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5130 NW 54th Street
Coconut Creek, FL
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Foundation, Inc. *[CERF]*
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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 effectivelywithin itsownpurview, the cross-disciplinarynature 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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Twelve Apostles, Cape Town, South Africa. Stretching high above the cool waters of the southern Atlantic Ocean and running parallel to Cape Town's well-travelled Victoria Road, a series of mountains looms overhead known as the Twelve Apostles. A combination of high peaks and flattened buttresses, with a bevy of crags, ravines, gullies, and ridges, these impressive mountains were referred to as the Kastellbergen, or Castle Mountains, by the Dutch. The most iconic of the mountains in this range is by far Table Mountain. The flat top peak of the mountain, a result from horizontal layers of sandstone being exposed to wind and water erosion, reaches 1,086 m above sea level and stretches approximately 3 km from side to side. The first recorded climb of the mountain was done by the Portuguese navigator, Admiral Antonio de Saldanha, in 1503. It was de Saldanha who gave the mountain its name, *Taboa da caba*, meaning table of the cape.

Table Mountain has its own orographic cloud cover (*i.e.* the Tablecloth), forming rapidly when a south-easterly wind is directed up the steep slopes. It is this thick layer of continuous condensation that is mainly responsible for the lush growth of plateau vegetation. The abundant flora includes about 2,200 species of plants, such as disa orchids, over 250 species of daisies, and silver trees (most of which are endemic to this region). Local wildlife species includes Himalayan tahrs (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*), caracals (*Caracal caracal*), rock hyraxes (*Procavia capensis*), the Table Mountain ghost frog (*Heleophryne rosei*), and chacma baboons (*Papio ursinus*). The Cape Floristic Region of Table Mountain National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004, and the national park itself is now considered one of the new seven wonders of nature in the world. (Photograph taken April 2014 by Chris Makowski, Coastal Education and Research Foundation (CERF), Coconut Creek, Florida, U.S.A.)

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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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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 34 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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VOL. 34, NO. 3 (pages 503–768) **May 2018**
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CONTENTS

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Assessing the Effectiveness of Coastal Foredune Barriers in Reducing Hurricane Washover Sedimentation ..... **Harry Williams** 503

Spatial and Temporal Variability of Dissipative Dry Beach Profiles in the Pacific Northwest, U.S.A. ..... **Jorge Díez, Nicholas Cohn, George M. Kaminsky, Raúl Medina, and Peter Ruggiero** 510

Mangrove Response to Land Use Change in Estuaries along the Semiarid Coast of Ceará, Brazil ..... **Mario Duarte Pinto Godoy, Antônio Jeovah de Andrade Meireles, and Luiz Drude de Lacerda** 524

Determining Whether Exotic Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) Attracts Carnivorous Macrobenthic Fauna within a Zhanjiang (China) Mangrove Ecosystem ..... **Quan Chen and Keming Ma** 534

The Impact of Different Forcing Agents on the Residual Circulation in a Tropical Estuary (Baía de Todos os Santos, Brazil) ..... **Rafael Santana, Carlos Teixeira, and Guilherme Lessa** 544

Understanding the Influence of Tropical Cyclone Landfall Central Pressure and Accumulated Rainfall on Storm Surge Near New Orleans, Louisiana ..... **Jill C. Trepanier, Hal F. Needham, and Kelsey N. Ellis** 559

Effects of Soil-Resistance Damping on Wave-Induced Pore Pressure Accumulation around a Composite Breakwater ..... **Jisheng Zhang, Linlong Tong, Jinhai Zheng, Rui He, and Yakun Guo** 573

Managed Realignment (MR) along the Eastern German Baltic Sea: A Catalyst for Conflict or for a Coastal Zone Management Consensus ..... **Anne Cristina de la Vega-Leinert, Susanne Stoll-Kleemann, and Elke Wegener** 586

Age Constraints and Paleoenvironmental Interpretation of a Borehole Sedimentary Sequence along the Eastern Part of the Corinth Isthmus, Greece ..... **Aggelos Pallikarakis, Maria V. Triantaphyllou, Ioannis Papanikolaou, Margarita D. Dimiza, Klaus Reicherter, and Georgios Migiros** 602

Analyzing the Characteristics of Ship-Generated Waves in an Inland-Restricted Channel Using an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) ..... **Lilei Mao and Yimei Chen** 618

Numerical Assessment of the Wave Loads on Coastal Twin Bridge Decks under Stokes Waves ..... **Guoji Xu, C.S. Cai, Y. Han, Chunliang Wu, and Fanrong Xue** 628

Occupancy Patterns of Gulf Sturgeon, *Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*, Associated with Ship Island, Mississippi ..... **Page E. Vick, Mark S. Peterson, William T. Slack, and Paul O. Grammer** 640

REVIEW ARTICLES

Does Astronomical and Geographical Information of Plutarch's *De Facie* Describe a Trip Beyond the North Atlantic Ocean? ..... **Ioannis Liritzis, Panagiota Preka-Papadema, Panagiotis Antonopoulos, Konstantinos Kalachanis, and Chris G. Tzanis** 651

Features of Distribution of *Hydrilla verticillata* (L. fil.) Royle (Hydrocharitaceae) in North Eurasia ..... **Andrey Efremov, Yana Bolotova, Attila Mesterházy, and Cezary Toma** 675

Climate Change, Adaptation Measures, and Integrated Coastal Zone Management: The New Protection Paradigm for the Portuguese Coastal Zone ..... **José Simão Antunes do Carmo** 687

TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS

Deploying Fixed Wing Unoccupied Aerial Systems (UAS) for Coastal Morphology Assessment and Management ..... **A.C. Seymour, J.T. Ridge, A.B. Rodriguez, E. Newton, J. Dale, and D.W. Johnston** 704

Experimental Investigation of Wave Attenuation through Flexible Plants on a Flat Bed ..... **Zegao Yin, Xiaoyu Yang, Bingchen Liang, Lu Jin, and Lin Ma** 718

Using an Active Disturbance Rejection Decoupling Control Algorithm to Improve Operational Performance for Underwater Glider Applications ..... **Dalei Song, Tingting Guo, Weicheng Sun, Qianli Jiang, and Hua Yang** 724

Unlocking the Educational Value of Large-Scale, Coastal-Ecosystem Restoration Projects: Development of Student-Centered, Multidisciplinary Learning Modules ..... **Emad Habib, Matthew Deshotel, and Doug Williams** 738

An Improved Path Optimum Algorithm for Container Relocation Problems in Port Terminals Worldwide ..... **Sisi Zheng, Aihu Wang, Fahad Mehmood, and Yasir Tariq Mohmand** 752

IN MEMORIAM

Chen Jiyu (1921–2017) ..... **John Z. Shi** 766

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VOL. 34, NO. 3, May 2018 Journal of Coastal Research CERF

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