

This number of MARITIME SEDIMENTS is devoted, in a large part, to subjects on the coastal zone. Our opening paper by Edward Bryant is an exceptional contribution on the changing morphology of barrier islands. Although long-term effects of climate and sea-level fluctuations are not ignored, great emphasis is placed on the short-term wave climate of a localized region. Next we have a companion set of papers on contemporary features formed along the modern beach. Peter Rosen discusses the naturally formed kaimoo, while Stephen Leatherman describes anthropical structures formed in coastal sediments. Our final paper is by Kenneth Hooper and deals with the mineralogical aspects of foraminiferal tests. This paper is another in a series on many aspects of foraminiferal research such as zonation, ecological niches, and mineralogy. This series has been continuing over a period of several years and many portions have been published in MARITIME SEDIMENTS.

In our last number of the magazine we stressed the importance of coastal studies from the human viewpoint. We are impelled further along that course today as exemplified in notices of forthcoming meetings. At least three major conferences will cover some aspects of the coast, emphasizing the importance of this zone. In Canada, the National Research Council has an associate committee dealing exclusively with research on shoreline erosion and sedimentation. A note on this organization is given in this number and all readers are asked to give it careful study. A drive for membership has opened and questionnaires on interest, research topics, and conference papers are being distributed to many coastal workers. Certainly all are welcome to join, and this can be done by writing to the Associate Committee Secretary as indicated in the notice.

The dominant aspect of some coasts may not be entirely physical. Industrial effluents using river systems to reach the sea, may permeate harbours, nearby urban beaches and distant resort areas, particularly as economic development increases. Another detrimental aspect is that of decaying organic matter which not only poses an unsightly situation esthetically, but in stagnant and brackish waters can eliminate vast stretches of coast for recreational and habitable purposes. Because of these factors, certain coastal areas have been declared sanctuaries (particularly in the eastern United States) and legislation has been introduced as an instrument of protection. Much of this has been accomplished through the efforts of citizens groups and the information disseminated by leading research centres. In all fairness to politicians, they must have this input to put their cases before their legislature bodies. It takes time and a great deal of sometimes difficult and strenuous work, but in the long run it is the best way. And scientists working from an unselfish base can greatly aid the process, much as they have done in the past.

Looking back at an old number (vol. 4, no. 5, Oct. 1975) of Coastal Research notes edited by Dr. W.F. Tanner, Geology Department, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, we would like to quote the objectives of the Coastal Plains Marine Centre. This Centre was created in 1969 by the Coastal Plains Regional Commission (North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia) to accelerate economic development of the coastal plains region without degrading the quality of the environment. We would like to take the opportunity of re-printing the objectives of the Centre: 1. To stimulate, co-ordinate, and financially support information exchange projects. 2. To extend the technical staff capabilities of the Commission and its member states. 3. To bring marine agencies and organizations together to facilitate communications and co-operation, and to get them working together on a regional basis. 4. To respond to requests for technical assistance, information and conduct an active information dissemination program to meet those needs. 6. To strengthen and co-ordinate coastal and marine research and development through information exchange.

In this respect we have great hopes that the newly organized Associate Committee for Research on Shoreline Erosion and Sedimentation (ACROSES) will serve as a focus for collecting and disseminating research information to assist the community to reach such objectives, as well as establishing leadership in the promotion of a national research program in its field. Many of the Canadian objectives were aired at the Canada Coastline Conference last May in Halifax. This conference was a good one and a successful one, and was the first national conference of its kind. It showed the need and interest for continuing effort in coastal research and for such reasons MARITIME SEDIMENTS welcomes and extends its good wishes to the membership of ACROSES for a fruitful and vigorous program.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor