

# Operation Gulfscan

 NEOSGeosolutions's Hyperspectral Technology  
Deployed to Monitor Oil Spill Impacts in the

Gulf of Mexico

Dr. Alfredo E. Prelat

Chief Scientist, NEOSgeosolutions

Los Angeles Technology Center

[aprelat@neosgeo.com](mailto:aprelat@neosgeo.com)

# Company Overview



- NEOS Exploration was founded in May 2009 to commercialize the results of technology development project that was initiated in 2006.
- Private Company backed by Kleiner Perkins, Goldman Sachs, Passport Capital, and Bill Gates
- Successful commercial licensing of exploration information in both E&P and mining industries
- Member of the Executive Committee and the Board of GCOOS (Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System)

## Technology

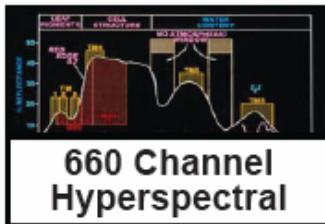
# NEOS Natural Resource Mapping Data acquisition



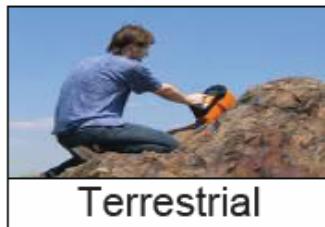
Satellite



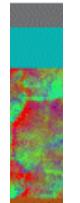
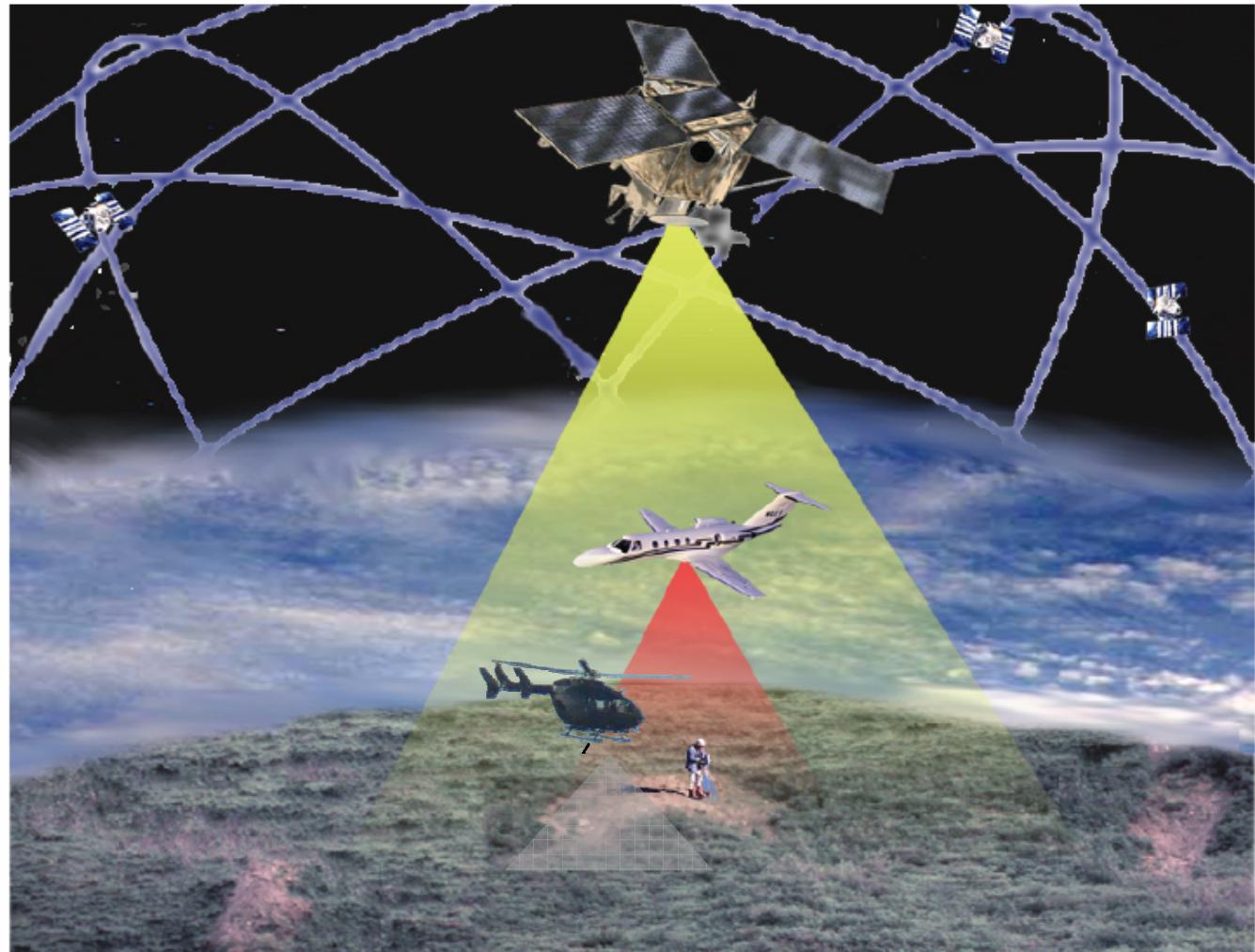
19 Sensors



660 Channel Hyperspectral



Terrestrial



# NRM™ data acquisition



## Infosphere Explorer™ Mission Design

- Remote sensing data
- Regional geology & geophysics
- Existing data, public & proprietary
- Data evaluation & interpretation

**19 Sensors**  
Custom-built sensors to TTI  
Exploration's proprietary  
specifications

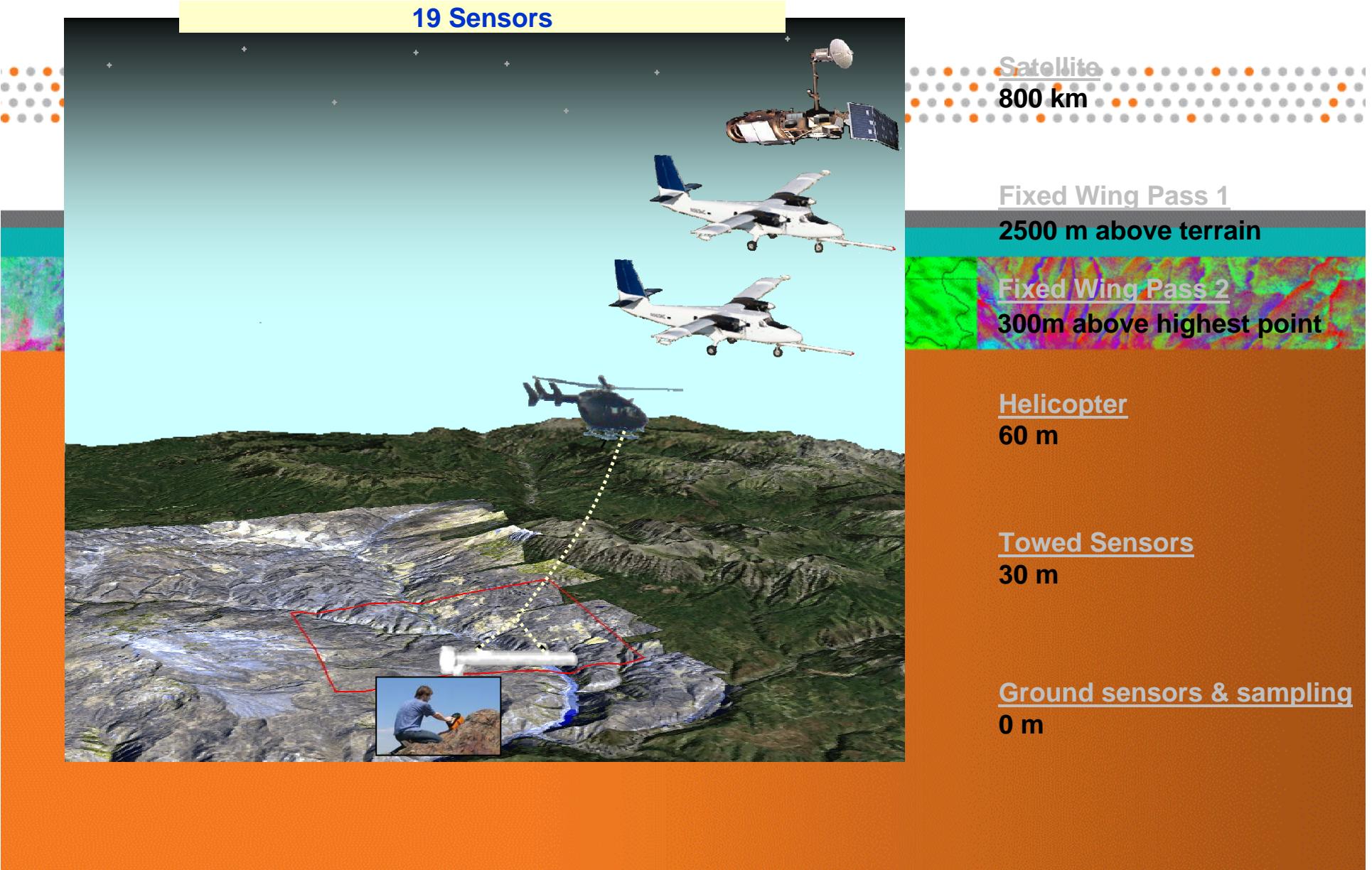


# NRM™ aircraft instrumentation



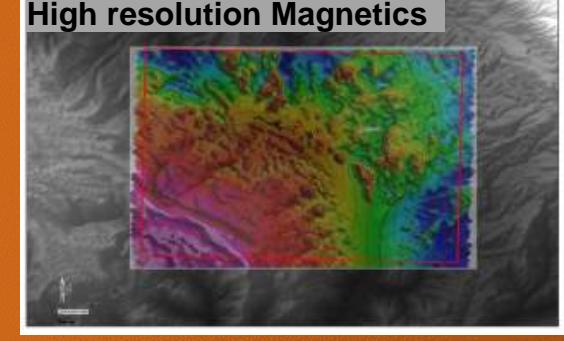
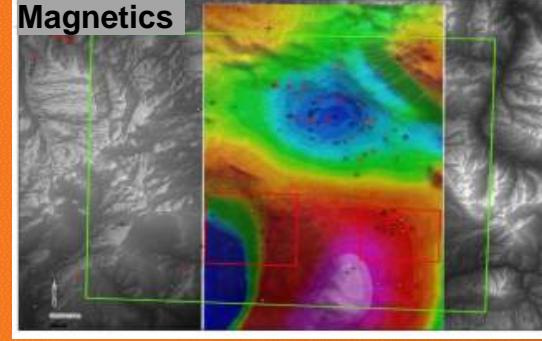
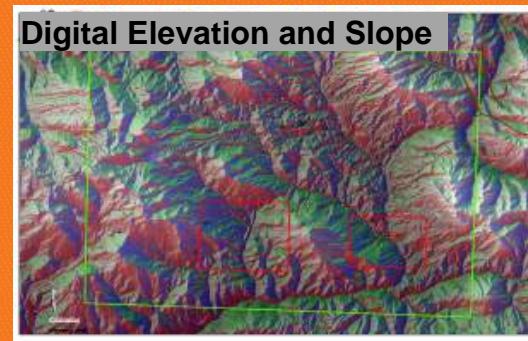
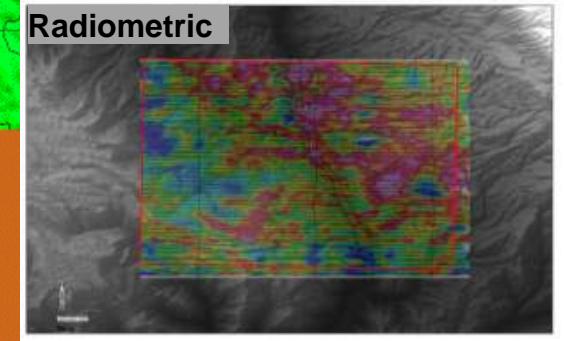
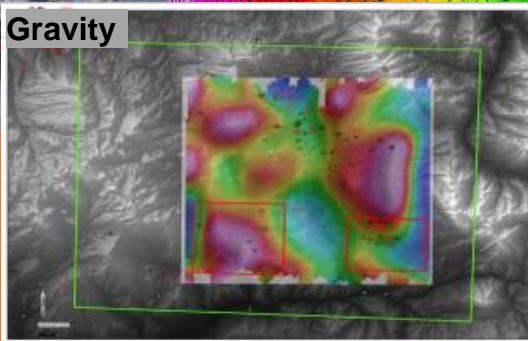
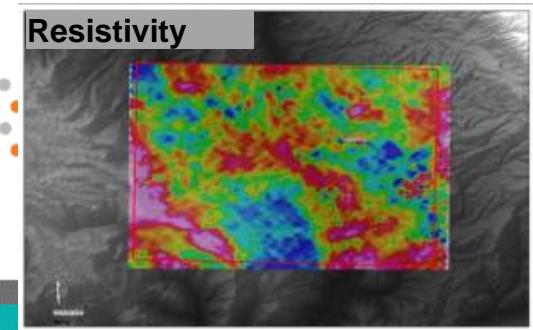
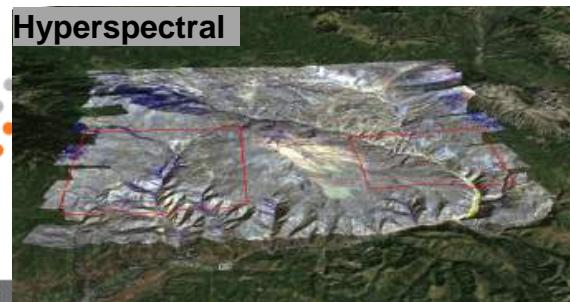
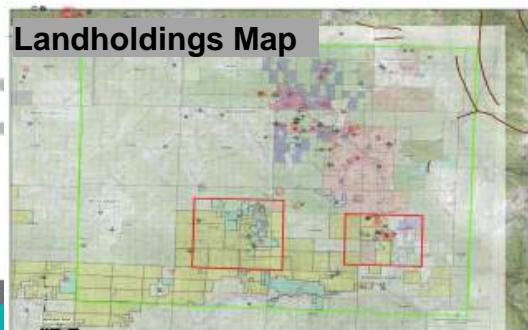
# NRM™ Platforms

