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REPORT TO CONGRESS: COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM

Proposed Recommendations for Additions to or Deletions
from the Coastal Barrier Resources System



**VOLUME 12
SOUTH CAROLINA**

U.S. Department of the Interior

February 1987



REPORT TO CONGRESS: COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM

VOLUME 12

**Proposed Recommendations for Additions to or Deletions from
the Coastal Barrier Resources System**

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mapped, edited, and published by the Coastal Barriers Study Group

**United States Department of the Interior
William P. Horn, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks**

February 1987

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SOUTH CAROLINA

INTRODUCTION

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 (Public Law 97-348) established the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), a system of undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. This atlas of coastal barriers in South Carolina has been prepared in accordance with Section 10 of CBRA (16 U.S.C. 3509), which states:

Sec. 10. Reports to Congress.

(a) In General.--Before the close of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committees a report regarding the System.

(b) Consultation in Preparing Report.--The Secretary shall prepare the report required under subsection (a) in consultation with the Governors of the States in which System units are located and with the coastal zone management agencies of the States in which System units are located and after providing opportunity for, and considering, public comment.

(c) Report Content.--The report required under subsection (a) shall contain--

(1) recommendations for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources of the System based on an evaluation and comparison of all management alternatives, and combinations thereof, such as State and local actions (including management plans approved under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.)), Federal actions (including acquisition for administration as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System), and initiatives by private organizations and individuals;

(2) recommendations for additions to, or deletions from, the Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for modifications to the boundaries of System units;

(3) a summary of the comments received from the Governors of the States, State coastal zone management agencies, other government officials, and the public regarding the System; and

(4) an analysis of the effects, if any, that general revenue sharing grants made under section 102 of the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Amendments of 1972 (31 U.S.C. 1221) have had on undeveloped coastal barriers.

This atlas of South Carolina includes delineations of the CBRS units designated by Congress in 1982 and delineations of proposed recommendations for additions and modifications to the CBRS that will be provided to Congress by the Department of the Interior following public review and comment.

Under the direction of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, this report has been prepared by the Coastal Barriers Study Group, a task force of professionals representing the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other Departmental offices.

BACKGROUND

The South Carolina shoreline is approximately 153 miles in length. Of that area, 63.5 miles of shoreline have been developed, 50.5 miles are protected, and 39 miles remain undeveloped to some extent. Approximately 59% of the State's coastal barriers are protected by some development constraints.

The northern one-third of the South Carolina shoreline consists of sandy barrier beaches and associated dunes formed on an eroding shoreline. South of the Santee Delta, the shoreline is composed of relatively short, often wide barrier islands with broad sandy beaches and numerous dune ridges. This portion of the coast is characteristic of a tide-dominated sea island physiography and is similar to the sea islands of Georgia.

The major industries on the coast include manufacturing, wood products, chemicals, textiles, seafood, agriculture, and paper production. Charleston is a major port with facilities for handling bulk cargo. Tourism is another important industry in the coastal zone and large-scale resort developments are found there.

The coastal zone has a valuable natural resource base composed of diverse aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources. This zone of barrier islands and associated salt marsh complexes supports abundant finfish and

shellfish populations. Aquatic resources include clams, oysters, blue crabs, shrimp, seatrout, flounder, sheepshead, and bluefish. Abundant and diverse bird life is also found in this region and includes ibises, terns, skimmers, ospreys, brown pelicans, and gulls.

COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

South Carolina Coastal Resource Management

Coastal Zone Management Act (Act 123). This Act established the South Carolina Coastal Council in 1977. During the subsequent 2 years, the Council developed a comprehensive management program for the eight-county coastal zone; this program was approved by the State's General Assembly in February 1979 and by the Federal Office of Coastal Zone Management in September 1979.

The Coastal Management Program in South Carolina seeks to balance the needs of a growing population and subsequent development against the needs for preservation of the coastal environment.

Permits. The Coastal Council has direct authority to issue permits and uses an approach that deals with impacts of an activity on coastal resources rather than the activity itself. This "performance standards" approach is conducted on a case-by-case basis with policies developed for all activities that have direct and significant coastal impacts. A direct permitting system for "critical areas" is managed by the Coastal Council. Critical areas are defined as coastal waters, tidelands, beaches, and primary oceanfront sand dunes. Anyone who wants to fill, remove, dredge, drain, or erect structures that will alter any critical area must obtain a permit from the Coastal Council.

The Coastal Council has limited permitting authority outside the coastal zone critical areas. In those areas outside Coastal Council permitting jurisdiction, any filling of waters or wetlands below mean high water requires a South Carolina Budget and Control permit. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control permits are required for construction of subdivision water supply and waste disposal systems. The Coastal Council reviews and certifies permits and projects of other State agencies to insure compliance with the Coastal Management Program. This review authority is mandated in the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act of 1977.

Taxes

There are several tax incentives for conservation of natural resources in South Carolina. A fee simple donation releases property from property taxes. Two easements, conservation and scenic, result in reduced property taxes (S.C. Code (1976) 51-17-10).

EXISTING CBRS UNITS

The present Coastal Barrier Resources System units make up a total of 37 miles of ocean-facing shoreline. Typical environments

found in these units include beach/dune systems, tidal marshlands, creeks, and multiple vegetated beach ridges.

A brief description of the existing CBRS units in South Carolina is provided below. Each unit is identified by its number, name, and the county in which it is located.

M01-Waites Island Complex (Horry). The South Carolina portion of this unit is a low wash-over barrier (Waites Island) with associated tidal marshlands. A jetty has been constructed on Waites Island at Little River Inlet.

M02-Litchfield Beach (Georgetown). This unit is composed of two recurved spits surrounding Midway Inlet. North of the inlet, one spit extends south from Magnolia Beach and is accessible by foot and off-road vehicles. South of the inlet, the other spit extends north from Pawleys Island and is accessible by road.

M03-Pawleys Inlet (Georgetown). Two sections define this unit: a recurved spit on the southern end of Pawleys Island and a beach strand dune system on the northern end of Debidue Beach. Multiple vegetated beach/dune ridges, tidal wetlands, and open water further characterize this unit. Access to the northern end of the unit is by road from developed sections of Pawleys Island. An off-road vehicle trail provides access to the southern end of the unit.

M04-Debidue Beach (Georgetown). This unit is a recurved spit with dune fields and vegetated forest at the northern end and a wash-over barrier with developing dunes at the southern end; extensive tidal marshlands and creeks are also included. Access to the unit is by boat, foot, and a light-duty road from settled areas to the north.

M05-Dewees Island (Charleston). Multiple vegetated beach ridges, tidal marshlands, and beach/dune environments characterize this unit. Access to the island is by boat, but there are sand roads in the wooded upland sections of the island. The southern end of the island, outside of the CBRS unit, has been subdivided into 70 house lots.

M06-Morris Island Complex (Charleston). This unit includes extensive tidal marshlands, vegetated dune ridges, active beach/dune systems, and a recurving spit on the northern end. Maintenance operations in the Charleston Harbor Channel have affected sediment supplies to Morris Island. There is a groin on the northern beach front of the island. The island has five buildings and a rather large area that has been diked for dredge spoil disposal. The Charleston Lighthouse, standing in the water away from the beach, is a silent reminder of the active retreat and erosion of the island's southern end. Access to the island is by boat only.

M07-Bird Key Complex (Charleston). Three subunits characterize this unit: a recurved dune ridge system on the southern tip of

CBRS UNITS IN SOUTH CAROLINA ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS, 1982

Unit Name	Unit ID Code	County	Shoreline Length (miles)	Area (acres)
Waites Island Complex	M01	Horry	3.0	2,081.9
Litchfield Beach	M02	Georgetown	0.9	71.8
Pawleys Inlet	M03	Georgetown	1.1	130.3
Debidue Beach	M04	Georgetown	2.2	607.3
Deweese Island	M05	Charleston	1.5	982.5
Morris Island Complex	M06	Charleston	3.4	2,696.1
Bird Key Complex	M07	Charleston	4.1	1,658.6
Captain Sams Inlet	M08	Charleston	1.9	492.5
Edisto Complex	M09	Charleston	4.8	1,395.6
Otter Island	M10	Colleton	3.8	2,725.8
Harbor Island	M11	Beaufort	0.9	250.0
St. Phillips Island	M12	Beaufort	7.1	11,437.1
Daufuskie Island	M13	Beaufort	3.7	2,355.6
Totals:			38.4	26,884.6

Folly Island; Bird Key, a sand shoal in the ebb-tidal delta of Stono Inlet; and the Sandy Point section of Kiawah Island, which is composed of multiple vegetated beach/dune ridges, extensive tidal marshlands, and tidal creeks. No structures are present in the unit. Its northern and southern portions are accessible by road; however, Bird Key is accessible by boat only. The unit has an extensive inventory of natural wildlife, including shorebirds, seabirds, sea turtles, and fishes.

M08-Captain Sams Inlet (Charleston). This unit is essentially an active recurved spit with some vegetated dune ridges. Large expanses of tidal marshlands and open waters are associated with this unit. No structures are present, and access is by foot from developed areas on South Kiawah.

M09-Edisto Complex (Charleston). Three segments characterize this unit: the western half of South Creek Island, an active beach/dune complex with associated tidal marshlands; Botany Bay Island, a low washover barrier feature with extensive tidal marshlands that has undergone significant shoreline retreat; and Edingsville Beach, a low washover feature with tidal marshlands. Access is by boat except for Botany Bay Island, which can be reached by dirt road.

M10-Otter Island (Colleton). The vegetated dune ridges and active dune fields on this island protect extensive marshland. Accessible only by boat, the unit currently contains 11 structures.

M11-Harbor Island (Beaufort). This unit has no structures and is accessible only from the north end by foot and off-road vehicle. Tidal marshlands, beach/dune systems, and active shoals on the beach front are characteristic of this unit. Development is ongoing to the north and west of this unit.

M12-St. Phillips Island (Beaufort). This unit complex contains four island subunits: Pritchards Island--vegetated beach ridges with tidal marshlands surrounding the island; Capers Island--extensive tidal marshlands with a narrow beach strand and recurving spit

on the southern end; St. Phillips Island--extensive tidal marshlands and multiple vegetated beach/dune ridges; and Bay Point Island--vegetated beach ridges, extensive tidal marshlands, and a narrow beach/dune system. The unit, accessible only by boat and used principally for hunting and fishing, has six structures. Wildlife habitats are rich and diverse, and many rare or endangered species are documented residents or visitors.

