



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

**Department of the Army Permit
State Programmatic General Permit
(SPGP V-R1)**

Attachment 19
Beach Mice Habitat.

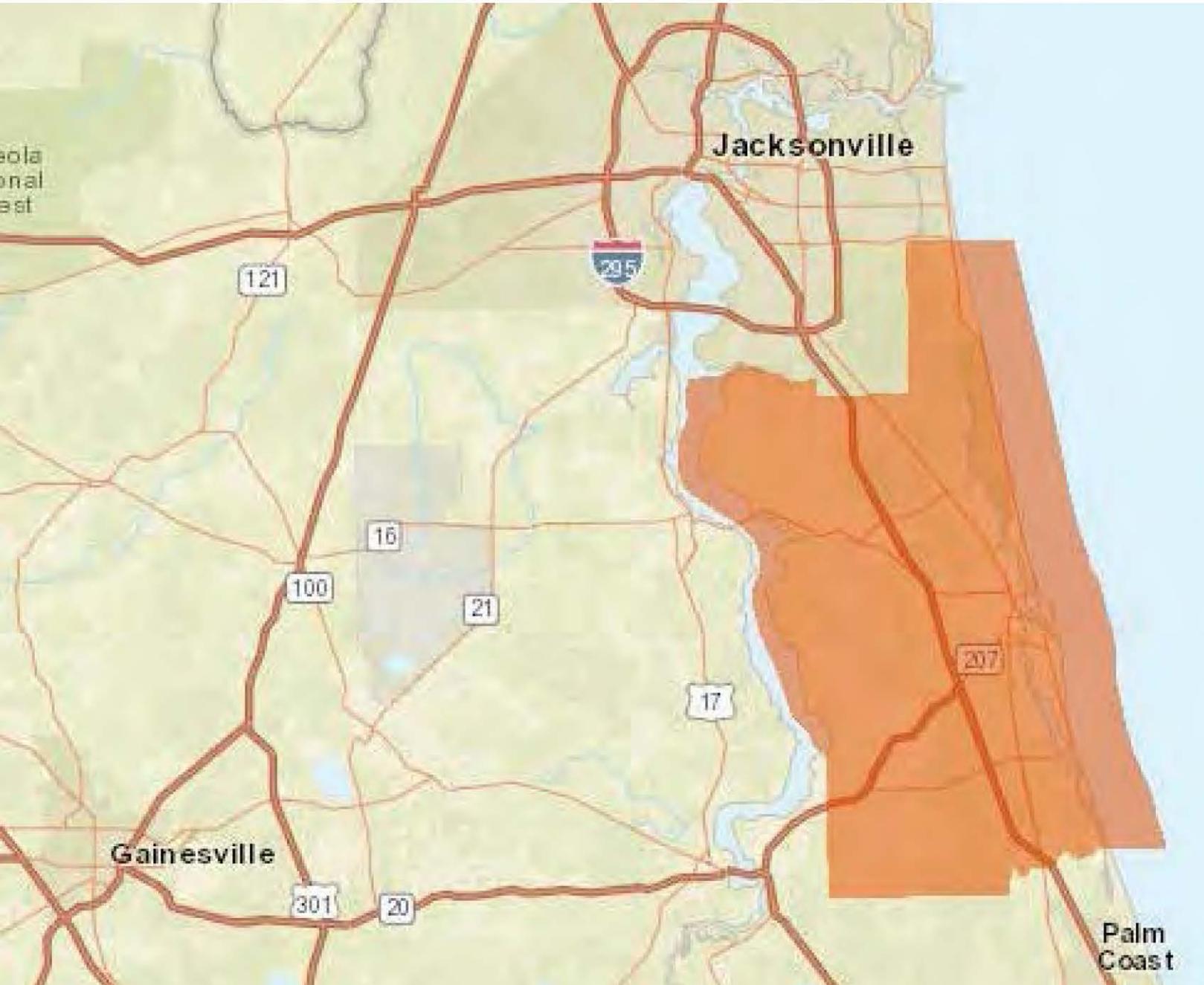
Southeastern Beach Mouse

Map shows County boundaries (downloaded from <http://ecos.fws.gov>)



Anastasia Beach Mouse

Map shows County boundaries (downloaded from <http://ecos.fws.gov>)



Anastasia Beach Mouse and Southeastern Beach Mouse
Habitat Description

20598

Federal Register / Vol. 54, No. 91 / Friday, May 12, 1989 / Rules and Regulations

may also be affecting survival. This rule implements the protection and recovery provisions afforded by the Act for these two beach mice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 12, 1989.

ADDRESSES: The complete file for this rule is available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Jacksonville Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3100 University Boulevard South, Suite 120, Jacksonville, Florida 32216.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David J. Wesley, Field Supervisor, at the above address (904/791-2580 or FTS 946-2580).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Background

Beach mice are pale-colored coastal subspecies of the oldfield mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus*), a wide-ranging species in the southeastern United States. Beach mice occur only along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida and the Gulf coast of Alabama. Three subspecies of Gulf coast beach mice, the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*), Perdido Key beach mouse (*P. p. trissyllepsis*), and the Choctawhatchee beach mouse (*P. p. allophrys*), have already been listed as endangered species pursuant to the Act (June 6, 1985; 50 FR 23872). The present rule lists two of the Atlantic coast subspecies. One of these, the Anastasia Island beach mouse (*P. p. phasma*), is listed as an endangered species; the other, the southeastern beach mouse (*P. p. niveiventris*), is listed as threatened. Both occur only in Florida. The Anastasia Island beach mouse was known historically from the mouth of the St. Johns River, Duval County, south to Matanzas Inlet, St. Johns County. The southeastern beach mouse formerly occurred from Ponce (Mosquito) Inlet, Volusia County, south to Hollywood Beach, Broward County (Humphrey 1987).

The Anastasia Island beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus phasma*) was named by Bangs in 1898 as a full species, *Peromyscus phasma*. Osgood (1909) relegated it to subspecific rank under the species *Peromyscus polionotus*. It is one of the largest of the beach mice, with ten adults from the type locality averaging 138.5 mm. in total length with an average tail length of 53 mm. (Osgood 1909). Like all beach mice, it is considerably paler than inland races of *P. polionotus*. The coloration is light ochraceous buff on the back, with pure white underparts, a unicolor tail, and rather indistinct white markings on the nose and face (Howell, unpubl. ms., circa 1940). The type

locality is Point Romo, Anastasia Island, St. Johns County, Florida (Hall 1981).

