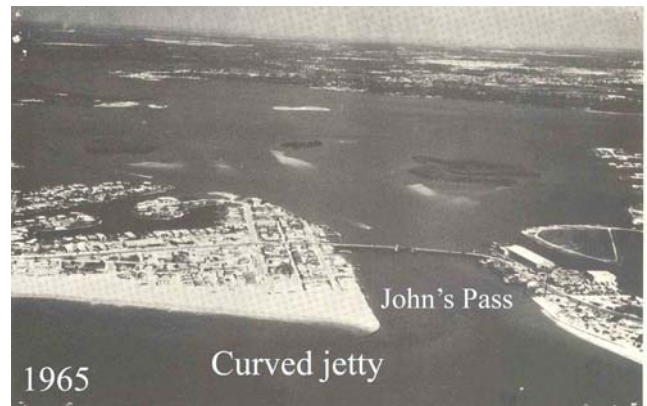
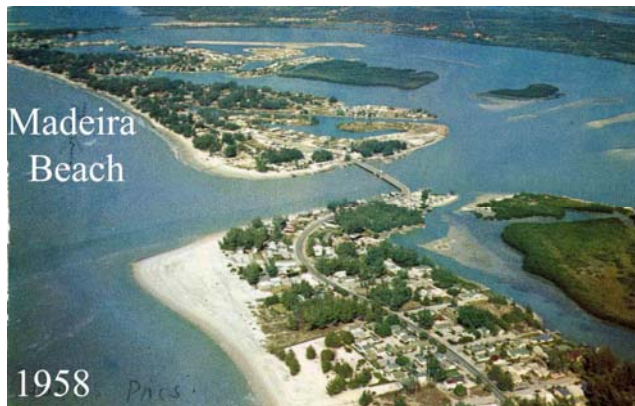


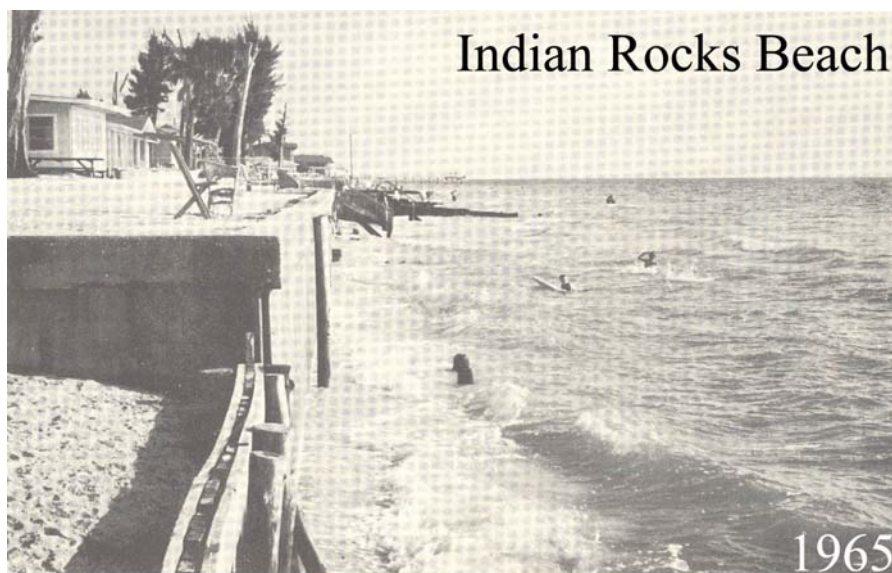
Sand Key Coastal Management History

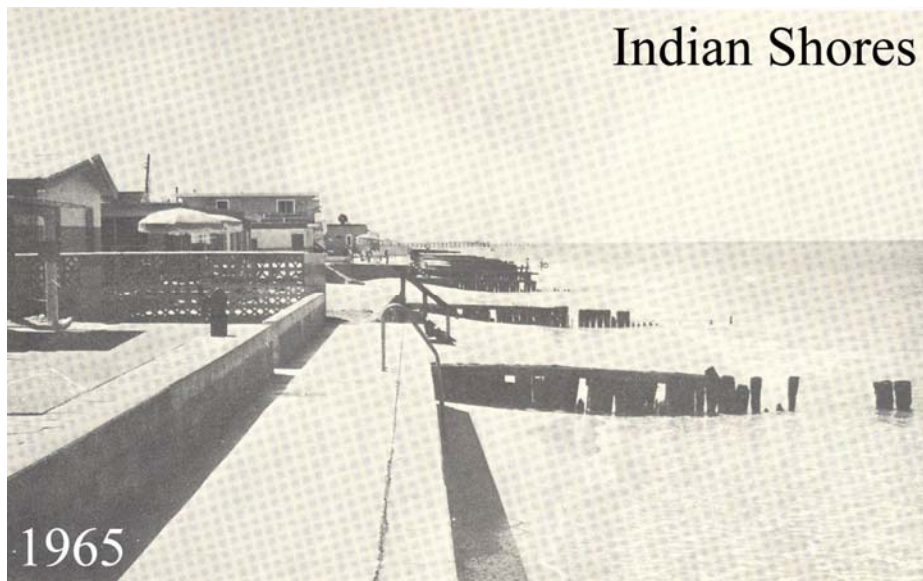
Like many other coastal communities in the state of Florida, the island of Sand Key began to experience significant beach erosion in the 1950s. Unregulated coastal development, which included dredge-and-fill construction in the back barrier bays, led to this erosion. In an effort to curb erosion, seawalls and groins were constructed by municipalities and private property owners along 30% of the shoreline by 1950. By 1965, almost the entire island was lined with seawalls and groins.

In 1957, the City of Madeira Beach built 26 concrete king-pile groins along its shoreline. The postcard below left shows Madeira Beach immediately following groin installation. Note the narrow beach on the south end of Sand Key. In 1961, the city built a curved jetty on north side of John's Pass and nourished the beach, as shown in this 1965 photo, below right. According to the U.S. Army Corps in 1966, this project was considered "very successful".



The photos below of Indian Rocks and Indian Shores show that many of the beaches of Sand Key had eroded completely by 1965.





Over the next couple decades, waves from Hurricanes Gladys (1968), Agnes (1972) and most importantly, Elena (1985) battered this already eroded coastline. These storms confirmed that a dedicated beach management program was a necessity. The Sand Key Segment of the Pinellas County Beach federal Erosion Control program began in 1985. Read the [history](#) of this segment of the federal program.