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**Contact:** Tina Haisman, ASBPA media relations – (239) 292-2882  
Michael S. Bruno, Stevens Institute of Technology – (201) 216-5338

**U.S. beaches are wider this summer**

FORT MYERS, FL – Sunshine, sand and the seashore – the three main components of summertime – are luring Americans to beaches across the country. And, if this year is anything like last year, Americans will make more than 2 billion beach visits and contribute more than \$322 million to the national economy.

Luckily this summer most Americans will find their beach appears much larger than it did in the winter. This means there should be plenty of room for everyone.

“If you are visiting your beach for the first time since February or March, you might have the impression that a whole lot of sand was dumped on the beach,” says Michael S. Bruno, Ph.D., dean of the Schaefer School of Engineering and Science at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J. “But in fact that sand naturally came back from offshore and is part of a normal fluctuation.”

Bruno explains the primary reason for the larger summer beach is the difference in the wave climate. In the winter, the waves are high and harsh. They take the sand from the beach and deposit it offshore where it forms into a sandbar. The sandbar helps to reduce the power of the waves before they hit the shore.

But in the summer, the waves calm down and are smaller in height and longer in length. This dismantles the sandbar and brings the sand back to the beach. As a result, the summer beach is wider and more gently sloping than the winter beach.

“The wild card in all of this is hurricanes, however. A tropical storm can produce more severe conditions than typical winter storms, and a summer beach can be turned into a winter beach overnight,” Bruno says. “But in the days following the storm, calmer waves will bring the sand back onshore, and in a very condensed period of about 72 hours you can see an entire season worth of activity on the beach.”

For more information about the state of your beach, visit [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).

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**ABOUT ASBPA**

Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national research and policy concerning shore and beach management and restoration. ASBPA strives to engage in a factual debate on coastal issues and economics that will foster sound, far-sighted and economical development and preservation of our beaches; thereby aiding in placing their beliefs within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. For additional information about ASBPA, please visit [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).