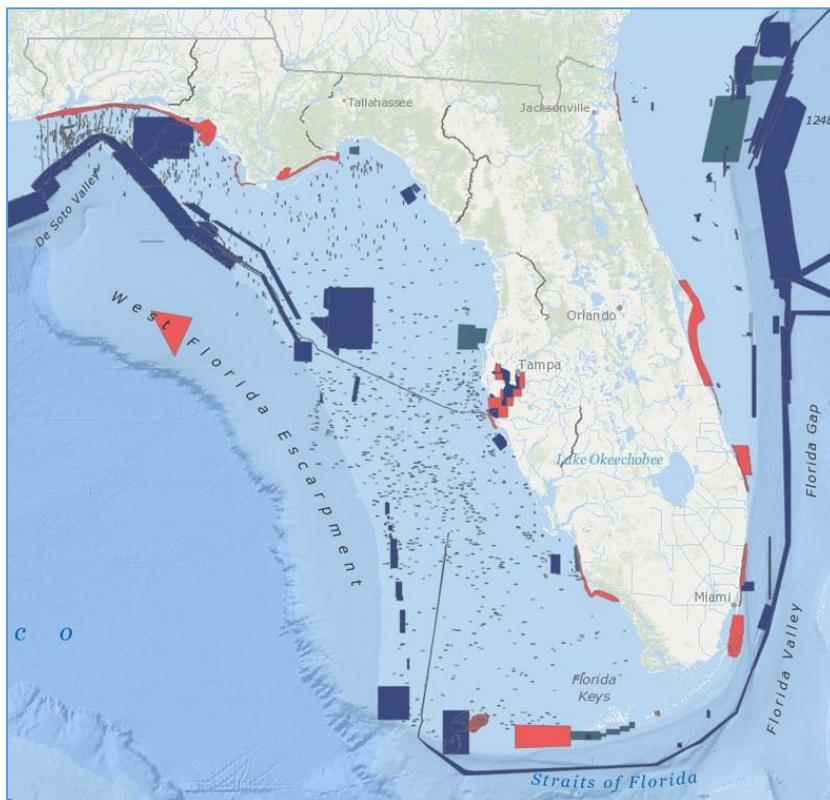


# Florida Coastal Mapping Program

January 9-11, 2018 Workshop – FWRI – St. Petersburg

**Purpose:** The State of Florida has one of the most valuable coastal zones in the nation (over \$30 billion in revenue per year), the greatest number of recreational boats and saltwater fisherman in the US, and one of the largest concentrations of people living in the coastal zone. Accurate maps – which are based on geologic and geophysical data of the coastal seafloor – are essential for assessing coastal resilience, understanding mineral resource distribution, and examining sea-level rise indicators, all of which are essential for informed decision making of coastal zone management, navigation, and coastal community planning. A 2007 Florida marine mapping workshop sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and Southeastern Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability concluded that while mapping coastal resources was a top priority, the lack of coordination, a clear set of priorities, and an overarching mapping plan was impeding progress (SERPPAS; Robbins et al. 2008). Little has been done since 2007 to follow-up on the workshop recommendations for improving coordination.



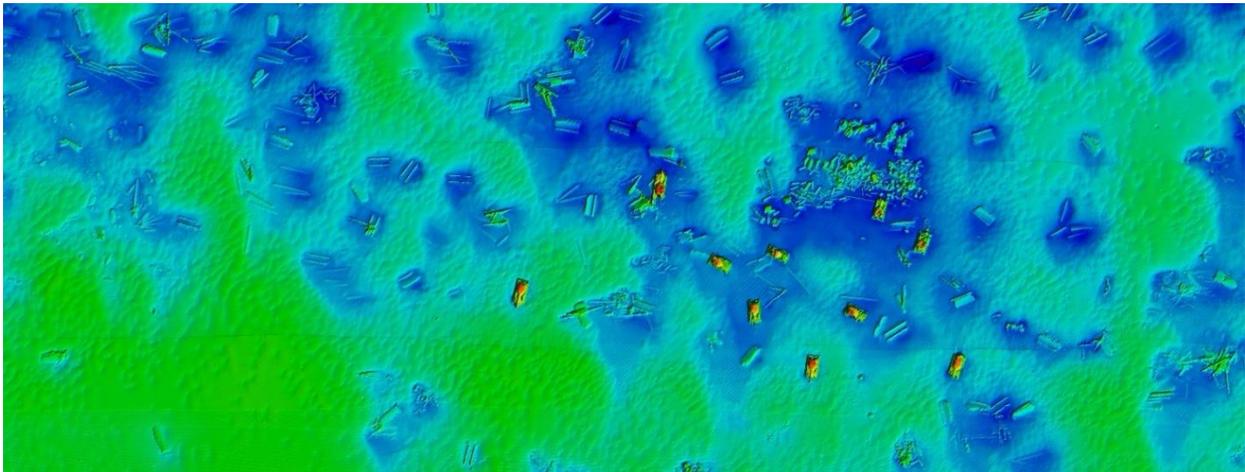
Example from Florida coastal seafloor mapping footprint aggregation process. Credit: FWRI.

**Why now?** There have been a number of new coastal and seafloor mapping efforts undertaken in Florida by federal, state, and academic institutions. In addition, there have been on-going improvements in seafloor mapping technologies, infrastructure, and mapping server capabilities, all of which can increase options and bring costs down. A revitalized effort to examine the current state of Florida's coastal seafloor mapping is overdue and needed to help coordinate planned mapping efforts, reduce

redundancy, help set priorities, and catalyze new seafloor mapping efforts to make Florida a national leader.

**Activities:** Florida Coastal Mapping Program activities include a 12-month effort to assemble existing data on Florida’s coastal seafloor and a subsequent 2 ½ day workshop with all relevant partners. Workshop participants will vet the aggregation of existing maps, discuss priorities for filling gaps or updating existing data, and develop a plan of action to map priority areas within Florida’s coastal waters. The data types will focus on coastal topography, bathymetry, sidescan and subbottom data to the 200m isobaths. [January workshop agenda coming soon]

**Outcomes:** The expected outcomes of this effort will be a multi-year, multi-agency strategy within which the Florida Coastal Mapping Program will coordinate filling the critical data gaps with a larger goal of completing high resolution geophysical and optical mapping for all of Florida’s coastal waters.



Benthic map of St. Pete Beach Reef. Credit: Murawski, S., Lembke C., and Gray, J. St Pete Beach Reef [map]. June 2016. 0.25x0.25-m grid. "St. Pete Beach Reef Data Products." Funding provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF): GEBF Grant #45892. Last updated October 2016. <<http://www.marine.usf.edu/scamp/data-products/st-pete-beach-reef>> (Accessed 07.06.2017)

**Partners:**