## Technology



# Natural Resource Mapping (NRM™): Example Measurements

## Technology

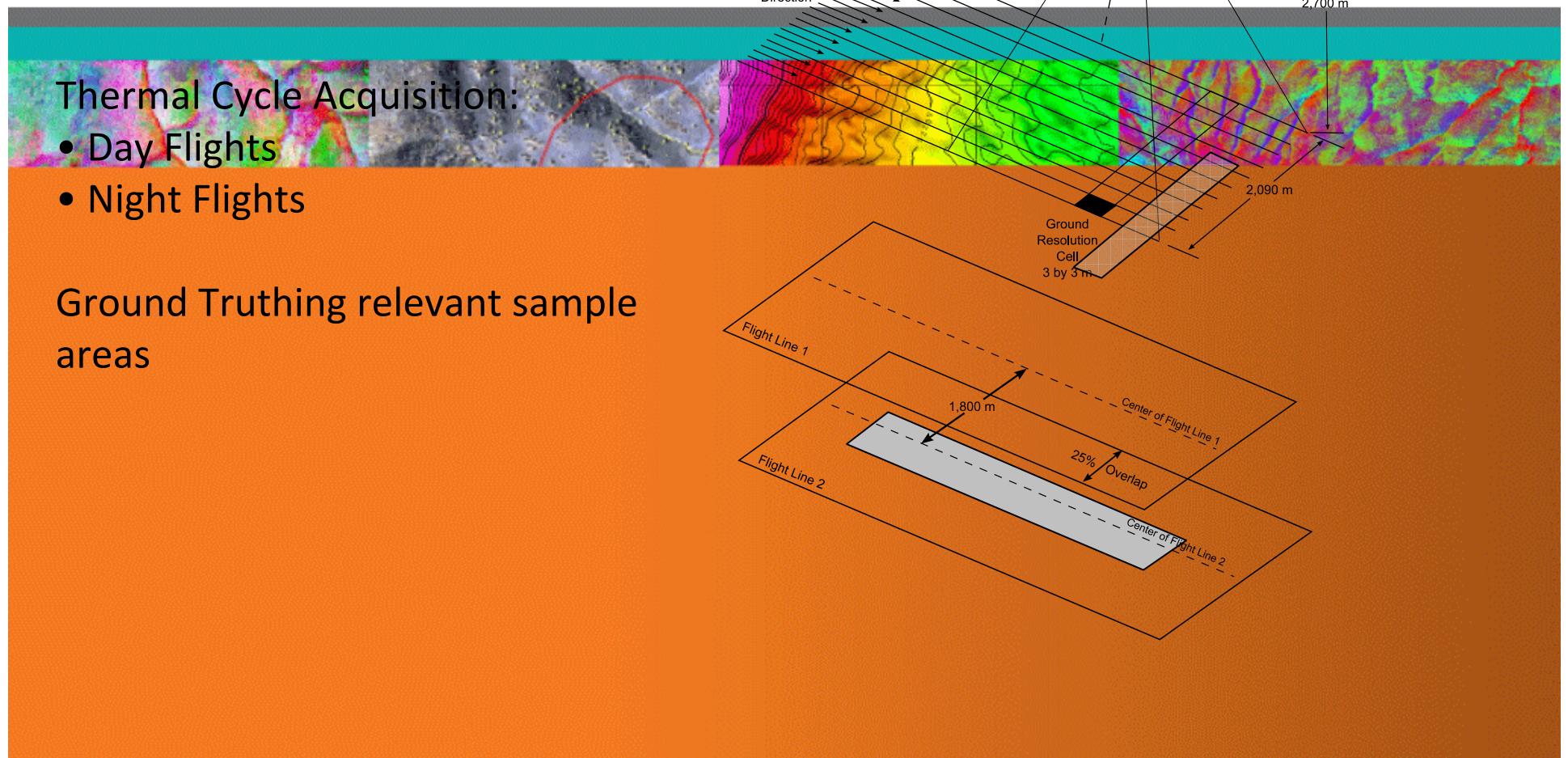


## Technology

# Operation GulfScan

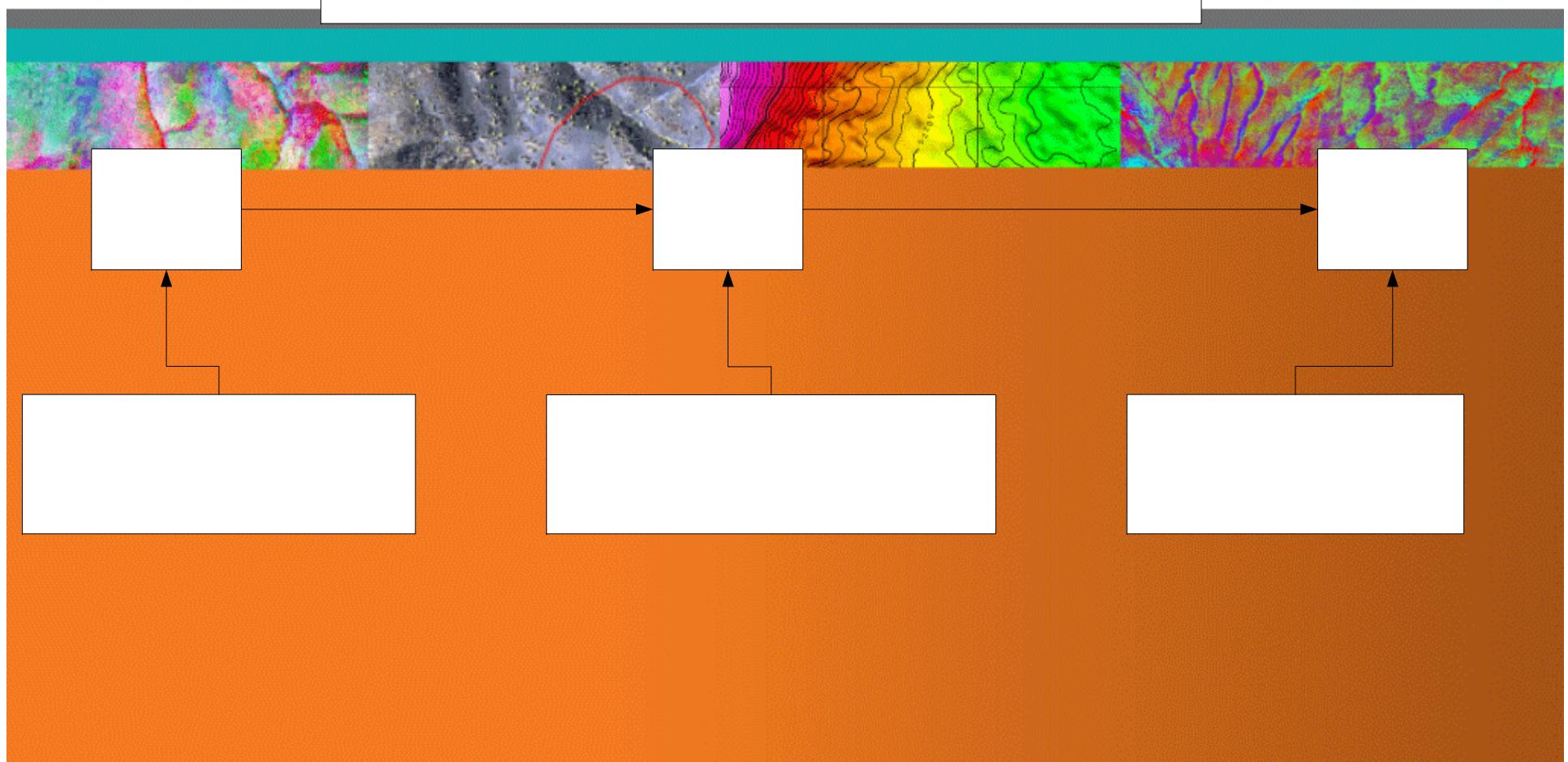
## Acquisition Parameters

660+ band TTI Hyperspectral System  
measuring wavelengths from .350 to 12 mm  
(Ultraviolet thru thermal Infrared)





# Environmental Assessments: Initial and Aftereffects

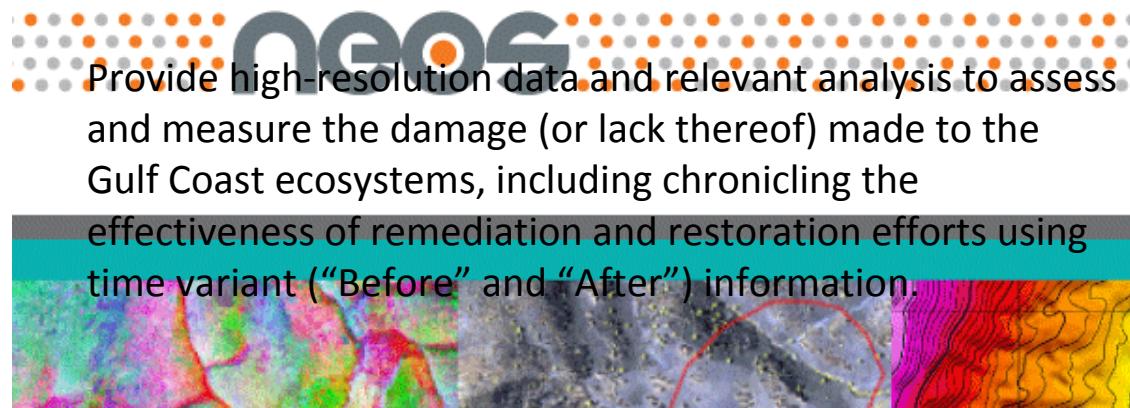


# Operation GulfScan Milestones

- Data Acquisition – May 1, 2010 through July 30, 2010
- Submission of Coast Guard White Paper – May 15, 2010
- Engagement with Press on technology (Bloomberg, 60 Minutes, CNN, NYT, Washington Post) – June 10, 2010
- Presentation to State Governments (LA, AL, MISS) – June 2010
- Discussions with BP's technical team – July 2010
- Pilot Projects Acquired, Processed and Classified – August 15, 2010
- Damage reflected in Pilot Projects confirmed and measured by Biologist – September 20, 2010
- Meeting with BP's Natural Resource Damages Team- September 28, 2010
- White Paper documenting scientific results- October 5, 2010

# Operation Gulfscan

## Objective:



## Deliverables:

Phase 1: Environmental Baseline – A digital data library establishing the health condition of the Gulf Coast habitat before the oil impacted the environment.

Phase 2: Environmental Damage – An assessment of the time variant health condition of the Gulf Coast habitat.

Phase 3: Post Remediation – An assessment of the effectiveness of the clean up efforts and their impact on the habitat



## Operation Gulfscan

### Methodology:

Apply high resolution remote sensing technology, calibrated with ground measurements that efficiently and effectively assess the health condition of the habitat

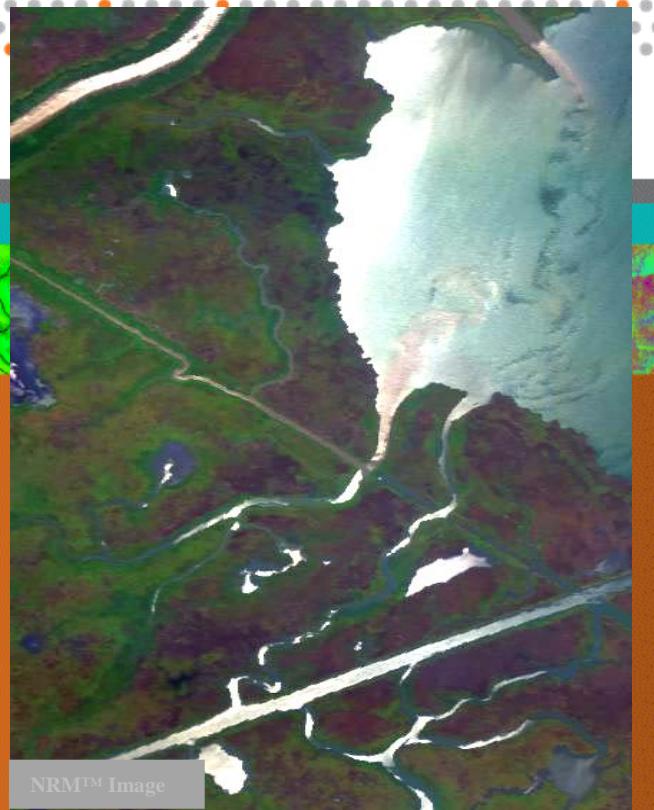


### How it works:

Our NRM™ technology precisely measures and interprets signals emitted from or reflected off of the Earth. These signals are calibrated against ground spectral and biological proof points.

