

Living with Florida's Atlantic Beaches

Coastal Hazards from Amelia Island to Key West

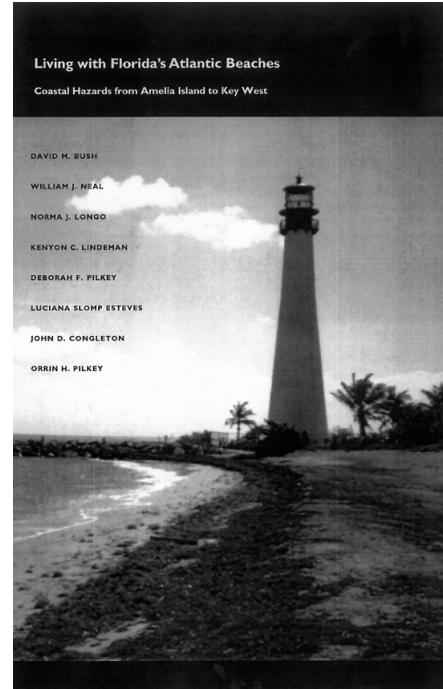
David M. Bush, William J. Neal, Norma J. Longo, Kenyon C. Lindeman, Deborah F. Pilkey, Luciana Slomp Esteves, John D. Congleton, and Orrin H. Pilkey

From Amelia Island just south of Georgia to Key West's southern tip, Florida's beaches are its greatest asset. Yet Florida's dynamic Atlantic coast is a dangerous brew of rapidly proliferating structural development on highly erodible shores periodically hit by some of nature's greatest storms. The same development that has been driven by the attraction of beautiful beaches and coastal amenities now threatens those very resources. In turn, coastal structures are vulnerable to sea level rise, shoreline retreat, winter storms, and hurricanes. Most of the methods for reducing losses associated with storms as well as slower processes such as shoreline retreat and sea level change only protect property in the short term—at a growing cost in dollars and loss of natural habitat in the long term.

Living with Florida's Atlantic Beaches is a guide to mitigating or reducing losses of property, human life, and natural resources by living with, rather than at, the shore. This illustrated volume provides an introduction to coastal processes and geology along with a brief history of coastal hazards and short-sighted human responses. This is the first volume in the *Living with the Shore* book series to discuss the significant long-term impact of dredge and fill beach construction on living marine resources. Guidance is provided for longer term risk reduction in the form of tips on storm resistant construction and site evaluation, including maps for evaluating relative vulnerability to hazards. A brief review of coastal regulations will help property owners understand and navigate the various permit requirements for developing coastal property. *Living with Florida's Atlantic Beaches* is an invaluable source of information for everyone from the curious beach visitor to the community planner, from the prudent property investor to the decision-making public official.

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Praise for the *Living with the Shore* series

"Duke University Press has published a series, *Living with the Shore*, to educate the determined shore dweller; maps show what is happening on each stretch of beach, in enough detail to cover specific homesites. The books offer guidelines for buying and building at the shore. They list federal, state, and local agencies that are involved in coastal development, as well as give up-to-date information on laws that regulate land use."—*Forbes Magazine*

"America's foremost philosopher of the beaches [Orrin Pilkey], the sea bottoms and the coastal sands ... is challenging some long-held notions about the ways in which people use and maintain beaches. A decade ago, when he began warning of the dangers of 'beach degradation,' he found little public support. Today, as concern for our shore environment grows, people are listening."—**Barnard L. Collier, *The New York Times Magazine***

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