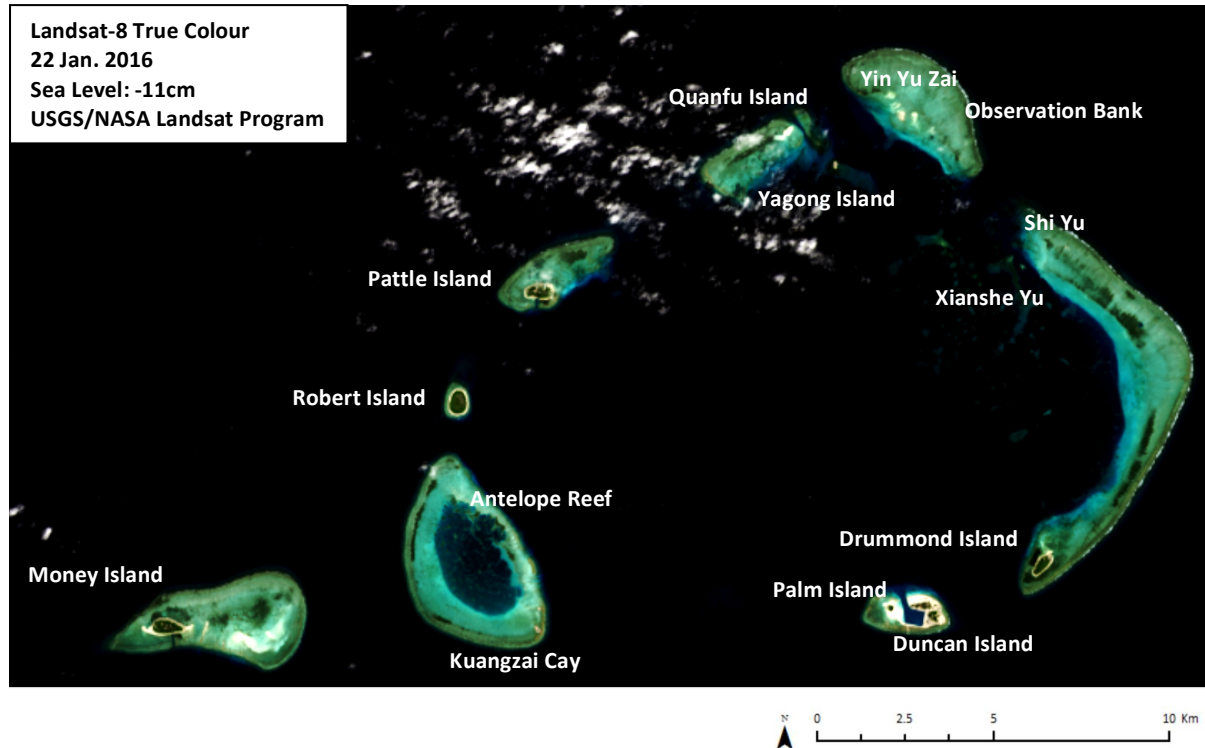


CRESCENT GROUP OVERALL

16°30'11.55"N, 111°39'55.48"E

Geographic area

Crescent Group is located in the western part of the Paracels, approximately 144NM southeast of the island of Hainan and 180NM northeast of Vietnam's mainland. The closest shallow geographic features are Discovery Reef and Vuladdore Reef, under 11NM and 15NM, respectively. Crescent Group is composed of eight main reef platforms of unequal sizes that form the ring of the now submerged atoll. These platforms appear to be distinct in satellite images, although they may in fact be connected at greater depths. Seven of the eight reef platforms have one or several reef flats. Crescent Group extends over 16km between its southwestern tip (the reef platform of Money Island) and its northwestern side (the reef platform where Observation Bank and Drummond Island are located) along its northwest-southeast axis and around 16km along its northwest-southeast axis.



Land area above water

There are 10 named above-water land areas in the Crescent Group: Money Island, Robert Island, Pattle Island, Yagong Island, Quanfu Island, Yin Yu Zai, Shi Yu, Drummond Island and Duncan Island (together with Palm Island). All of them have vegetation except for Quanfu Island, which resembles a large and dynamic sand bank. Duncan Island is the largest above-water land area (0.66km^2) followed by Money Island, Robert Island, Pattle Island and Drummond Island (0.22km^2). The other five (Quanfu and Yagong Islands, Shi Yu, Yin Yu Zai and Kuangzai Cai) do not exceed $40,000\text{m}^2$ (or 0.04km^2) and are mostly covered with barren sand and sedimentary rock with scarce salt-tolerant and low bushes. Dynamic sand banks are visible on several reef flats. They can be above-water at some time but change size, shape and location under the combined effect of astronomic tides, storm surges and wind-waves.

