



Bahia Honda State Park, Big Pine Key, Florida, U.S.A.

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Aims and Scope of the Journal

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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Bahia Honda State Park, Big Pine Key, Florida, U.S.A. Geologically, the Florida Keys are characterized by the limestone that forms the islands. For example, the Key Largo Limestone is the surface rock of the Upper Keys, while the Miami Oolitic Limestone covers the Lower Keys. Oolite is compacted small egg shaped deposits of calcium carbonate, meaning this whole area was once a live, thriving community of corals and other marine organisms. As the glaciers reformed taking water from the ocean, sea level dropped and the coral forests died, which then ultimately collapsed into the now known islands. Big Pine Key, as shown in the photograph, signals the beginning of the Oolite Keys. A contact found here shows that the oolitic limestone overlaps the Key Largo, and core borings show that the Key Largo Limestone underlies the oolitic cover for the entire area of the Lower Keys.

Several rare plants, including yellow satinwood (*Zanthoxylum flavum*), Florida silver palm (*Coccothrinax argentata*), Key thatch palm (*Leucothrinax morrisii*), and the endangered small-flowered lily-thorn (*Catesbaea parviflora*) are found in this area. Marine life is also quite plentiful with many species of small reef fish, rays, barracuda, and sharks. Inland, researchers have discovered the only known natural colony of the now rare Miami blue butterfly (*Cyclargus thomasi bethunebakeri*). (Photograph taken February 2016 by Tara M. Delaney, Allen Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 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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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, Portugal, and South Korea. 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 April of 2020 in Seville, Spain. For more information, please visit www.cerf-jcr.org.

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July 2018

CONTENTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|
| The King Tide Conundrum | Mayra A. Román-Rivera and Jean T. Ellis | 769 |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|

RESEARCH ARTICLES

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| Holocene Coastal Sedimentation in a Rocky Environment: Geomorphological Evidence from the Aran Islands and Galway Bay (Western Ireland) | Wibke Erdmann, Anja M. Scheffers, and Dieter H. Kelletat | 772 |
| Evaluating the Impact of Beach Nourishment on Surfing: Surf City, Long Beach Island, New Jersey, U.S.A. | William R. Dally and Daniel A. Osiecki | 793 |
| Island Edge Morphodynamics along a Chronosequence in a Prograding Deltaic Floodplain Wetland ... | Azure E. Bevington and Robert R. Twilley | 806 |
| Influence of Temperature, Salinity, and Dissolved Oxygen on the Stress Response of Bull (<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>) and Bonnethead (<i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>) Sharks after Capture and Handling | Michael W. Hyatt, Paul A. Anderson, and Patrick M. O'Donnell | 818 |
| Developing a Carbon Isotope Chronology for a Coastal Subtropical Tree Species with Variable Subannual Tree-Ring Growth | Carrie E. Rebenack, Paolo Cherubini, and William T. Anderson | 828 |
| Zooplankton Community Responses and the Relation to Environmental Factors from Established Offshore Wind Farms within the Rudong Coastal Area of China | Teng Wang, Wenwen Yu, Xinqing Zou, Dongju Zhang, Baojie Li, Junjie Wang, and Hu Zhang | 843 |
| Acoustic Detection and Mapping of Muck Deposits in the Indian River Lagoon, Florida | Greg Foster, Bernhard M. Riegl, Kristi A. Foster, and Lori J. Morris | 856 |
| Experimental Study on the Generation and Attenuation of Landslide Tsunamis | Ruey-Syan Shih, Wen-Kai Weng, and Chi-Yu Li | 864 |
| Trends in the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index for Mangrove Areas in Northwestern Mexico | Francisco Flores-Cárdenas, Olivia Millán-Aguilar, Luis Díaz-Lara, Lidia Rodríguez-Arredondo, Miguel Ángel Hurtado-Oliva, and Marlenne Manzano-Sarabia | 877 |
| Origin of Salinity and Other Constituents in Indus Deltaic Plain Groundwater, Thatta District, Pakistan | Sadaf Naseem, Viqar Husain, and Shella Bano | 883 |
| Determination of Significant Wave Height Offshore of the Federal Territory of Labuan (Malaysia) Using Generalized Pareto Distribution Method | Soheil Saeed Far, Ahmad Khairi Abd Wahab, and Sobri Bin Harun | 892 |
| Germination and Predation of <i>Quercus geminata</i> and <i>Quercus myrtifolia</i> Acorns on Santa Rosa Island, Florida | Sarah Lumban Tobing, Mack Thetford, and Deborah L. Miller | 900 |
| Groins along the Northern Yucatán Coast | Peter Tereszkiwicz, Nathan McKinney, and Klaus J. Meyer-Arendt | 911 |
| Variability of Chlorophyll <i>a</i> Concentration and Halocline Depth in La Paz Bay (Gulf of California, Mexico) and the Relationship to Pacific Large-Scale Climatic Phenomena | Cristóbal Guevara-Guillén, Bernardo Shirasago-Germán, Edgar L. Pérez-Lezama, and Maclovio Obeso-Nieblas | 920 |
| Comparison of Analytical and Numerical Simulations of Long Nonlinear Internal Solitary Waves in Shallow Water | S.C. Mohapatra, Rita B. Fonseca, and C. Guedes Soares | 928 |
| Seasonal Export of Dissolved Organic Matter from a New England Salt Marsh | Hayley N. Schiebel, George B. Gardner, Xuchen Wang, Francesco Peri, and Robert F. Chen | 939 |
| Assessing the Coastal Resilience of Manasquan Inlet to Sea Bright, New Jersey: Regional Sediment Budget 1992–2003 | Roy C. Messaros, Julie Dean Rosati, Frank Buonaiuto, Christina Rasmussen, Abraham Medina Vega, and Lynn Bocamazo | 955 |
| Effects of Crown Wall and Berm on Wave-Overtopping Discharge over a Seawall | Shuguang Liu, Quanhe Ju, Wenrui Huang, Xin Hu, Dingman Qi, and Guihui Zhong | 968 |
| Structural Complexity and Biomass of Arid Zone Mangroves in the Southwestern Gulf of California: Key Factors That Influence Fish Assemblages | Jonathan G. Ochoa-Gómez, Elisa Serviere-Zaragoza, Daniel B. Lluch-Cota, Victor H. Rivera-Monroy, Walter Oechel, Enrique Troyo-Diéguez, and Salvador E. Lluch-Cota | 979 |
| Parametric Study of Stress Concentration Factors (SCFs) on Tubular X-Joints Used in Offshore Platform Structures | Cao Yuguang, Zhen Ying, Liu Chang, Zhang Shihua, and Meng Zhanbin | 987 |

TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS

| | | |
|--|--|------|
| Dynamic Friction Coefficient in Formulas of Bed-Load Transport Induced by Waves over Vortex Orbital Ripples | Gerasimos A. Kolokythas, Dimokratis G.E. Grigoriadis, and Athanassios A. Dimas | 996 |
| An Effective Method for Submarine Pipeline Inspection Using Three-Dimensional (3D) Models Constructed from Multisensor Data Fusion | Chunbao Xiong, Zhi Li, Xuan Sun, Jingsheng Zhai, and Yanbo Niu | 1009 |

BOOK REVIEWS

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|------|
| <i>Environmental Planning for Oceans and Coasts: Methods, Tools, and Technologies</i> by M.E. Portman | Maria Adelaide Ferreira | 1020 |
|---|-------------------------|------|



VOL. 34, NO. 4, July 2018

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