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books to be a more valuable introduction to shoreline change and local problems for the various states than the now outdated summaries in the Corps of Engineers' National Shoreline Study of 1971.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 that 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 Programe 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

like Bruun's Rule and introduces a number of interesting case studies.

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**External Costs of Coastal Beach Pollution: An Hedonic Approach**, by Elizabeth A. Wilman, 1984, Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C., 194p. $US15.00, ISBN 0-915707-08-X.

Economics may fall short in its quantification attempts but it continues to be applied everywhere, including the coast. This monograph is premised on economic analytics being useful in improving the information base for coastal management decisions. The vehicle for showing the usefulness is a case study of a potential oil spill on the recreational beaches of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. It is an attempt at measuring potential damages via a "hedonic pricing model" coupled with an oil spill risk model. The former measures the loss in value of beach recreational services that would occur if an unpolluted beach becomes polluted with oil; the latter measures the probability of these beaches being affected by an oil spill.

The hedonic model is based on the idea that purchasing specific recreational services includes more than simply the items themselves, but rather the larger set of coastal attributes of which the purchased services are a part. This model is subject to a large number of difficulties and assumptions, particularly when attempting to apply it. The author notes that the "large system of simultaneous equations and the identification of any marginal bid or offer function is very difficult." While she heroically works to reduce this complexity, the resulting model becomes increasingly tenuous due to the limiting assumptions necessary to apply it. Also hindering its applicability are the "normal" economic assumptions of consumer and seller information, equilibrium conditions, homogeneity, etc. Thus, after wading through pages of equations and complicated explanations, we learn that "the actual pollution damages that need to be measured will not always conform to the model specifications." However, as all economists are quick to note, such does not mean the model is useless, only that its results can be an over or underestimate without knowing which! Finally, the author notes that the value of offshore oil is so high that the sandy beach oil spill damage estimates cannot begin to compare. Nevertheless, she concludes the estimates can be used as a basis for determining spill cleanup investment and a possible compensation fund. Given the magnitude of the data search, the tenuousness of the results, and the cost of economists, I doubt if such a case can be made for its use.

This research monograph is basically an exploratory exercise in applying an economic model (probably a dissertation). It has little relevance to coastal management decision-making. Indeed, the model cannot come close to living up to the claims made for it. Thus, it reveals again the source of discontent with economic analysis: economists claim too much and produce too little. Coastal managers would do well to look to others for relevant management information.

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**Coastal Research: UK Perspectives**, edited by Malcolm W. Clark, 1984, Geo Books, Norwich, 131p. £7.00 ($US12.50), ISBN 0-86094-1663 (soft cover).

This relatively small paperback contains nine papers presented at a one-day Nearshore Dynamics workshop held following the British Geomorphological Researchers Groups Conference in April 1981. Six of the papers are full contributions whilst three, published elsewhere, present short summaries.

The operative word in the book's title is 'research.' If one expects an updated coverage of the UK coast, forget it. Of the six full papers two are sited well outside the UK, one a mathematical model, one a flume experiment, leaving two to examine micro shoreface environments. Only two of the summaries present more comprehensive models of modern UK coastal evolution. Whilst the editor finds the geographical and methodological diversity encouraging, I find it unsuited to a small single volume text. There may be something for everyone but not a lot for someone.

All the papers do, however, deal with some aspect of sediments and sedimentary processes. The six full papers can be grouped under mathematical, micro scale and exotic. A purely mathematical approach to equilibrium beach profiles is presented by Hardistry. The model, based on Stokes wave theory, is applied to both spatial (cross shore and alongshore) and temporal changes in profile. Fine-