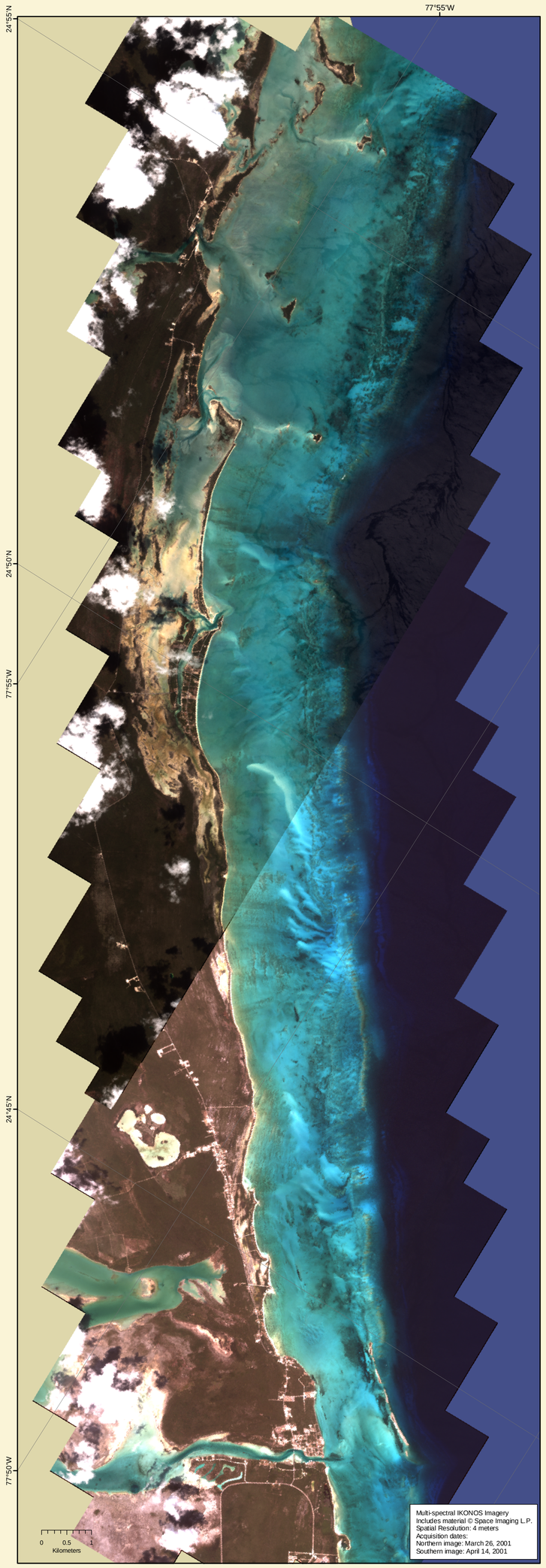

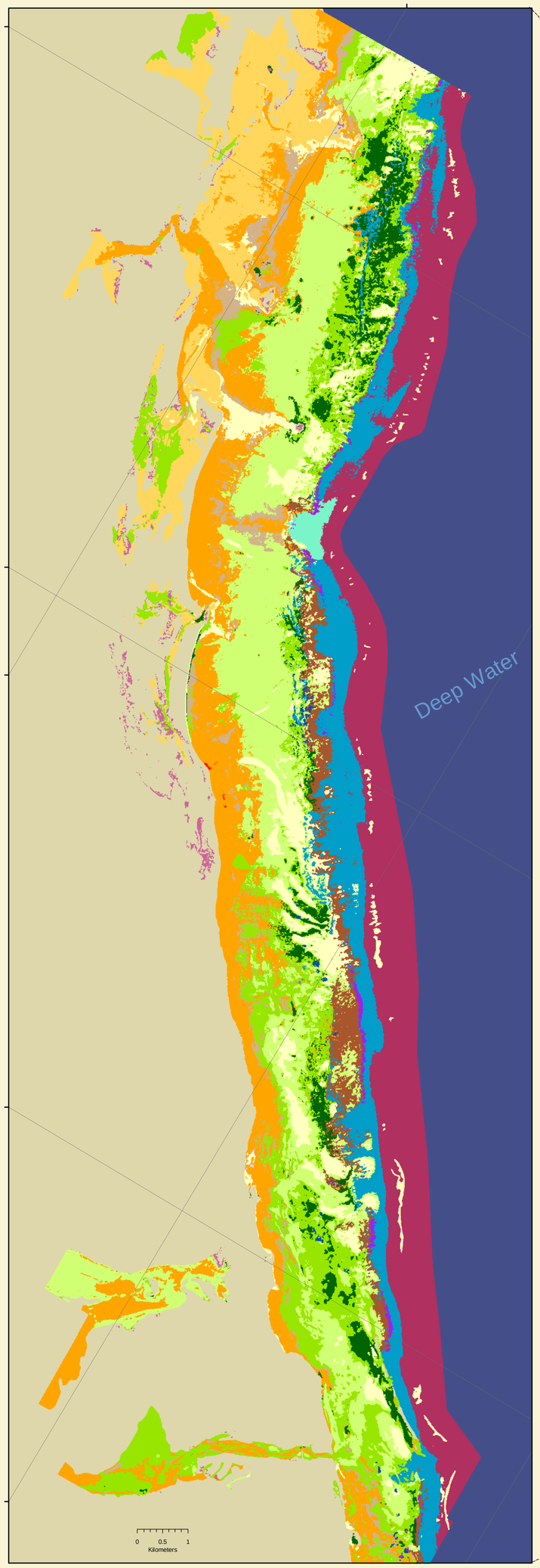

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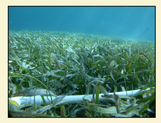
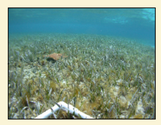
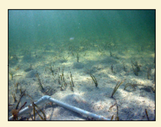


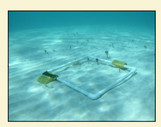
Dense Seagrass
This habitat is dominated by the seagrass *Thalassia*, also called Turtle Grass, but may contain the tube-like seagrass *Syringodium*. Dense Seagrass habitats have high biomass (tall plants, high density) and a low amount of visible sand and silt. This habitat is found in lagoonal environments where sediment is deep enough for the seagrasses to take root.



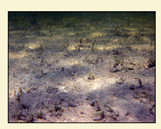
Medium Density Seagrass
This habitat is dominated by the seagrass *Thalassia*, also called Turtle Grass, but may contain the tube-like seagrass *Syringodium* and the thin-bladed seagrass *Halodule*. Occasionally one also finds small coral colonies within the seagrass. Medium Density Seagrass habitats have medium biomass (medium plant height, medium density) and a medium amount of substratum is visible, when compared to Dense and Sparse Seagrass. This habitat is found in lagoonal environments.



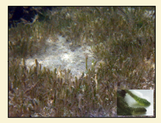
Sparse Seagrass
This habitat is dominated by the seagrass *Thalassia*, also called Turtle Grass, but may contain the tube-like seagrass *Syringodium* and the thin-bladed seagrass *Halodule*. Occasionally one also finds small coral colonies within the seagrass. Sparse Seagrass habitats have relatively low biomass (short plants, low density) and a high amount of substratum is visible. This habitat is found in lagoonal environments where sediment is deep enough for the seagrasses to take root.



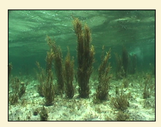
Sand and Sparse Algae
This habitat includes both clean sand and sand with a sparse algal community. It is found in lagoonal areas and near reefs.



Sand with Silt
Silt, which is finer than sand, is often present in Andros' near-shore areas and creeks. Seagrass and algae are often present in this shallow water habitat.



