

the fairly terse explanations then the book fulfils that role. It is the marine equivalent to Yalin or Raudkivi and I found *Sea Bed Mechanics* more comprehensive and more comprehensible than either of those.

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Living With the South Carolina Shore, by William J. Neal, W. Carlyle Blakeney, Jr., Orrin H. Pilkey, Jr., and Orrin H. Pilkey, Sr., 1984, Duke University Press, Durham, N.C., 224p. Cloth, \$22.75, ISBN 0-8223-0522-4, Paper, \$9.95, ISBN 0-8223-0524-0.

This book is part of the *Living With the Shore* series, which describes U.S. coastal erosion problems on a state-by-state basis. Titles in the series, edited by Orrin H. Pilkey, Jr. and William J. Neal, now cover the entire Gulf coast, much of the Atlantic coast from Long Island southward, and the California shoreline. These books might best be termed "user's guides to the coast," because they focus on practical information that can — and should — be applied by the individuals, corporations, planning boards, and governing bodies involved in using or regulating use of the coast. The books are written in nontechnical language and are aimed at a wide audience including coastal developers and seasonal and year-round residents of barrier islands.

The stated objective of the South Carolina volume is "to increase the reader's awareness of how barrier islands and beaches operate . . . what kinds of hazards are faced by coastal dwellers and property owners, and how to reduce the impacts of those hazards if you are already in such a zone." After a brief introduction to the history of development and storm damage on the South Carolina shore, Neal *et al.* give a basic explanation of barrier island geomorphology and barrier migration, emphasizing the concept of beaches in dynamic equilibrium. Subsequent chapters treat coastal engineering, selecting a site on the South Carolina shore, state and federal programs to manage and regulate coastal land use, and storm-resistant housing designs. Appendices include a hurricane checklist to guide coastal residents, a list of agencies involved in coastal development, and an annotated reference list.

The authors' success in meeting their objectives is evident in the easy-to-comprehend presentation of technical material and the wealth of specific information about the South Carolina shore. Individual island analyses in the chapter on site selection provide large-scale maps of the state's coastline that delineate risk levels and coastal hazards such as flooding potential, erosion history, overwash potential, inlet migration, and possible evacuation problems. These maps, along with numerous line drawings and black-and-white photos, are well-executed and make the text far more understandable to the layman.

Living With the South Carolina Shore and its companion volumes are essential reading for those who contemplate moving to or building on the shore. These books could also be employed as supplementary texts for upper-level classes in coastal management and related disciplines. Wider awareness of the hazards inherent in coastal development will lead to wiser development and, hence, less panic and less damage when the U.S. experiences another active hurricane such as 1985.

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Neptune's Revenge: The Ocean of Tomorrow, by Anne W. Simon, 1984, Franklin Watts, New York, 222p. \$15.95, ISBN 0-531-099761-7.

Ms Simon's book is written in the breathless style of a committed environmentalist. She cuts an elegant swathe through many of the contemporary environmental problems affecting our oceans and coasts — overfishing, oil spills, pollution absorption and so forth. The book has the same spirit and thrust as Rachael Carson's *Silent Spring* did 30 years ago, although the impact today seems much reduced. This may be because we have become more cynical about the environment, or we have become buffered against repeated eco-shocks. This *genre* of book seems very dated; certainly the great upsurge in interest by the Media tends to mitigate against this type of work. More's the pity.

The book divides into two. The first half summarizes many of the problems facing coast and ocean communities, their planners and their decision-makers and -takers. The main theme is the imprudent use of resources, and the author provides summaries of many of the more extreme examples — the collapse of the pelagic fishing industry, the

rising number of industry-related oil spills and so on. At first I was somewhat off-put by this journalistic picking and choosing to highlight the sensational. However, a glance at the bibliography (uncited in the text) was very reassuring, as the author seems to know the professional literature well. The factual material is nicely incorporated into the beautifully written text, sprinkled with anecdote and intelligent comment.

The second part of the book adopts a far more hard-hitting approach. Ms Simon is obviously aggrieved over the failure of the US to embrace the recent Law of the Sea proposals, putting political expediency in front of environmental well-being. This failure appears, to me at least, to be the main motivation behind the writing of the book, and although other international dilemmas are mentioned, the author is not able to summon up quite the same enthusiasm for them.

All in all a worthwhile read, although the market is perhaps somewhat saturated with this type of book. The main value of the volume may be to catch the attention of students and channel their thoughts into devising and implementing the coast and ocean management practices of the next generation. Unless they are successful, we will exact Neptune's Revenge upon ourselves.

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Wandering Continents and Spreading Sea Floors on an Expanding Earth, by Lester C. King, 1983, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 232p. ISBN 0-471-90156-3.

Written by a distinguished geomorphologist, this is an excellent introduction to plate tectonics and sea floor spreading. His earth expansion hypothesis is controversial but only a secondary question. Of particular value is his dynamic-historic explanation of coast types, coastal plains and continental shelves.

Rhodes W. Fairbridge
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Ice Sheets and Climate, by J. Oerlemans and C. J. van der Veen, 1983, D. Reidel, Dordrecht, Boston, 217p. ISBN 90-277-1709-5.

For coastal specialists there are many urgent and unanswerable questions about the hazards of future sea-level fluctuations, specifically any sudden rise that may be linked through melting or surging glaciers to an observed rise of sea level. This timely volume may help the trained scientist to evaluate some of the data. It treats basic climatic relations, energy and modeling (in some detail), so it is suitable for an advanced level textbook.

Rhodes W. Fairbridge
New York, New York

Commission on the Coastal Environment: Bibliography, compiled by R. P. Paskoff, 1984, International Geophysical Union, 203p. \$16.00, available from the author, 10 Square Saint-Florentin, 78150 Le Chesnay, France.

International Bibliography on Regional and Local Coastal Morphology, compiled by D. Kelletat, 1983, Verlag Ferdinand Schoningh, Paderborn, FRG, 218p. DM26.50, ISBN 3-506-72307-3.

These two bibliographies, appearing within a year of each other offer a considerable body of citations for coastal workers. The Paskoff volume is one of the regular (?) quadannual productions by the IGU Commission on Coastal Environments. It is basically a compilation of correspondents' reference lists, country by country. These have not been edited and one must assume there are gaps and omissions, certainly this is true of the British, Irish, American, and Australian lists with which I am most familiar. Some correspondents have stuck to physical geography, others have included ecology, geology, and so on. The range of subjects tends to be inversely proportional to the size of the country. This volume has no index, and it can only be useful for browsing.

The Kelletat volume, on the other hand, is a far more substantial piece of work, over a much longer period (20-22 years). The text is bilingual German/English. It contains 6428 citations arranged alphabetically by first author, but also useful tables allowing cross-referencing by country, and by coastal form and process. Some of these latter categories are a bit bland; for example "Barrier Islands and Mud Flats" are lumped together. Despite such limitations this is a much more impressive piece of work, and if my calculations are correct about twice the value of the IGU volume. Certainly students