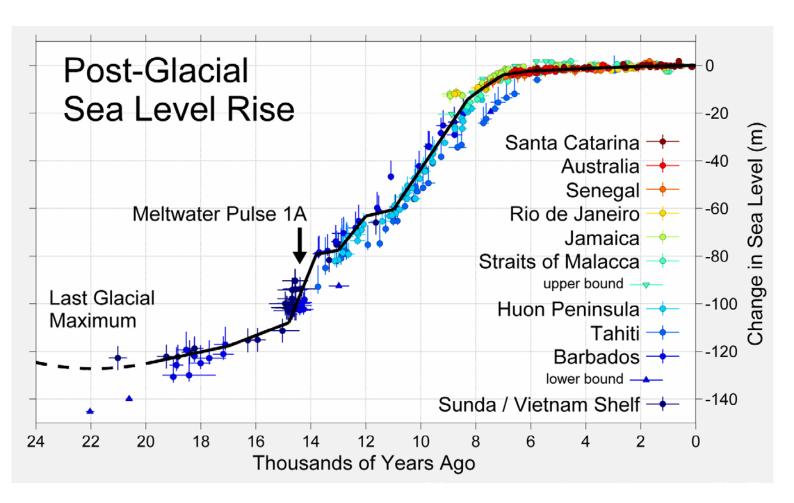


# The Isthmus of Panama was much wider during the Last Glacial period

- The farfield effects of the Last Glacial period caused a drop in sea level in Panama
- At the end of the Last Glacial period at about 21 ka, global relative sea level was about 120-130 m lower than present
- The isthmus of Panama was 250 km wide compared with 50-180 km today
- The land area was 68% larger at 127,207 km<sup>2</sup> (75,517 km<sup>2</sup> today)
- Extra land on the Pacific side was 42,240 km<sup>2</sup> including the Las Perlas Plain
- Extra land on the Caribbean side was 9,450 km<sup>2</sup>
- Total extra land was 51,690 km<sup>2</sup>
- Post-glacial eustatic sea level rise since ~21 ka flooded the continental shelves to form the present day isthmus

### Post-Glacial Global Sea Level Rise



(m)	(years BP)	(years BP)	Series/Epoch (age years BP)
0	0	0	
-1.5		5,000	Holocene (11,500 - 0)
-3	6,800		
-5	7,200	7,200	
-10	7,700	7,700	
-15	8,300	8,000	
-20	8,800	8,300	
-30	9,400	9,000	
-40	10,200	10,000	
-50	10,600	10,200	
-60	12,000	11,000	
-70	13,000	12,500	Upper Pleistocene (126,000 - 11,500)
-80	14,000	14,000	
-90	14,500	14,200	
-100	16,200	14,500	
-110	18,000	15,000	
-120	21,500	17,800	
-130		21,000	

Time 2

Time 1

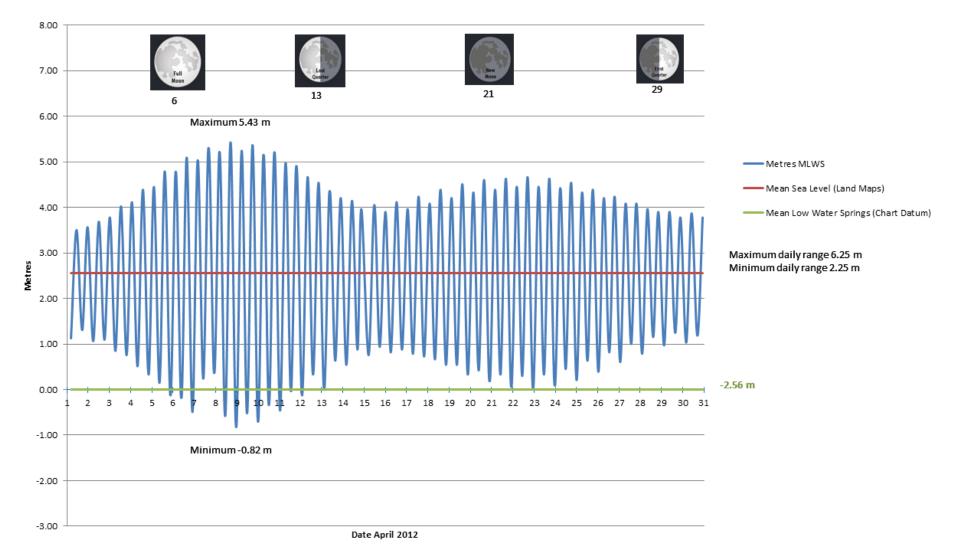
Depth

Geological

Rohde, 2005

1: Fleming et al., 1998. 2: Rohde, 2005.

## The Pacific has a high tidal range and a significant difference between the datums for land maps (MSL) and bathymetric maps (MLWS)

