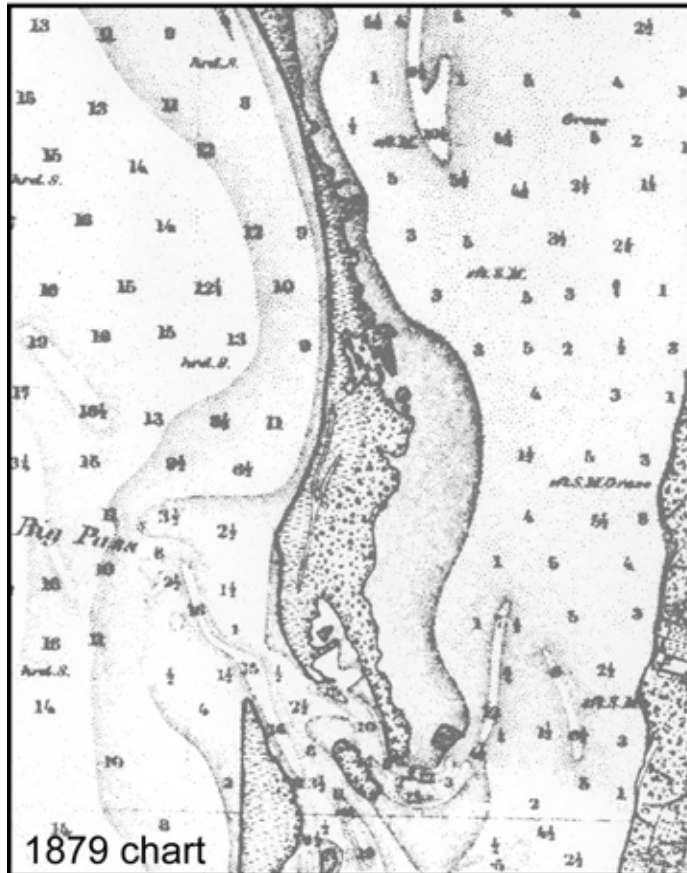


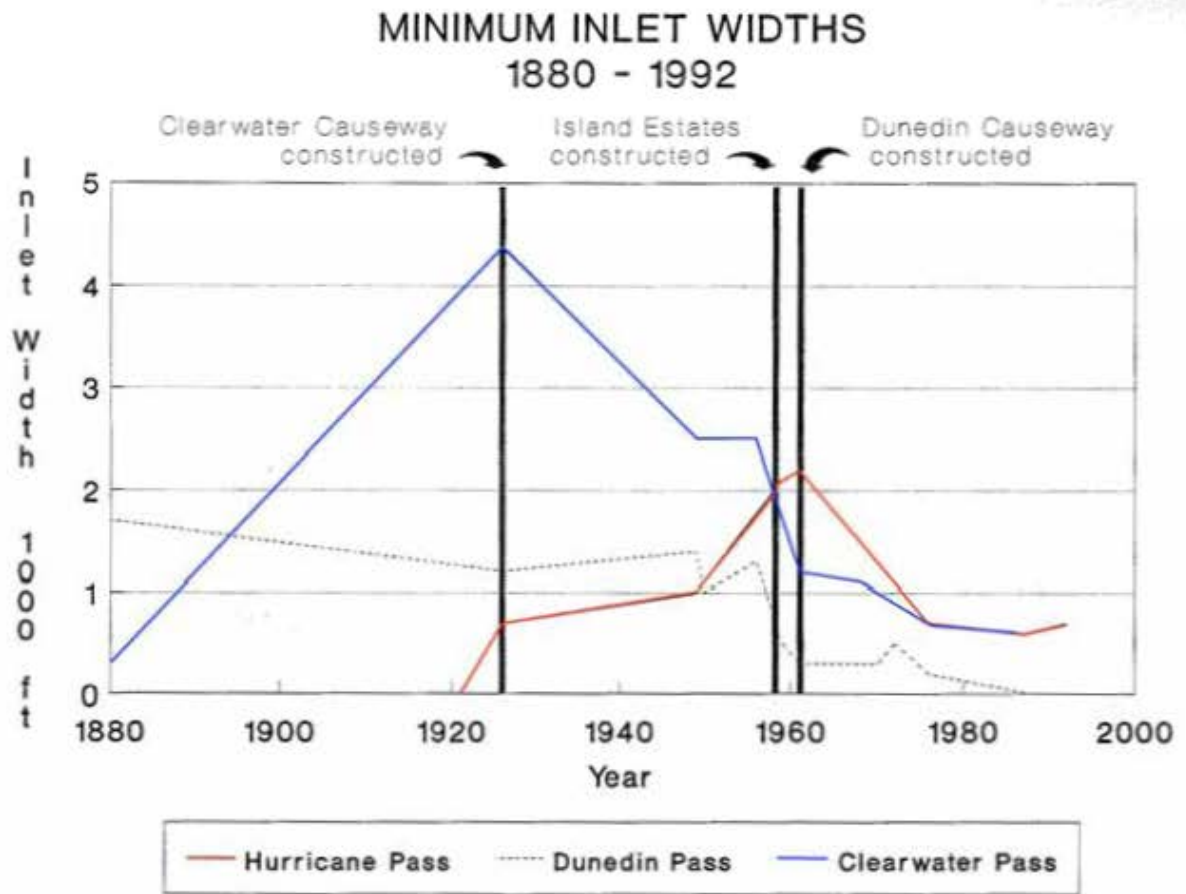
Hurricane Pass Coastal Management History



Hurricane Pass was created by the Hurricane of 1921, one of the most severe on record for the west coast of Florida. The comparison of an 1879 nautical chart to a 1926 aerial photo above illustrates the breaching of Hog Island that created [Honeymoon](#) and [Caladesi Islands](#).

During the 50 years after Hurricane Pass was breached, it became the dominant inlet serving St. Joseph Sound (the back-barrier bay in northern Pinellas County). In the meantime, [Dunedin Pass](#) destabilized and eventually closed. Following the hurricane, construction activities reduced the tidal prism and modified tidal flow in St. Joseph Sound. Construction of the Clearwater Memorial Causeway in 1926, and the Dunedin Causeway and Gulf Intracoastal Waterway both in 1963, redirected tidal flow in St. Joseph Sound in favor of Hurricane Pass. Other dredge-and-fill construction, such as Island Estates in the 1950's, decreased the surface area of the sound.

The plot below illustrates the relative changes in inlet widths at Clearwater, Dunedin, and Hurricane Passes. It illustrates the increasing inlet width (red line) resulting from construction activities that modified tidal flow in favor of Hurricane Pass. This is a good example of the combination of natural events and human modifications landward of the barrier islands have resulted in the formation of a "natural" tidal inlet.



(Figure from Lynch-Blosse and Davis, 1977).