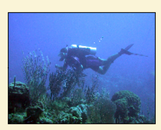
***Batophora* Dominated**
This habitat contains abundant patches of the club-like algae *Batophora* (see inset, bar=1 cm) and is typically on a hardbottom with a small amount of sediment. This kind of algae is also often seen growing on conch shells. Other algae and some patches of seagrass are often present in this habitat which is found in low energy lagoonal environments.



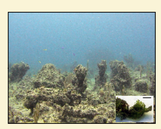
***Sargassum* on Hardbottom**
This habitat contains numerous *Sargassum* plants, typically on a hardbottom with a limited covering of sediment. In Andros, the *Sargassum* plants reach greater than 1 meter tall. Other algae between the *Sargassum* plants often occur. This habitat occurs in medium energy lagoonal environments.

Sparse Gorgonians and Algae
Gorgonians include sea fans, sea feather plumes, sea whips, and sea rods. This habitat is composed of sparse gorgonians on a hardbottom with some algae. In Andros, this benthic community is found in shallow reef environments and on hardbottom in the lagoon area.

Uncolonized Pavement
Uncolonized Pavement is found in one of the high energy 'cuts' through the *Acropora* reef crest. This habitat is similar to the Sparse Gorgonians and Algae habitat but it has very few gorgonians and algae.



***Montastraea* Reef**
The coral species *Montastraea annularis*, also called Boulder Star Coral, is the dominant coral species in this habitat. This benthic community is diverse, including corals, sponges, gorgonians, and algae. *Montastraea* Reef also supports a diverse and abundant fish community. This habitat is found in Andros reef environments between approximately 5 and 15 meters deep.



Dead Coral and *Microdictyon*
In some areas, the majority of corals have died, possibly during bleaching events. These habitats are in shallow waters and appear to have been similar to *Montastraea* reef communities. They still have the rough structure of a coral rich area. The mesh-like algae *Microdictyon* (see inset, bar=1 cm) is seasonally common and covers the substrate, presumably flourishing after the loss of live coral colonies. This habitat is found in a limited number of areas just landward of the reef crest.

***Acropora palmata* Reef**
Reefs with the coral *Acropora palmata*, also called Elkhorn Coral, typically have high vertical relief. This habitat is found at the crest of the reef. Although *A. palmata* is generally the most common coral in this habitat, the bottom community also includes other stony corals, gorgonians, and algae. This habitat is found between approximately 1 and 5 meters deep.

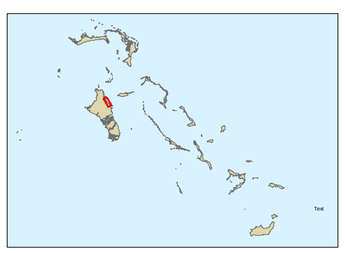
Patch Reef
Patch reefs are reef formations often found in lagoons and surrounded by seagrass beds. They commonly have a small 'halo' around them of relatively clear sand cleaned by grazing fish and invertebrates. They support much more diverse invertebrate and fish communities than surrounding habitats.

***Porites* Reef**
Central Andros has some unusual areas of extensive growth of the Finger Coral *Porites porites*. These areas typically support an abundant number of juvenile fish, particularly grunts, parrotfish, wrasse, and damselfish. These reefs are found in shallow water less than 2 meters deep.

Mangrove
Mangrove trees grow in shallow, brackish waters along coasts and up creeks of Bahamian islands. Their roots provide nursery habitat for many important fish species. Mangroves in and around estuaries also trap sediments that might otherwise flow onto reefs and smother corals to death.

Images of the east coast of Central Andros, The Bahamas.
The depicted area ranges from 3 kilometers north of Stafford Creek to just south of Fresh Creek.

The photo-like image on the left was created from spectral data collected by the IKONOS satellite sensor in March and April 2001. The habitat map on the right, including the 15 common, shallow bottom habitat types represented, was constructed from this spectral data as well. The habitat classification process used habitat-type data from more than 600 ground-truthing spot surveys to assist with and verify classifications. This poster was designed for research and educational purposes only and is not intended for either navigation or quantitative assessments of all habiat types.



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