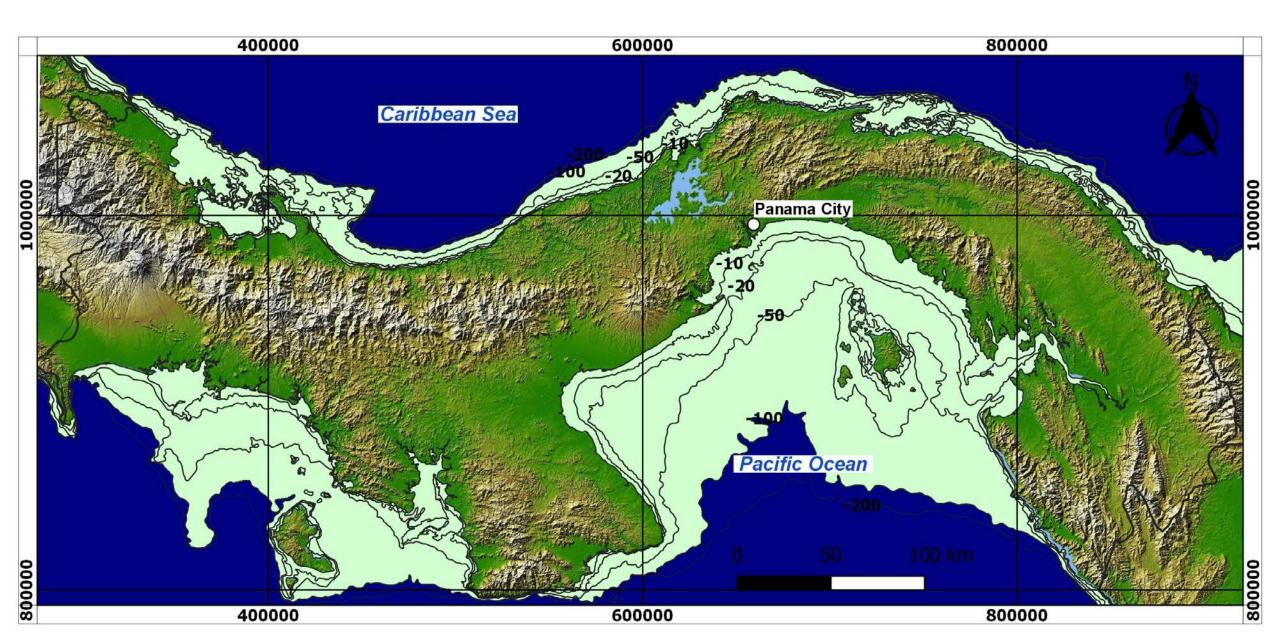


#### **NOTES ON THE MAPS**

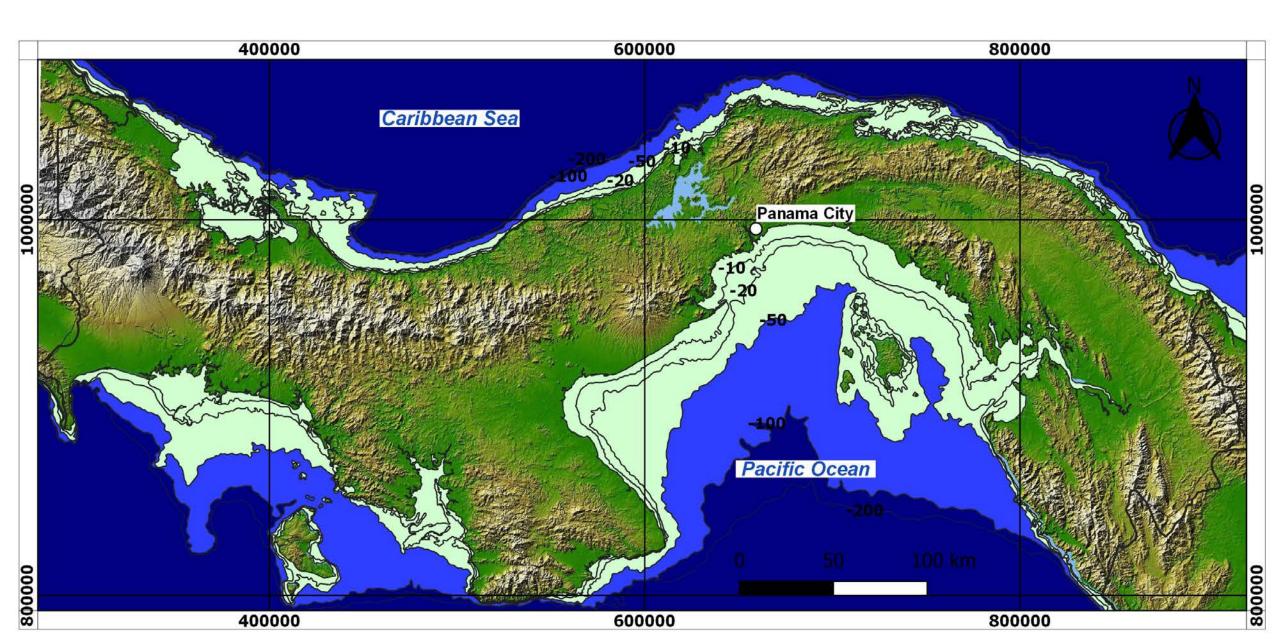
- The bathymetric contours are in MLWS.
- MLWS is 2.56 m below MSL in the Pacific.
- MLWS is 0.12 m below MSL in the Caribbean.
- The dates are from the global sea level chart of Rohde (2005) and are for MSL.
- The dates on the maps are adjusted to MSL.
- The dates on the maps are approximate.