The southeastern beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris*) was named by Chapman as *Hesperomys niveiventris* in 1889. Bangs placed it in the genus *Peromyscus* in 1898, and Osgood (1909) relegated it to subspecies rank under *Peromyscus polionotus*. This is the largest of the beach mice, with 10 adults averaging 139 mm. in total length and 52 mm. in tail length (Osgood 1909). It is slightly darker and more buffy than *Peromyscus polionotus phasma*, but still considerably paler than most inland subspecies (it is similar in coloration to inland *P. p. rhoadsi*, but is much larger in size) (Howell, unpubl. ms., circa 1940). The type locality is Oak Lodge, east peninsula opposite Micco, Brevard County, Florida (Hall 1981).

Both *Peromyscus polionotus phasma* and *P. p. niveiventris* are restricted to sand dunes mainly vegetated by sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) and dune panic grass (*Paspalum amarulum*), and to the adjoining scrub, characterized by oaks (*Quercus* sp.) and sand pine (*Pinus clausa*) or palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) (Humphrey and Barbour 1981, Humphrey 1987). Extine and Stout (1987) studied dispersion and movements of *Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris* on Merritt Island. The habitat of the mice consisted of three contiguous zones of vegetation running parallel with the beach and dune lines. Zone 1 was seaward and supported sea oats; Zone 2 was characterized by clumps of palmetto and sea grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*), and expanses of open sand; Zone 3 was interior and consisted of dense scrub dominated by palmetto, sea grape, and wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*). Zones 2 and 3 were found to be the preferred habitats of the beach mice, whereas Zone 1 was marginal.

The following information pertains mostly to Gulf coast beach mice, but probably applies to subspecies along the Atlantic coast, since all beach mice are morphologically similar and live in similar habitats.

Blair (1951) found that food plants most utilized by beach mice are various beach grasses and sea oats. The fruits of beach grass are readily available to the mice, but those of sea oats are usually obtainable only after they have been blown down by heavy winds. These foods are often found stored in mouse burrows. Beach mice also probably eat invertebrates from time to time, especially in late spring and early summer when seeds are scarce (Ehrhart in Layne, 1978).

Beach mice are burrow-inhabiting animals. Ehrhart (in Layne 1978), writing

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Anastasia Island Beach Mouse and Threatened Status for the Southeastern Beach Mouse

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service hereby determines the Anastasia Island beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus phasma*) to be an endangered species and the southeastern beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris*) to be a threatened species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). These mice occur only on the Atlantic coast of Florida and have declined primarily due to the alteration and destruction of their habitat. In some areas competition from house mice and predation by house cats

Perdido Key Beach Mouse

Map shows County boundaries (downloaded from <http://ecos.fws.gov>)



Perdido Key Beach Mouse
Critical Habitat Description

Perdido Key Beach Mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*)

(1) Critical habitat units are depicted for Escambia County, Florida, and Baldwin County, Alabama, on the maps below.

(2) The primary constituent elements of critical habitat for the Perdido Key beach mouse are the habitat components that provide:

(i) A contiguous mosaic of primary, secondary, and scrub vegetation and dune structure, with a balanced level of competition and predation and few or no competitive or predaceous nonnative species present, that collectively provide foraging opportunities, cover, and burrow sites;

(ii) Primary and secondary dunes, generally dominated by sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*), that despite occasional

temporary impacts and reconfiguration from tropical storms and hurricanes, provide abundant food resources, burrow sites, and protection from predators;

(iii) Scrub dunes, generally dominated by scrub oaks (*Quercus* spp.), that provide food resources and burrow sites, and provide elevated refugia during and after intense flooding due to rainfall and/or hurricane-induced storm surge;

(iv) Functional, unobstructed habitat connections that facilitate genetic exchange, dispersal, natural exploratory movements, and re-colonization of locally extirpated areas; and

(v) A natural light regime within the coastal dune ecosystem, compatible with the nocturnal activity of beach

mice, necessary for normal behavior, growth, and viability of all life stages.

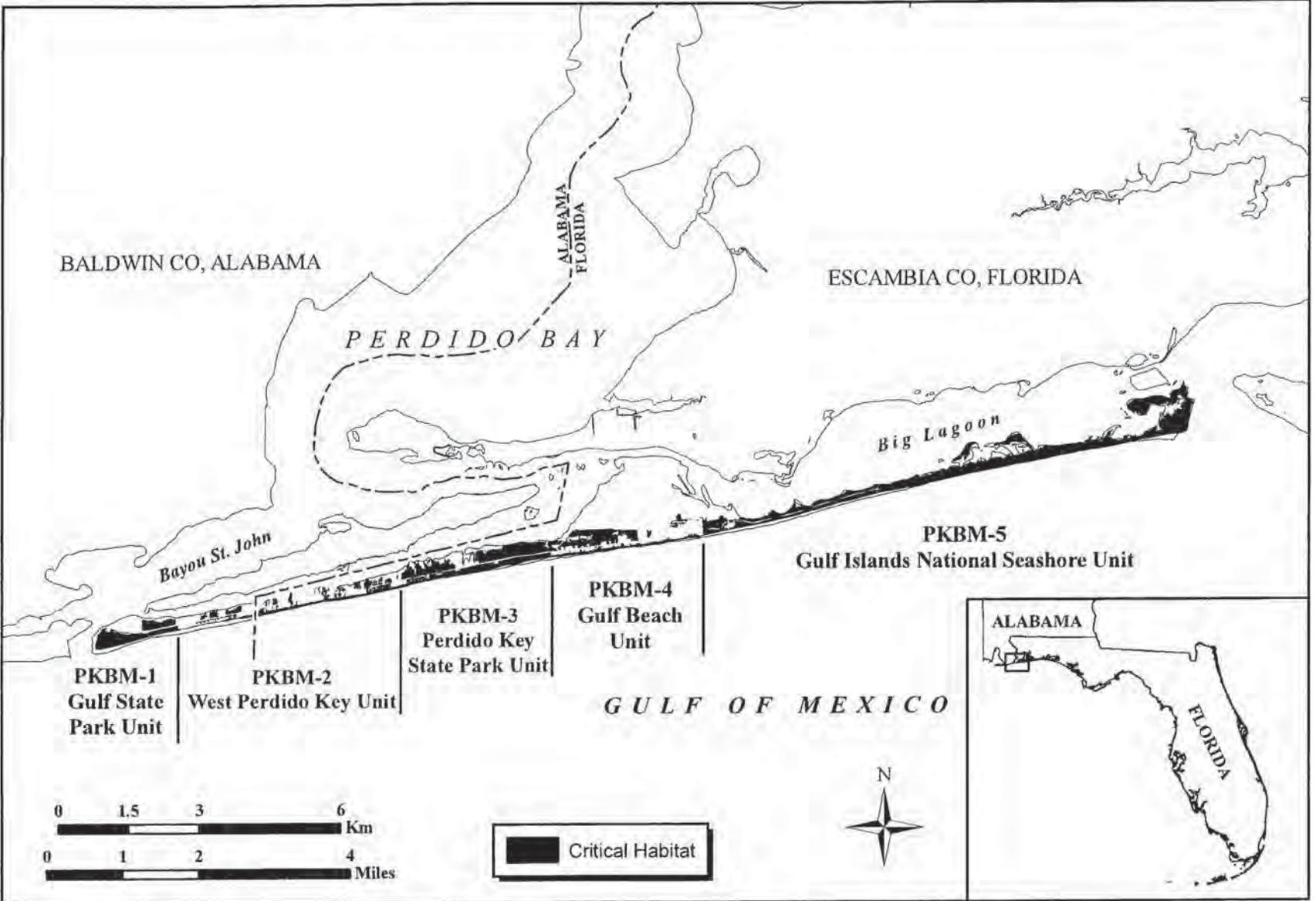
(3) Critical habitat does not include man-made structures existing on the effective date of this rule and not containing one or more of the primary constituent elements, such as buildings, aqueducts, airports, driveways, and roads, and the land on which such structures are located.