Human infrastructure

All the above-water land-areas have buildings and other man-made structures and infrastructure except Quanfu Island (as at 2 April 2014). Duncan and Palm Island have a man-made harbour and more developed human infrastructure than the others.

Intertidal and submerged area

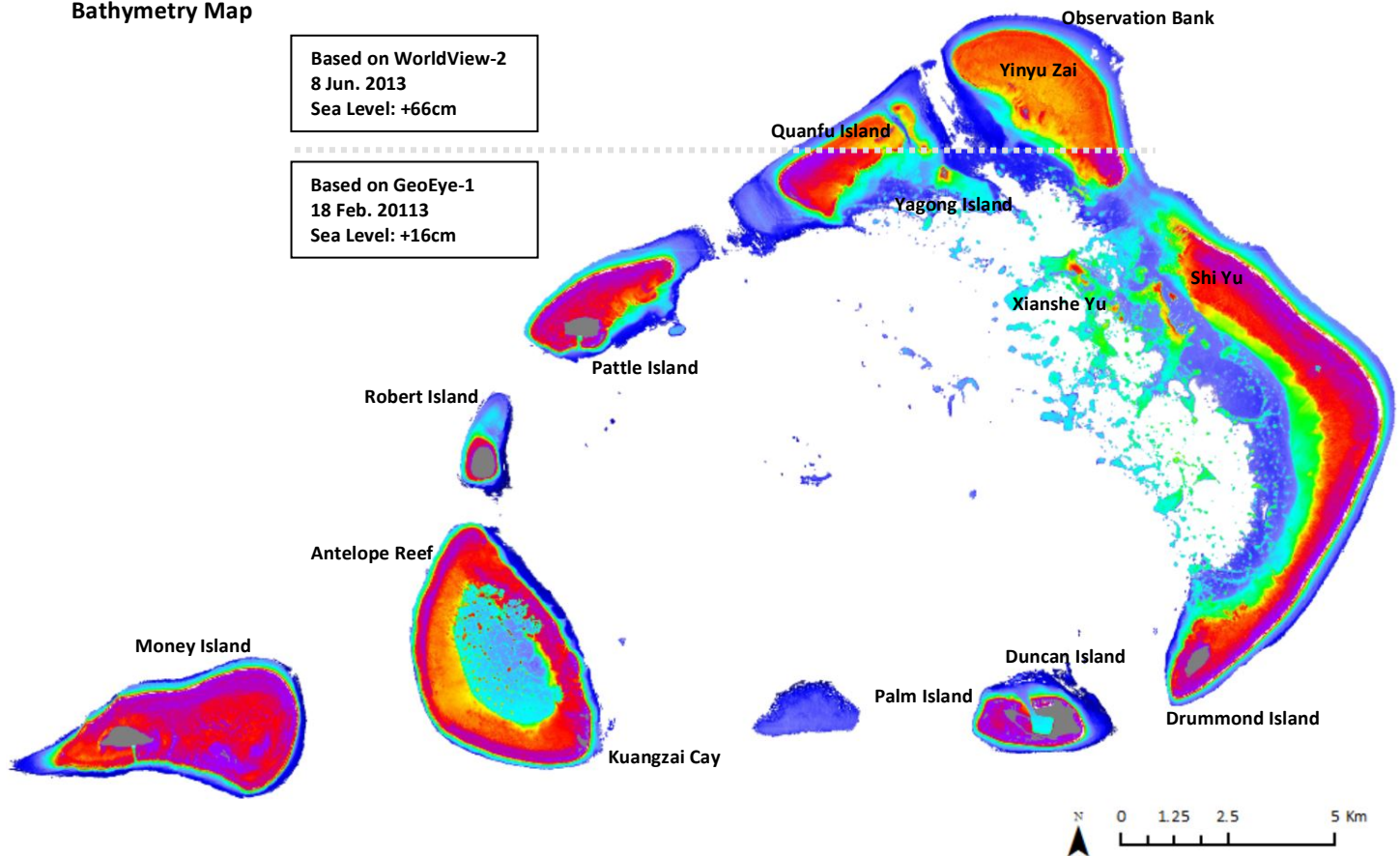
The total aerial coverage of the reef flats is 54.17km^2 and that of the reef slopes and deeper reef formations that form the outer ring of the submerged atoll is 74.93km^2 . The central lagoon covers an area of 120.6km^2 , including numerous coral heads, knolls and deep coral reef platforms in the lagoon. Duncan Island and Robert Island are located on particularly small and shallow reef flats that are the same size or smaller than the above-water area. The only reef platform of Crescent Group which has its own lagoon is Antelope Reef, also one of the largest shallow reef platforms. Large areas of the reef flats are 1m deep at Mean Sea Level and portions are expected to uncover at Lowest Astronomical Tide. The northern part of the lagoon has a visible coral bottom whereas the eastern side, along the reef flat of Drummond Island and Shi Yu, is characterised by a dense reticulate reef system. There is evidence of mariculture and fishing activities in this area as well as on all the above-water areas where small fishing boats are beached.