Tides at Balboa (Pacific) in one month

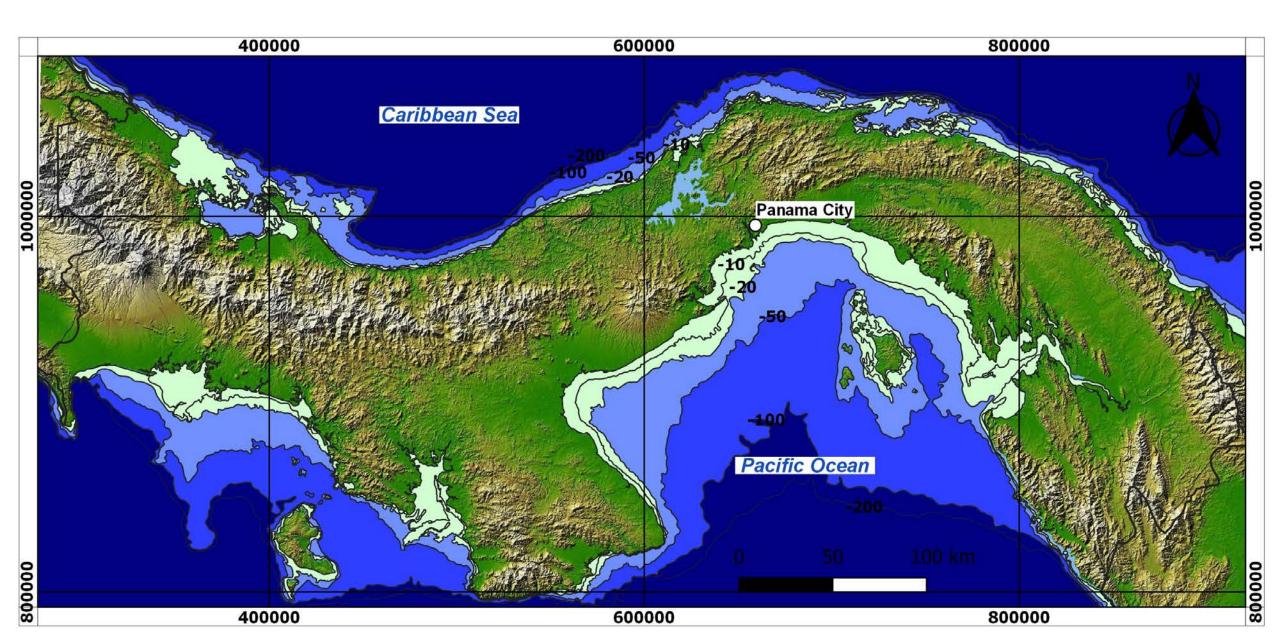
#### 14.5 ka. -100 m MLWS



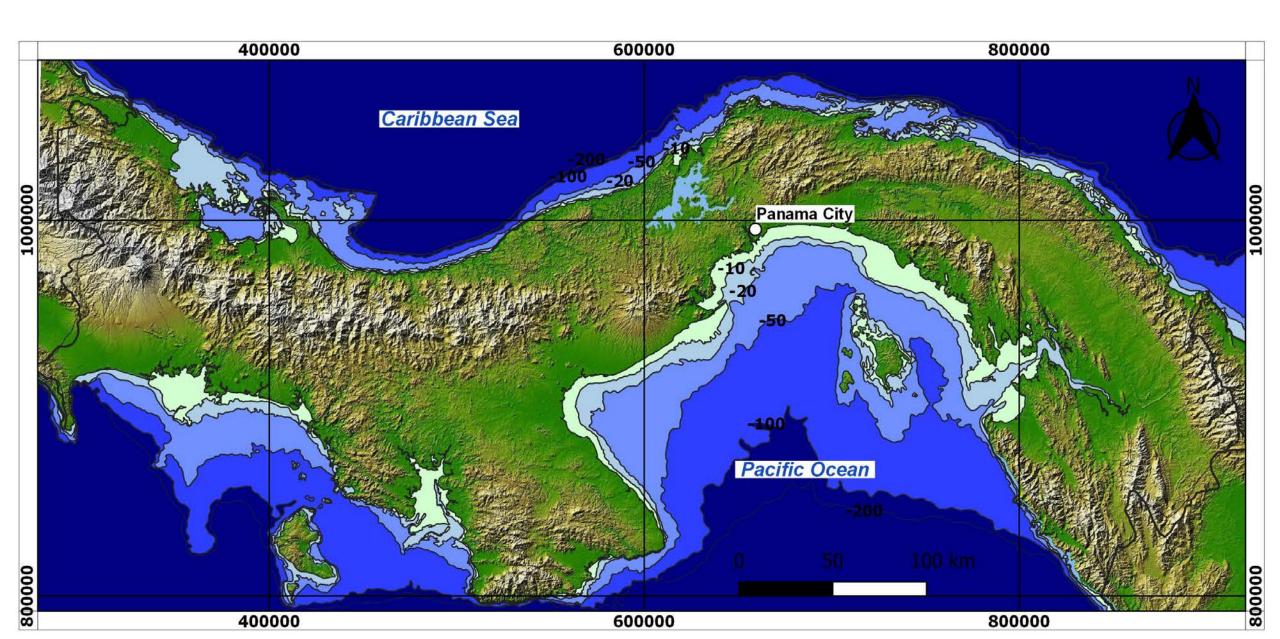
#### 10.2 ka. -50 m MLWS



#### 8.3 ka. -20 m MLWS

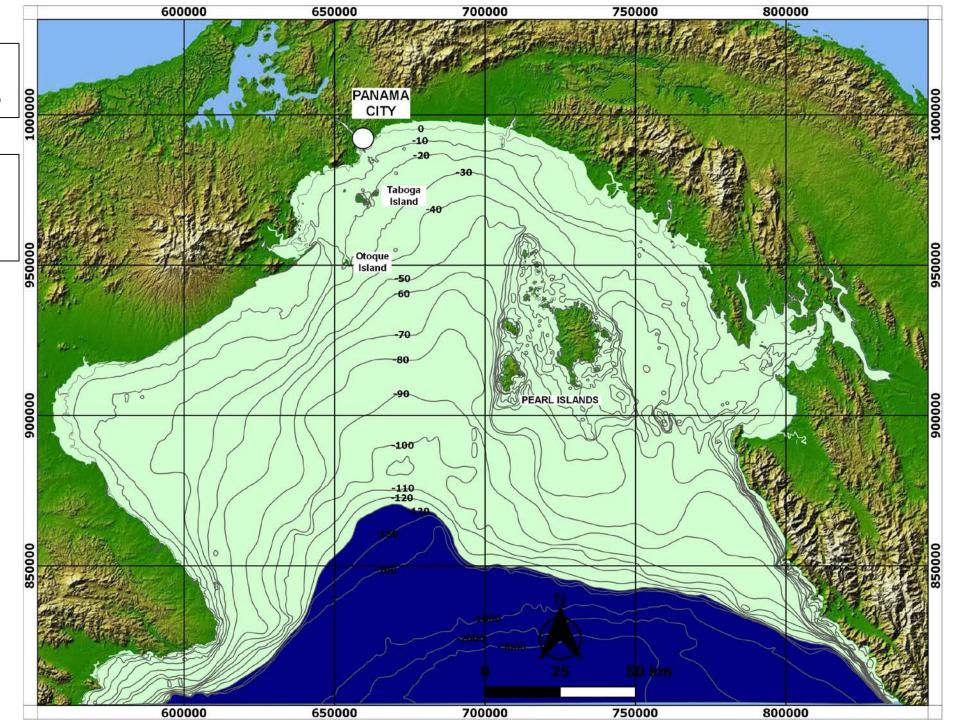


