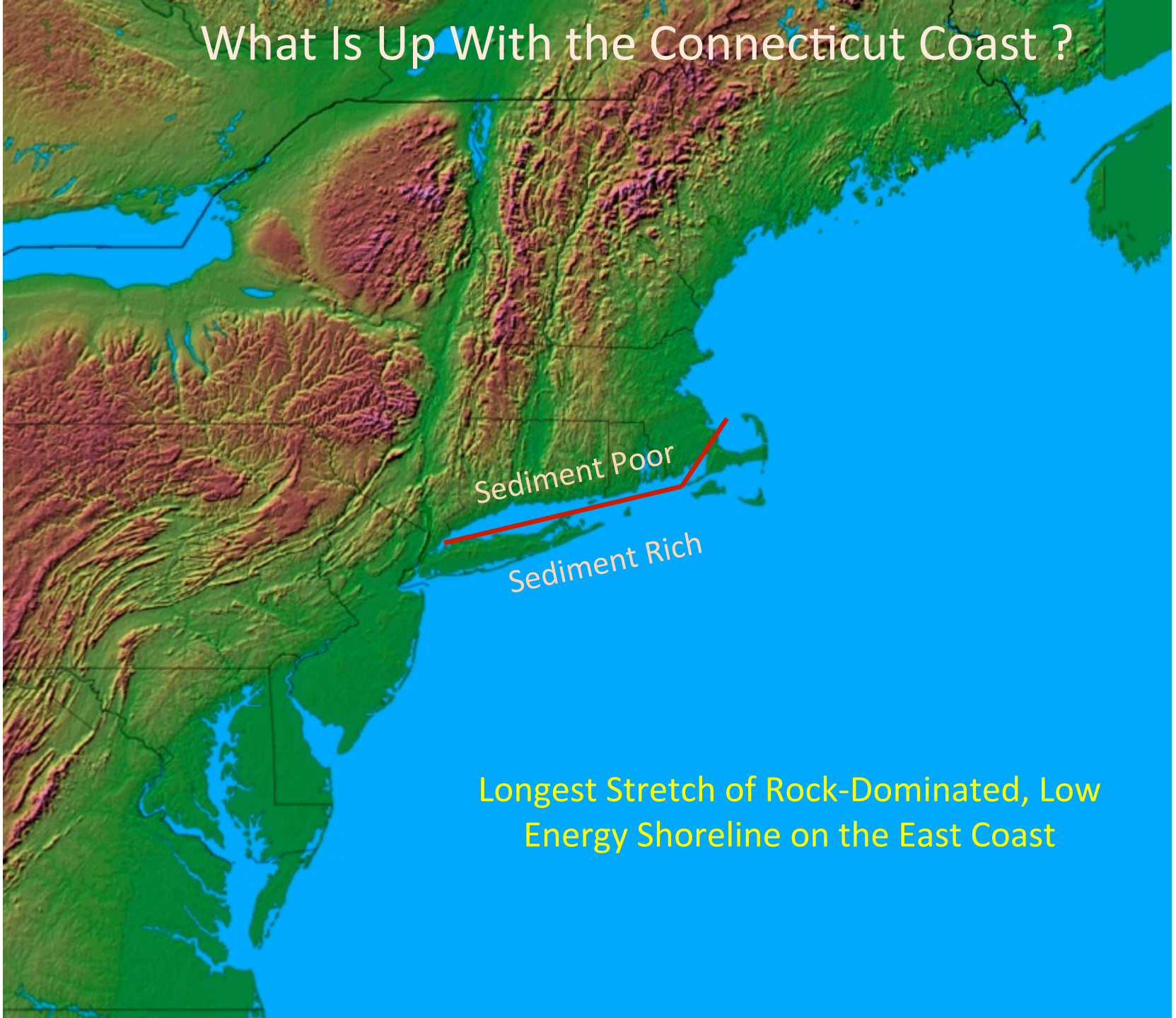

What Is Up With the Connecticut Coast ?
Sediment Poor
Sediment Rich
Longest Stretch of Rock-Dominated, Low Energy Shoreline on the East Coast

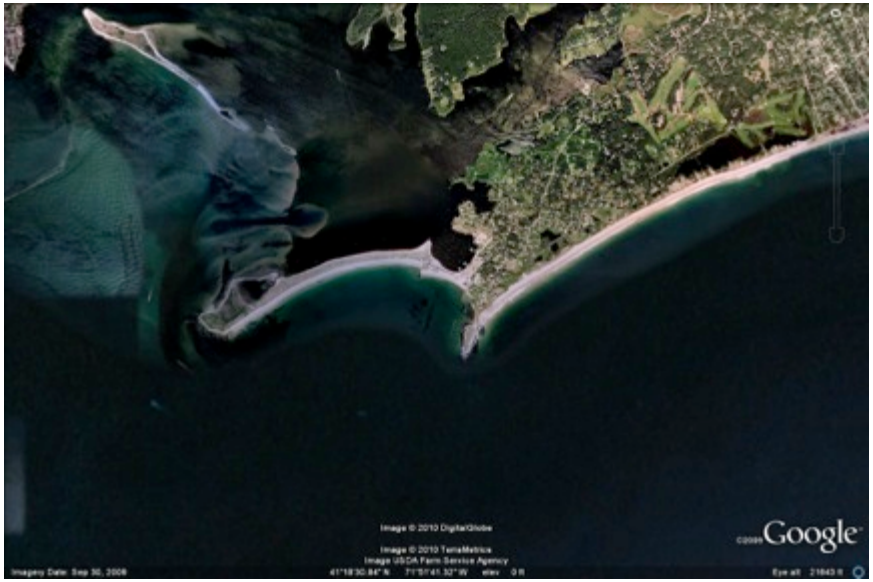
Low Energy-Rock-Dominated
A Bit Different!

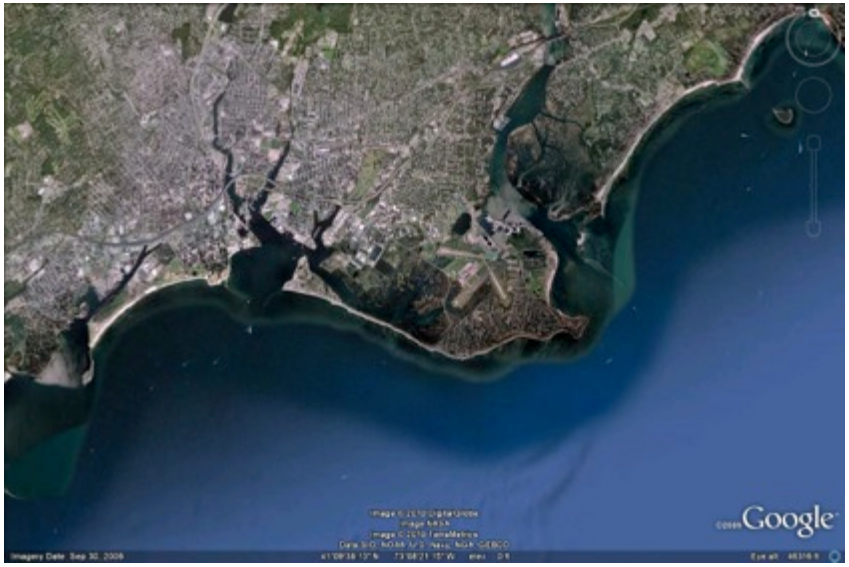


Fetch



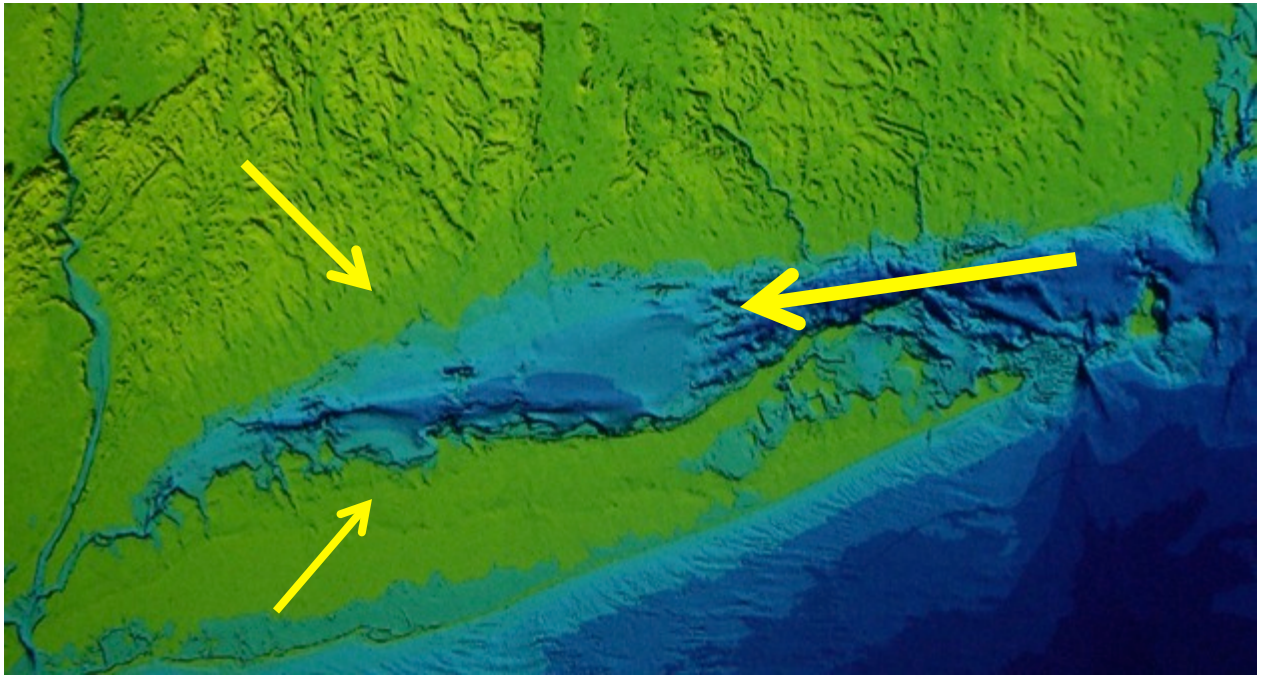

Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe
Image USDA Farm Service Agency
Image © 2010 TerraMetrics
©2009 Google

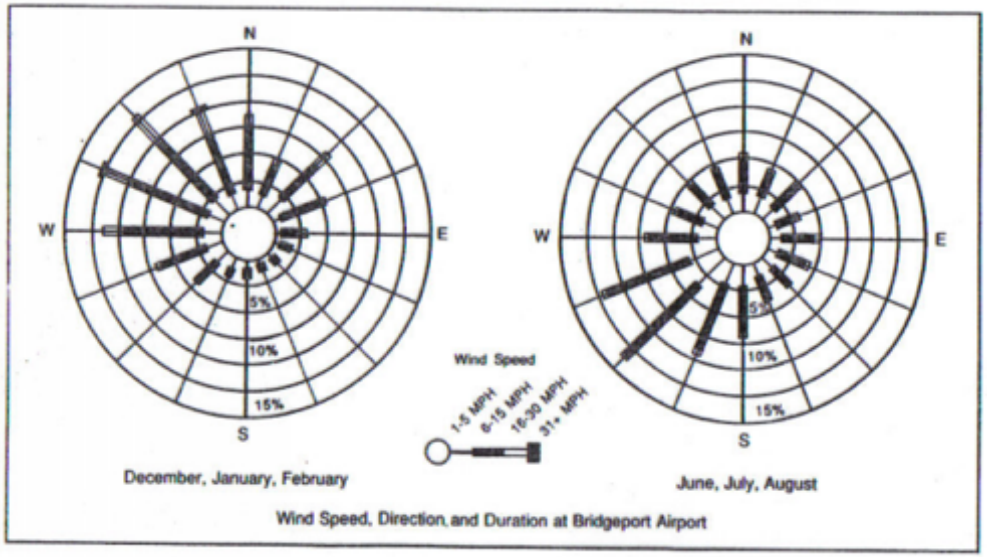

Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe
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Aspect (Attitude of Beach to Wind)



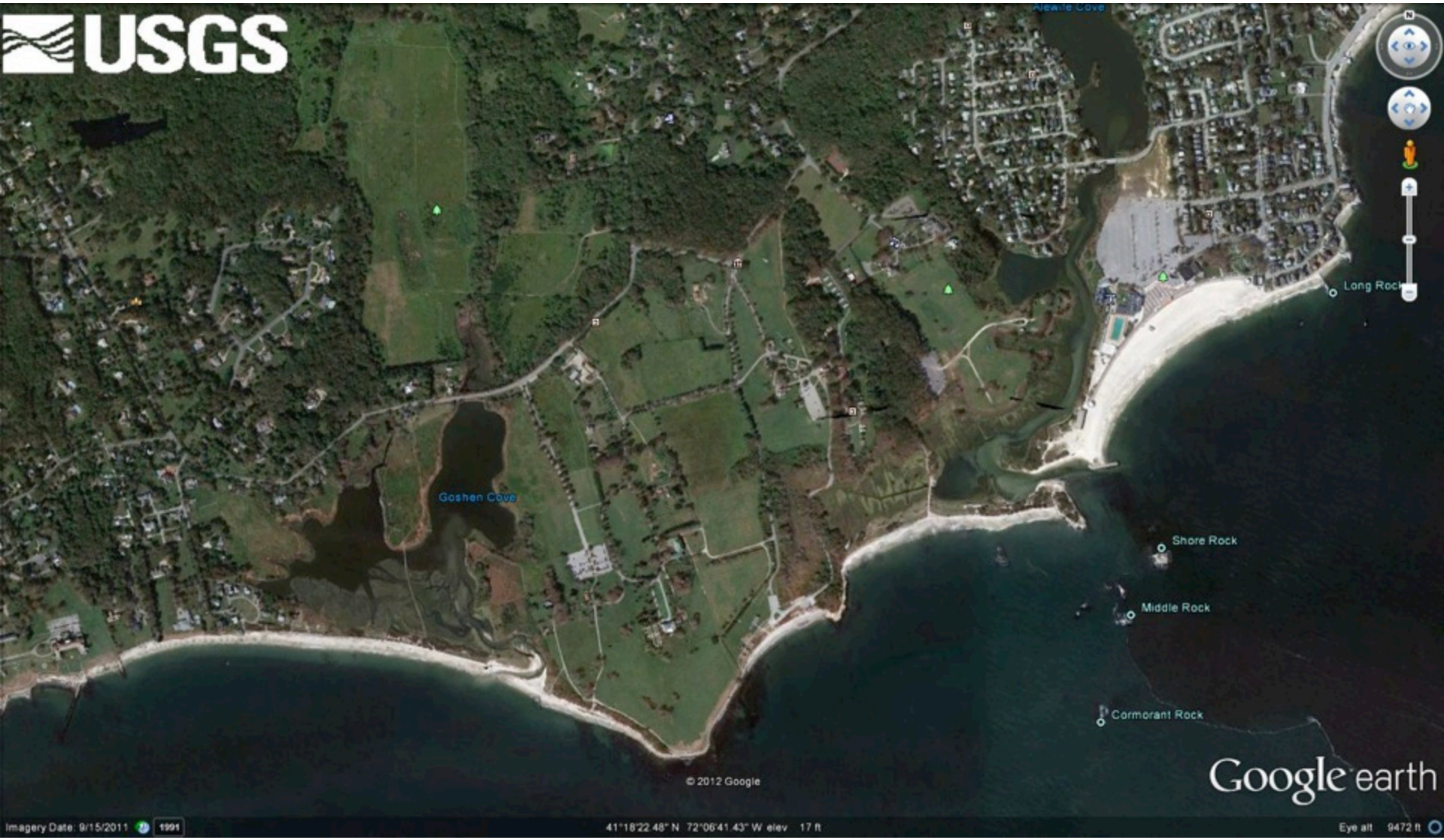


Wind Speed, Direction, and Duration at Bridgeport Airport

Two Coasts Impacted Differently With Different Wind Direction

(Combined With Speed and Fetch= Wave Energy Applied)