### These measurements provide detailed information chronicling:

- The health of a given ecosystem before and after an environmental event through time-variant surveys
- The existence, magnitude and type of damage



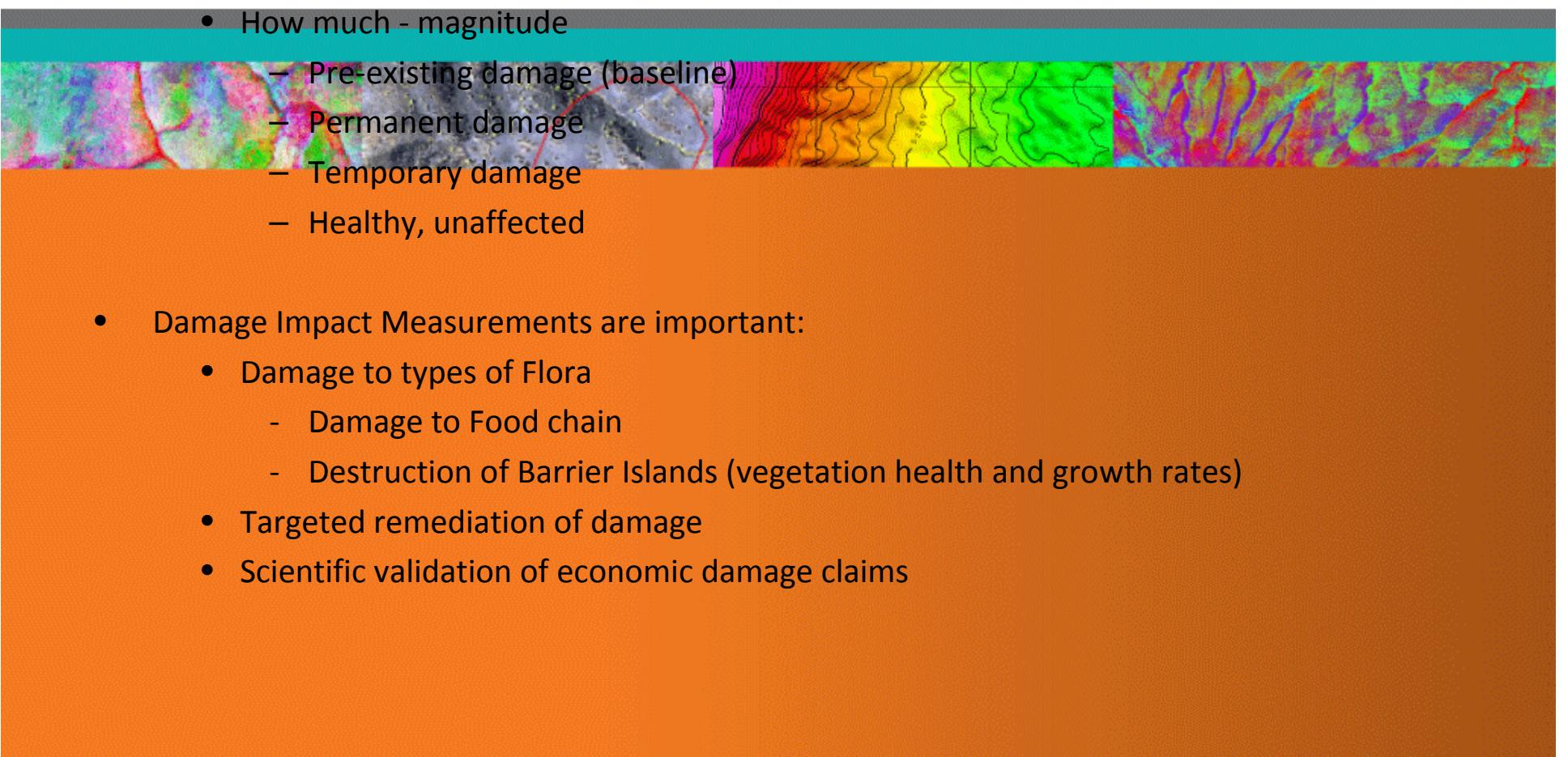
# Operation GulfScan

- We Measure Damage (and the Absence of Damage)



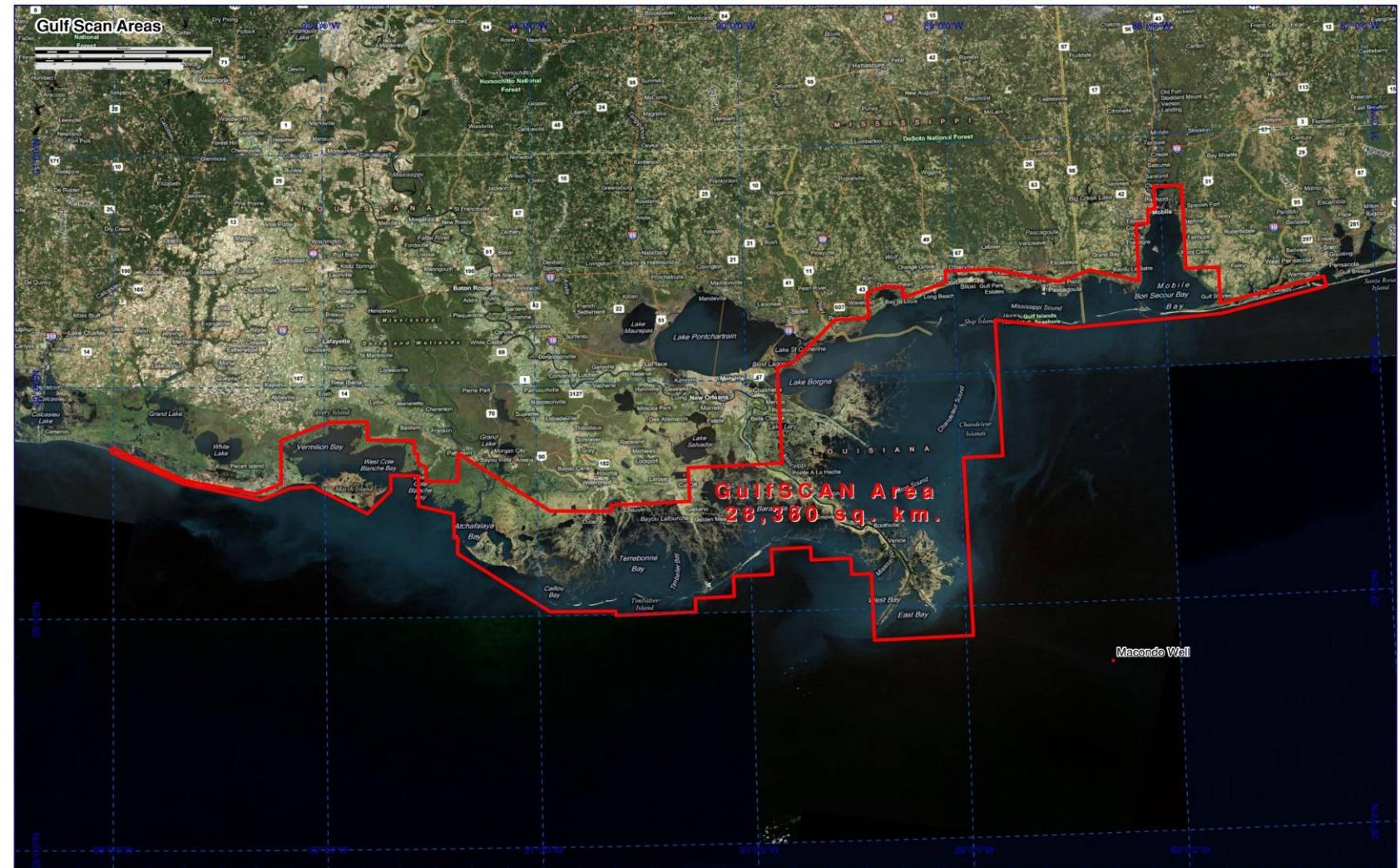
- Operation GulfScan data and methodology provides:

- When - timing
- Where - areal extent
- How much - magnitude
  - Pre-existing damage (baseline)
  - Permanent damage
  - Temporary damage
  - Healthy, unaffected