(4) *Critical Habitat Map Units*. Data layers defining map units were created by delineating habitats that contained one or more of the primary constituent elements defined in paragraph (2) of this entry over 1999 and 2004 digital ortho photography at a scale of at least 1:4000.

(5) Note: Map 1 Index of Critical Habitat Units for the Perdido Key beach mouse, follows:

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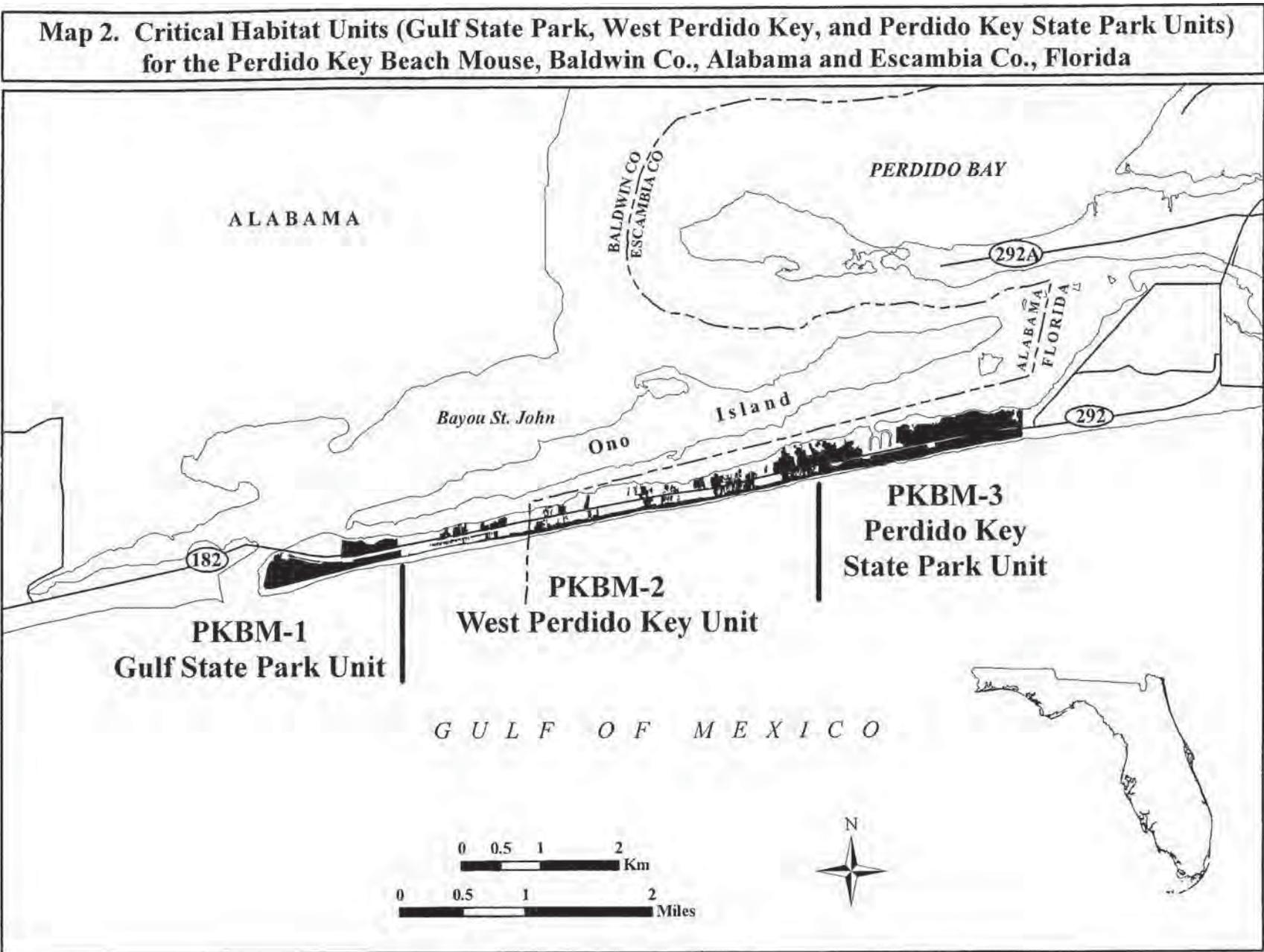
Map 1. Critical Habitat Units for the Perdido Key Beach Mouse



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(6) PKBM—Unit 1: Gulf State Park Unit, Baldwin County, Alabama.