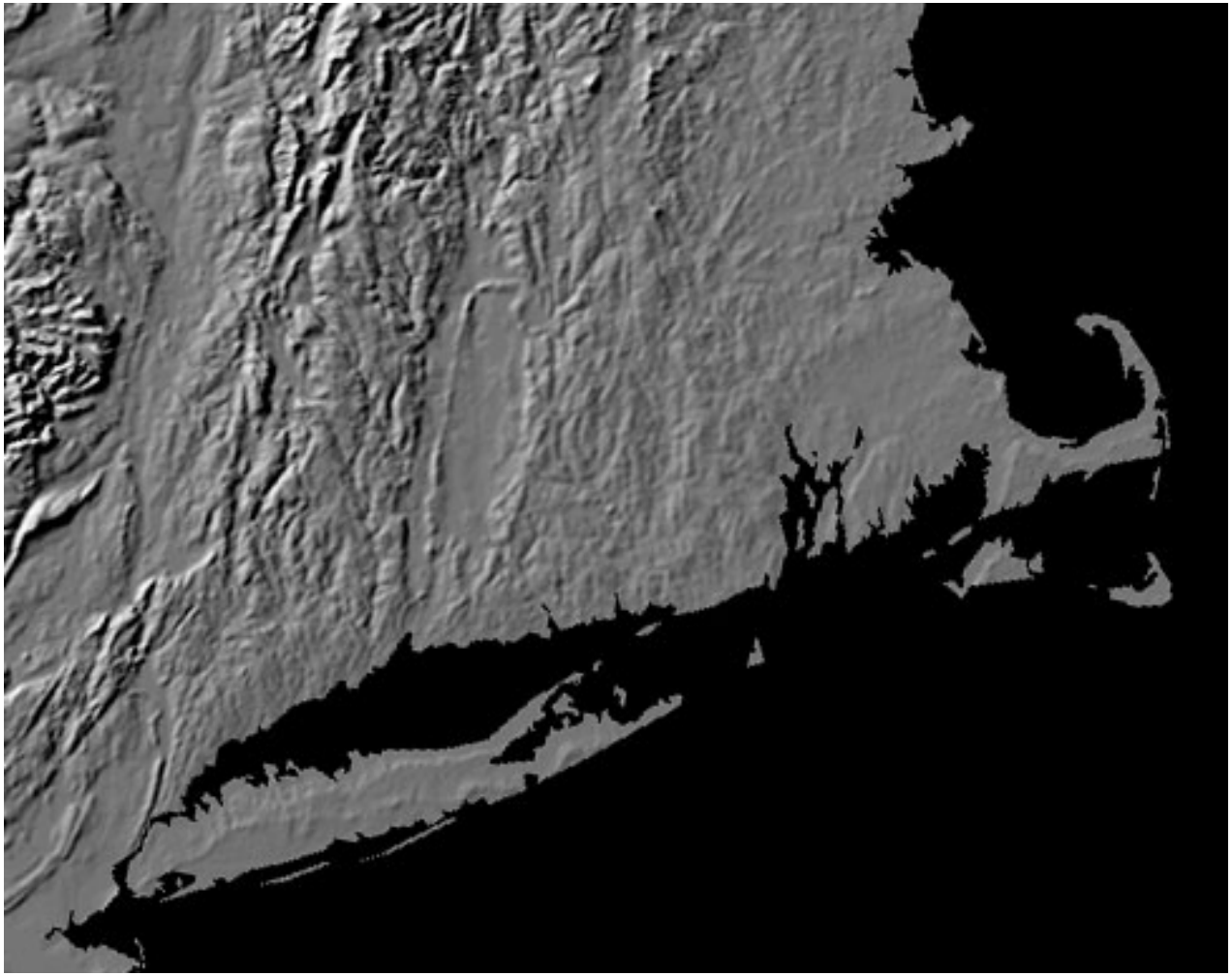
Three Beaches and Aspect

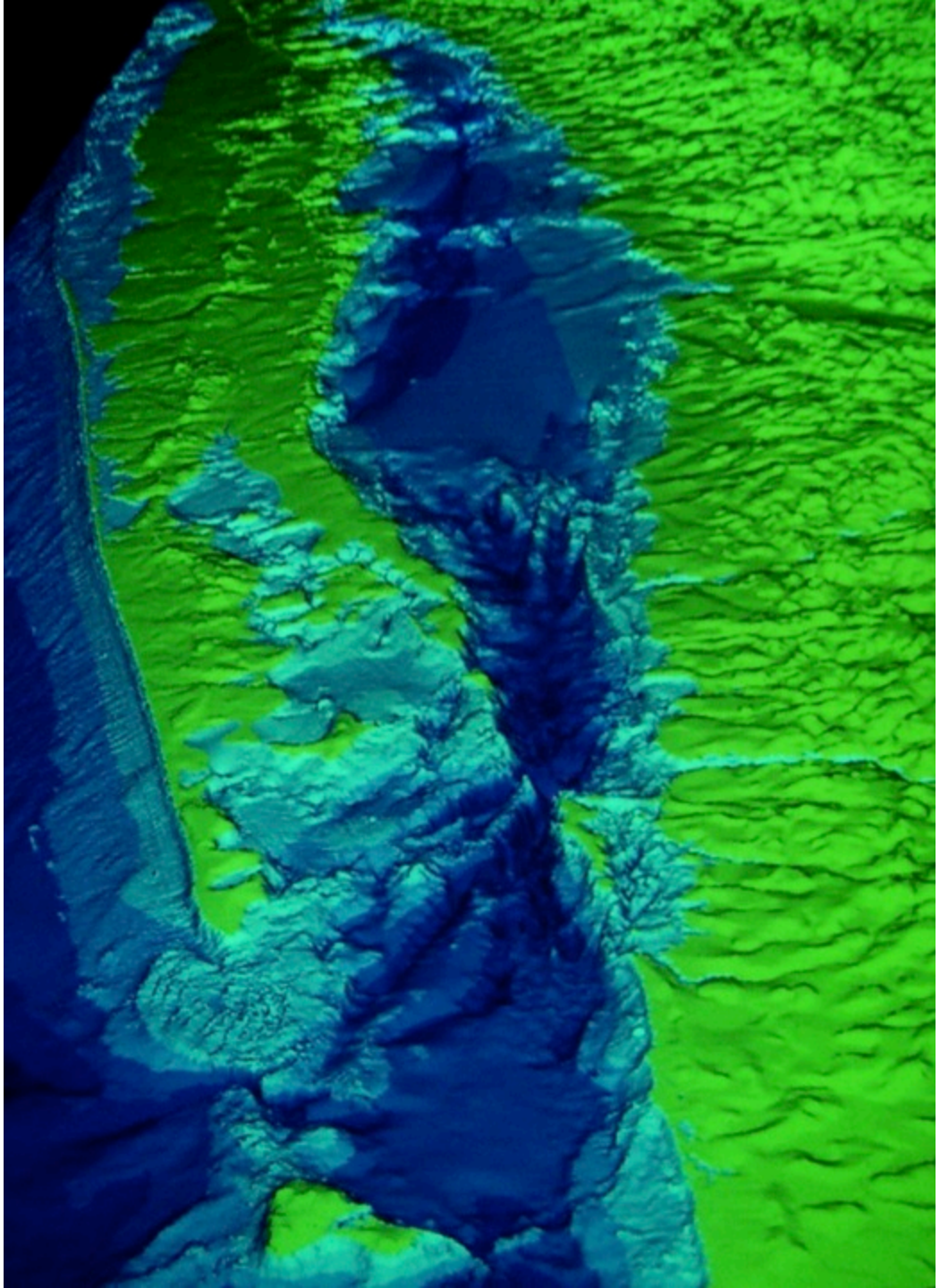


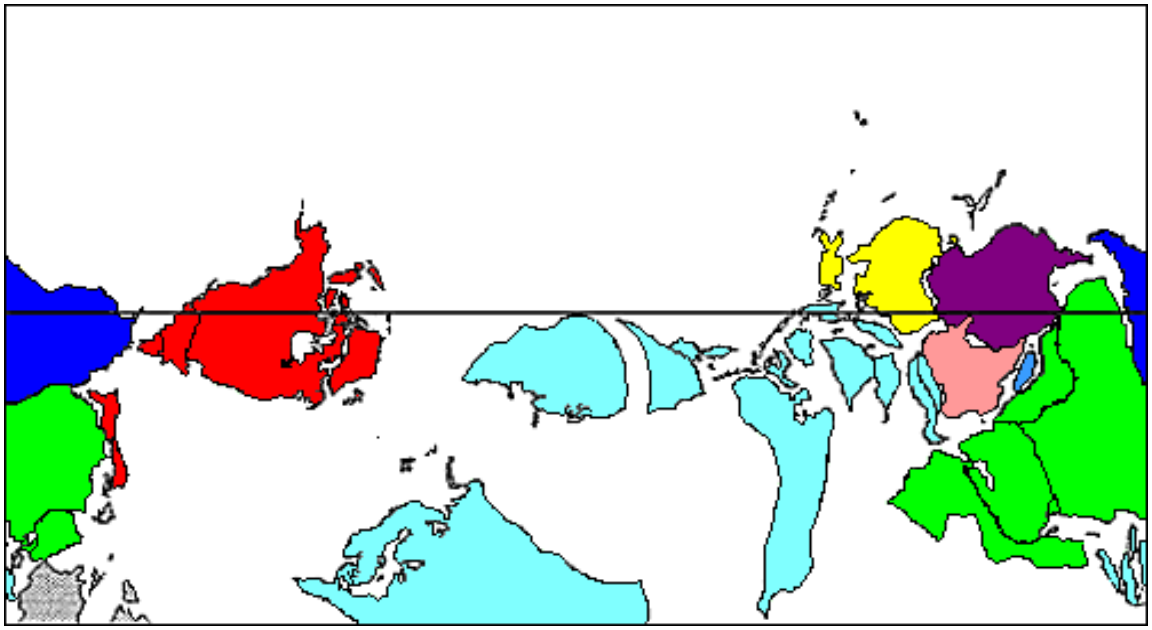
Aspect Matters at Waterford Beach NW-SE or NE



Bedrock Control= Distinct N-S "Grain of The Land"

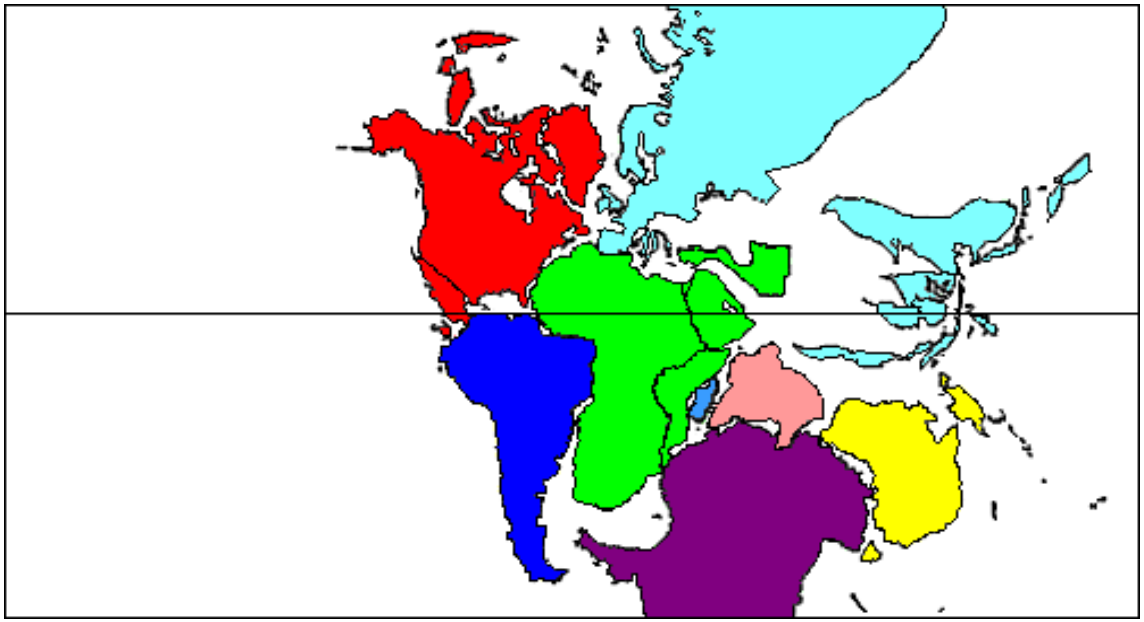




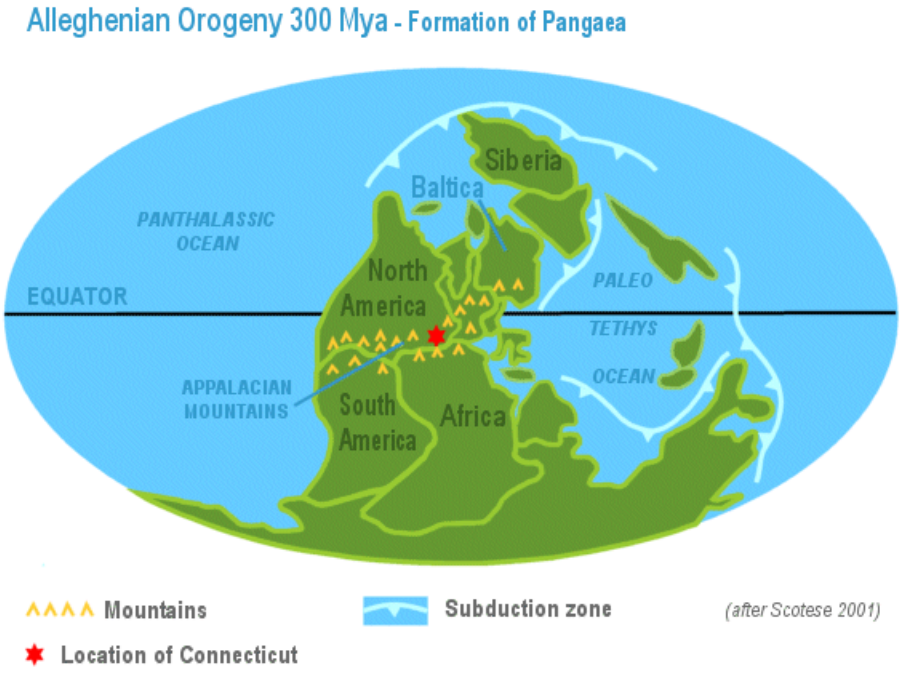


510 Million Years Ago

Antarctica
Africa + Arabian Peninsula
Australia + New Guinea
Equator
Europe + Asia + Indonesia
India
Madagascar
North America
South America