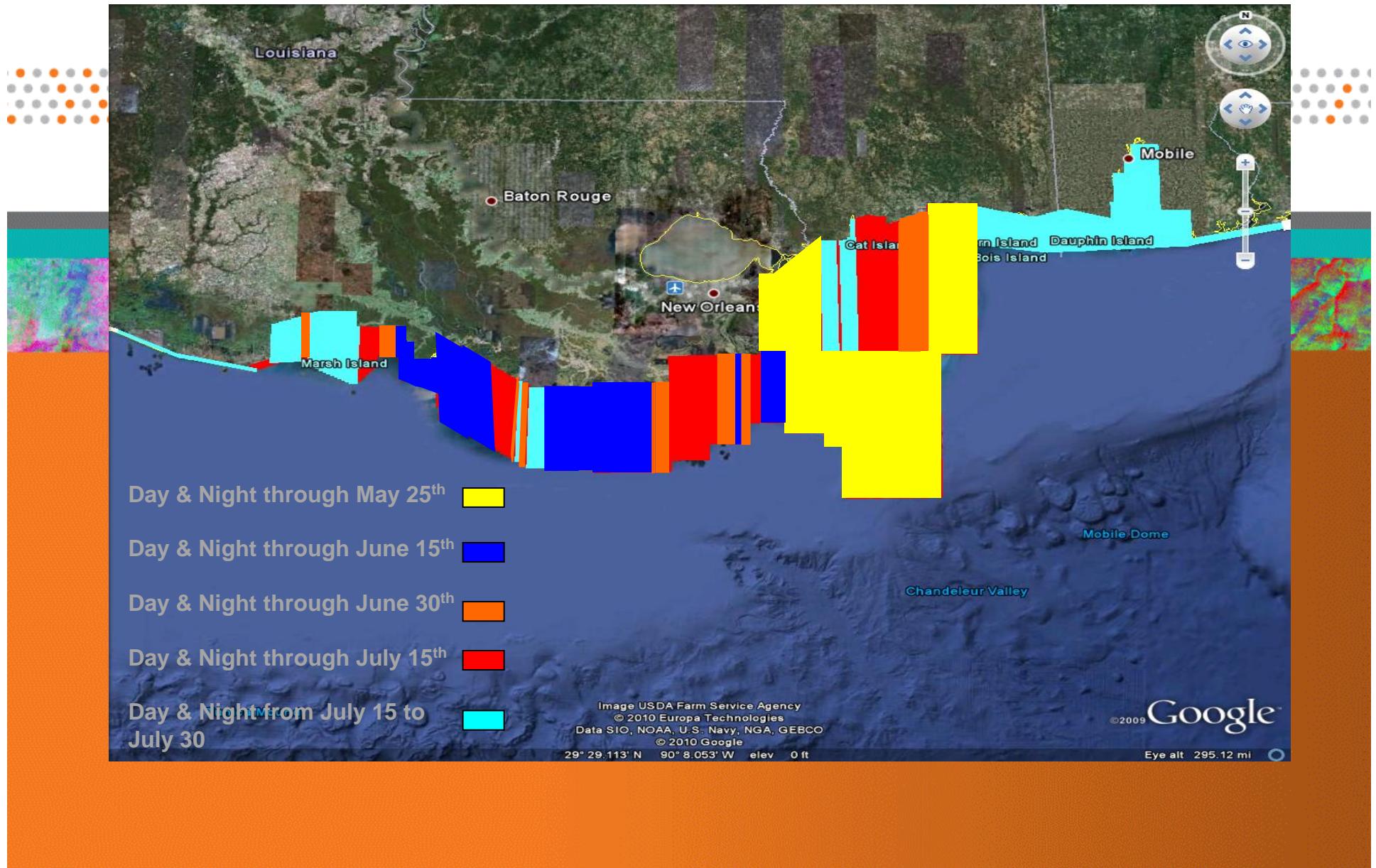
## Operation Gulfscan

# Environmental Baseline Area



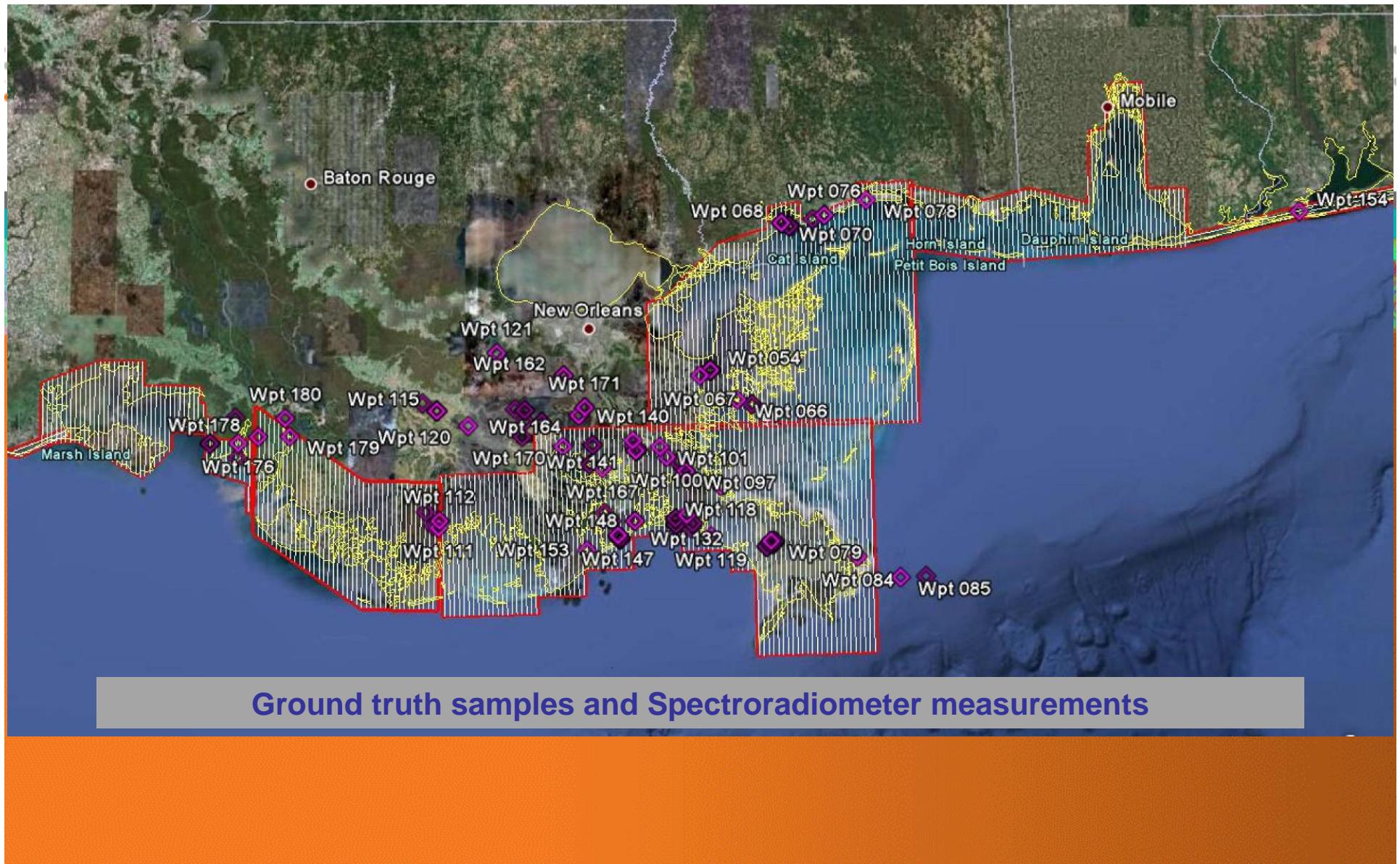
## Operation Gulfscan

# Baseline Acquisition Timeline

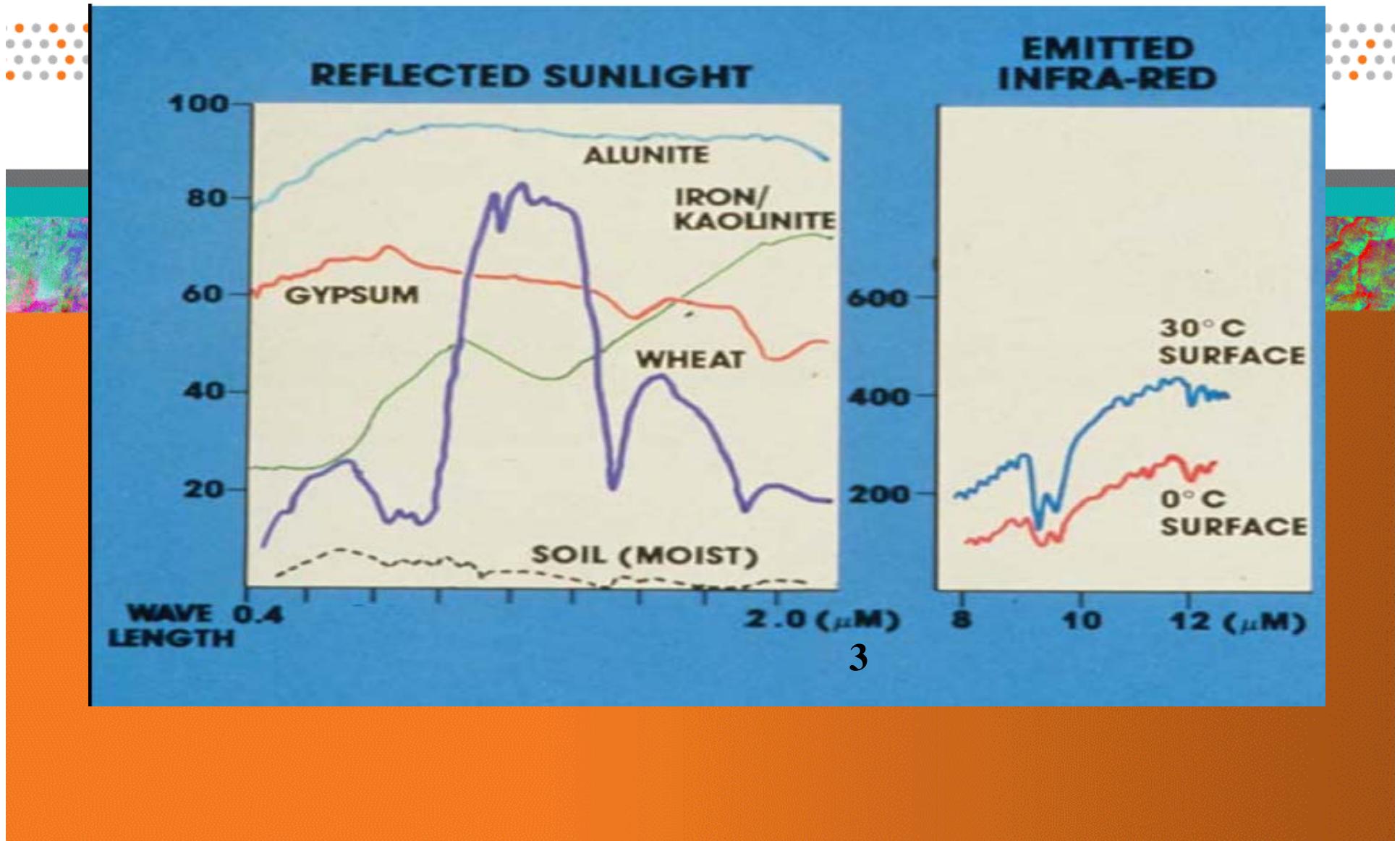


**Operation  
Gulfscan**

# Ground Sampling



# Example: Hyperspectral signatures



# NRM™ Hyperspectral Overview

## Technology



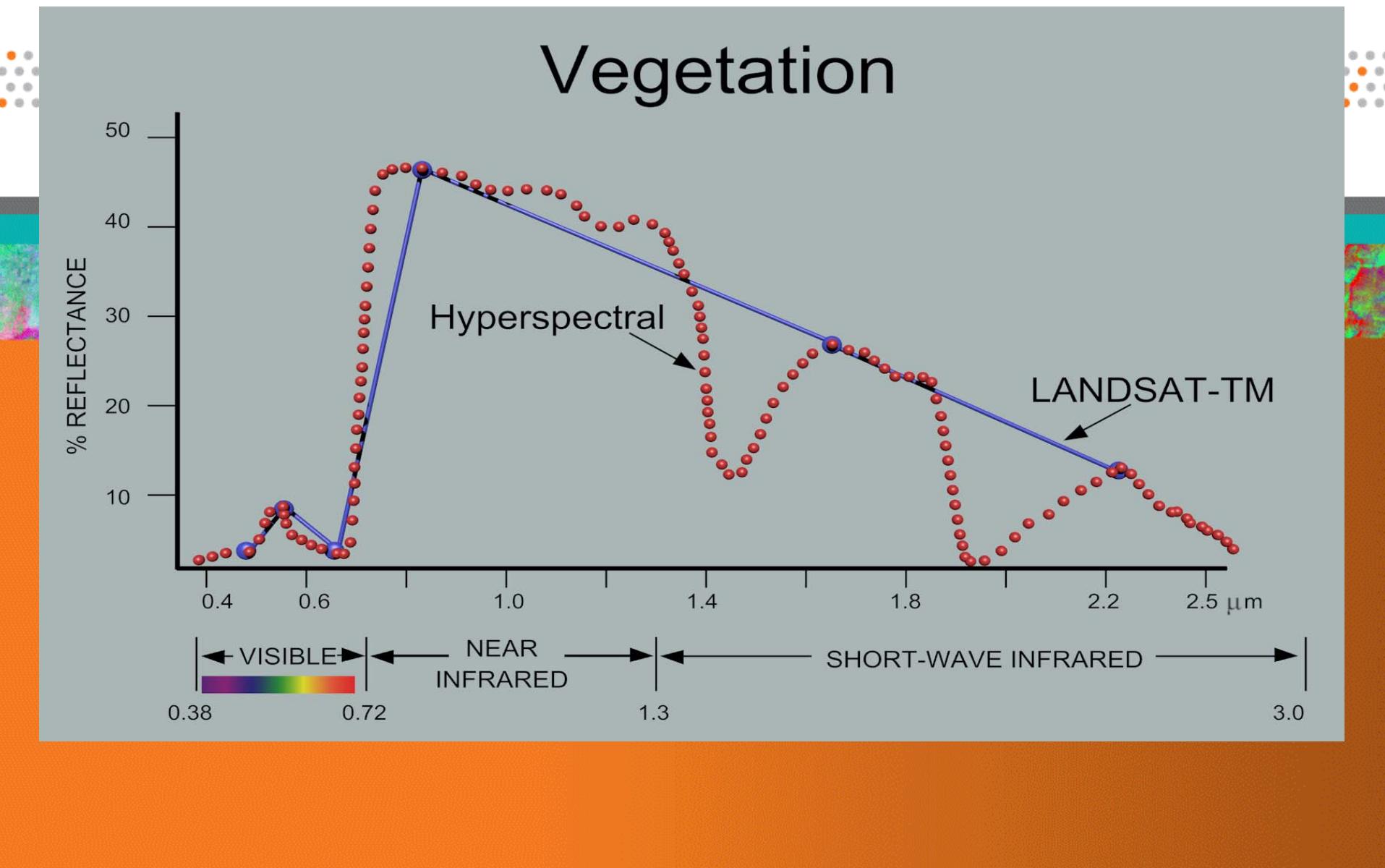
- Airborne sensors collect reflected solar and thermal radiation from selected ground

targets over a contiguous high-resolution electromagnetic spectrum (over 660 channels)

- Elements absorb and reflect solar radiation in a unique manner allowing for identification and classification of ground targets
- Advanced digital imaging process identifies unique spectral features imperceptible to the unaided human eye
- Data undergoes proprietary computer processing and analysis to identify and classify the individual elements
- High spectral and ground resolution allows for the differentiation of all elements in the ecosystem including impact from an environmental contamination

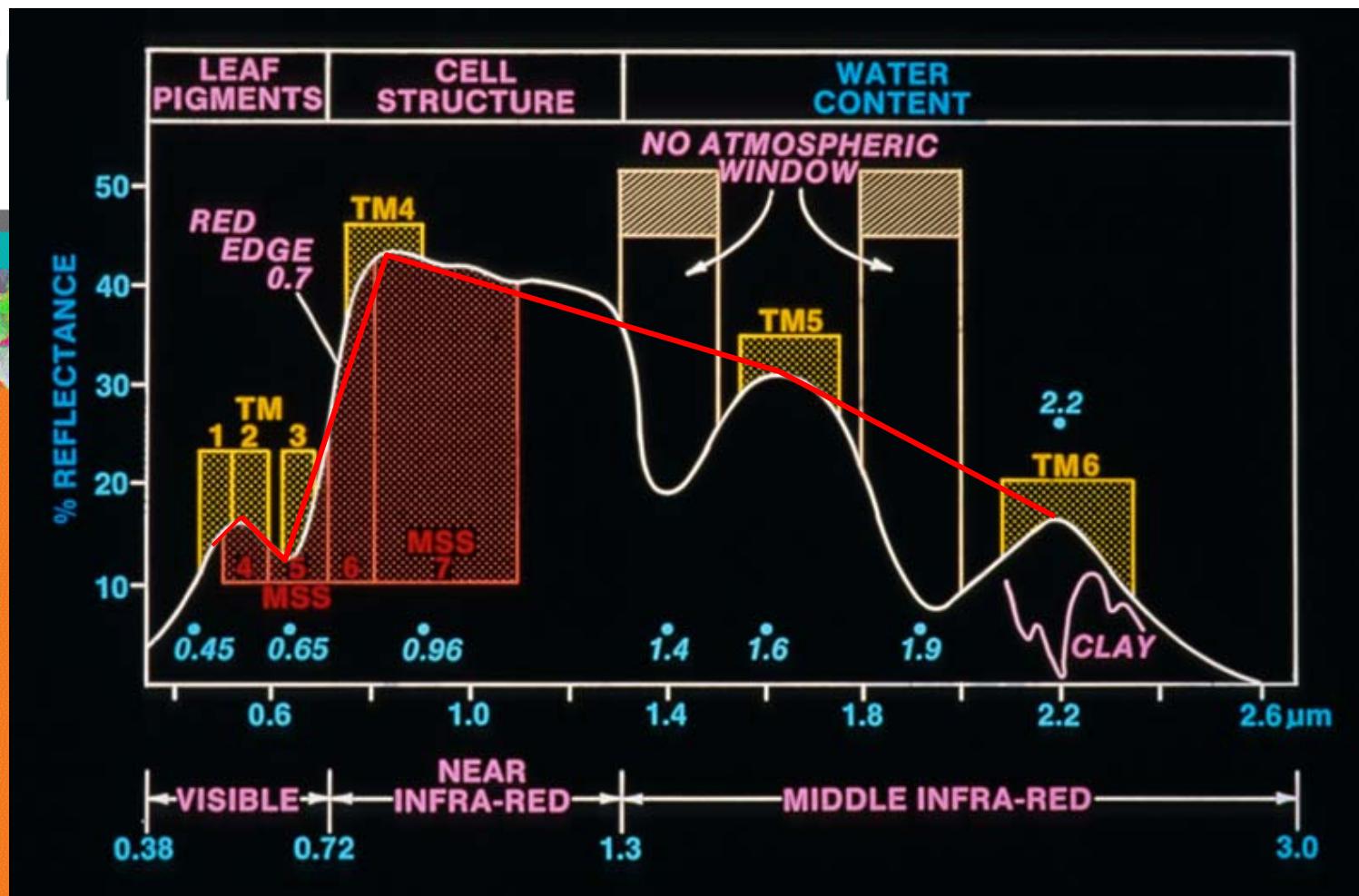
# Spectral Signature Vegetation

Technology



# Hyperspectral Spectrum

## Technology



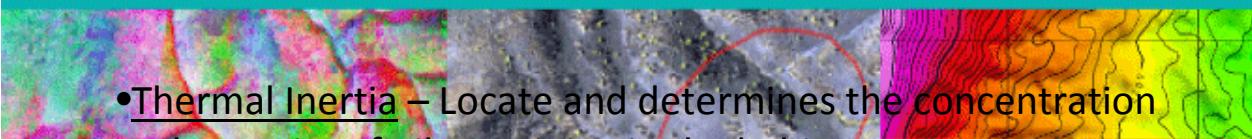
# NRM™ key technologies

## Technology

NRM™ technology includes:



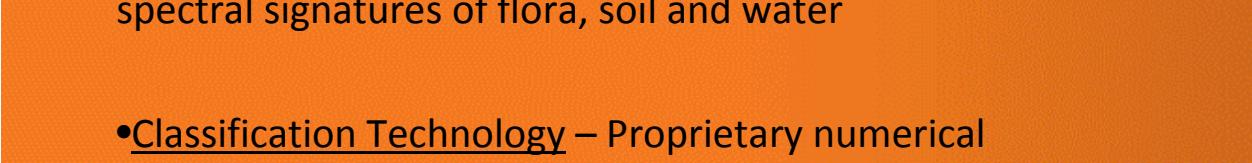
- Hyperspectral – Unmatched spectral resolution (660+ wavelengths) providing unique fingerprints of type and condition of ground cover.



