

Clearwater Pass Coastal Management History



Known as Little Pass in the late 1800's, **Clearwater Pass** was only about 100 m wide. As a result of the hurricane of 1921, "Little Pass" increased to over ½ mile wide (see [Clearwater Beach Island](#)). From the 1930's to the 70's, the channel narrowed as it came back into equilibrium with the tidal prism. Clearwater Pass was being constricted by sediment input from the south as Sand Key extended to the north. As a result of this narrowing, the channel deepened to carry its large tidal prism. Between 1962 and 1973, the channel's depth increased from 10 to 20 ft. The existing bridge pilings began to scour at the base, threatening the structure. To stop further constriction, the ½ mile-long south jetty was completed in 1975 and successfully stabilized Clearwater Pass.

The photo below looks north at Clearwater Pass during the spring of 2005.