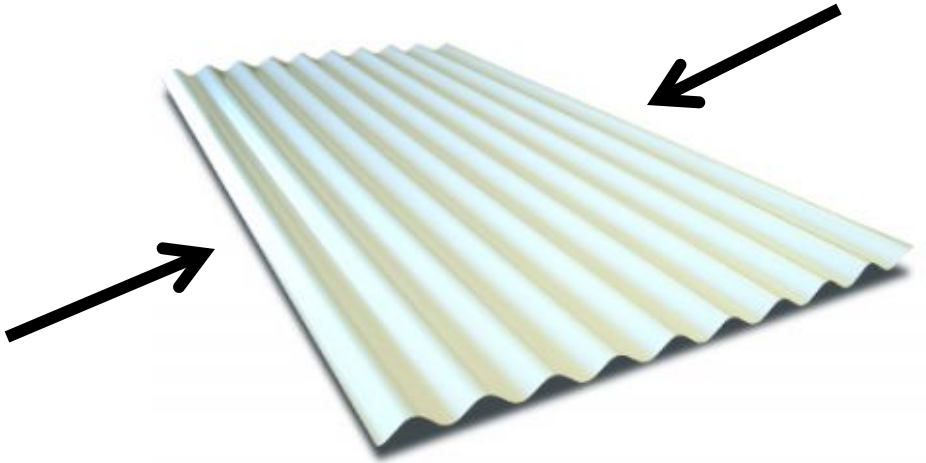


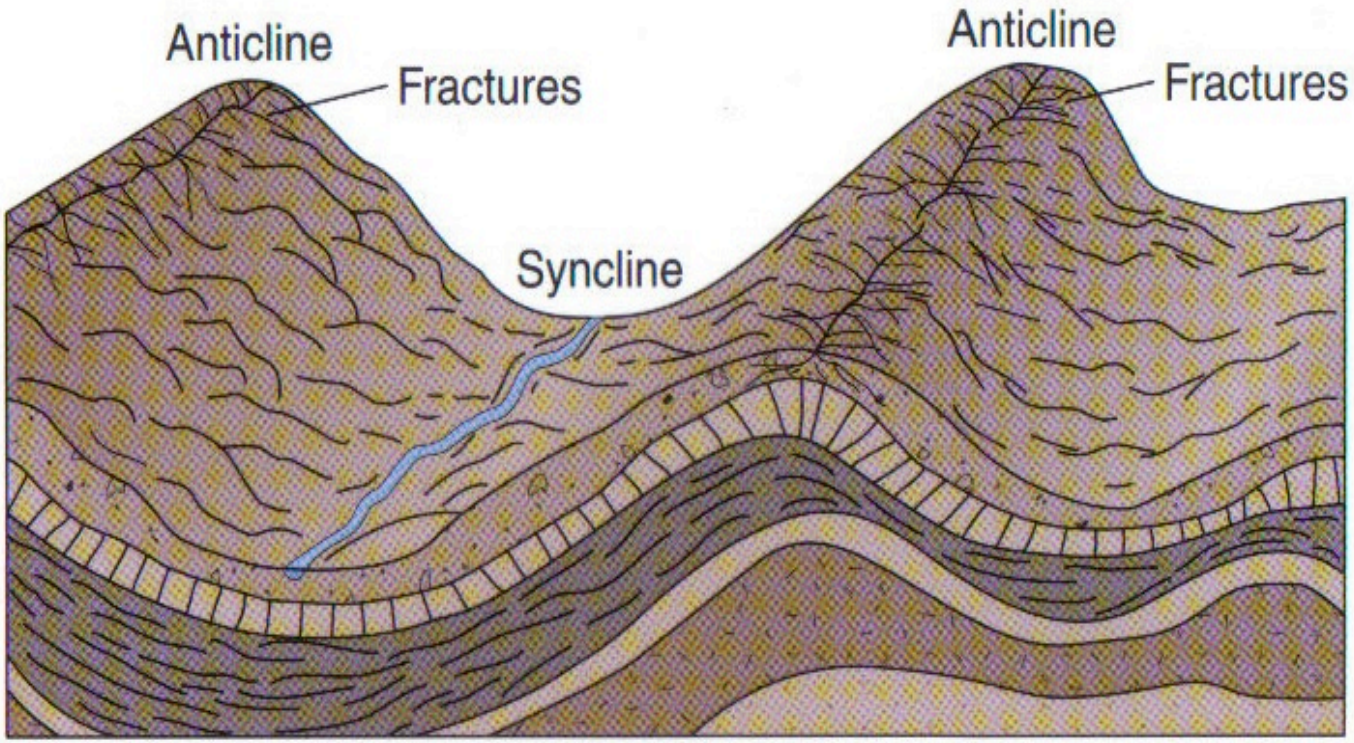
220 Million Years Ago



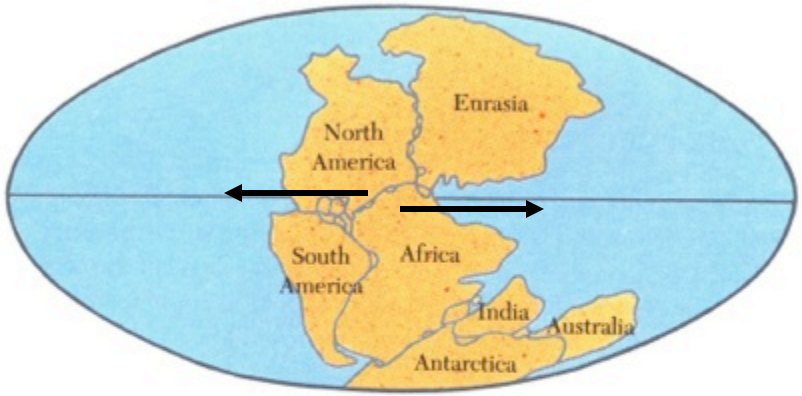
Compression + Heat



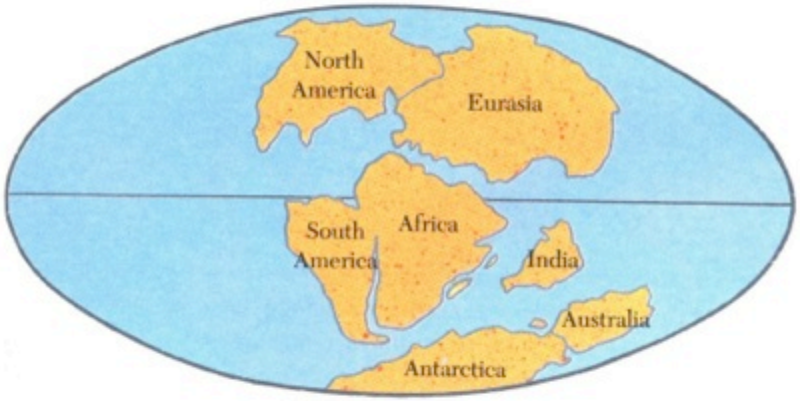




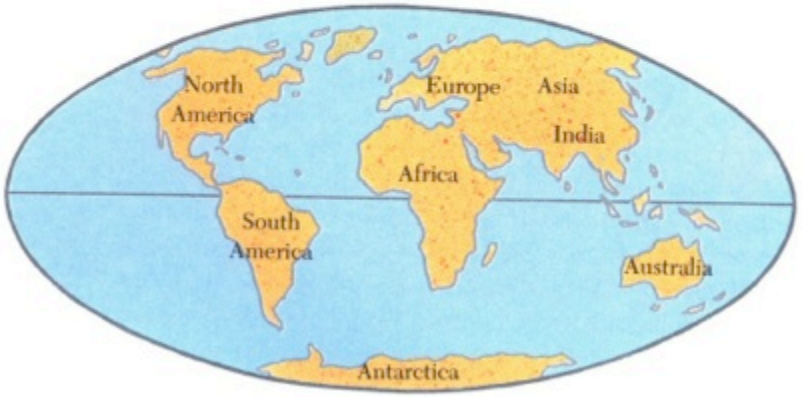
(a)



200 million years B.P.



135 million years B.P.

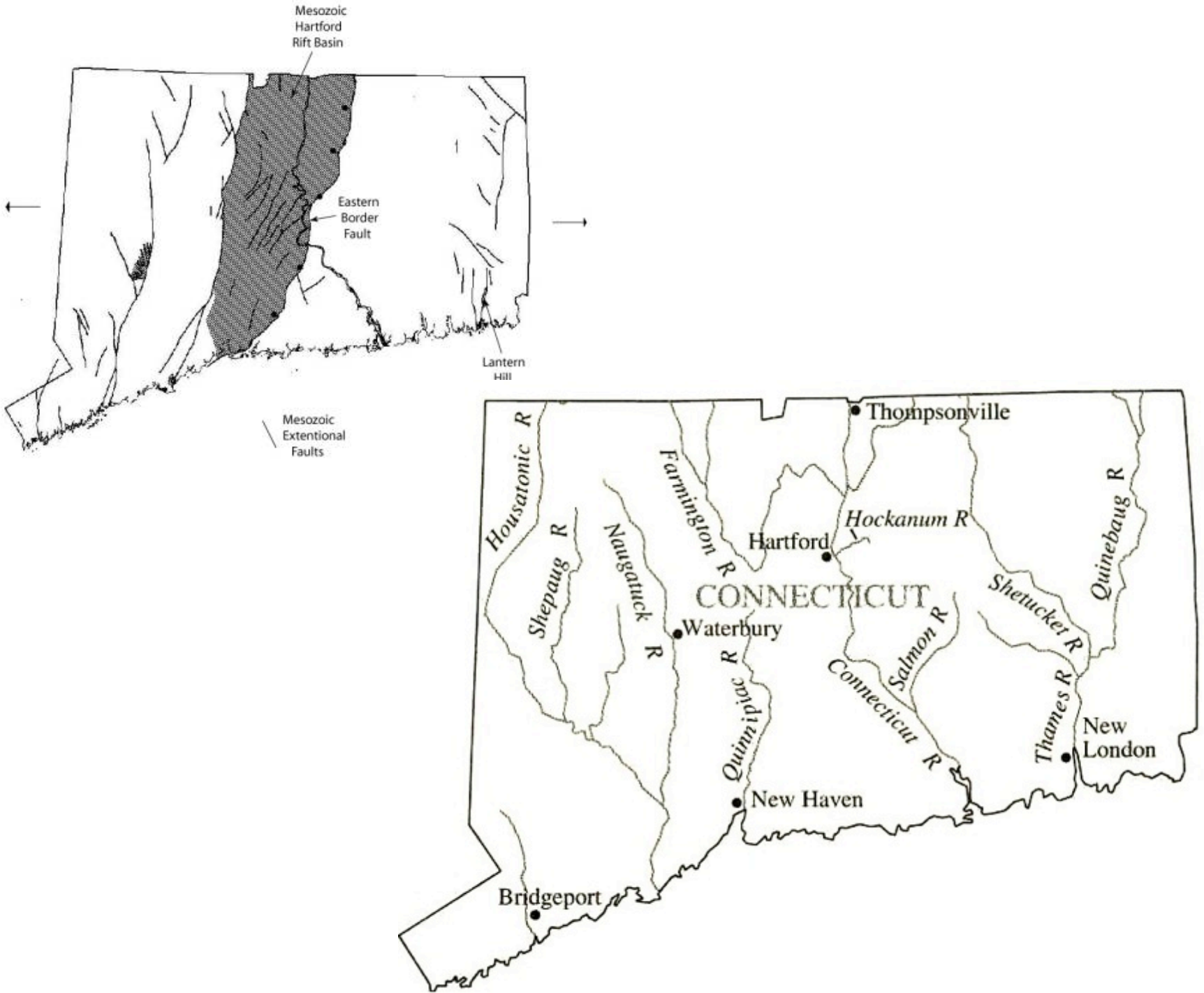


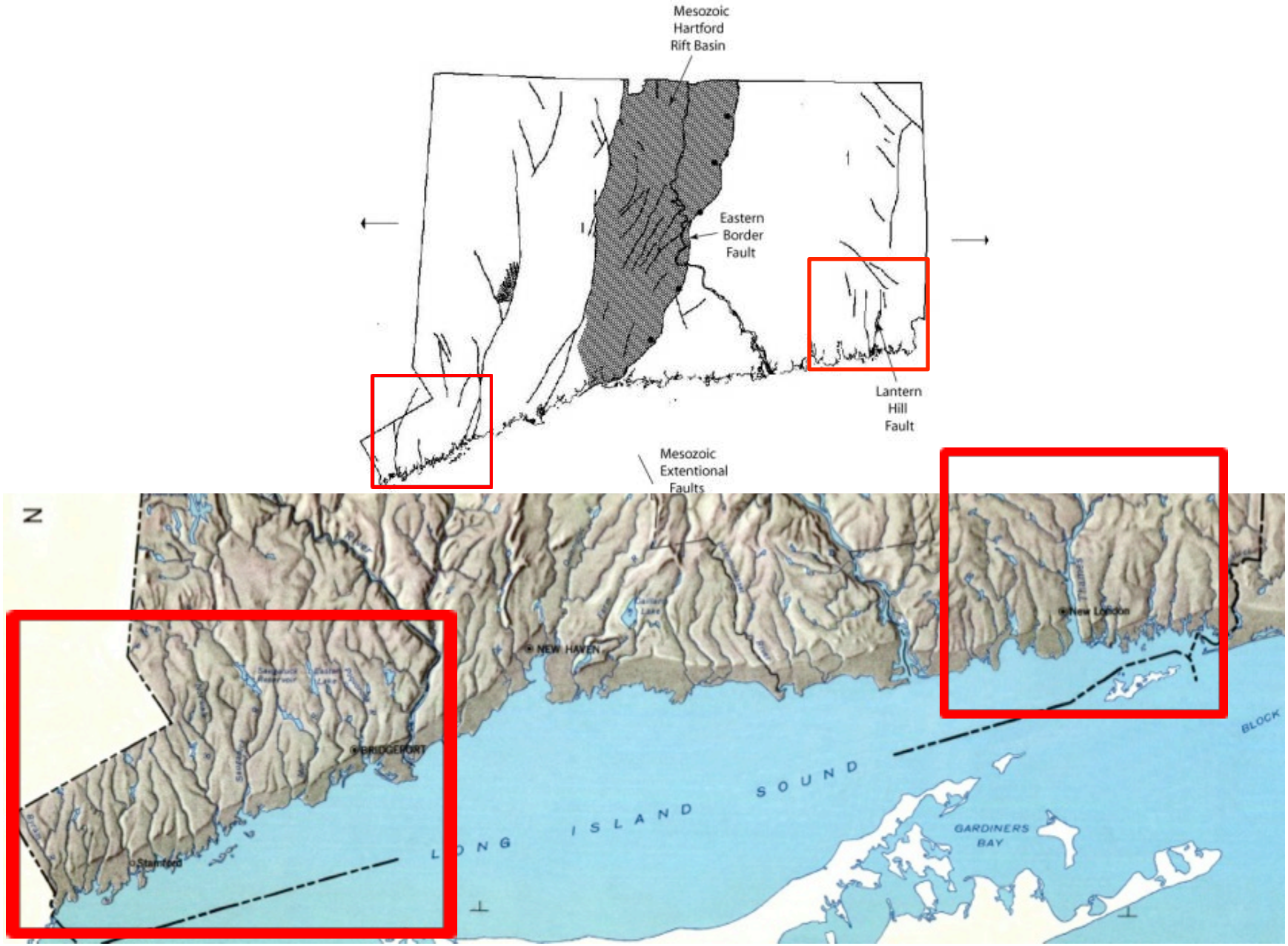
Rocks Under Tension
Are Cooler so They Tend to
Break (Fracture/Fault)