#### 7.7 ka. -10 m MLWS

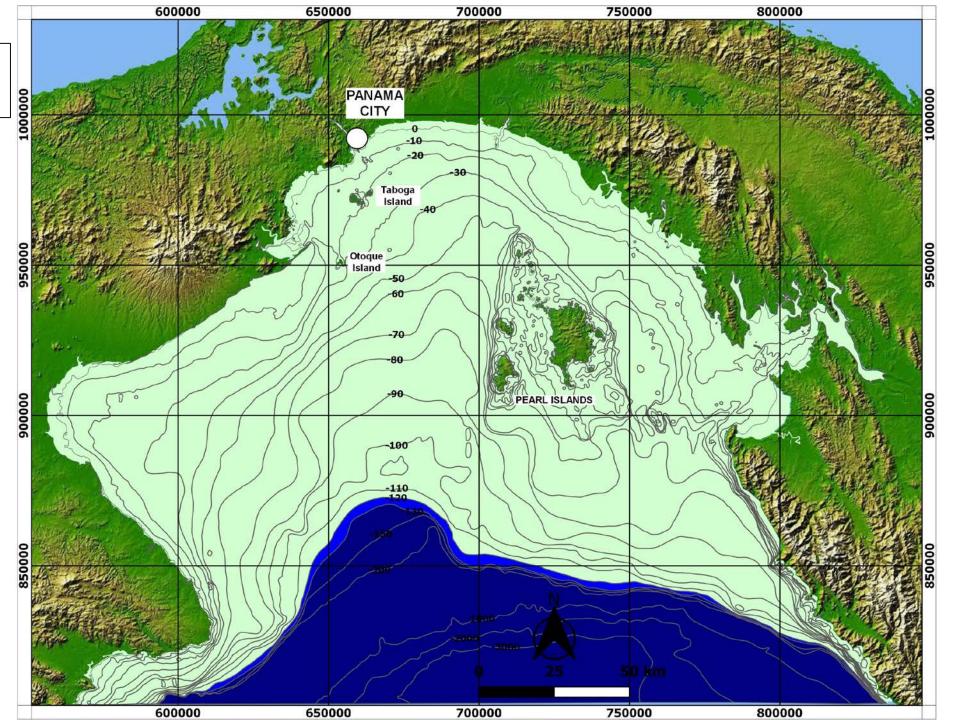


21.0 ka -130 m MLWS

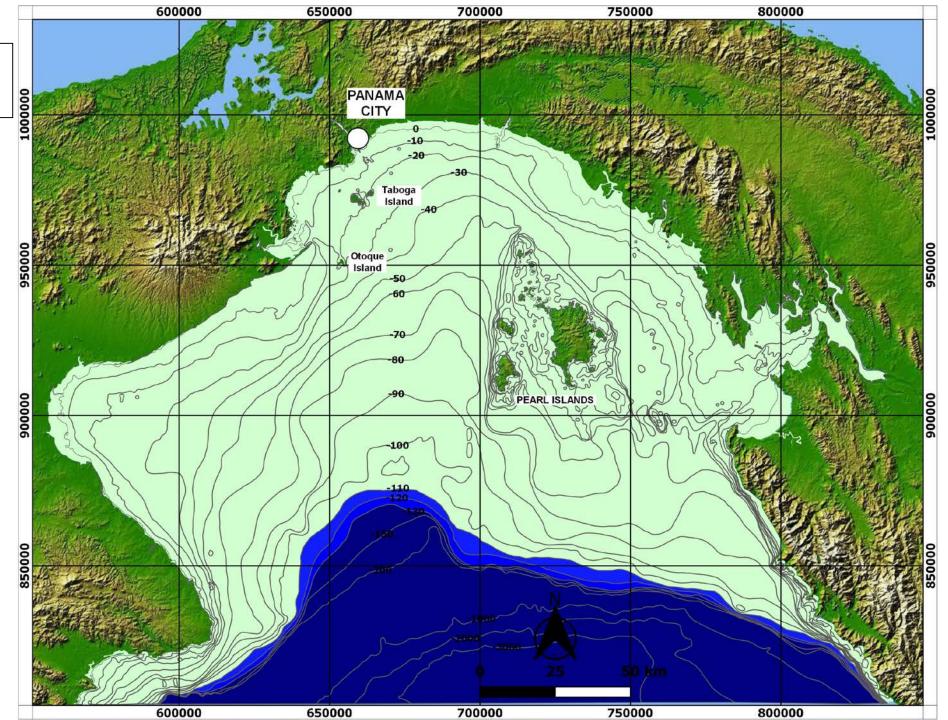
Las Perlas Plain maximum



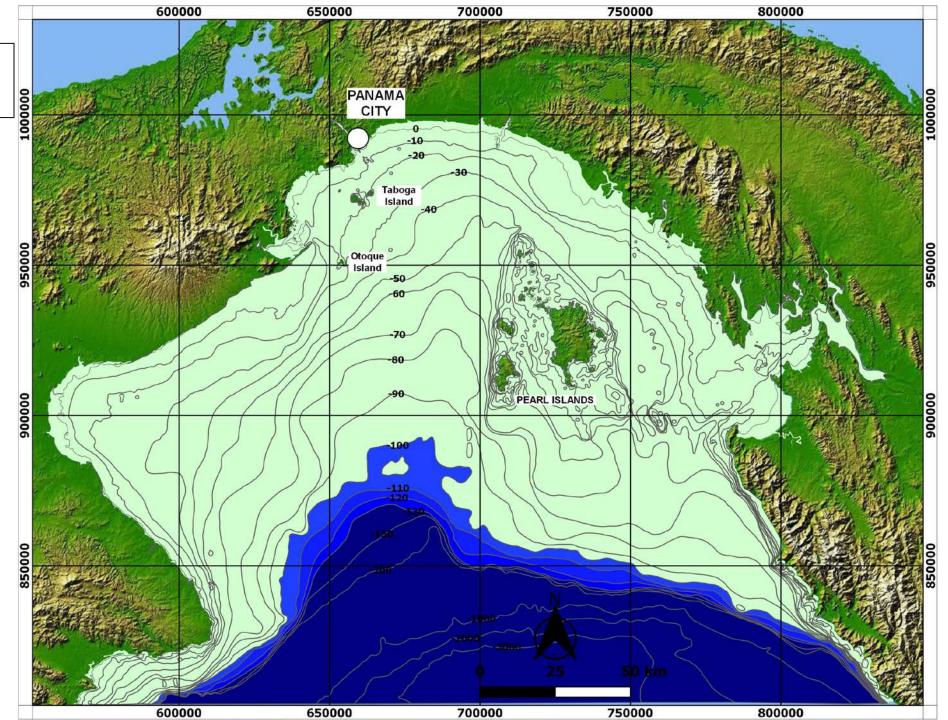
18.6 ka -120 m MLWS



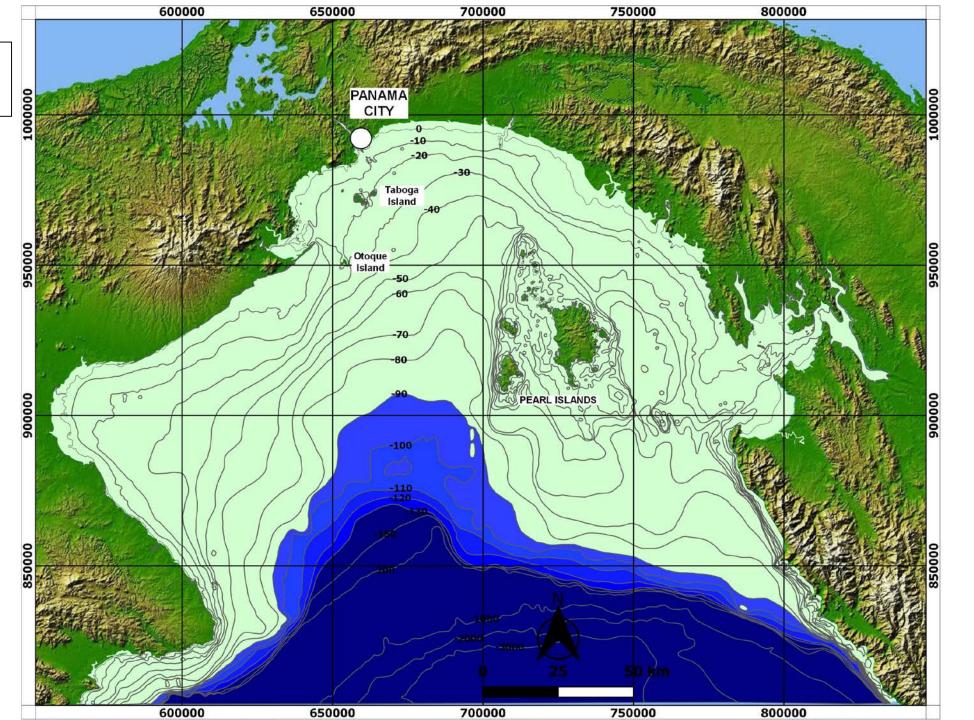
