American Littoral Society

Thompson's Beach: A tale of retreat, restoration, and rebirth.

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Thompsons Beach

- Part of Maurice River Township and sits east of Maurice River Neck and East Point and south of Heislerville, NJ
- Has an elevation of 3 feet.
- State-managed through the Heislerville Wildlife Management Area
- Extensive salt marsh landward
- Important to horseshoe crabs and red knots

Early Resort Town

Spacious Beaches

Fun Beach Parties

Great Fishing and Oystering

A Delaware Bay Gem

Post Card 1920's

ENTERING THOMPSON'S BEACH, HEISLERSVILLE, N.J.

A Thriving Resort Community and WWII Destination

Thompsons Beach by 1950

- Over 100 homes
- Boardwalk
- Boat Rentals
- Restaurants
- Beach Cottages
- Known as “Fisherman’s Paradise”

Photos courtesy of Rumbold, 2017

November of 1950

The GREAT FLOOD

"We will never return to Thompsons Beach to live," declared one resident. "We have lost practically everything we owned and that's enough for us".
Only 7 homes remained
$3M in damage

More Storms

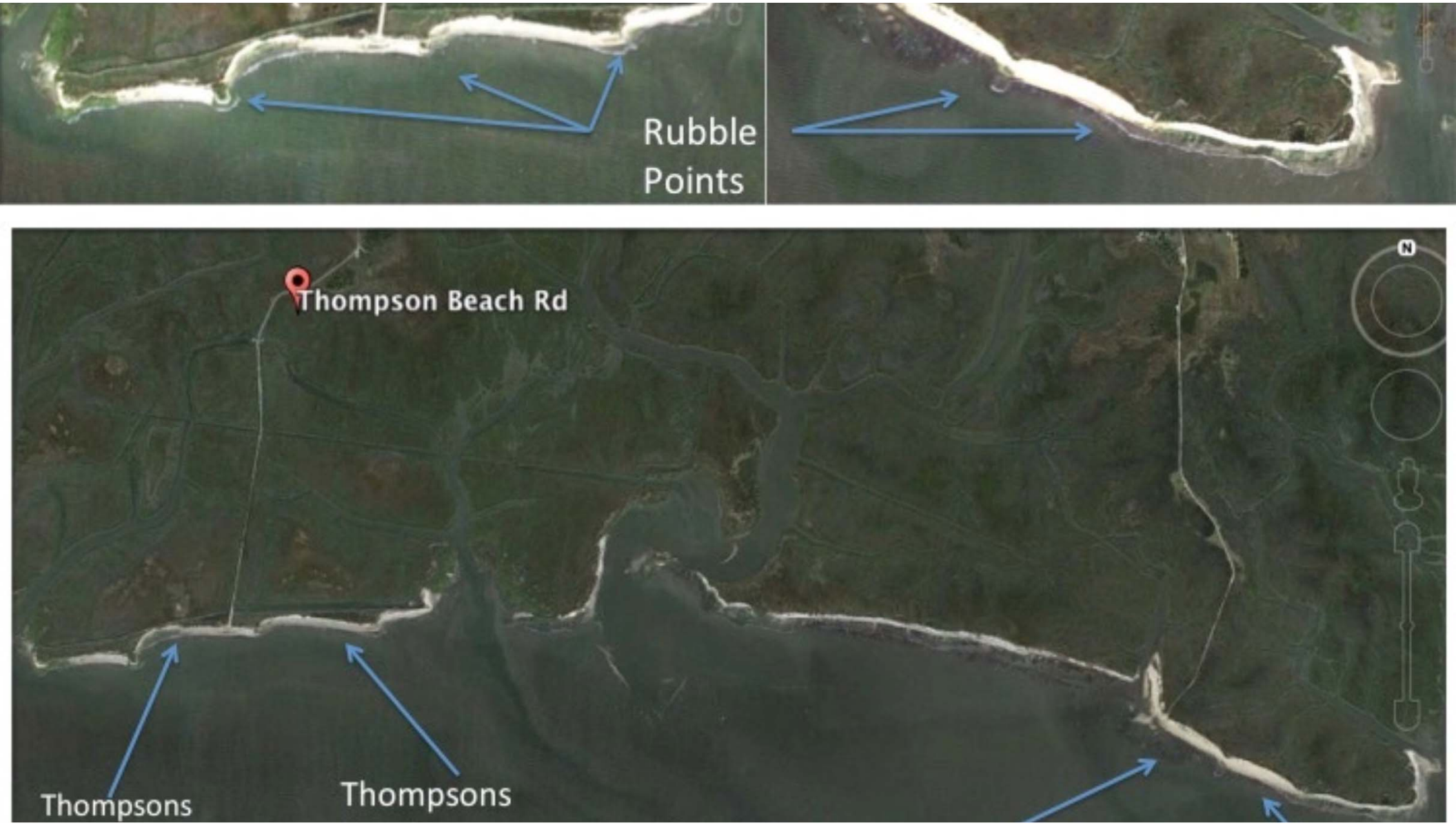
1960

Retreat by 1998

- Last holdout sells off land
- Eminent domain
- Return to Nature

Post Sandy

- Rubble
- Pilings
- Peat
- Loss of Sand


Rubble
Points
Thompson Beach Rd
N
Thompsons
Thompsons

We removed 965 tons of rubble, rebuilt a 3,200 lf road leading to the beach, and placed over 52,000 tons (40,000 cy) of sand (weighing over 9 million pounds) onto 8 acres of beach.

Thompsons Beach – Maurice River Township

2017 to Present

- One of the most productive horseshoe crab spawning beaches
- Spring stopover shorebird foraging habitat
- Ecotourist destination

And to keep that sand on the Beach…..

Delaware Bay Restoration Projects

- 2.74 Miles of Beach Restored (56.5 acres)
- 2,051 Tons of Rubble Removed
- 200,996 Cubic Yards of Sand Trucked and Placed
- 5 Intertidal Oyster Reefs (2,010 lf)
- Delaware Bay Sediment Transport Analysis Tool (D.B.S.T.A.T.)
- 18,550 horseshoe crabs tagged
- Non-Federal Match - $560K to date
- Federal Match - $1.35M

Thank You

- **Core Partners**
- Stockton University Coastal Research Center
- Niles and Smith Conservation LLC
- Department of Interior (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

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- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation