Shoreline Status

Fripp Island - Shoreline Committee

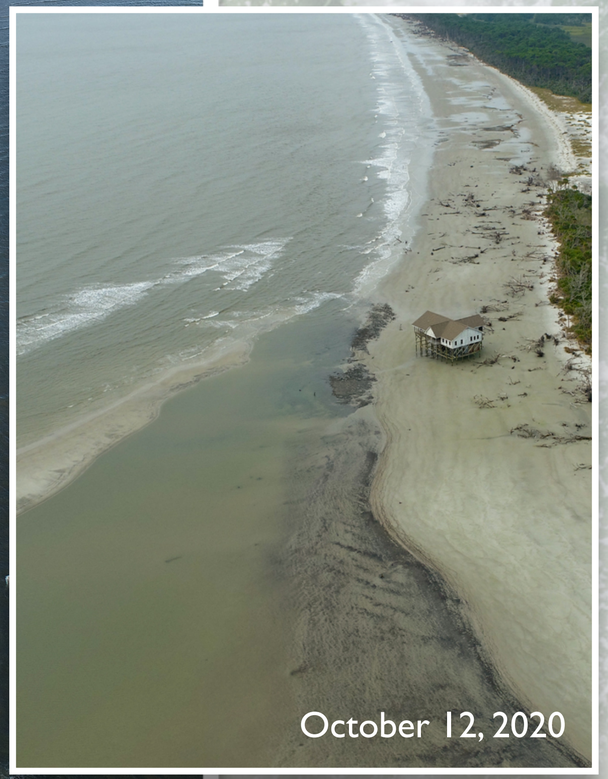
October 6, 2021

THE SOUTH END

The current condition of the beach at the south end of the island including parts of Pritchard's Island and Skull Creek.

The south end - This aerial photo, taken at low tide, shows an overall view of the shoreline at the south end of Fripp Island with Skull Creek inlet and Pritchard's Island in the distance.

Pritchard's Island - Two areas of sand accumulation. The first area shows the remnant of the old pier supports. Since March 2020 the sand has been building steadily and today only the tops of the pier supports are visible.



Pritchard's Island - The second area of sand accumulation is directly in front of the old dormitory. The inset photo taken on October 12, 2020, shows a very different shoreline compared to today. The new sand has created a channel by which the tide flows directly under the house and has started to uncover some of the trees once buried in sand.

Skull Creek Inlet - The vast amount of sand in front of Pritchard's Island continues to transform and expand toward Fripp Island.

Skull Creek Inlet - This view of the Skull Creek Inlet shows the deflection of water from the sand bar at Pritchard's Island into the revetment side of Fripp Island and the loss of sand along the Fripp Side of the Skull Creek Inlet.

Skull Creek Inlet - Another view of the erosion to the groin and rock revetment from the shifting channel.

Main Beach - Looking north from the south end, this stretch of beach has remained fairly stable and consistent. Significant changes to the shoreline begin near the attached shoal area, which is visible in the distance.

ATTACHED SHOAL AREA

Changes to the tide pools and shoreline

Attached shoal
This view shows the attached shoal is flattening towards the shore and pushing the sand both north and south along the beach. It also shows the tide pool has been split into two separate pools.

Tide Pools - The south half of the tide pool in detail. The water level rises and falls with the tide, but the overall size and shape has remained fairly consistent and stable.

Tide Pools - The northern half of the tide pool. This body of water is also affected by the rising and falling of the tide, but its size and shape changes on a regular basis, possibly due to the central location of the flowing channel.

Tide Pools - A close up of the sand that flows into the tide pool and is likely responsible for so much of the changes to the shape of the overall pool.

Shifting sand - As the attached shoal area gets flatter, the sand is being pushed north and south along the beach. Much more sand is visible at Ocean Point than was present in December of 2020.

Beach Access #1B - A close up of the stubborn end of the tide pool that affects beach access #1B. The access terminates in the water regardless of the tide cycle.

Standing water - The pocket of standing water in between access #1B and access #2 is currently not tidal. The water level is based on the frequency and amount of precipitation. This photo was taken after three days of heavy rain and shows the basin to be quite full.

Standing water - The large pool of standing water at access #13 and access #14 is also not currently tidal and its' water level is based on the frequency and amount of precipitation as well.

The outer shoal - The sand that flows out around the mouth of Fripp Inlet and stockpiles just offshore in front of the beach continues to create a visible surf, but because much of it lies below the surface, it's difficult to be sure if a new shoal is currently being formed. However, the pattern is similar to past shoal formations, so it wouldn't be a stretch to assume a new one is being formed right now.

THE SALTMARSH

Located behind the River Club and Quail Cove neighborhoods

Overall view of the salt marsh - I typically photograph the salt marsh at low tide to see erosion damage and/or sand movement patterns, but this time I chose high tide to observe the water level in relationship to the salt marsh and surrounding shoreline during a normal high tide.

Detail of the salt marsh - A close up view of the eroded area next to the Mollura residence shows the wrack line has reached the new sea wall placed along the edge of the marsh.

Detail of the salt marsh - A close up view of the larger eroded area in the center of the salt marsh. This year has been pretty mild in terms of storms or other weather events, so to see pockets of grass trying to make a come back is a good sign the marsh still has a fighting chance to recover if damaging wave action can be mitigated.

Detail of the salt marsh - Apart from the scouring areas at the opening, the rest of the salt marsh looks pretty healthy and green with plenty of water supplying all areas.

Detail of the salt marsh - The overflow spillway at the end of the salt marsh that drains into Deer Lake and Blue Heron Lake looks intact, but could use some cleaning out and the exposed erosion fabric reburied under the rip rap.

FRIPP BRIDGE ABUTMENT

Current Status

Fripp Island bridge abutment - Photographed during a normal high tide to observe how the water level relates to the earthen bridge abutment and the surrounding shoreline.

Fripp Island bridge abutment - A view of the abutment from the Springtide side of the street. Some of the standing water is due to three consecutive days of rain prior to taking this photo.

Fripp Island bridge abutment - A view of the shoreline around the bridge abutment with an emphasis on the way the mouth of the salt marsh lines up with the shoreline leading to the bridge.

King tide - A view of the entire area during a king tide (spring tide). These tides typically occur between 6-8 times each year when the new or full moon coincides closely in time with the perigee of the moon — the point when the moon is closest to the Earth.

HUNTING ISLAND

The deteriorating south end of Hunting Island

Hunting Island - The deteriorating south end of Hunting Island continues to do the inevitable. This photo was taken at high tide to show the normal reduction of the footprint to the south end as well as the "boneyard" area to the north.

Hunting Island - A better view of the remaining forested area on the south end. This photo, taken at high tide, shows the width of the remaining "cabin road" area is getting narrower.

Hunting Island - Most of the trees that remain standing are either dead or in some beginning phase of demise as the relentless waves continue their march through the forest.

Hunting Island - To end on a positive note, the newly repaired fishing pier at Hunting Island is an incredible asset to have available to Fripp Islanders right in our own front yard and adds one more reason to the long list of why Fripp Island is an amazing place to call home.

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The aerial photographs used in this presentation were taken on September 24, 25, and 26, 2021

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Darryl Zoeckler - October 6, 2021