the Sea Fishes of New Zealand, by Tony Ayling and Geoffrey J. Cox should be of interest to "a-fish-a-nados" in general and in particular to those living in New Zealand and Australia. Ayling and Cox have really covered the waterfront, describing all but a few of the species found within a 4.5 million square kilometer area around New Zealand. This area reaches to just south of the Kermadec Islands in the north to Macquarie Island in the south. The eastern border is a bit east of the Chatham Islands and the western edge lies approximately in the middle of the Tasman Sea. In all, 486 species are described, some found solely in these waters, others more widespread in distribution. Quite a tally for an area not noted for great faunal diversity.

The text, by Tony Ayling, is well organized and informative. Beginning with a brief introduction and tips on how best to use the book, a concise section on classification of fishes with simple line drawings of representative members of the 170 families found in the area, and proceeding to descriptions of the different species, in presumed evolutionary sequence (*i.e.* Agnatha, Chondrichtyes, Osteichthyes).

Ayling has attempted to standardize and update nomenclature through extensive research and lists the currently correct bi-nomial first with synonyms (if any) in parentheses. As some species have worldwide distribution in the temperate zones of both hemispheres and have been variously described and named at different locations, this was no small task. Synonomy is, and will continue to be, a plague on taxonomists thanks to the endless diversity within species. Efforts to eliminate confusion in the identification of beasts are always welcome.

Illustrations are essential to books of this sort and Geoffry Cox has done a fine job in preparing the 180 color plates. Nearly all the color plates were painted from freshly-caught specimens and effort was made to present accurate morphology and coloration. The 475 line drawings by Ayling are clear and finely detailed.

The combination of descriptive text, clear illustrations, glossary, and species index should enable most readers to identify specimens easily. For the occasional difficult or unique find, the non-professional reader is directed to museums or universities with fish collections. Professional users are presumed to know the appropriate steps to take when confronted with an unreported genus or species.

Pamela A. Matlack
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Les Plages de la Tunisie, by Roland Paskoff, 1985, Impressions EDITEC, Caen, 198p. US$ 11.00, (available from the author: Professor R. Paskoff, 10, Square Saint-Florentin, F-78150 Le Chesnay, France).

This is a compilation of the author's publications on the beaches of Tunisia. The French seem particularly fond of this type of volume; on one hand one might take the somewhat cynical view that this is a way of improving one's CV, as well as duping the scientific public into purchasing another copy of old material. On the other hand perhaps it is just a more honest approach. . . .

However, there is merit in putting together a little volume like this, comprising sixteen papers from a variety of somewhat obscure (to Anglo-Saxons at least) journals — for example the *Revue Tunisienne de Geographie* (source of five articles) and *Bulletin de la Société Languedocienne de Geographie* (source of two).

The Tunisian coast borders the Mediterranean. It includes many coastal types, ranging from the sandy coastforms discussed in this book, to rock cliffs and extensive shallow lagoons. Paskoff's approach is essentially morphological, using conventional map and photo interpretation to delimit coastal changes. Only the simplest meterological and geological data are included, and there is little discussion of process. Many concepts appear to have been taken 'off-the-shelf,' for example the Bruun Rule and coastal compartments and cells. Rising sea level is widely cited as a cause of shore erosion in Tunisia, yet as far as I can tell no actual data are presented on the subject. Paskoff is content to refer to earlier work elsewhere in the Mediterranean Sea, which may be a little dangerous, given sites like Venice. This lack of Tunisian data is obscured somewhat in individual articles by cross-citations to the author's previous papers. However, I appreciate only too well the difficulites in working in a country where there is no tradition in this type of work. It may be that 'second-hand' information is required to galvanize local authorities into collecting their own.

The book is in French, with occasional lapses into English. It would have been nice if the author had added an introductory chapter with a decent map of Tunisia. Perhaps the biggest drawback to the book is its style of production. The original articles have simply been xeroxed (?) and reduced to fit. Thus pages 95-103 are unreadable without

a powerful magnifying glass and many photos and diagrams are illegible. The Landsat images on pages 18 and 19 could not be identified by Tunisian geographers as representations of their own country. The photos on pages 195-198 could have been ommited.

In summary — useful if you are going to Tunisia. Next time you are waylaid in the Casbah, take a closer look at those books under the jalabiya. . . .

R.W.G. Carter
Coleraine, Northern Ireland

BOOKS RECEIVED

A User's Guide to the Coastal Engineering Research Center's (CERC'S) Field Research Facility, by William A. Birkemeier, H. Carl Miller, Stanton D. Wilhelm, Allen E. DeWall, and Carol S. Gorbics, 1985. Department of the Army, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi, 121 pages.

Application of the Dutch Method for Estimating Storm-Induced Dune Erosion, by Francis E. Sargent and William A. Birkemeier, 1985. Department of the Army, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi, 22 pages.

Design and Construction of Mounds for Breakwaters and Coastal Protection, by Per Bruun, 1985. Elsevier, Amsterdam, 938 pages.

Effects of Proposed Harbor Modifications on Wave Conditions, Harbor Resonance and Tidal Circulation at Fish Harbor, Los Angeles, California, by Robert R. Bottin, Jr., Douglas G. Outlaw, and William C. Seabergh, 1985. Department of the Army, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi, 45 pages.

Living with the California Coast, edited by G. Griggs and L. Savoy, 1985. Duke University Press, Durham, North Carolina, 393 pages.

The TMA Shallow-Water Spectrum Description and Applications, by Steven A. Hughes, 1984. Department of The Army, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi, 39 pages.

NEW CITATIONS IN COASTAL TOPICS

Ahlnas, K. and Garrison, G.R., 1984. Satellite and oceanographic observations of the warm coastal current in the Chukchi Sea. *Arctic*, 37(3), 244-254.

Ahmad, I. and Hellebus-, J.A., 1984. Nitrogen metabolism of the marine microalga *Chlorella autotrophica*. *Plant Physiology*, 76(3), 658-663.

Allen, J.R.L., 1985. Mud micro-washovers — an intertidal sedimentary structure indicating atmospheric exposure. *Journal Sedimentary Petrology*, 55(2), 240-242.

Aminti, P. and Billi, P., 1984. An investigation of the effect of breakwaters on beach sediment characteristics. *Catena*, 11(4), 391-400.

Anderson, T.K.; Jensen, M.H., and Sorensen, J., 1984. Diurnal variation of nitrogen cycling in coastal marine sediments. 1. Denitrification. *Marine Biology*, 83(2), 171-176.

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