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Shoreline Evolution: Northampton County, Virginia Chesapeake Bay Shoreline 2013

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Shoreline Evolution: Northampton County, Virginia Chesapeake Bay Shoreline



Shoreline Studies Program
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
College of William & Mary
Gloucester Point, Virginia

September 2013

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Data Summary Report

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September 2013

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1 Introduction

Northampton County is situated along Virginia's Eastern Shore (Figure 1). Because the County's shoreline is continually changing, determining where the shoreline was in the past, how far and how fast it is moving, and what factors drive shoreline change will help define the shoreline's future movement. These rates and patterns of shore change along Chesapeake Bay's estuarine shores will differ through time as winds, waves, tides and currents shape and modify coastlines by eroding, transporting and depositing sediments.

The purpose of this report is to document how the Chesapeake Bay shoreline of Northampton County has evolved since 1938. Aerial imagery was taken for most of the Bay region beginning that year and can be used to assess the geomorphic nature of shore change. Only shorelines of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries on the Bay side of Northampton County are included in this report. The present report is an update to Hardaway *et al.* (2004) which documented shoreline change in order to determine the evolution of Bay dunes. While determining how the ocean side shoreline and marshes are changing is important, it would have greatly increased the scope of this project.

Aerial photos show how the coast has changed, how beaches, dunes, bars, and spits have grown or decayed, how barriers have breached, how inlets have changed course, and how one shore type has displaced another or has not changed at all. Shore change is a natural process but, quite often, the impacts of man, through shore hardening or inlet stabilization, come to dominate a given shore reach. In addition to documenting historical shorelines, the change in shore positions along the Bay and larger creeks in Northampton County will be quantified in this report. The shorelines of very irregular coasts, small creeks and around inlets, and other complicated areas will be shown but not quantified.

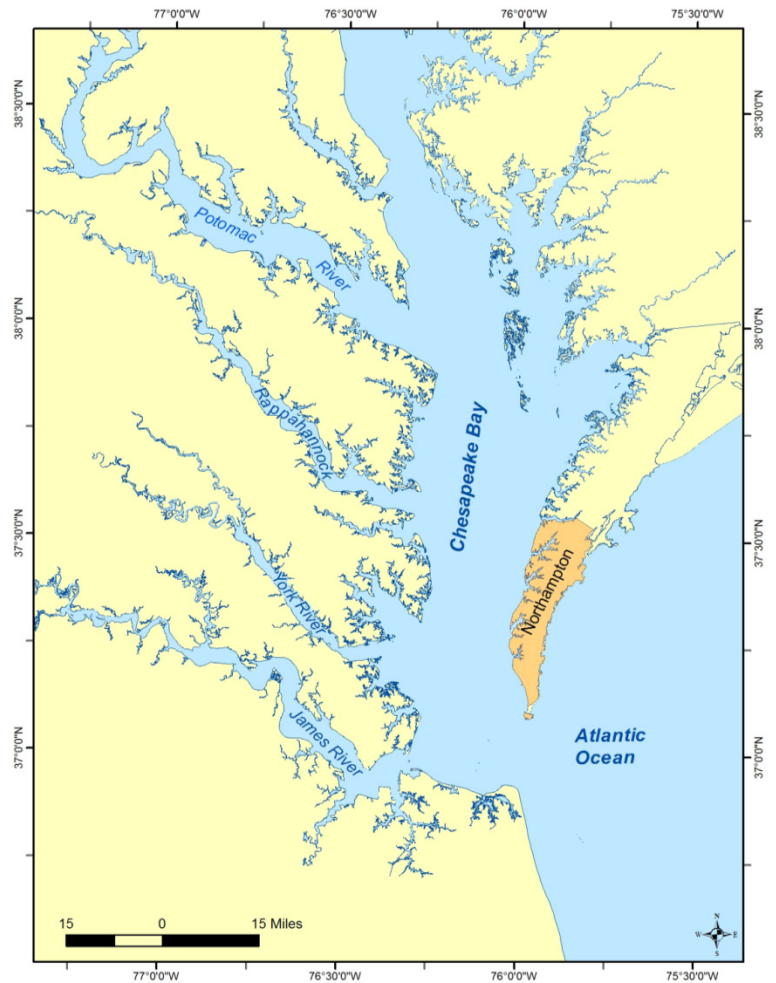


Figure 1. Location of Northampton County in the Chesapeake Bay estuarine system.

2 Methods

2.1 Photo Rectification and Shoreline Digitizing

An analysis of aerial photographs provides the historical data necessary to understand the suite of processes that work to alter a shoreline. Images of the Northampton County Shoreline from 1938, 1949, 1972, 1994, 2002, and 2009 were used in the analysis. The 1994, 2002 and 2009 images were available from other sources. The 1994 imagery was orthorectified by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the 2002 and 2009 imagery was orthorectified by the Virginia Base Mapping Program (VBMP). The 1938, 1949 and 1972 photos are part of the VIMS Shoreline Studies Program archives. The historical aerial images used to analyze the entire County shoreline were not always flown on the same day. The exact dates that the 1994 images were flown could not be ascertained; however, the dates for the other years are as follows:

1938 – May 6, 7, and 17;

1949 – February 3 and 17, March 13, May 14, and November 8;

1972 – December 1;

2002 – February 14, 19, 22, and 24;

2009 – February 6, 7, and 13.

The 1938, 1949 and 1972 images were scanned as tiffs at 600 dpi and converted to ERDAS IMAGINE (.img) format. These aerial photographs were orthographically corrected to produce a seamless series of aerial mosaics following a set of standard operating procedures. The 1994 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles (DOQQ) from USGS were used as the reference images. The 1994 photos are used rather than higher quality, more recent aeriels because of the difficulty in finding control points that match the earliest 1938 images.

ERDAS Orthobase image processing software was used to orthographically correct the individual flight lines using a bundle block solution. Camera lens calibration data were matched to the image location of fiducial points to define the interior camera model. Control points from 1994 USGS DOQQ images provide the exterior control, which is enhanced by a large number of image-matching tie points produced automatically by the software. The exterior and interior models were combined with a digital elevation model (DEM) from the USGS National Elevation Dataset to produce an orthophoto for each aerial photograph. The orthophotographs were adjusted to approximately uniform brightness and contrast and were mosaicked together using the ERDAS Imagine mosaic tool to produce a one-meter resolution mosaic .img format. To maintain an accurate match with the reference images, it is necessary to distribute the control points evenly, when possible. This can be challenging in areas given the lack of ground features and poor photo quality on the earliest photos. Good examples of control points were manmade features such as road

intersections and stable natural landmarks such as ponds and creeks that have not changed much over time. The base of tall features such as buildings, poles, or trees can be used, but the base can be obscured by other features or shadows making these locations difficult to use accurately. Many areas of the County were particularly difficult to rectify due to the lack of development in the historical and the reference images.

Once the aerial photos were orthorectified and mosaicked, the shorelines were digitized in ArcMap with the mosaics in the background. The morphologic toe of the beach or edge of marsh was used to approximate low water. High water limit of run-up can be difficult to determine on some shorelines due to narrow or non-existent beaches against upland banks or vegetated cover. The feature digitized is noted in the shoreline attributes for the 2009 photos. Ice along some sections of the 2009 photos obscures the shoreline. In areas where the shoreline was not clearly identifiable on the aerial photography, the location was estimated based on the experience of the digitizer. The displayed shorelines are in shapefile format. One shapefile was produced for each year that was mosaicked. The area was calculated for several islands in Northampton County. The shoreline shapefiles were converted to polygons and their area determined.

Horizontal positional accuracy is based upon orthorectification of scanned aerial photography against the USGS digital orthophoto quadrangles. For vertical control, the USGS 30m DEM data was used. The 1994 USGS reference images were developed in accordance with National Map Accuracy Standards (NMAS) for Spatial Data Accuracy at the 1:12,000 scale. The 2002 and 2009 Virginia Base Mapping Program's orthophotography were developed in accordance with the National Standard for Spatial Data Accuracy (NSSDA). Horizontal root mean square error (RMSE) for historical mosaics was held to less than 20 ft.

2.2 Rate of Change Analysis

AMBUR (Analyzing Moving Boundaries Using R) is a suite of tools that are used to better analyze and understand historic shoreline changes. These tools use the open-source R software and can be customized to perform not only advanced statistics but also geospatial and geostatistical functions. The AMBUR package provides robust tools for investigating diverse shoreline types through: multiple shoreline settings, improved transect casting methods, and detailed analysis and output. The package allows import and export of geospatial data in ESRI shapefile format. The "baseline and transect" method is the primary technique used to quantify distances and rates of shoreline movement, and to detect classification changes across time.

One hundred and fifty three miles of baselines and 23,300 transects about 30 feet apart were created for Northampton County. Baselines were digitized slightly seaward of the 1938 shoreline and encompassed most of the County's coast. The baselines may not include very small creeks and areas that have unique shoreline morphology such as creek mouths and spits.

The End Point Rate (EPR) is calculated by determining the distance between the oldest and most recent shoreline in the data and dividing it by the number of years between them. This method provides an accurate net rate of change over the long term and is relatively easy to apply to most shorelines since it only requires two dates. This method does not use the intervening shorelines so it may not account for changes in accretion or erosion rates that may occur through time. However, Milligan *et al.* (2010a, 2010b, 2010c, 2010d) found that in several localities within the bay, EPR is a reliable indicator of shore change even when intermediate dates exist.

Using methodology reported in Morton *et al.* (2004) and National Spatial Data Infrastructure (1998), estimates of error in orthorectification, control source, DEM and digitizing were combined to provide an estimate of total maximum shoreline position error. The data sets that were orthorectified (1938, 1949, and 1972) have an estimated total maximum shoreline position error of 20.0 ft, while the total maximum shoreline error for the three existing datasets are estimated at 18.3 ft for USGS and 10.2 ft for VBMP. The maximum annualized error for the shoreline data is ± 0.7 ft/yr. The smaller rivers and creeks are more prone to error due to their lack of good control points for photo rectification, narrower shore features, tree and ground cover and overall smaller rates of change. These areas are digitized but due to the higher potential for error, rates of change analysis are not calculated. Many areas of Northampton County have shore change rates that fall within the calculated error. Some of the areas that show very low accretion can be due to errors within the method as described above.

The Northampton County shoreline was divided into 15 plates ([Figure 2](#)) in order to display the shoreline data. In [Appendix A](#), the 2009 image is shown with only the 1937 and 2009 shorelines and the calculated EPR of change. In [Appendix B](#), one photo date and the associated shoreline is shown on each. These include the photos taken in 1937, 1949, 1972, 1994, 2002 and 2009. The shorelines are summarized on the 2009 image.

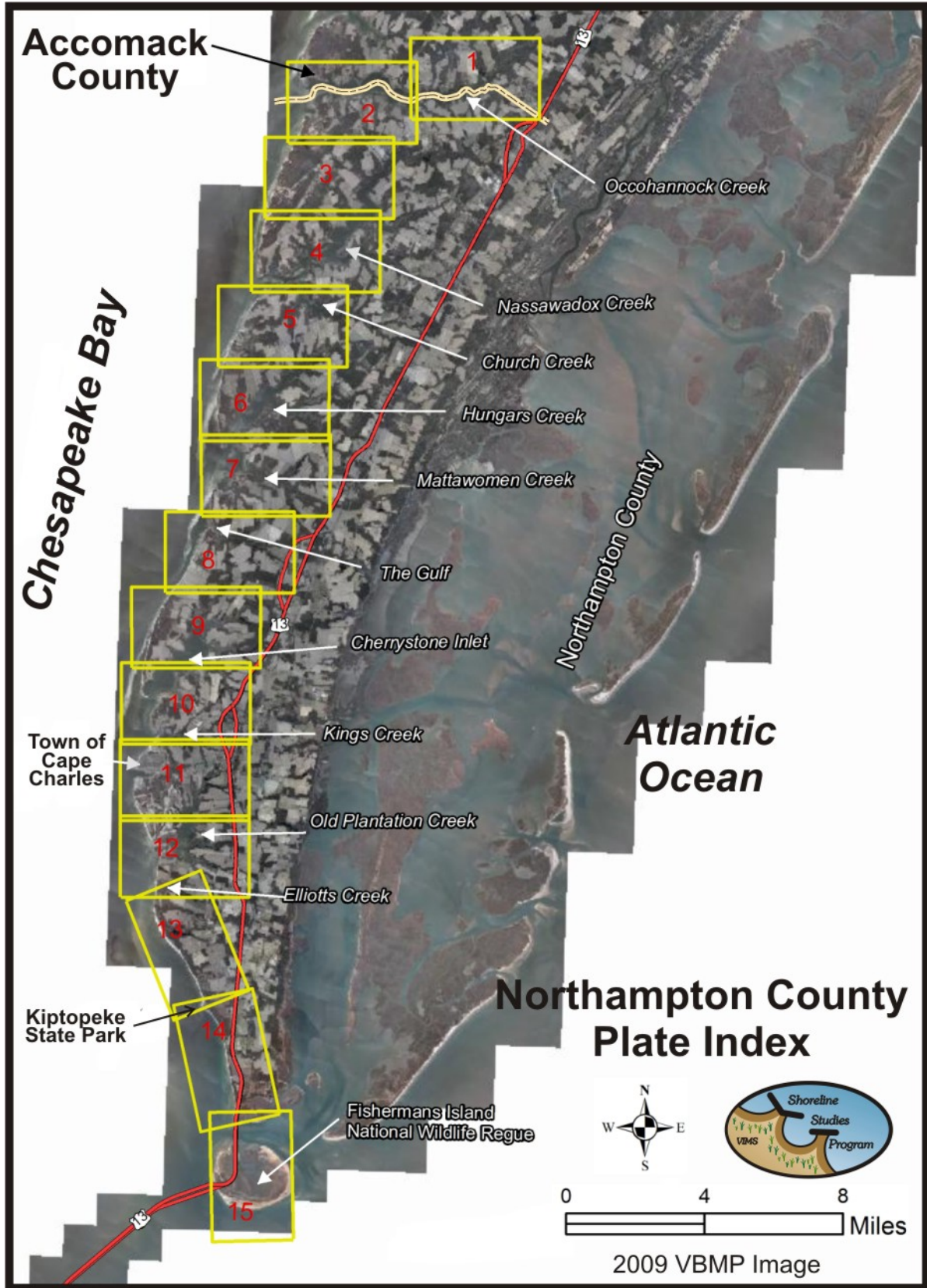


Figure 2. Plate index for Northampton County shorelines.

3 Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows the average EPR (1938-2009) for sections of the County where bold reaches are on the mainstem of Chesapeake Bay. Most of the shoreline in Northampton County, is experiencing very low erosion (<1 ft/yr). The exceptions are on the northern and southern ends of the County. Between Occohannock Creek and Nassawadox Creek, the shoreline is eroding at -1.5 ft/yr (Plates 2, 3 and 4). While the rate varies considerably over the entire reach, some sections have a high erosion rate, between -5 and -10 ft/yr. Several residential areas have built shore protection structures between 1938 and 2009 which affect the erosion rate.

The reach from The Gulf to Cherrystone Inlet (Plates 8, 9, and 10) is eroding on average at a rate of -2.4 ft/yr. The highest erosion rates occurred in the center of the reach at Tankards Beach. This shoreline faces northwest and receives the brunt of northeast storms when winds switch to the northwest – a common occurrence of those storms. Farther south, headland breakwaters have been constructed to protect the shoreline. Their construction resulted in an accretionary rate of change if the structure was built seaward of the 1938 shoreline. The very low accretion rate of change between Kings Creek and Cape Charles Harbor (Plates 10 and 11) was also the result of headland breakwater construction. South of Cape Charles Harbor (Plates 12 and 13), industrial expansion and headland breakwater construction result in an overall medium accretion rate. Some sections of the shoreline between Old Plantation Creek and the north end of Pond Drain have a high rate of erosion although overall, the average rate is between -2 to -5 ft/yr. This shoreline reach faces northwest and can be greatly affected after the passage of northeast storms when winds subsequently shift to the northwest.

Pond Drain occurs at a change of shore direction of face which likely accounts for its medium accretion rate (Plate 13). The sediment eroded south of Old Plantation Creek are transported south where the change in shore direction provides some protection for storm winds and waves allowing sediment to accumulate into a wide beach and dune system. The average accretion rate for the reach between Picketts Harbor and Kiptopeke is misleading (Plate 13). A great deal of accretion has occurred at Kiptopeke State Park due to the jetties and bulkheads. On the north side of these structures, sand transported south accumulates and the ships offshore can protect the shoreline from direct wave attack during northeast storms. However, north of there at Butlers Bluff, the shore is experiencing erosion at a rate of -2 to -5 ft/yr. Homeowners installed headland breakwaters for shore protection. Plate 14 shows that the shoreline south of Kiptopeke State Park is eroding as much as -5 ft/yr. However, the shoreline on the south side of the bulkhead is accreting due its protection for storms as well as sand transport into the Bay from the ocean.

Table 1. Average end point rates of shoreline change in feet per year along sections of Northampton County's coast. Chesapeake Bay sections are shown in bold.

Reach Name	Plate Number	Avg EPR (ft/yr)	Category
In Occahannock Ck	1 and 2	-0.3	Very Low Erosion
Ocohannock Ck to Nassawadox Ck	2, 3, 4	-1.5	Low Erosion
In Nassawadox Ck	3, 4	-0.2	Very Low Erosion
In Church Creek	4, 5	-0.2	Very Low Erosion
Nassawadox to Westerhouse Ck	5	-0.9	Very Low Erosion
In Westerhouse Ck	5	-0.3	Very Low Erosion
Westerhouse Ck to Hungars Ck	5, 6, 7	-0.5	Very Low Erosion
In Hungars Ck (Includes Jacobus Ck)	5, 6, 7	-0.2	Very Low Erosion
In Mattawoman Ck	7	-0.3	Very Low Erosion
Mattawoman Ck to The Gulf	7, 8	0.0	Very Low Erosion
In The Gulf	8	-0.2	Very Low Erosion
The Gulf to Cherrystone Inlet	8, 9, 10	-2.4	Medium Erosion
In Cherrystone Inlet	9, 10	-0.2	Very Low Erosion
In Kings Ck		-0.2	Very Low Erosion
Kings Ck to Cape Charles Harbor	10, 11	0.6	Very Low Accretion
Cape Charles Harbor to Old Plantation Ck	11, 12	3.1	Medium Accretion
In Old Plantation Creek	11, 12	-0.2	Very Low Erosion
Old Plantation to Pond Drain (includes Elliots Ck)	12, 13	-1.8	Low Erosion
Pond Drain to Pickett's Harbor	13	2.8	Medium Accretion
Pickett's Harbor to Kiptopeke	13	1.1	Low Accretion
Kiptopeke to Fishermans Island	14	-0.6	Very Low Erosion

Several marsh islands exist along the shoreline. Two such islands, Sandy Island (Plate 10) and Horse Island (Plate 4), are both disappearing. These islands were not included in the shoreline rate of change calculation due to complexity of shoreline. However, the area of these islands was calculated in 1938 and 2009. Sandy Island was 5 acres in area in 1938, but by 2009, it had virtually disappeared since it had less than a tenth of an acre left. Horse Island was 16 acres in 1938, but by 2009 it had been reduced in size to 5 acres. These islands are indicative of many areas of marsh and marsh islands in the medium to high energy environments of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Both shoreline erosion and sea-level rise is affecting their ability to maintain themselves.

Along Church Neck (Plates 5 and 6) south of Westerhouse Creek, a great deal of sand regularly shifts from north to south creating dynamic spits on the shoreline. The 1938 shoreline shows that no spits exist along this section of shoreline. However, by 1949, a large spit has developed to the north (Plate 5) and a very small one occurs more south (Plate 6). By 1972, the smaller spit had reattached to the shoreline and the large spit had migrated southward (Plate 6). The location of the spit's attachment to the upland varied little between 1972 and 1994; however, the spit lengthened significantly. Between 1994 and 2009, the location of spit attachment has continued its southward migration and, by 2009, was wider at its tip than in previous years. The spit is fed by erosion of the sandy banks from the north and will continue to change depending on sediment supply and wave climate. This dynamic shift affects the patterns of shore change. As the location of attachment shifts, where it was previously attached to the upland will experience erosion. As the spit shifts southward, the upland that becomes protected behind the spit will stop eroding and possibly even accrete.

Fishermans Island (Plate 15), however, is in a different environment. It is located at the southernmost point of Northampton County at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. In 1938, its area was calculated to be 750 acres, but between then and 2009, it had grown to 1750 acres. While a direct comparison was not made, an 1863 map of Fisherman's Island shows a much smaller land mass than the 1938 date indicating that this island has been accreting for over 150 years. Being at the confluence of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean has allowed this island to grow, even though it is in a high energy environment, due to the amount of sand traveling south from erosion of the Eastern Shore as well as sand as moving into the Bay from the ocean. The shape of the island is in constant flux due to wind, waves, and currents acting on it.

4 Summary

The rates of change shown in [Table 1](#) are averaged across large sections of shoreline and may not be indicative of rates at specific sites within the reach. Some areas of the County, where the shoreline change rates are categorized as accretion, have structures along the shoreline which results in a positive long-term rate of change due to the structures themselves. Some of the areas with very low accretion, particularly in the smaller creeks and rivers, may be the result of errors within photo rectification and digitizing wooded shorelines.

Generally, the shoreline along the creeks of Northampton County are changing at less than -1 ft/yr. Along the Bay shoreline, change results are more variable and depend on the direction of shore face, available for transport, as well as the influence of man-made features.

5 References

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Appendix A

End Point Rate of Shoreline Change Maps

Shoreline change rate segments are shown on the top map. The calculated rates of change for each transect within the segment were averaged to determine an average rate of change as shown in Table 1 of the report.

Note: The location labels on the plates come from U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, Google Earth, and other map sources and may not be accurate for the historical or even more recent images. They are for reference only.

