

# East Texas coastline receding, report says

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

Dr. Eugene Jaworski, an assistant professor, said several other parts of the state's 373-mile

shore are moving inland at lesser rates.

Factors figuring in the coastal recession are hurricane washover, storm surge, tectonic setting of the coast, as well as human interference with the beach system,

he claims.

Jaworski said he believes action should be taken immediately to offset the sediment deficiency and counteract the erosion. He says one possibility would be to relocate sediments, such as from

dredging in the Sabine Pass.

"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 sediment 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 entire nation.

"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 44-mile segment between those two areas is eroding.

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,

Jaworski concludes. He cites construction of the Sabine jetties, the dredging of the pass at Rollover and removal of beach sediments for road building.

Regarding the latter two, the notes the legislature passed in 1970 prohibiting further removal of beach sediments for road building.

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



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