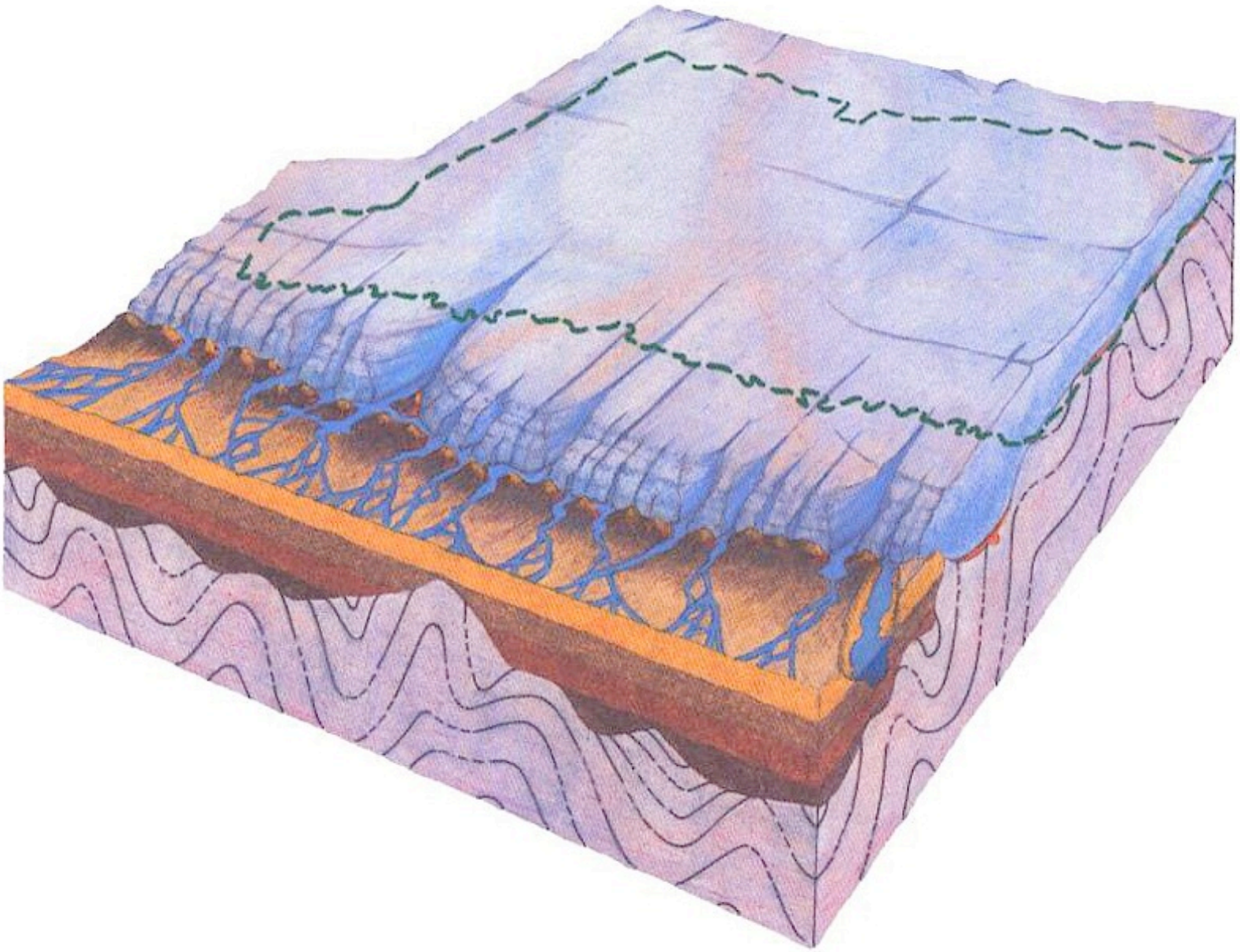


Tension Cooler Brittle

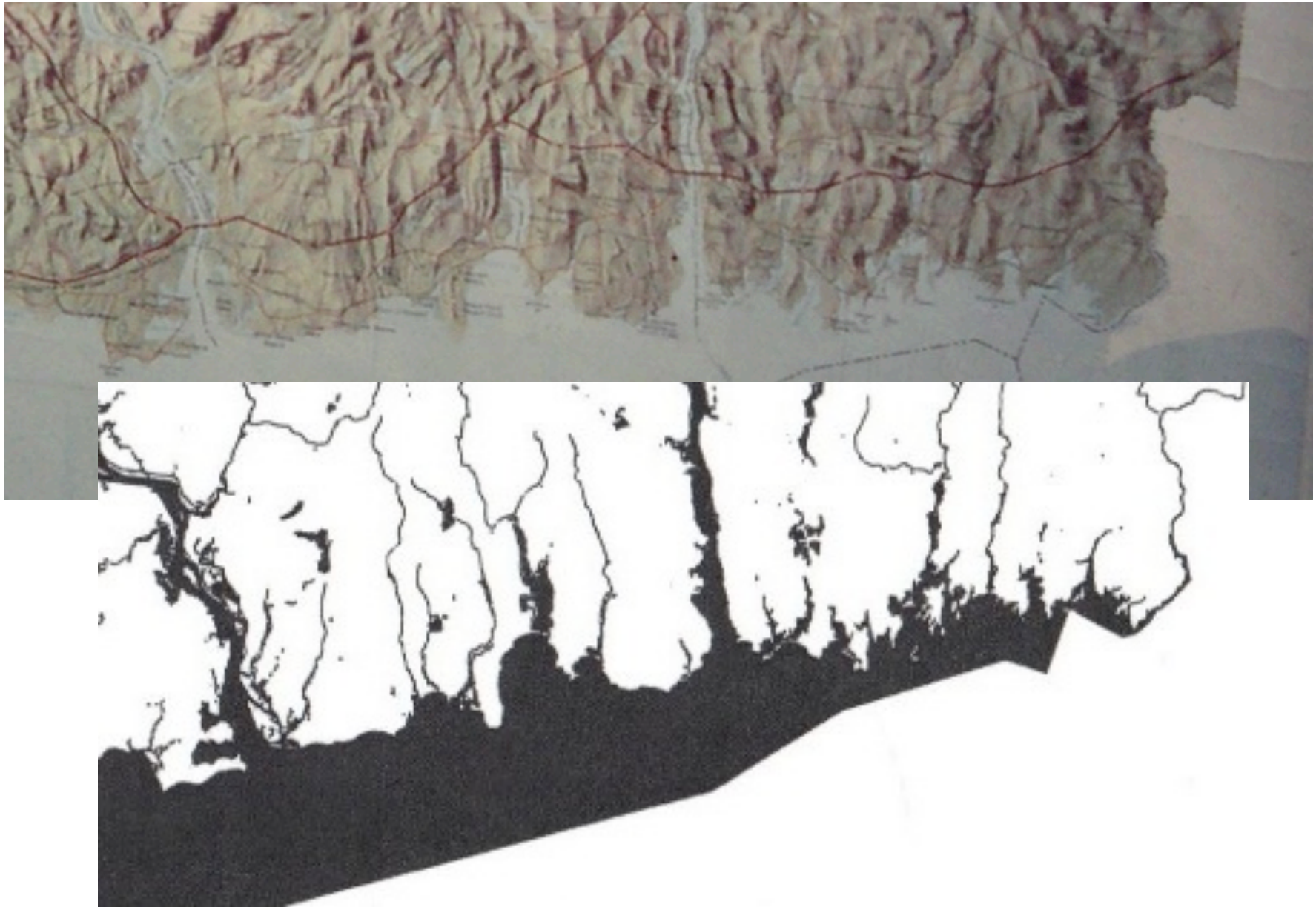


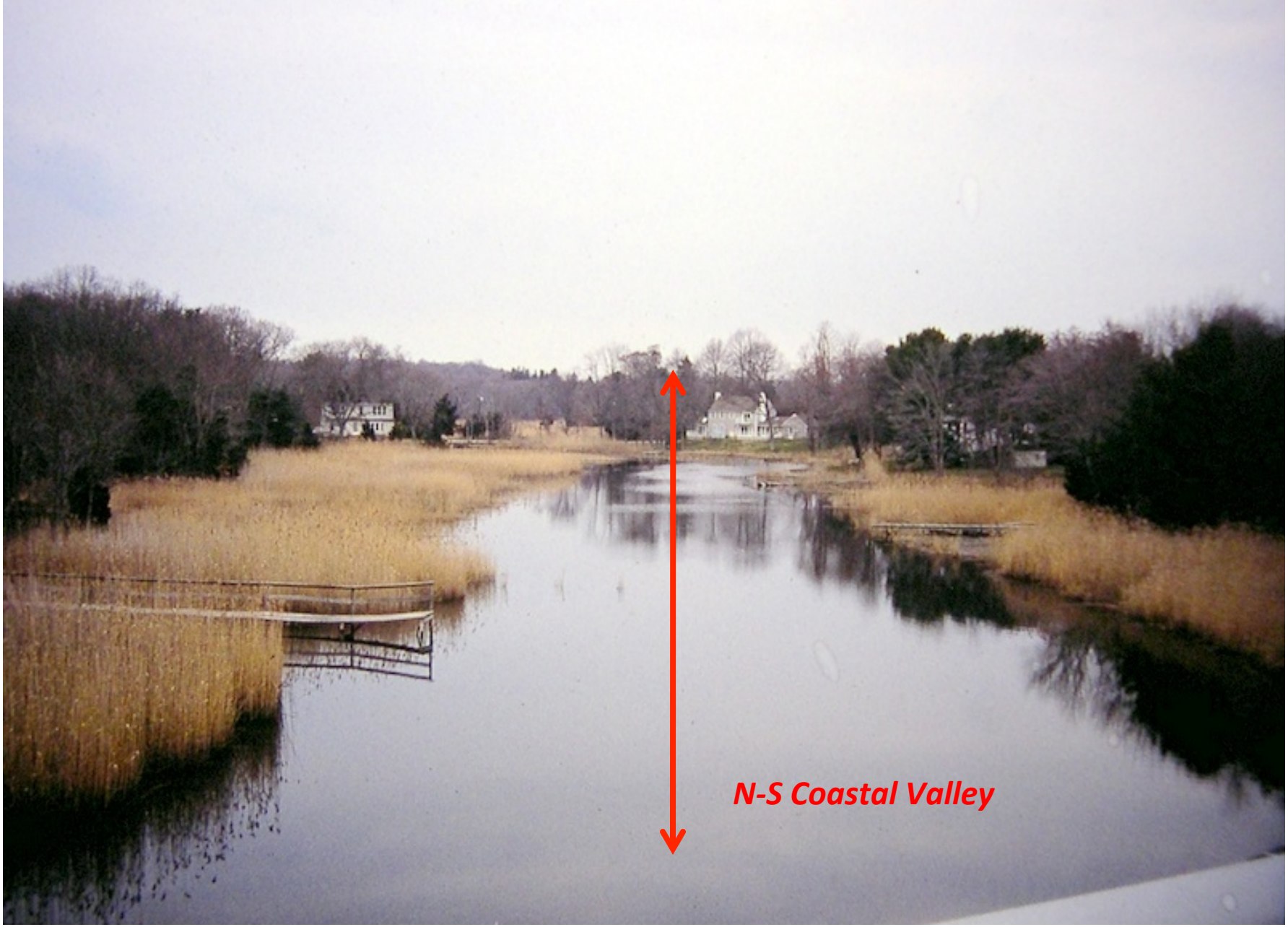

Mesozoic
Hartford
Rift Basin
Eastern
Border
Fault
Lantern
Hill
Mesozoic
Extentional
Faults
Thompsonville
Housatonic R
Farmington R
Hockanum R
Quinebaug R
Hartford
Shepaug R
Naugatuck R
CONNECTICUT
Shetucket R
Waterbury
Salmon R
Quinnipiac R
Connecticut R
Thames R
New
London
New Haven
Bridgeport


Mesozoic
Hartford
Rift Basin
Eastern
Border
Fault
Lantern
Hill
Fault
Mesozoic
Extentional
Faults
N
NEW HAVEN
BRIDGEPORT
Stamford
New London
LONG ISLAND SOUND
GARDINERS
BAY
BLOCK



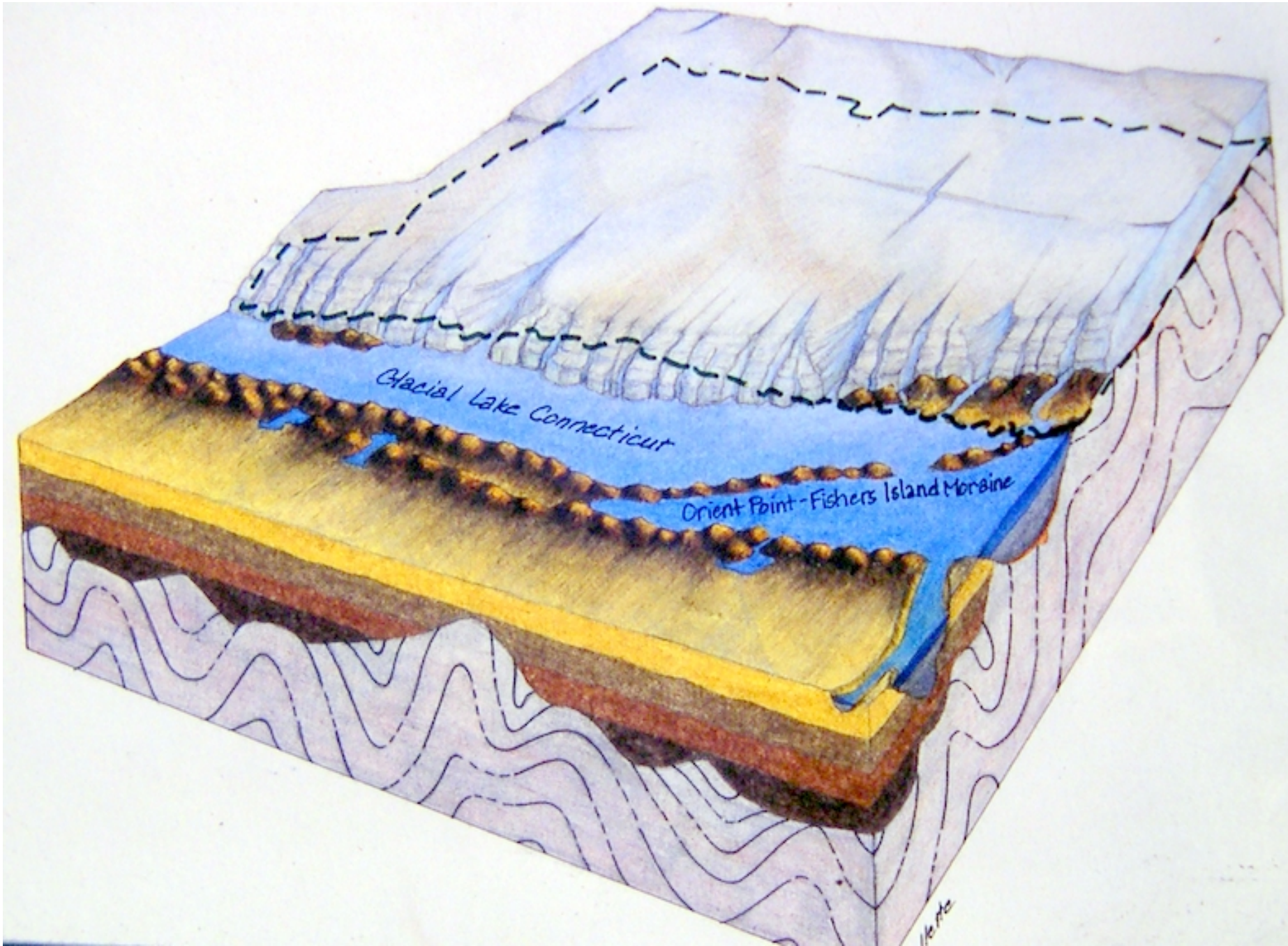




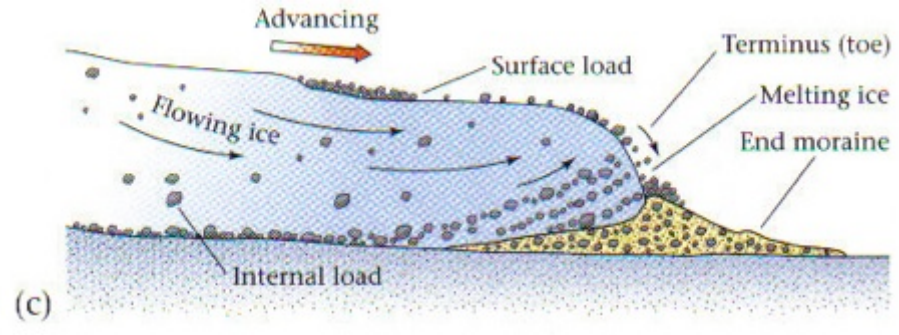


Old Lyme, CT




Glacial Lake Connecticut
Orient Point - Fishers Island Moraine

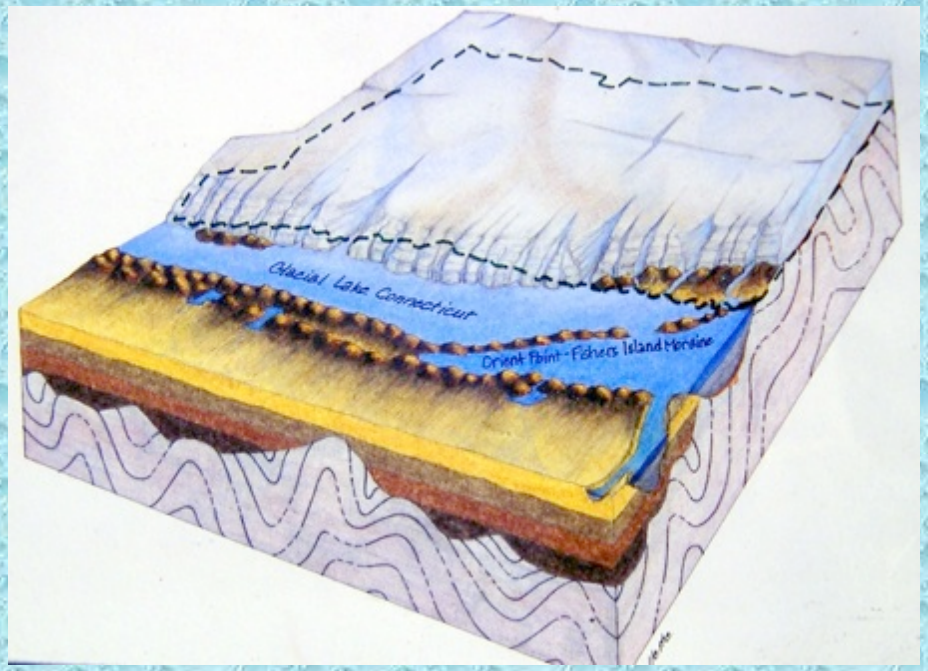


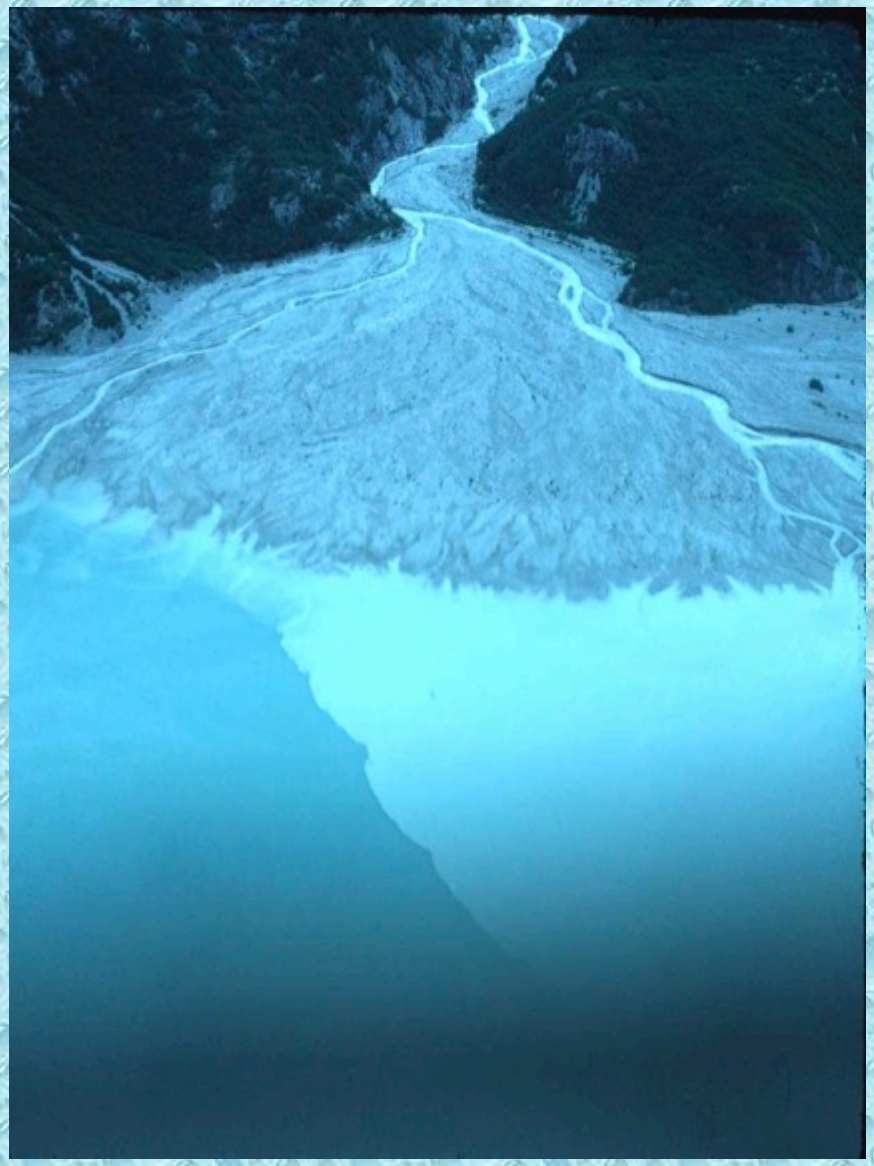

Advancing
Surface load
Terminus (toe)
Melting ice
End moraine
Flowing ice
Internal load
(c)





