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Journal of Coastal Research, an International Forum for the Littoral Sciences, is dedicated to all aspects of coastal research. These include geology, biology, geomorphology (physical geography), climate, littoral oceanography, hydrography, coastal hydraulics, environmental (resource) management, engineering, and remote sensing. Although each field functions effectively within its own purview, the cross-disciplinary nature of coastal studies requires familiarity with other fields as well. Hence, the scope of topics is necessarily broad in order to address the complexity of coastal biophysical and socio-economic interactions. Because of the wide range of interrelated topics, the journal invites original contributions and manuscripts dealing with theory, methodology, techniques, and field or applied topic studies on interdisciplinary coastal issues.

The journal encourages the dissemination of knowledge and understanding of the coastal zone by promoting cooperation and communication between specialists in different disciplines. Natural scientists, for example, are encouraged to collaborate with professionals in other fields to prepare contributions relating to the coastal zone that foster increased appreciation of coastal environments and processes. By means of this journal, with its scholarly and professional papers, systematic review articles, book and symposia reviews, communications and news, and special topical issues, an international forum for the development of integrated coastal research is provided.

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St. Georgios Bay, Naxos Island, Greece. Naxos is the largest island (around 429 km²) of the Greek Cyclades Archipelago in the Aegean Sea. In addition to being the center of archaic Cycladic culture and an abundant source of emery deposits, Naxos is one of the most fertile islands within the Cyclades. It has a good supply of water in a region where water is usually lacking. Mount Zeus (at approximately 1,004 m) is the highest peak in the Cyclades, and tends to trap the clouds, permitting greater rainfall. This has made agriculture an important economic commerce, with various vegetable and fruit crops, as well as cattle breeding. Naxos is well known within Greece for its cheese, potatoes, and Kitron, a local lemon-citrus spirit.

The climate found on Naxos Island is typical *Mediterranean*, with relatively mild winters and very warm summers. The Köppen Climate Classification subtype for this climate is Csa. This dry climate, in combination with the coastal marine and aeolian processes, have shaped the recent landscape of the western coast of Naxos island. Around 6000 years BP, St. Georgios Bay was protected by an elongated coastline, which extended almost parallel to the present day shore. The analysis of sediments and microfaunal content revealed that at least from 6144 yrs BP until 232 yrs BP, this area used to be an active lagoon. The embayment was actively changing from a pure coastal environment to a system that frequently alternated between shallow marine (with some fresh water input) and brackish mesohaline (Evelpidou *et al.*, 2010, 2012). The bay shown in the photo has now periodically allowed seawater into a lagoon beside the sand dune beach. This large shallow bay was probably used as a harbor to access the Yria archaeological site, which contains several worship centers and a temple dedicated to the god Dionysus. (Photograph taken by Niki Evelpidou, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)

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Dr. Charles W. Finkl is President and Executive Director of the Coastal Education and Research Foundation [CERF], publisher of the JCR. Charlie, a founding editor of the *Journal of Coastal Research*, has served as Editor-in-Chief for the past 33 years. He is a Research Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. He received his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from Oregon State University and the Ph.D. from the University of Western Australia. He is a member of more than 20 professional societies and has published more than 200 professional papers, books, and reports. He is a Chartered Marine Scientist (CMarSci) [Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology], Certified Professional Geological Scientist (CPGS) [American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)], Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSSc) [American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils], and a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) [Society of Wetland Scientists]. Charlie has field experience in parts of the USA, Caribbean area, Brazil, Honduras, Russia, South Africa, Western Europe, Australasia, and South Pacific islands. He is also the Series Editor of the Encyclopedia of Earth Sciences Series that is published by Springer (Germany). There are more than twenty-eight volumes in the Series and about twenty-five are available online. Charlie also serves on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Environmental Studies* (Routledge) and is an occasional peer reviewer for many other professional journals.

