

# Rookery Bay

## National Estuarine Research Reserve:

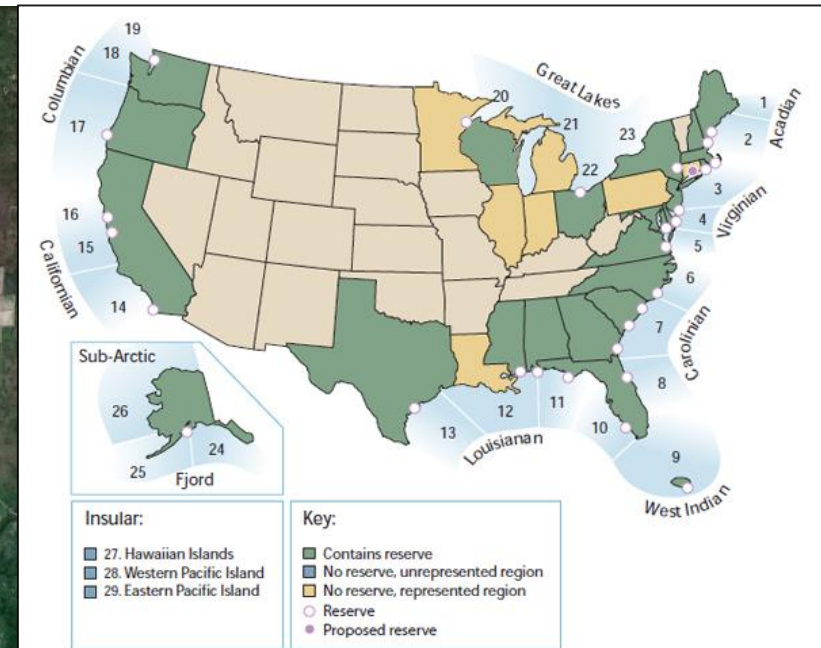
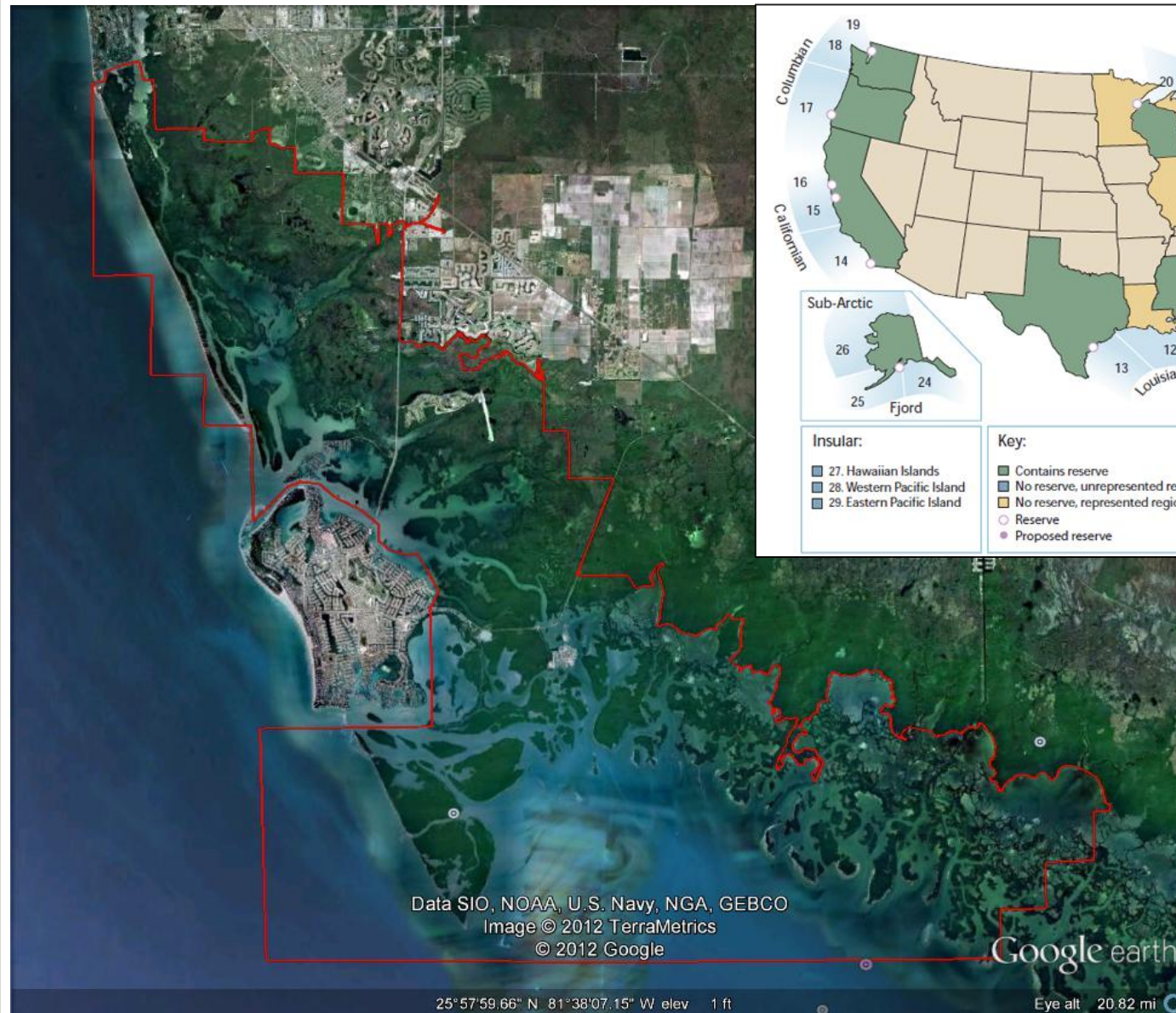
How a local strategic plan caused a national paradigm shift.