M13-Daufuskie Island (Beaufort). Daufuskie Island consists of extensive vegetated dune ridges of oak, pine, cabbage palm, and other tree species. The beach/dune system varies from very narrow to nonexistent in places. An extensive tidal marsh island south of Daufuskie Island proper also is included in this unit. Access to Daufuskie Island is by ferry from Bull Island. A community of farmers and fishermen on the southwest side of the island, outside of the unit, contains about 100 structures and several sand roads.

PROPOSED ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

This section identifies proposed recommendations for additions to and deletions from the Coastal Barrier Resources System in South Carolina. The Secretary of the Interior, as directed by Section 10 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, will make his final recommendations to the Congress after a 90-day public comment period. The following proposed recommendations have been developed in response to public, State and Federal agency, and Congressional comments on the Coastal Barrier Draft Inventory developed by the Study Group. The inventory maps were available for public comment between March 4, 1985, and September 30, 1985. The process and criteria used in the inventory were described on March 4, 1985, in the Federal Register (Vol. 50, No. 42).

The State of South Carolina has reviewed these documents and opposes the addition of the "otherwise protected" areas identified in the inventory. The State suggests that if such areas were added to the CBRS then the exceptions language in CBRA should be

clarified to assure development for recreational purposes. The State also expressed concern about the impacts of the proposed expansion to include "associated aquatic habitat" on highways and utility crossings.

The State made two recommendations regarding specific units in the inventory: first, that additional wetlands be added to Waites Island Complex (M01) and Bird Key Complex (M07), and second, that an additional segment of barrier on the far northern boundary of Litchfield Beach (M02) be added to that unit.

The placement of the southern boundary of CBRS unit M03, Pawleys Inlet, was the subject of some debate during Congressional deliberations on the CBRS in 1982 and has continued to arouse controversy. Congress adjusted the Department of the Interior's 1982 recommended boundary to exclude a phased development. The owners of this development, Arcadia Plantation, contend that this boundary was not delineated in a manner consistent with the Department's delineation criteria and request a further deletion of 800 feet of the southernmost part of the unit. The South Carolina Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources recommends placing the area excluded from the Department of the Interior's original 1982 recommendation back into the unit. The Governor did not take a position on this unit, but requested that the Department analyze the situation and make a recommendation.

The Department received 20 other comments concerning South Carolina. The majority of

these favored the CBRS expansion.

The Department of the Interior proposes to recommend that all undeveloped, unprotected coastal barriers and associated aquatic habitat identified in the inventory be added to the Coastal Barrier Resources System in South Carolina. The Department concurs with the State in recommending that the undeveloped area north of CBRS unit M02, Litchfield Beach, should be added to CBRS. In 1982, the Department was of the mistaken opinion that this area was part of a phased development and, therefore, did not include the area in its original recommendations to Congress.

The Department has concluded that all of CBRS unit M03, Pawleys Inlet, fully qualifies as an undeveloped coastal barrier. Therefore, no change in the southern boundary is recommended. The Department does recommend the addition of associated aquatic habitat behind the existing CBRS unit.

A table presenting the Department's current position on each unit identified in the inventory follows this discussion.

Public comment on the proposed recommendations is solicited.

Comments should be directed to:

The Coastal Barriers Study Group
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COASTAL BARRIERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Unit ID Code ^a	Unit Name ^b	County	Congress. Dist. ^c	Shoreline Length (miles) ^d	Area (acres) ^e	Proposed Recommendation ^f
M01	Waites Island Complex	Horry	6	3.00	2,745	Add wetlands identified by State to existing CBRS unit
SC-01	Long Pond	Horry	6	1.14	197	Add to CBRS; no change from inventory
SC-02	Myrtle Beach	Horry	6	—	—	State protected; no further consideration
SC-03	Huntington Beach	Georgetown	6	—	—	State protected; no further consideration
M02	Litchfield Beach	Georgetown	6	1.11	386	Add undeveloped area to the north and wetlands to existing CBRS unit. It is not a phased development
M03	Pawleys Inlet	Georgetown	6	1.10	215	Add wetlands to existing CBRS unit; no change from inventory

(continued)

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COASTAL BARRIERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA (CONTINUED)

Unit ID Code ^a	Unit Name ^b	County	Congress. Dist. ^c	Shoreline Length (miles) ^d	Area (acres) ^e	Proposed Recommendation ^f
M04	Debidue Beach	Georgetown	6	2.20	8,080	Delete northern-most wetlands identified in inventory; add balance to CBRS.
SC-04	North/South Island	Georgetown	6	—	—	State protected; no further consideration
SC-05	Santee	Charleston	1	—	—	State protected; no further consideration
SC-06	Cape Romain	Charleston	1	—	—	Federally protected (FWS); no further consideration
SC-07	Capers Island	Charleston	1	—	—	State protected; no further consideration
M05	Dewees Island	Charleston	1	1.50	6,718	Add wetlands to existing CBRS unit; no change from inventory
SC-08	Fort Moultrie	Charleston	1	—	—	Federally protected (NPS); no further consideration
M06	Morris Island Complex	Charleston	1	3.40	7,734	Delete federally protected (NPS) area; add balance of wetlands to existing CBRS unit
M07	Bird Key Complex	Charleston	1	4.10	6,783	Delete locally protected area; add wetlands to existing CBRS unit
M08	Captain Sams Inlet	Charleston	1	1.90	1,071	Add wetlands to existing CBRS unit; no change from inventory
M09	Edisto Complex	Charleston	1	6.01	1,684	Add wetlands to existing CBRS unit; no change from inventory
SC-09	Edisto Beach	Charleston	1	—	—	State protected; no further consideration
M10	Otter Island	Colleton	1	3.80	10,580	Delete Fenwick Island from inventory; not a barrier. Add wetlands to existing CBRS unit
M11	Harbor Island	Beaufort	1	0.90	2,738	Add additional wetlands to existing CBRS unit
SC-10	Hunting Island	Beaufort	1	—	—	State protected; no further consideration

(continued)

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COASTAL BARRIERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA (CONCLUDED)

Unit ID Code ^a	Unit Name ^b	County	Congress. Dist. ^c	Shoreline Length (miles) ^d	Area (acres) ^e	Proposed Recommendation ^f
M12	St. Phillips Island	Beaufort	1	7.1	21,269	Add additional wetlands to existing CBRS unit
SC-11	Pinckney Island	Beaufort	1	—	—	Federally protected (FWS); no further consideration
M13	Daufuskie Island	Beaufort	1	3.70	2,356	No change to existing CBRS unit
SC-12	Turtle Island	Jasper	1	—	—	State protected; no further consideration
SC-13	Tybee	Jasper	1	—	—	Federally protected (FWS); no further consideration
Total - CBRS as Recommended				40.96	72,556	
Existing CBRS				38.4	26,885	
Net Change in CBRS				+ 2.56	+45,671	

^aUNIT ID CODE - State initials (SC) plus a number identify a proposed new unit. An existing unit is identified by the legal code letter (M) and number established by Congress in 1982.

^bUNIT NAME - For proposed new units, this is a provisional name based on a prominent local feature. For existing CBRS units, this is the legal name.

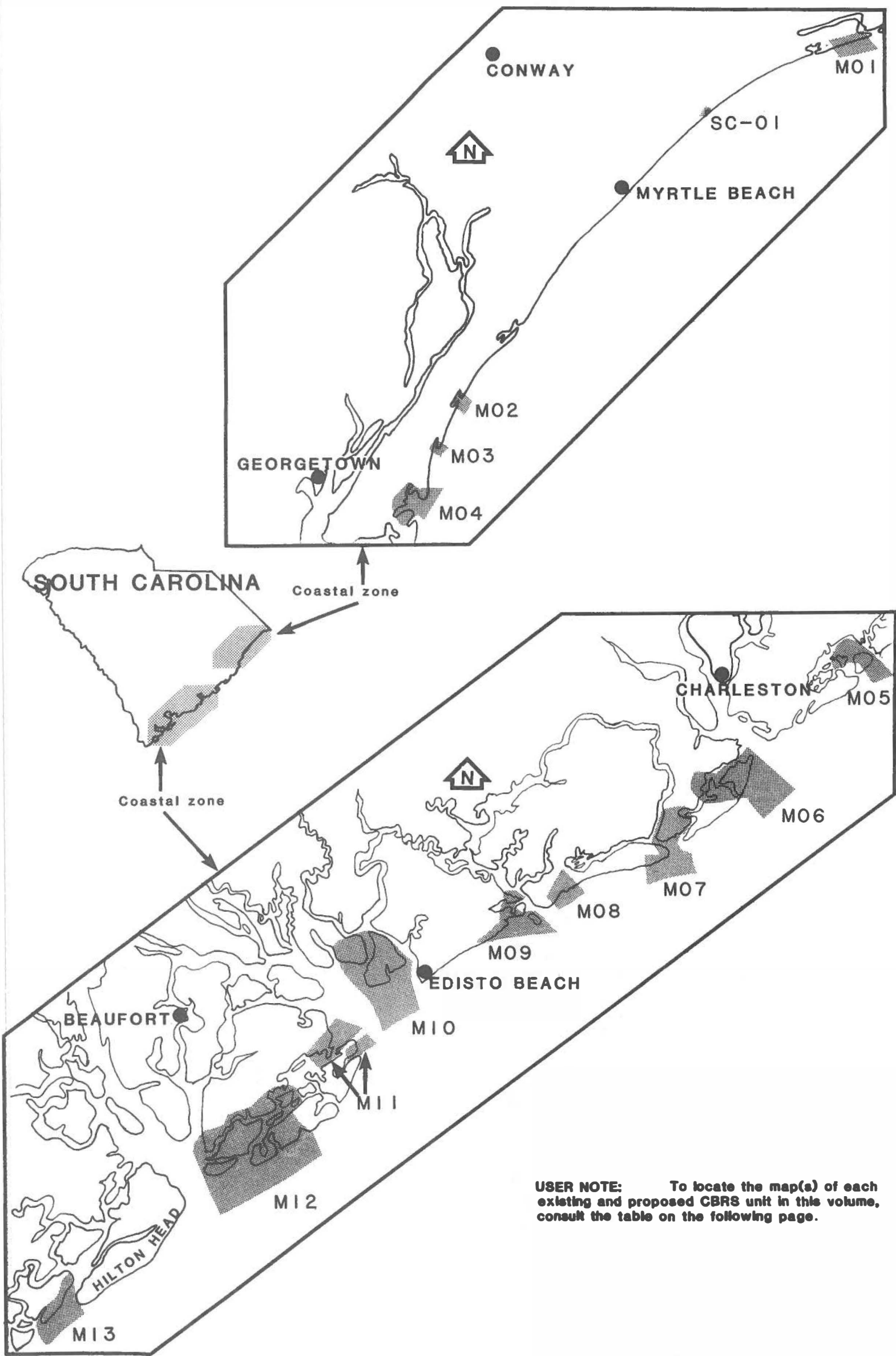
^cCONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - U.S. Congressional District in which unit is located.

