

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Florida Coastal Office

## Welcome to the GTM Research Reserve

Gary E. Raulerson  
Assistant Manager

Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve





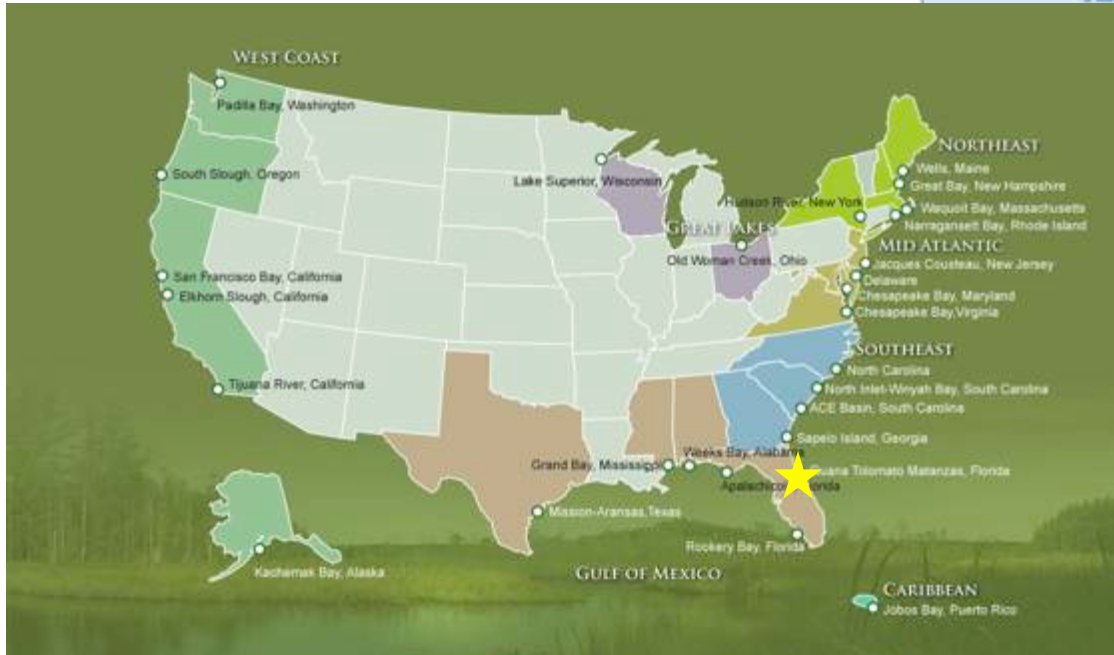
# Overview

- ❖ **Intro to GTM Research Reserve**
  - ❖ Integration of variety of projects
- ❖ **In-house research & visiting investigator support**
- ❖ **Habitat restoration**
- ❖ **CTP**
- ❖ **Land acquisition**





# FDEP, Florida Coastal Office



March 2008

- Aquatic Preserves
- National Estuarine Research Reserves
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- Coral Reef Conservation Program



Aquatic Preserves layer maintained by: Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd, MS 235, Tallahassee, FL 32309-3000, (850)245-2094

Aquatic Preserves include all the state-owned submerged lands within their boundaries. This map is not intended for use for determination of wetlands or land ownership.

[www.FloridaCoasts.org](http://www.FloridaCoasts.org)

# NOAA, National Estuarine Research Reserve System





# GTM Research Reserve

Two Components  
Approximately 74,000 acres





# GTM Research Reserve

## Mission Statement

To achieve the conservation of natural biodiversity and cultural resources by using the results of research to guide science-based stewardship and education strategies.