15.7 ka -110 m MLWS



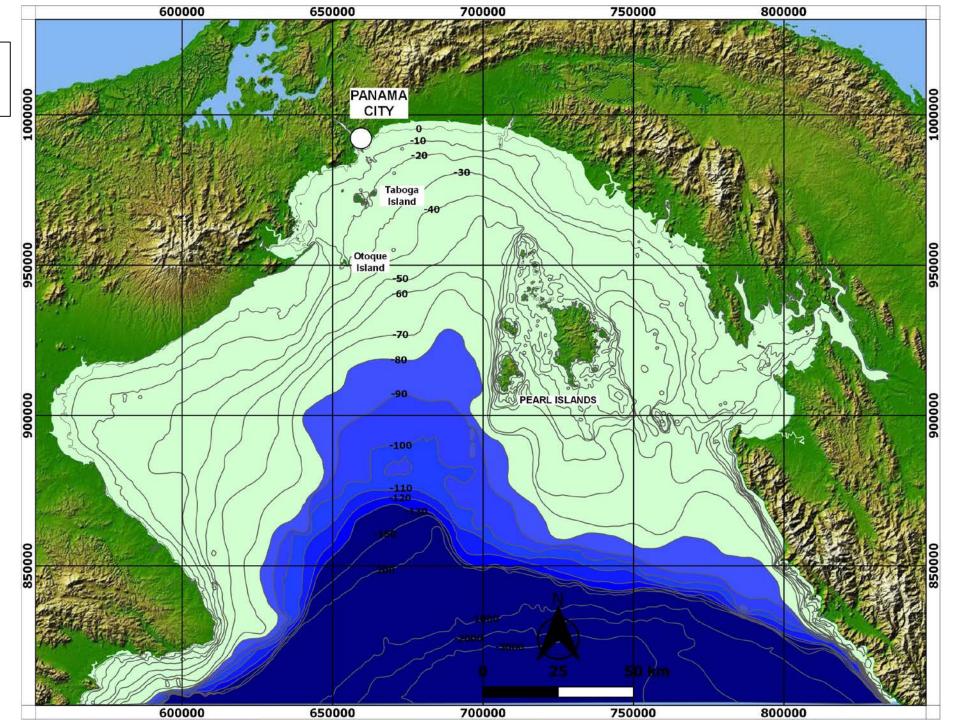
14.6 ka -100 m MLWS



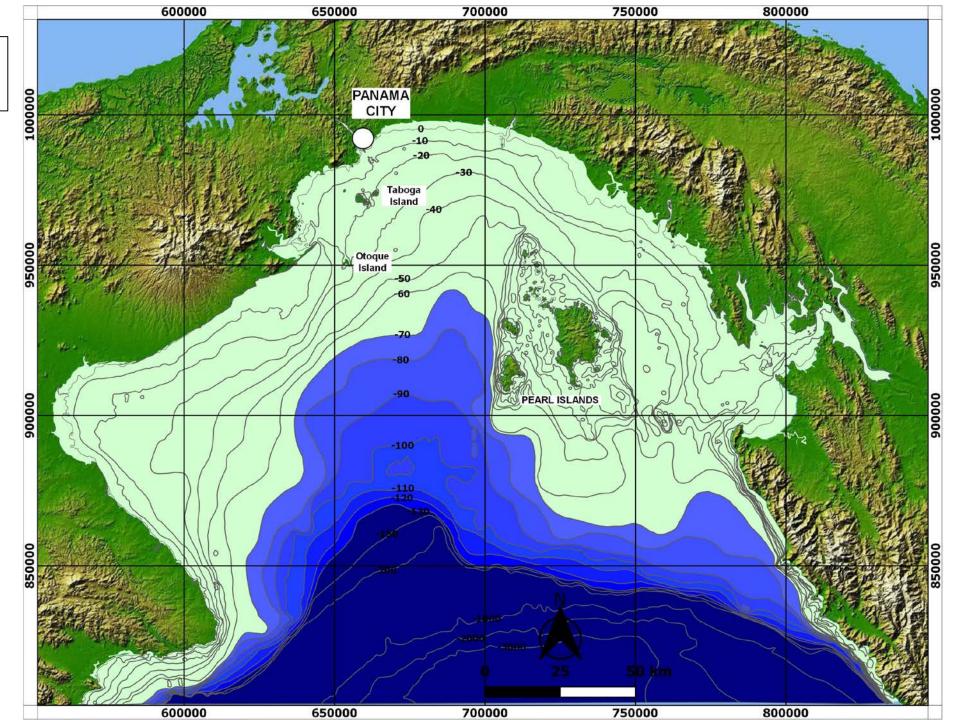
14.3 ka -90 m MLWS



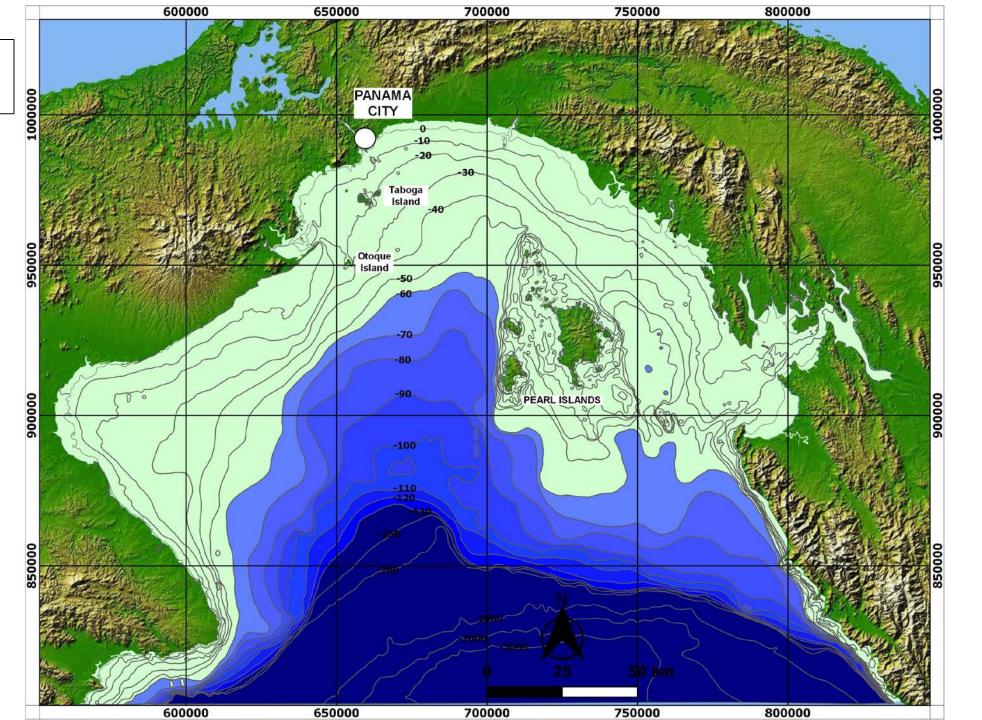
14.0 ka -80 m MLWS



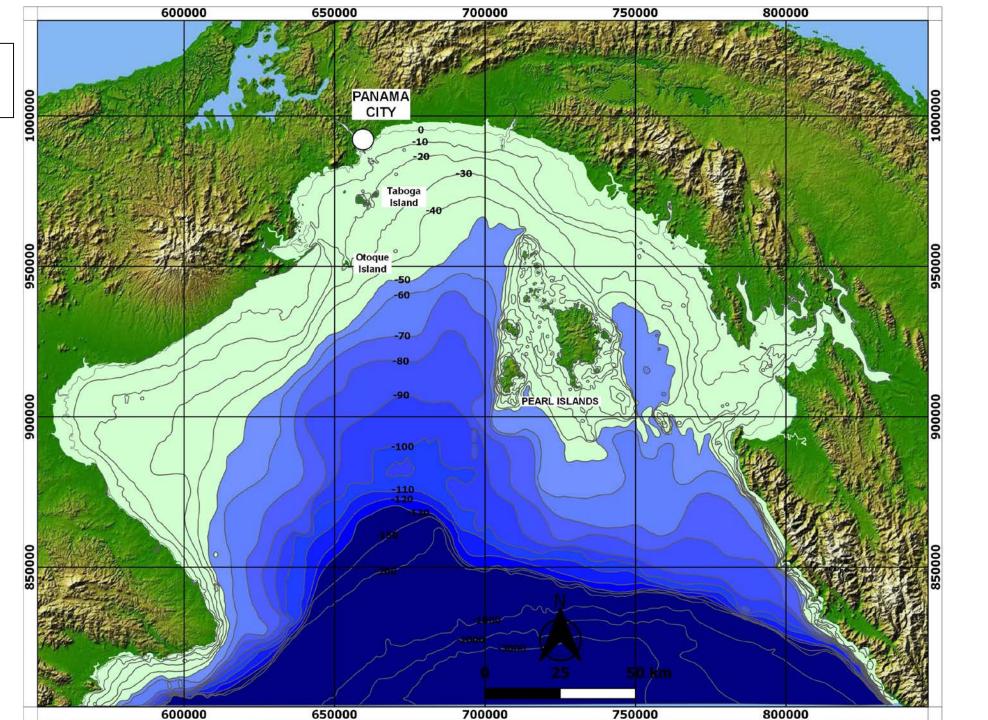