- Thermal Inertia – Locate and determines the concentration and quantity of oil remaining in the habitat



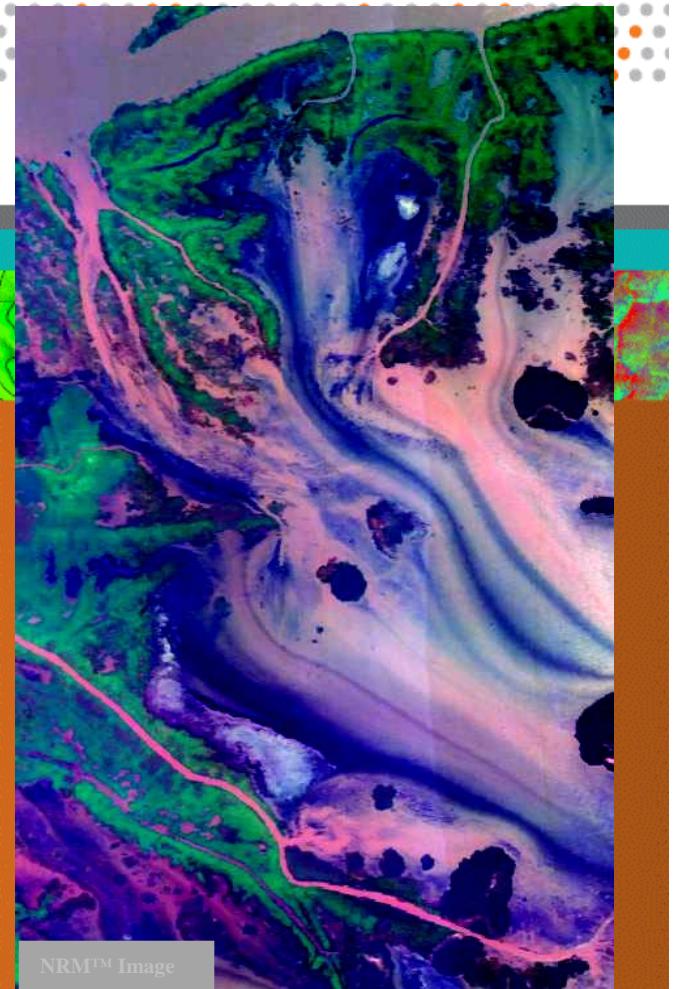
- Proprietary Spectral Libraries – Ground collection of indexed spectral signatures of flora, soil and water



- Classification Technology – Proprietary numerical classification techniques

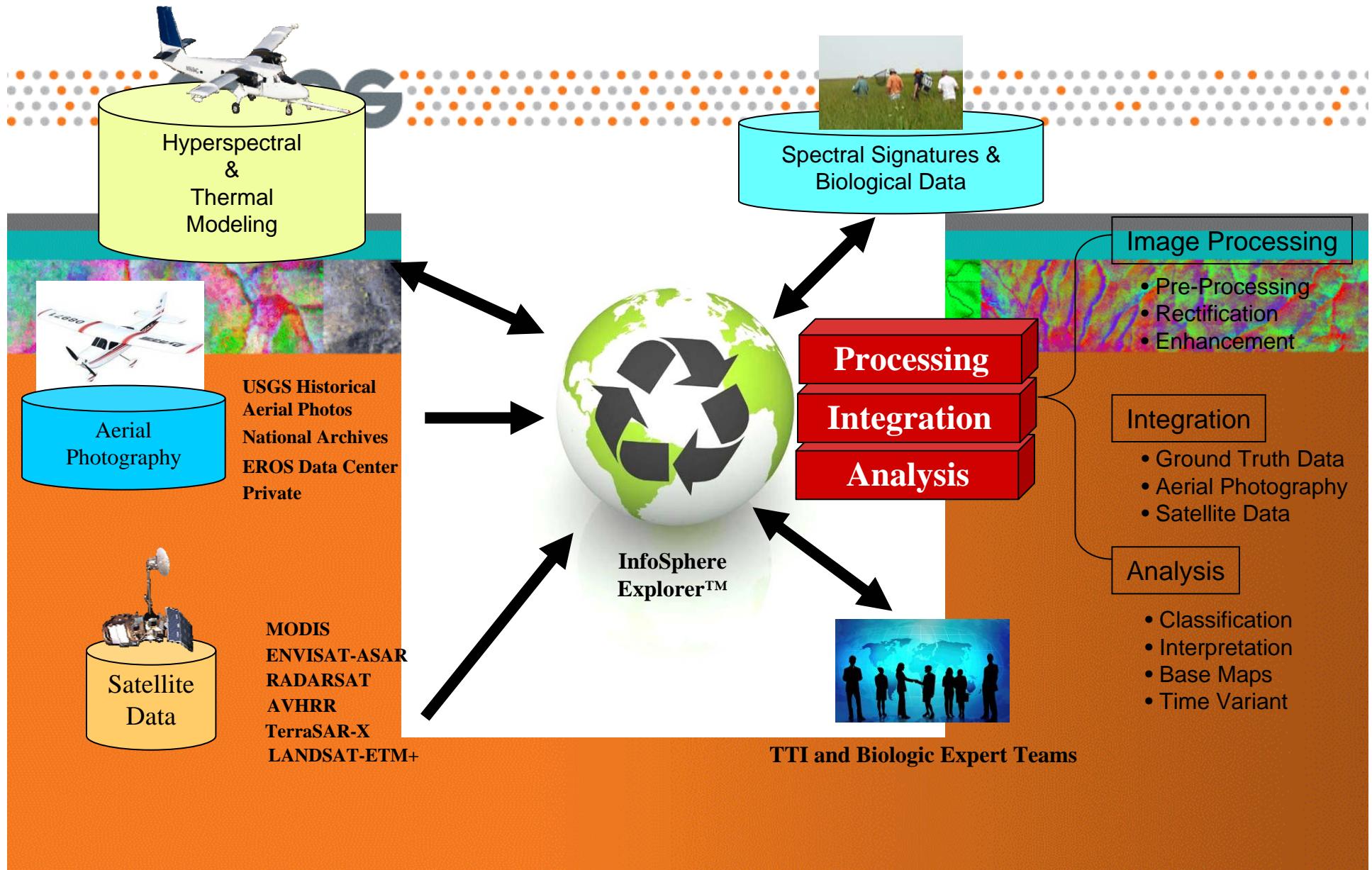


- Biologic Ground Measurements – Confirms biological damage (or lack of damage)