(i) General Description: This unit encompasses essential features of beach

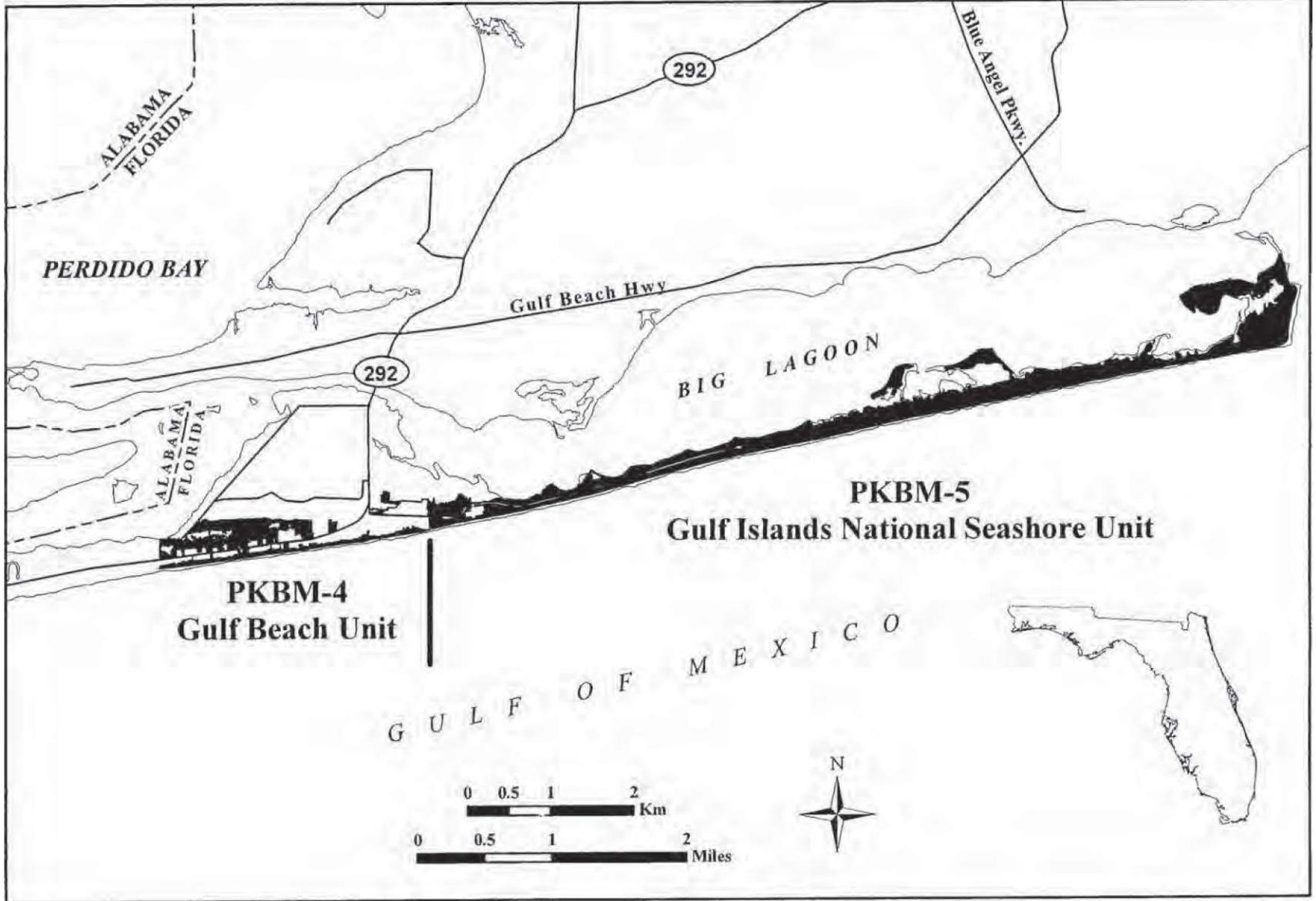


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(9) PKBM—Unit 4: Gulf Beach Unit, Escambia County, Florida.

(i) *General Description:* This unit includes essential features of beach

**Map 3. Critical Habitat (Gulf Beach and Gulf Islands National Seashore Units)
for the Perdido Key Beach Mouse, Escambia Co., Florida**



Chotowatchee Beach Mouse

Map shows County boundaries (downloaded from <http://ecos.fws.gov>)



Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse Critical Habitat Description

approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act. This rule will not impose recordkeeping or reporting requirements on State or local governments, individuals, businesses, or organizations. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

National Environmental Policy Act

It is our position that, outside the Tenth Circuit, we do not need to prepare environmental analyses as defined by the NEPA in connection with designating critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We published a notice outlining our reasons for this determination in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244). This assertion was upheld in the courts of the Ninth Circuit (*Douglas County v. Babbitt*, 48 F.3d 1495 (9th Cir. Ore. 1995), cert. denied 116 S. Ct. 698 (1996).

Government-to-Government Relationship With Tribes

In accordance with the President's memorandum of April 29, 1994, "Government-to-Government Relations

with Native American Tribal Governments" (59 FR 22951), Executive Order 13175, and the Department of Interior's manual at 512 DM 2, we readily acknowledge our responsibility to communicate meaningfully with recognized Federal Tribes on a government-to-government basis. We have determined that there are no tribal lands occupied at the time of listing contain the features essential for the conservation and no tribal lands that are unoccupied areas that are essential for the conservation of Perdido Key beach mice, Choctawhatchee beach mice, and St. Andrew beach mice. Therefore, designation of critical habitat for Perdido Key beach mice, Choctawhatchee beach mice, and St. Andrew beach mice has not been designated on Tribal lands.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited in this rulemaking is available upon request from the Field Supervisor, Panama City Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Author(s)

The primary author of this package is the Panama City Fish and Wildlife Office.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Regulation Promulgation

■ Accordingly, we amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4245; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted.

■ 2. In § 17.11(h), revise the entry for "Mouse, St. Andrew beach" under "MAMMALS" to read as follows:

§ 17.11 Endangered and threatened wildlife.

* * * * *
(h) * * *

Species		Historic range	Vertebrate population where endangered or threatened	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Common name	Scientific name						
MAMMALS							
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mouse, St. Andrew beach.	<i>Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis</i> .	U.S.A. (FL)	Entire	E	655	17.95(a)	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

■ 3. In § 17.95(a), revise the entries for "Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus allophrys*)" and "Perdido Key Beach Mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*)," and add an entry for "St. Andrew Beach Mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis*)" in the same alphabetical order that this species appears in the table at § 17.11(h) to read as follows:

§ 17.95 Critical habitat—fish and wildlife.

(a) Mammals.

* * * * *

Choctawhatcee Beach Mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus allophrys*)

(1) Critical habitat units are depicted for Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay Counties, Florida, on the maps below.

(2) The primary constituent elements of critical habitat for the

Choctawhatchee beach mouse are the habitat components that provide:

(i) A contiguous mosaic of primary, secondary, and scrub vegetation and dune structure, with a balanced level of competition and predation and few or no competitive or predateous nonnative species present, that collectively provide foraging opportunities, cover, and burrow sites;

(ii) Primary and secondary dunes, generally dominated by sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*), that despite occasional temporary impacts and reconfiguration from tropical storms and hurricanes, provide abundant food resources, burrow sites, and protection from predators;

(iii) Scrub dunes, generally dominated by scrub oaks (*Quercus* spp.), that provide food resources and burrow sites, and provide elevated refugia

during and after intense flooding due to rainfall and/or hurricane-induced storm surge;

(iv) Functional, unobstructed habitat connections that facilitate genetic exchange, dispersal, natural exploratory movements, and re-colonization of locally extirpated areas; and

(v) A natural light regime within the coastal dune ecosystem, compatible with the nocturnal activity of beach mice, necessary for normal behavior, growth, and viability of all life stages.