^dSHORELINE LENGTH - For existing units with additions or deletions, this length is for the entire unit, as modified.

^eAREA - For existing units with additions or deletions, this area is for the entire unit, as modified.

^fPROPOSED RECOMMENDATION - A brief explanation of the changes between the 1985 inventory and the recommendations proposed in this revised inventory. For more detailed explanations, please contact the Study Group. Abbreviations: FWS = Fish and Wildlife Service, NPS = National Park Service, CBRS = Coastal Barrier Resources System. Barriers no longer under consideration are not mapped in this atlas.

INDEX TO EXISTING AND PROPOSED CBRS UNITS IN SOUTH CAROLINA



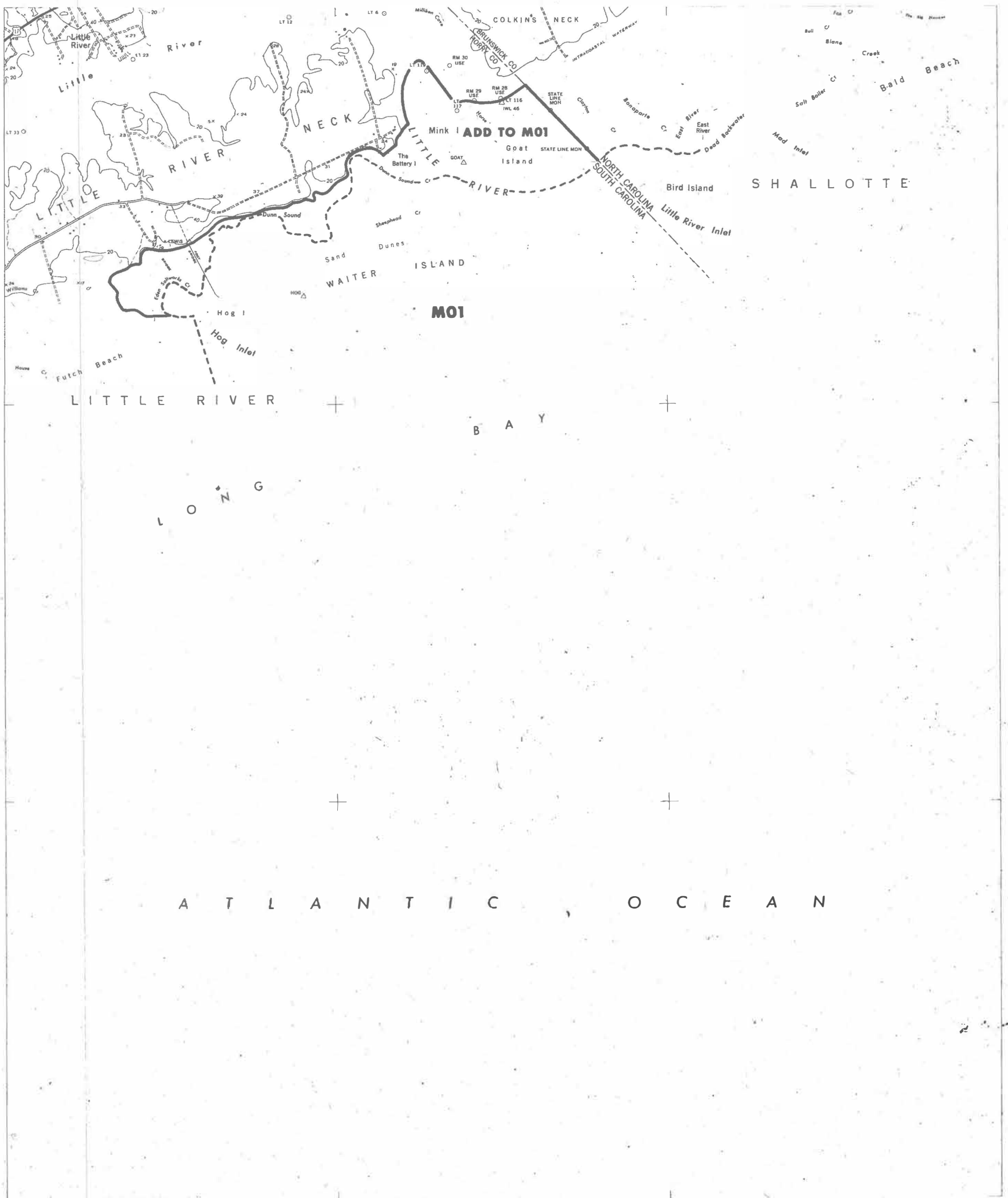
USER NOTE: To locate the map(s) of each existing and proposed CBRS unit in this volume, consult the table on the following page.

EXISTING AND PROPOSED CBRS UNITS AND THEIR LOCATION IN THIS VOLUME

Unit ID Code	Unit Name	USGS Topographic Map or Map Composite	Page
M01	Waites Island Complex	Little River	10
SC-01	Long Pond	Nixonville	11
M02	Litchfield Beach	Magnolia Beach	12
M03	Pawleys Inlet	Waverly Mills	13
M04	Debidue Beach	North Island	14
M05	Deweese Island	Capers Inlet	15
		Fort Moultrie	16
M06	Morris Island Complex	James Island	17
M07	Bird Key Complex	James Island	17
		Legareville	18
M08	Captain Sams Inlet	Rockville	19
M09	Edisto Complex	Rockville	19
		Edisto Island	20
M10	Otter Island	Edisto Island	20
		Bennetts Point	21
		St. Helena Sound	22
M11	Harbor Island	St. Helena Sound	22
M12	St. Phillips Island	St. Phillips Island	23
		Parris Island	24
M13	Daufuskie Island	Tybee Island North	25

MAP KEY

-----	Existing CBRS units
_____	Proposed additions to or deletions from CBRS
ADD	Area recommended for addition to a CBRS unit
DELETE	Area recommended for deletion from the CBRS
EXCLUDED	Area excluded from an existing or proposed CBRS unit because it is developed or it is otherwise protected



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DONALD P. MODEL, SECRETARY

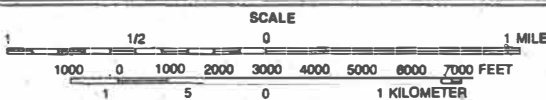


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Report to Congress on the Coastal Barrier Resources System

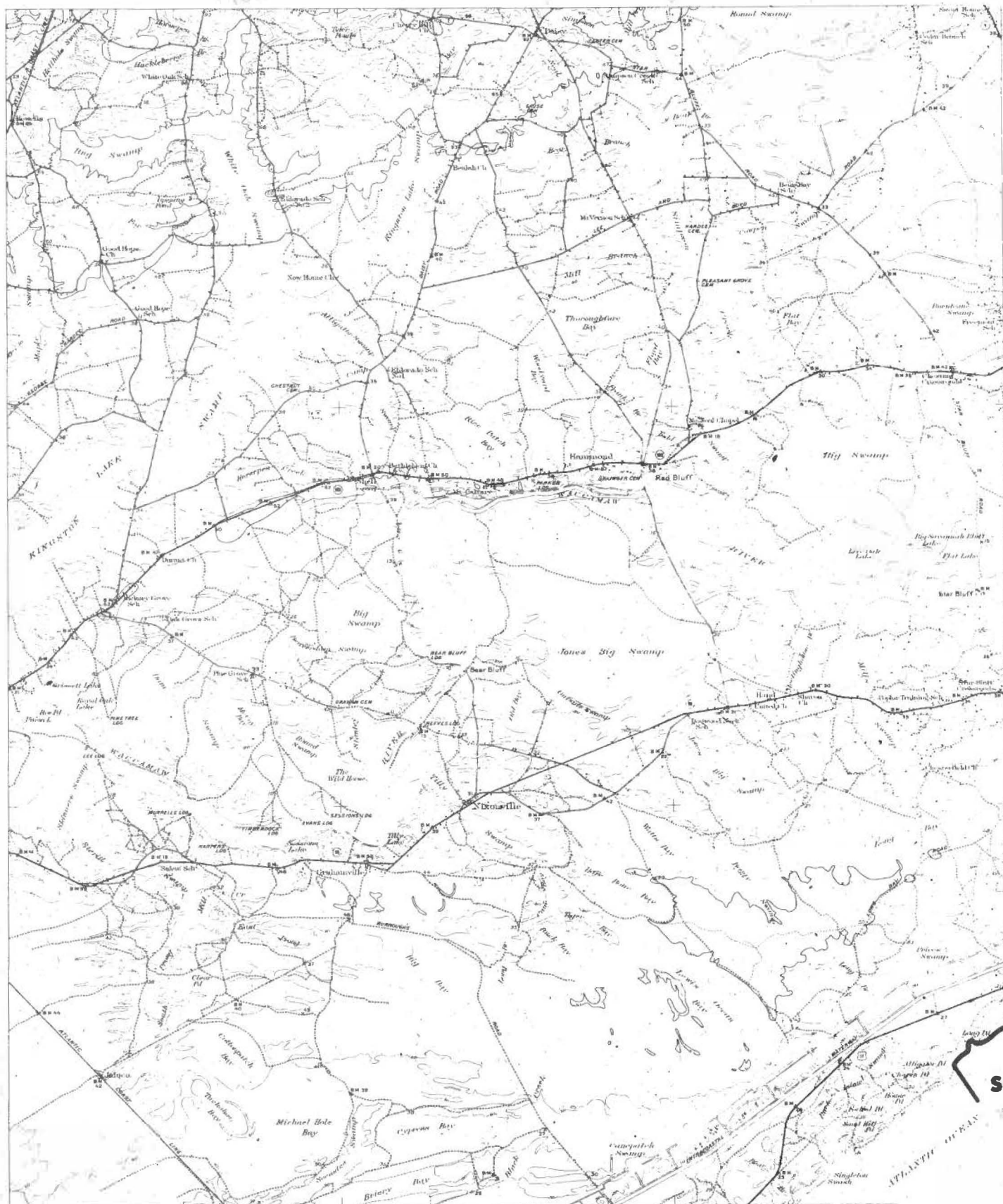
QUADRANGLE
LITTLE RIVER
SOUTH CAROLINA



Solid lines depict proposed recommendations for additions or deletions to the Coastal Barrier Resources System. (Section 10 of P.L. 97-348.)
Dash lines depict approximate boundaries of existing units in the Coastal Barrier Resources System, for reference purposes only.

