imagination on the regulation of future sea-level rise by major engineering schemes to divert water from the oceans into depressions on the continents.

Overall this volume reflects the rich mix of sea-level research, ranging from tried-and-tested approaches applied to new areas, to topics pointing the way for future research. Observation and data gathering remain dominant, rigorous hypothesis testing is sometimes less apparent.

As a final comment on the volume itself; it is likely to remain a library book, consulted for reference purposes rather than a key text on individuals bookshelves. This is not because of the quality of papers, but the price. Recent books on similar topics, aimed at the same audience, are available at about one third of the cost.

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Les déplacements des lignes de rivage en Méditerranée, edited by R. Paskof and P. Trousset 1987. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, no price given (Soft cover) 225 pp., ISBN 2-222-04074-4.

A partial proceedings of an international colloquiem sponsored by C.N.R.S. and the Commission sur l'environment côtier de l'Union géographique international (I.G.U.), this volume deals with shoreline displacement around the Mediterranean. The papers are in French but contain English summaries. Various lines of archaeological evidence are brought to bear on the problem of shoreline displacement and are evaluated along with interpretations from the physical sciences. The volume is divided into three main parts *viz.* (I) Spain, France, Africa, (II) Italy, and (III) Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, and the Persian Gulf area.

A wide range of field and laboratory techniques are discussed as they relate to interpretation of archaeological finds. The archaeological data (sometimes in the form of ancient inscriptions and texts) help provide a relative chronology and morphologic interpretation of ancient shorelines. In the case of the Ebro delta (Spain), for example, artifacts indicate that both river and sea-ports were flourishing at Tortosa during Iberian times and still functioned after Roman conquest. Since the XVIth century, irrigation, deforestation, and bank protection against floods have accelerated the progradation of the shore. Other studies report on the submerged occurrence of monumental structures, often belonging to port engineering works.

Many readers will find interesting tidbits relating to early attempts to control coastal processes. One paper reports on the largely successful efforts of emperors Claudius (41-54) and Trajan (98-117) to build artificial ports in the Tiber delta. Other efforts elsewhere were not so successful.

Readers fluent in French will find this a fascinating work, packed full of historical vignettes about shoreline evolution. English-speaking readers can peruse the volume by reference to the English summaries. The book is handsomely produced in large format. For those interested in the application of archaeological data to the interpretation of shoreline history, this book will provide much useful information.

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An Introduction to Coastal Zone Economics: Concepts, Methods and Case Studies, by Steven F. Edwards, 1988. Taylor and Francis, New York. £13.50. 134pp. ISBN 0-8448-1530-6.

This slim volume is designed to explain economics to the uninitiated. It purports to define the concepts and methods of economics with sufficient simplicity to allow non-economists to not only grasp, but apply the materials presented. In a word: it fails. Not only does it not simplify the subject, it confounds the reader by presenting too much non-essential detail, skipping parts of essential calculations, and generally presenting the material in a condescending fashion using trite statements and truncated, fabricated cases. As well, the limitations of economics are touched only lightly and then ignored.

Too much detail is seen in a continuous stream of definitions that appear unnecessary and confusing to readers wishing only a "cookbook" to approximate the value of a resource.

Had this complexity of hypothetical reasoning been used to qualify the calculations in the cases a greater case could have been made for including such. As it is, the reader is not made aware of which concepts are more useful than others. For example, the concepts of opportunity cost and discounting would seem to outweigh much of the market concepts.

Clarity in the midst of complexity was sacrificed; for example, page eleven attempts to explain the derivation of an aggregate value. How the figure of $215 is derived to begin the next calculation is ignored. Such omissions occur elsewhere and plague the book throughout, especially in the applications.

As many young economists do, the author talks down to the reader through the use of certain over-simplifications in the definitional process. It is surprising how well other coastal scientists are able to explain their complex fields while economists fail miserably. For example, an earlier economics primer on the coast also failed to explain clearly its discourse (Devanney, Ashe, Parkhurst, *Parable Beach: A Primer in Coastal Zone Economics,* MIT Press, 1976). Perhaps the brashness of being too imbued with recently mastered methods and lack of experience in learning their limitations through repeated attempts to apply such account for this failure. If only economists over the age of 50 wrote introductory works more may be understandable.

At this point the question must be asked: it is worthwhile for economists to try to simplify their work for coastal scientists? The answer is probably yes, but this book is inadequate for the task. Before this effort can be approached adequately experienced economists must wrestle with their concepts. It doesn't make sense to tout the beauty of the market model, note that it fails in relation to coastal phenomena, and then proceed to apply the model anyway. Perhaps a journalist is the one to write such a book since economists consistently claim too much for their analyses while producing too little of practical use for others.

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Marine Animals of Baja California: A Guide to the Common Fishes and Invertebrates, by Daniel Gotshall, 1987 (2nd edition). Sea Challengers, Monterey, 112 p. Paper, $18.95, ISBN 0-930036-15-4.

The relatively unspoiled waters surrounding Mexico's Baja California peninsula have become increasingly popular with North American snorkelers, sport divers, and amateur naturalists, many of whom probably have wished for an inexpensive, easily used field guide to the common fishes and invertebrates of the region. With its beautiful color photographs of living animals Daniel Gotshall's *Marine Animals of Baja California* is the first such guide covering both sides of the peninsula and will satisfy this wish for many.

Understandably, the vast majority of the 182 species pictured in this book are fish; cnidarians (especially corals and gorgonians) and echinoderms dominate the invertebrate section. Marine birds and mammals are omitted. For those wanting additional information more comprehensive and specific guides are cited in the introduction and bibliography.

Fishes are presented first, beginning with line drawings of bony fish morphology and an easily used pictorial key to the families represented in the book. The species accounts are arranged by family and include sharply printed color plates, common names in both English and Spanish, scientific names, and brief descriptions of identifying characters, habitat, and range. One can only guess at the amount of effort it must have taken to obtain so many fine photographs of the fishes. Invertebrates are presented in much the same manner as the fish, but for these animals the drawings in the key could easily be improved and use some labelling of parts to help novices understand what they are seeing.

This book will make a lovely and useful addition to the libraries of all interested in exploring Baja's warm waters and should help to increase awareness and understanding of that region's rich fauna—I wish I had had it on my most recent trip there!

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