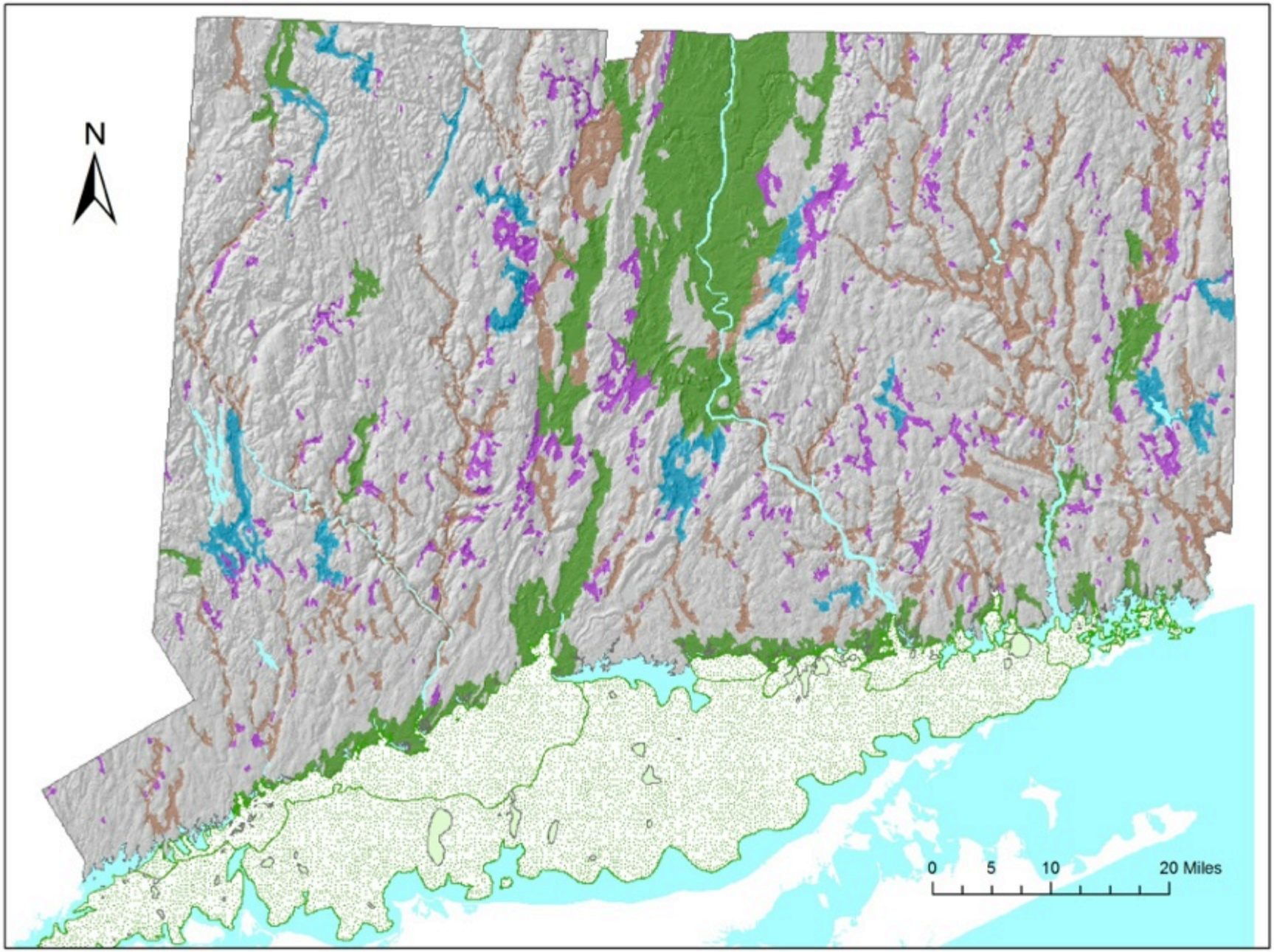
Deltas into Glacial Lake Connecticut



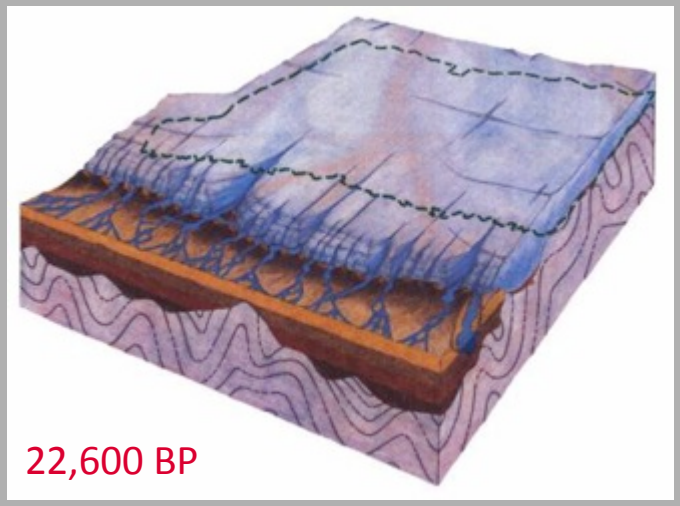


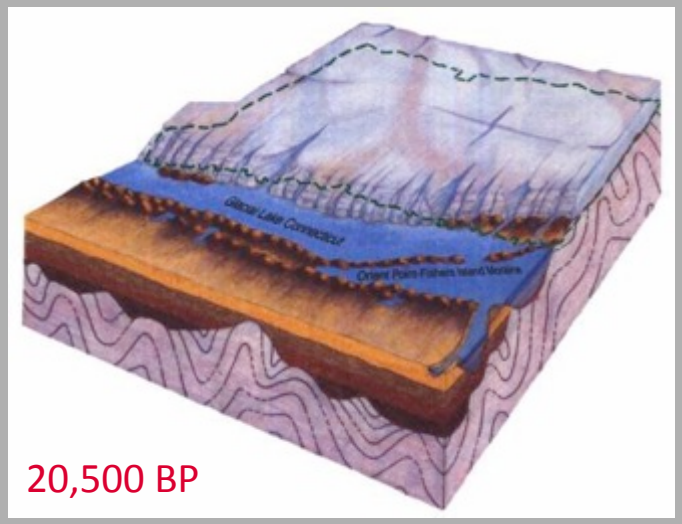


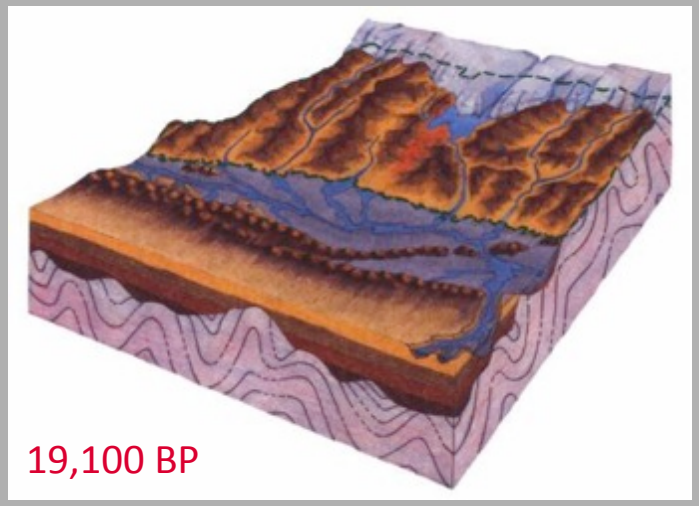
Glacial Lake Deposits in Connecticut

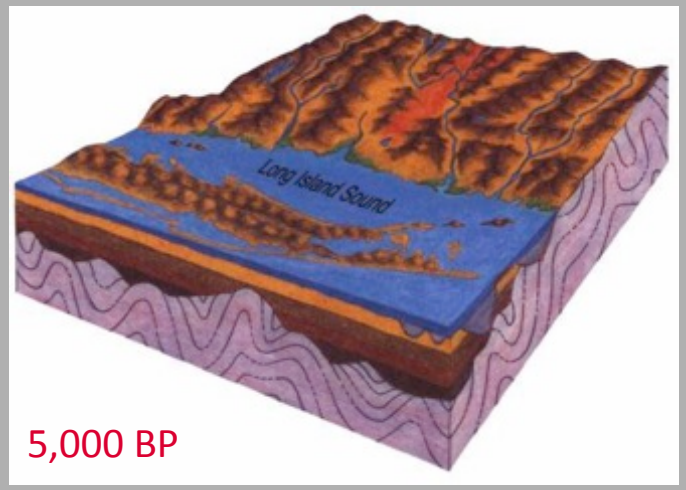


Recent History of Long Island Sound

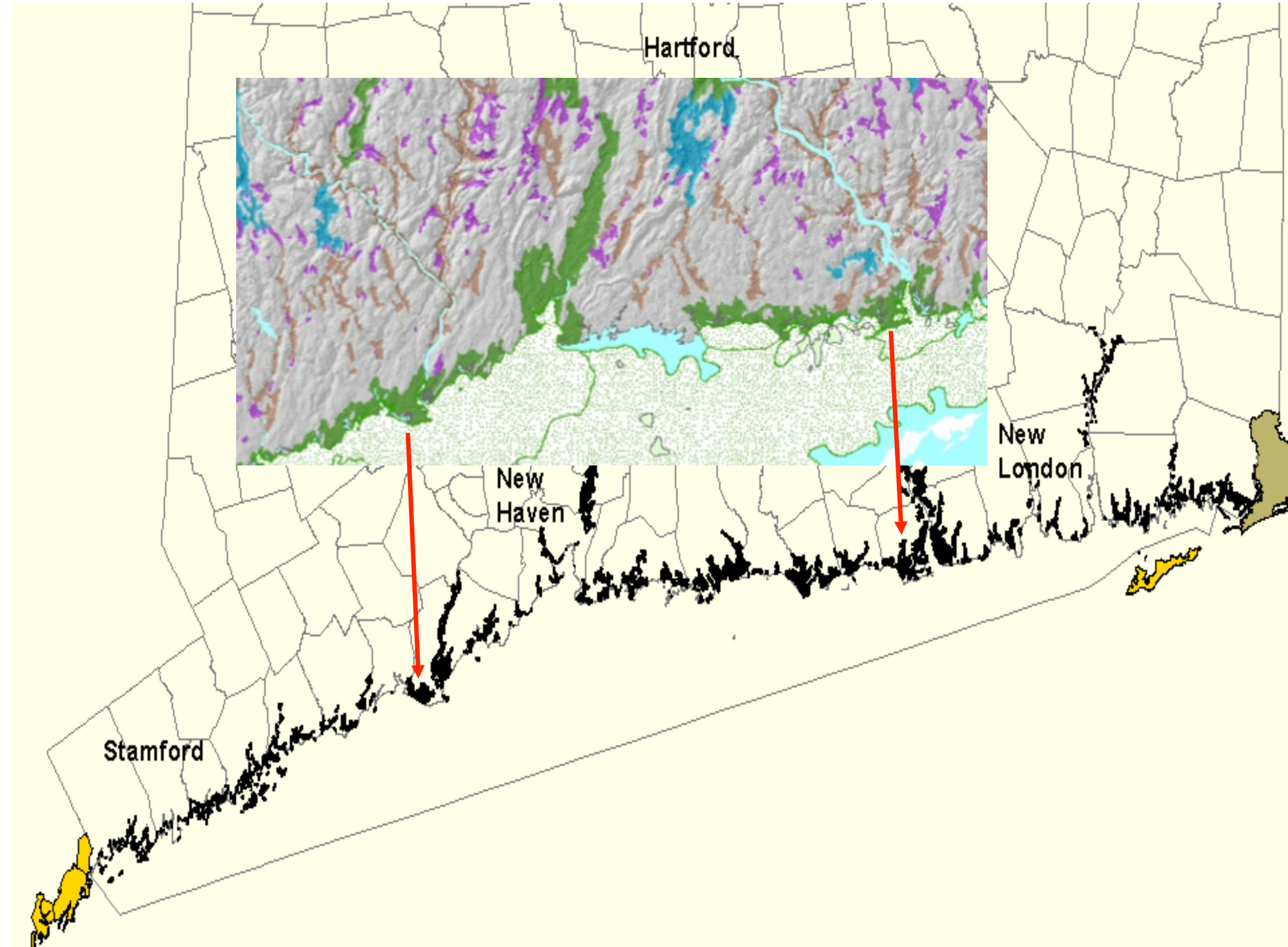








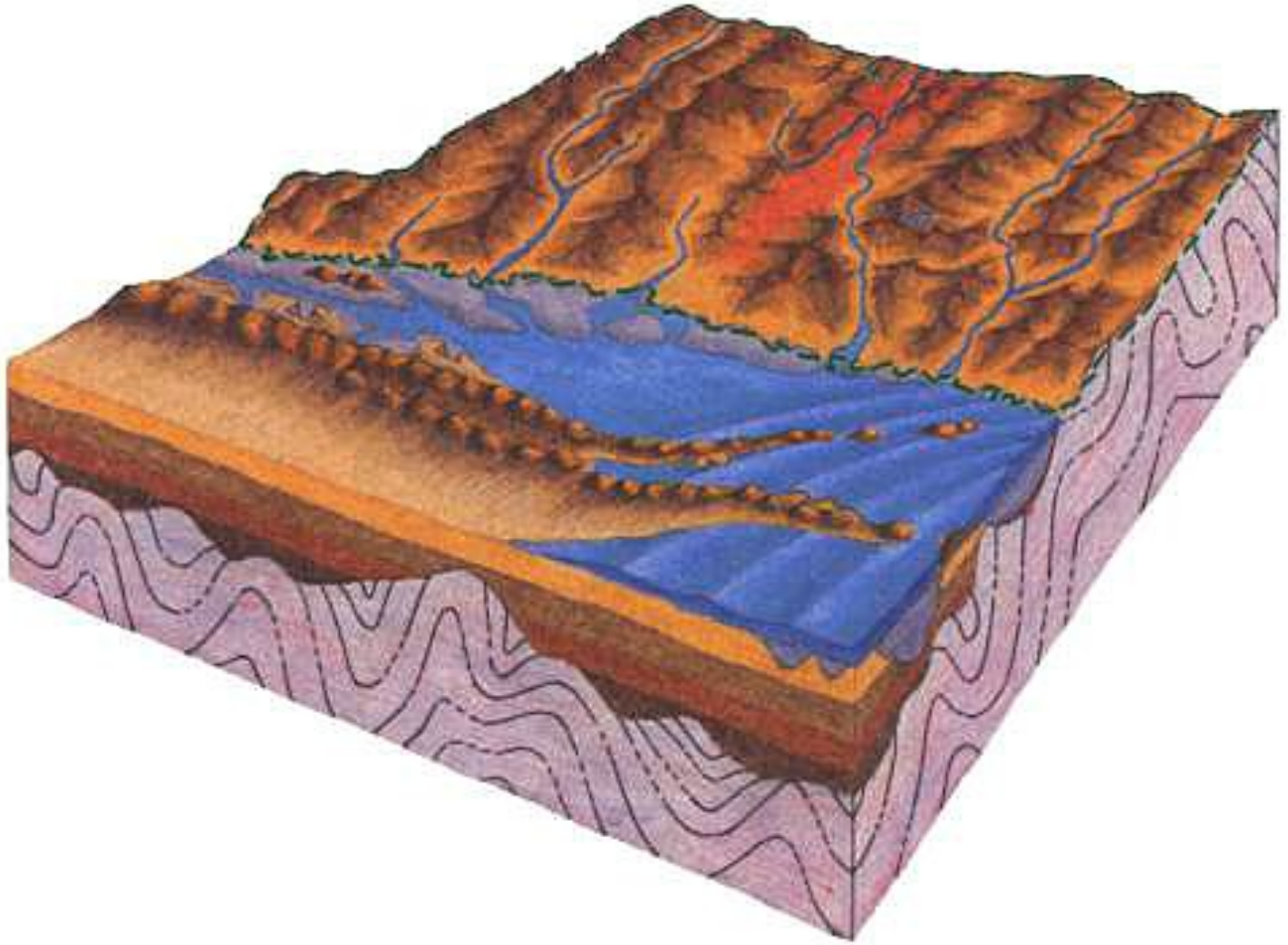
Source: Long Island Sound Resource Center


Hartford
New Haven
New London
Stamford

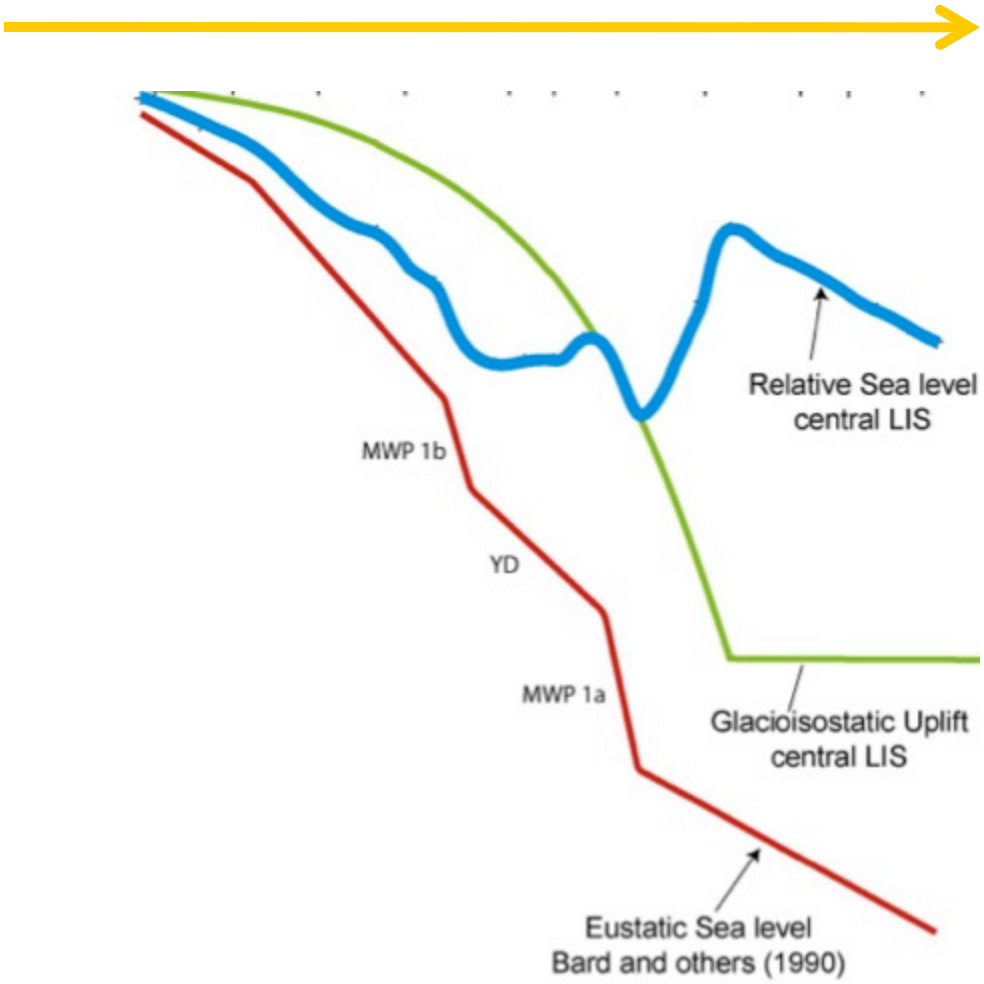

CLINTON


266_6699

The Coast of Connecticut Reflects the Shape and Character of a Bedrock-Controlled, Glacial Topography That is Being "Drowned" by the Rising Sea