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Washington, D.C. 20240

Base Map is the U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000 scale quadrangle.



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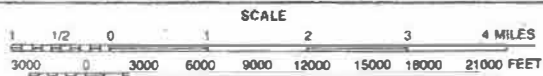


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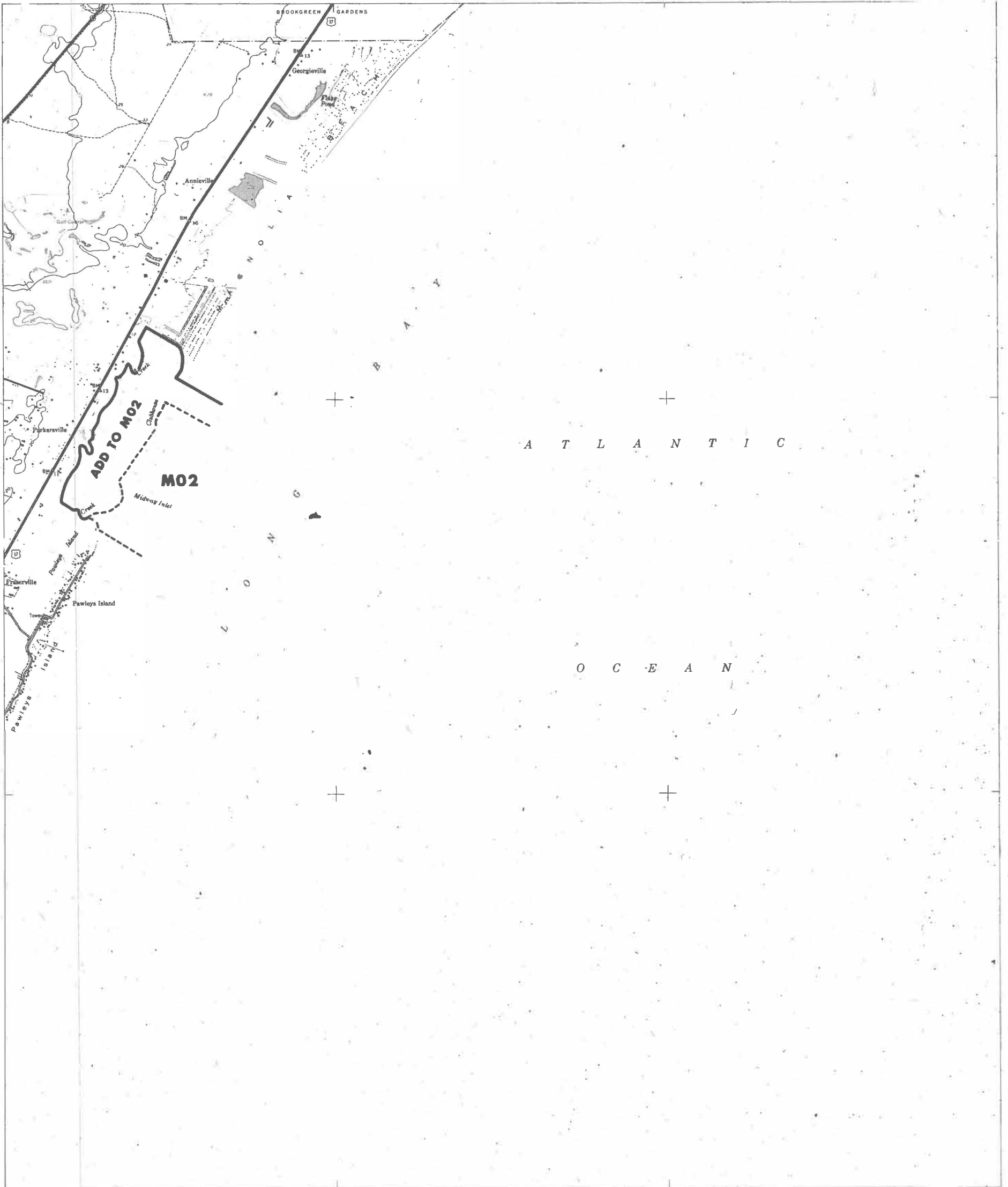
QUADRANGLE
NIXONVILLE
SOUTH CAROLINA



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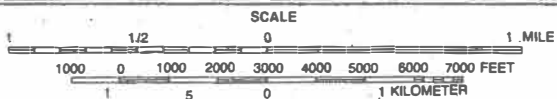


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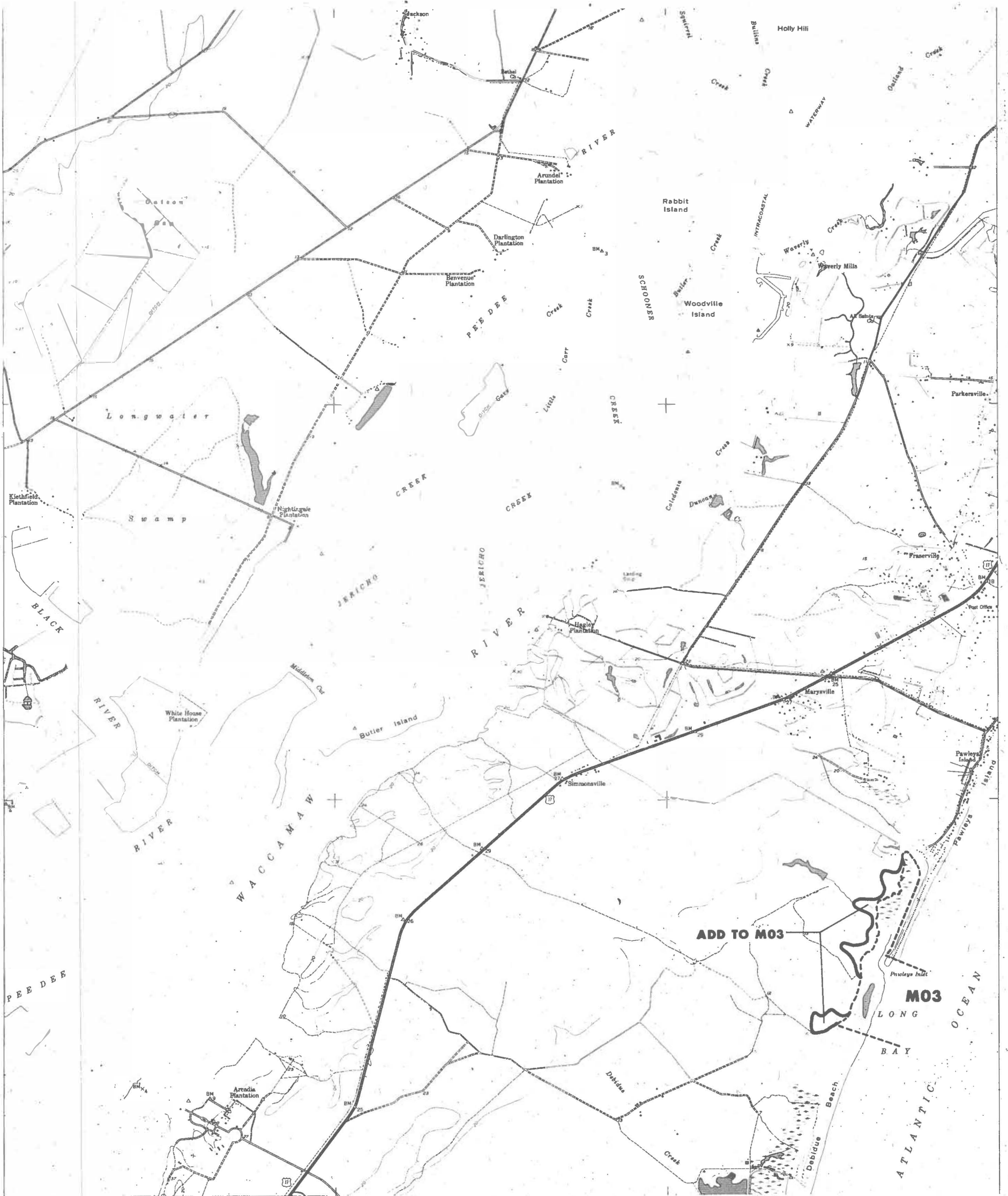
QUADRANGLE
MAGNOLIA BEACH
SOUTH CAROLINA