(3) Critical habitat does not include man-made structures existing on the effective date of this rule and not containing one or more of the primary constituent elements, such as buildings, aqueducts, airports, driveways, and roads, and the land on which such structures are located.

Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse
Critical Habitat Description

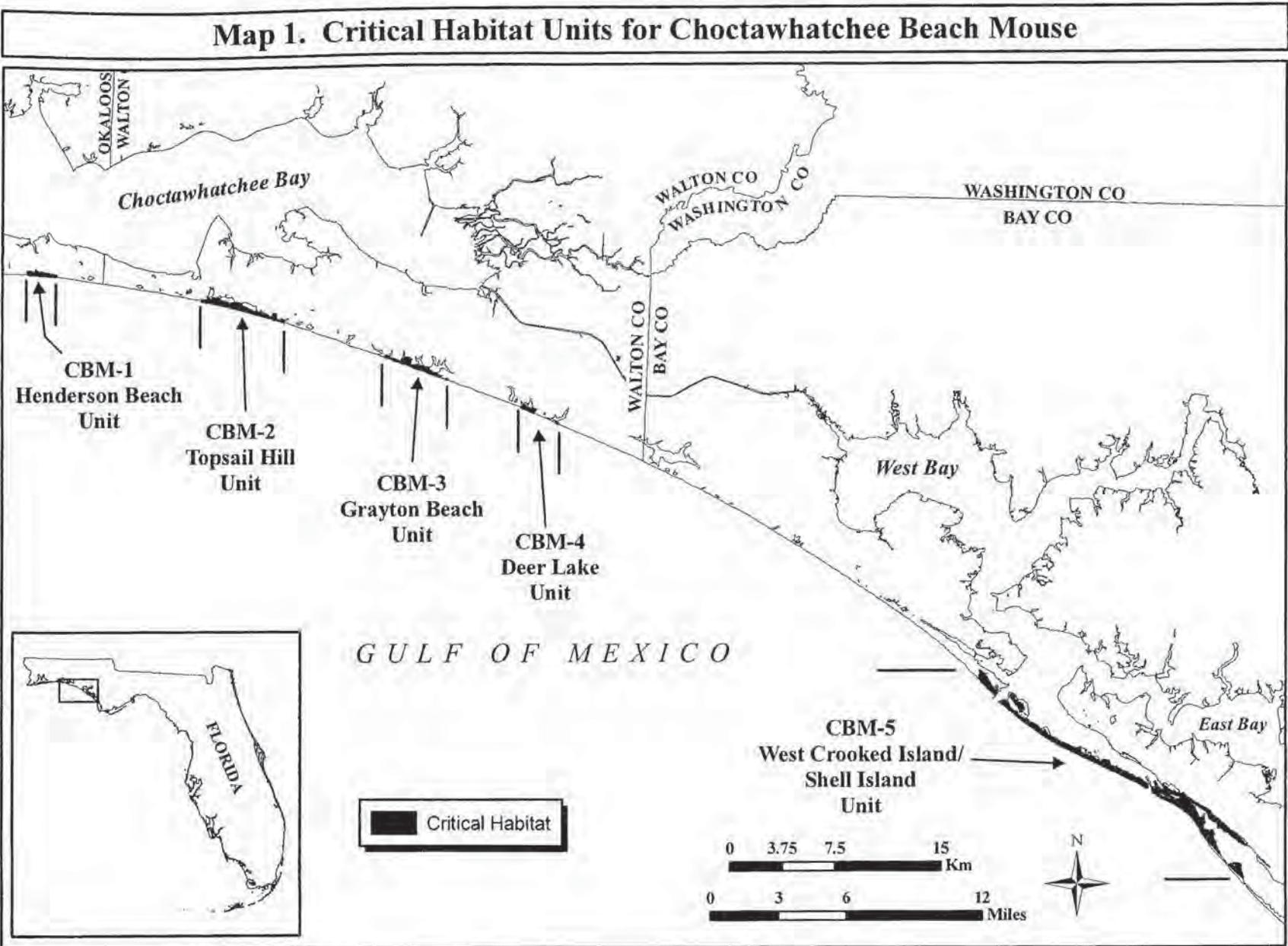
(4) *Critical Habitat Map Units*. Data layers defining map units were created by delineating habitats that contained one or more of the primary constituent

elements defined in paragraph (2) of this entry over 1999 and 2004 digital ortho photography at a scale of at least 1:4000.

(5) Note: Map 1, Index Map of Critical Habitat Units for the Choctawhatchee beach mouse, follows:

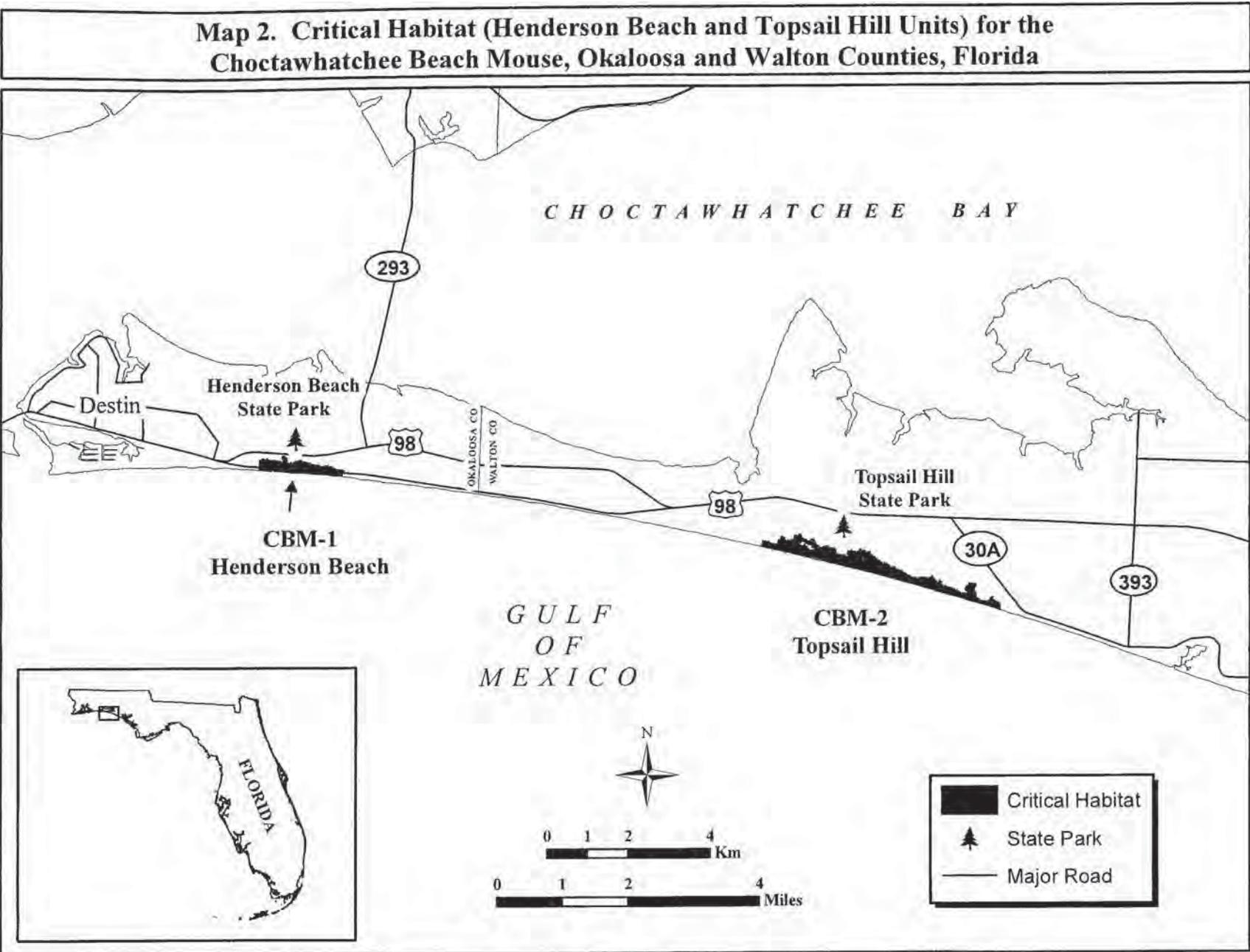
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Critical Habitat Description