Years Before Present



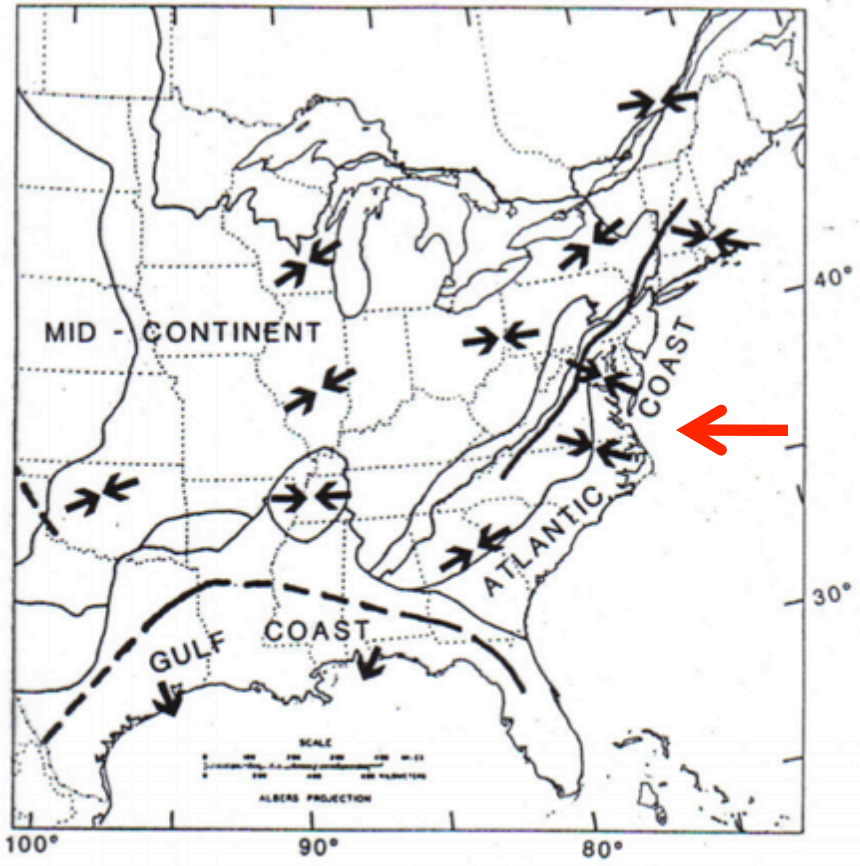
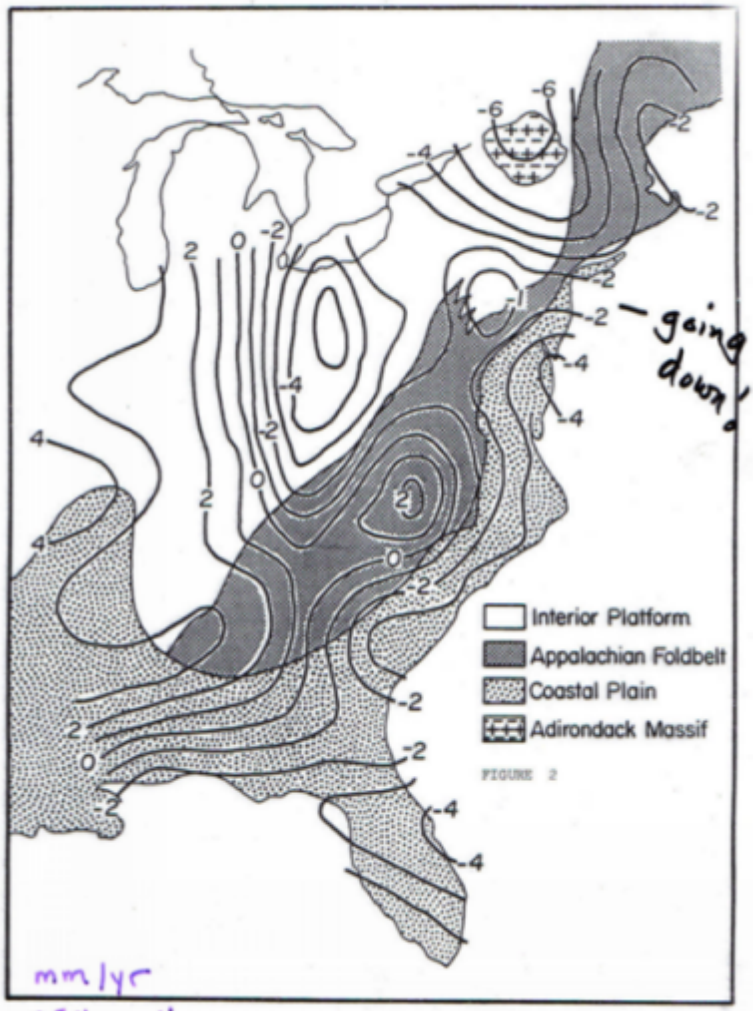
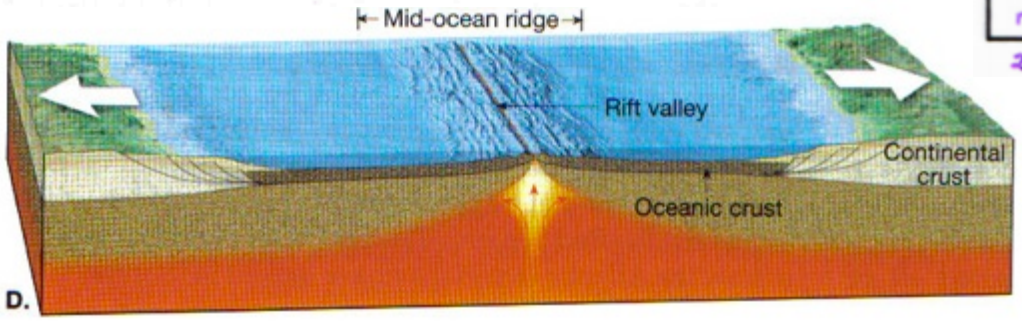
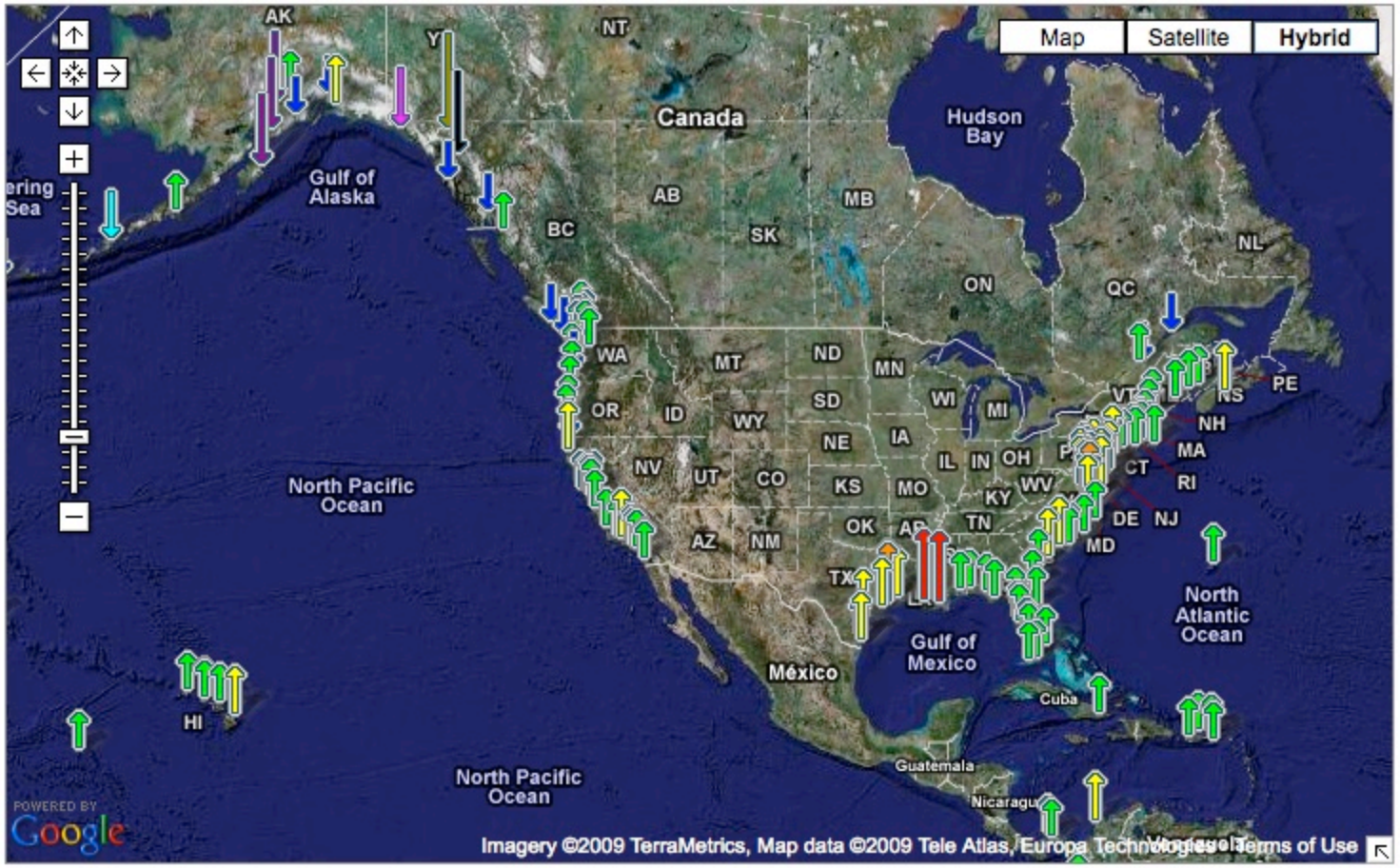


Figure 7. Stress map for eastern U.S.: Generalized stress map of central and eastern U.S. (Zoback, 1983).





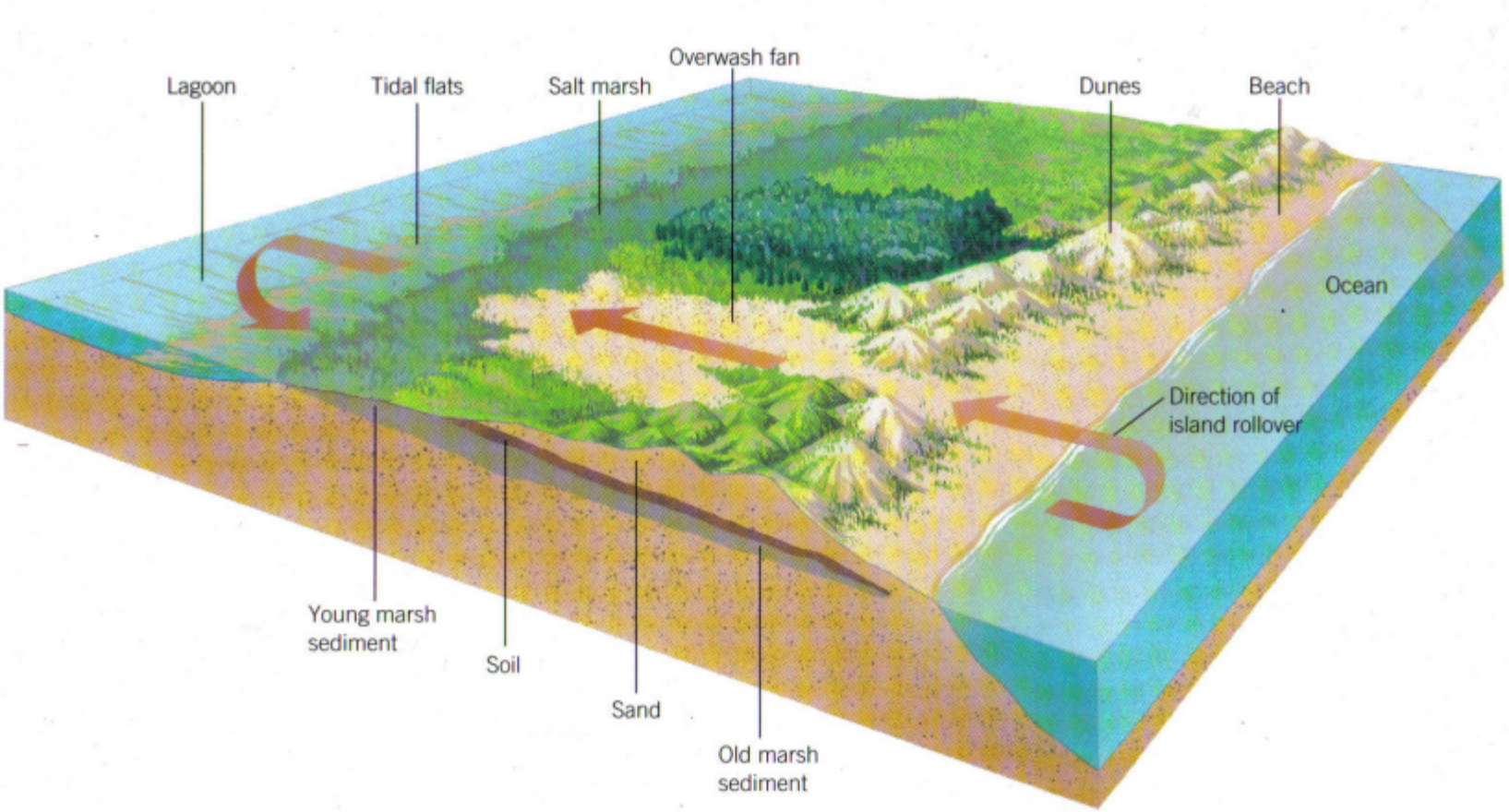


The map above illustrates regional trends in sea level, with arrows representing the direction and magnitude of change. Click on an arrow to access additional information about that station.

Sea Level Trends

mm/yr (feet/century)

9 to 12 (3 to 4)	3 to 6 (1 to 2)	-3 to 0 (-1 to 0)	-9 to -6 (-3 to -2)	-15 to -12 (-5 to -4)
6 to 9 (2 to 3)	0 to 3 (0 to 1)	-6 to -3 (-2 to -1)	-12 to -9 (-4 to -3)	-18 to -15 (-6 to -5)



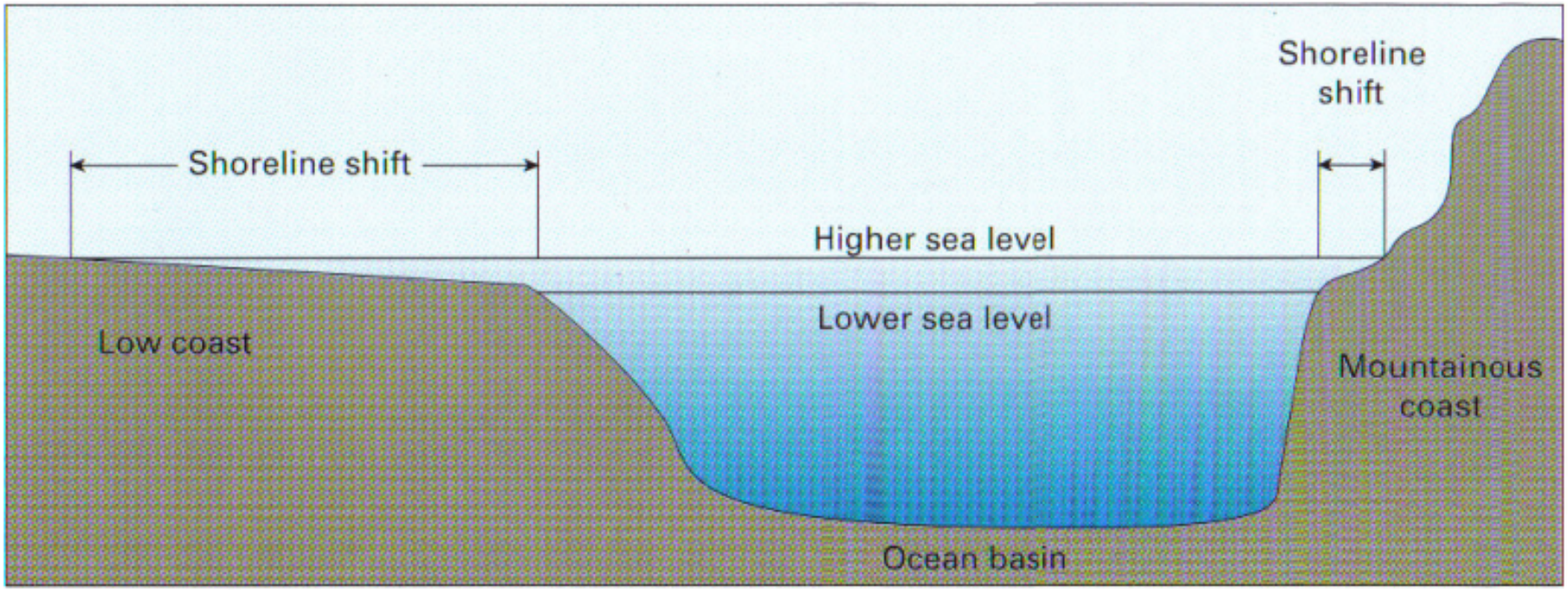
Rollover of a barrier island


Old Lyme
Imagery Date: 3/29/2012
1991
41°16'50.08" N 72°17'18.22" W elev 0 ft
Eye alt 1768 ft


g100_4027 12/06/2012 9:27 AM Joel Stocker

Topography an Important Factor in Determining the Extent of Inundation/Exposure as Sea Level Fluctuates

Small vertical changes in water level shift coastlines dramatically on gently sloping coasts but cause only minor shifts on steep coasts.




ka100_8739 11/06/2012 11:16 AM Joel Stocker






g100_4702 1/9/2013 J Stocker



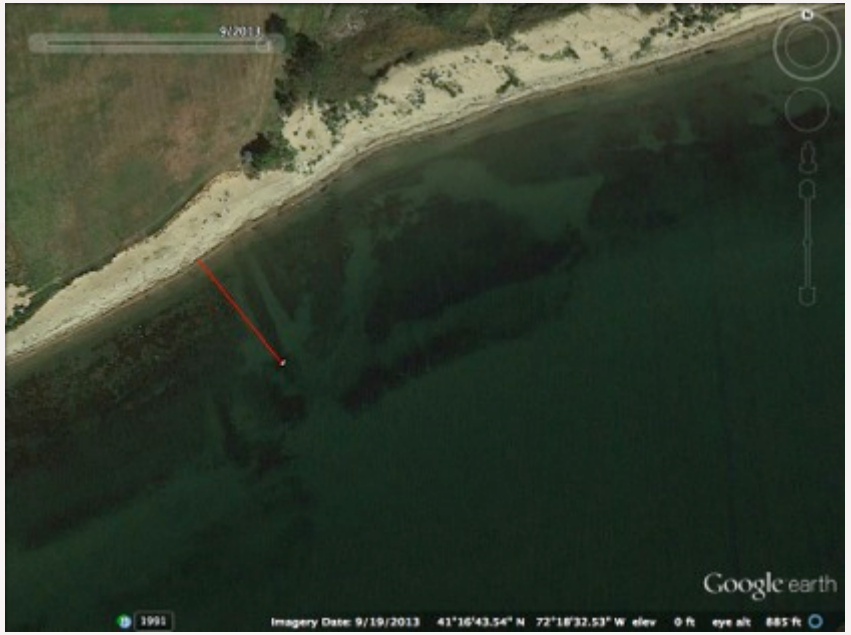
William Chadwick “Bathers at Griswold Beach” 1915