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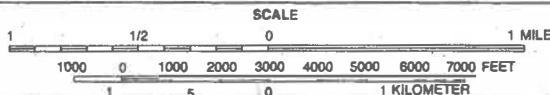
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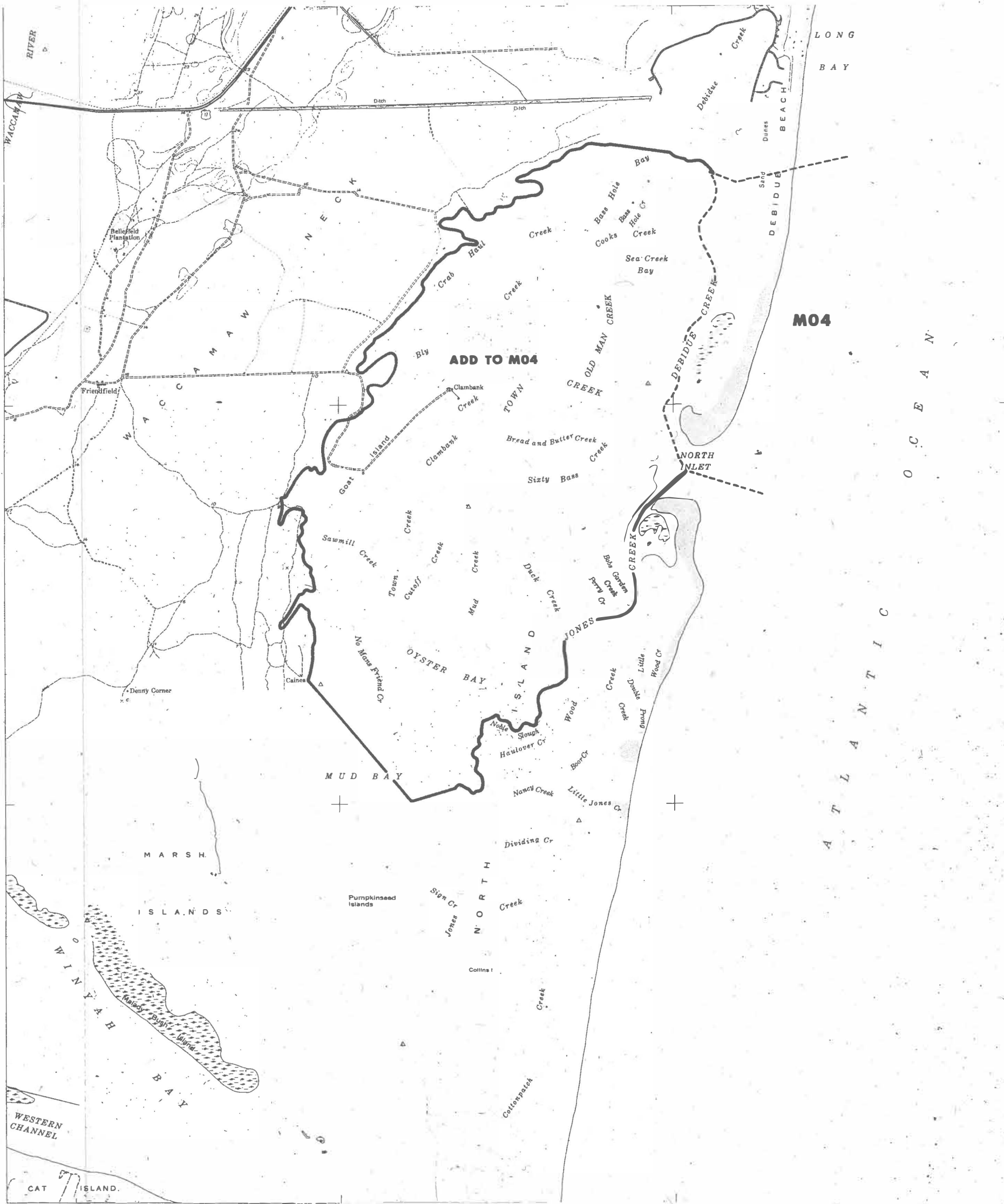
QUADRANGLE
WAVERLY MILLS
SOUTH CAROLINA



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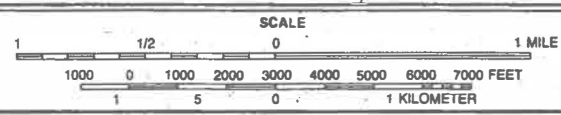


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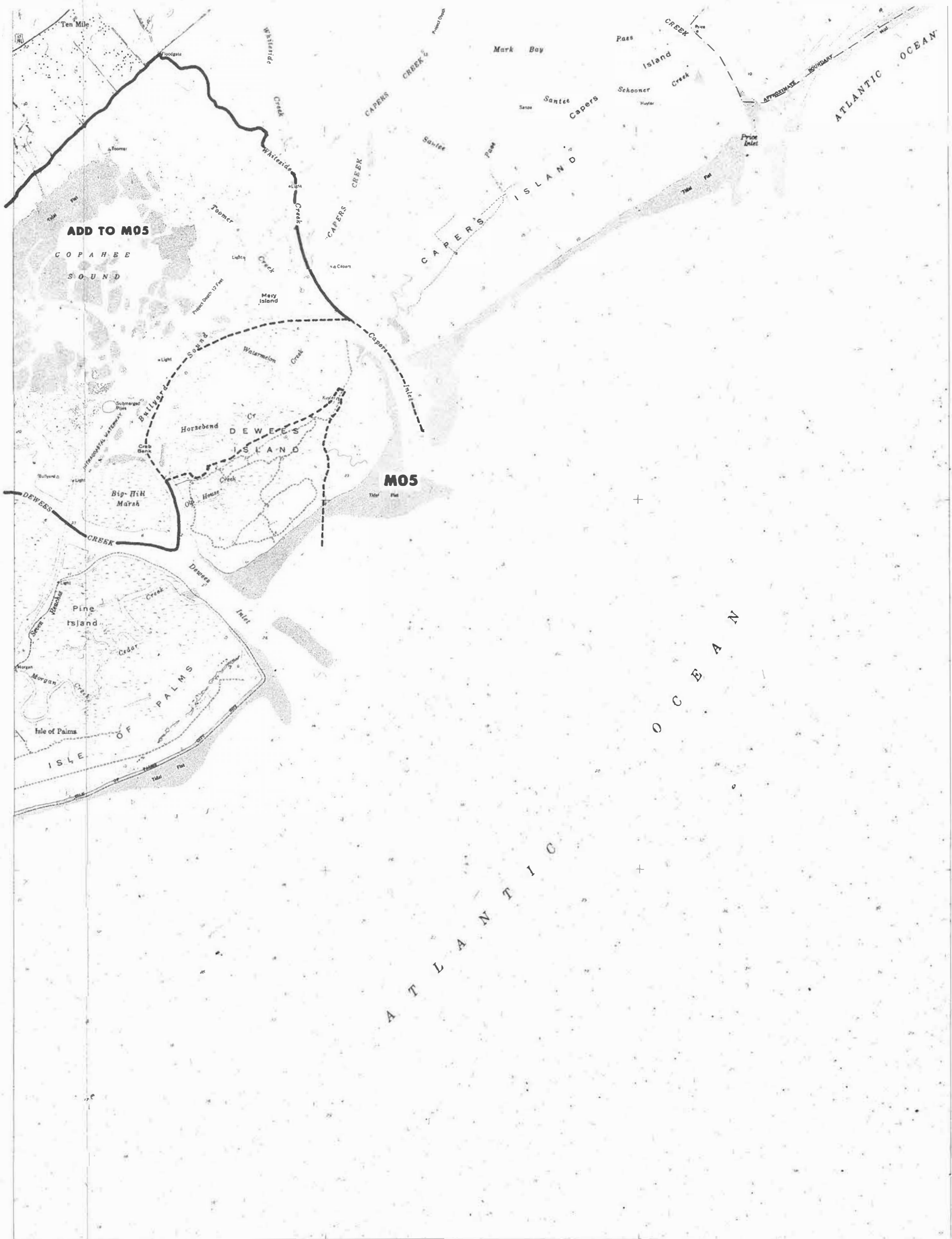
QUADRANGLE
NORTH ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA



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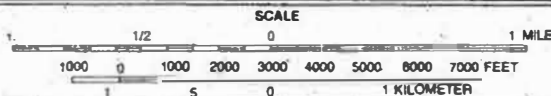


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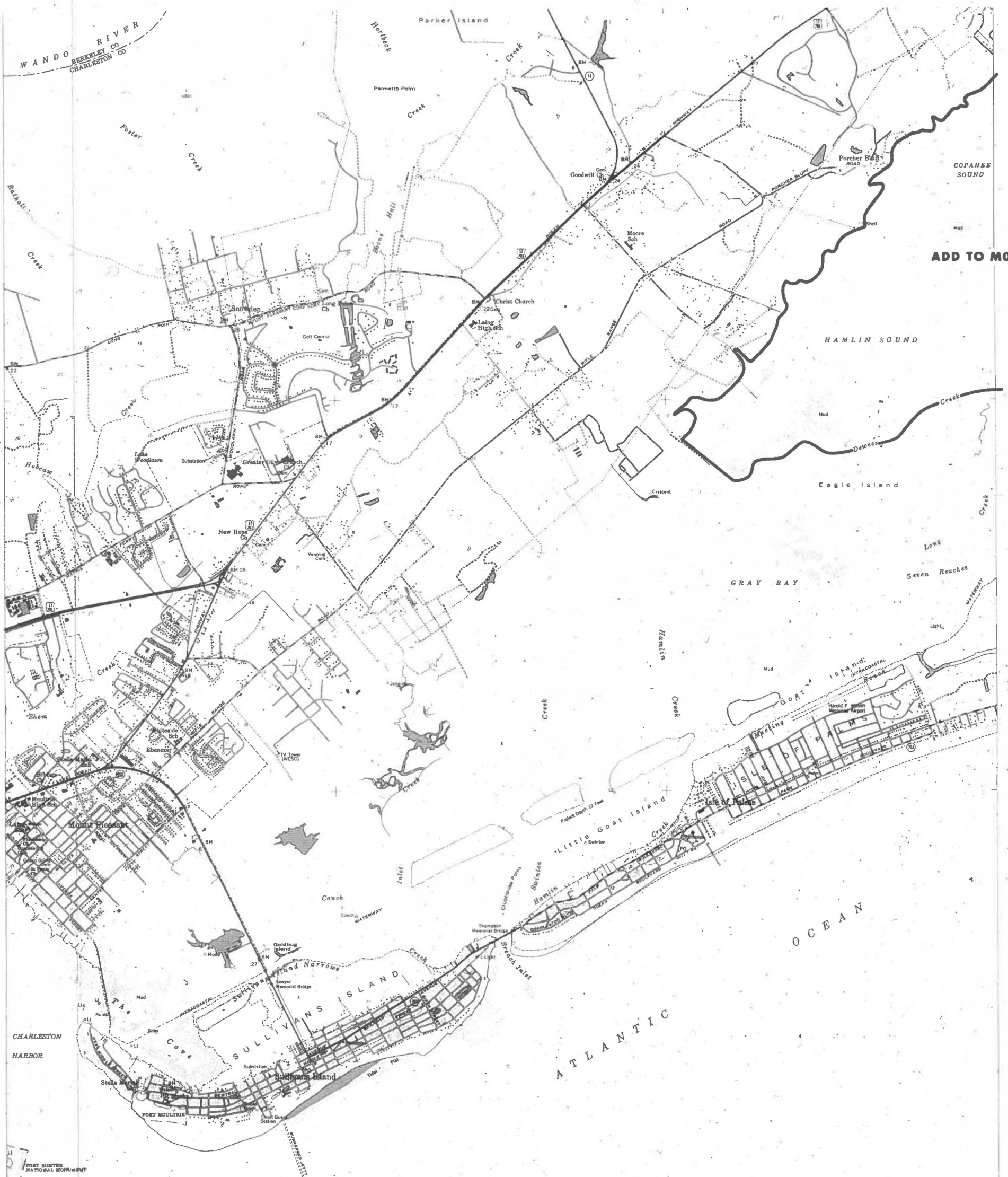
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QUADRANGLE
CAPERS INLET
SOUTH CAROLINA