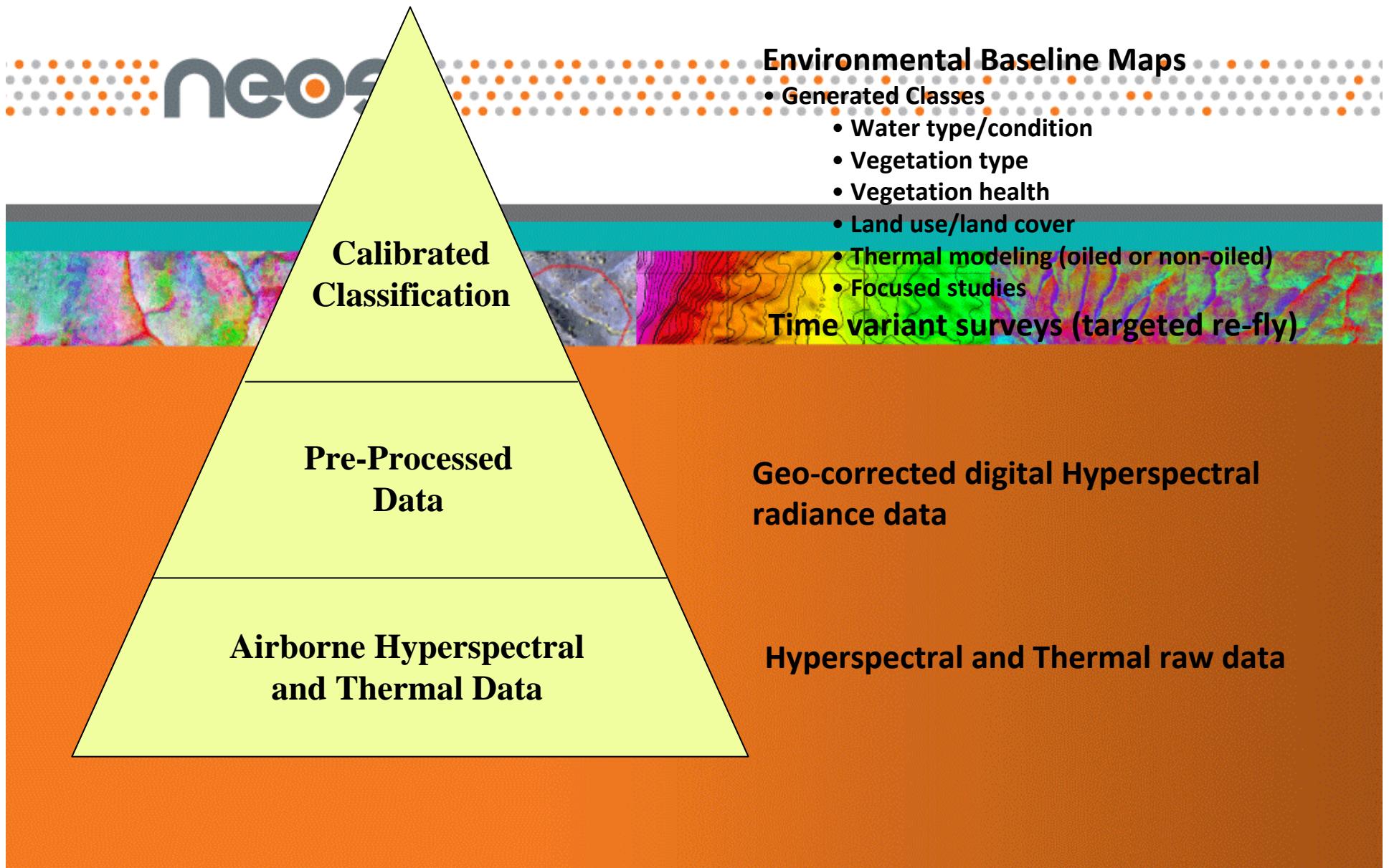
# Operation Gulfscan Workflow

## Processing



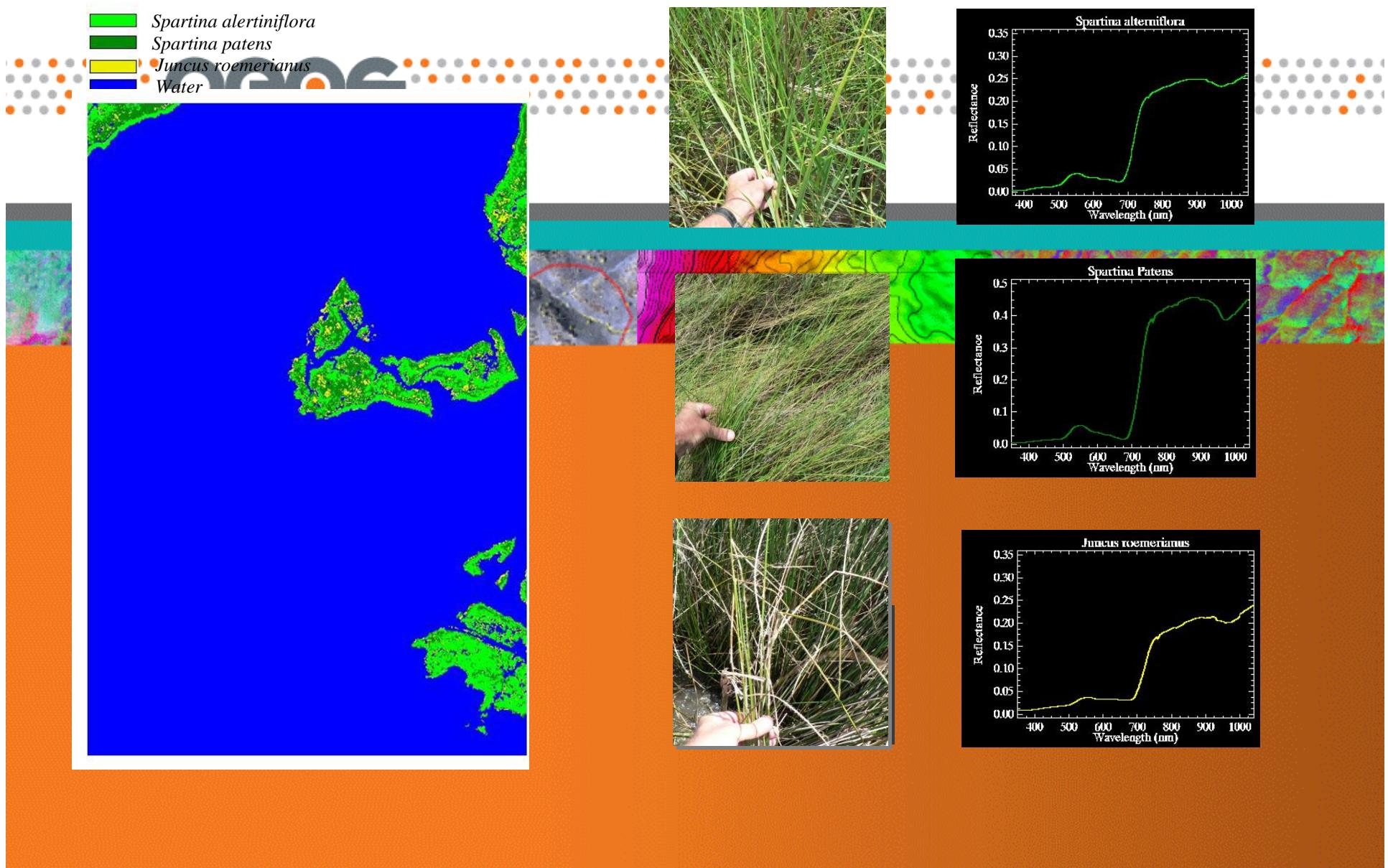
# Operation Gulfscan Deliverables

## Deliverables

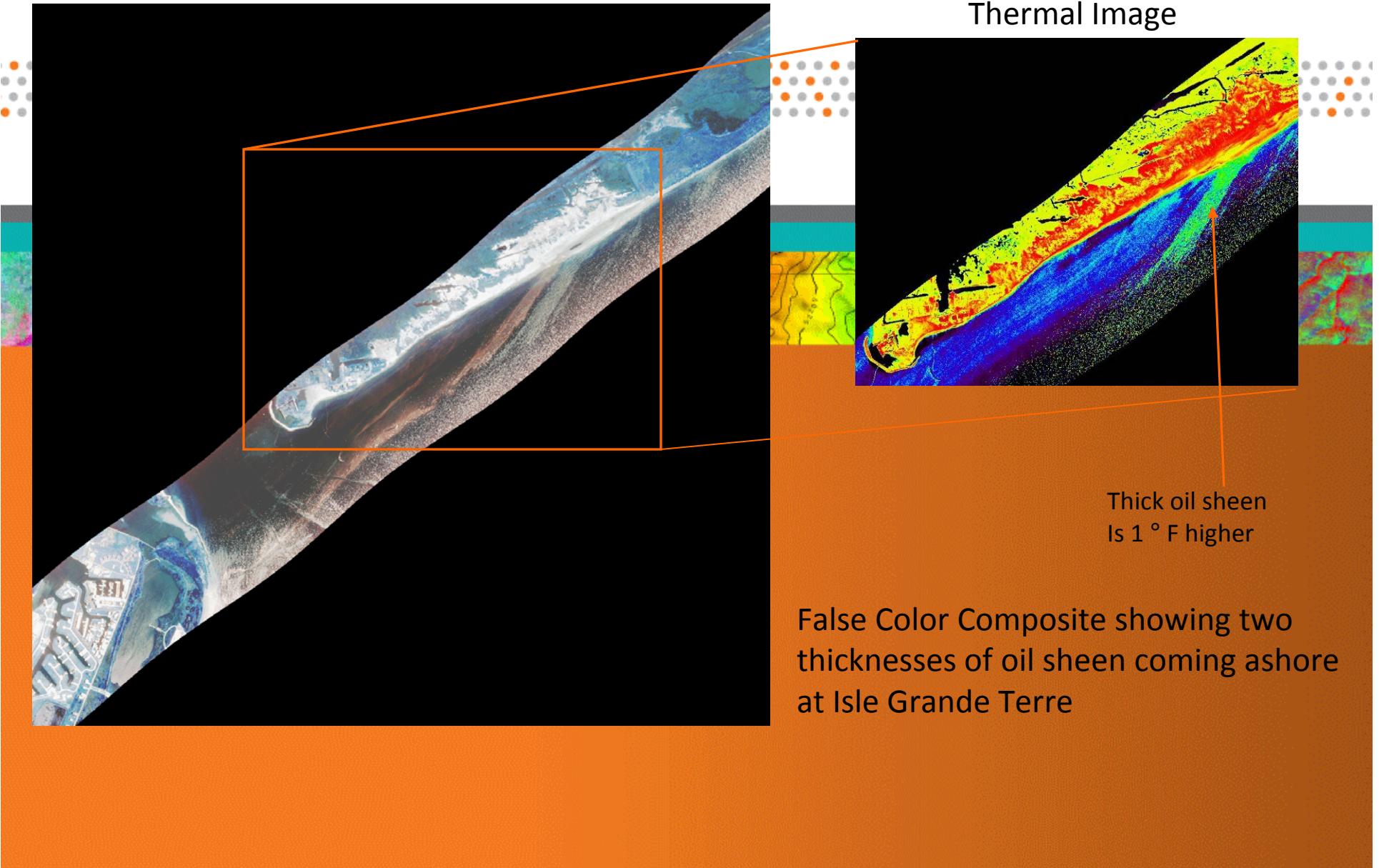


# Example: Indexed Baseline

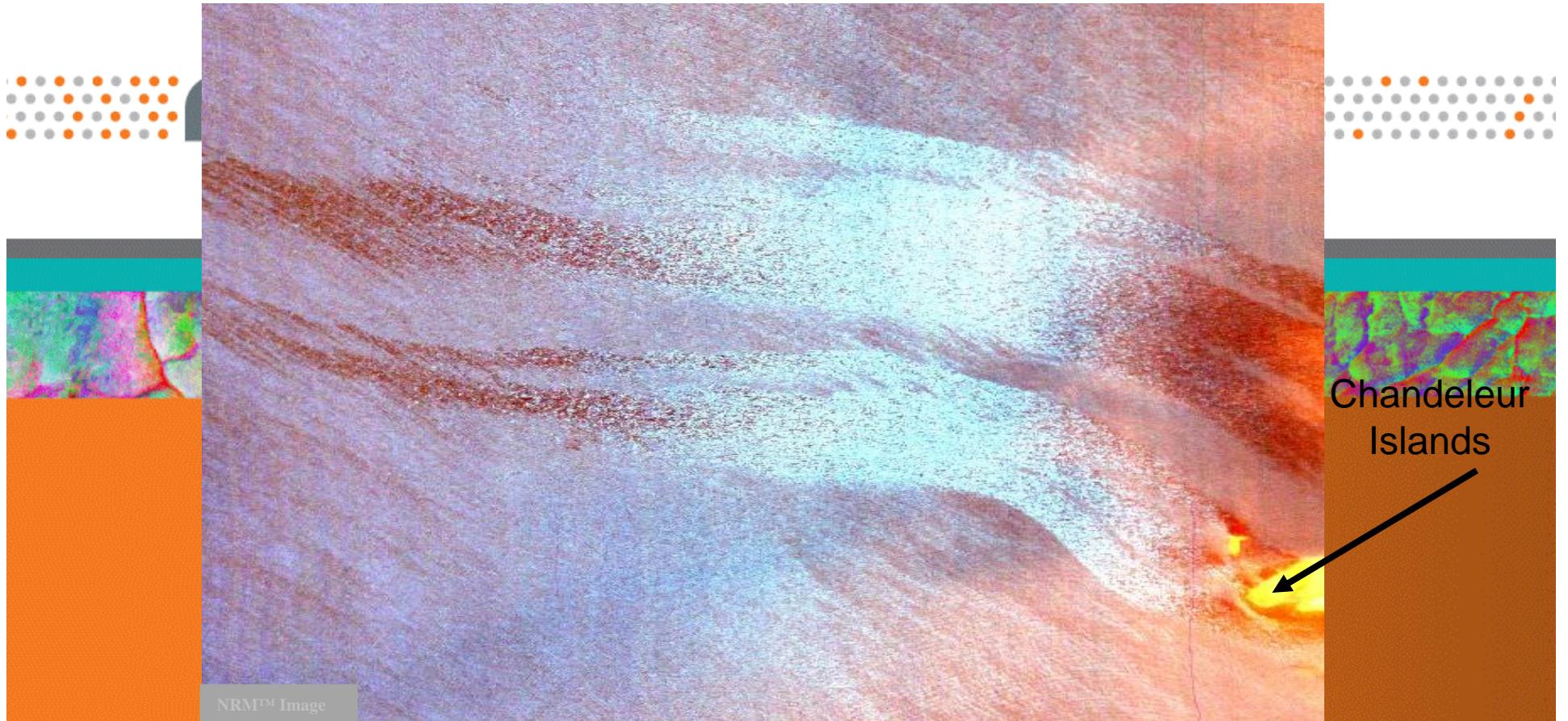
## Deliverables



# Oil Sheen at Grand Isle May 27, 2010- Pres. Obama visit was May 28, 2010



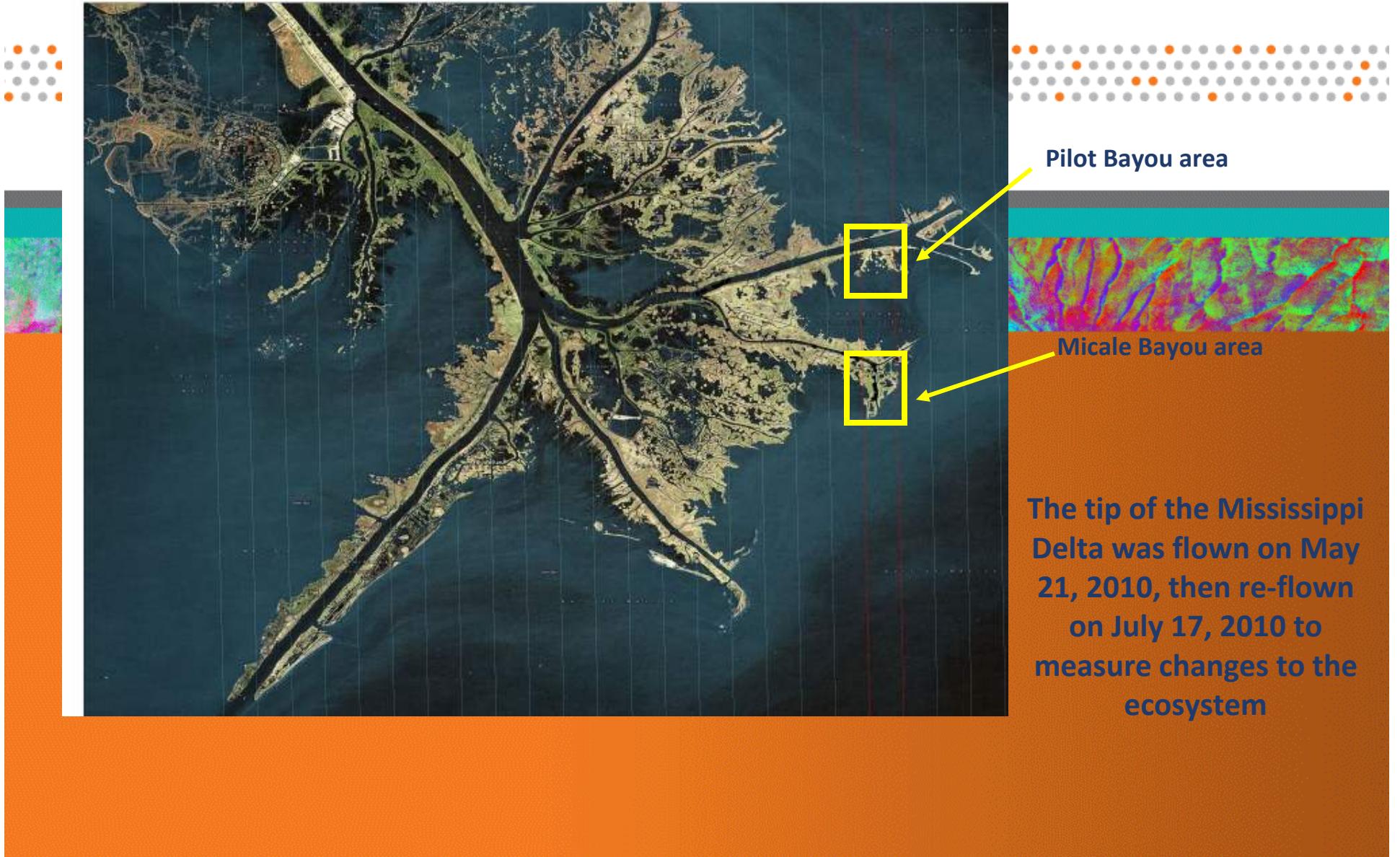
# Sample Data – Oil spill near Chandeleur Islands



This is a color composite of a digital hyperspectral image. The technology allows TTI to determine the specific location, concentration and quantity of oil that is not measurable through photographs, other technologies or the human eye.

