

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