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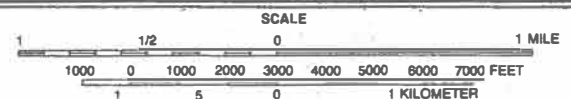


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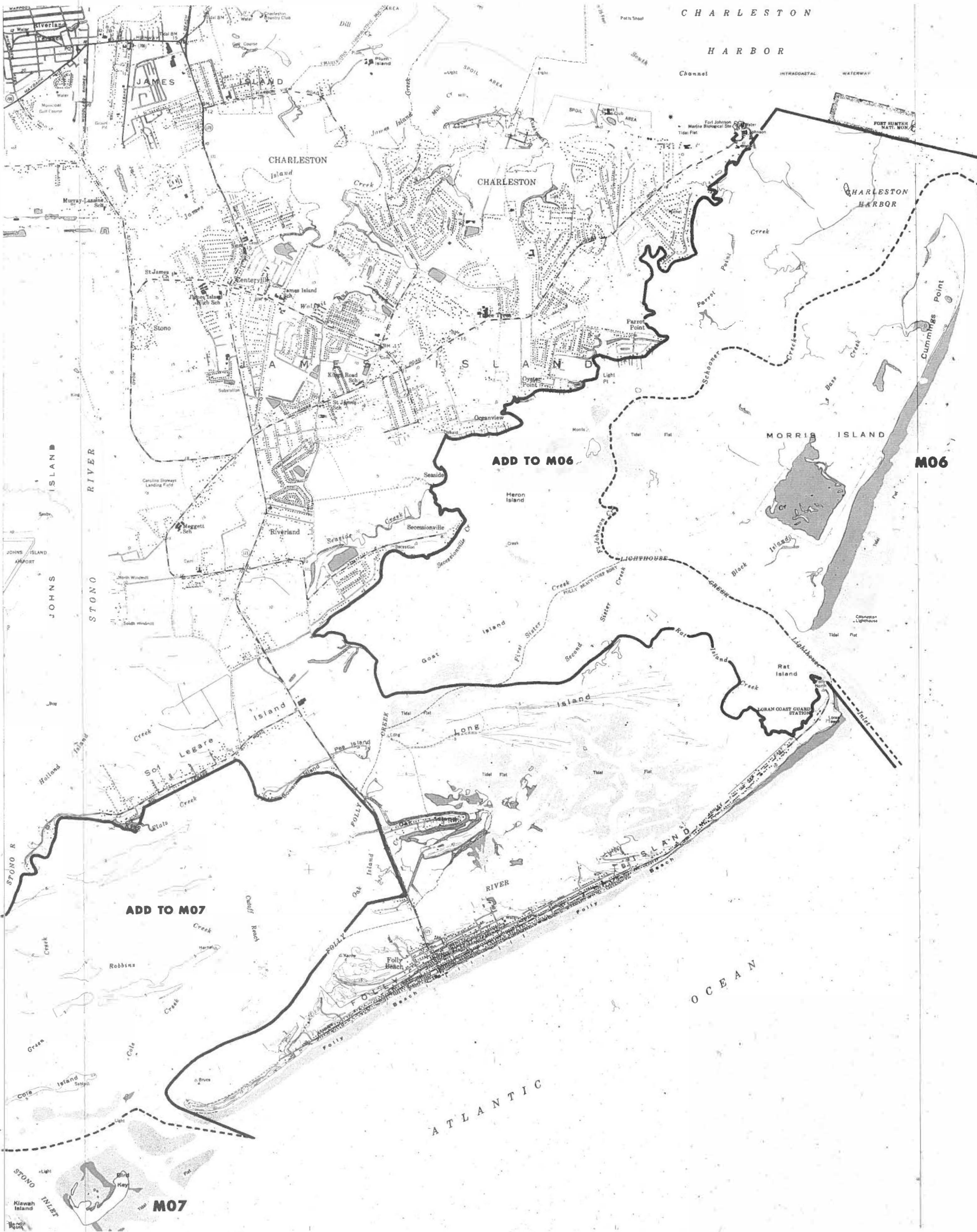
QUADRANGLE
FORT MOULTRIE
SOUTH CAROLINA



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Base Map is the U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000 scale quadrangle.

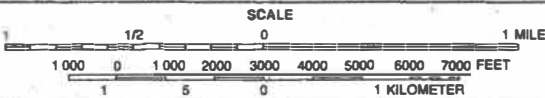


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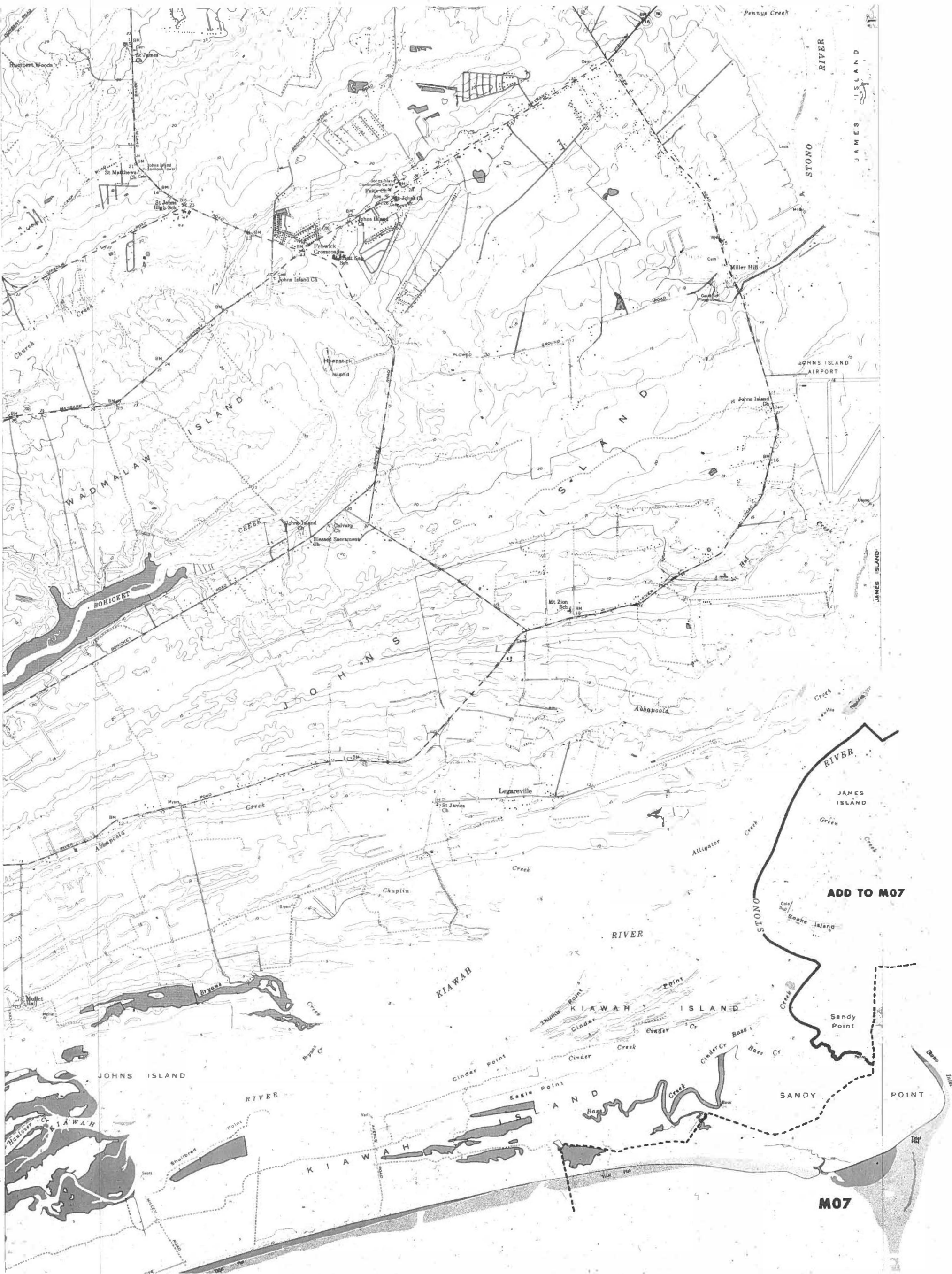
QUADRANGLE
JAMES ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA



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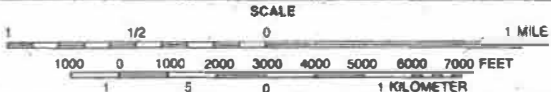


