

1. INTRODUCTION

Standard nomenclature and classification systems have been specifically developed as tools for the formal identification and codification of remotely sensed and ground observed coral reef features.

Employment of these tools indicates that classes separable within Landsat MSS and aerial photograph remotely sensed data translate to surrogate reef cover classes. For statistically defined Landsat spectral classes, a separability accuracy of 85 percent was found for reef zones; 82 percent for geomorphological reef features; and 64 percent for components of geomorphological reef features. The results for spatially defined Landsat image classes were a separability accuracy of 78 percent for reef zones; 63 percent for geomorphological reef features; and 52 percent for components of geomorphological reef features. Spatially defined aerial photo image classes have a separability accuracy of 92 percent for reef zones; 77 percent for geomorphological reef features; and 65 percent for components of geomorphological reef features.

These results allow remotely sensed coral reef data to be used confidently and consistently as a surrogate source of ground information.