(6) CBM—Unit 1: Henderson Beach Unit, Okaloosa County, Florida.

(i) *General Description:* This unit encompasses essential features of beach

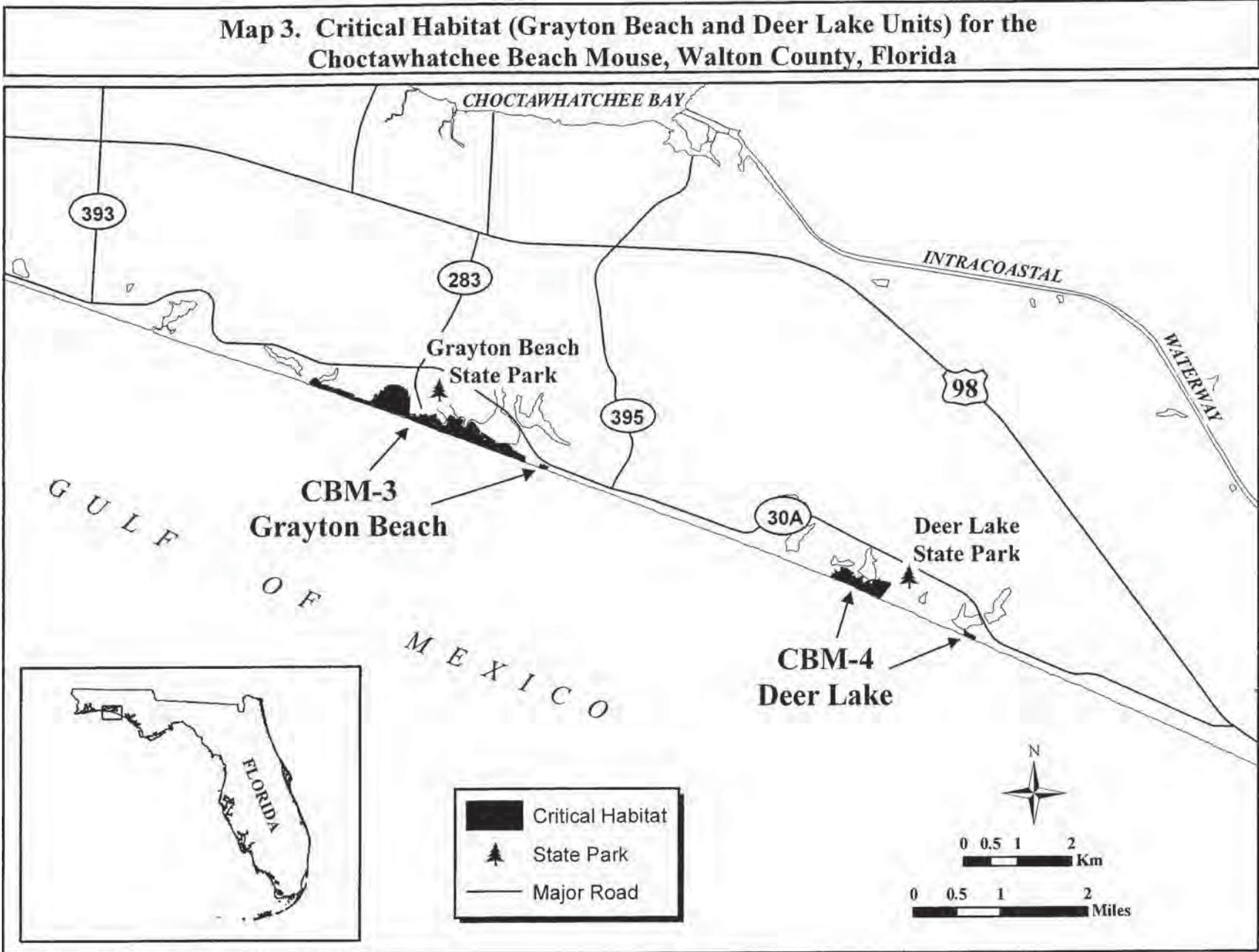


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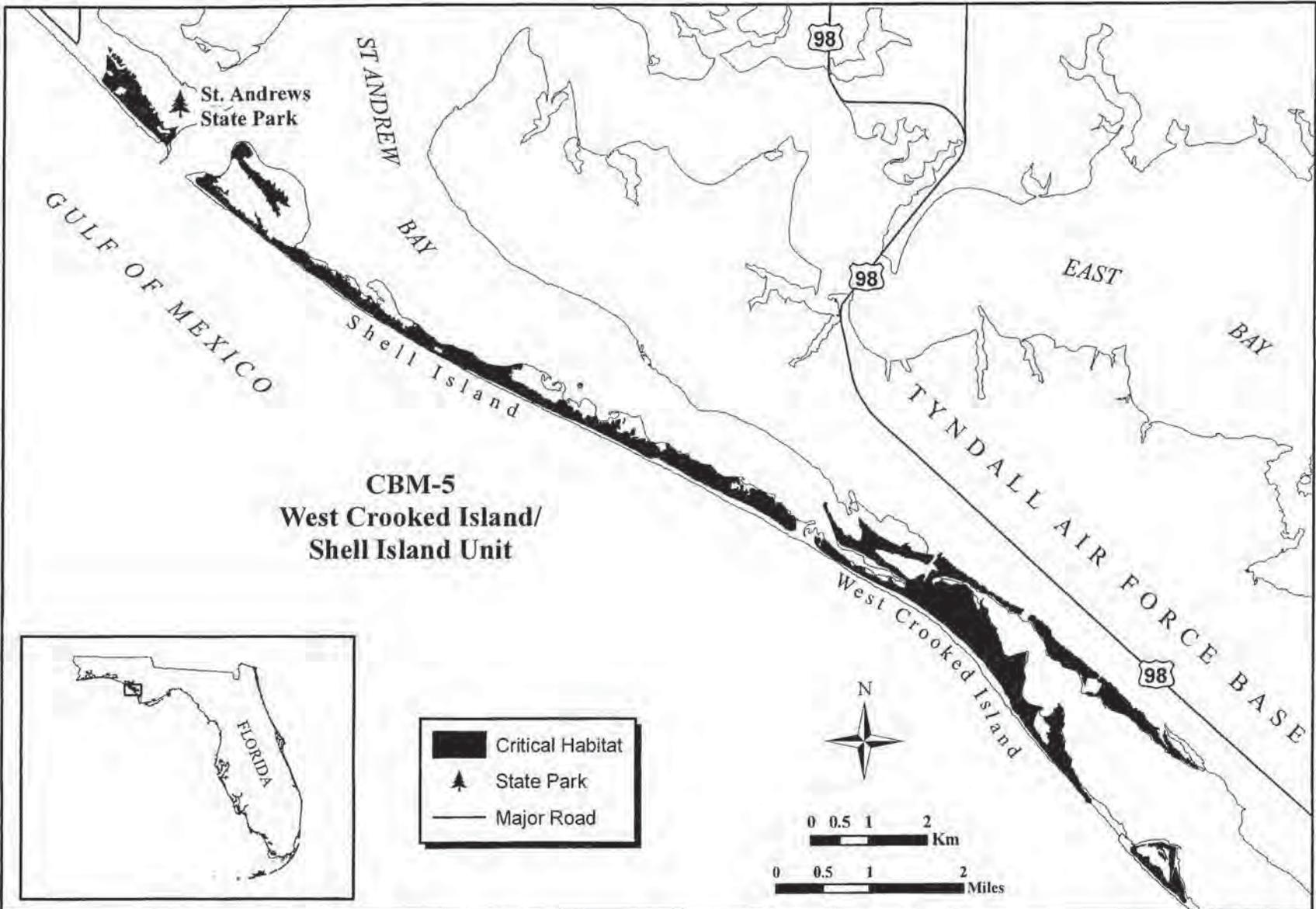
(8) CBM—Unit 3: Grayton Beach Unit, Walton County, Florida.

(i) General Description: This unit encompasses essential features of beach

Map 3. Critical Habitat (Grayton Beach and Deer Lake Units) for the Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse, Walton County, Florida



Map 4. Critical Habitat (West Crooked Island/Shell Island Unit) for the Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse, Bay County, Florida



St Andrew Beach Mouse

Map shows County boundaries (downloaded from <http://ecos.fws.gov>)



St Andrews Beach Mouse
Critical Habitat Description

St. Andrew Beach Mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis*)

(1) Critical habitat units are depicted for Bay and Gulf Counties, Florida, on the maps below.

(2) The primary constituent elements of critical habitat for the St. Andrew beach mouse are the habitat components that provide:

