
COASTAL PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID M. BUSH,
E. ROBERT THIELER & ORRIN H. PILKEY



PHOTO 110. During Hurricane Gilbert in September, 1988, low seawalls at this location on the north coast of the Yucatan peninsula, Mexico were overstepped and the first row of buildings became the seawall. Seawalls can be seen in the foreground. The first row of buildings absorbed the brunt of the storm wave energy and protected the development behind them. Note that most of the debris from these concrete buildings remains in place. On U.S. barrier islands, where most small buildings are constructed of wood, flying and floating debris is a major cause of building damage. (Photo: David M. Bush, E. Robert Thieler, and Orrin H. Pilkey, Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, Department of Geology, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708).