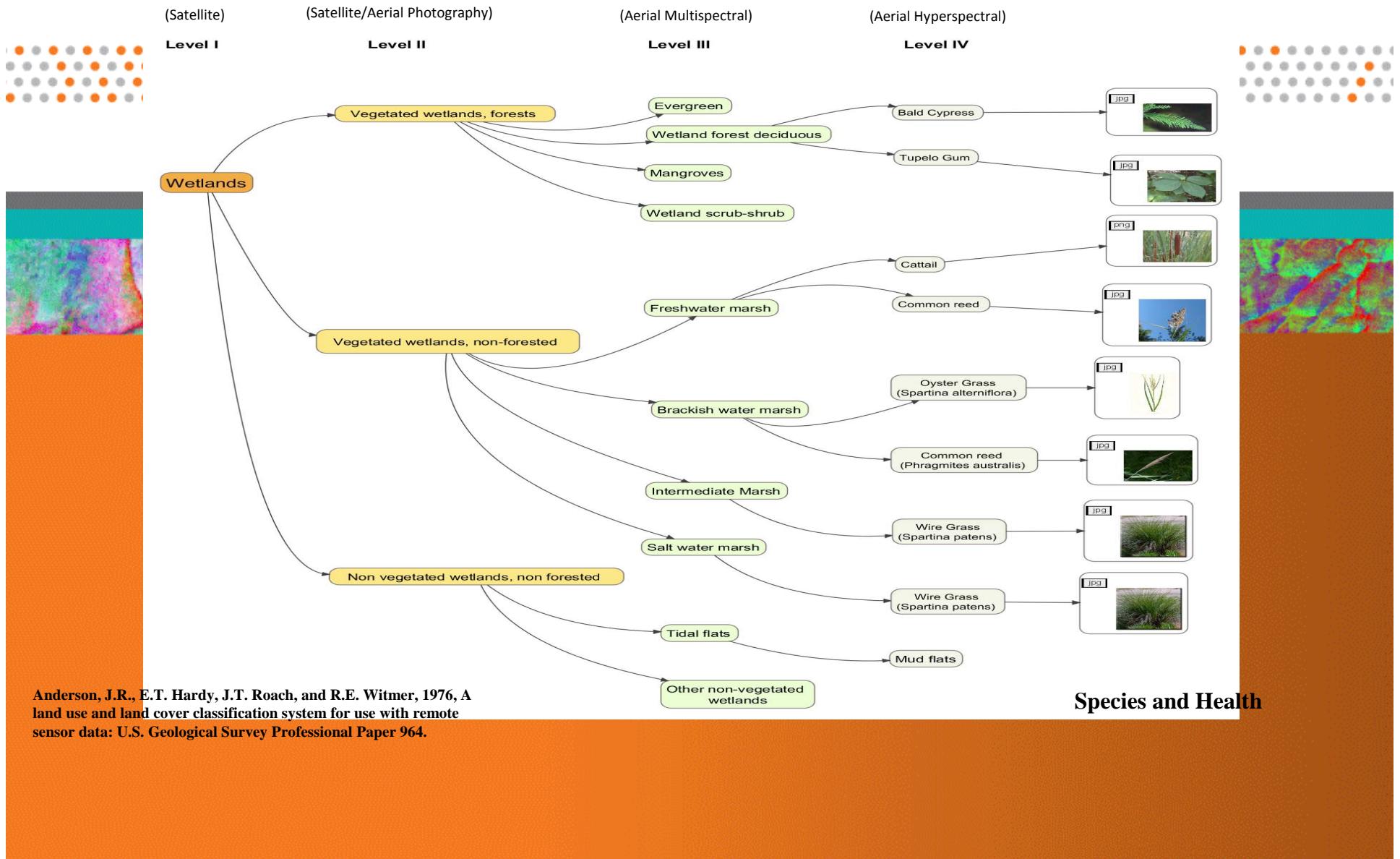
# Target Areas – Mississippi Delta

## Time Variant Pilot Study



# Anderson Classification Methodology (USGS)

## Gulfscan Methodologies



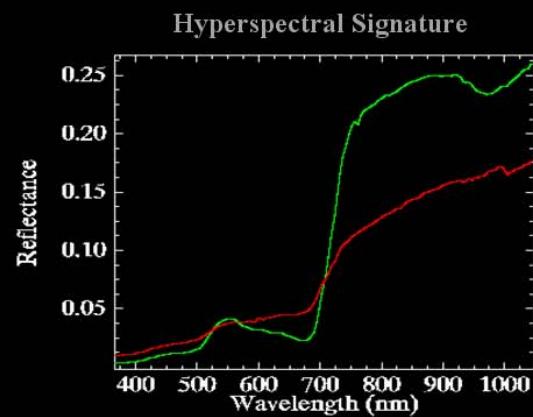
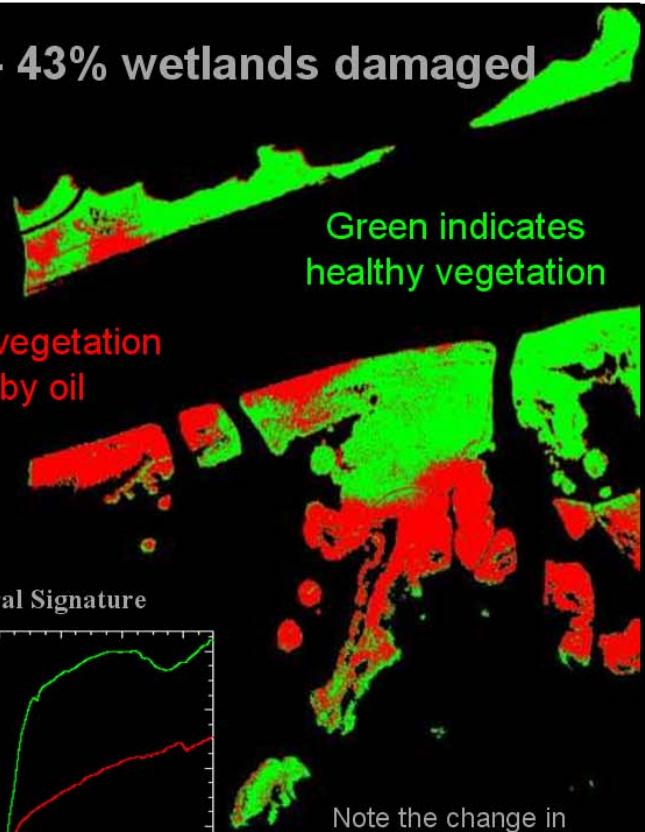
## Time Variant Pilot Study

# May vs. July 2010 Change

### •Field Sampling Photos



### Pilot Bayou- 43% wetlands damaged

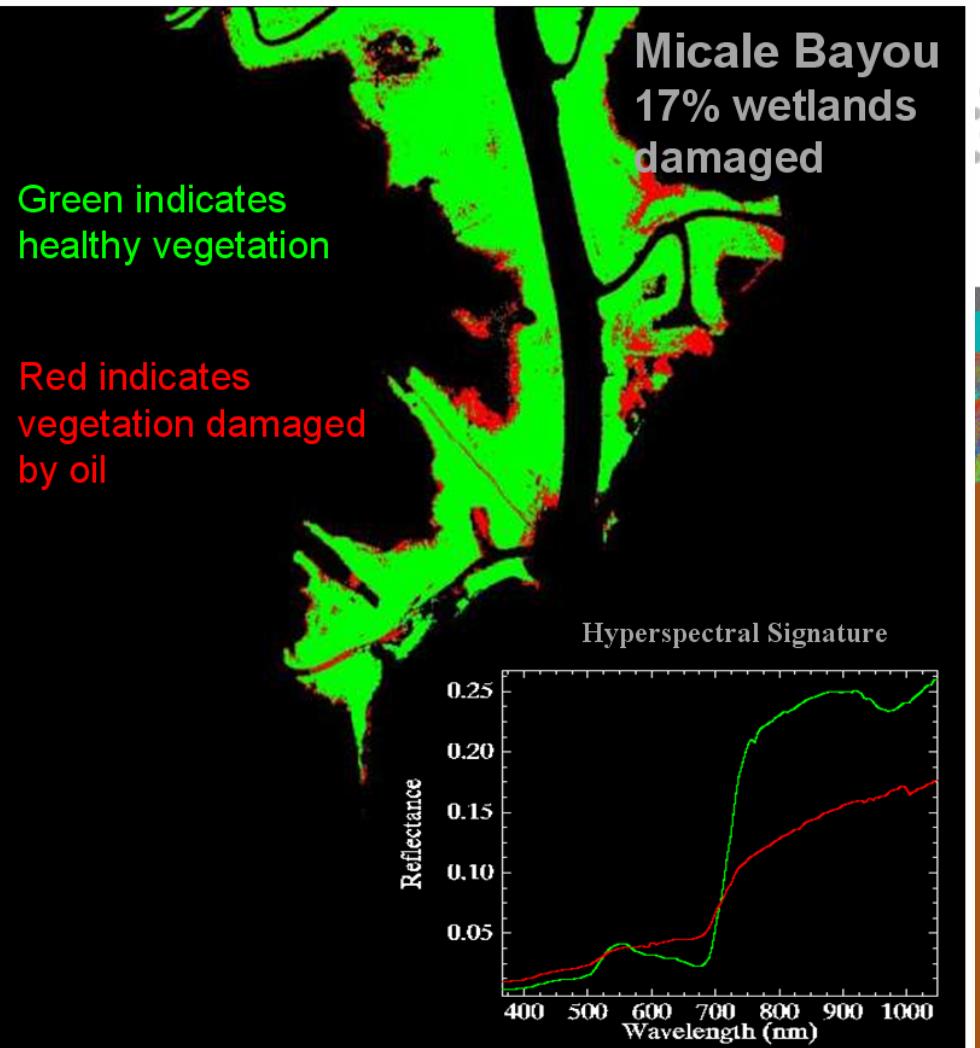


Note the change in spectral signature between healthy and stressed vegetation

**Time Variant  
Pilot Study**

# May vs. July 2010 Change

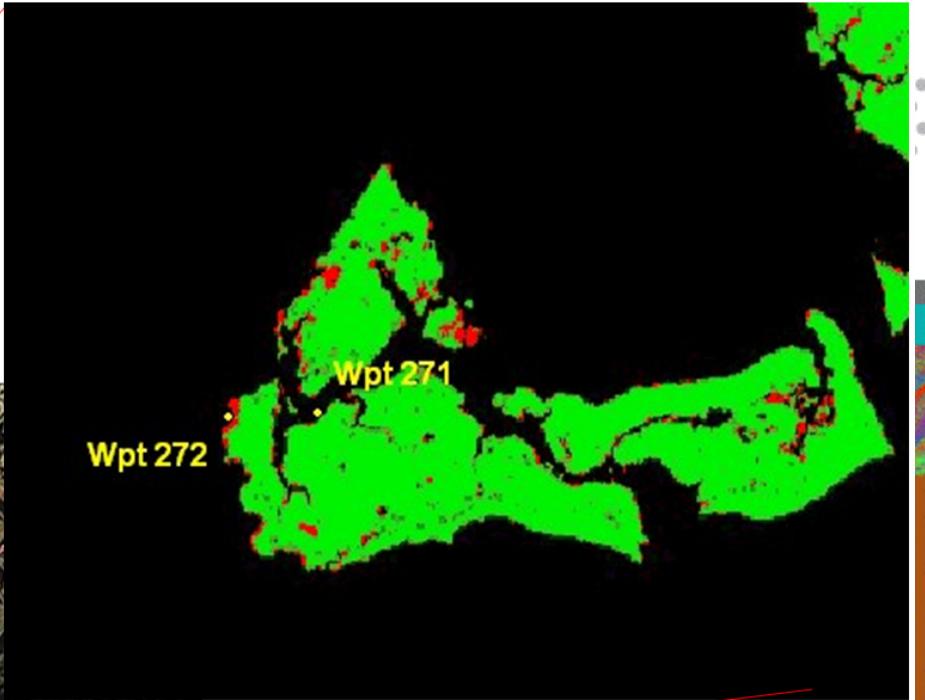
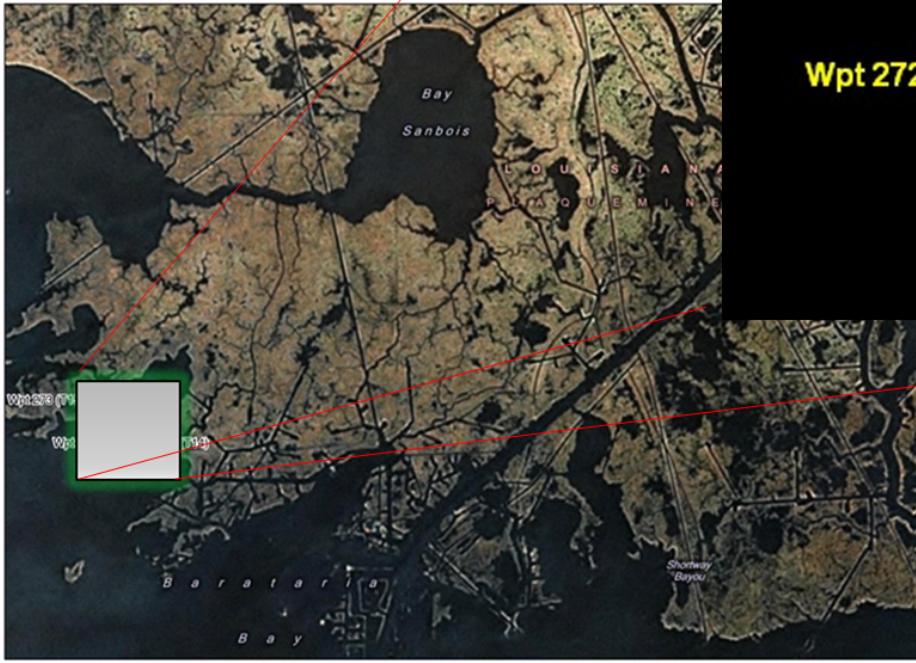
•Field Sampling Photos



**Time Variant  
Pilot Study**

# May vs. July 2010 Change

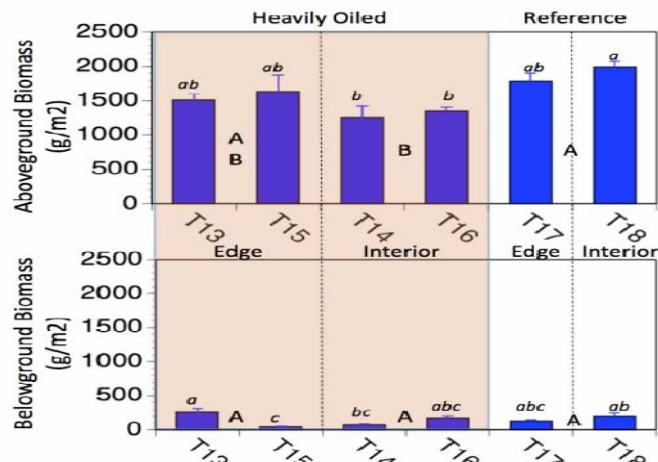
## Barataria Bay



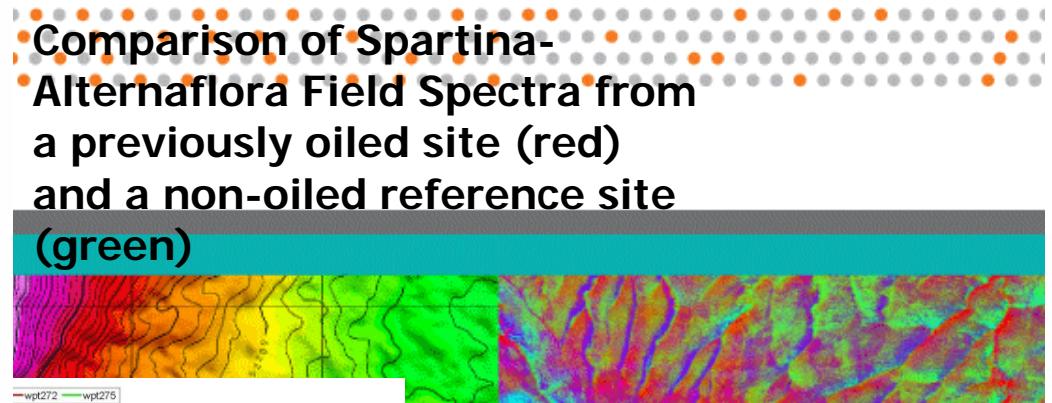
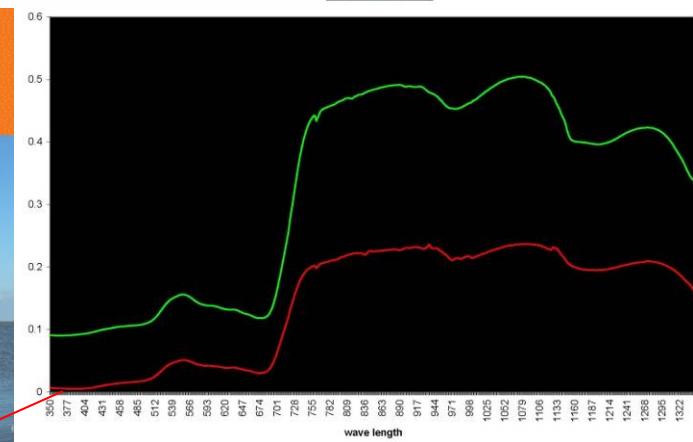
**Barataria Bay was flown in May 2010, then re-flown in July to measure changes to the ecosystem**

