

ABSTRACT

Prior to about 1480 BP Brunswick River entered the Atlantic south of Jekyll Island. Subsequently, rising sea level encouraged the river to follow a more direct route and to empty north of the island. Satellite imagery suggests that many inlets along the Georgia coast have adjusted in a similar fashion. Circumstantial evidence suggests that the Ogeechee may have relocated from St. Catherines Sound and that Blackbeard Island may be a dissected spit formed by the relocation of Sapelo Sound. Partially abandoned inlets have narrowed due to the progradation of spits while expanded inlets are pinned between eroded banks of the Silver Bluff Formation and markedly crosscut Holocene features. On the Georgia coast marine transgression tends to favor tidal processes and inlet straightening, while stillstand and regression favor wave processes, spit-building and inlet diversion.