Todd E. Hopkins

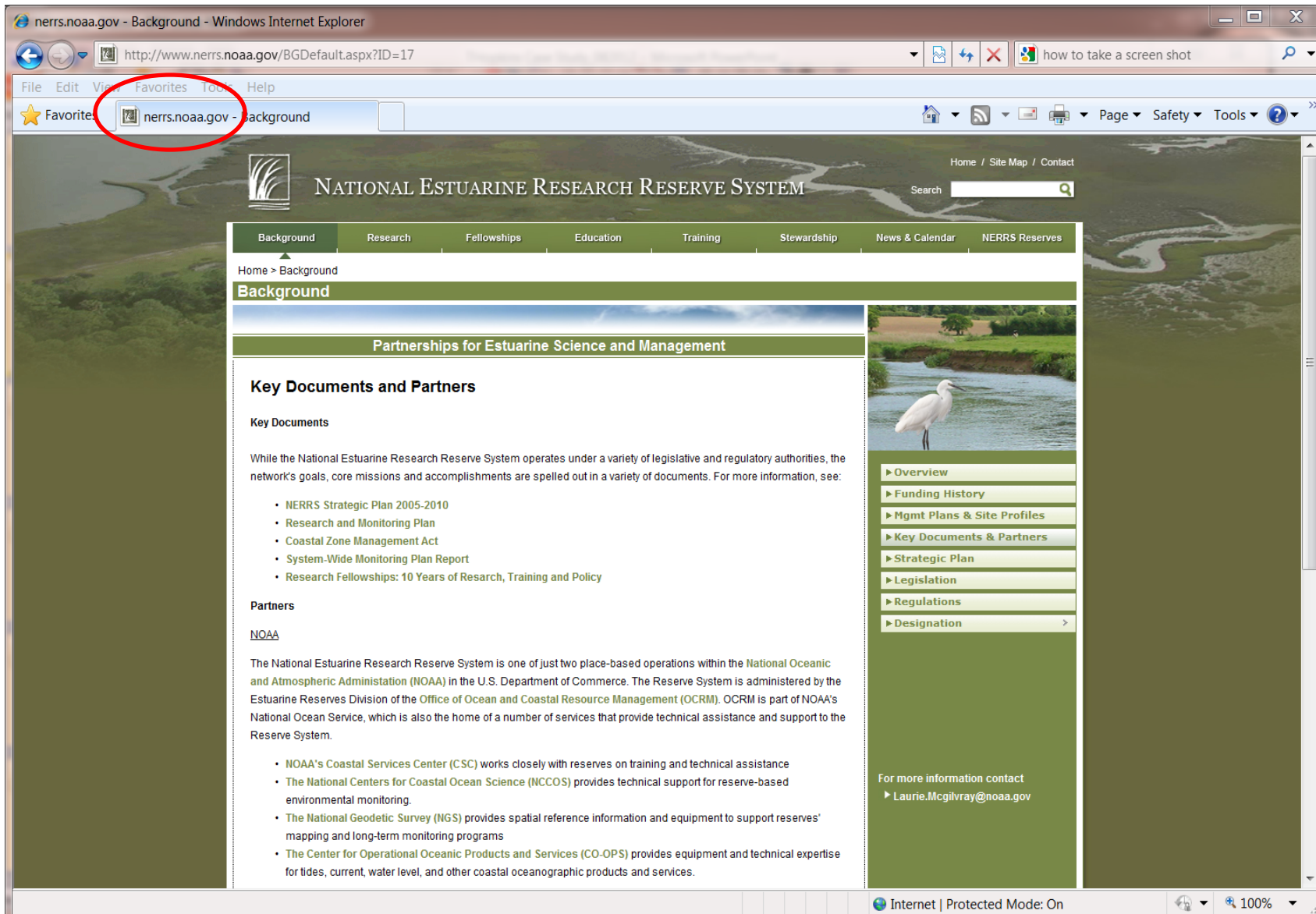
Science Coordinator



# Rookery Bay Research Reserve



# What Governs the Partnership?



The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the NERRS NOAA.gov website. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/BGDefault.aspx?ID=17>. A bookmark for 'nerrs.noaa.gov - Background' is circled in red. The website header includes the NERRS logo and the text 'NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM'. A navigation menu at the top lists: Background, Research, Fellowships, Education, Training, Stewardship, News & Calendar, and NERRS Reserves. The 'Background' page content includes a section titled 'Partnerships for Estuarine Science and Management' and a sub-section 'Key Documents and Partners'. The 'Key Documents' section lists several documents, and the 'Partners' section lists NOAA and other organizations. A sidebar on the right contains a list of links: Overview, Funding History, Mgmt Plans & Site Profiles, Key Documents & Partners, Strategic Plan, Legislation, Regulations, and Designation. The footer of the website provides contact information for Laurie McGilvray.

nerrs.noaa.gov - Background - Windows Internet Explorer

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Background Research Fellowships Education Training Stewardship News & Calendar NERRS Reserves

Home > Background

Background

Partnerships for Estuarine Science and Management

**Key Documents and Partners**

**Key Documents**

While the National Estuarine Research Reserve System operates under a variety of legislative and regulatory authorities, the network's goals, core missions and accomplishments are spelled out in a variety of documents. For more information, see:

- NERRS Strategic Plan 2005-2010
- Research and Monitoring Plan
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- System-Wide Monitoring Plan Report
- Research Fellowships: 10 Years of Research, Training and Policy

**Partners**

NOAA

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is one of just two place-based operations within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Reserve System is administered by the Estuarine Reserves Division of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). OCRM is part of NOAA's National Ocean Service, which is also the home of a number of services that provide technical assistance and support to the Reserve System.

- NOAA's Coastal Services Center (CSC) works closely with reserves on training and technical assistance
- The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) provides technical support for reserve-based environmental monitoring.
- The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) provides spatial reference information and equipment to support reserves' mapping and long-term monitoring programs
- The Center for Operational Oceanic Products and Services (CO-OPS) provides equipment and technical expertise for tides, current, water level, and other coastal oceanographic products and services.

For more information contact  
▶ Laurie.McGilvray@noaa.gov

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# The Mission



The mission of the Reserve is to provide a basis for informed coastal decisions 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? => Coastal Decision-makers
  - Programs:
    - Research
    - Stewardship
    - Education

# Fallout!

- The 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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?

