

# Coastal trends and opportunities: Back to the future?

By

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As I write this, spring is trying to make an appearance, but winter has continued the bluster, so the days teeter between warm and sunny and cold and rainy. By the time you are reading this, spring should have again won the contest, bringing with it new growth, spring cleaning, and thoughts of summer days at the beach. Right now, during this period of transitioning seasons, I am on the cusp between looking back and looking forward. For me, the past is mostly filled with personal inspection and the future is still for dreaming and planning.

One big planning for ASBPA and *S&B* is our *one-hundredth* anniversary. For the *S&B* part, all input is welcome—ideas for special issues, lists of favorite past articles, an article time capsule of our hopes for beach preservation for the coming hundred years, and such.

As I think about some of the past coastal problems and ways that we have addressed them, I am both encouraged and concerned. The concerns arise from all the compounded problems the coasts now need to address and the many legacy problems we deal with time and time again, with no permanent positive results. I hope one of our plans for the coming hundred years will be to develop, where needed, new solutions to old problems. Some new solutions may draw upon ideas first presented in these *S&B* pages, all the way back to 1933.

For this issue: In “Inlet-adjacent beach and shoreline variability at decadal scales,” Teagan Dunkel and Tiffany Briggs look to the past for solutions for the future. Starting with an inlet management plan, a concept rarely considered a

century ago, the authors note the importance of using data to develop plans that can work with identified morphologic changes — that is, they point out the use of information about the past to plan for the future.

The paper by Ryan Anderson, Gary Griggs, Charles Lester, Kiki Patsch, and Kim Steinhardt exemplifies this idea of looking at beach areas through a temporal lens. “The past, present and future of Seacliff State Beach: Adapting to long-term sea level rise on California’s Central Coast” discusses the many erosion problems and responses that have occurred at a state beach in Monterey Bay, CA. While the story of Seacliff Beach is an interesting one in and of itself, it also can serve as an example for other communities and help them learn from the past to achieve a more sustainable future.

Nicholas Brown, Brennan Banks, Patrick Barrineau, Laura Kerr, Devyani Kar, Douglas George, Robert Lewis, and Luce Bassetti write about the sediment needs for marsh restoration and the regional variabilities. The bulk of this technical white paper discusses many of the regional concerns with existing marsh conditions and key aspects and approaches for marsh restoration efforts, with a focus on the sediment needs.

James Houston has provided another paper that provides incredible insights about the U.S. beach economy and importance of healthy beaches to coastal regions. The dollars from coastal tourism and values for storm protection are staggering. We all know the joys we get from a walk on the beach, or a day at the shore, and the pleasant feelings that stay long

after the trip is over. Jim’s papers provide a different perspective on their importance.

Beaches have many values — among them, tourism. However, a key value of tourism comes from *access* to the beach. Kiki Patsch and Dan Reineman look into the future of California beach access in the paper “Sea-level rise impacts on coastal access.” Like many coastal areas, California has a variety of beach access, from a single trail to a road or trail with multiple access points that runs adjacent to a long stretch of beach. Patsch and Reineman attempt to address both types of access as well as the amenities, using sea-level rise modeling from CoSMoS for Central and Southern California and a coastal access geodatabase. As might be expected, their research finds a steady loss of access with rising sea level. Ancillary to their paper are the dashboards for the access points and sea-level rise flooding that show all the areas of concern and that local communities can use for planning future access.

The papers in this issue examine coastal trends and opportunities that can influence future conditions, from maintaining inlets and restoring marshes to beach sustainability, access, and economic opportunities. It is hoped that by sharing these ideas with the ASBPA community, some mistakes others have made can be avoided, and some positive lessons can be embraced.

As we approach our hundredth anniversary, I hope *S&B* will continue to shine a light on the positive changes to beach, marsh, access, and inlet management that will contribute to sustainable shores and beaches.