CRESCENT GROUP OVERALL

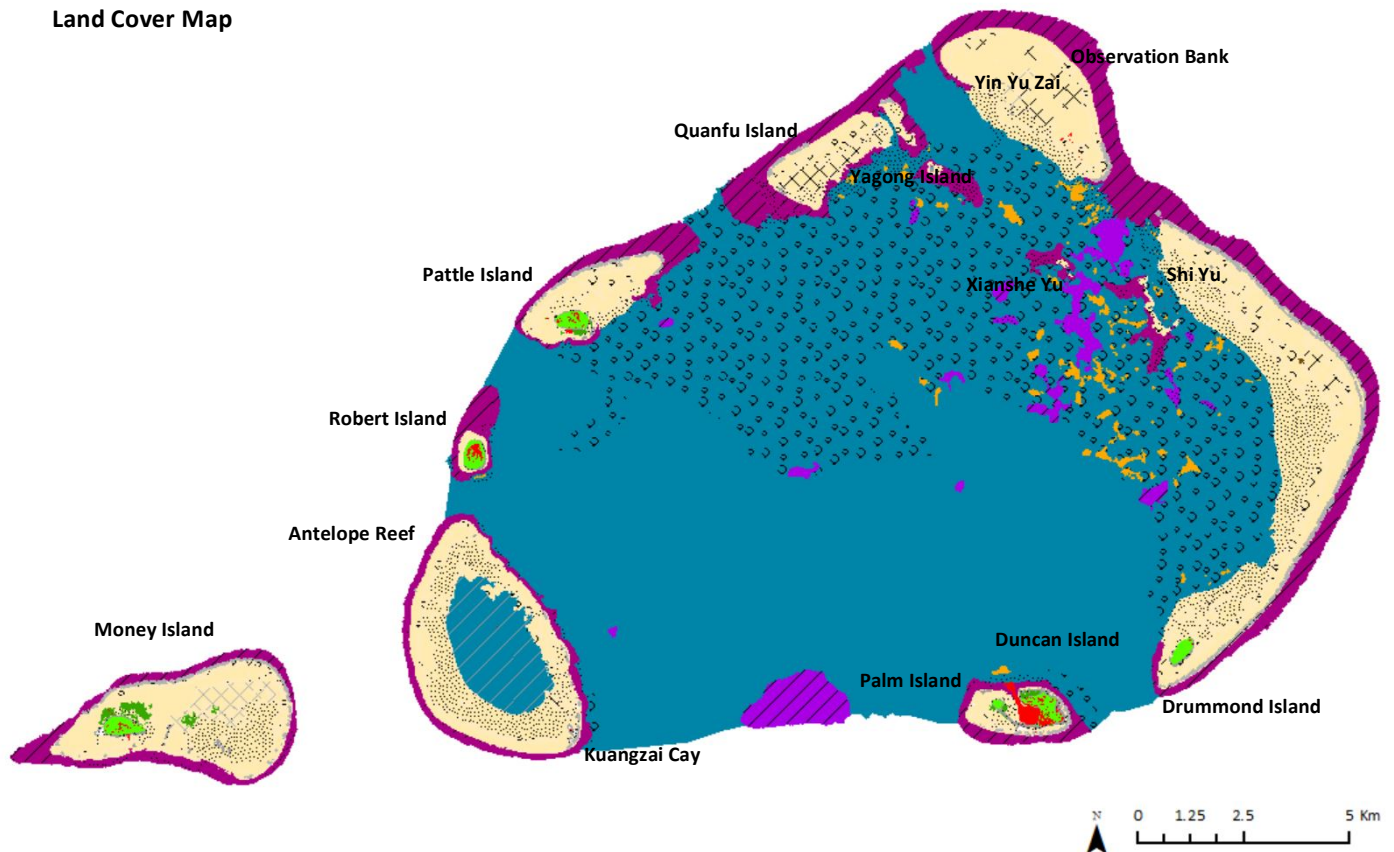
16°30'11.55"N, 111°39'55.48"E

Derived from GeoEye-1 and WorldView-2 satellite data captured on 18 February and 8 June 2013, respectively
[Sea Level: +16cm and +66cm, respectively)