12.9 ka -70 m MLWS



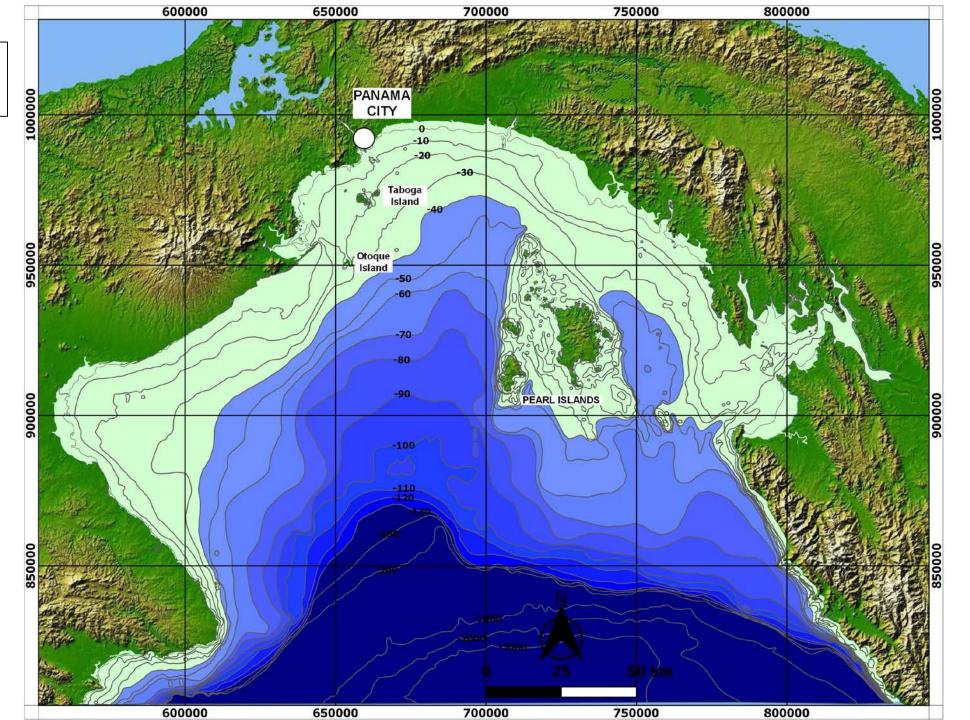
11.4 ka -60 m MLWS



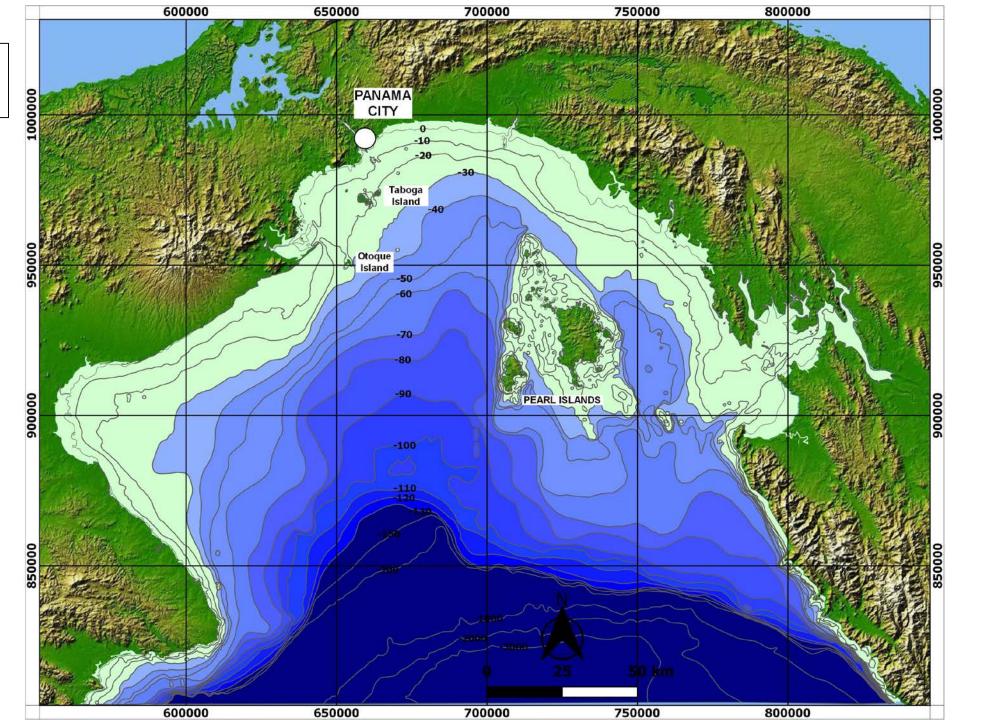
10.4 ka -50 m MLWS



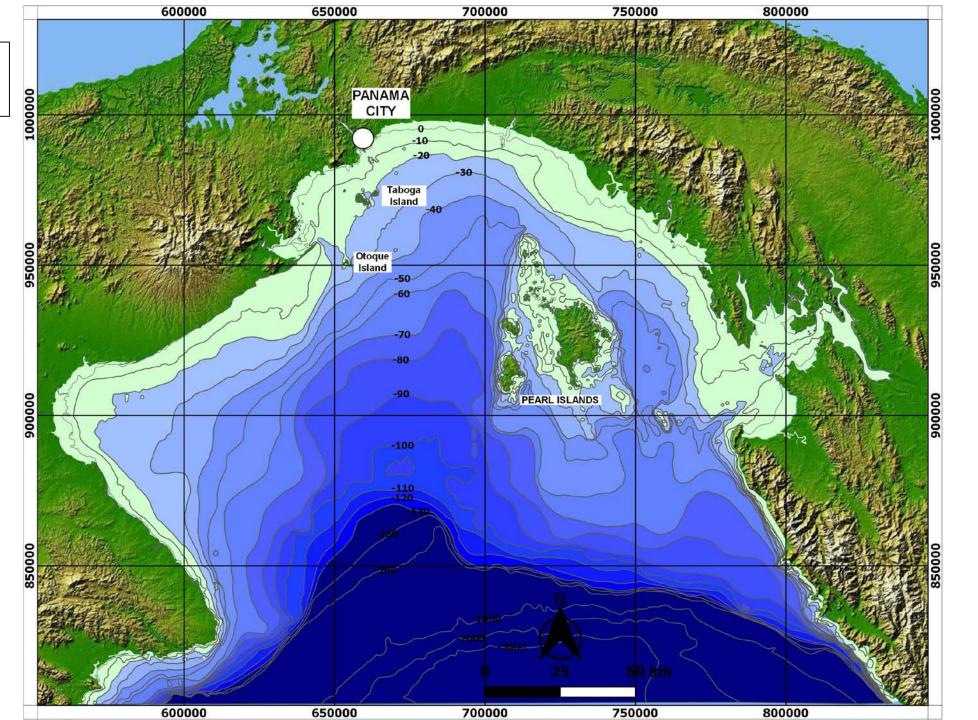
10.0 ka -40 m MLWS



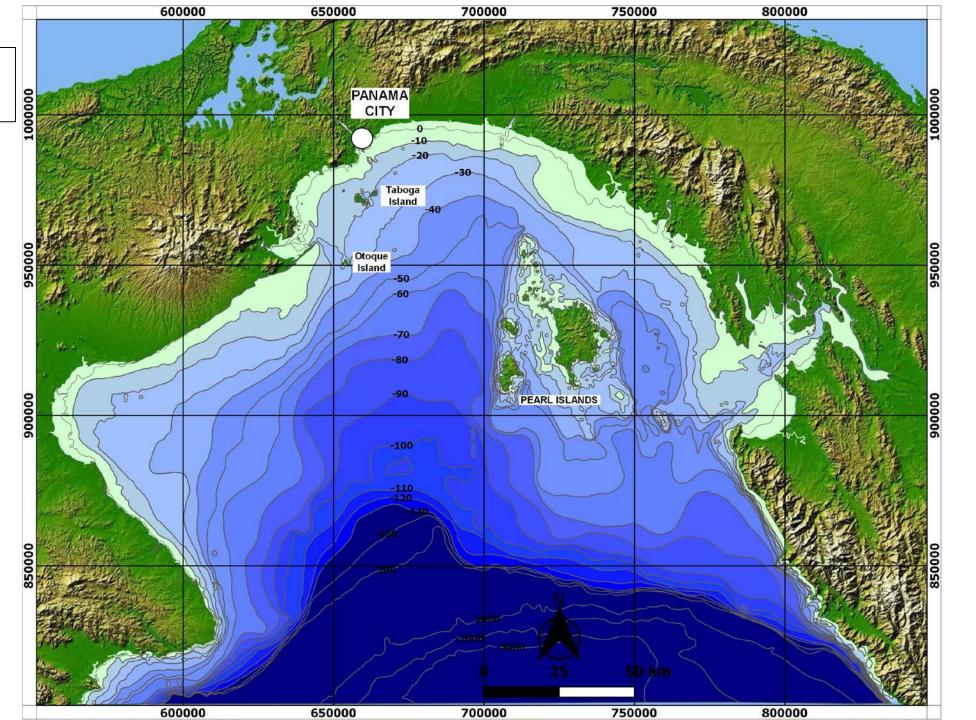
9.3 ka -30 m MLWS



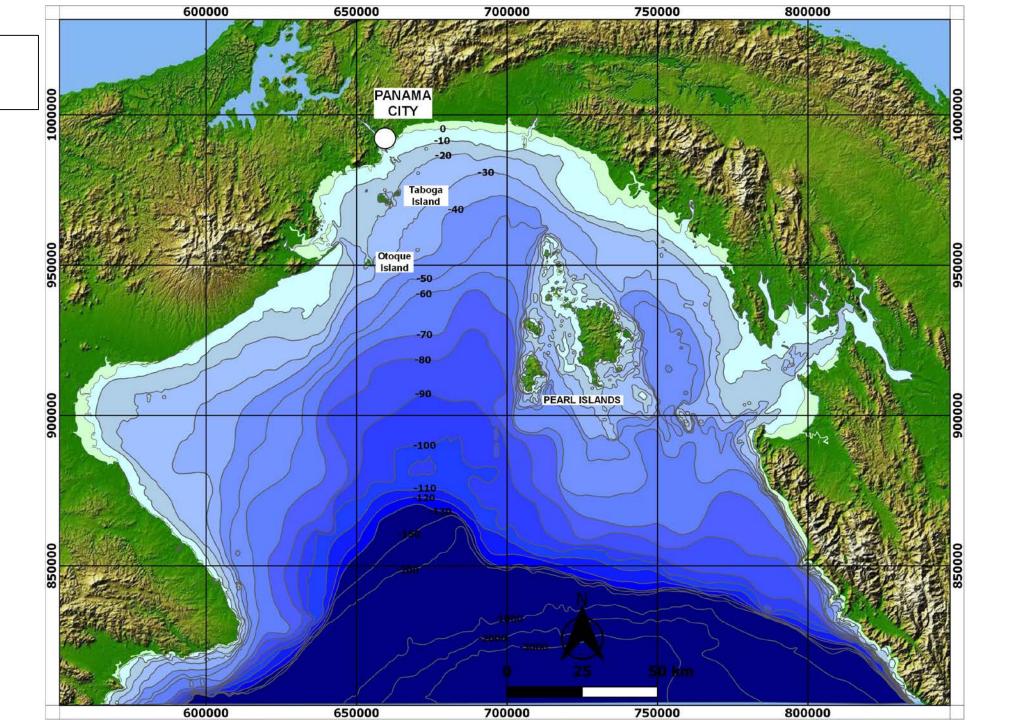
8.5 ka -20 m MLWS



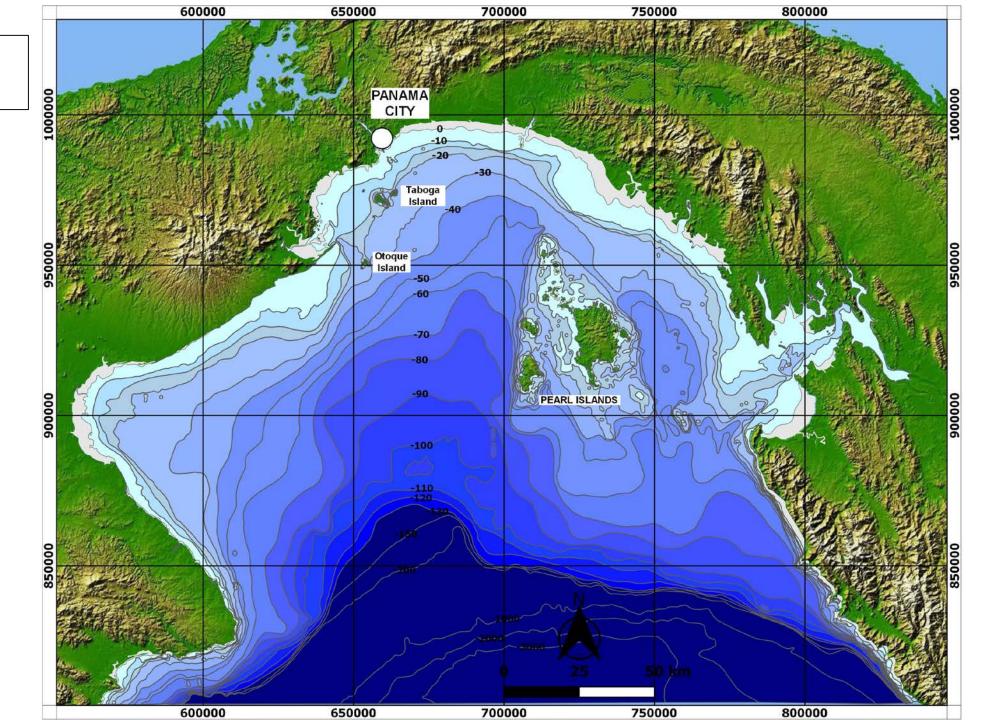
7.8 ka -10 m MLWS



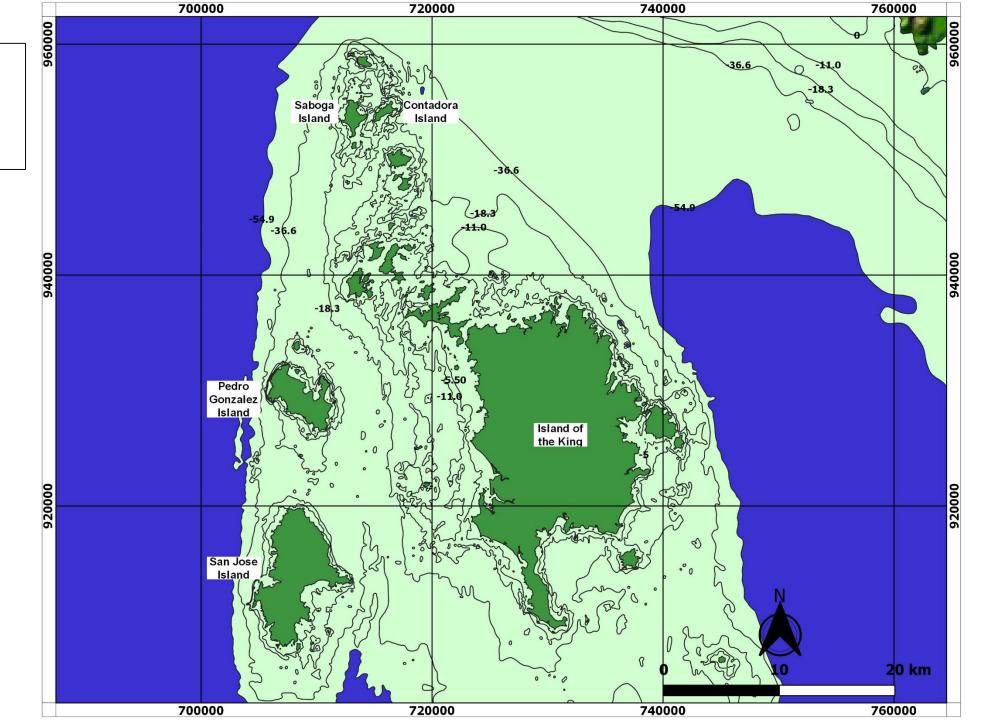
Today 0 m MLWS



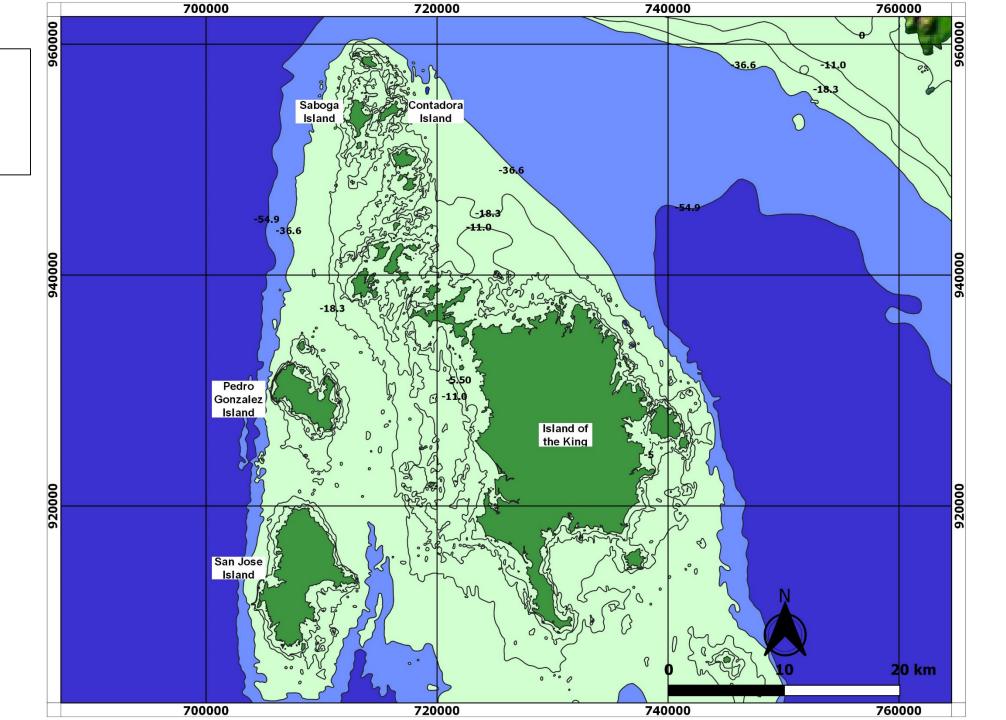
Today 0 m MSL