Plate 1

Plate 6

Plate 11

Plate 2

Plate 7

Plate 12

Plate 3

Plate 8

Plate 13

Plate 4

Plate 9

Plate 14

Plate 5

Plate 10

Plate 15

Northampton County, Virginia Plate 1



Shoreline Rates of Change

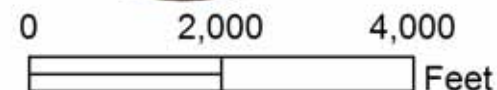
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| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

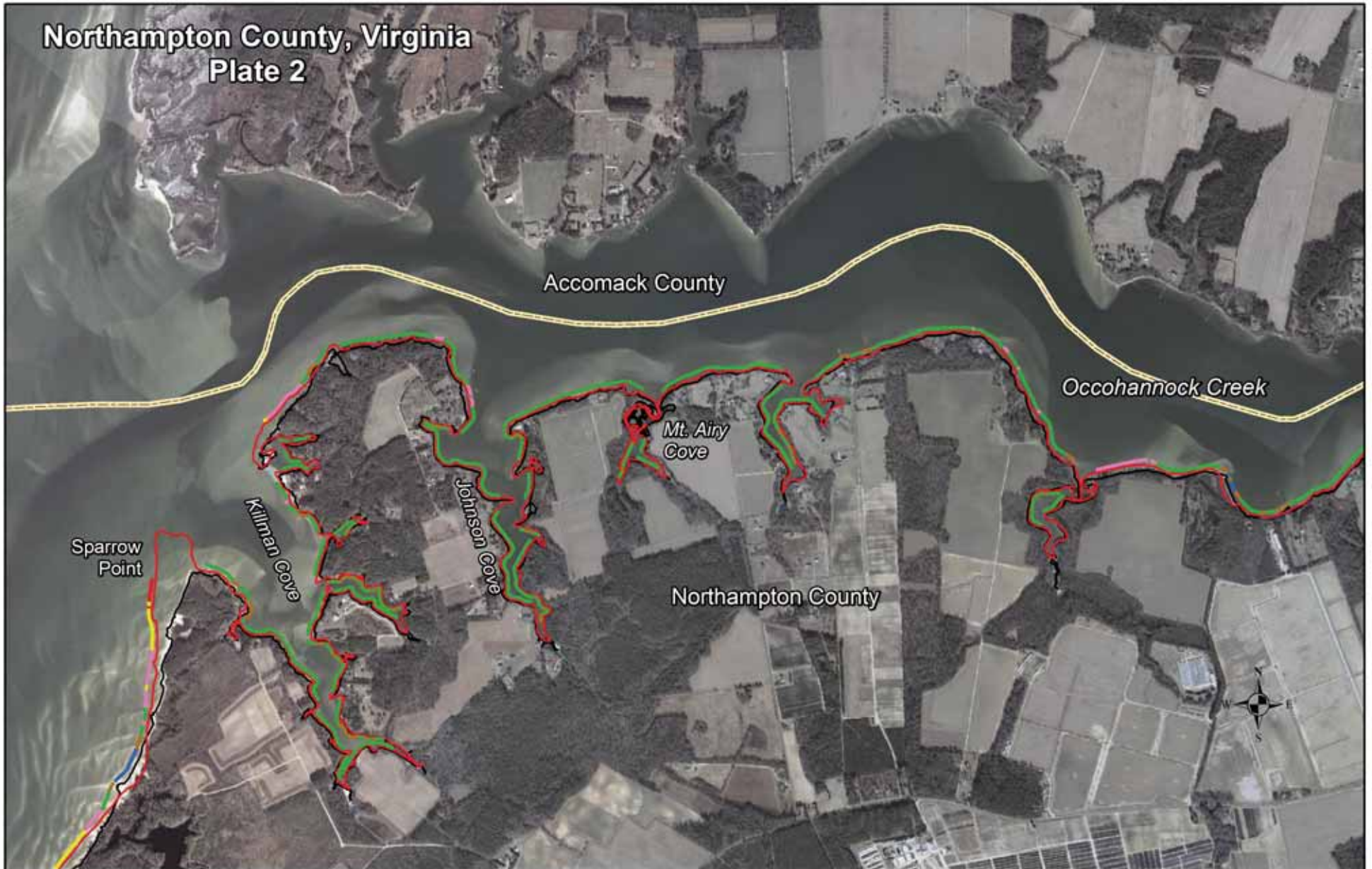
— 1938 Shoreline

— 2009 Shoreline

2009 VBMP Photo



Northampton County, Virginia Plate 2

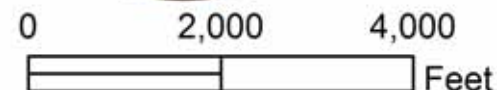


Shoreline Rates of Change

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

- 1938 Shoreline
 - 2009 Shoreline
- 2009 VBMP Photo



Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 3



Shoreline Rates of Change

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
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| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

— 1938 Shoreline

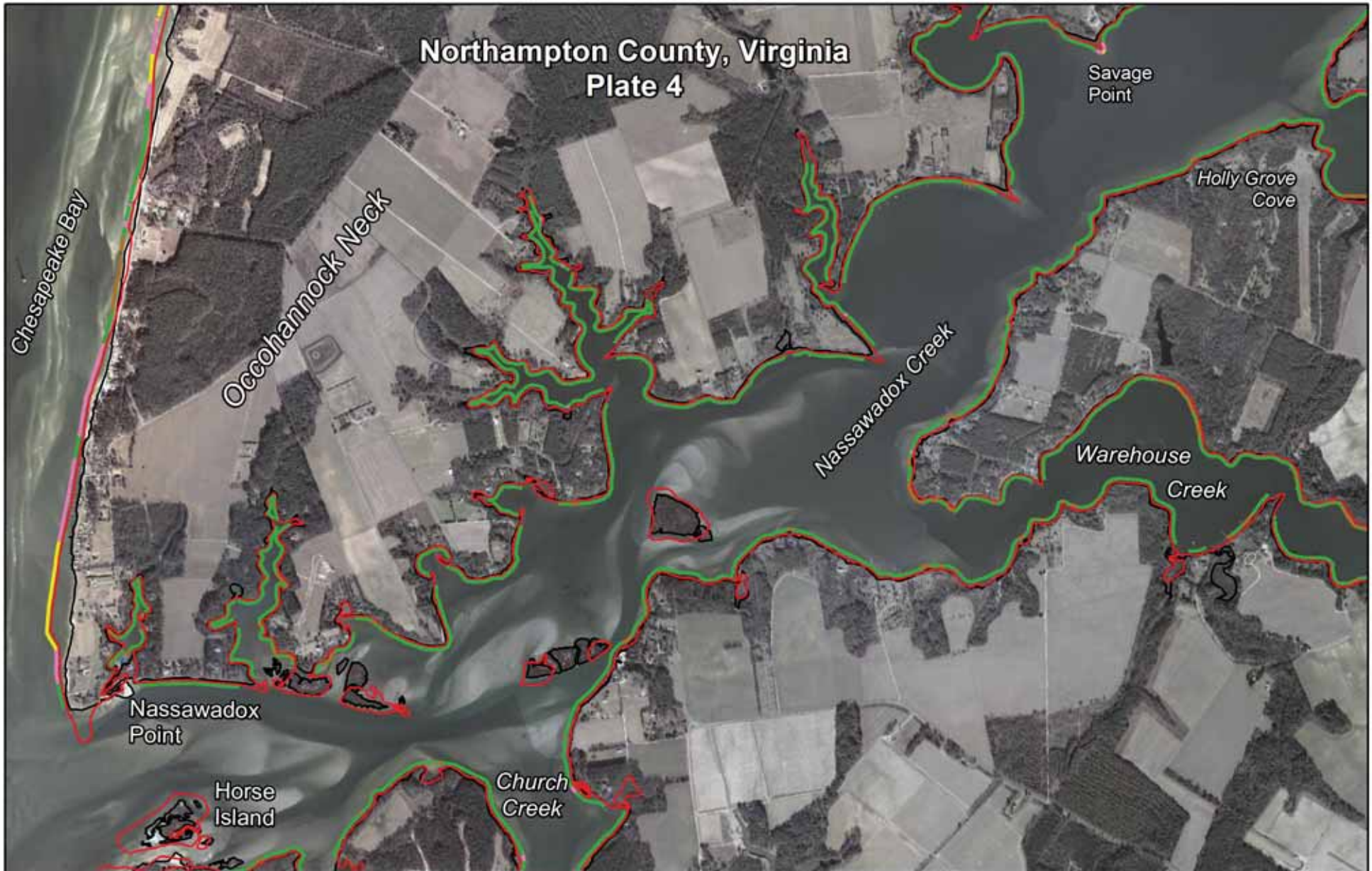
— 2009 Shoreline

2009 VBMP Photo



0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Northampton County, Virginia Plate 4

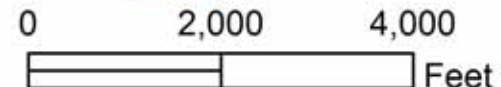
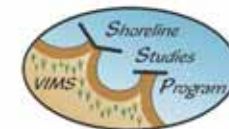


Shoreline Rates of Change

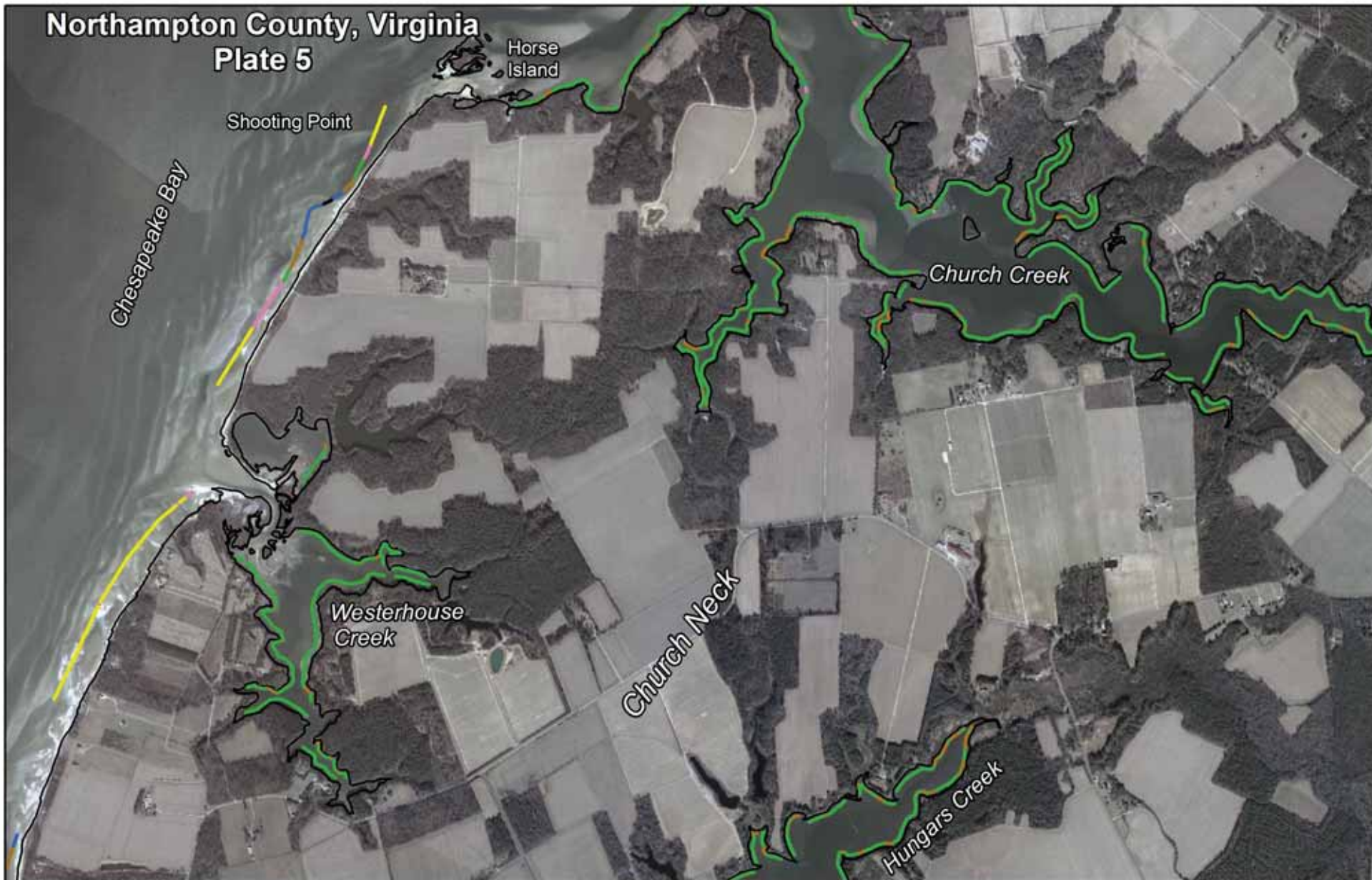
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| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

- 1938 Shoreline
 - 2009 Shoreline
- 2009 VBMP Photo



Northampton County, Virginia Plate 5

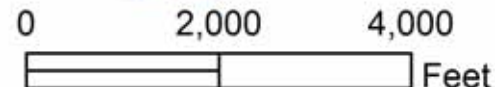
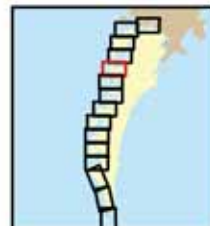


Shoreline Rates of Change

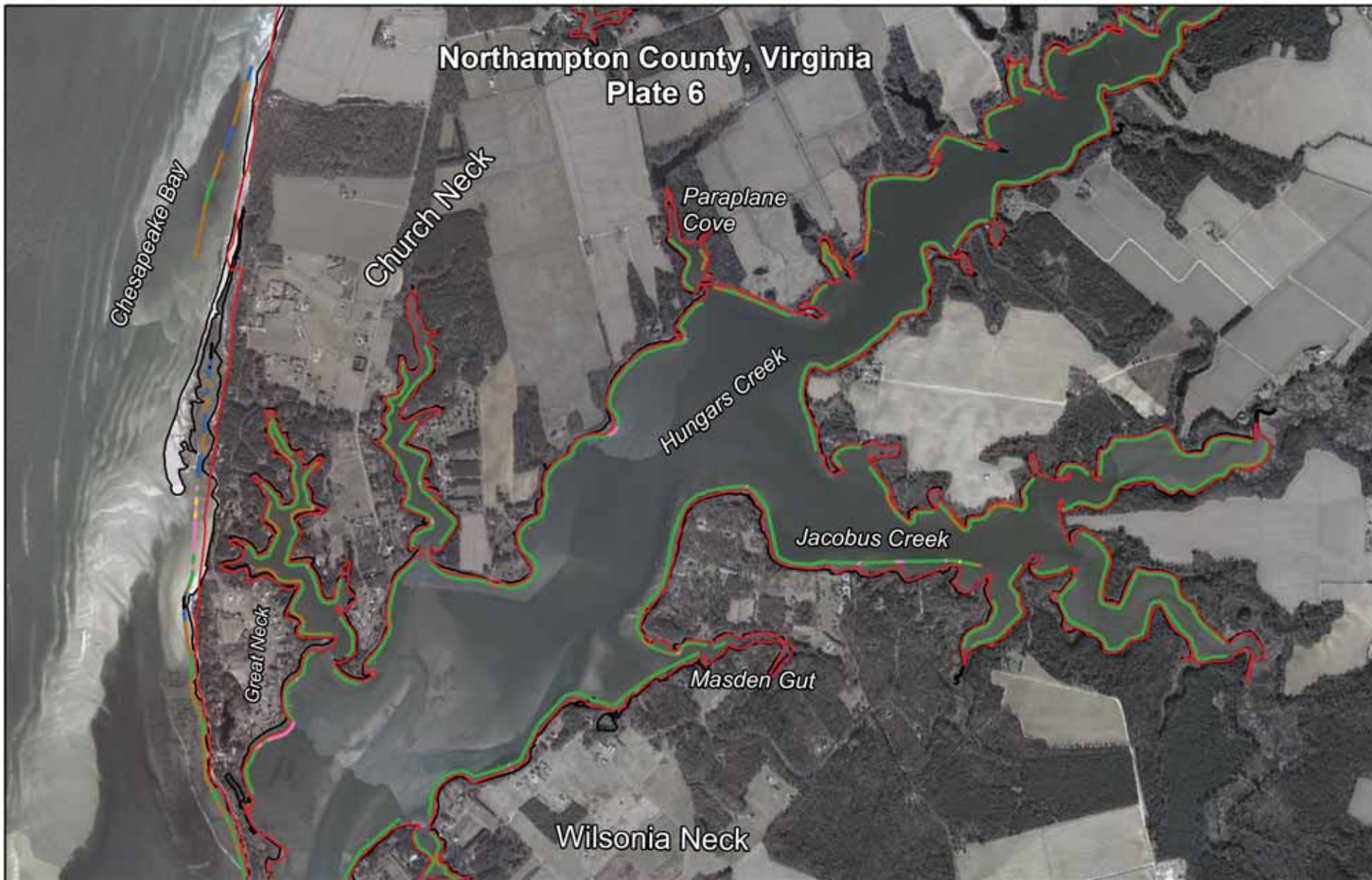
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| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

- 1938 Shoreline
 - 2009 Shoreline
- 2009 VBMP Photo



Northampton County, Virginia Plate 6

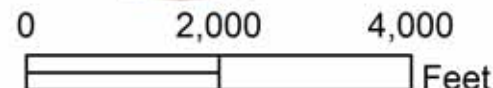
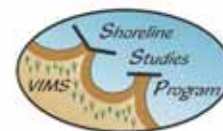


Shoreline Rates of Change

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| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

- 1938 Shoreline
 - 2009 Shoreline
- 2009 VBMP Photo



Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 7

Wilsonia Neck

Chesapeake Bay

Hungars Creek

Mattawoman Creek

Barlow Creek

Hungars Beach

Old Town Neck

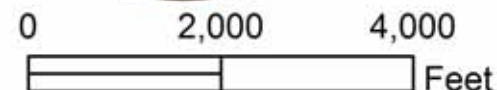
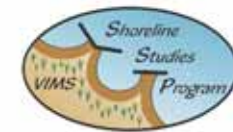
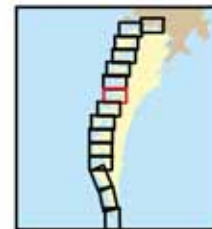
Mears Pond

Shoreline Rates of Change

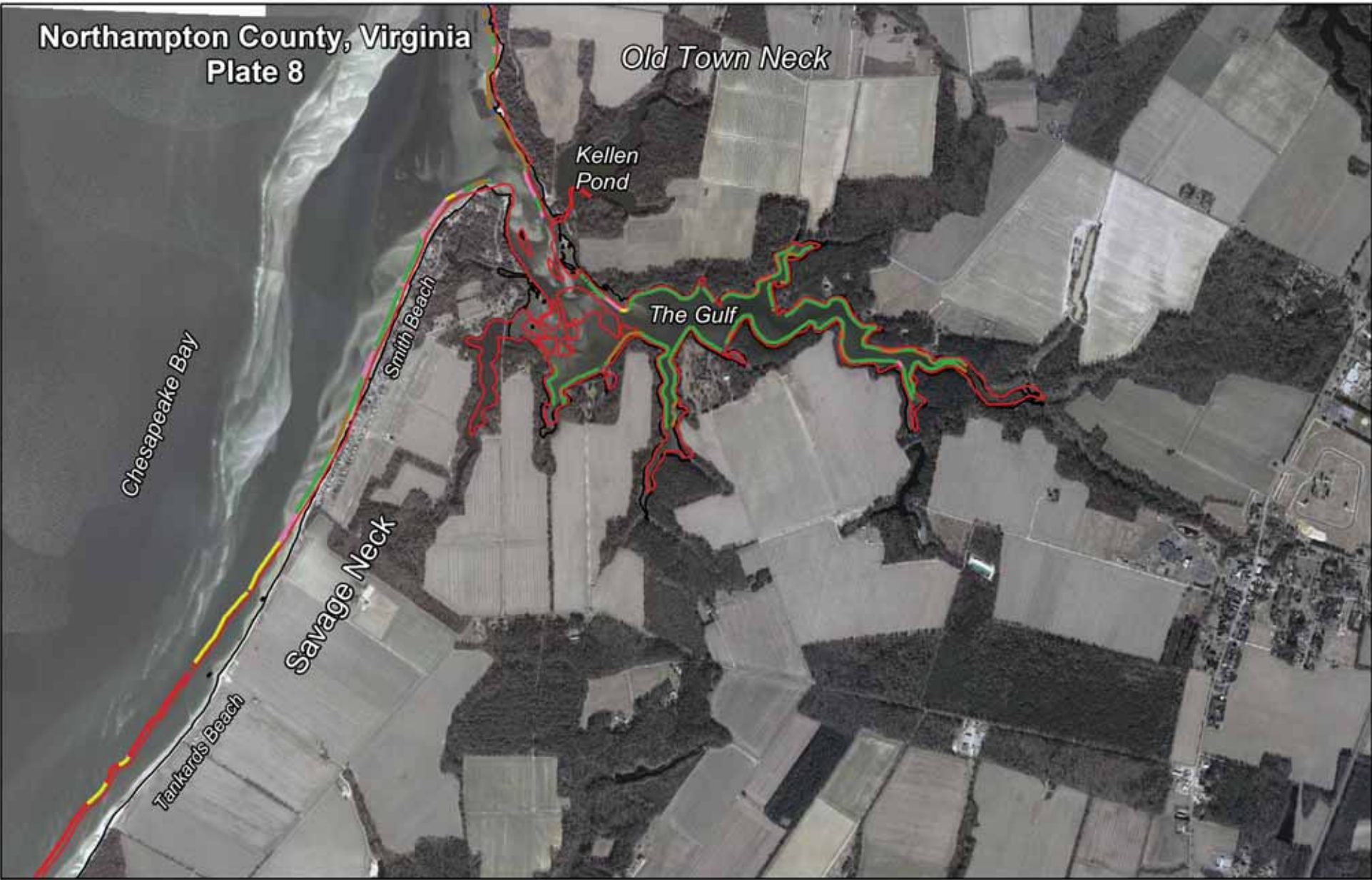
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

- 1938 Shoreline
 - 2009 Shoreline
- 2009 VBMP Photo



**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 8**



Shoreline Rates of Change

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

— 1938 Shoreline

— 2009 Shoreline

2009 VBMP Photo



Shoreline Studies Program

VIMS

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 9



Shoreline Rates of Change

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

— 1938 Shoreline

— 2009 Shoreline

2009 VBMP Photo



Shoreline Studies Program
VIMS

0 2,000 4,000 Feet



Shoreline Rates of Change

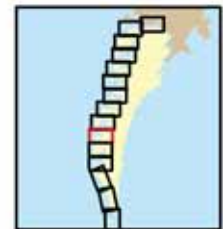
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

— 1938 Shoreline

— 2009 Shoreline

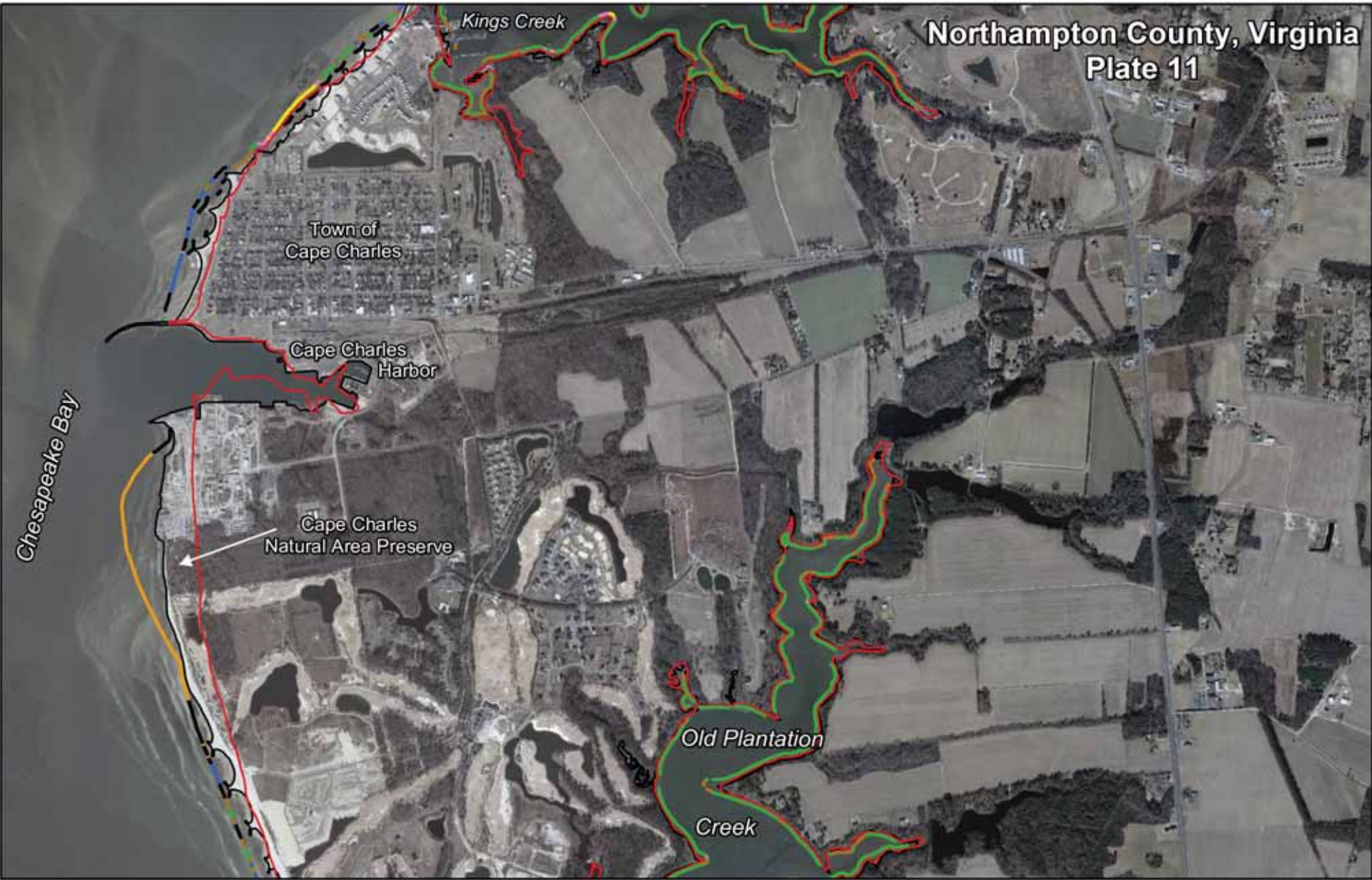
2009 VBMP Photo



Shoreline Studies Program

VIMS

0 2,000 4,000 Feet



Shoreline Rates of Change

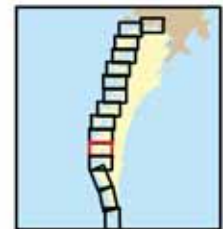
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

— 1938 Shoreline

— 2009 Shoreline

2009 VBMP Photo



Shoreline Studies Program
VIMS

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 12

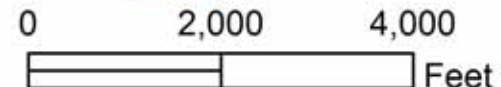


Shoreline Rates of Change

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

- 1938 Shoreline
 - 2009 Shoreline
- 2009 VBMP Photo



Northampton County, Virginia Plate 13

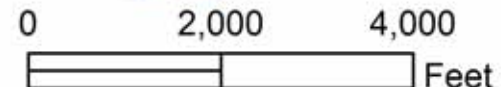


Shoreline Rates of Change

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

- 1938 Shoreline
 - 2009 Shoreline
- 2009 VBMP Photo



Northampton County, Virginia Plate 14

Chesapeake Bay

Kiptopeke State Park

Eastern Shore of Virginian National Wildlife Refuge

13

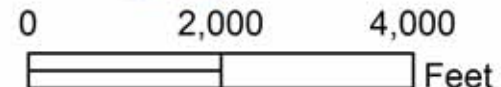


Shoreline Rates of Change

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | |

Shorelines

- 1938 Shoreline
 - 2009 Shoreline
- 2009 VBMP Photo



Northampton County, Virginia Plate 15

Chesapeake Bay

Fishermans Island

Wise Point

No Data Calculated

Fishermans Island
National Wildlife Refuge

Fishermans Inlet

Eastern Shore of Virginia
National Wildlife Refuge

Mouth of the
Chesapeake Bay

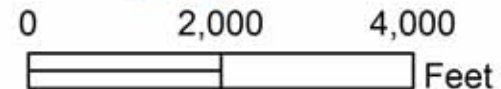
Atlantic Ocean

Shoreline Rates of Change

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Very High Accretion: > +10 (ft/yr) | ● Very Low Erosion: 0 to -1 (ft/yr) |
| ● High Accretion: +10 to +5 (ft/yr) | ● Low Erosion: -1 to -2 (ft/yr) |
| ● Medium Accretion: +5 to +2 (ft/yr) | ● Medium Erosion: -2 to -5 (ft/yr) |
| ● Low Accretion: +2 to +1 (ft/yr) | ● High Erosion: -5 to -10 (ft/yr) |
| ● Very Low Accretion: +1 to 0 (ft/yr) | — AC_County-line |

Shorelines

- 1938 Shoreline
 - 2009 Shoreline
- 2009 VBMP Photo



Appendix B

Historical Photo and Digitized Shoreline Maps

Note: The location labels on the plates come from U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, Google Earth, and other map sources and may not be accurate for the historical or even more recent images. They are for reference only.

Plate 1

Plate 6

Plate 11

Plate 2

Plate 7

Plate 12

Plate 3

Plate 8

Plate 13

Plate 4

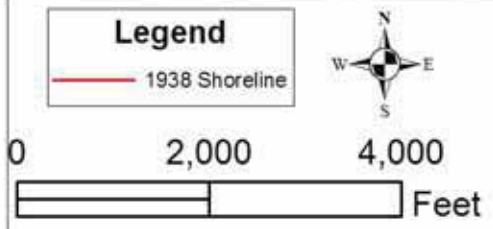
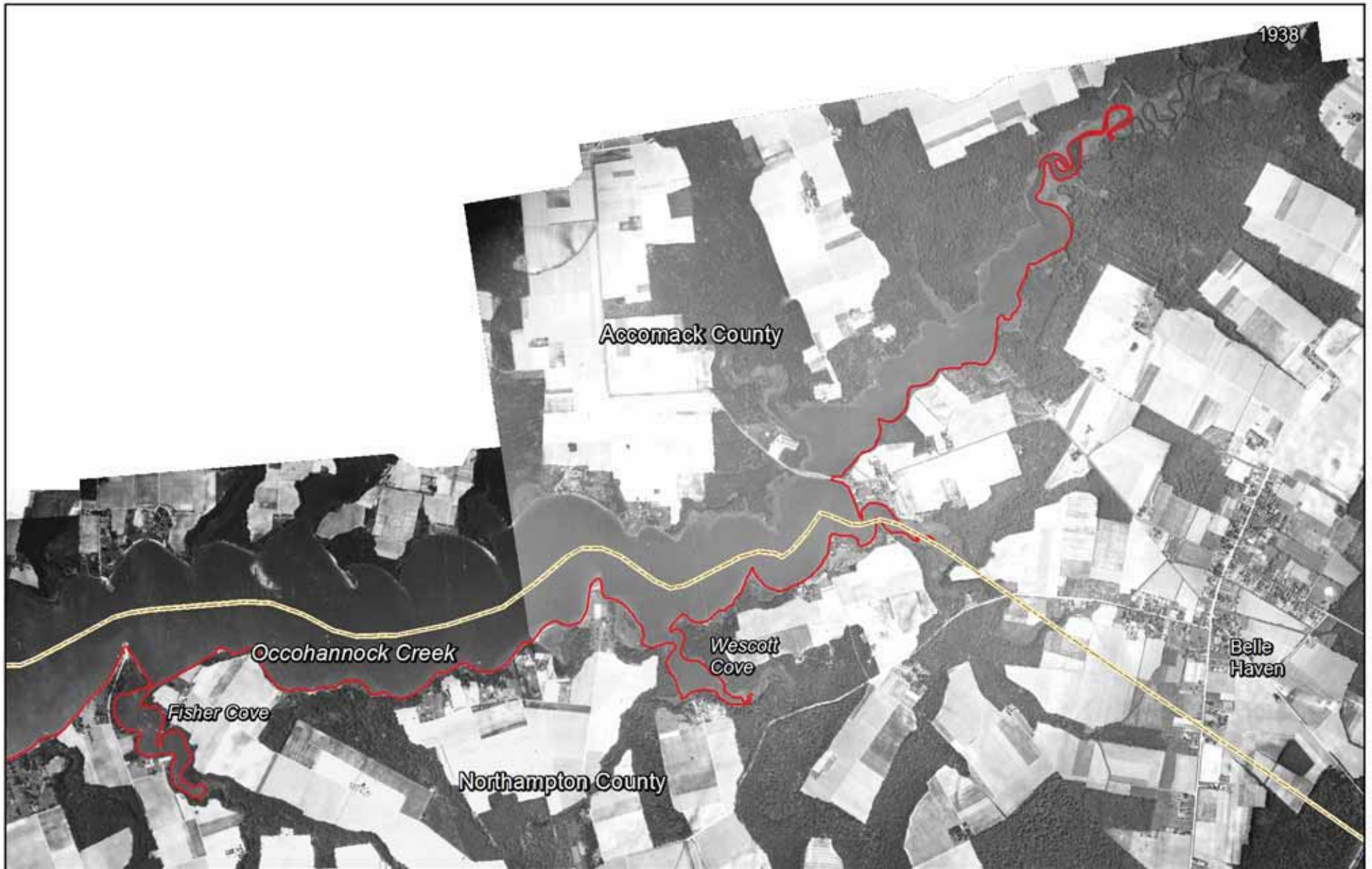
Plate 9

Plate 14

Plate 5

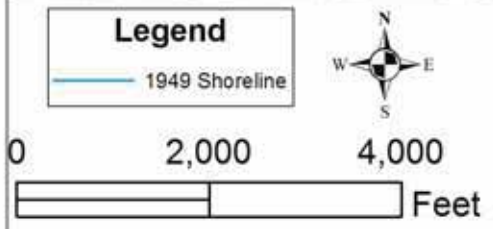
Plate 10

Plate 15



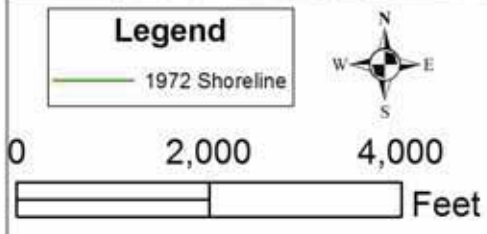
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 1**





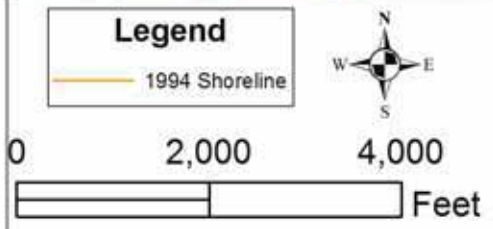
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 1**





Northampton County, Virginia Plate 1





**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 1**

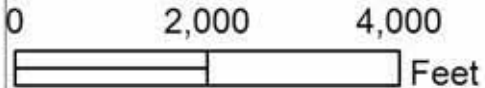


2002



Legend

— 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 1**





2009

Accomack County

Occohannock Creek

Fisher Cove

Wescott
Cove

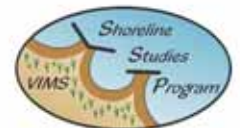
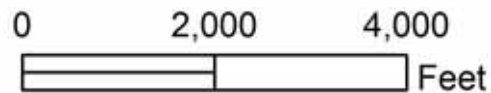
Belle
Haven

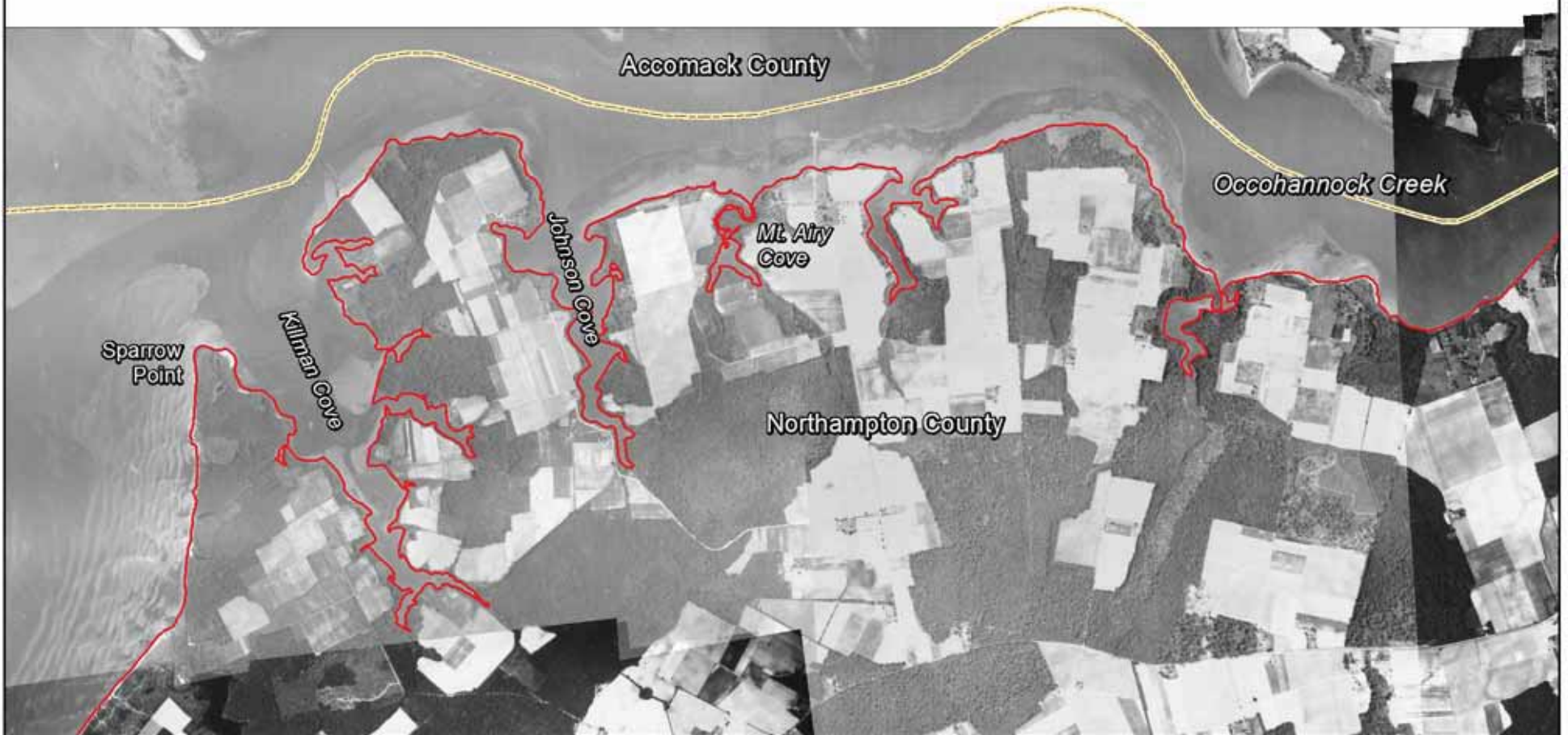
Northampton County

Legend

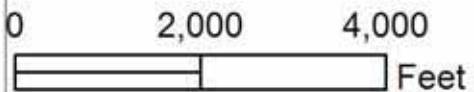
- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 1**



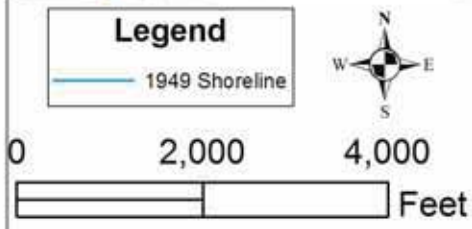


Legend
— 1938 Shoreline



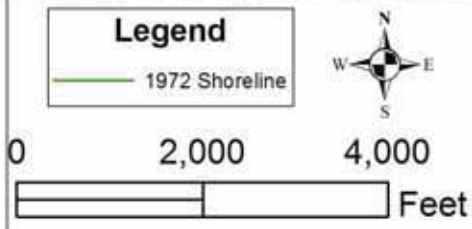
Northampton County, Virginia Plate 2





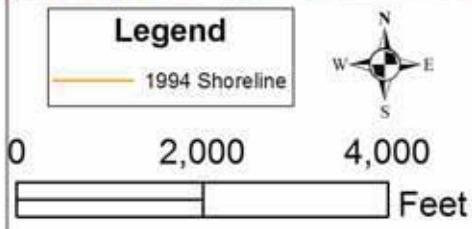
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 2**





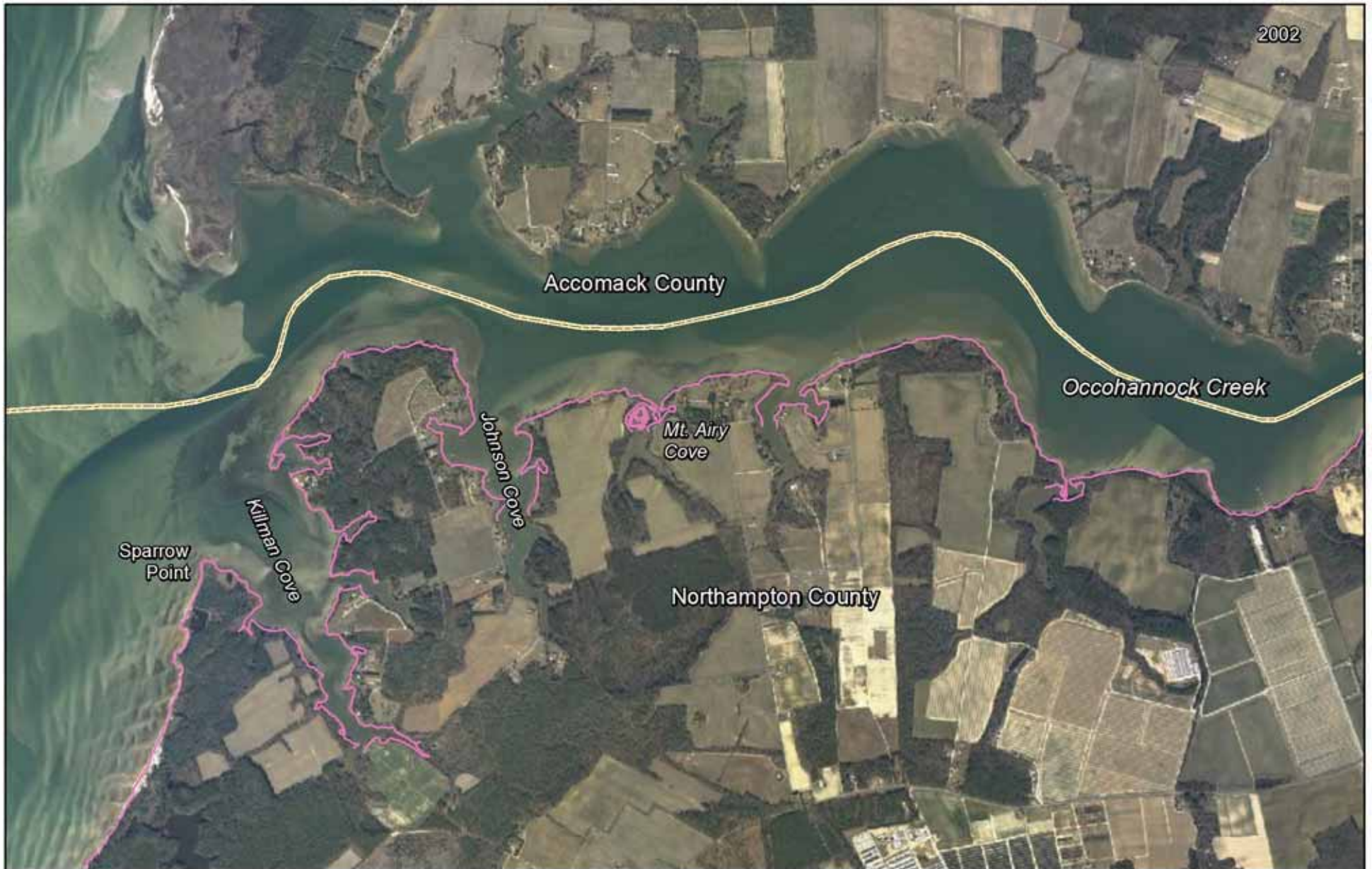
Northampton County, Virginia Plate 2



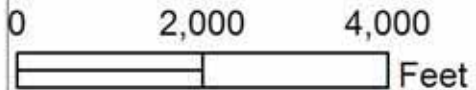


**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 2**





Legend
 — 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 2**



2009

Accomack County

Occohannock Creek

Mt. Airy Cove

Johnson Cove

Killman Cove

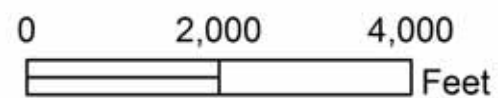
Sparrow Point

Northampton County

Legend

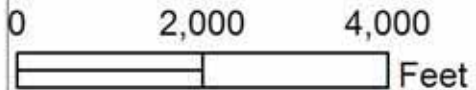
- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 2**



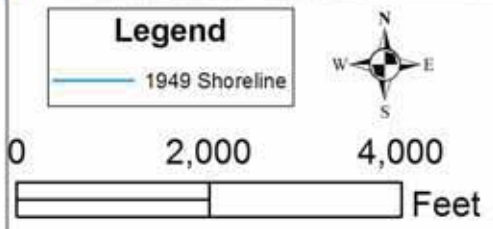
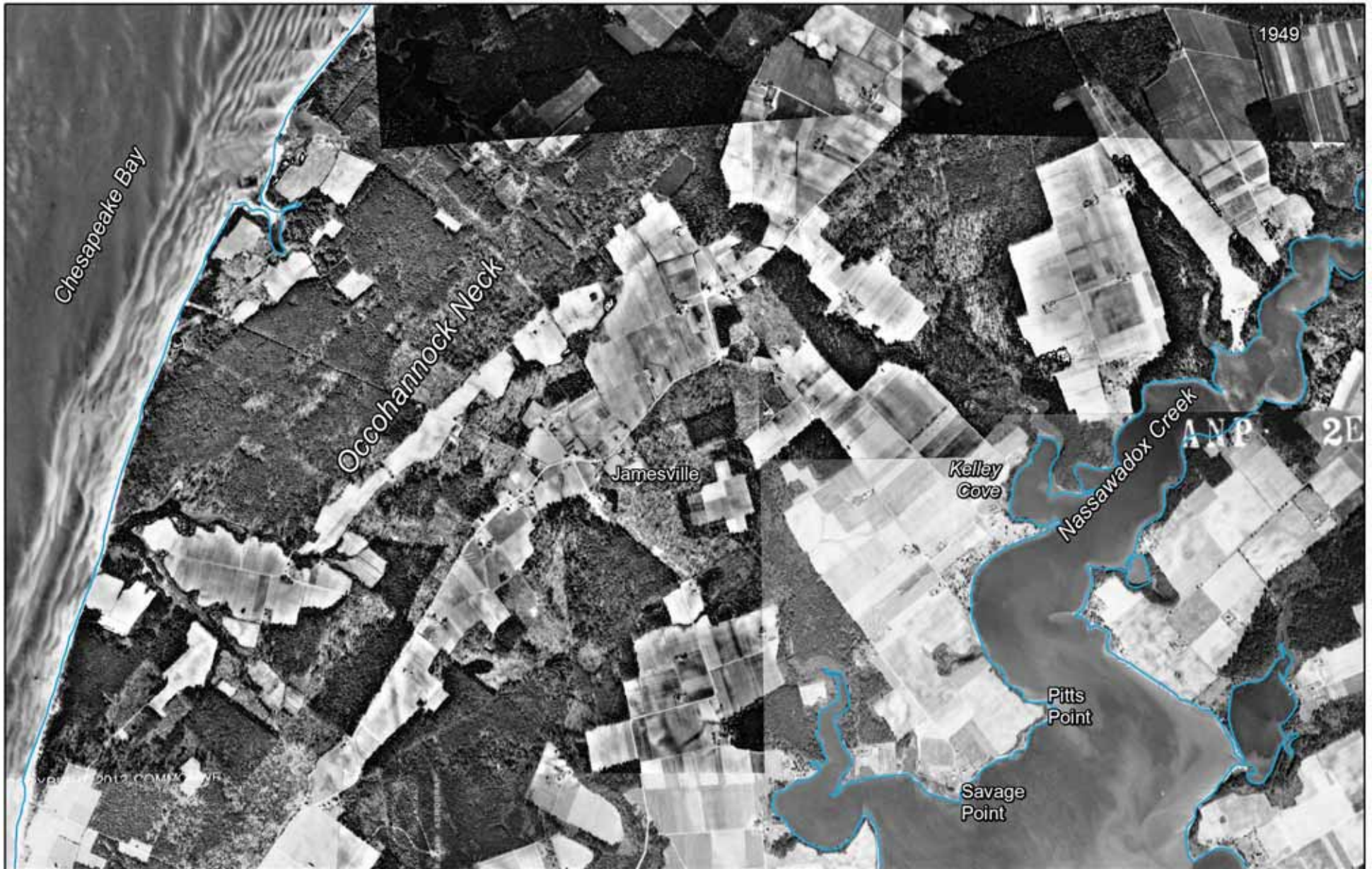


