Caladesi Island Coastal Management History

Honeymoon Island and Caladesi Island were connected as one barrier, known as Hog Island, prior to 1921. The Hurricane of 1921 breached the island in the center, creating Hurricane Pass and the two separate islands.

Prior to the closure of Dunedin Pass, Caladesi Island was a classic example of a drumstick barrier island (see above photo). The updrift end of the island (south), characterized by beach ridges, accreted due to the onshore transport of swash bars as a result of the ebb tidal delta of Dunedin Pass. Once the pass destabilized and began migrating to the north, the southern inlet shoreline of Caladesi Island eroded. The downdrift end of the island (north) was characterized by narrow eroding beaches and frequent washover. Since the closure of Dunedin Pass, the island has transformed into a wave-dominated barrier (Elko and Davis, 2006).

Caladesi Island became a State Park in 1966, and is now administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. A ferry embarks daily for Caladesi Island from the south end of Honeymoon Island. The photo below is oriented with east to top of photo.