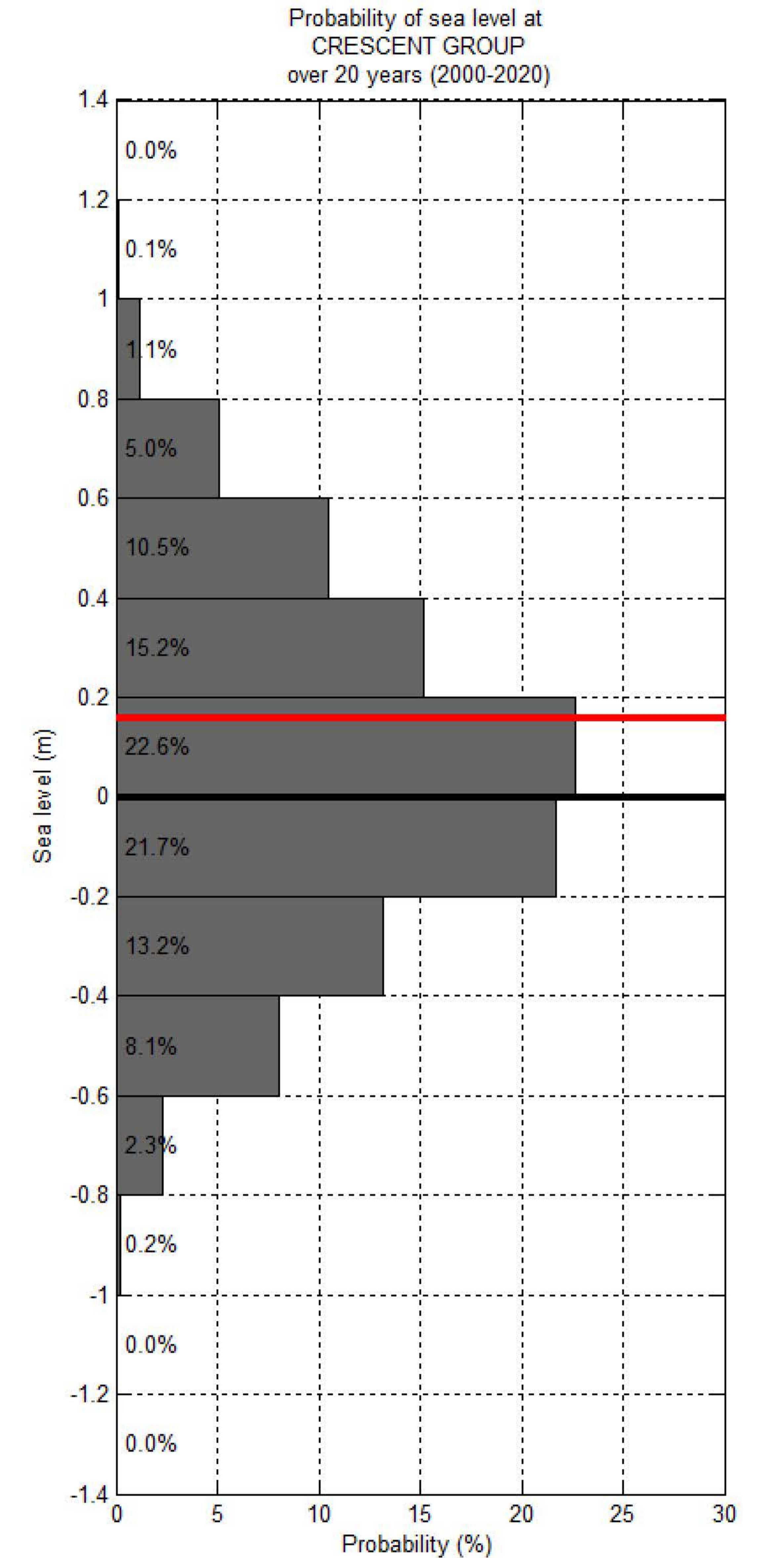
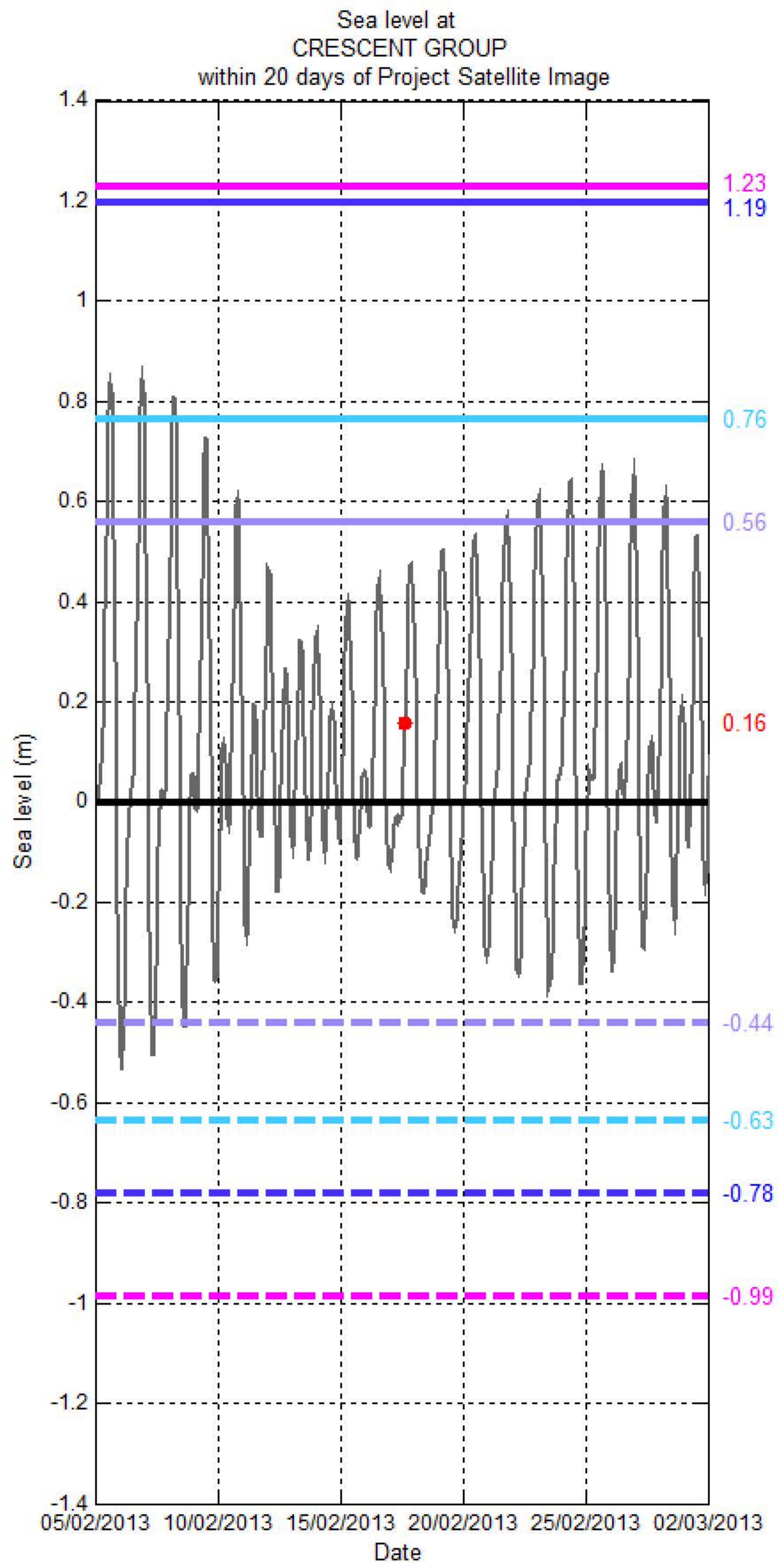
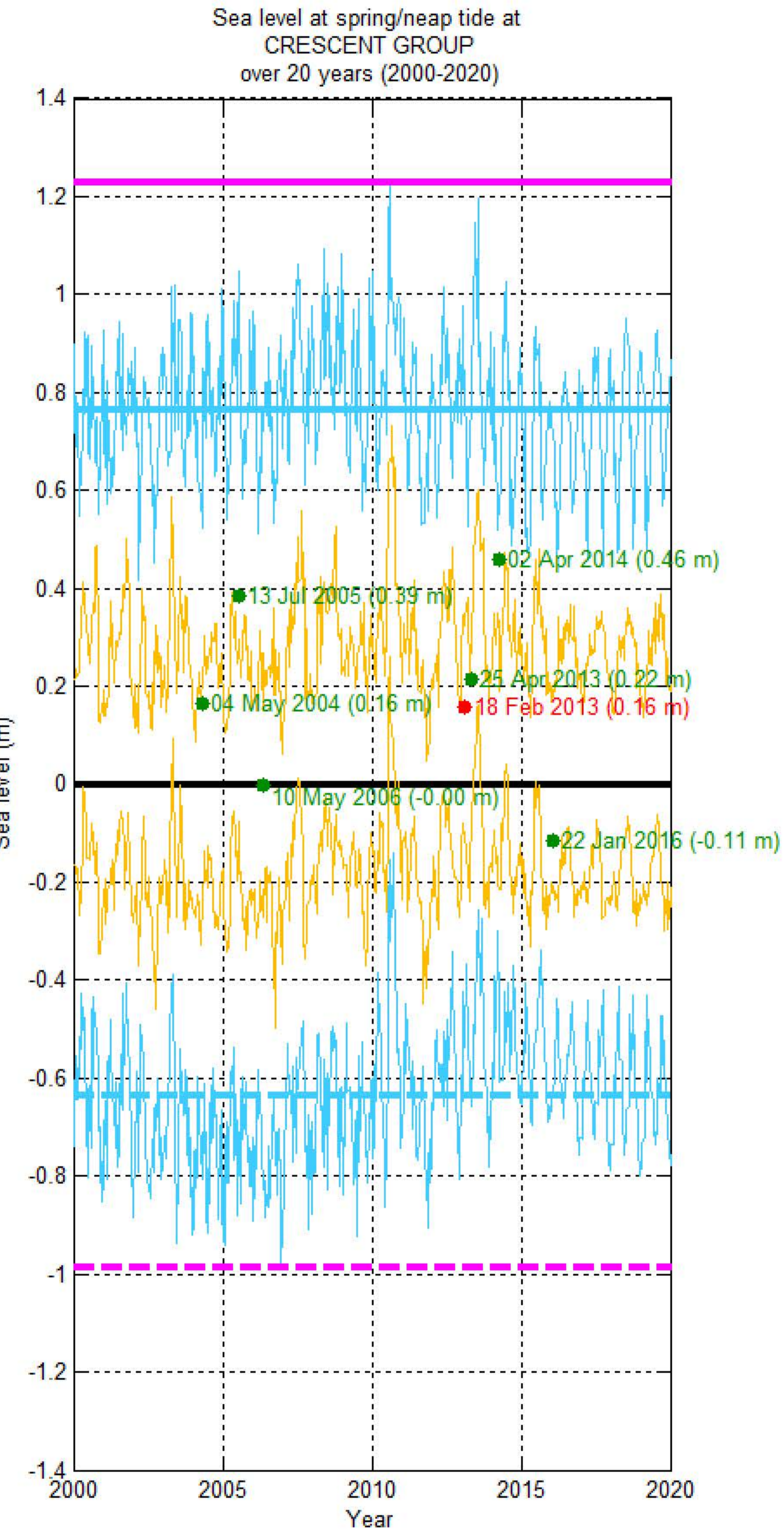
Bathymetry Map



Habitat Classification and Land Cover Map



Sea level (SL) at CRESCENT GROUP
[16°30'11.55"N, 111°39'55.48"E]



Hourly sea level SL at spring tide SL at Mean High Water Spring SL at highest tide of the year SL at Mean Higher High Water SL at Highest Astronomical Tide Project Satellite Image
Mean Sea Level SL at neap tide SL at Mean Low Water Spring SL at lowest tide of the year SL at Mean Lower Low Water SL at Lowest Astronomical Tide Google Earth and Landsat satellite images