Charlie has interests and expertise in the general areas of surficial geology, coastal and marine geomorphology (including coastal classification), coastal/marine biophysical environments, exploration geochemistry, soils and weathering (regolith geology), coastal zone management and engineering applications or impacts on natural systems (including erosion control and shore protection), coastal hydrology including submarine freshwater and mineralized seeps, subaerial and marine structural geology, natural hazard mitigation in coastal zones, marine environments and coastal wetland protection and restoration, and remote sensing (e.g., land cover classification in coastal wetlands, advection-diffusion turbidity plumes in coastal waters, delineation of bottom types and sand resources), effluent disposal and pollution of wetlands and estuaries, water resources mapping and conservation, time series studies of wetland hydroperiod and soil moisture.

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The International Coastal Symposium (ICS) was originally set up by Per Bruun (deceased) and Charlie Finkl as the official meeting of the Coastal Education and Research Foundation (CERF), with one of the first meetings being held in Hilton Head, South Carolina, in 1993. After the repeated success of these meetings, CERF moved the ICS to the international scene holding these conferences in conjunction with local sponsors in Australia, Brazil, Iceland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Poland, and Portugal. The ICS brings together delegates from all over the world to collaborate and discuss the most current coastal research studies and projects. During the ICS 2014, which was held in Durban, South Africa, a grand celebration took place to mark the 30th Anniversary of CERF and the JCR. Our next ICS meeting is scheduled for May of 2018 in Busan, South Korea. For more information, please visit www.cerf-jcr.org.

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Because CERF is concerned with broad environmental issues, our efforts concentrate on significant problems such as maintenance of good quality (potable) water with adequate supply, and hazards associated with potential beach erosion, flooding, and susceptibility of developed shorelines to storm surge and wave attack. By focusing attention on these potential man-made and natural hazards, it is hoped that our research efforts will help others improve the quality of life in diverse coastal areas. CERF thus aims to stimulate awareness of coastal (marine and freshwater shorelines) land and water problems; initiate and foster research and innovation to promote long-term coastal productivity; establish an educational forum for the debate of contentious coastal issues; and develop new principles and approaches for enlightened coastal management, and encourage their adoption and use.

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VOL. 33, NO. 3 (pages 487–746)

