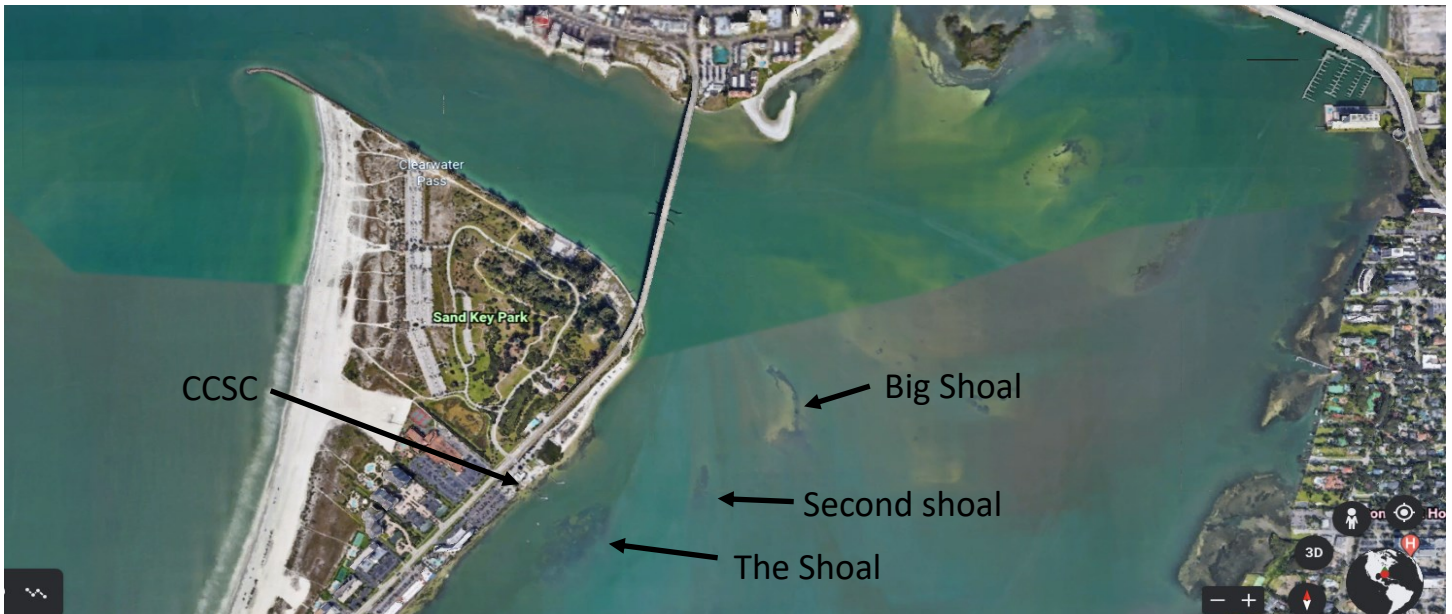




Clearwater Harbor Sand Bars



Clearwater Harbor has many sand bars that sailors need to know about before launching. Many shoals are shallow enough that most boats will run aground on high tide. Please take the time to review google maps and the images below to acquaint yourself before sailing. Taking a slow ride around the harbor in a coach boat or walking to the top of the bridge on low tide is time well spent. Areas around sand bars are deep enough that most boats can sail on low tide inside the harbor.



This screen shot shows the location of our major shoals encountered leaving the harbor. "The Shoal" is right in front of the sailing center and needs to be left to the South. "Second shoal" and "Big Shoal" form a boundary to the East. There is plenty of water in between the drive on beach and these two shoals. Think of this as the corridor out. If you sail from the sailing center towards down town you will hit something eventually. Be aware of these shoals so you don't sail too far East.



Here is a zoomed in look at the "The shoal" right in front of CCSC. As you can see if you depart perpendicular to land from in between the docks you will run straight in to "The Shoal". As a reference the northern edge of the shoal is even with the middle of the mangroves north of the center. The south edge is roughly in line with the blue awning of the Colombia restaurant south of the Marriott. The channel just off the docks is very deep. Although "second shoal" is not as big as the others, it is the most common to hit and goes from deep to shallow very quickly resulting in worse gear damage. Also note that the sea grass area immediately north of the north dock is quite shallow on low tide.