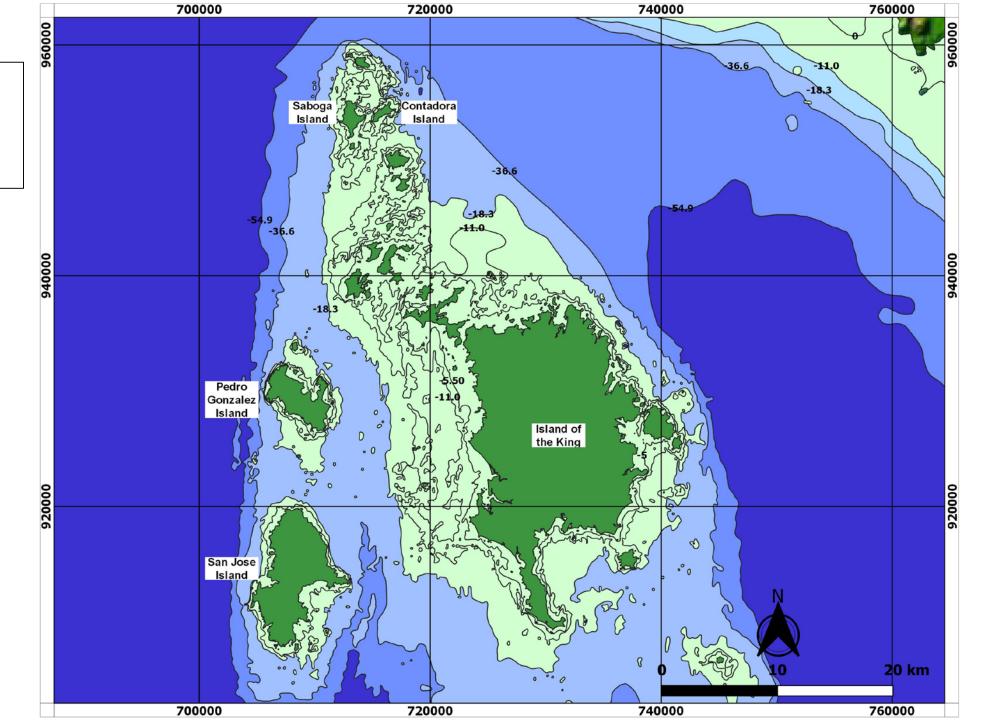
10.8 ka -54.9 m MLWS



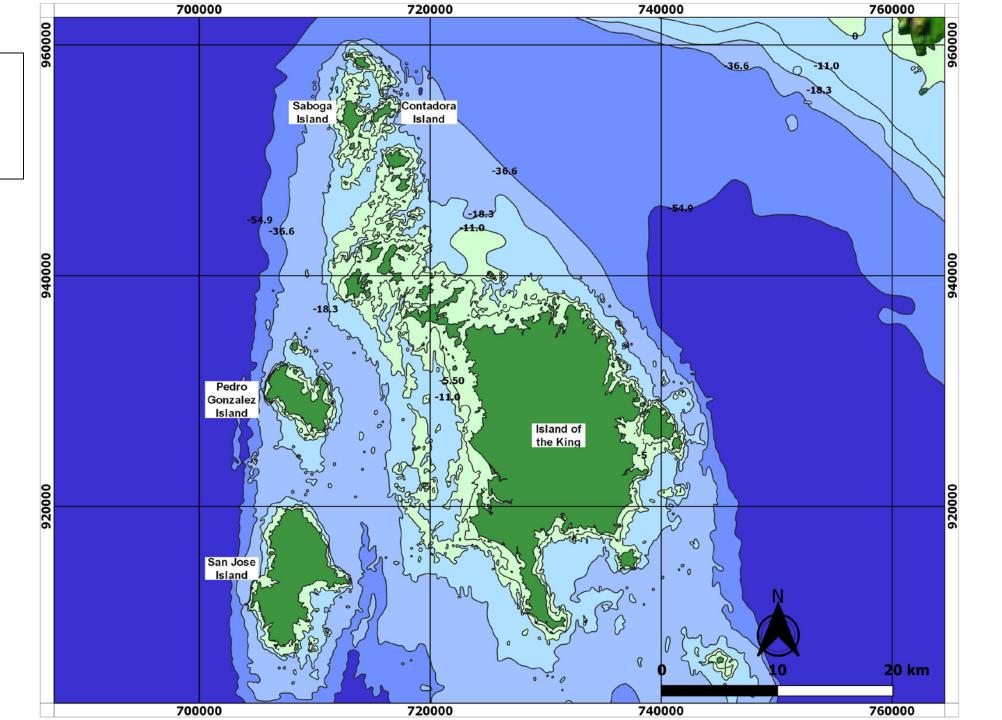
10.0 ka -36.6 m MLWS



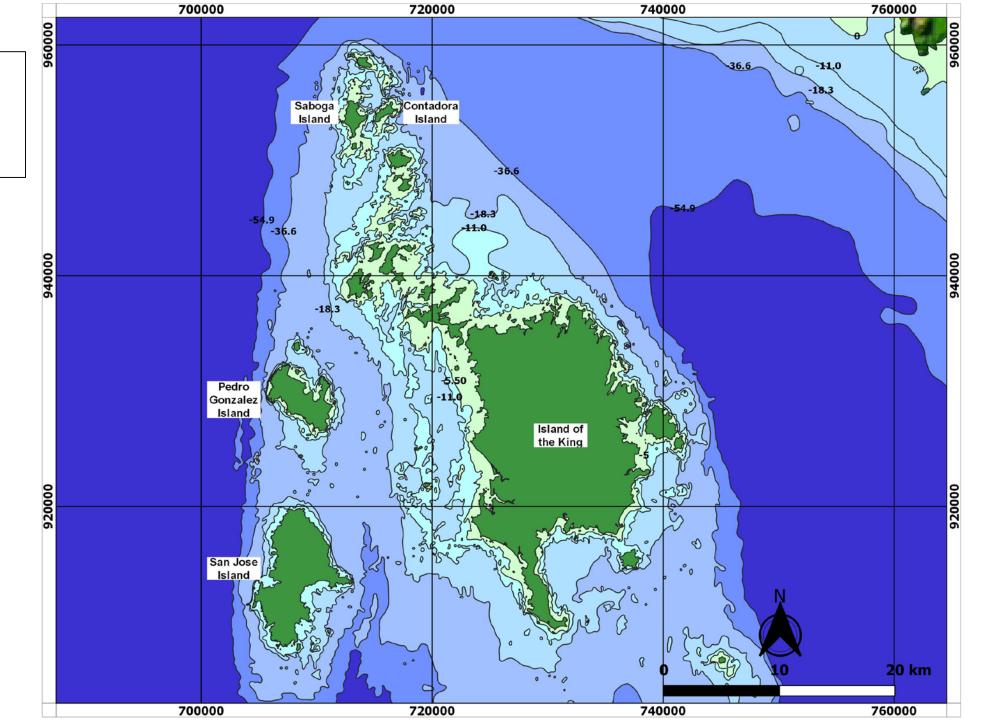
8.3 ka -18.3 m MLWS



7.9 ka -11.0 m MLWS



7.5 ka -5.5 m MLWS



Today 0 m MLWS

