East Texas coastline receding, report says

Some eastern sections of Texas' coastline are receding at the rate rates. of five feet per year, reports a Texas A&M geographer.

Dr. Eugene Jaworski, an assist-

Factors figuring in the coastal storm surge, tectonic setting of ant professor, said several other the coast, as well as human inter-

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Jaworski said he believes action should be taken immediately recession are hurricane washover, to offset the sediment deficiency and counteract the erosion. He says one possibility would be to

"Because beach environments of the Gulf Coast have great recreational and other land use value," the researcher emphasized, "the artificial nourishment of the beach system with available sedi-

dredging in the Sabine Pass.

ment supplies is recommended for the attainment of shoreline equilibrium."

Jaworski conducted the coastal study as part of Texas A&M new Environmental Quality Program. The program is designed to identify and analyze problems involving the quality of environment and standard of living available to citizens of both Texas and the

"As land use of our coastal environments increases," he said, "it will become necessary to initiate management programs which will integrate our knowledge of both the natural and man-made coastal processes."

The professor's study centers on the 62-mile East Texas coast between the entrance to Galveston Bay and the Sabine Pass.

The beaches are building up along a 12-mile strip east of the Galveston Bay jetty and also along a six-mile strip west of the Sabine Pass jetties, according to Jaworski's calculations. The 44mile segment between those two areas is eroding.

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He said interest in the problem of shoreline recession developed from a study of the relocation of Highway 87. The highway generally follows the beach ridge because the coastal marsh prohibits construction of a stable roadbed further inland.

The first hard-surfaced highway along the East Texas coast was built in 1936. It was relocated in 1945 and again in 1962, each time with the centerline 50 to 60 feet further inland.

Human interference with the beach system has affected the natural coastal processes along several areas of the shoreline,

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construction of the Sabine jetties, the dredging of the pass at Rollover and remo beach sediments for road Regarding the latter ty

Jaworski concludes. He ch

human interference, the pro notes the legislature passed in 1970 prohibiting furth moval of beach sediment road building.

He suggests supplying eroding beaches along the stretch with sediments dredging, such as from the Pass and the tidal delta i Bay near the Rollover fish

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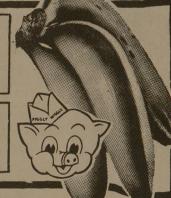
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