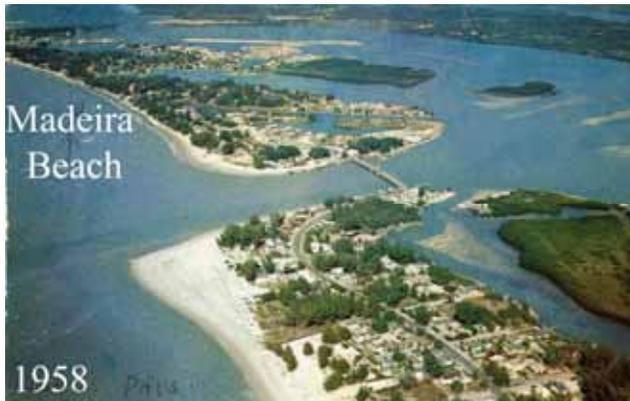


John's Pass Coastal Management History

John's Pass, which connects Boca Ciega Bay to the Gulf of Mexico, was created by a hurricane in 1848. This tide-dominated inlet contains a large offshore shoal (ebb tidal delta), as well as a mature flood tidal delta. The 1957 postcard below left looks north at John's Pass prior to construction of the curved terminal groin (jetty). Note the narrow beach on the south end of Sand Key. In 1961, the City of Madeira Beach constructed the 460-ft curved terminal groin on north side of John's Pass and nourished the beach, as shown in this 1965 photo, below right.



Federally-authorized dredging of John's Pass began in 1966. Dredge spoil was placed offshore of northern Treasure Island. As a result, a huge sand bar attached to Treasure Island (see photo below) and was named O'Brien's Lagoon after the famous coastal engineer, M.P. O'Brien. Many of the 1971 through 1983 projects involved either excavating sand from or attempting to fill in the pond created by the lagoon.



In 2000, Pinellas County constructed another terminal groin on the south side of John's Pass. Compare November 1999 (left photo) with April 2002 (right photo) below.



John's Pass and Blind Pass will be dredged as the borrow areas for the next federal Treasure Island/Long Key beach renourishment project.