Legend
— 1938 Shoreline



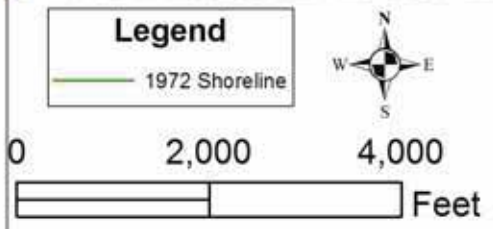
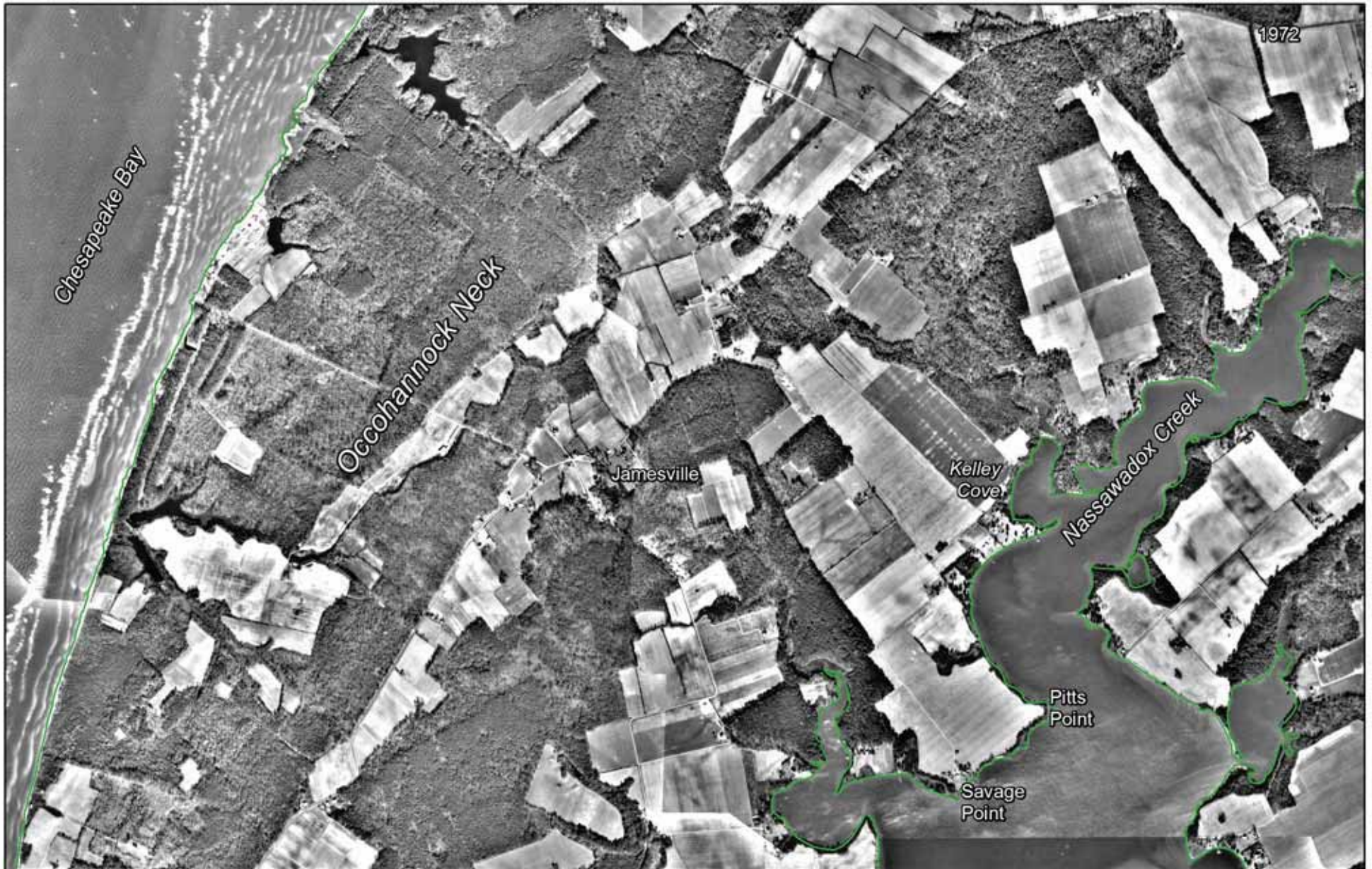
Northampton County, Virginia Plate 3





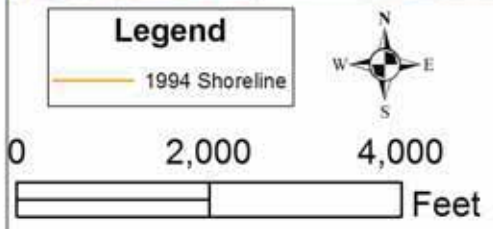
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 3**





**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 3**



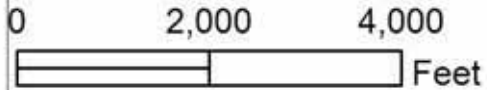


**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 3**



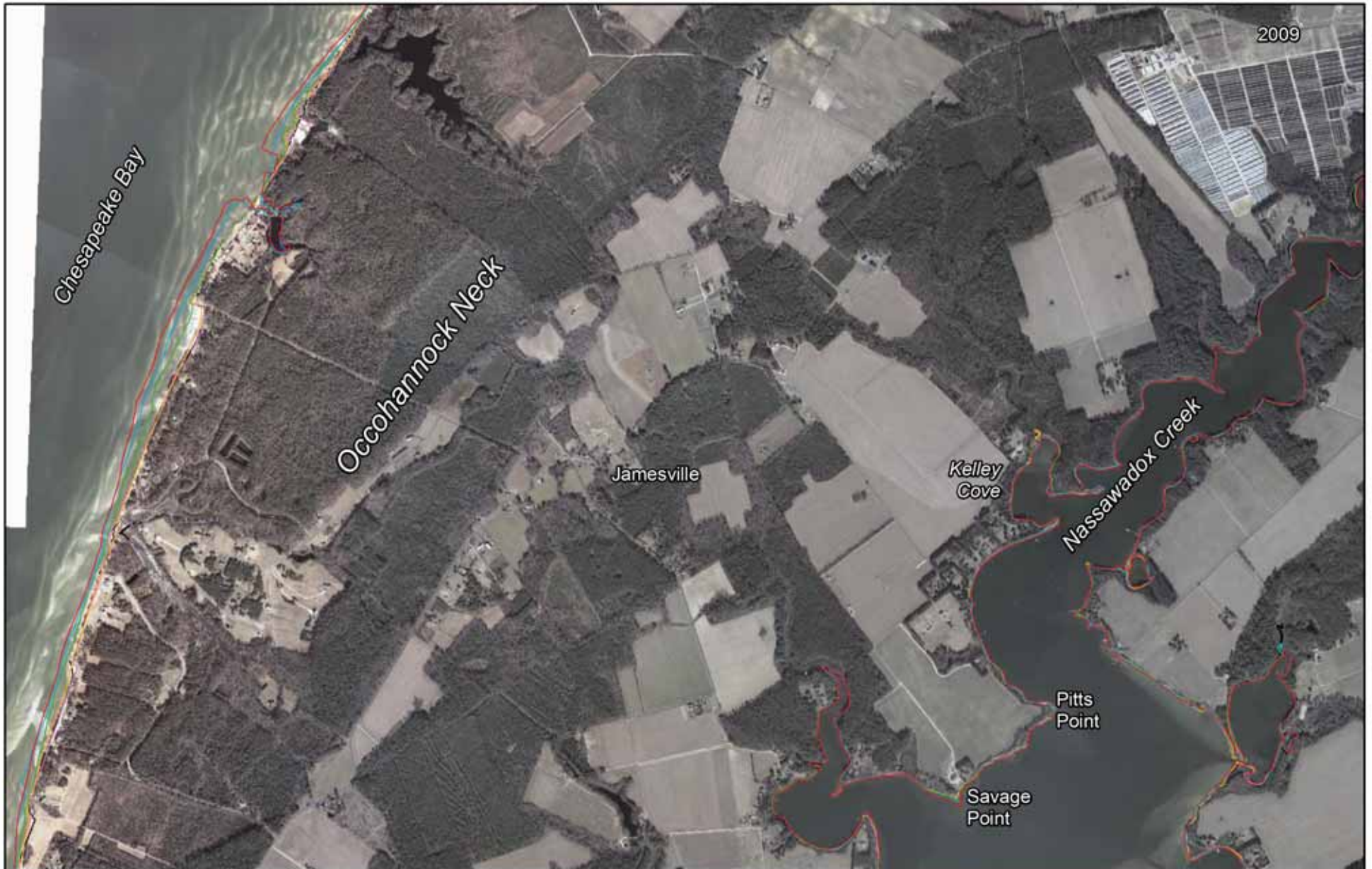


Legend
 — 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 3**

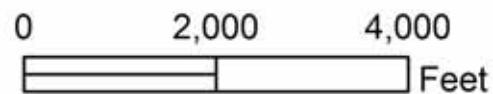


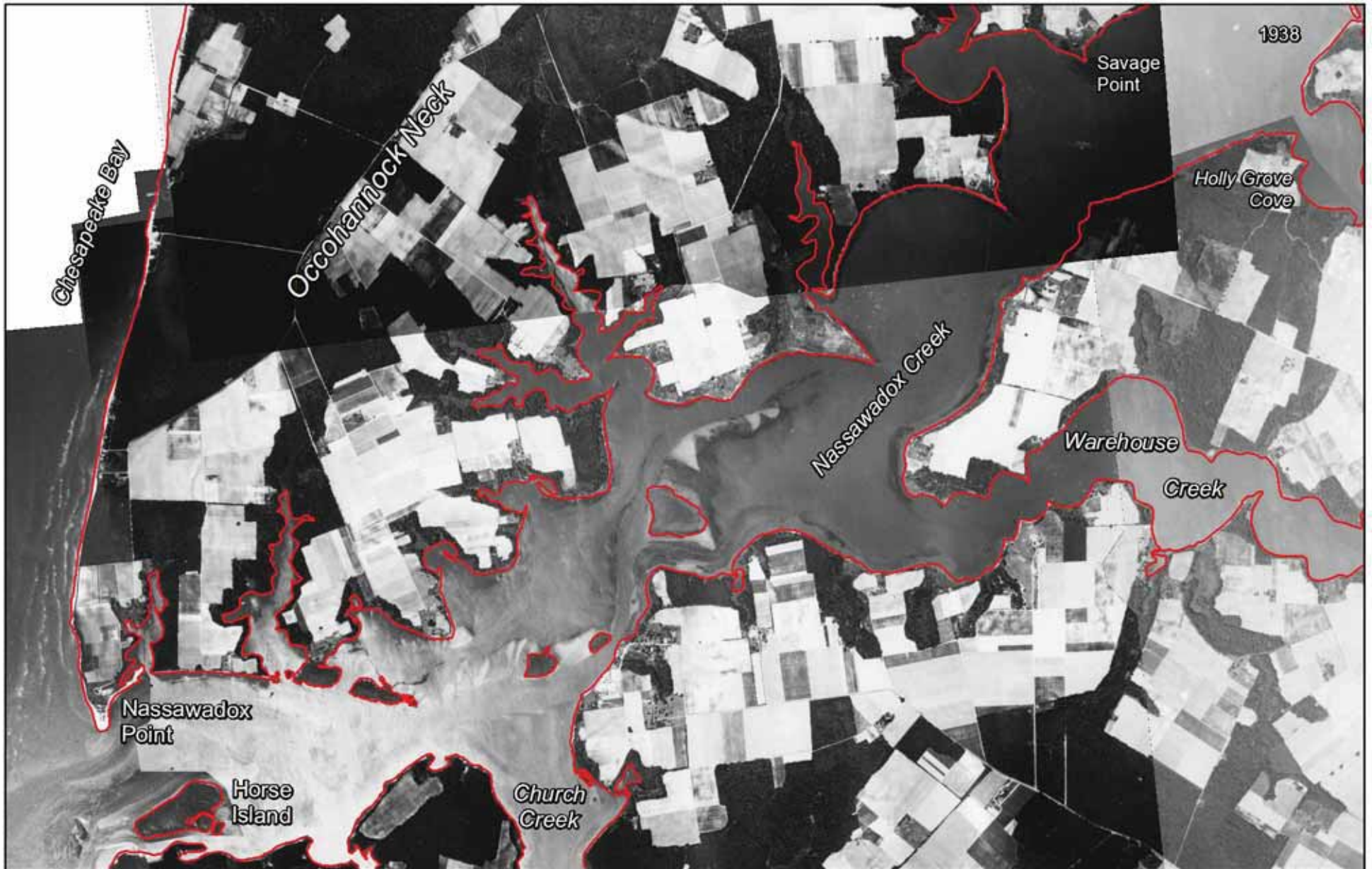


Legend

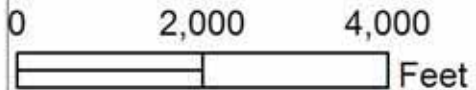
- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 3**



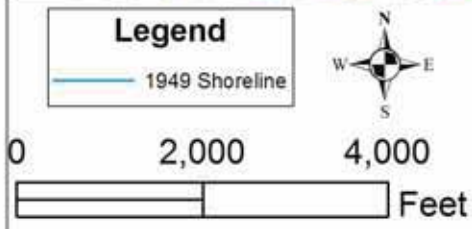
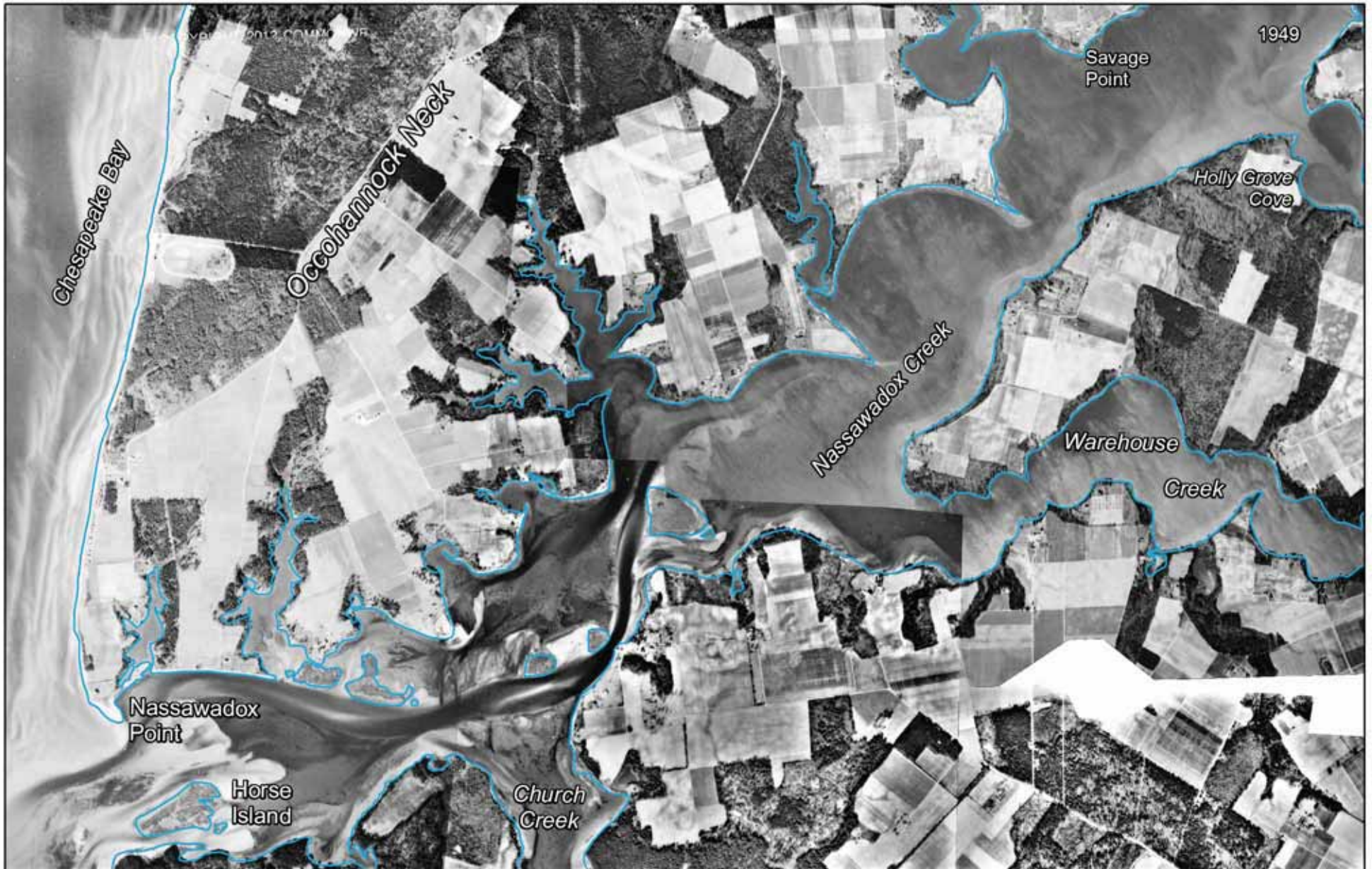


Legend
 — 1938 Shoreline



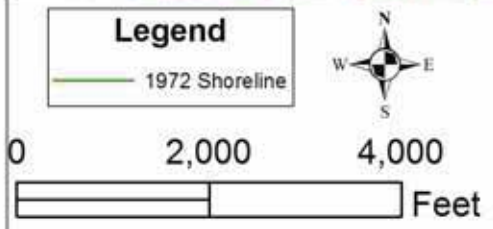
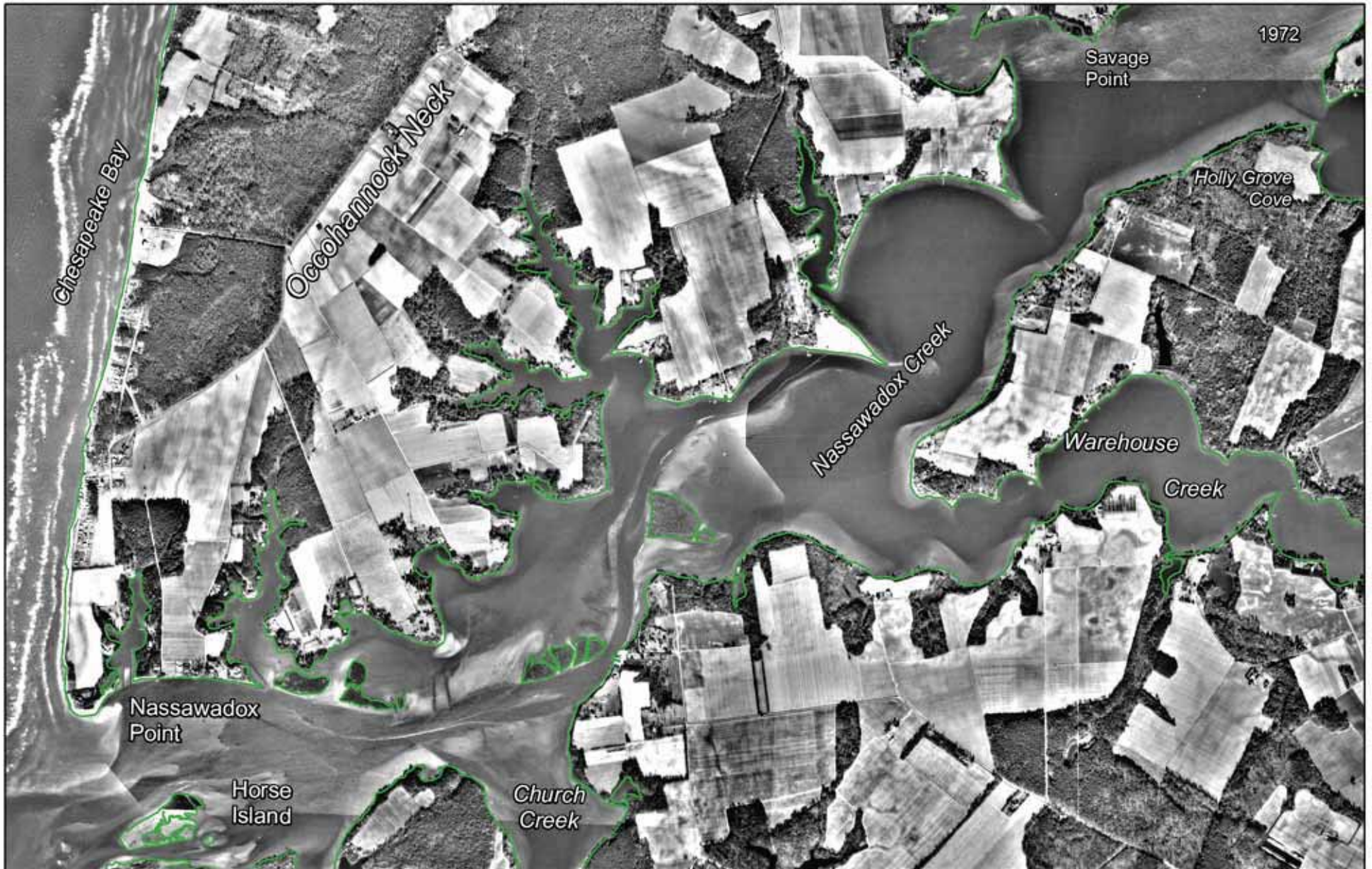
**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 4**





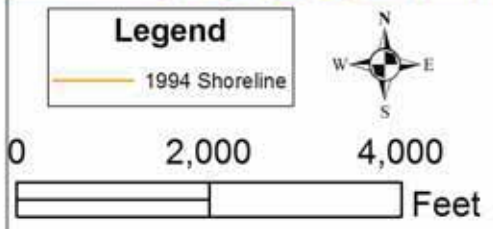
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 4**





