

## **COVER PHOTOGRAPH AND FRONT MATTER: SEA CLIFFS ON THE EAST COAST OF ELEUTHERA ISLAND IN THE BAHAMIAN ARCHIPELAGO**

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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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**Sea cliffs on the East Coast of Eleuthera Island in the Bahamian Archipelago.** These high sea cliffs (more than 30 m high), facing large swells with long fetches in the open Atlantic Ocean, provide spectacular scenic distraction from predominantly low islands. Many of the near vertical cliff faces are undercut by notches and sea caves that eventually lead to slope failure. This rocky shore contains many promontories and embayments (photo center), as shown here. Note rivulets of seawater back flowing from waves reaching almost half way up the cliff face. The seaward margins of cliff tops often contain boulders that have been heaved up by storm waves to surmount the steep cliff face, as shown here by the craggy topography along the horizon. These open-Atlantic coastlines in the Bahamas contain rather complicated carbonate stratigraphic sequences with subtidal oolitic marine deposits, beach deposits, weathering zones, cliff talus, and oolitic eolianites, as described by Hearty and Kindler (1993, 1995, 1997). Exposure of these materials has been useful in studies of Pleistocene highstand and lowstand positions, with major oscillations separated by weakly developed soils (protosols). (Photograph taken in 1992 by Charlie Finkl, Coastal Education and Research Foundation, Inc. [CERF], Fletcher, North Carolina, U.S.A.)

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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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