Rookery Bay
National Estuarine Research Reserve:

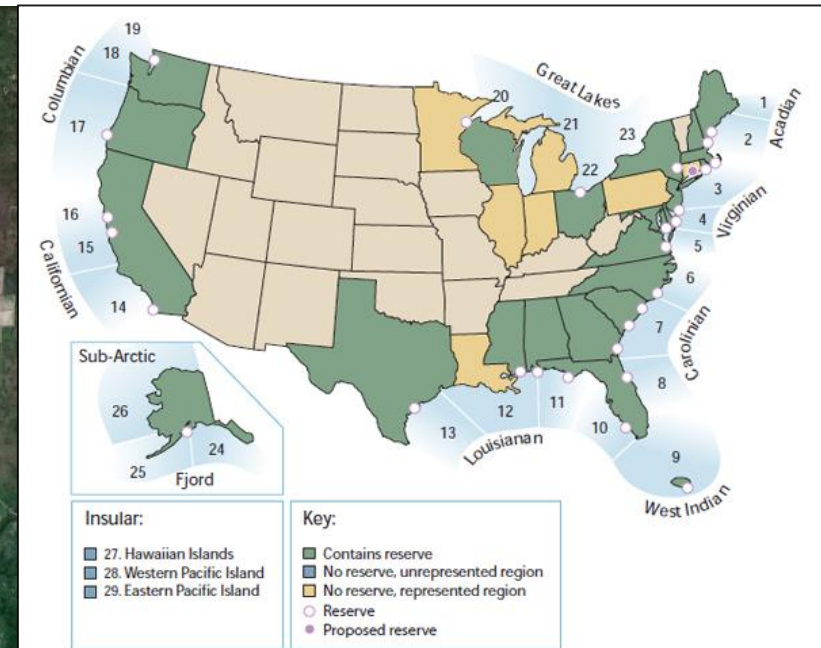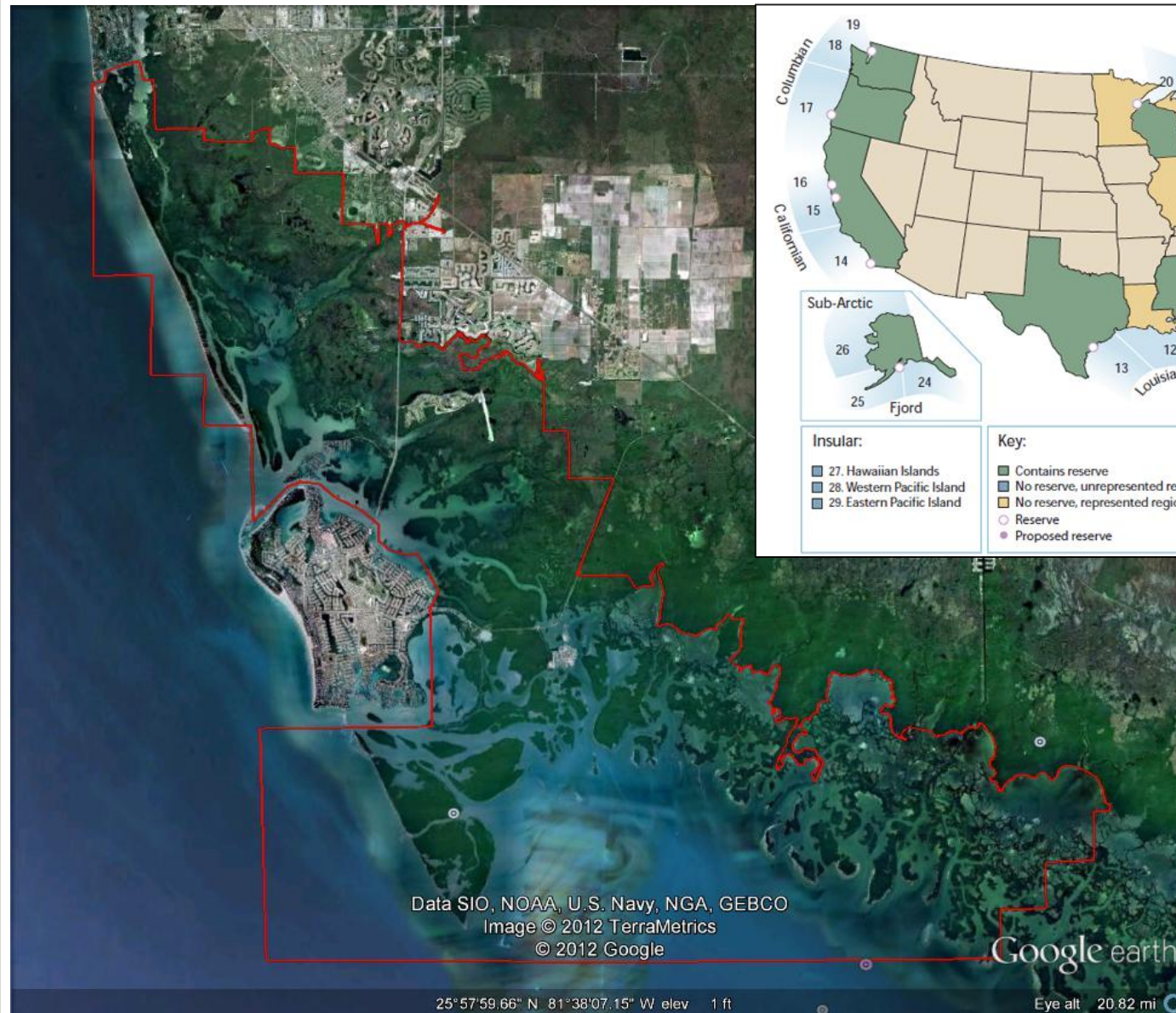# How a local strategic plan caused a national paradigm shift.