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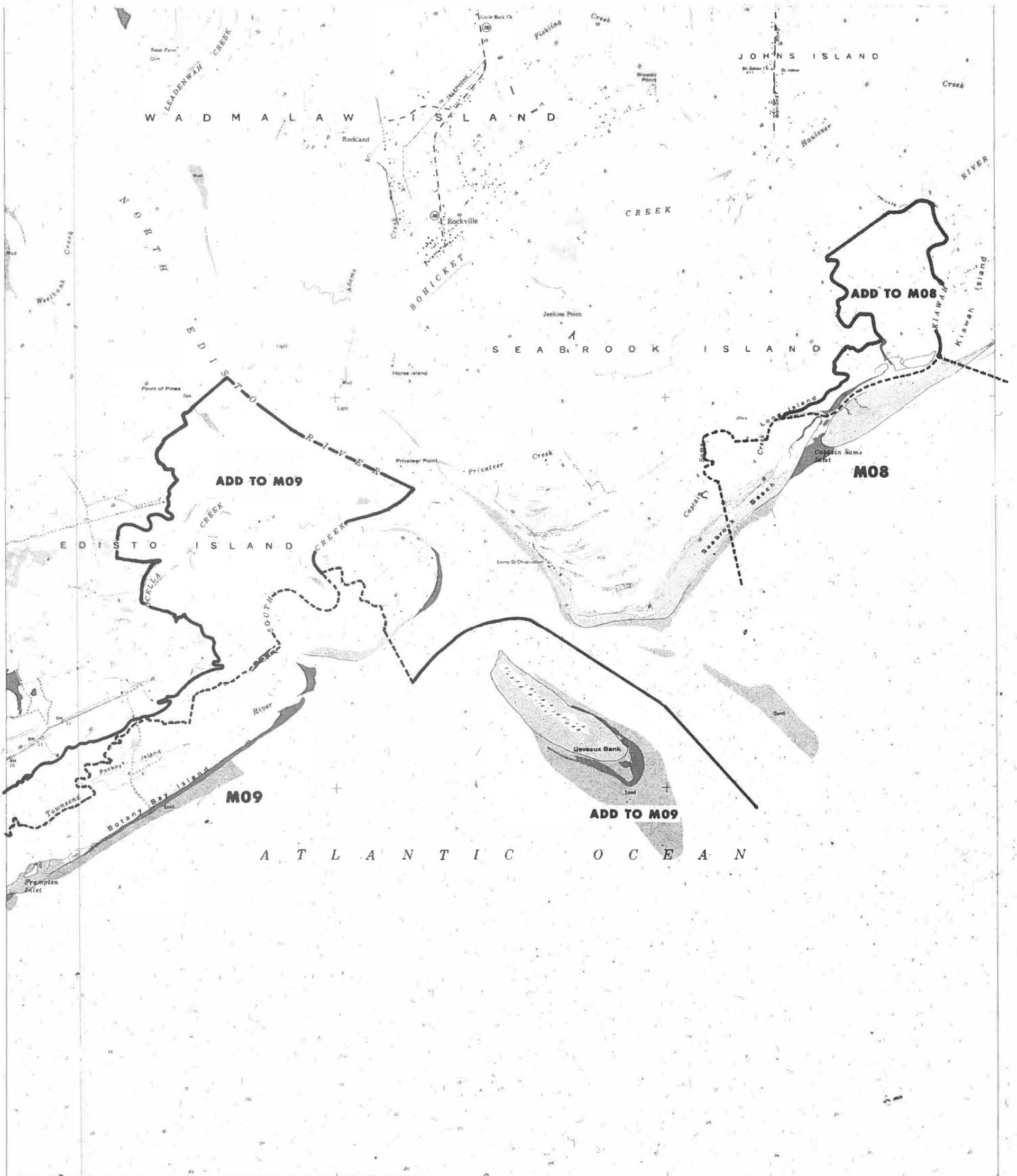
QUADRANGLE
LEGAREVILLE
SOUTH CAROLINA



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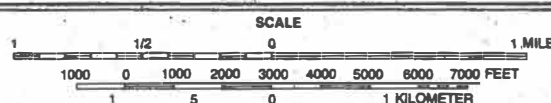
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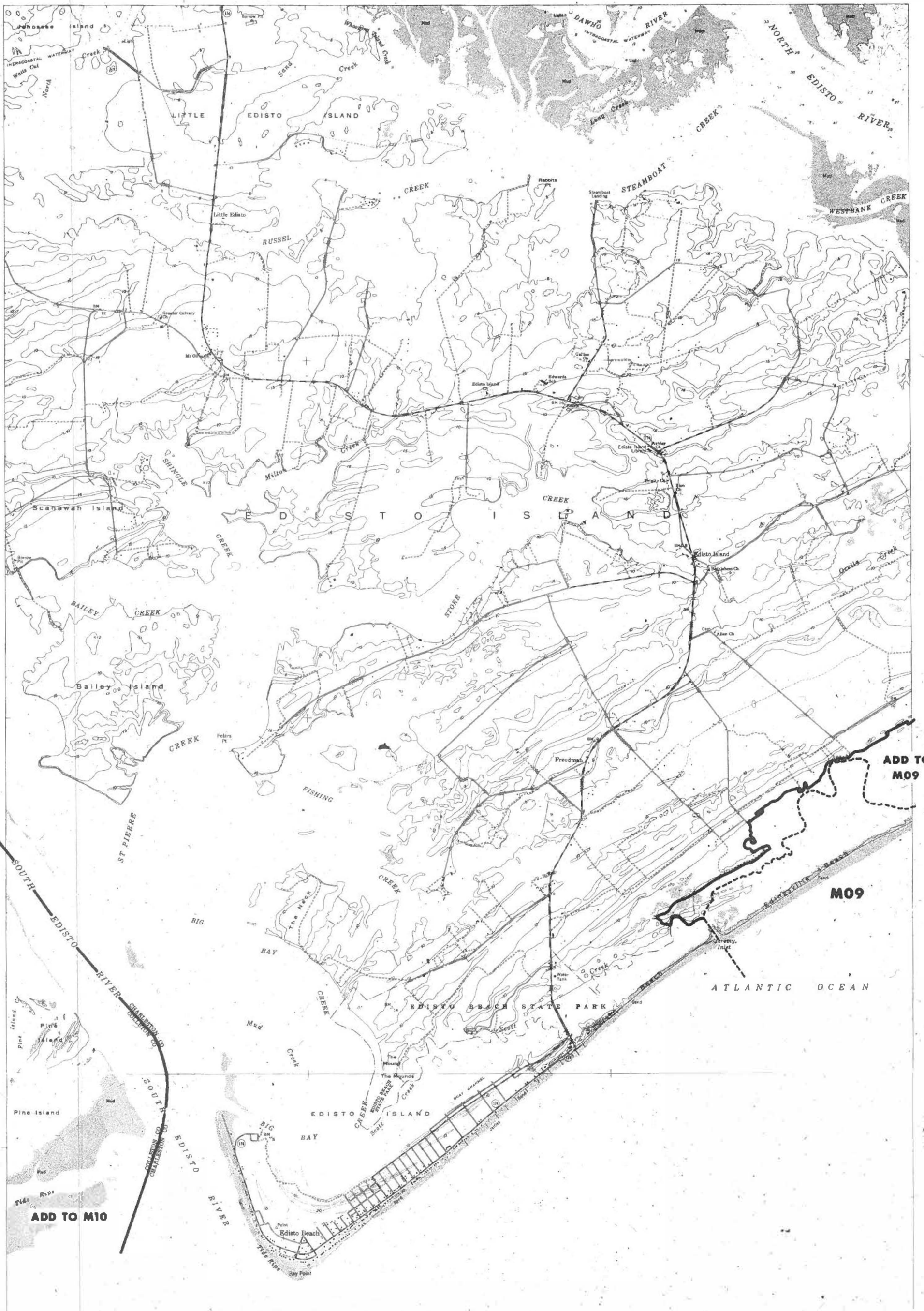
QUADRANGLE
ROCKVILLE
SOUTH CAROLINA



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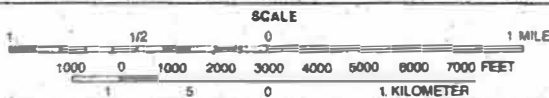


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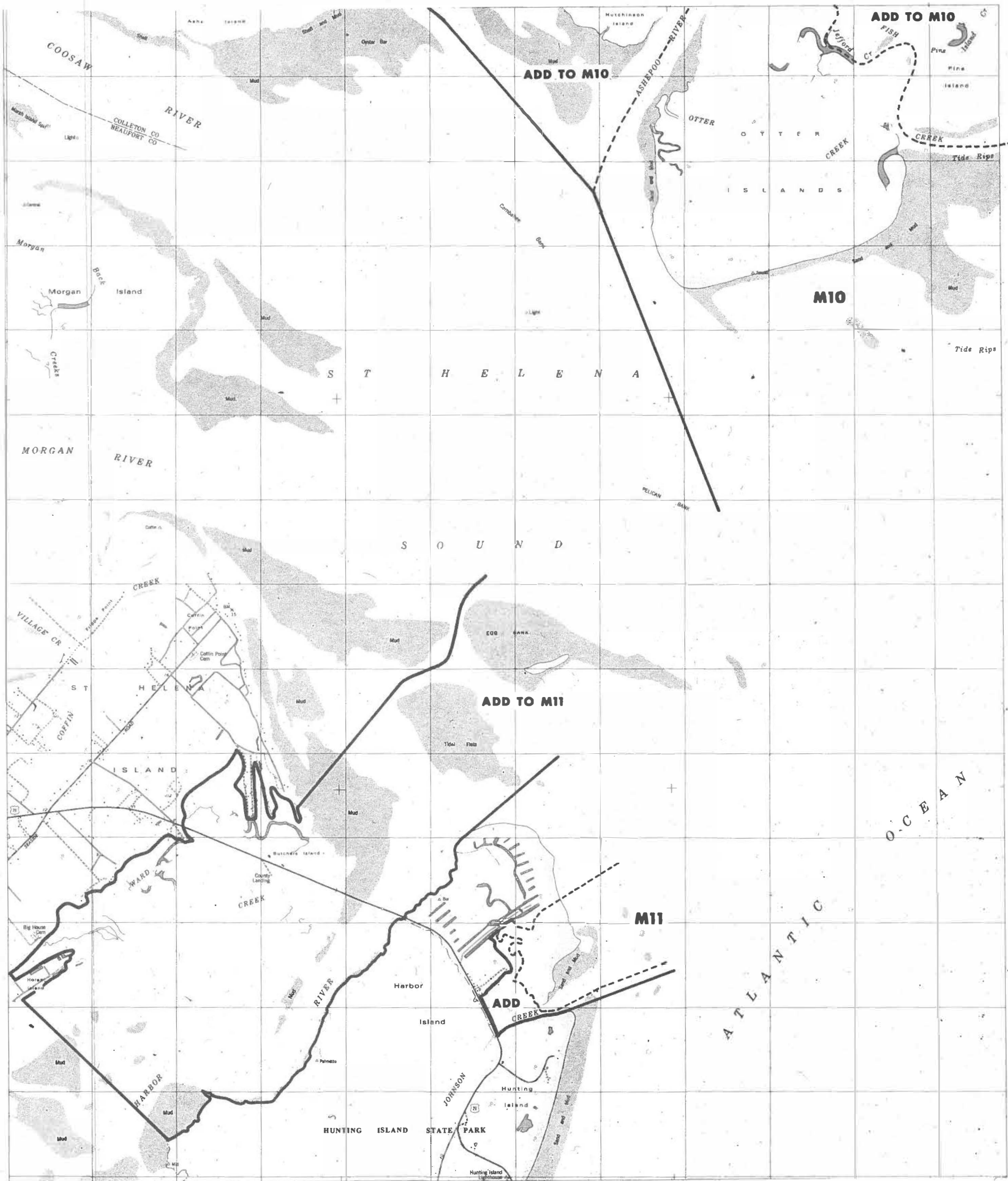
QUADRANGLE
EDISTO ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA



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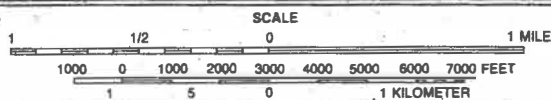
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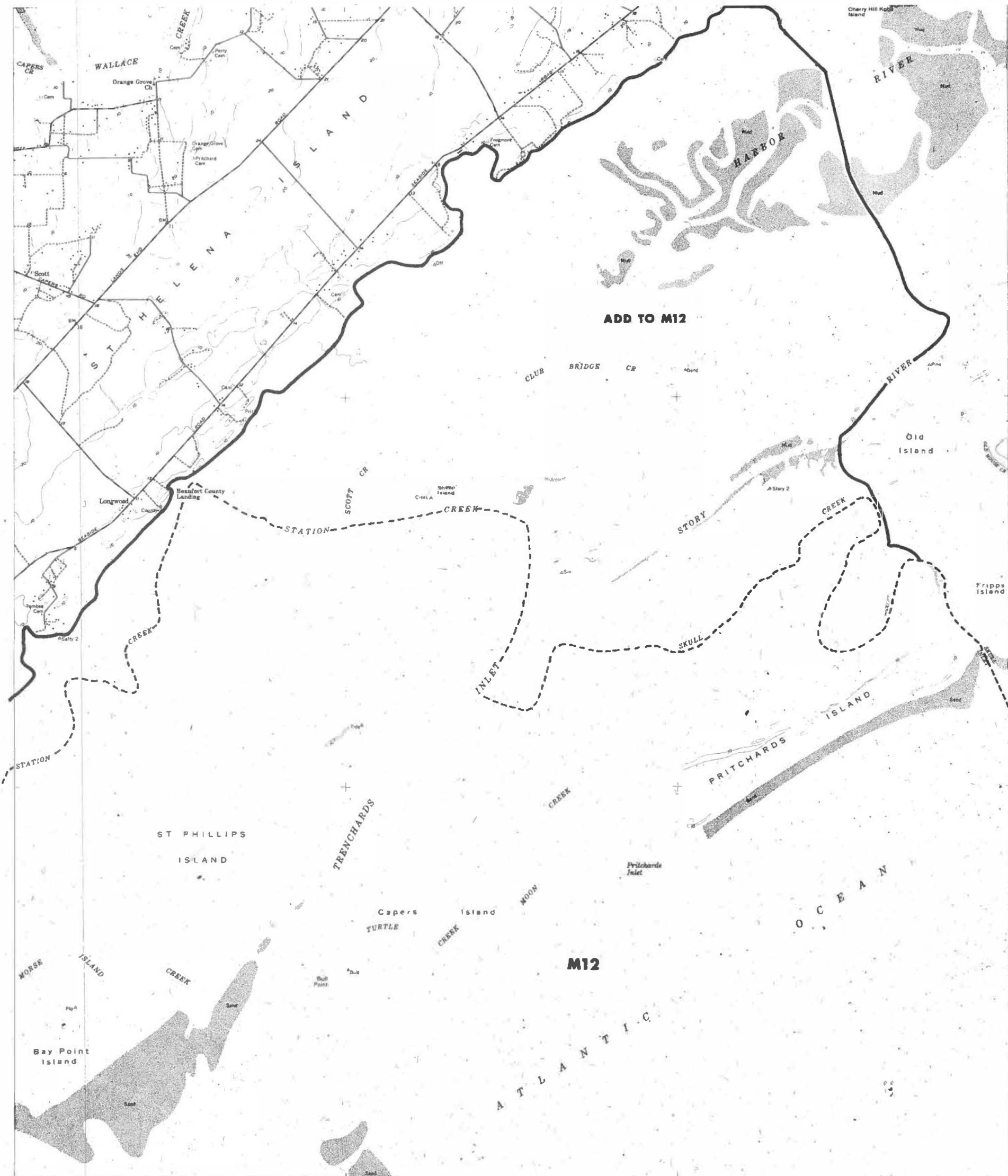
QUADRANGLE
ST. HELENA SOUND
SOUTH CAROLINA



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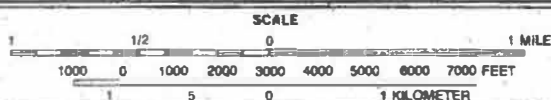
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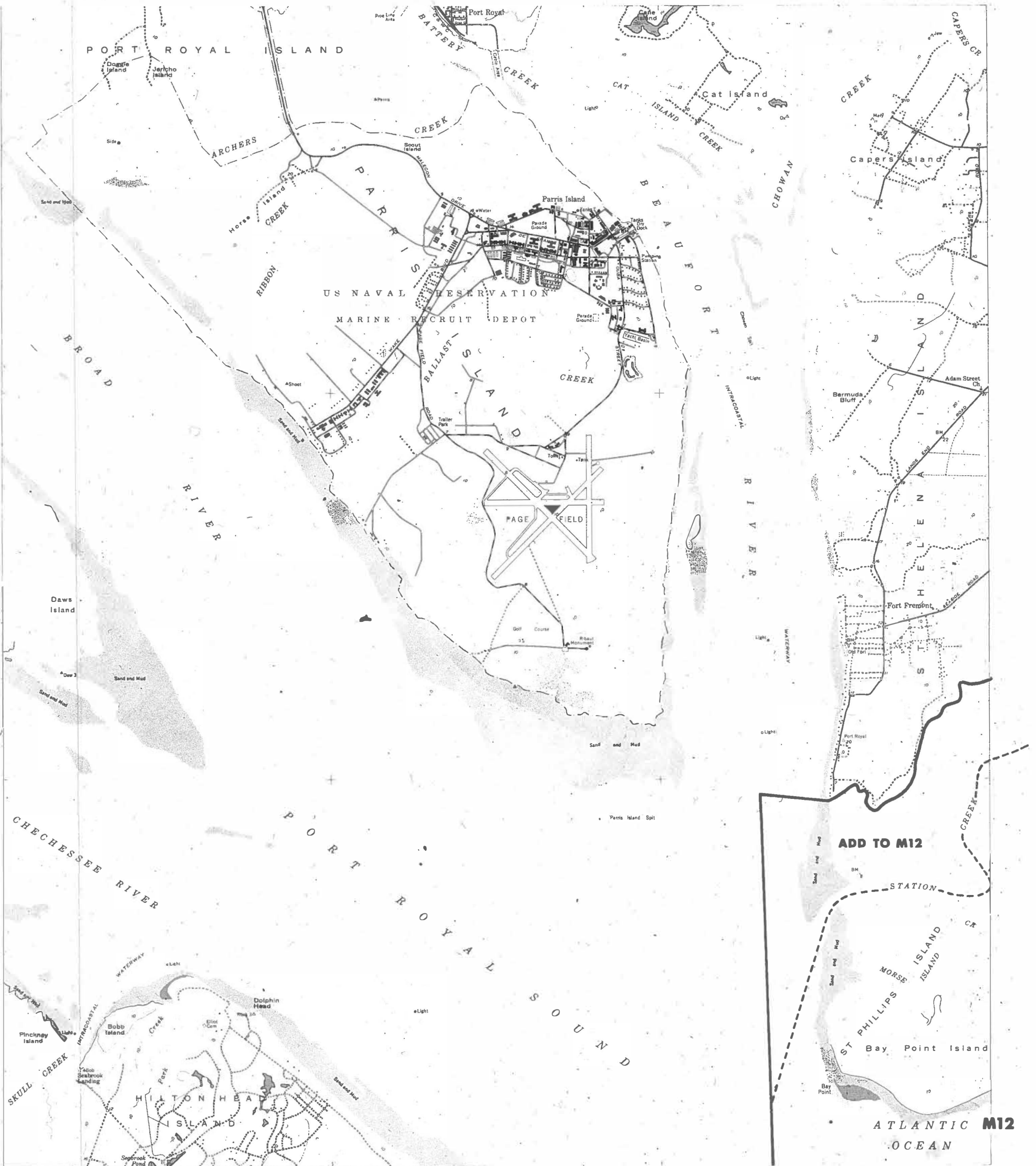
QUADRANGLE
ST PHILLIPS ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA



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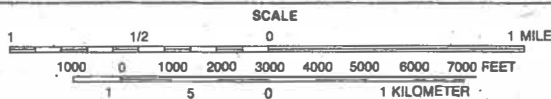
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QUADRANGLE
PARRIS ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA



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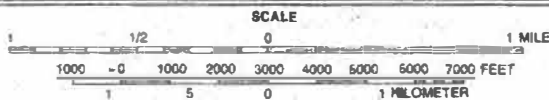


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QUADRANGLE
TYBEE ISLAND NORTH
SOUTH CAROLINA



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