(i) A contiguous mosaic of primary, secondary, and scrub vegetation and dune structure, with a balanced level of competition and predation and few or no competitive or predaceous nonnative species present, that collectively provide foraging opportunities, cover, and burrow sites;

(ii) Primary and secondary dunes, generally dominated by sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*), that despite occasional

temporary impacts and reconfiguration from tropical storms and hurricanes, provide abundant food resources, burrow sites, and protection from predators;

(iii) Scrub dunes, generally dominated by scrub oaks (*Quercus* spp.), that provide food resources and burrow sites, and provide elevated refugia during and after intense flooding due to rainfall and/or hurricane-induced storm surge;

(iv) Functional, unobstructed habitat connections that facilitate genetic exchange, dispersal, natural exploratory movements, and re-colonization of locally extirpated areas; and

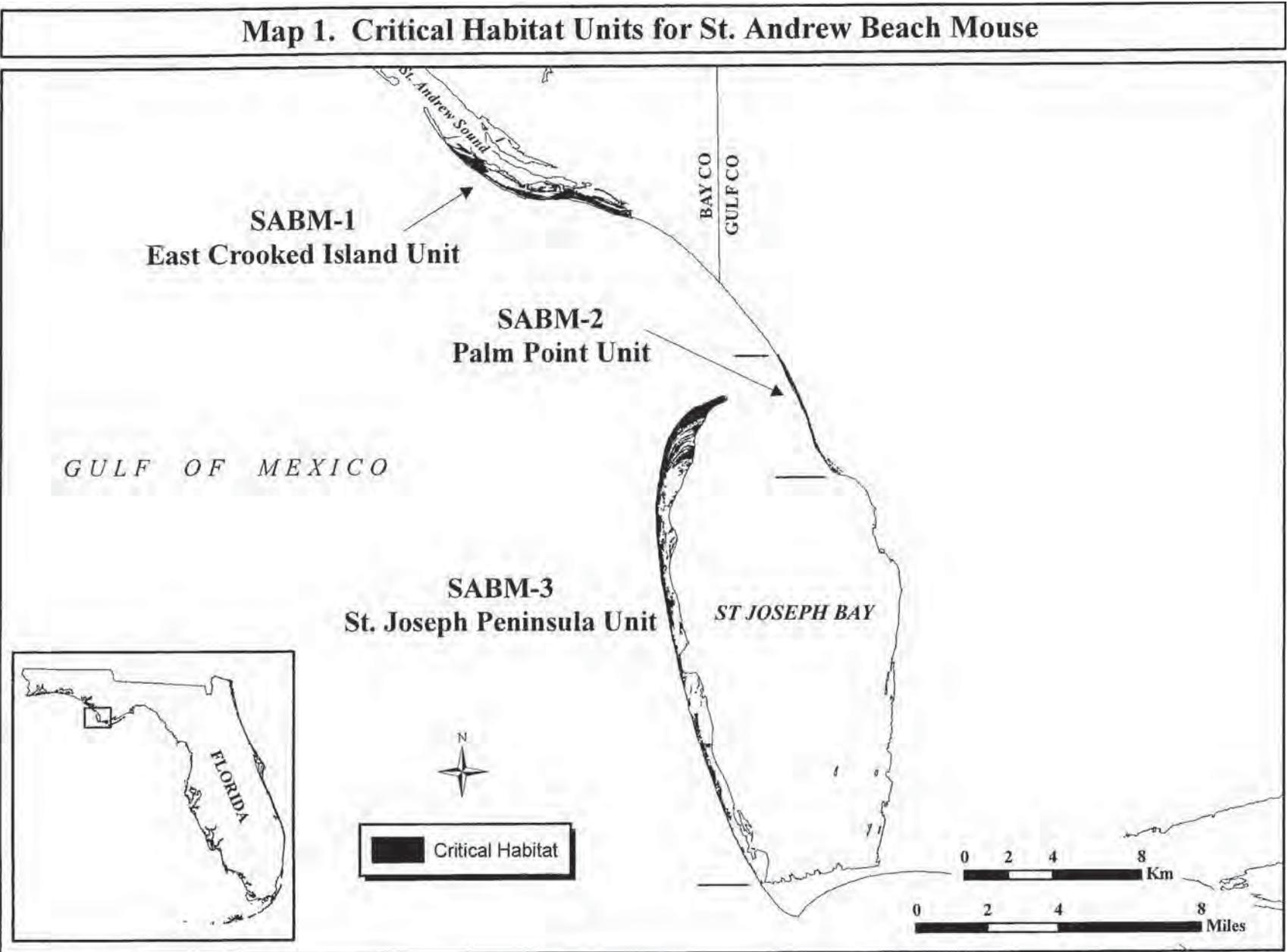
(v) A natural light regime within the coastal dune ecosystem, compatible with the nocturnal activity of beach