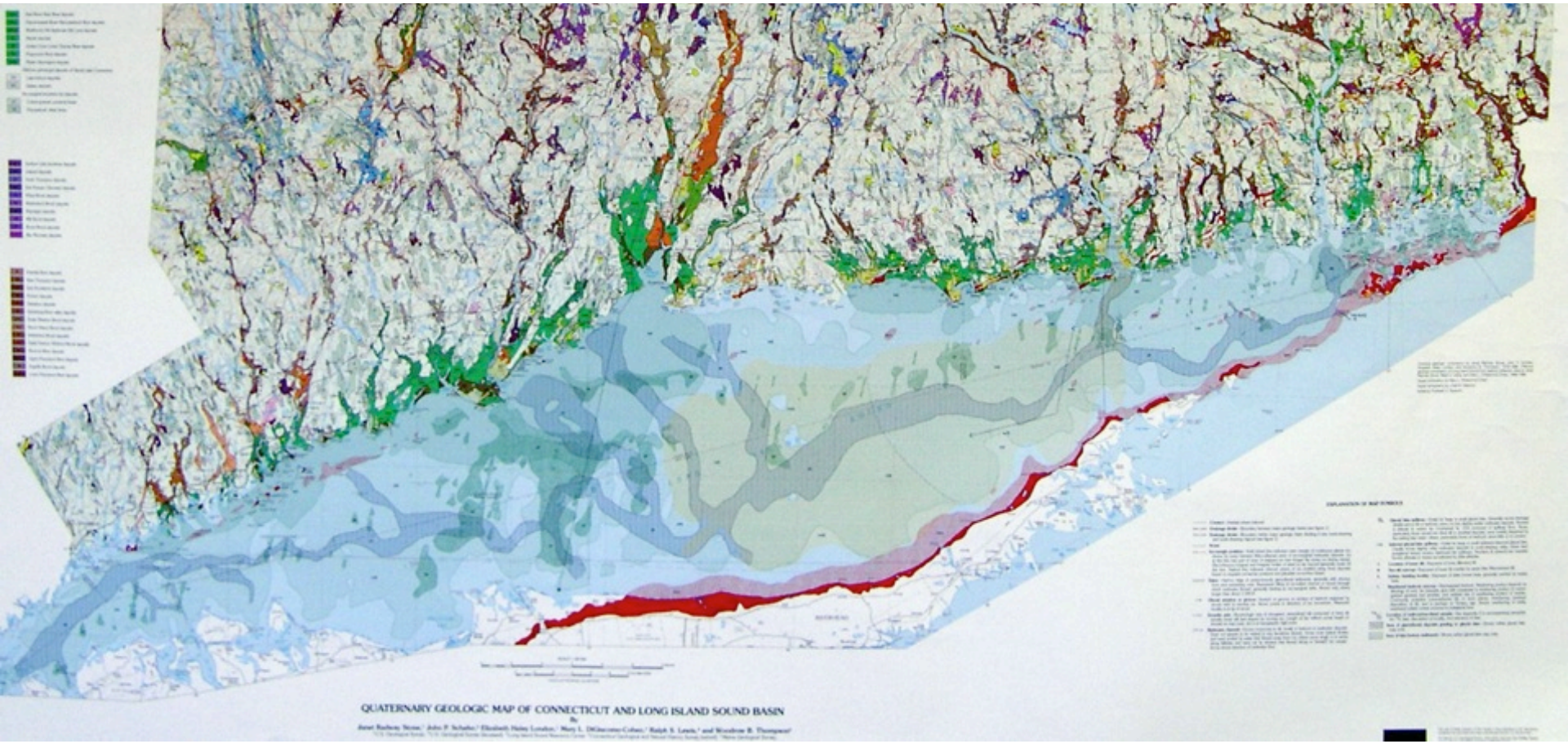
Beach Responses to Sea Level Rise



Griswold Point 2004 – 48m high water mark to boulder



Griswold Point 2013 – 55m high water mark to boulder



QUATERNARY GEOLOGIC MAP OF CONNECTICUT AND LONG ISLAND SOUND BASIN

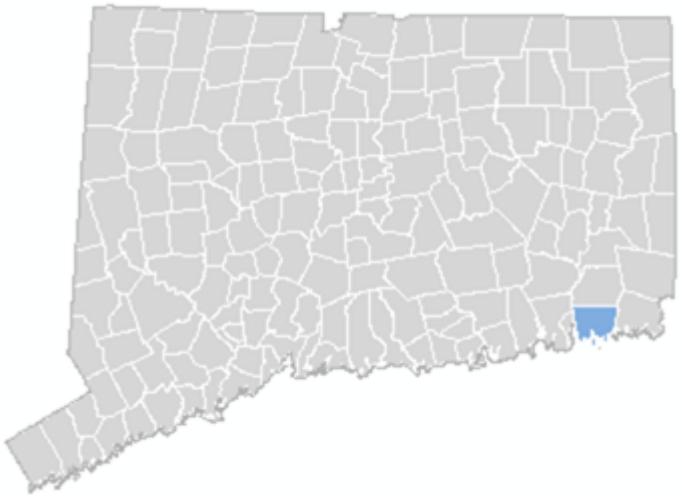
By

Janet Radway Stone,[1] John P. Schafer,[1] Elizabeth Hains London,[1] Mary L. DiGiacomo-Cohen,[2] Ralph S. Lewis,[3] and Woodrow B. Thompson[4]

[1] U.S. Geological Survey, [2] U.S. Geological Survey (Retired), [3] Long Island Sound Resource Center, [4] Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey (retired), [5] Maine Geological Survey

http://cteco.uconn.edu/map_catalog.asp

Coastal Boundary	None	1:24,000	36 x 48	1/31/2013	2.4 - 4.9 Mb
Contour Map (East)	Data Guide	varies	34 x 30	5/19/2011	1.3 - 4.8 Mb
Hurricane Surge Inundation 2008	Data Guide	to fit	27 x 20	1/15/2009	6.1 - 41.7 Mb
Hurricane Surge Inundation 2012	Data Guide	to fit	27 x 20	8/1/2012	1.0 - 1.5 Mb
Natural Diversity Data Base Areas	Data Guide	1:24,000	48 x 36	12/3/2013	1.2 - 3.2 Mb
Orthophoto 2004 - Coastal Infrared (West)	Data Guide	varies	34 x 30	1/31/2011	1.0 - 12.8 Mb
Protected Open Space Mapping	Data Guide	Varies	48 x 36	8/31/2011	0.8 - 3.9 Mb
Q3 Flood Zone Map	None	varies	34 x 30	5/19/2011	21.2 - 37.0 Mb
Quaternary Geology	Data Guide	1:24,000	48 x 36	12/8/2010	11.8 - 63.7
Soil	Data Guide	1:24,000	48 x 36	11/5/2009	6.4 - 16.7 Mb
Soil Flooding Class	Data Guide	1:24,000	48 x 36	4/6/2010	7.2 - 51.4 Mb
Soil Inland Wetland	Data Guide	1:24,000	48 x 36	10/28/2009	1.8 - 6.1 Mb
Soil Subsurface Sewage Disposal Potential	Data Guide	1:24,000	48 x 36	10/28/2009	3.2 - 9.4 Mb
Street Map (East)	Data Guide	varies	34 x 30	8/20/2010	4.5 - 30.3 Mb
Street Map (West)	Data Guide	varies	34 x 30	8/20/2010	4.5 - 30.3 Mb
Surficial Materials	Data Guide	1:24,000	48 x 36	8/25/2009	6.7 - 39.8 Mb
Water Quality Classifications	Data Guide	1:24,000	48 x 36	11/22/2013	1.0 - 3.4 Mb



QUATERNARY GEOLOGY

GROTON, CONNECTICUT

LIST OF MAP UNITS

POSTGLACIAL DEPOSITS - late Holocene, late Wisconsinan

- Artificial Fill
- Coastal Beach and Dune Deposits
- Tidal Marsh Deposits
- Floodplain Alluvium
- Swamp Deposits
- Talus

EARLY POSTGLACIAL DEPOSITS - early Holocene, late Wisconsinan

- Stream Terrace Deposits
- Inland Dune Deposits

GLACIAL MELTWATER DEPOSITS - late Wisconsinan

- Undifferentiated Meltwater Deposits
- Deposits of Major Ice-Dammed Lakes
- Deposits of Major Sediment-Dammed Lakes
- Deposits of Related Series of Major Ice-Dammed Ponds
- Deposits of Related Series of Major Sediment-Dammed Ponds
- Deposits of Proximal Meltwater Streams
- Deposits of Distal Meltwater Streams

GLACIAL ICE-LAID DEPOSITS - late Wisconsinan, Illinoian

- Thin Till Deposits
- Thick Till Deposits
- End Moraine Deposits

Elevation Contours:

- 100 Ft. Interval
- 50 Ft. Interval

Explanation of Map Symbols:

- Ice Margin Position
- Inferred Ice Margin Position
- Esker
- Glacial Striation or Groove
- Drumlin Axis and Crests
- Meltwater Channel
- Glacial Lake Spillway
- Inferred Glacial Spillway
- Location of Lower Till
- Two-Till Outcrop
- Deltaic Bedding Locality
- Weathered Bedrock Outcrop
- Radiocarbon-Dated Locality

Explanation of Map Symbols:

- Area of glaciofluvial deposits grading to glacial lake
- Area of lake-bottom sediments
- Drainage Divide -- Boundary between major geologic basins.
- Drainage Divide -- Boundary within major geologic basin dividing it into north-draining and south-draining regions

EXPLANATION

Quaternary Geology is 1:24,000-scale data that illustrates the geologic features formed in Connecticut during the Quaternary Period, which spans from 1.588 to 0.005 million years ago to the present and includes the Pleistocene (glacial) and Holocene (postglacial) Epochs. The Quaternary Period has been a time of development of many details of the Connecticut landscape and all surficial deposits. At least twice in the last Pleistocene, continental ice sheets swept across Connecticut from the north. Their effects are of pervasive importance to present-day occupants of the land.

The Quaternary Geology information illustrates the geologic history and the distribution of depositional environments during the emplacement of unconsolidated glacial and postglacial sand and gravel deposits that lie between the bedrock surface and the land surface. These deposits range in size from a few feet to several hundred feet in thickness, overlie the bedrock surface and underlie the organic soil layer of Connecticut. Quaternary Geology is mapped without regard for any organic soil layer that may overly the deposit.

The Connecticut Quaternary Geology information was initially compiled at 1:24,000 scale (1 inch = 2,000 feet) then recompiled for a statewide 1:125,000-scale map, Quaternary Geology Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin. A companion map, the Surficial Materials Map of Connecticut, emphasizes the surface and subsurface texture (grain-size distribution) of these materials. The quaternary geology and surficial material features portrayed on these two maps are very closely related; each contributes to the interpretation of the other.

Most of Connecticut's surficial material is glacially derived, and can be divided into two broad depositional categories: Glacial Ice-Laid Deposits (unsorted and generally unstratified thin till, thick till, and end moraine) which are generally exposed in the uplands, and as the most widespread surficial deposit in Connecticut; and Glacial Meltwater Deposits (sorted and stratified deltaic, river bottom, lake bottom, and inland dune deposits) which are most commonly concentrated in valleys and lowlands.

Particular attention has been paid to understanding the distribution and characteristics of stratified meltwater deposits because they have historically influenced development patterns and groundwater availability throughout the state. Within the meltwater category, six classes of deposits have been recognized based on the conditions that prevailed during their emplacement. Four of the seven indicate whether previously deposited sediment, or the glacier itself, impounded the lake or pond where emplacement occurred (see the meltwater deposit discussion below). Meltwater stream deposits are differentiated based on their distance (proximal or distal) from the ice sheet when they were emplaced, and a separate meltwater map unit is reserved for deposits of undetermined provenance (unconsolidated).

Postglacial Deposits were emplaced by various processes after the melt-back of the last ice sheet. Some of these deposits were emplaced early in post-glacial time and have been grouped together in Early Postglacial Deposits. Later deposits, resulting from processes that are still active (or are manmade), have been grouped together as Postglacial Deposits.

Glacial Ice-Laid Deposits (unsorted and generally unstratified thin till, thick till, and end moraine); Glacial Meltwater Deposits (sorted and stratified deltaic, river bottom, lake bottom, and inland dune deposits); and Postglacial Deposits (flood-plain alluvium and swamp deposits, but also including stream-terrace, talus, dune, tidal-marsh, beach, channel fill, marine delta deposits, and artificial fill) that were emplaced in comparable topographic and depositional settings, and therefore share similar characteristics, are categorized and color coded in the Legend Description. Related Map Elements include eskers, drumlin axes, ice-margin positions, swamps, drainage divides, glacial lake spillways, meltwater channels, striations/grooves, dated sample locations, glaciofluvial and lake-bottom facies as overlays on glacial lake map units and various types of exposures.

Glacial Ice-Laid Deposits (unsorted and generally unstratified thin till, thick till, and end moraine) were derived directly from the ice and consist of unsorted, generally unconsolidated mixtures of grain-sizes ranging from clay to large boulders. The matrix of most till is predominantly sand and silt, and boulders can be sparse to abundant. Some till contains lenses of sorted sand and gravel and occasionally seams of laminated fine-grained sediment. The lack of sorting and stratification typical of ice-laid deposits often makes them poorly drained, difficult to dig or plow, mediocre sources of groundwater and unsuited for septic systems. Till blankets the bedrock surface in variable thicknesses and commonly underlies stratified meltwater deposits. End moraine deposits (primarily ablation till) occur principally in southeastern Connecticut. Ice-laid deposits are inferred to be of Wisconsinan age except where exposures of older (probably Illinoian) till are shown. Drumlins are inferred to be composed of older till mantled by younger till.

Glacial Meltwater Deposits (sorted and stratified deltaic, river bottom, lake bottom, and inland dune deposits) were laid down in glacial rivers, lakes and ponds which occupied the valleys and lowlands of Connecticut as the last ice sheet systematically (Koteff and Pessl, 1981) melted away to the north. They are often composed of layers of well-to-poorly sorted sand, gravels, silts and clays with few to no boulders, and owing to their water-related depositional origins they have many characteristics that are favorable for development. Because water is a better sorting agent than ice, glacial meltwater deposits are commonly better sorted, more permeable, and better aquifers than ice-laid deposits. They can be good sources of construction aggregate, and are generally easy to excavate and build highways and buildings on. Stratified meltwater deposits include both fine and coarse grained deposits such as silt, clay, sand, and gravel.

The mapping presented here and on the Quaternary Geology Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin is based on recognizing single bodies of sediment or assemblages of glacial sedimentary facies that can be identified in mappable units known as morphosequences (Koteff and Pessl, 1982). Different sedimentary facies are associated with fluvial, deltaic and lake-bottom settings. Coarse proximal deposits are emplaced in high-energy settings as or near the ice front. Energy levels dropped off with distance from the glacier (distally) and grain size decreased along the path of meltwater flow. Fine-grained sediments were deposited in quiet-water areas such as glacial lakes and became thin distally (Figure 1). A detailed discussion of the complexities and significance of morphosequences is contained in the pamphlet that accompanies the Quaternary Geology Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin.

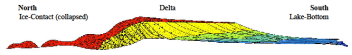


Figure 1. A morphosequence is a body of sedimentary deposits composed of a continuum of land forms, grading from ice-contact forms (mkes, kames) to non-ice-contact forms (flat valley terrace, delta plains), that were deposited simultaneously or and beyond the margin of a glacier, graded to a specific base level. Grain-size decreases from coarse gravel at ice-contact heads, through sand and gravel and sand beneath delta plains and forest slopes to silt and clay in lake-bottom deposits (after Stone and others, 2005).

Deposition of the morphosequences that progressively filled bedrock valleys and lowlands as the last glacier melted northward required the presence of impounded lakes and ponds. The nature of the impoundments and the resulting distribution of the meltwater deposits on the landscape were controlled by the topography of the area being deglaciated. Where a northward succession of ice positions was established in north-draining basins, previously deposited sediment formed the dams, and the oldest morphosequences occupied the lowest, widest parts of the valley. Deposition then progressed up valley, with the youngest depositional sequences occupying higher, narrower portions of the valley (Figure 2). In north-draining systems the opposite is true. The ice itself was the impoundment, and the oldest morphosequences were emplaced in the higher, narrower portions of the basin. As the ice front retreated northward, a succession of lower bedrock spillways were opened and the valleys widened. In this case, the youngest depositional sequences occupied the lowest, widest portions of the valley (Figure 2).

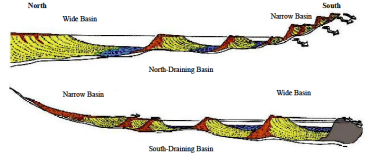


Figure 2. Scenario for morphosequence development in ice-dammed (Top) and sediment-dammed basins (Bottom). The mechanism of impoundment and the chronological and topographic positions of the deposits are related to the orientations of the basins relative to the direction of ice retreat. These relationships are reflected in the organization and color coding of the List of Map Units (after Stone and others, 2005).

Postglacial Deposits (flood-plain alluvium and swamp deposits, but also including stream-terrace, talus, dune, tidal-marsh, beach, channel fill, marine delta deposits, and artificial fill) are less widely distributed and are typically thinner than the glacial deposits that they overlie. The oldest postglacial deposits occur in Long Island Sound and in northeastern Connecticut because these areas were deglaciated first. Many of the depositional processes that were initiated as postglacial conditions began to prevail are still operative today.