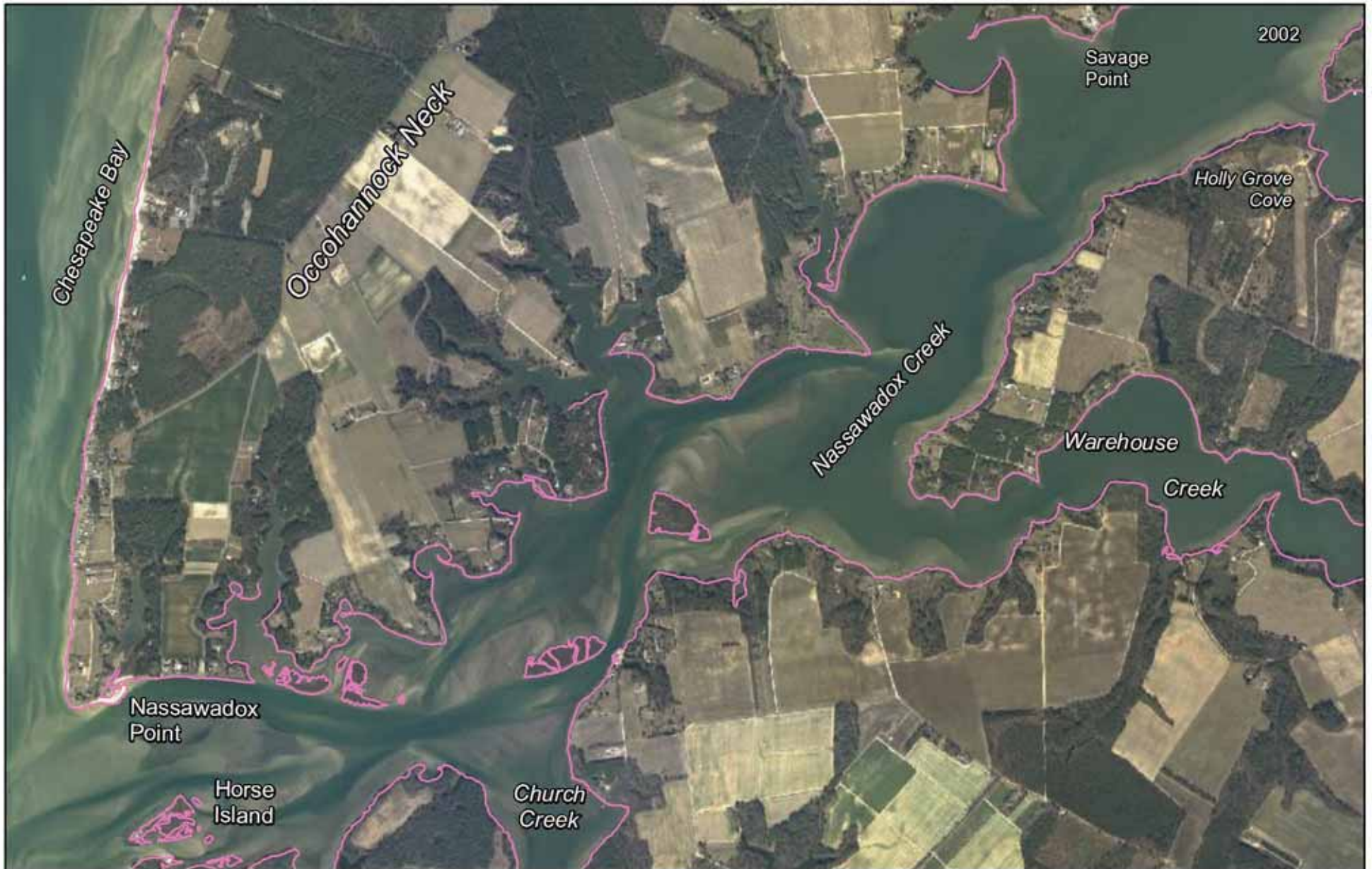
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 4**



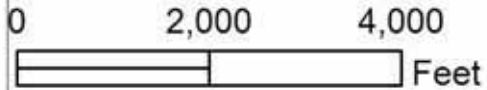


**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 4**



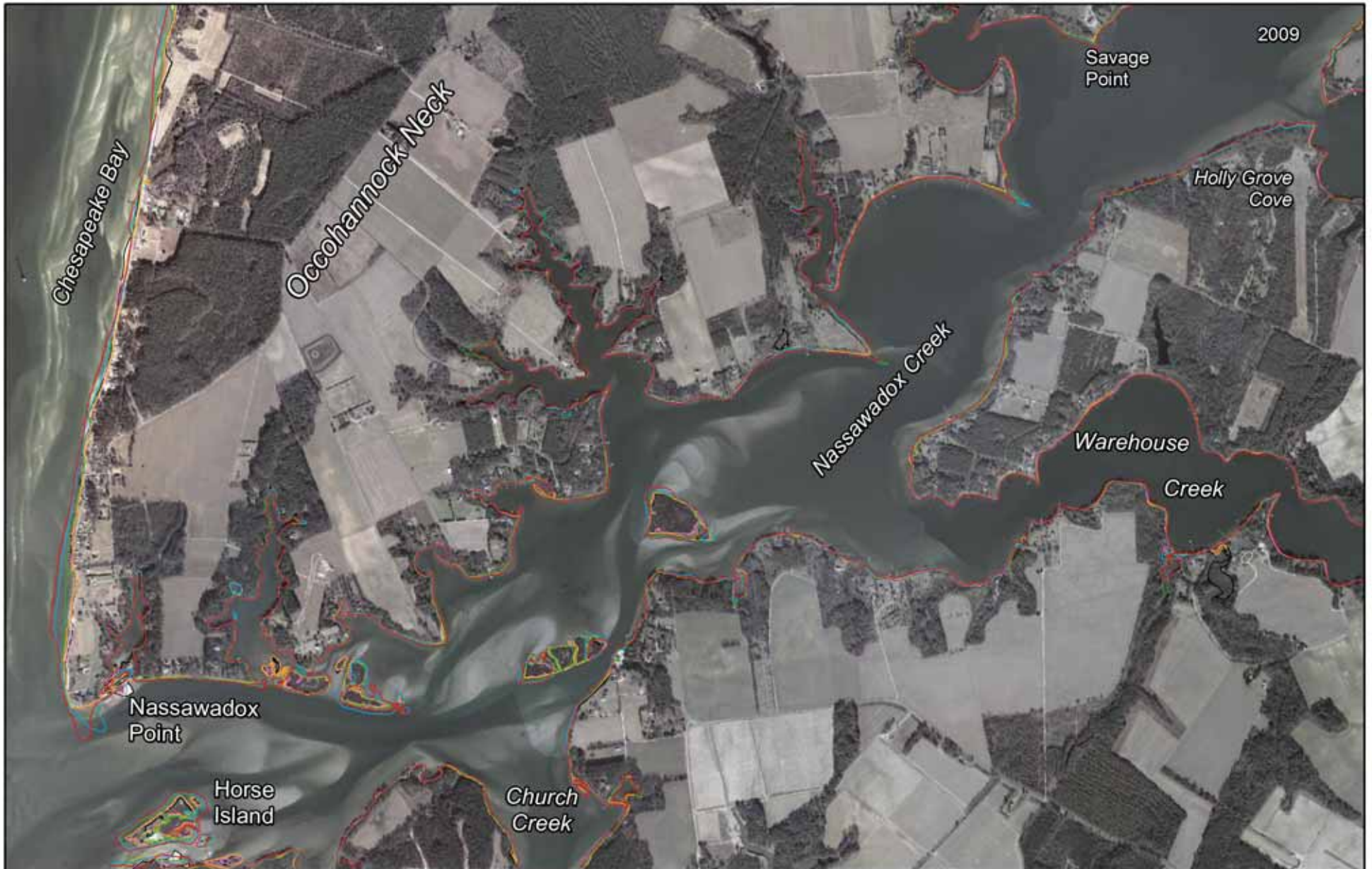


Legend
 — 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 4**





2009

Savage Point

Holly Grove Cove

Warehouse

Creek

Nassawadox Creek

Occohannock Neck

Chesapeake Bay

Nassawadox Point

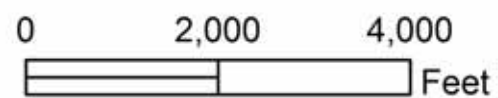
Horse Island

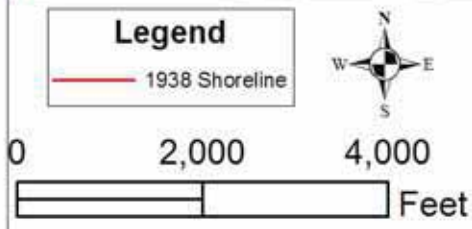
Church Creek

Legend

- 1938 Shoreline — 1994 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline — 2002 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline — 2009 Shoreline

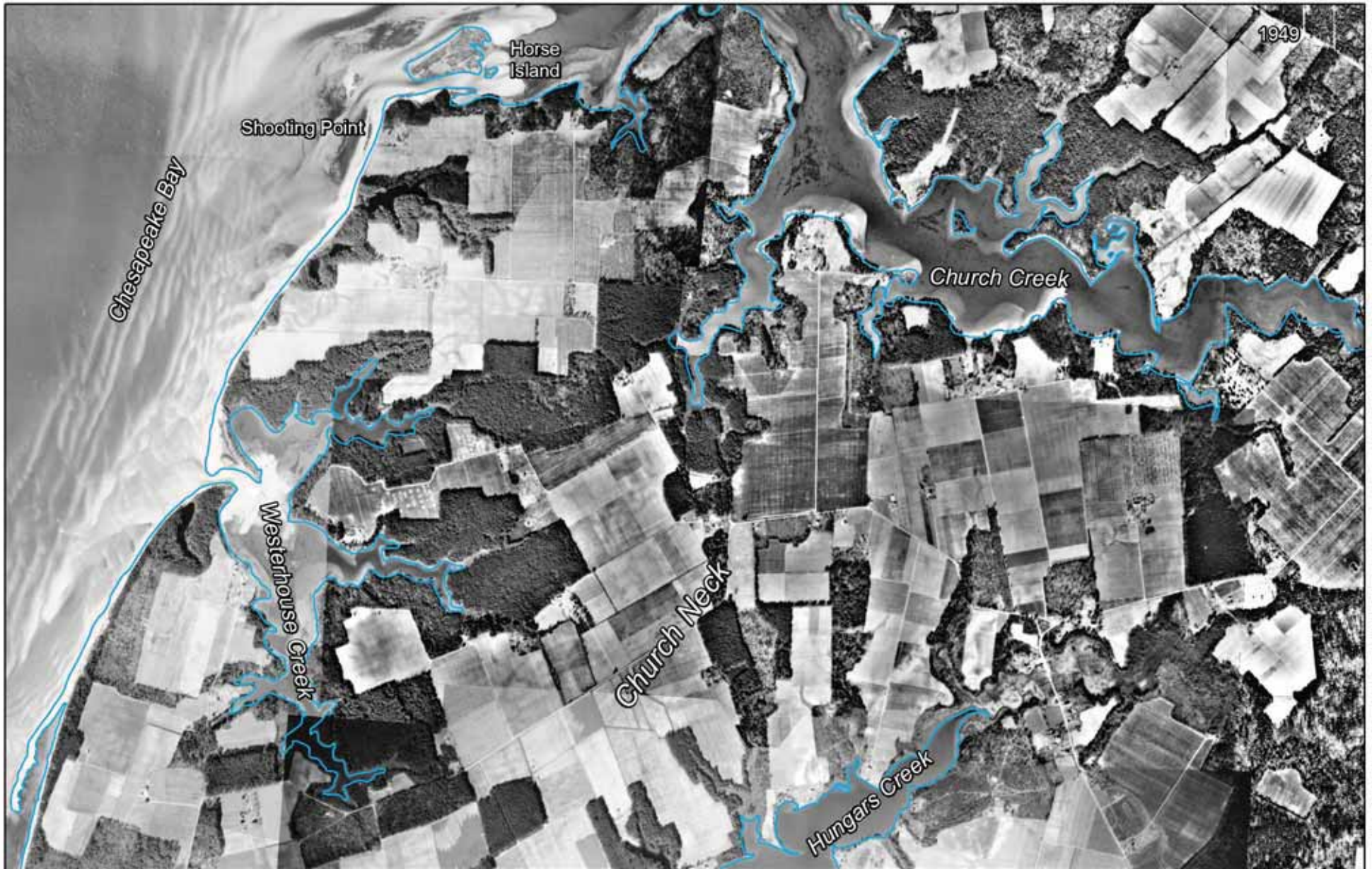
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 4**





**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 5**





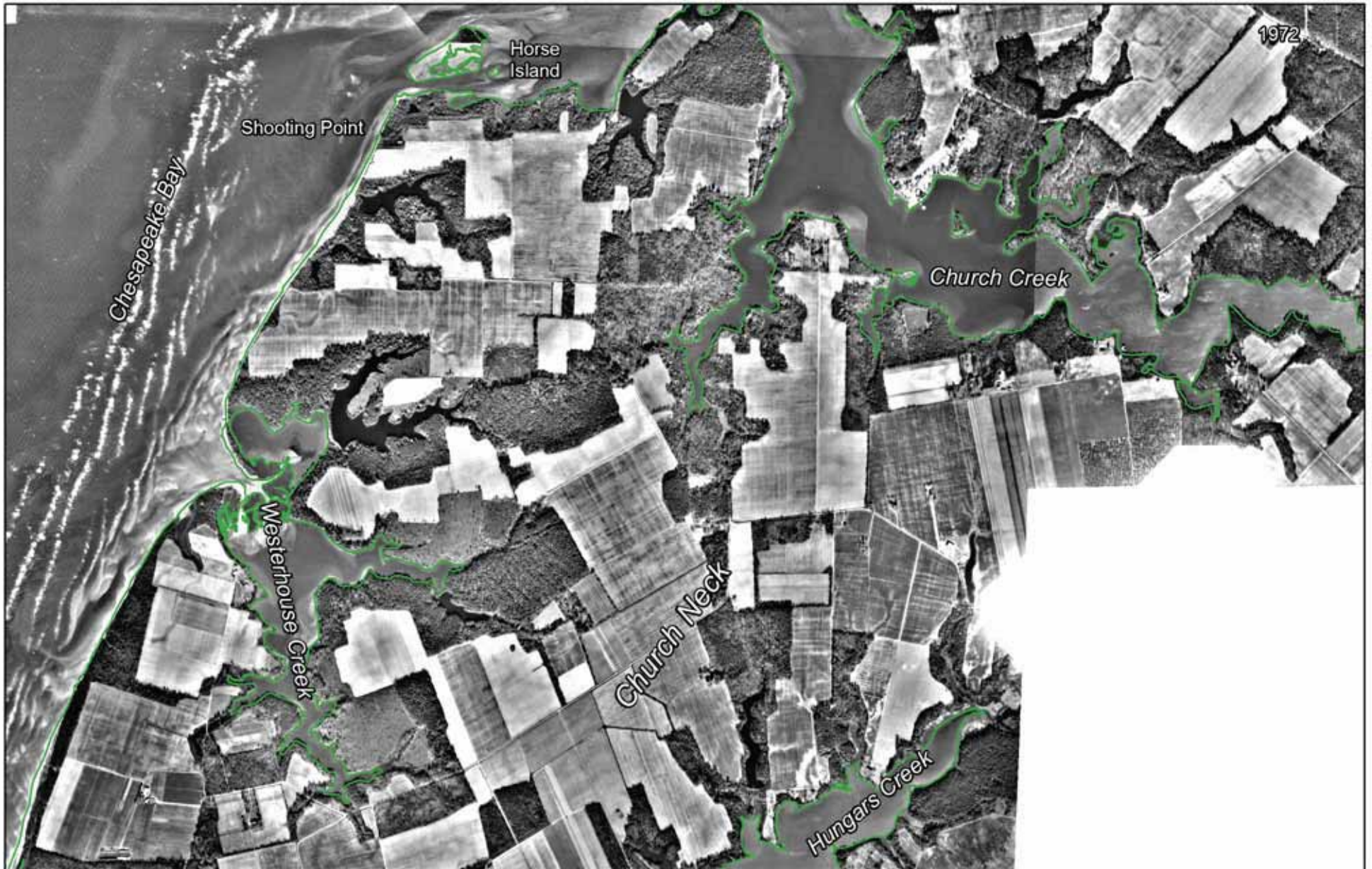
Legend
 — 1949 Shoreline



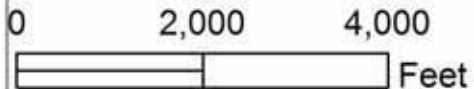
0 2,000 4,000
 Feet

**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 5**





Legend
 — 1972 Shoreline

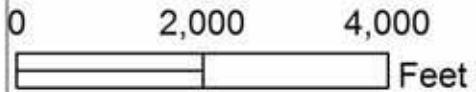


**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 5**





Legend
 — 1994 Shoreline

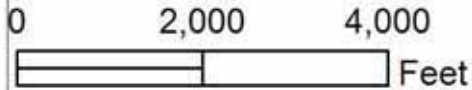


**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 5**



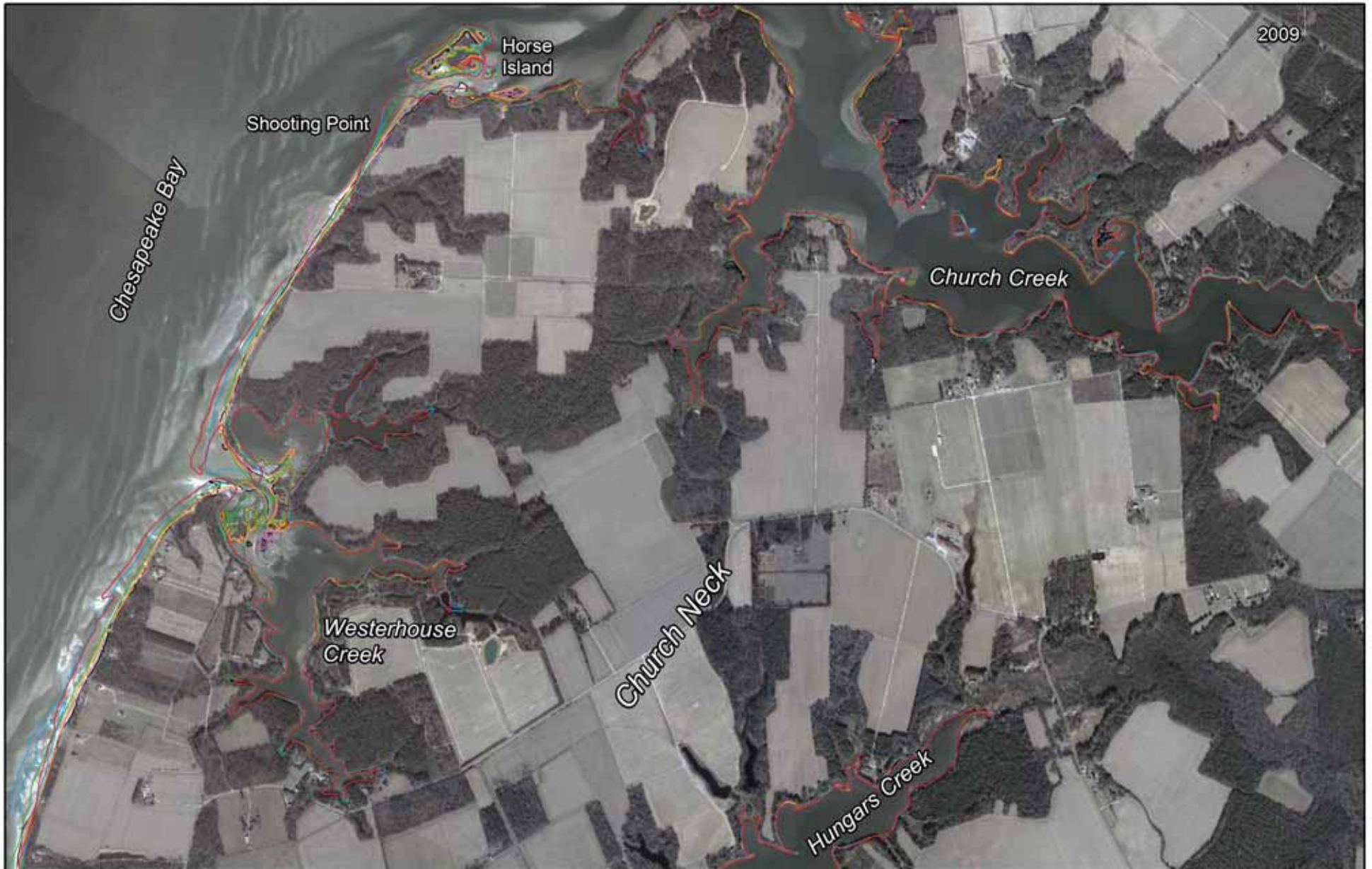


Legend
 — 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 5**

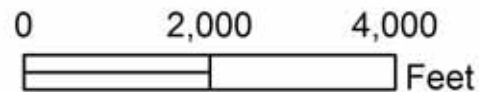


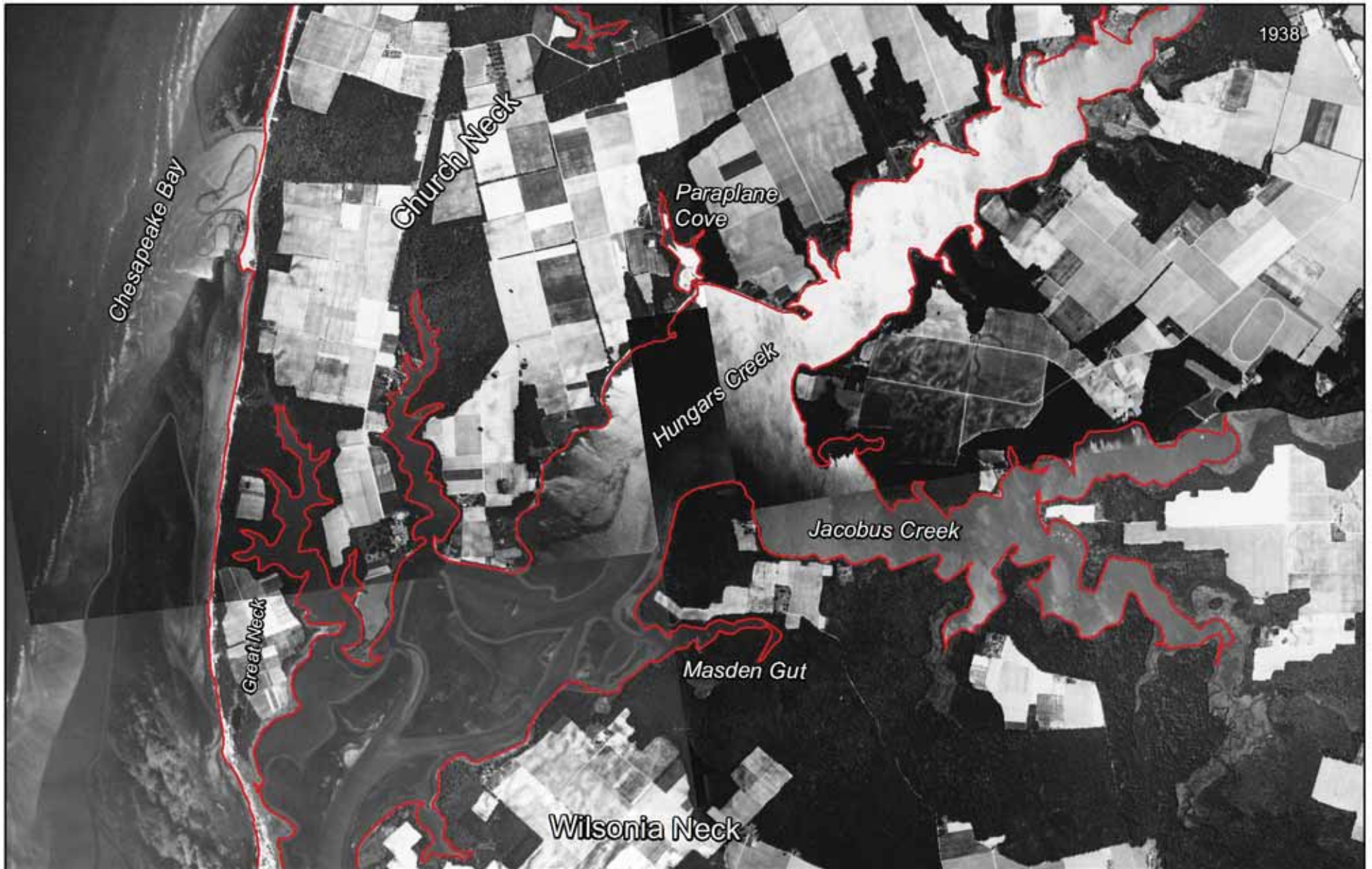


Legend

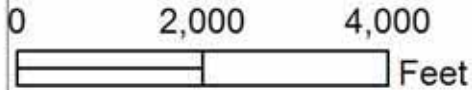
- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 5**



