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-