

## **Misconceptions about Seawall and Beach Interactions**

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### **Abstract**

The common United States perception that seawalls " . . . increase erosion and destroy the beach" is examined by summarizing available field data including our own research efforts at Sandbridge Virginia, USA beginning in 1990. Sand trapped behind seawalls is removed from the system but is possibly only a small fraction of the active sand volume across the entire profile to closure depth. We tentatively conclude that end-of-wall or flanking effects are not due to sand trapping but other mechanisms. We then offer suggestions for when seawalls are appropriate and when they are not including methods to mitigate downdrift impacts, if appropriate.

Many misconceptions, false assumptions and misleading statements have been made in the United States literature. This paper separates fact from fiction.