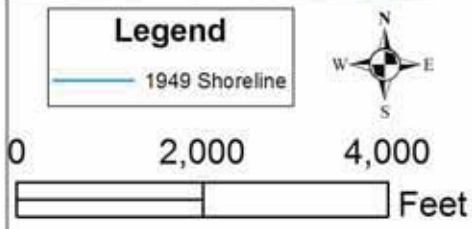


Legend
 — 1938 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 6**



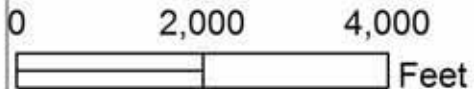


**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 6**



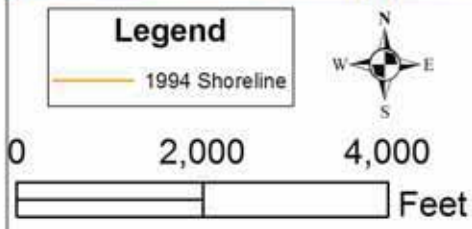


Legend
 — 1972 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 6**



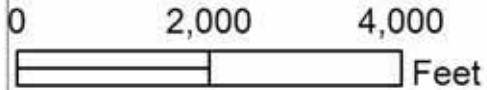


**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 6**





Legend
 — 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 6**

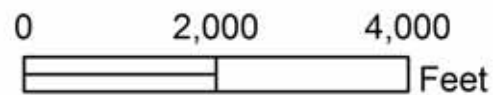




Legend

- 1938 Shoreline — 1994 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline — 2002 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline — 2009 Shoreline

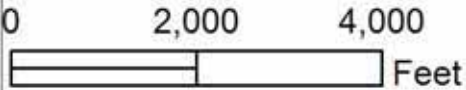
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 6**





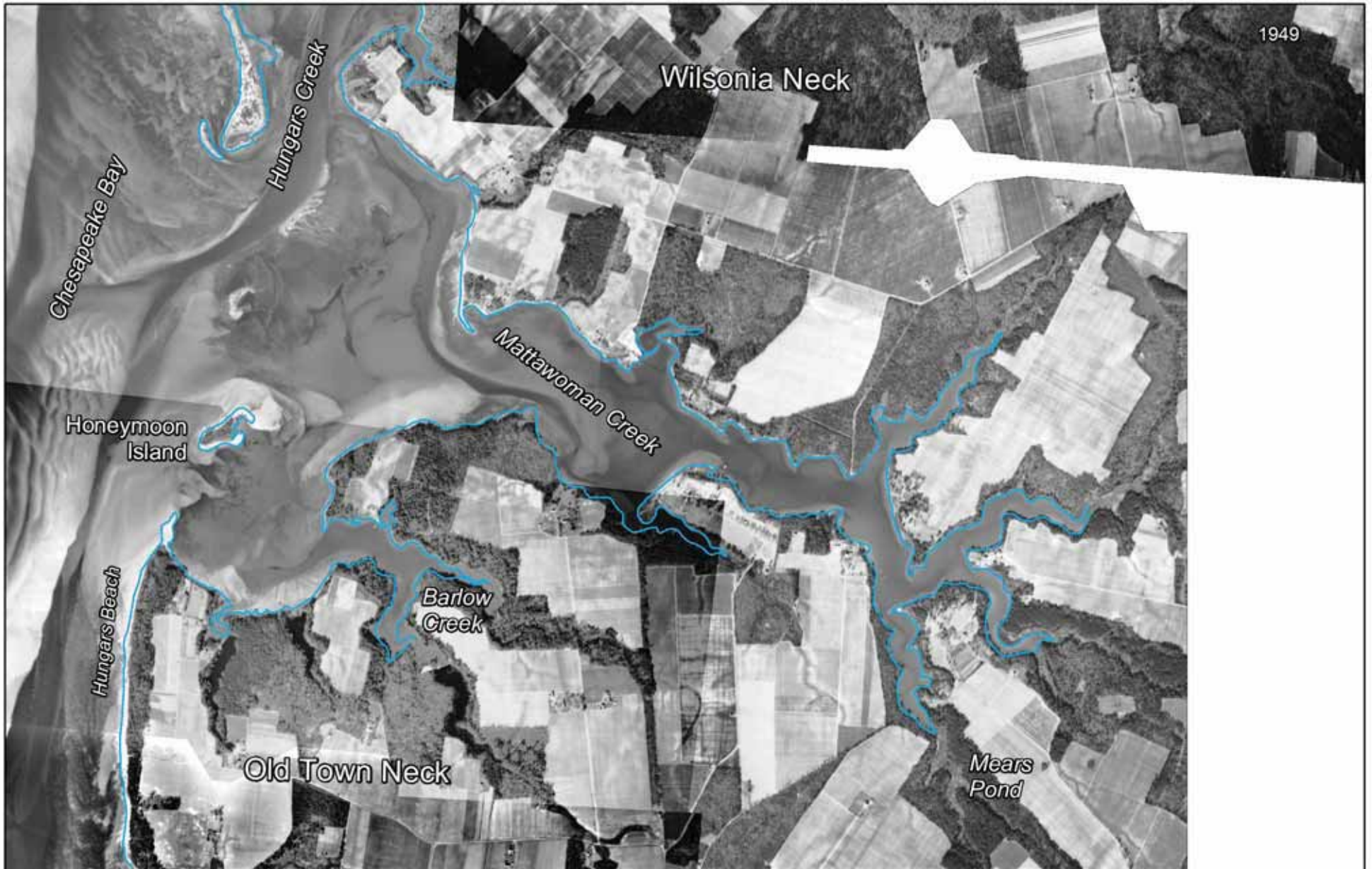
1938

Legend
 — 1938 Shoreline

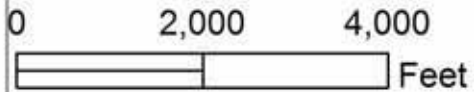


**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 7**





Legend
 — 1949 Shoreline



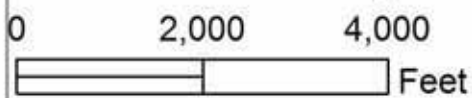
**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 7**





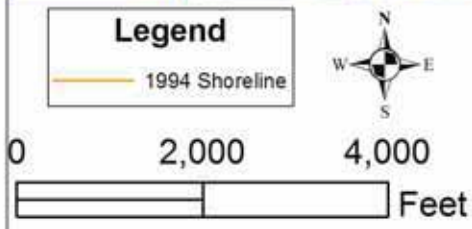
1972

Legend
 — 1972 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 7**





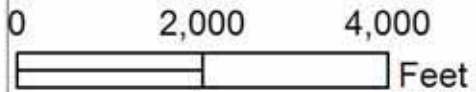
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 7**



2002



Legend
— 2002 Shoreline



Northampton County, Virginia Plate 7

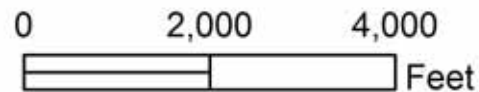


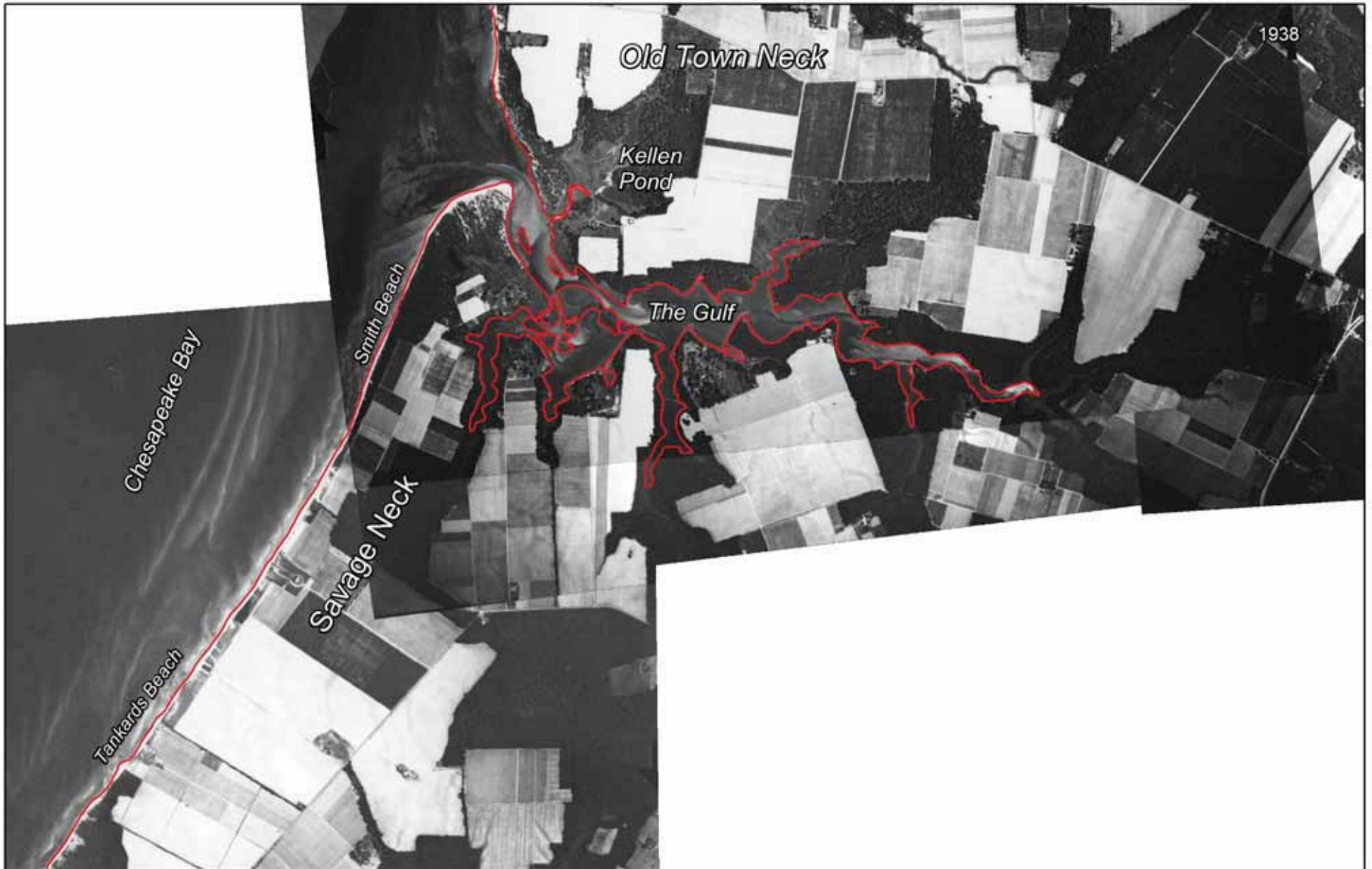


Legend

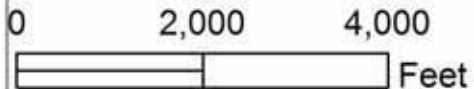
- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 7**





Legend
 — 1938 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 8**





1949

Old Town Neck

Kellen Pond

The Gulf

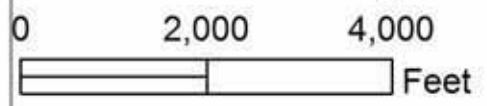
Smith Beach

Savage Neck

Chesapeake Bay

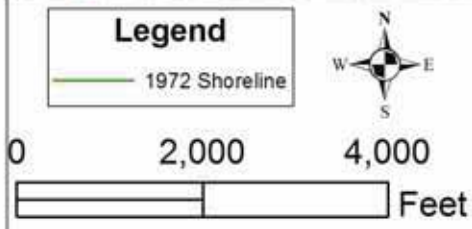
Tankards Beach

Legend
 — 1949 Shoreline



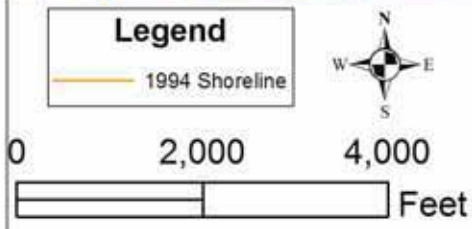
**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 8**





**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 8**



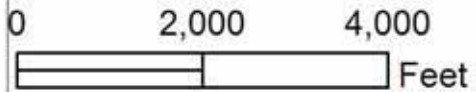


**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 8**





Legend
 — 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 8**

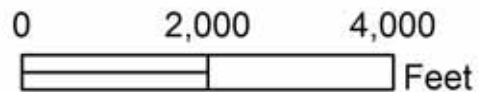




Legend

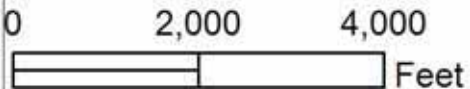
- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 8**



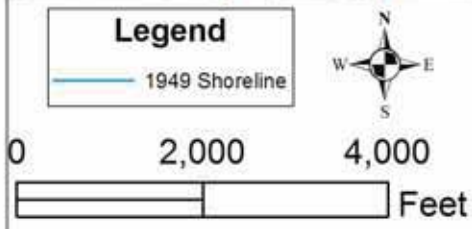


Legend
 — 1938 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 9**





**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 9**





1972

Chesapeake Bay

Savage Neck Dunes
State Natural Area Preserve

Savage Neck

Curtis
Pond

Old Castle Creek

Cherrystone Inlet

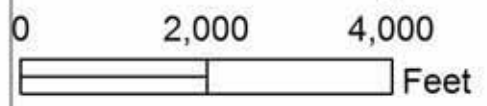
Eyreville Creek

Wescoat
Cove

Remus Creek

Eyrehall Creek

Legend
 1972 Shoreline

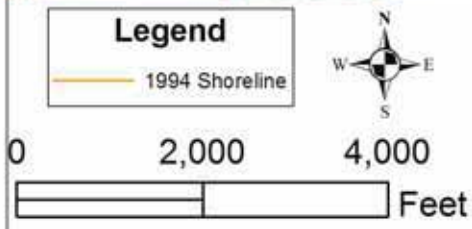


**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 9**





1994



**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 9**





2002

Chesapeake Bay

Savage Neck Dunes
State Natural Area Preserve

Savage Neck

Curtis
Pond

Old Castle Creek

Cherrystone Inlet

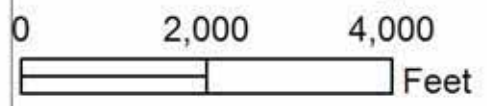
Eyreville Creek

Wescoat
Cove

Remus Creek

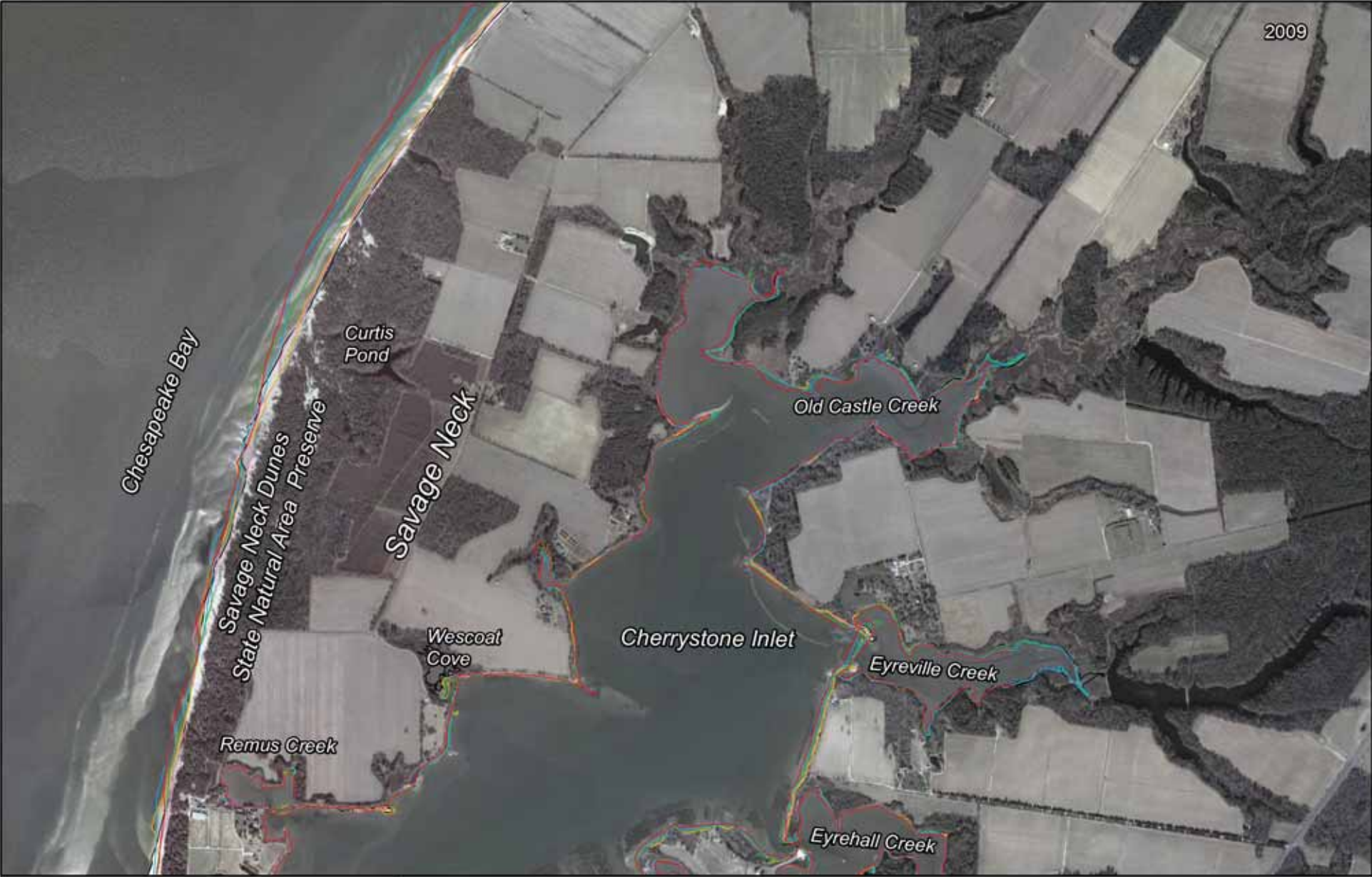
Eyrehall Creek

Legend
 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 9**

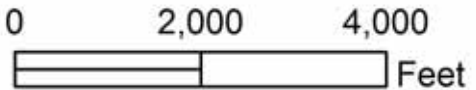




Legend

- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 9**



1938

Chesapeake Bay

Cherrystone Inlet

Eyrehall Creek

Wescoat Point

Mill Point

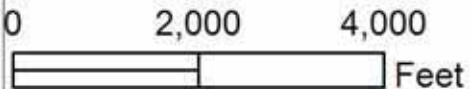
Mill Creek

Sandy Island

Kings Creek

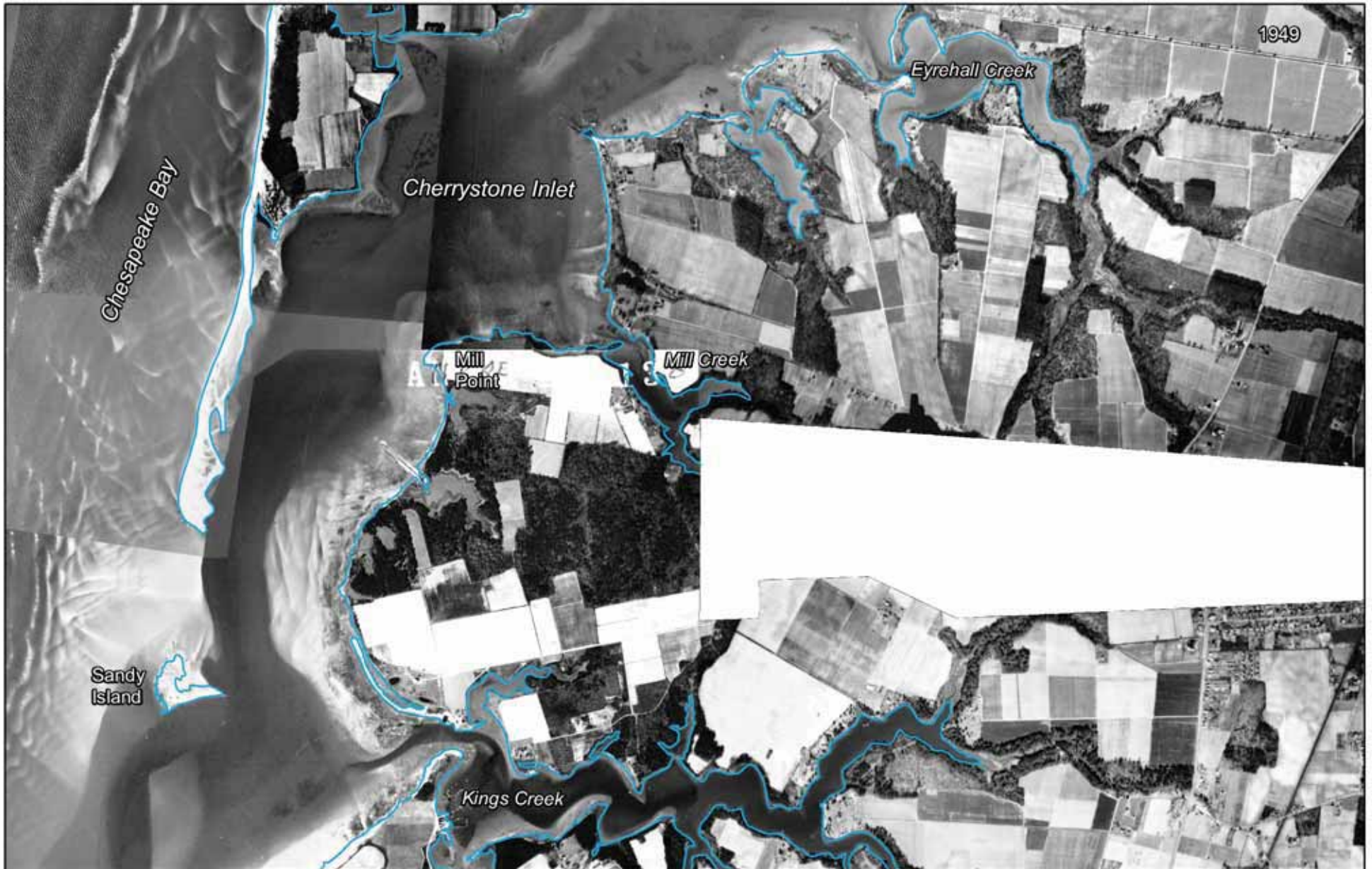
Legend

— 1938 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 10**





1949

Chesapeake Bay

Cherrystone Inlet

Eyrehall Creek

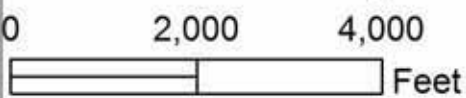
Mill Point

Mill Creek

Sandy Island

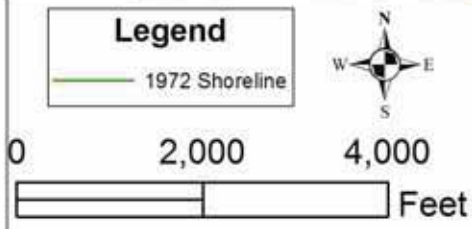
Kings Creek

Legend
 — 1949 Shoreline



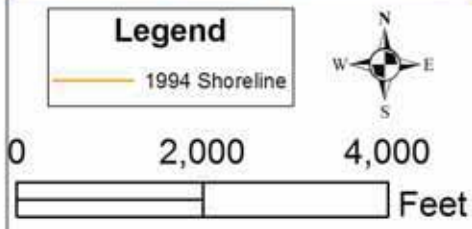
**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 10**





