The laser soundings used to create this map were collected during April 2005 by the NASA EAARL system mounted on a Cessna 310 aircraft. The EAARL uses a "waveform-resolving" green laser capable of mapping submarine and subaerial (land) surfaces simultaneously with submeter horizontal precision and millimeter vertical precision. The waveforms can be used to distinguish near-shore features from far-shore features, resulting in a significant reduction of processing time. The researchers plan to test the system on the Tampa Bay Region during the summer of 2007 and to create maps of the region using the new data set. The project is to develop a network of monitoring points to track changes in coastal environments, and to aid in the protection of endangered species and coastal ecosystems. The data are being used to develop models that can be used to predict coastal environments and to inform coastal management decisions. The project is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).