

a description of the types of plants found in the dune zone and a review of planting techniques.

The fourth Section presents the results of five case studies in which dune building techniques were employed. In each case, the physiographic layout is described, the problem is identified and the solution adopted is presented. The final Section deals with managing coastal dune systems. Controlled public access and education are advocated in order to reduce human impacts in dune systems. Careful planning is suggested as a way of minimizing impacts and of implementing coastal protection projects.

There are several appendices which present information about using signs, about off-road vehicle use, about vegetation planting techniques and about using fertilizers to promote vegetation growth. Most of this information is reprinted from other sources.

The book's strengths center on the presentation of information about the use of vegetation to promote dune growth and on the discussion of human uses of the dune zone. A great amount of information exists about the use of vegetation and/or fences to build dunes and about rates of dune growth under controlled conditions. Although a limited amount of this information is presented here, the material on this subject presented in the appendices is a useful complement to that discussed in the text.

The presentation of eolian geomorphological processes and responses is weak, especially regarding the interrelation between beach and dune systems. One is given the impression that dune erosion represents a temporary setback to the system that can be reversed by encouraging

dune growth. There is little discussion of the effects of a negative sediment budget and rising sea level on changes in the beach/dune profile. The discussion of management practices does not refer to any basic management theories or models. Although this information might be too conceptual for this book, advocating careful planning seems too simplistic.

Coastal scientists will find little new information in this text and engineers with a solid background in coastal engineering will derive little benefit from referring to the book. There are other texts that present similar information in more detail and more clearly. Persons interested in coastal problems are encouraged to read the section on human uses of the dune zone, as this provides the reader with an idea of how far-ranging those uses are and how damaging they can be.

This book does fulfill its goal of providing British coastal engineers with applicable information about vegetation use in dune building, but the discussion lacks detail. If the book's audience consists of town engineers who are responsible for coping with local erosion or flooding problems, the very simplified discussion may be appropriate. It seems likely that the engineer will still need to refer to a specialist when time comes to select and implement specific techniques. This book, at least, will enable the engineer to recognize that such a referral is necessary.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

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- Greenpeace**, 1987. *Coastline: Britain's Threatened Heritage*. London: Kingfisher Books, £14.95 200p. ISBN 0-86272 213.
- Carter, R.W.G.**, 1988. *Coastline Environments*. London: Academic, £42.00 (\$88.50). 617p. ISBN 0-12-161855-2
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- Bassin d'Arcachon, Bulletin de l'Institut de Géologie du Bassin d'Aquitaine**, No. 39., 1986. No price. 191p., ISSN 0542-0832. (Available from Université de Bordeaux I, 351 cours de la Liberation, 33405 Talence, France.)
- Institute of Civil Engineers (London)**, 1987. Tidal Power. Thomas Telford. £37.50 (£42.50 overseas, inc. Airmail), 379p. ISBN 0-7277-0390-0
- Ren Mei-i**, 1987. Modern sedimentation in the Coastal and Nearshore Zones in China. China Ocean Press, Beijing/Springer-Verlag, Berlin. Price 238.-DM, 466p. ISBN 3-540-13149-3.



COASTAL CALENDAR

JUNE

6-8

1988

• **American Quaternary Association, 10th biennial meeting**, Amherst, MA. (Contact: AMQUA88, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003).

13-17

AGU Chapman Conference on Sediment Transport Processes in Estuaries, Bahía Blanca, Argentina. (Contact: Gerardo M.E. Perillo, Instituto Argentino de Oceanografía, Av. Alem 53, 8000 Bahía Blanca, Argentina, or