**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 10**



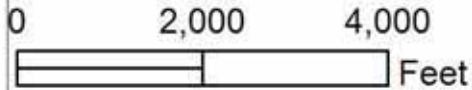


**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 10**





Legend
 — 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 10**

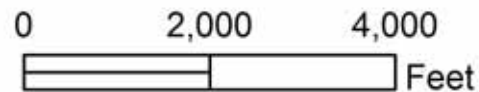




Legend

- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

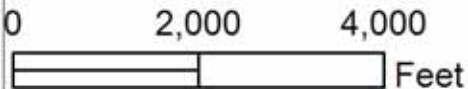
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 10**



1938

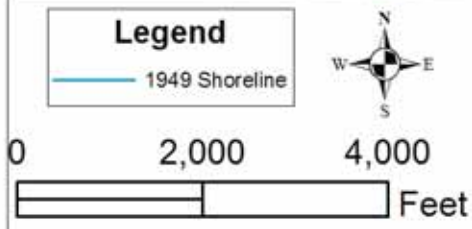
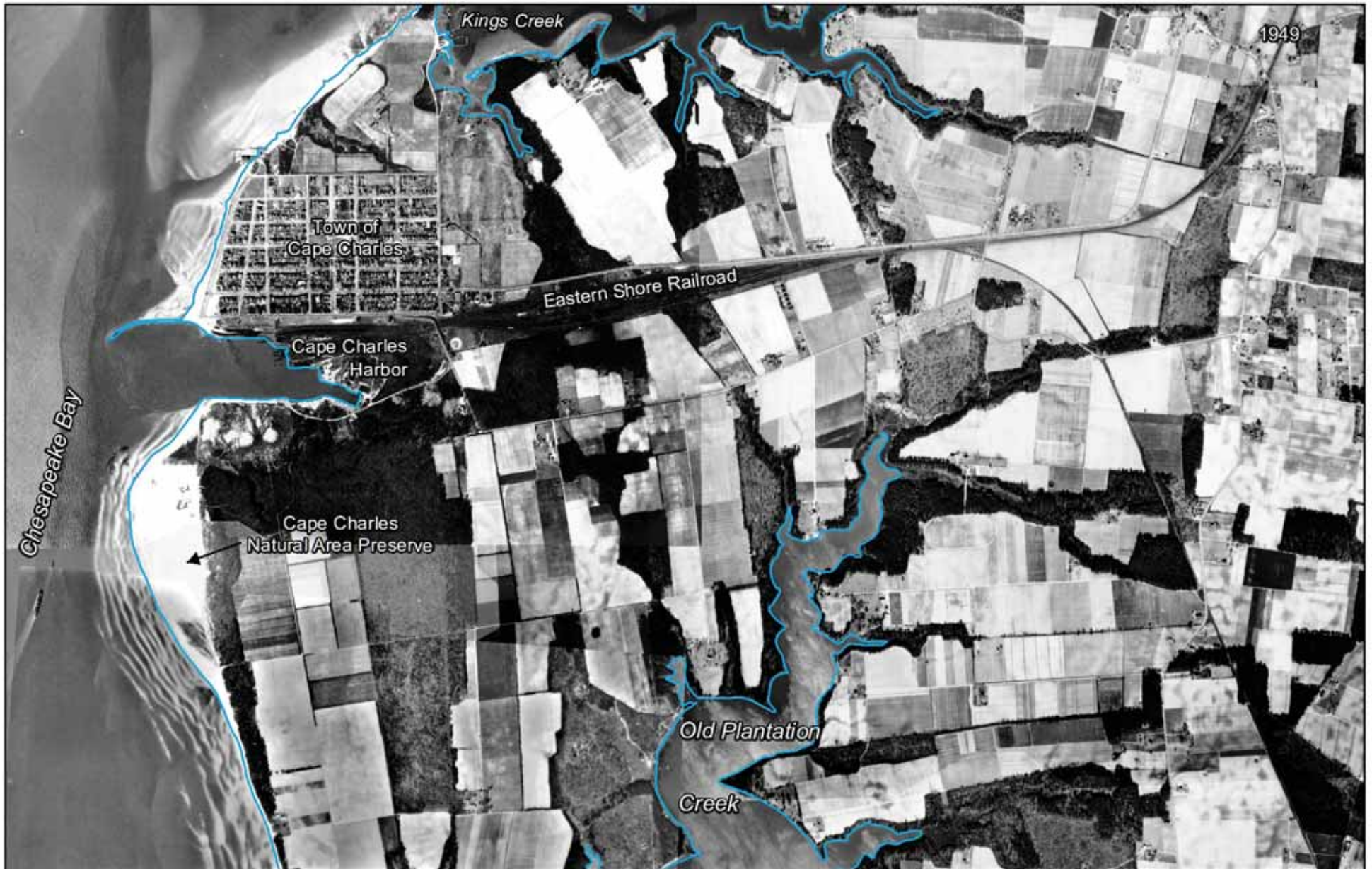


Legend
 — 1938 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 11**

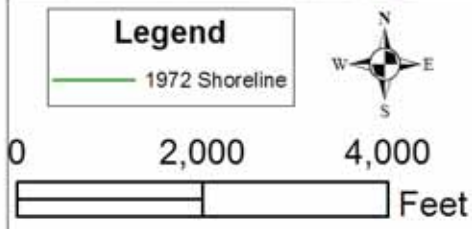




**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 11**

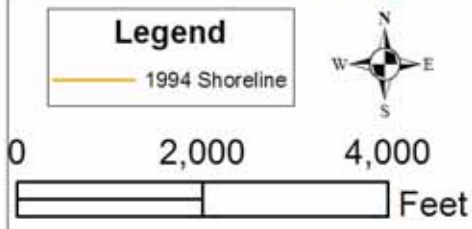


1972



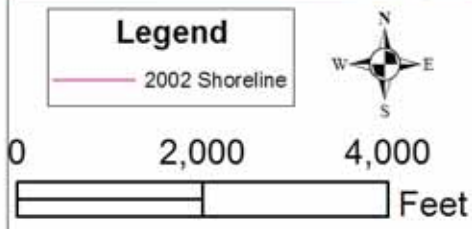
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 11**





**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 11**





**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 11**

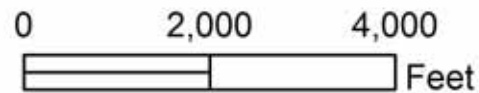




Legend

- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

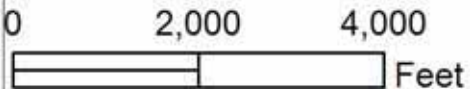
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 11**



1938



Legend
 — 1938 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 12**





1949

Allegood Pond

Old Plantation Creek

Hunts Point

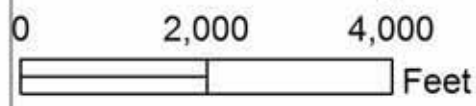
Chesapeake Bay

Costin Pond

Elliotts Creek

Dixons Pond

Legend
 — 1949 Shoreline



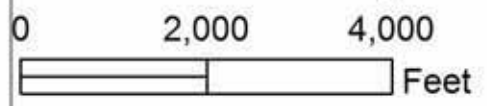
**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 12**



1972

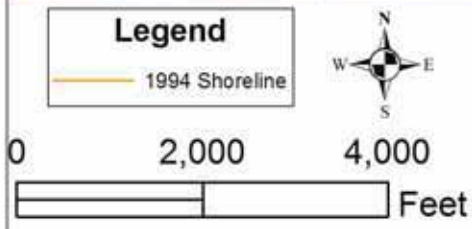


Legend
— 1972 Shoreline



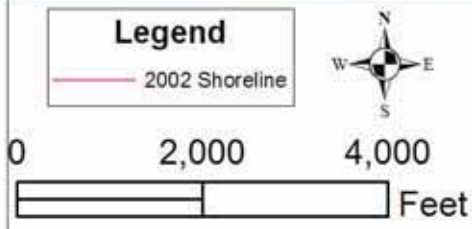
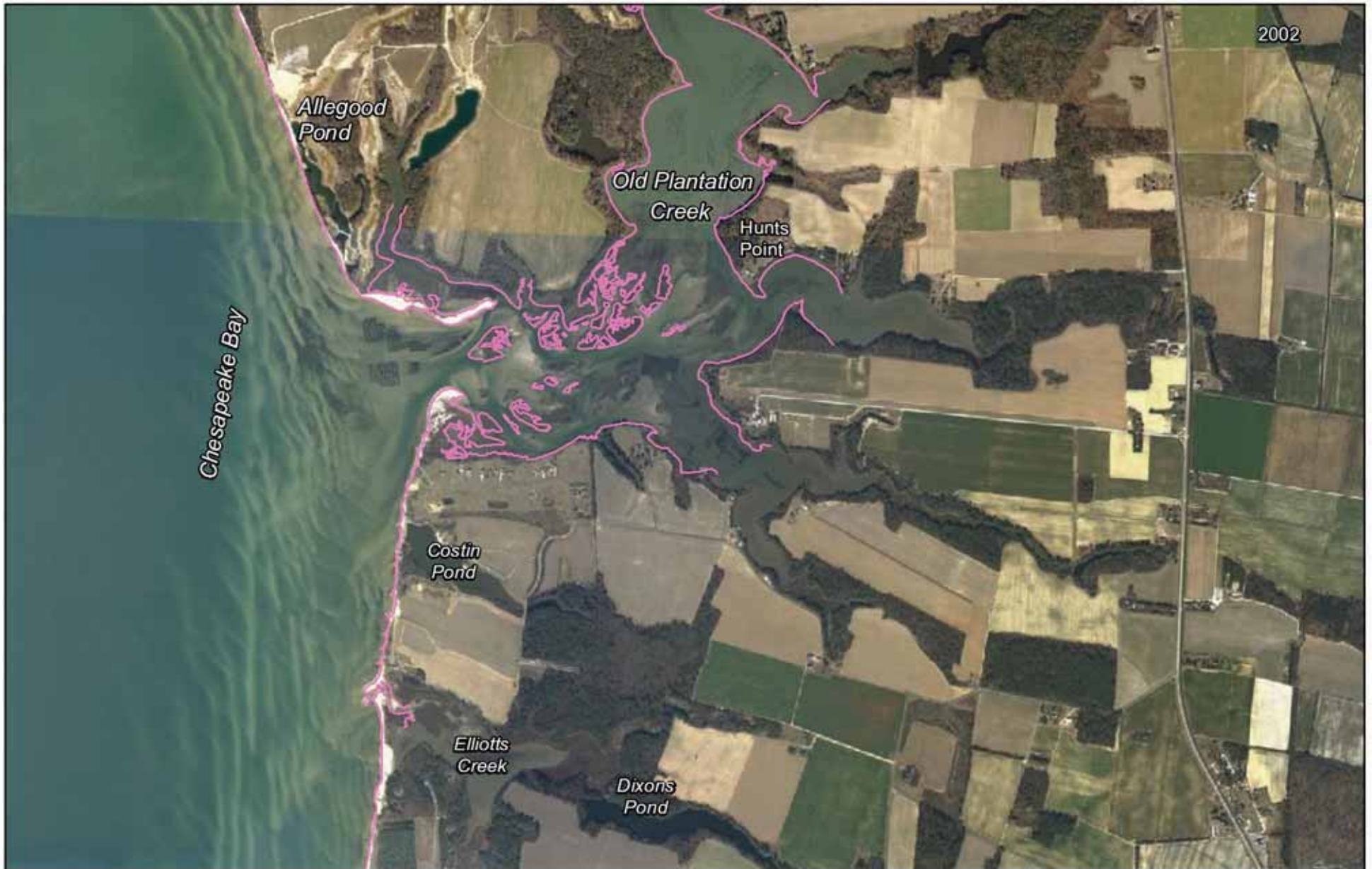
Northampton County, Virginia Plate 12





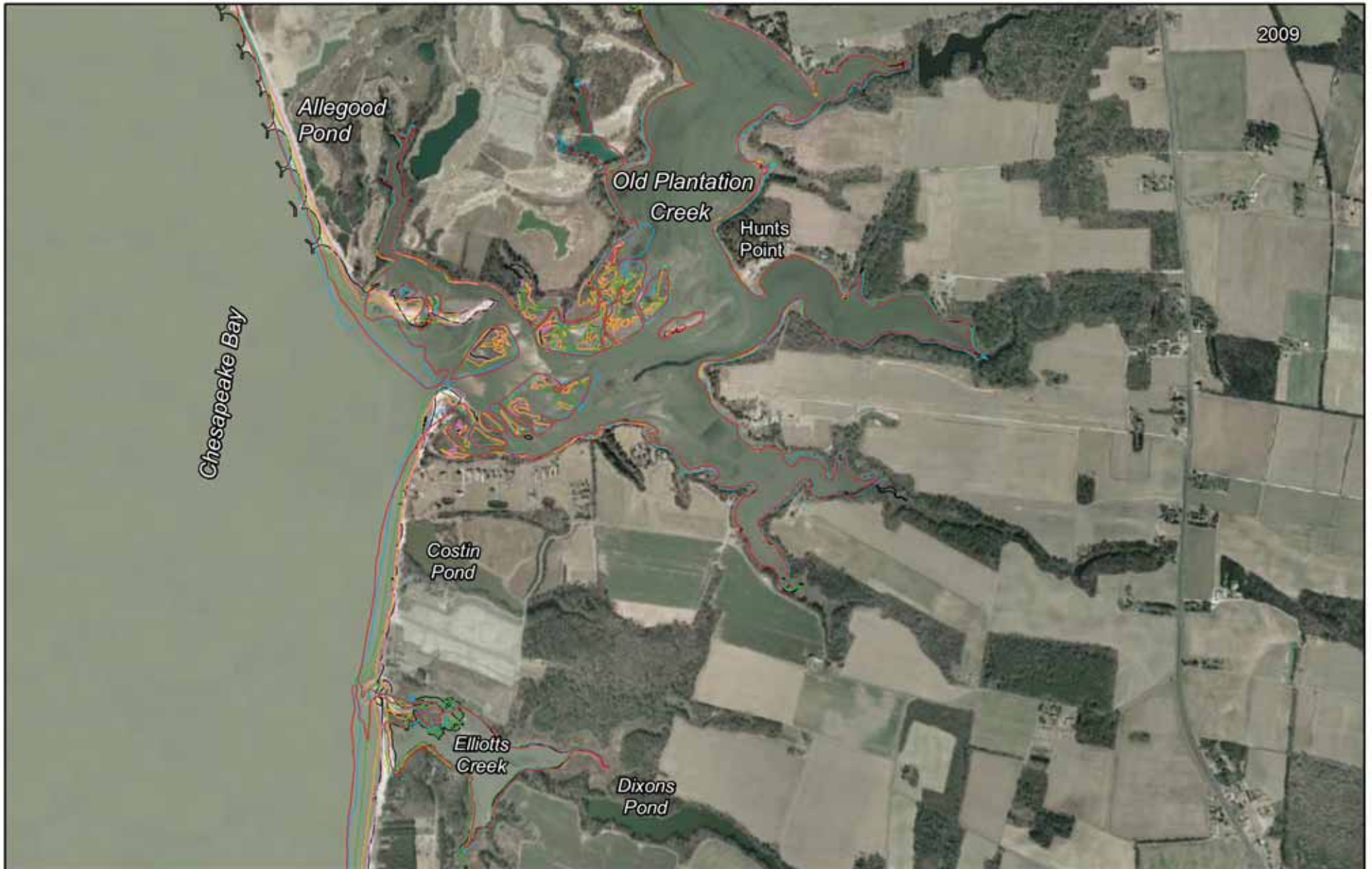
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 12**





**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 12**





2009

Chesapeake Bay

Allegood Pond

Old Plantation Creek

Hunts Point

Costin Pond

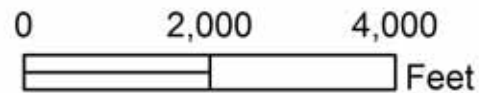
Elliotts Creek

Dixons Pond

Legend

- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

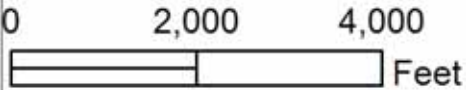
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 12**



1938



Legend
 — 1938 Shoreline



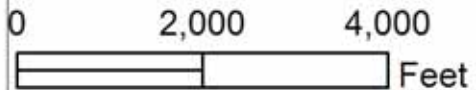
**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 13**





Legend

— 1949 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 13**



1972

Chesapeake Bay

Pond Drain

Butlers Bluff

Elliotts Creek

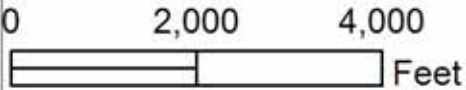
Kiptopeke State Park

Pickett's Harbor



Legend

— 1972 Shoreline



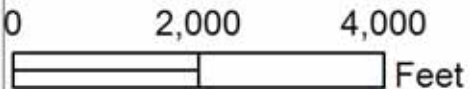
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 13**



1994



Legend
 — 1994 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 13**



2002

Chesapeake Bay

Pond Drain

Butlers Bluff

Elliotts Creek

Kiptopeke State Park

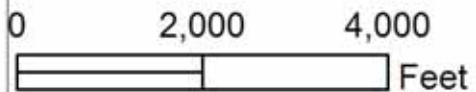
Pickett's Harbor



Legend



**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 13**



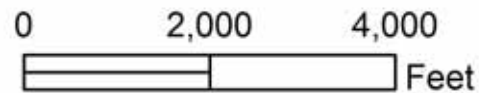
2009



Legend

- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

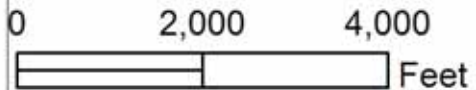
Northampton County, Virginia Plate 13





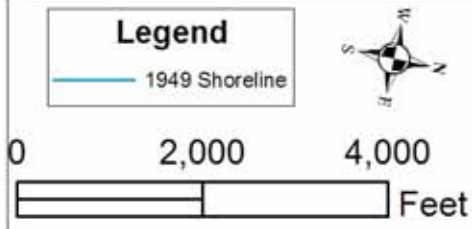
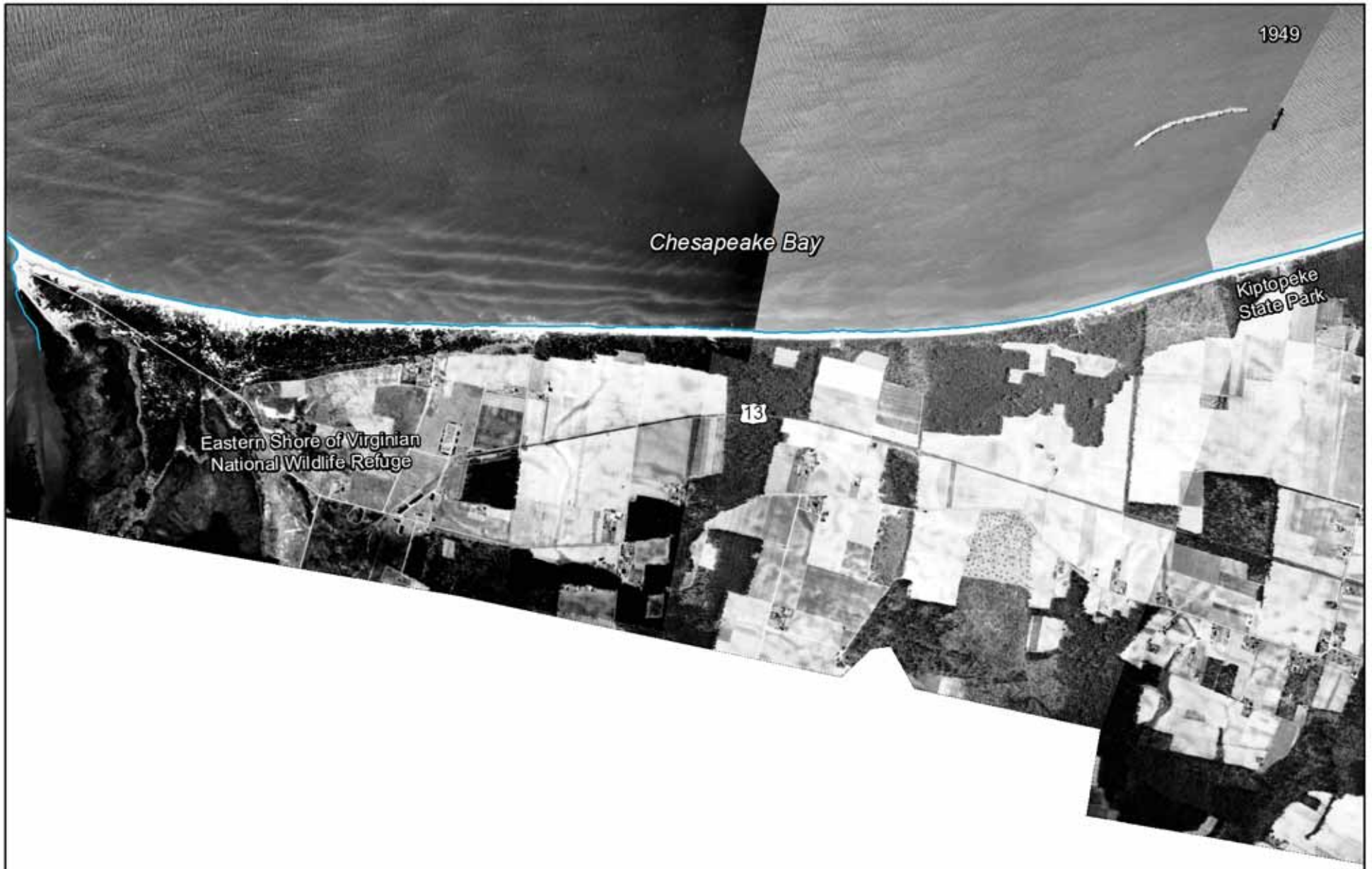
Legend