mice, necessary for normal behavior, growth, and viability of all life stages.

(3) Critical habitat does not include man-made structures existing on the effective date of this rule and not containing one or more of the primary constituent elements, such as buildings, aqueducts, airports, driveways, and roads, and the land on which such structures are located.

(4) *Critical Habitat Map Units*. Data layers defining map units were created by delineating habitats that contained one or more of the primary constituent elements defined in paragraph (2) of this entry over 1999 and 2004 digital ortho photography at a scale of at least 1:4000.

(5) Note: Map 1, Index Map of Critical Habitat Units for the St. Andrew beach mouse, follows:



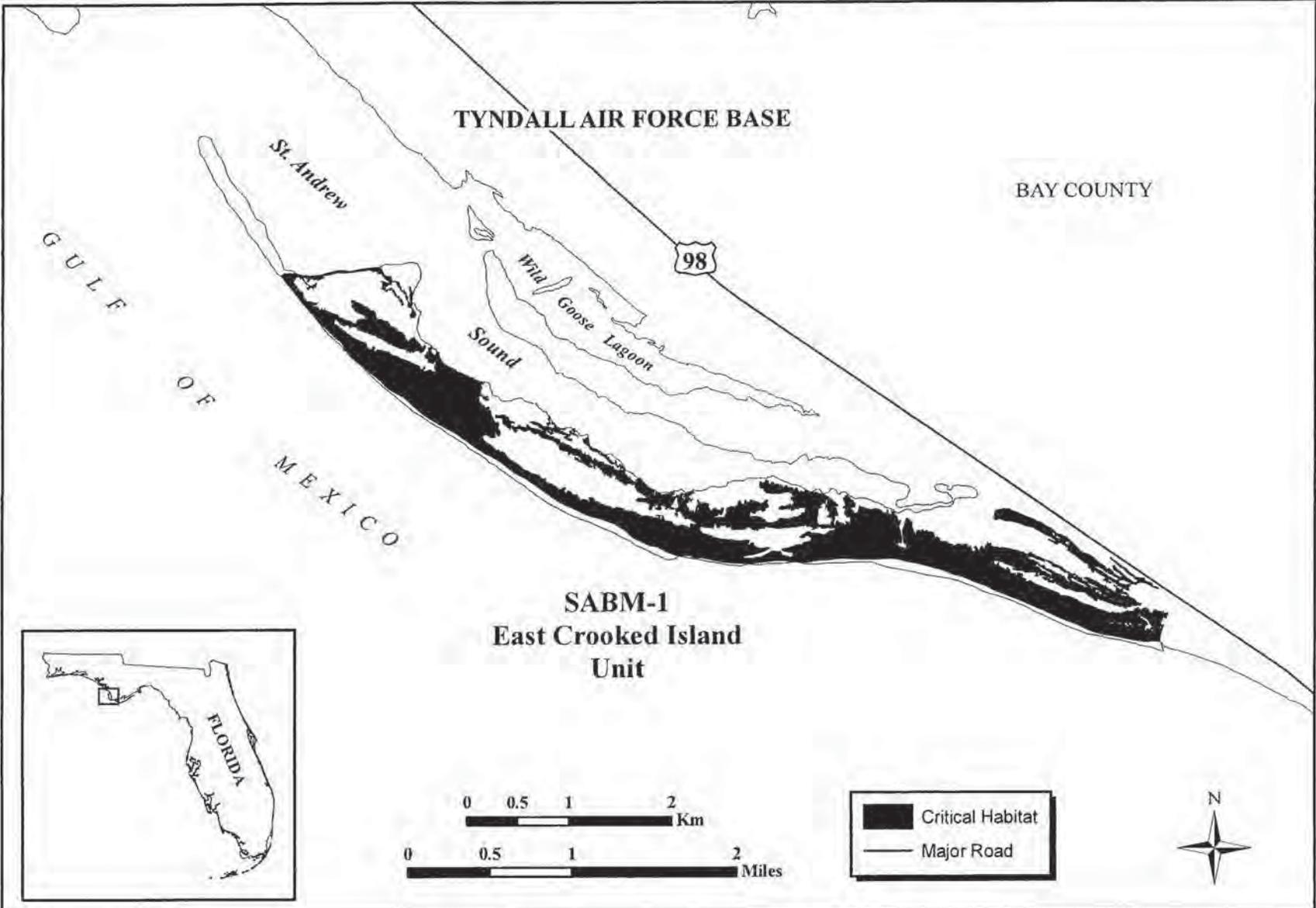
BILLING CODE 4310-55-C

(6) SABM—Unit 1: East Crooked Island, Gulf County, Florida.

(i) *General Description:* This unit encompasses essential features of beach

Critical Habitat Description

Map 2. Critical Habitat (East Crooked Island Unit) for the St. Andrew Beach Mouse, Bay County, Florida



BILLING CODE 4310-55-C

(7) SABM—Unit 2: Palm Point Unit, Gulf County, Florida.

(i) General Description: This unit encompasses habitat from Palm Point

Map 3. Critical Habitat (Palm Point and St. Joseph Peninsula Units) for the St. Andrew Beach Mouse, Gulf County, Florida