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CONTENTS

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Shoreline and Sand Storage Dynamics from Annual Airborne LIDAR Surveys, Texas Gulf Coast.....	487
..... Jeffrey G. Paine, Tiffany L. Caudle, and John R. Andrews	
Determining the Spatial Variability of Wetland Soil Bulk Density, Organic Matter, and the Conversion Factor between Organic Matter and Organic Carbon across Coastal Louisiana, U.S.A.	507
..... Hongqing Wang, Sarai C. Piazza, Leigh A. Sharp, Camille L. Stagg, Brady R. Couvillion, Gregory D. Steyer, and Thomas E. McGinnis	
Assessment of Storm Surge along the Coast of Central Vietnam	518
..... Nguyen Ba Thuy, Sooyoul Kim, Do Dinh Chien, Vu Hai Dang, Hoang Duc Cuong, Cecilie Wettre, and Lars Robert Hole	
The Effect of Climate Variability on the Abundance of the Sandy Beach Clam (<i>Mesodesma mactroides</i>) in the Southwestern Atlantic	531
..... Gastón Manta, Marcelo Barreiro, Leonardo Ortega, and Omar Defeo	
Hypsometry of Cape Cod Salt Marshes (Massachusetts, U.S.A.) and Predictions of Marsh Vegetation Responses to Sea-Level Rise	537
..... Stephen M. Smith, Megan Tyrrell, Kelly Medeiros, Holly Bayley, Sophia Fox, Mark Adams, Catalina Mejia, André Dijkstra, Sarah Janson, and Michael Tanis	
Material Mobilization and Transport in the Anadyr River-Estuarine System, Eastern Siberia	548
..... Clark R. Alexander and Herbert L. Windom	
Modeling the Effect of a Submarine Canyon on Eddy Generation in Banderas Bay, México.....	564
..... Diego Armando Pantoja, Silvio Guido Marinone, and Anatoliy Filonov	
Effects of Mariculture and Solar-Salt Production on Sediment Microbial Community Structure in a Coastal Wetland.....	573
..... Yiqiang Li, Yidong Wang, Shiqi Xu, Beibei Hu, and Zhong-Liang Wang	
Using Numerical Simulation to Determine the Seismic Response of Coastal Underground Structures in Saturated Soil Deposits	583
..... Liang Li, Peixin Shi, Xiuli Du, and Hongyun Jiao	
Evaluation of Different Wind Fields for Storm Surge Modeling in the Persian Gulf.....	596
..... Naghmeh Afshar-Kaveh, Abbas Ghaheri, Vahid Chegini, Amir Etemad-Shahidi, and Mostafa Nazarali	
Model Test for Lateral Soil Resistance of Partially Embedded Subsea Pipelines on Sand during Large-Amplitude Lateral Movement	607
..... Zhenkui Wang, Yougang Tang, Hao Feng, Zhijuan Zhao, and Haoyu Liu	
Distribution of Salt-Marsh Foraminifera in Two South African Estuaries and Application as Sea-Level Indicators.....	619
..... Kate L. Strachan, Trevor R. Hill, Jemma M. Finch, Robert L. Barnett, and Peter Frenzel	
Historical Coastal Evolution and Dune Vegetation in Isla Salamanca National Park, Colombia.....	632
..... Juan Felipe Gómez, Mary-Louise Byrne, James Hamilton, and Federico Isla	
Influence of Maritime Construction within Protected Archaeological Sites along Coastal Areas: Los Baños De La Reina (Alicante), Spain	642
..... Luís Aragonés, Roberto Tomás, Miguel Cano, Emilio Rosillo, and Isabel López	
Spatiotemporal Variation in Suspended Sediment Concentrations and Related Factors of Coastal Waters Based on Multispatial Satellite Data in Gyeonggi Bay, Korea.....	653
..... Jinah Eom, Jong-Kuk Choi, Joong-Sun Won, Joo-Hyung Ryu, David Doxaran, Kevin Ruddick, and Seok Lee	
Higher Harmonics Induced by Dual-Submerged Structures	668
..... De-zhi Ning, Qing-xin Li, Li-fen Chen, Ming Zhao, and Bin Teng	
Histopathological Liver and Testis Alterations in Male Half-Smooth Tongue Sole (<i>Cynoglossus semilaevis</i>) Exposed to Endocrine Disruptors.....	678
..... Fengling Li, Lin Yao, Weihong Sun, Yanhua Jiang, Zhaoxin Li, and Yuxiu Zhai	
Numerical Study of Viscous Flow Field Mechanism for a Non-Geosim Model.....	684
..... Lianzhou Wang, Chunyu Guo, Yumin Su, Tiecheng Wu, and Shuai Wang	

REVIEW ARTICLES

Environmental Management in Coastal Louisiana: A Historical Review	699
..... Craig E. Colten	

TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS

Analytical Model for Surface Saltwater Intrusion in Estuaries	712
..... Ronghui Ye, Zhiyao Song, Chenming Zhang, Yong He, Shunchao Yu, Jun Kong, and Ling Li	
Application of a Modified Estimation Formula for Collision Force of Deformed Drifting Containers under Tsunami Conditions	720
..... Gyeong-Seon Yeom, Norimi Mizutani, Dong-Soo Hur, and Woo-Dong Lee	
Finite Element Solution of Linear Waves on a Sloping Bottom Boundary.....	731
..... Tae-Hwa Jung, Sangyoung Son, and Yonguk Ryu	
Applications of Coastal Data Collected in the Texas High School Coastal Monitoring Program (THSCMP)	738
..... Tiffany L. Caudle and Jeffrey G. Paine	



VOL. 33, NO. 3, May 2017

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