

It is most unfortunate that publication was scheduled prior to the release of a final report on a massive geomorphological study of the south shore of Long Island; use of its findings would have greatly aided the audience. Despite the lack of scientific rigor in the information presented, I find these books to be a more valuable introduction to shoreline change and local problems for the various states than the now outdated summaries in the Corps of Engineers' National Shoreline Study of 1971. Nevertheless, they should only be regarded as guidebooks and are neither the most accurate statements about site-specific shoreline risks nor are they going to be the last word on the hazards.

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Living With the Louisiana Shore, by J.T. Kelley, A.R. Kelley, O.H. Pilkey, Jr., and A.A. Clark, 1984, Duke University Press, Durham, North Carolina, 164p. \$US9.95, ISBN 0-8223-0519-4.

Living With the Texas Shore, by R.A. Morton, O.H. Pilkey, Jr., O.H. Pilkey, Sr., and W.J. Neal, 1984, Duke University Press, Durham, North Carolina, 190p. \$US9.95, ISBN 0-8223-0500-3.

These two books are part of a series of publications on regional coastlines of the USA. The words "Living with" in the title indicate the purpose of the books and more than half the content of each book relates to such issues as beach protection, selecting a site for homes at the shoreline, the National Flood Insurance Program and the law. The books also provide appendices on hurricanes and a check list of federal, state and local agencies involved in coastal development. These practical matters are set in the context of excellent summaries of the coastal environments of the areas covered by each book. There are numerous photographs, diagrams and maps. Ecological and geomorphological factors pertaining to the nature and evolution of these shorelines are discussed in a clear, concise and informative manner, and, as such, provide succinct, up-to-date detailed descriptions of these coastlines.

The flavor of each book might be obtained by selecting a typical site analysis map (most of the coastline is covered by a series of these maps at various scales) as follows: Galveston Island — this map shows existing roads, buildings and coastline

constructions; it classifies the coastal terrain into five categories *e.g.* marsh, beach, dunes, etc.; the coastal zone is classified into hazard zones *e.g.* dangerous, safe, etc.; washover channels and historical impact sites of hurricanes are identified at sections of the coastline and analyzed in relation to problems of locating a building there *e.g.* "this area has a seawall which provides good overwash protection from most storms." The books, which are both less than 200 pages long and in small format, are thus a mine of coastal information and the authors have been assiduous in compiling basic shoreline data.

The Louisiana and Texas books have the same chapter headings, format and approximate number of photographs, maps and diagrams. The main difference derives from basic coastal physiography and related land use; the Texas coast is a beach and barrier island coastline with some areas of considerable development, the Louisiana coastline has similar elements but is subsiding, contains the Mississippi deltaic environment and has little or no housing or recreational development along most of its length. These are both excellent additions to the series — well written, informative and an ideal source for someone wanting either basic knowledge of these shorelines or, if a resident in these areas, a sound practical guide to "living with the shore."

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L'Erosion des Côtes, by Roland Paskoff, 1981, Presses Universitaires de France (Series: Que sais-je?), Paris, 127 p. ISBN-1-12-036747X.

For the English-speaking person who would like a relatively painless introduction to the French language sweetened by a topic of genuine interest and embellished by neat thumb-nail sketches, this is a very economical starting point. It is in a university-level paperback series that goes back — believe it or not — more than 100 years. It has only four chapters: the agents of erosion, rocky coasts, coasts of unconsolidated materials, and the battle against erosion. Although clearly intended for the beginner the book takes up important principles