# Programs

## **Research**

**(Assessment and Monitoring)**

## **Resource Management**

**(Restoration and Conservation)**

## **Education**

**(Interpretation and Community Outreach)**

## **Coastal Training**

**(Professionals and Policymakers)**



**>200 Registered Volunteers, more than 8,000 hours per year**





# Ecological Monitoring

- ❖ Sediment Elevation Tables
- ❖ Photo Plots
- ❖ Transects



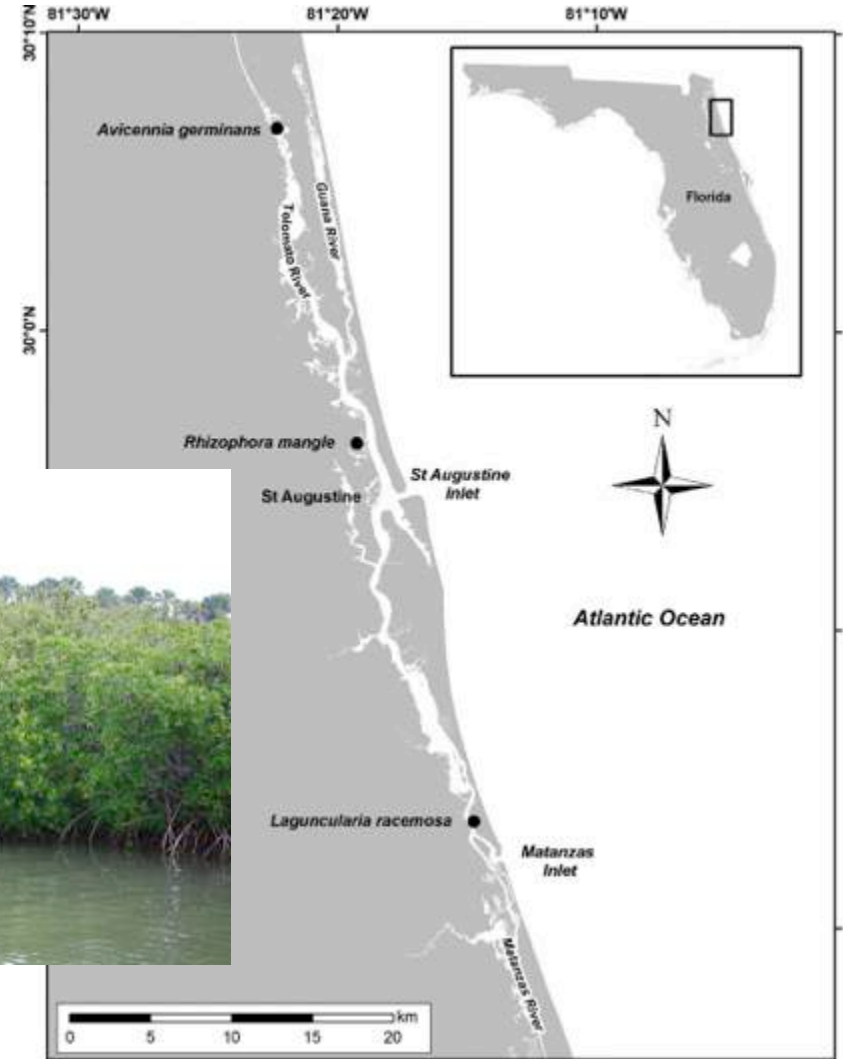


# Mangroves and Salt Marsh Ecotone

## ❖ Understanding potential ecosystem changes



- ❖ Structure
- ❖ Function
- ❖ Nutrients
- ❖ Fisheries/Wildlife

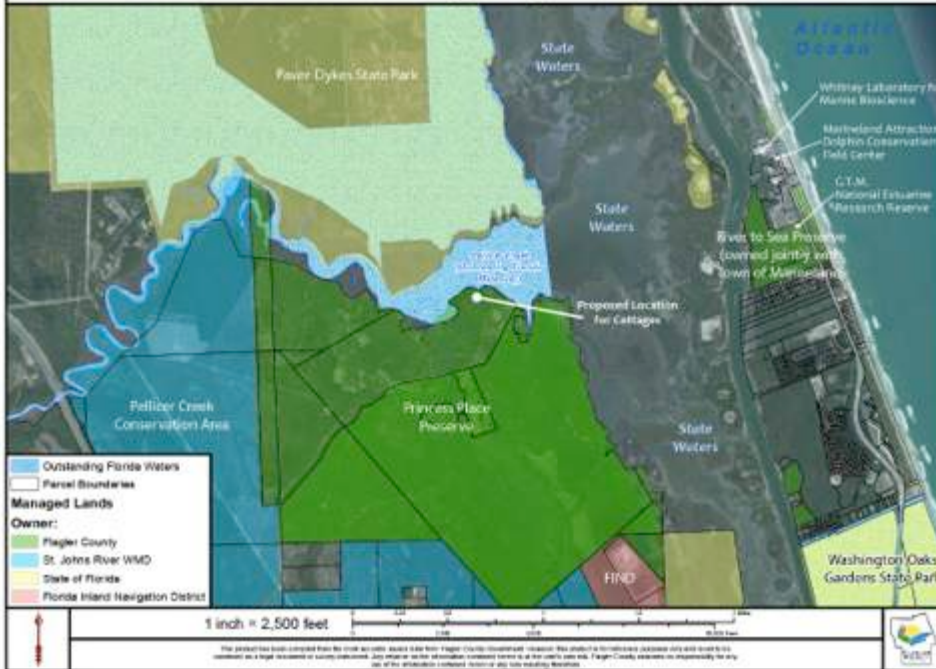






# Research Infrastructure

Princess Place Preserve Cottage Proposal - Conservation Areas



- ❖ SWMP Water Quality
- ❖ Dorm facilities (PAC)
- ❖ Staff
- ❖ Vehicles



# Restoration Science & Implementation

- ❖ Oyster reefs
- ❖ Shoreline protection
- ❖ Multiple configurations
- ❖ Multiple approaches
- ❖ Marsh enhancement







# Restoration Science & Implementation

- ❖ Long-term monitoring
- ❖ Reef modules
- ❖ Bag materials
- ❖ Multiple partners









# Education Program

- ❖ Estuary Explorers
- ❖ Living Lab
- ❖ Teachers on the Estuary
- ❖ Summer Camps
- ❖ Festivals







# Coastal Training Program

- ❖ **Policymakers**
- ❖ **Technical professionals**
- ❖ **Working groups**
- ❖ **Invasive species**
- ❖ **Landscape BMP's**
- ❖ **Coastal processes**







# Wrap-up

- ❖ **Integrated approach to understanding ecosystem implications for resilience issues**
- ❖ **Long- and short-term research**
- ❖ **Restoration implementation and research**
- ❖ **Educating at multiple levels/age-groups**





# Thank you!



Gary Raulerson, GTM Research Reserve  
[Gary.Raulerson@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Gary.Raulerson@dep.state.fl.us)  
904-823-4500