Todd E. Hopkins
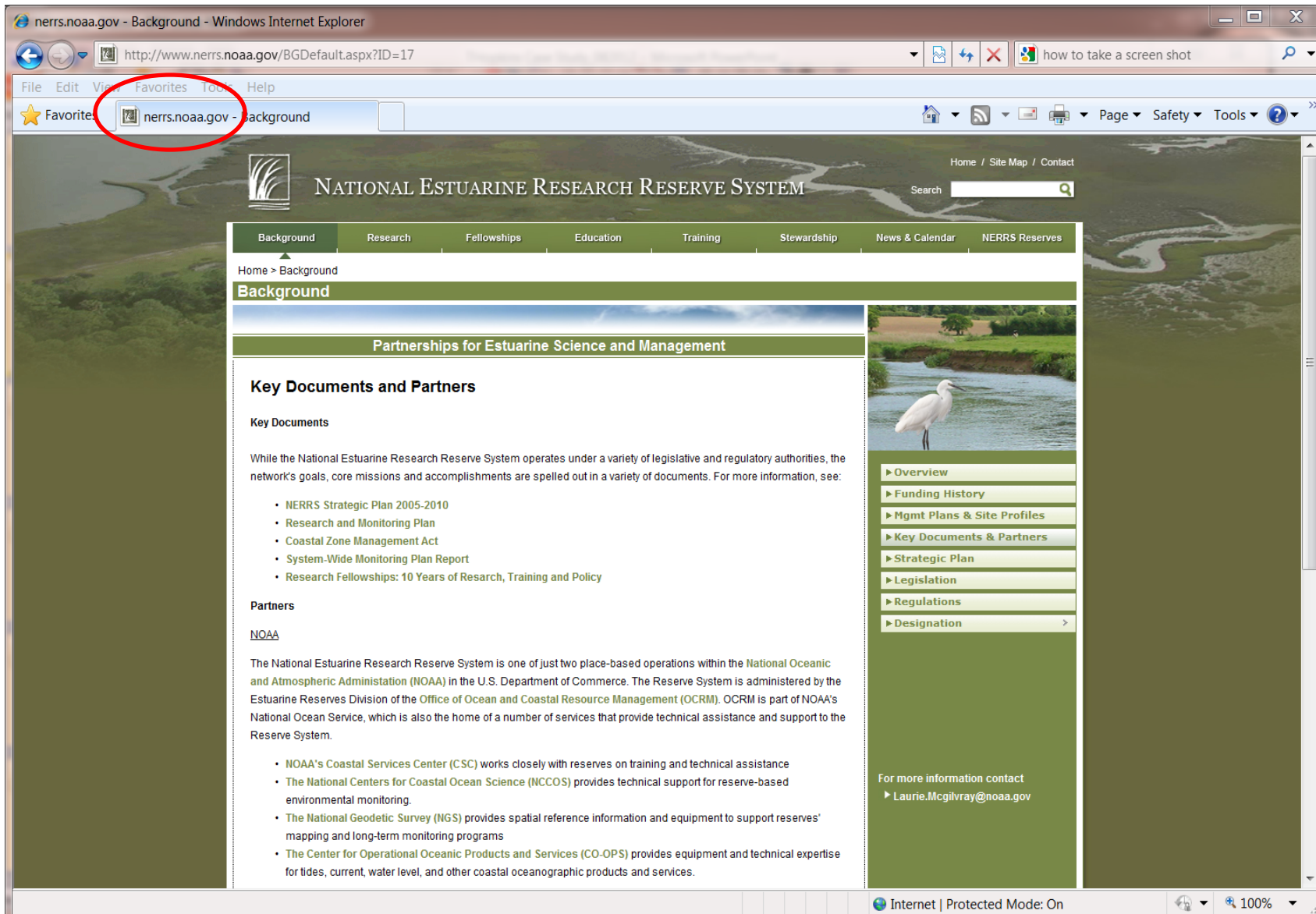
Science Coordinator

Great Basin LCC

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

Rookery Bay Research Reserve

What Governs the Partnership?

The Mission

Rookery Bay
National Estuarine Research Reserve

The mission of the Reserve is to provide a basis for <u>informed coastal decisions</u> through land management, restoration research and education. The Reserve works in partnership with local communities to promote coastal stewardship.

What Happened?

- Strategic Plan before the Management Plan
  - Mission and Goals
  - "Evaluability" (Assessment = Accountability)
  - Audience? => <u>Coastal Decision-makers</u>
  - Programs:
    - Research
    - Stewardship
    - Education

Fallout!

- The 4th Grade Marine Science Programs don't fit the mission!

- Now What?

A Paradigm Shift!

- "Teach the Teachers"

Marine Science
Field and Lab Manual

Rookery Bay
National Estuarine Research Reserve

Rookery Bay Marine Science Field and Lab Manual - A Guide for Teachers

This manual was designed for use teachers to introduce students to the function and structure of estuarine ecosystems. It was written to conform to the Sunshine State Standards. (Florida Standards)

- "Limited but strategic assistance"

National Response

- Dialog on the role of the Reserves in education…….And then an

- Creation of the Coastal Training Program

A New National Education Program

Coastal Training Program (CTP) Overview

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System's Coastal Training Program was formally initiated in 2001 to provide up-to-date scientific information and skill-building opportunities to the people who are responsible for making decisions affecting coastal lands and waters of the United States. The program aims to provide coastal decision-makers with the knowledge and tools they need to address critical resource management issues.

Summary

- Strategic Thinking coupled with Vision and Accountability changed the education paradigm both locally, and nationally.

- Credit for leadership & innovation:

Ginger Hinchcliff, Education Coordinator

Gary Lytton, Reserve Manager

Questions?