## Time Variant Pilot Study

# Biological Analysis & Correlation



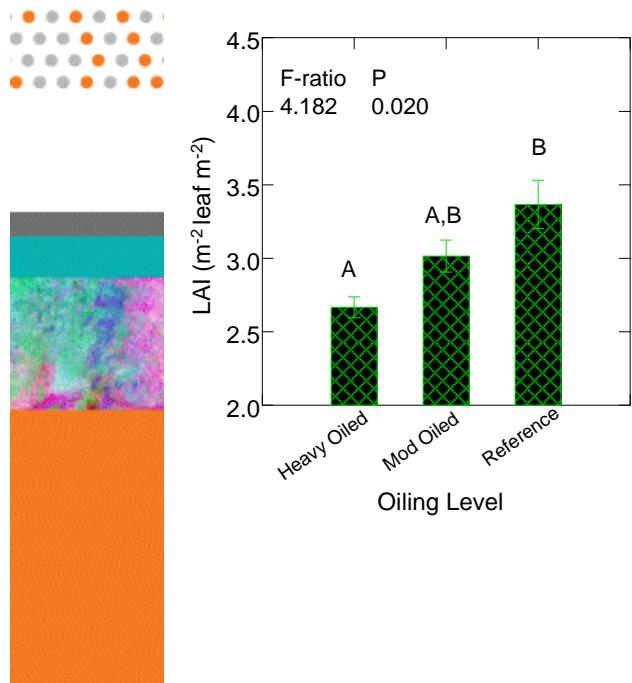
Waypoint 272 (T14)



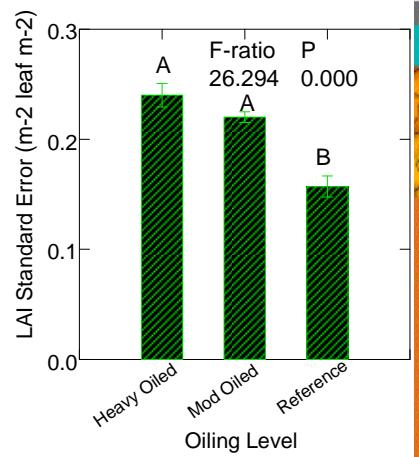
Waypoint 275 (T17-T18)



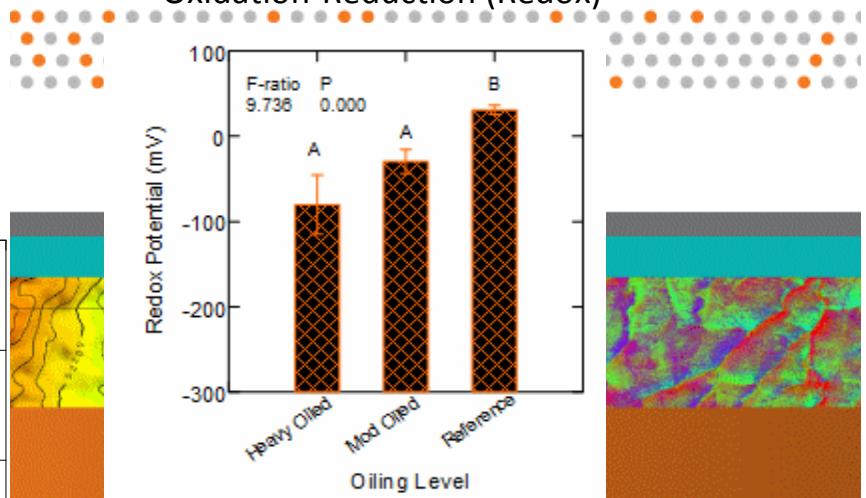
### Leaf Area Index (LAI)



### Standard Error of LAI



### Oxidation-Reduction (Redox)



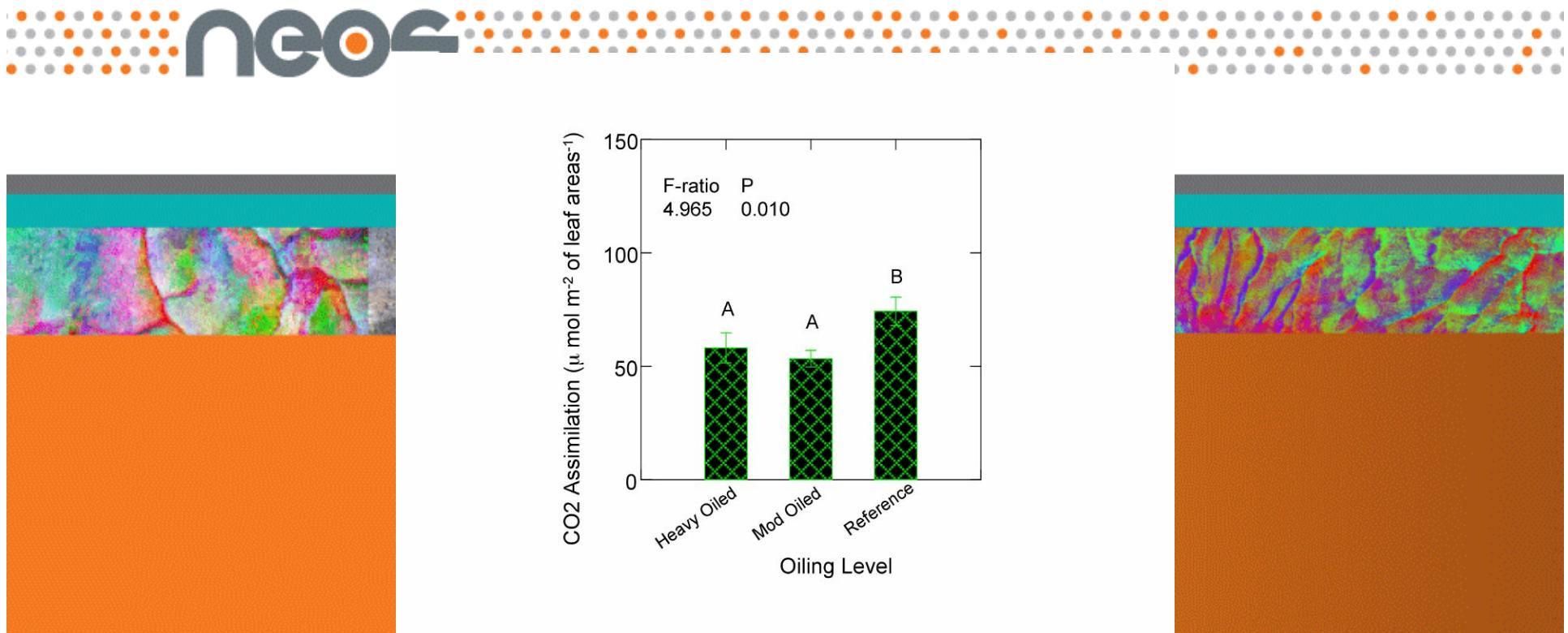
More oiled = Less biomass

More oiled = Patchier Canopy

More oiled = More Sulfate Reduction

Pilot Study

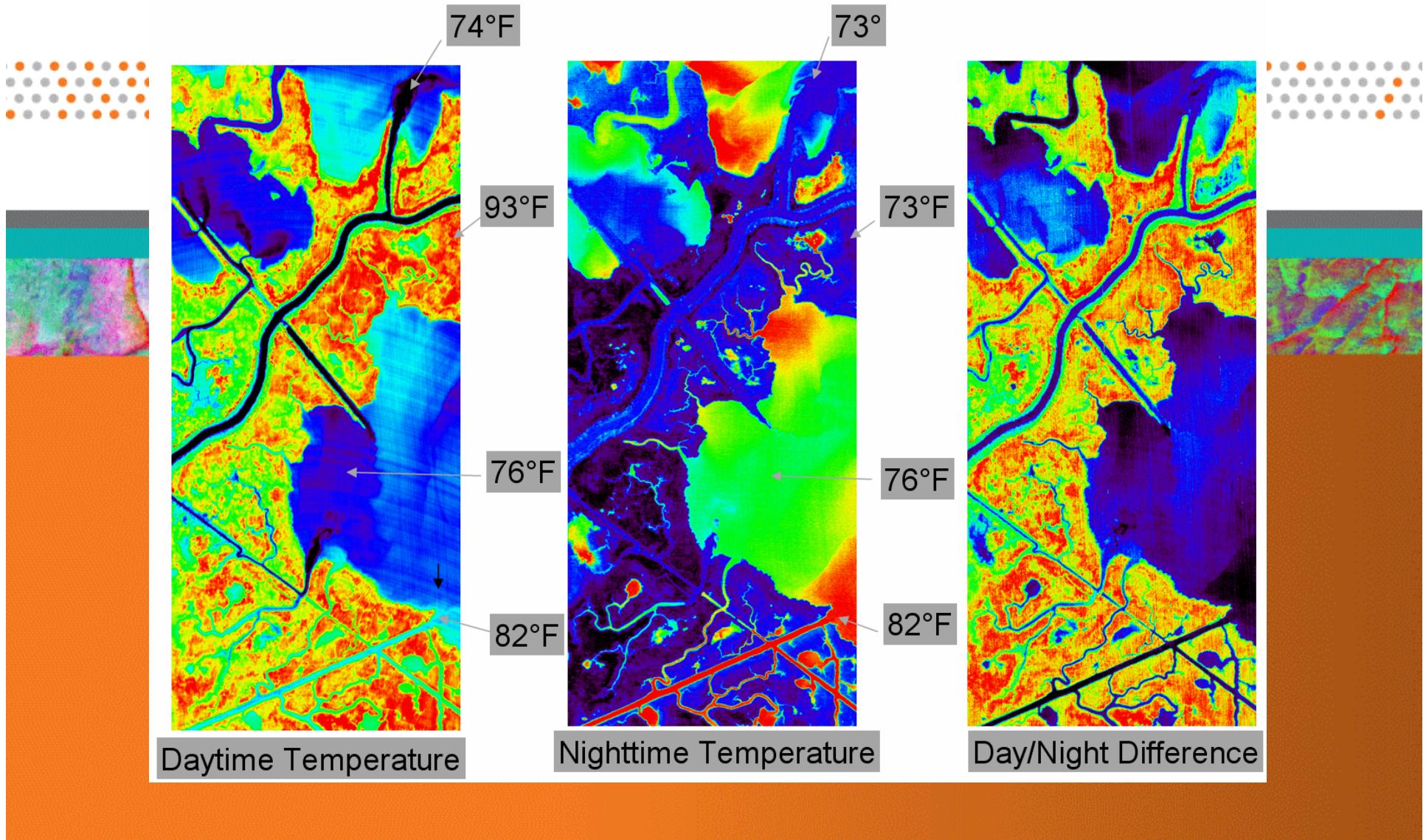
# Biological Field Analysis From Time Variant Surveys



**Figure 8.** Carbon dioxide assimilation adjusted for canopy closure by multiplying the photosynthetic rates by corresponding leaf area indices. Total carbon dioxide Assimilation (i.e., photosynthetic rate) is lower at oiled sites.

# Thermal Analysis over Allen Bay Showing Temperature Gradients of Water and Marshland Day and Night May 25, 2010

## Technology



# Partnership Options

## Environmental Baseline Data

- Could be licensed on an exclusive or non-exclusive basis to interested parties



## Time Variant Surveys

- Additional surveys may be commissioned by interested parties to compare against the environmental baseline data.
- We could have an exclusive partner for these future surveys or multiple partners.
- The data from these future surveys would likely be exclusive to the customer(s) that commissioned the survey.

## Operational Support

- Assimilate multiple datasets coming in from scientists in the field
- Target high value remediation sites
- Evaluate effectiveness of remediation efforts to mitigate economic damages

## Litigation Support

- Motivated scientific team with great data, solving issues critical to litigators
- Challenge economic claims made against BP based on scientific data
- Coordinated public messaging

## Future Collaboration

## Time Variant Pilot Study

# Expert Team Leaders

Dr. Alfredo Prelat - NEOS Exploration's Chief Scientist



- Remote-sensing expert
- Stanford PhD, Sr Fellow at Boeing and Fellow at Texaco
- Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Board of Directors
- Best International Paper for use of hyperspectral remote-sensing technology for environmental applications



Dr. John Jacob - Associate Professor at Texas A&M



- Coastal Community Development Specialist with the Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M
- Director of the Texas Coastal Watershed Program



Dr. John Day - Distinguished Professor Emeritus LSU



- Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, School of the Coast & Environment
- Extensive research on the ecology and management of the Mississippi Delta region