Postglacial deposits provide locally important ecological, agricultural, commercial, and recreational resources. Talus, a result of rockfall at the base of steep bedrock (primarily trap rock) cliffs, and inland dune deposits, that developed as winds swept across newly exposed glacial lake beds, provide ecological niches that are atypical for Connecticut. Beach, dune, marsh and swamp deposits are key ecological elements of coastal and poorly drained inland settings. Deposits of flood-plain alluvium are largely composed of sands, gravels and silts that have been reworked from glacial deposits and stained with organic matter which increases their fertility. Despite their flood-prone nature, low, flat, fertile floodplains have historically been attractive for agricultural uses and development related to water-dependent commerce.

DATA SOURCES

QUATERNARY GEOLOGY DATA – Quaternary Geology shown on this map are from the Quaternary Geology Poly. Point Features, and Line Features dataset intended to be used at 1:24,000 scale. Based on Connecticut Quaternary Geology digital spatial data published in 2010 by the U.S. Geologic Survey, in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. The data was derived from the 1:24,000-scale compilation sheets prepared for the statewide Quaternary Geology Map of Connecticut, (Stone, J.R., Schafer, J.P., London, E.H., DiNicenzo-Cohen, M. L., Lewis R.S., and Thompson, W.B., 2005, U.S. Geological Survey special map, 2 sheets, scale 1:125,000).

BASE MAP DATA - Based on data originally from 1:24,000-scale USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle maps published between 1969 and 1992. It includes political boundaries, railroads, airports, hydrography, geographic names and geographic places. Streets and street names are from Tele Atlas® copyrighted data. Base map information is neither current nor complete.

CONTOUR DATA - Derived from Connecticut's 2010 statewide LiDAR, (Light Detection And Ranging), dataset by the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment. These data are a Beta product intended for research and demonstration purposes. NOTE: Contour line data is known to be incorrect in some areas due to anomalies in the underlying elevation data used to generate those specific contour lines. Areas where contour lines are too straight or angular, do not naturally curve where expected, or don't exist where they probably should are good indicators of erroneous data.

RELATED INFORMATION

This map is intended to be printed at its original dimensions, (48 x 36 in), in order to maintain the 1:24,000 scale (1 inch = 2,000 feet).

QUATERNARY GEOLOGY AND SURFICIAL MATERIALS DATA - 1:24,000-scale digital spatial data of Connecticut Quaternary Geology and Surficial Materials combined into one dataset, published by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey. These data were digitized from the 1:24,000-scale compilation sheets prepared for both the Surficial Materials Map of Connecticut, (Stone, J.R., Schafer, J.P., London, E.H. and Thompson, W.B., 1992, U.S. Geological Survey Special Map, 2 sheets, scale 1:125,000, map and pamphlet, 71 p.) and the Quaternary Geologic Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin, (Stone, J.R., Schafer, J.P., London, E.H., DiNicenzo-Cohen, M.L., Lewis, R.L., and Thompson, W.B., 2005, U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigation Map 2784, 2 sheets, scale 1:125,000).

OTHER GEOLOGIC MAPS - This map is also available for individual USGS topographic quadrangles of Connecticut. This map is intended to be used with other bedrock, surficial, and quaternary (glacial) geology town maps and reports published by the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey, USGS, and others. These maps are reports are also available from CT DEP.

MAPS AND DIGITAL DATA - Go to the CT ECO website for this map and a variety of others. Go to the CT DEP website for the digital spatial data shown on this map.

SCALE 1:24,000 (1 inch = 2,000 feet) when map is printed at original size (48 x 36 in)

MAP LOCATION

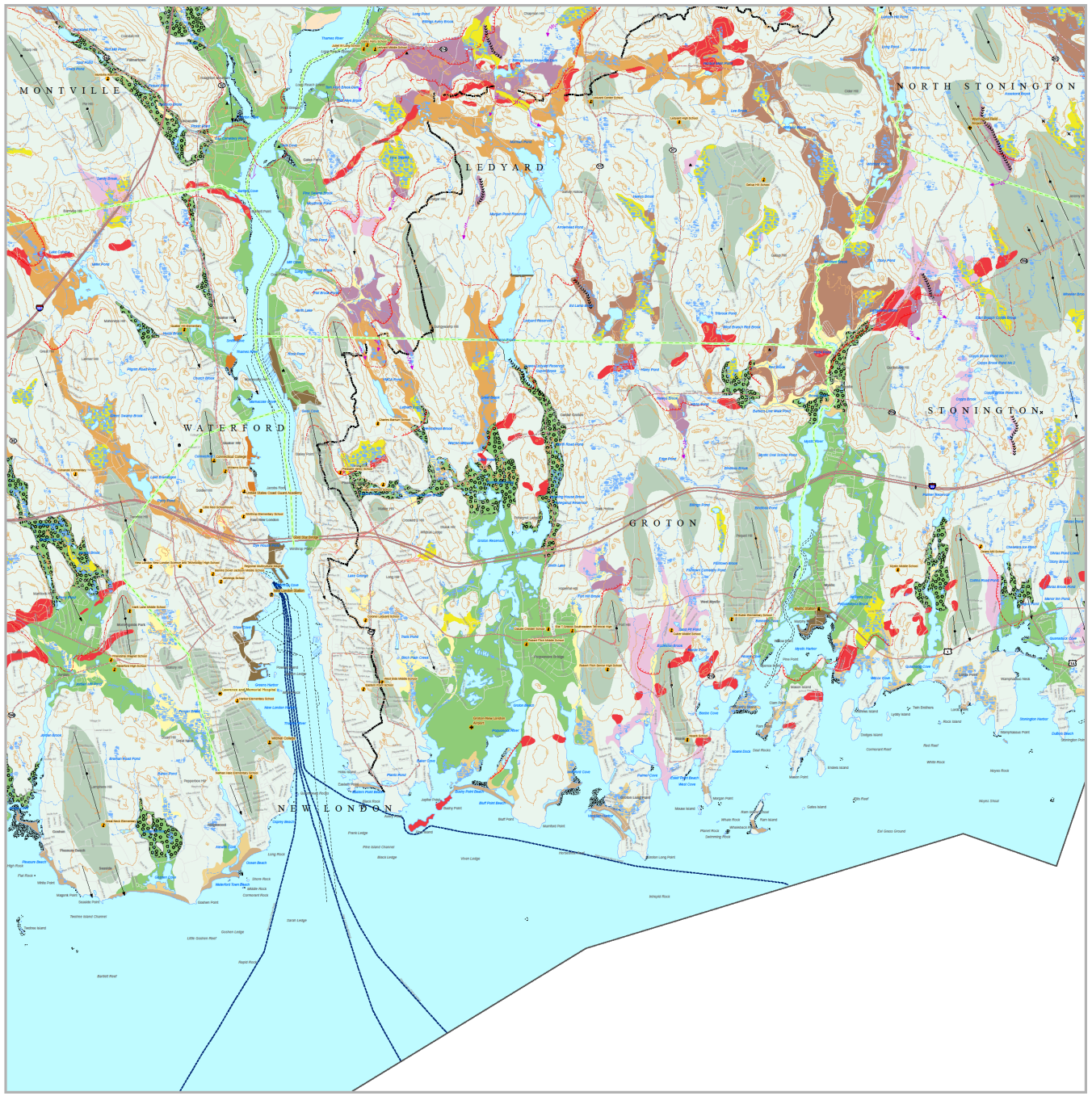
State Plane Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 3526
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
North American Datum of 1983

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

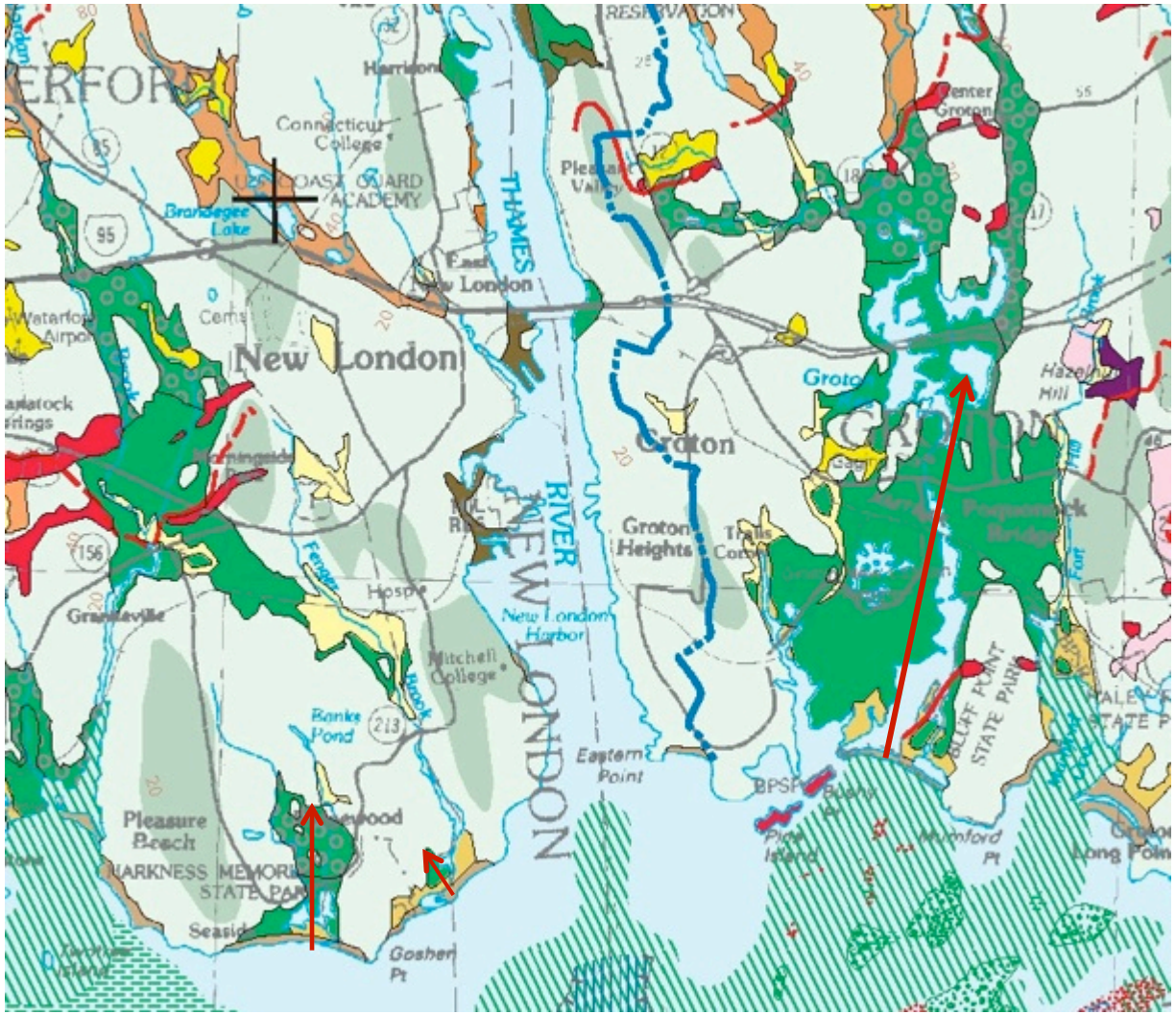
Map created by CT DEP
December 2010

Map is not colorfast
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New London
Groton
Groton Heights
Pleasure Beach
Eastern Point
Gosher Pt
Mumford Pt
Connecticut College
COAST GUARD ACADEMY
Brainegee Lake
East New London
Mitchell College
Ranks Pond
Hospital
Granniesville
Harrison
Pleasant Valley
Hazeltine Hill
THAMES
RIVER
NEW LONDON
New London Harbor
BLUFF POINT STATE PARK
Fenger
Brook
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213
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Research

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- Results

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- Connecticut Geology
- Geology of LIS

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- Co-op Publications
- Related References
- Related Websites

Data Catalogue

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- Core Locations
- Seismic Lines
- Sonar Surveys
- Multibeam Surveys
- Map Catalogue
- Acknowledgements

THE GRAIN OF THE LAND

For definitions of ***italicized*** terms see a Glossary of Geologic Terms provided by the National Park Service.

The geologic events that shaped the north shore of Long Island Sound, and much of landscape to the north, played out over the past 500 million years of earth history. The crushing and folding of warm pliable bedrock, as mountain ranges formed and New England was assembled against eastern New York, resulted in an initial north-south alignment of ridges and rock units.

As time passed, and the rocks cooled and became more brittle, tension associated with the opening of the Atlantic Ocean caused fracturing, faulting and ***rifting*** that roughly paralleled the overall north-south alignment of the aggregated bedrock units This set the stage for the formation of a network of south-draining valleys as stream erosion and two fairly recent glaciations worked to wear away the Appalachian Mountains. Valleys formed where less resistant rock units, and fragmented rock in fracture/fault zones, were preferentially eroded (Figure 1).



Figure 1: A shaded relief map showing the N-S grain of Connecticut's landscape. The effects of preferential erosion of less resistant bedrock are particularly evident in the Newark terrane, where resistant basalts form prominent north-south trending ridges and less resistant sandstone and shales underlie the rest of Connecticut's "Central Valley". After Hatcher, 1993.

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Coastal Access Guide

Explore LIS

Maps

Welcome to the Long Island Sound Resource Center. The Resource Center was established in 1988 as a central clearinghouse for information and data related to the Sound. This web site is an ongoing project to provide access to data and information about the Sound. **Visitors can:**

View oblique photographs of Connecticut's coast. Approximately 2,500 oblique photographs showing the coastal and riverine environments are available for visitors to view and download.

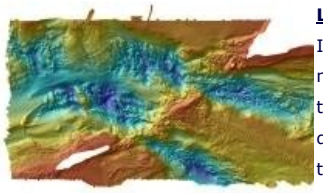




Explore Connecticut's shore using the Coastal Access Guide. Visitors can use the guide to identify sites open to the public for boating, swimming, fishing, hiking and other outdoor activities.

Take an underwater tour of Long Island Sound. The tour takes visitors through the broad types of habitats of Long Island Sound and shows the diversity of animals that live in them.





Learn about the geology of Long Island Sound and see how it was mapped. The process of mapping the geology of the Sound is described from gathering the data through analysis

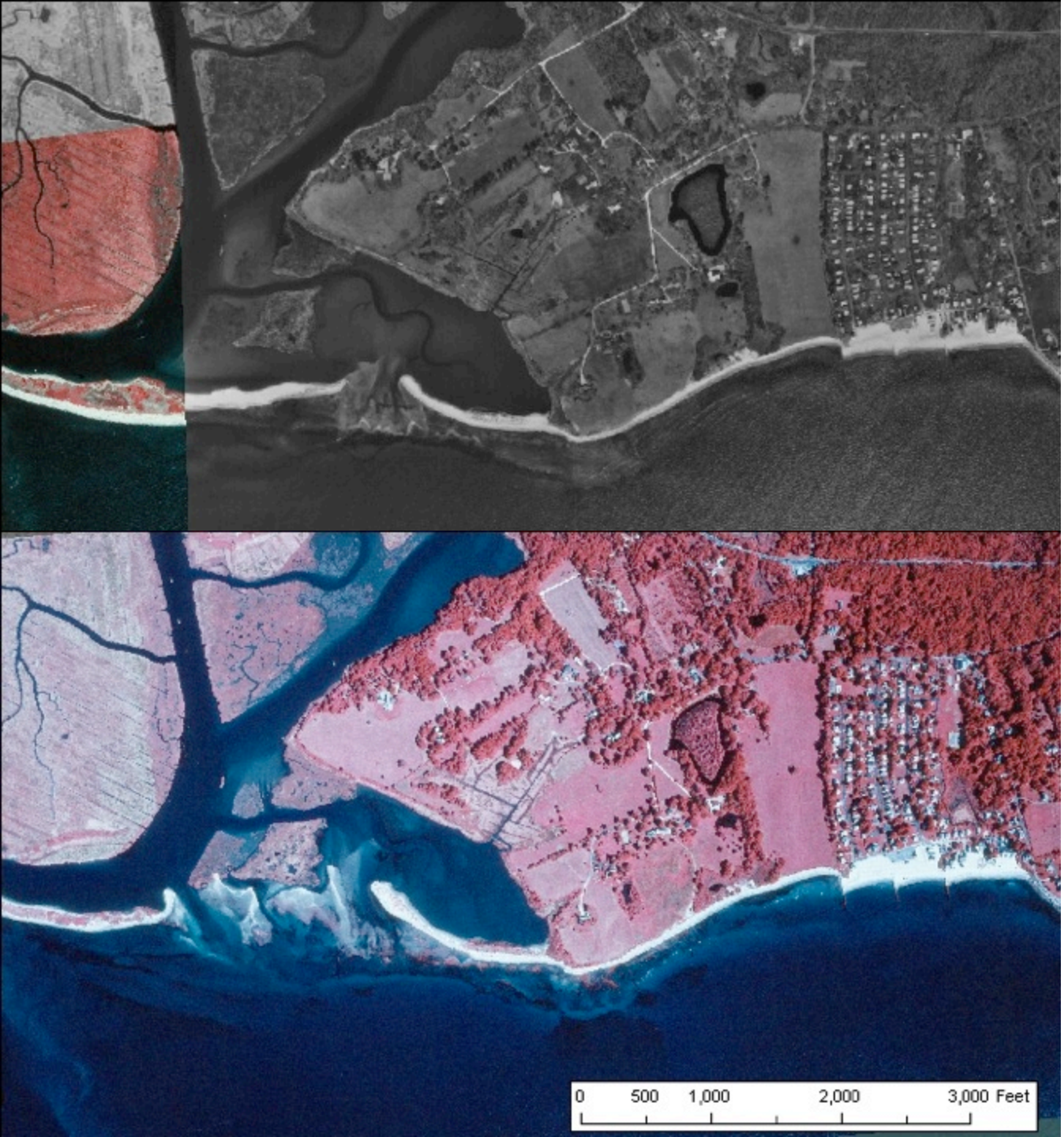


1880

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1980



1995

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2000



2004

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2008



2012

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2013