— 1938 Shoreline



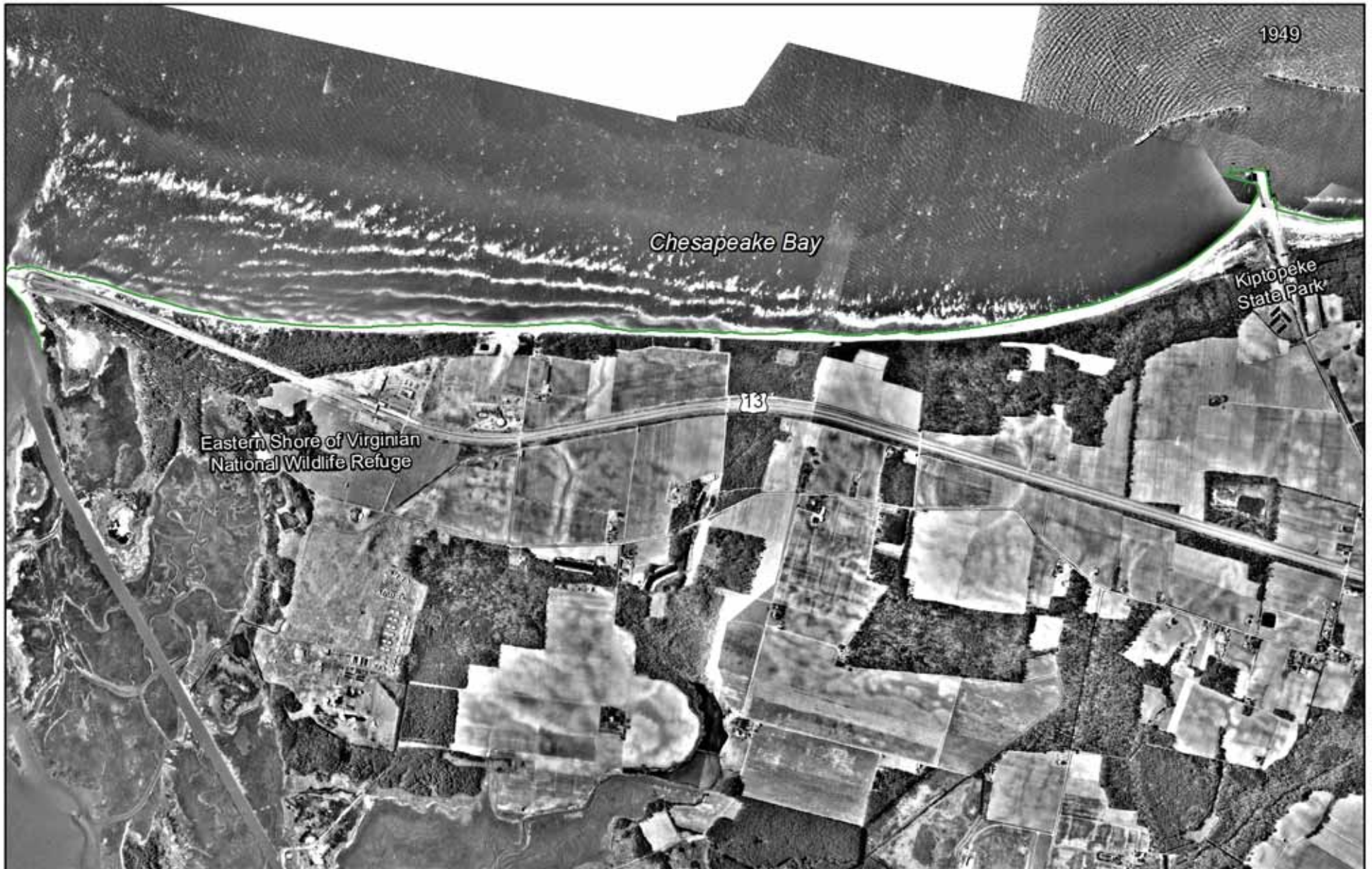
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 14**



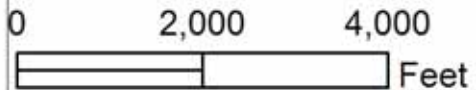


**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 14**





Legend
 — 1972 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 14**





1994

Chesapeake Bay

Kiptopeke State Park

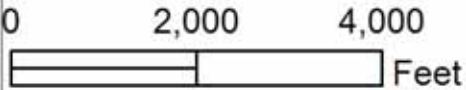
Eastern Shore of Virginian National Wildlife Refuge

13

Legend
 1994 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
 Plate 14**



2002

Chesapeake Bay

Kiptopeke State Park

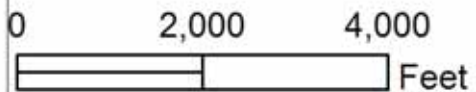
Eastern Shore of Virginian National Wildlife Refuge

13



Legend

— 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 14**

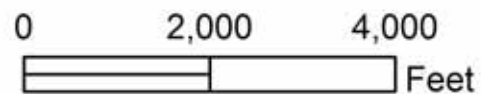


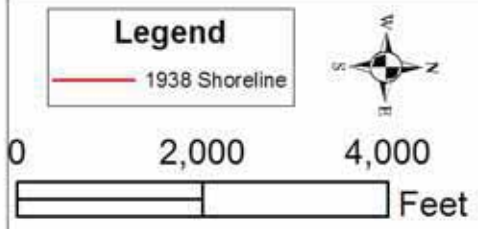
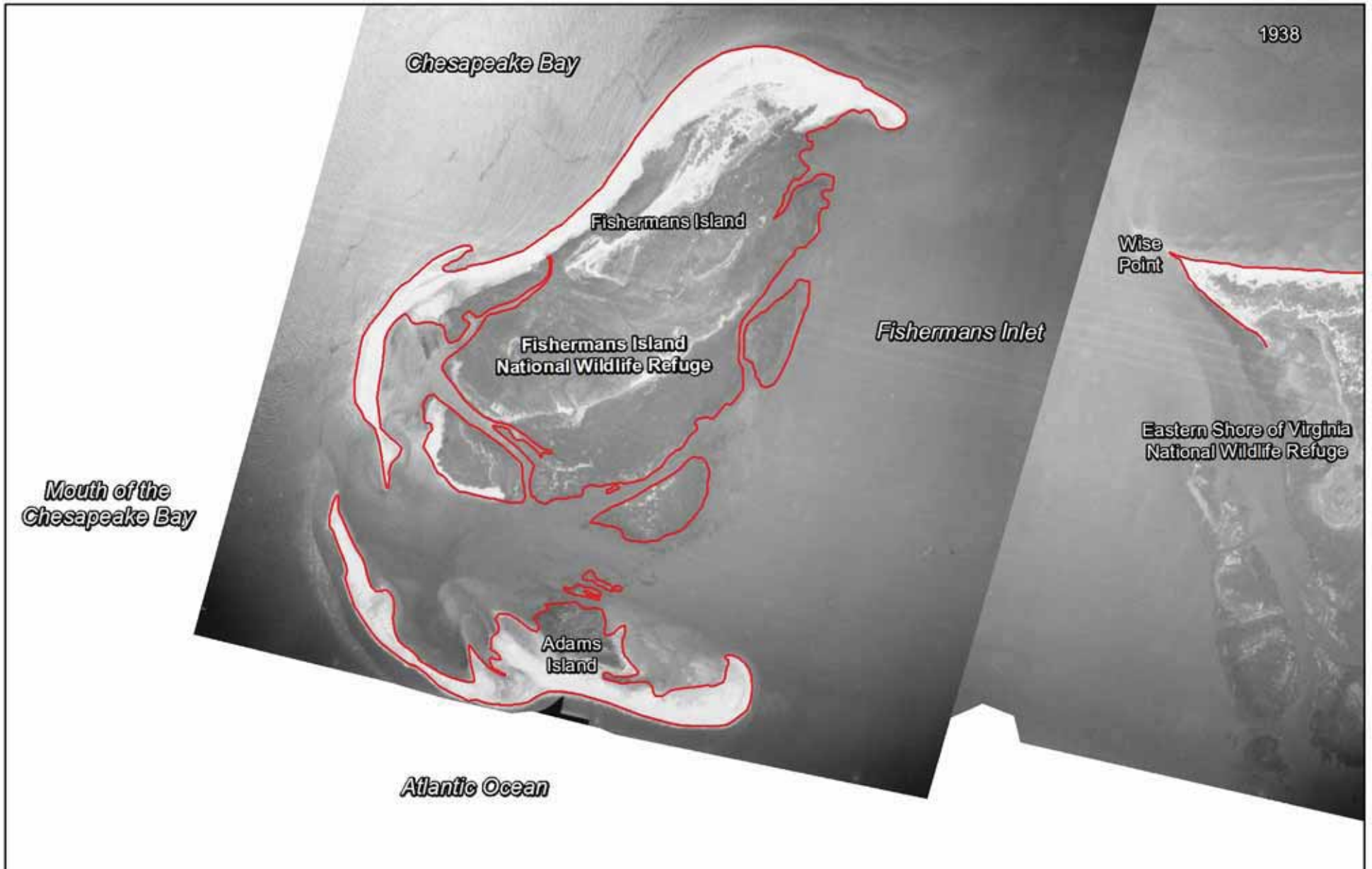


Legend

- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

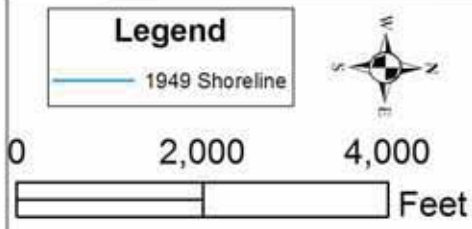
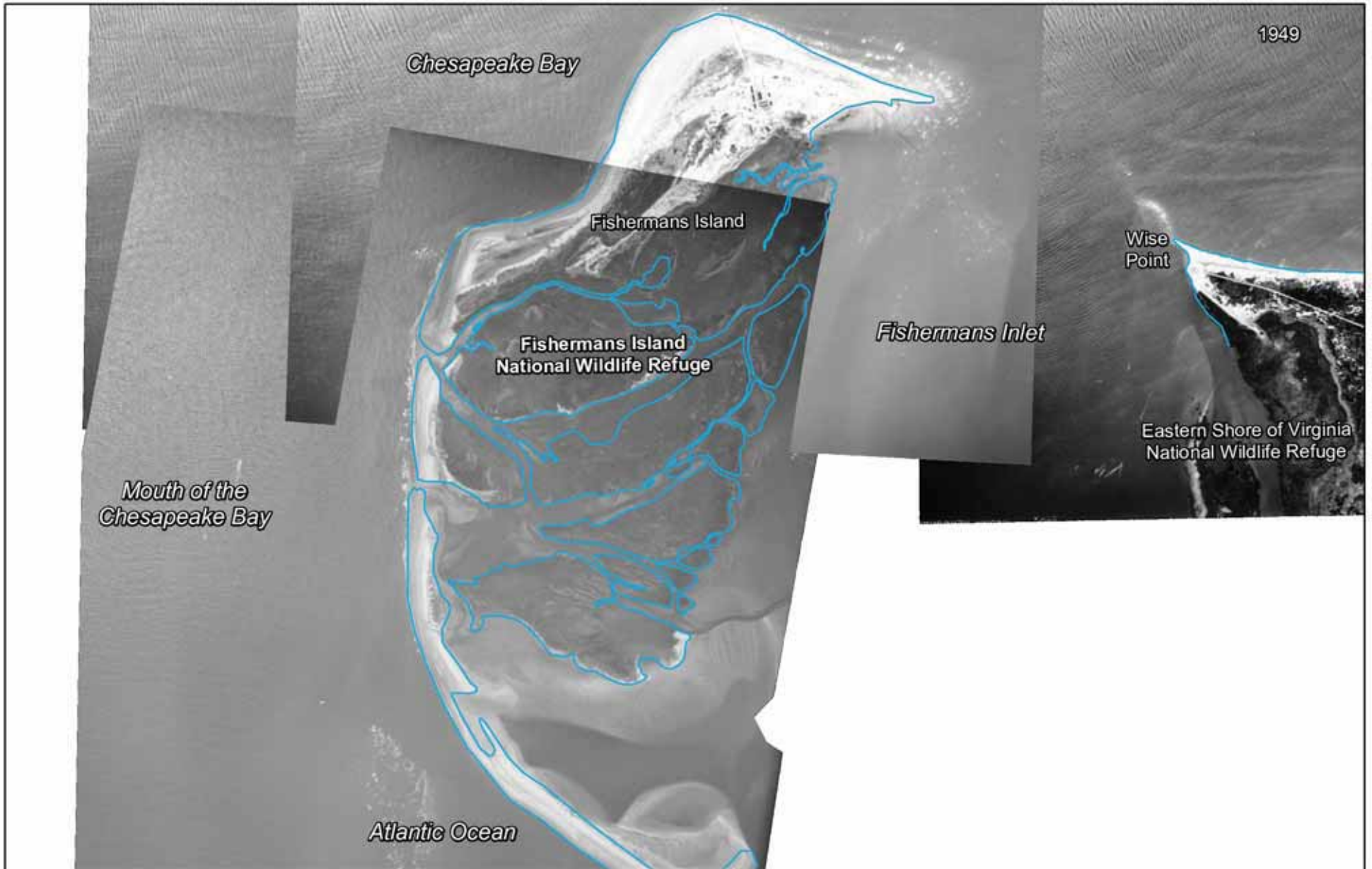
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 14**





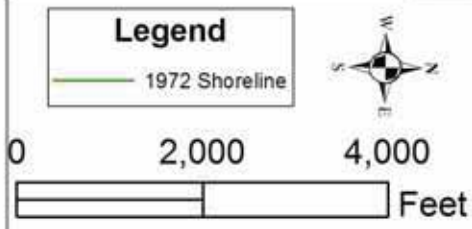
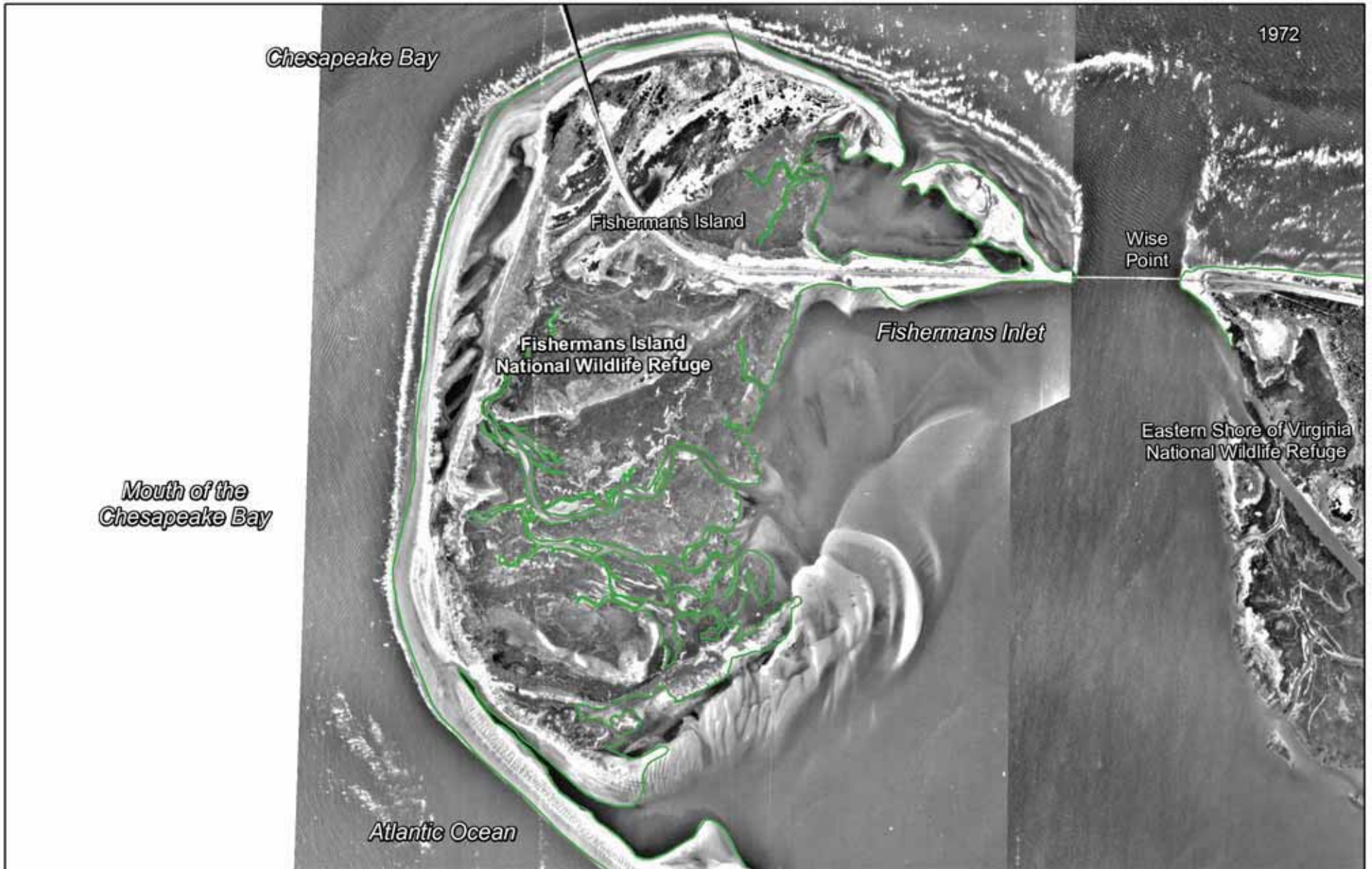
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 15**





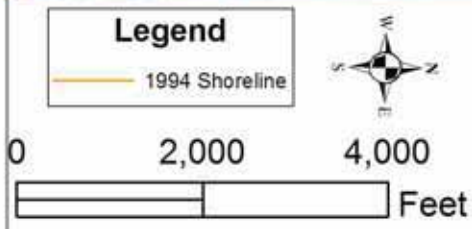
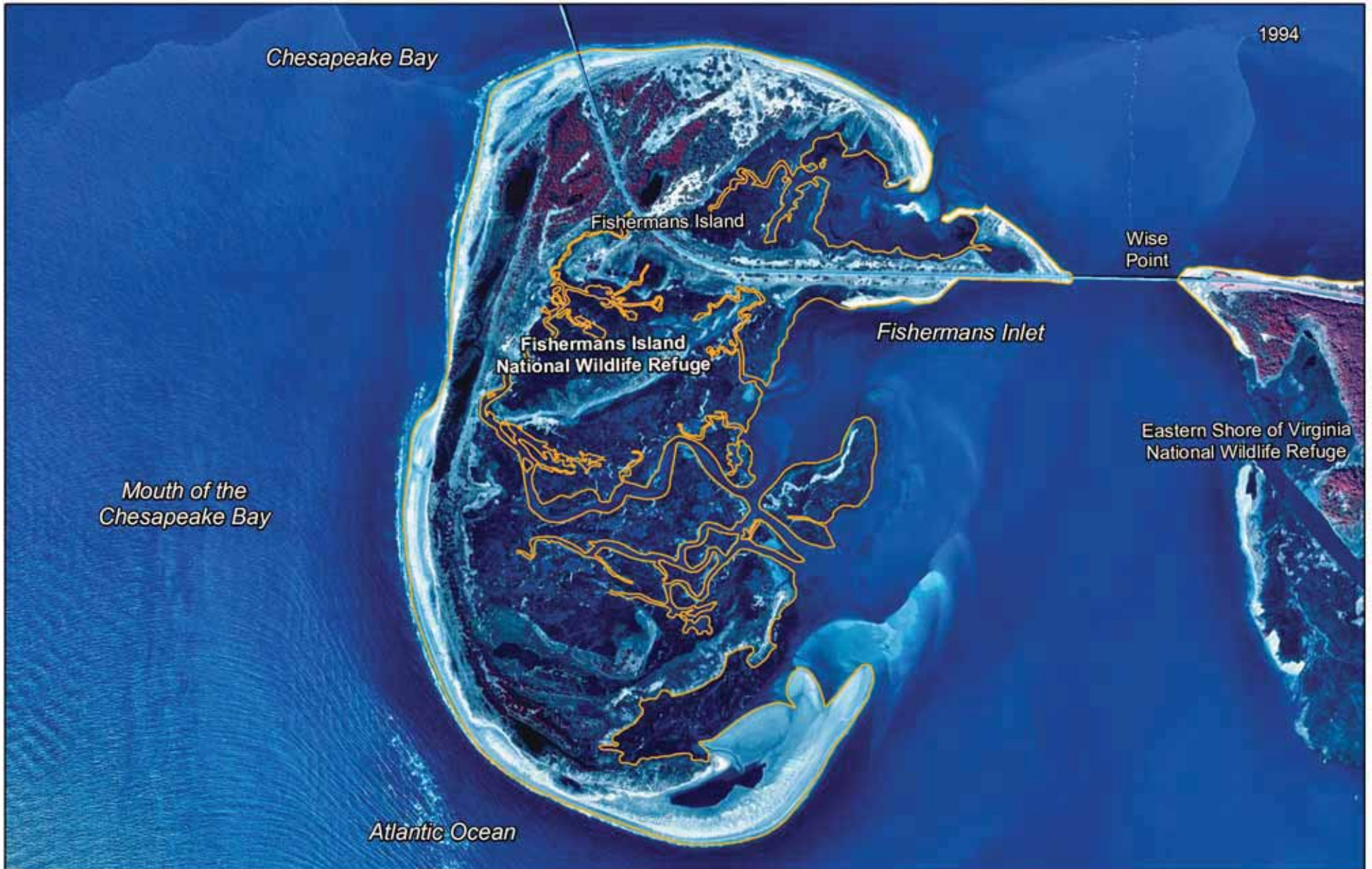
**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 15**





**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 15**





**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 15**



2002

Chesapeake Bay

Fishermans Island

Wise Point

Fishermans Island National Wildlife Refuge

Fishermans Inlet

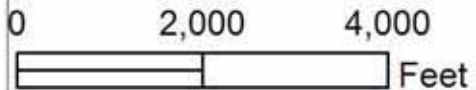
Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

Mouth of the Chesapeake Bay

Atlantic Ocean

Legend

— 2002 Shoreline



**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 15**



2009

Chesapeake Bay

Fishermans Island

Wise Point

Fishermans Island National Wildlife Refuge

Fishermans Inlet

Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

Mouth of the Chesapeake Bay

Atlantic Ocean

Legend

- 1938 Shoreline
- 1949 Shoreline
- 1972 Shoreline
- 1994 Shoreline
- 2002 Shoreline
- 2009 Shoreline

**Northampton County, Virginia
Plate 15**

