

Southern Maine

# Beach Profile Monitoring

*Mapping the State of  
Maine's Beaches*



Photo: York County CoastStar. Kevin A. Byron



*Laudholm Beach*

### ***What is Beach Profiling?***

Beach profiling is a simple survey technique used to measure the contour of a beach.

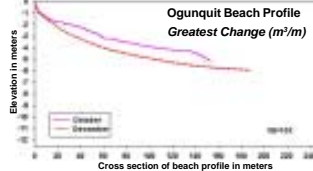
### ***Why Do We Need Beach Monitoring Data?***

Long-term beach monitoring data is the **first step to understanding complex beach processes**. This information, combined with ocean current and wave data, may enable scientists to better understand how fast and why our beaches are changing.

Monitoring data will help protect our local beaches by providing a clear understanding of beach erosion and accretion processes. Better knowledge of these dynamic beach systems will enable policy-makers to make informed recommendations about beach management issues, such as how to address property loss due to erosion, or when beach nourishment makes sense.

## ***What Will Monitoring the Beaches Tell Us?***

This profile of Ogunquit beach indicates that between October and December of 1999, the beach face was eroded somewhat. Analysis of future data will indicate if this beach experiences more erosion in the winter and if sand is being accreted back onto the beach during the summer. Long-term data will provide a variety of information including: **whether there is a net gain or loss of sand** over the years, what impact nor'easters and hurricanes have on beaches, and how seawalls and other engineering structures affect beaches.



## ***Who Does the Beach Monitoring?***

**Community volunteers**, in collaboration with Maine Sea Grant, Maine Geological Survey, and the University of Maine, have been monitoring local beaches in Southern and Mid-Coast Maine on a monthly basis since the summer of 1999. Volunteers have included students, teachers, community groups, scout troops, coastal property owners, and business people.

### ***Who Will Use Beach Monitoring Data?***

**Scientists and policy-makers** use the data in a variety of ways. Geologists plot the data to show how beaches are responding to the rising level of the sea. Members of regional beach planning committees use the data as they develop plans to address local coastal issues. The management proposals developed by these committees will then be used by state and municipal officials to help draft statewide and local land-use guidelines.



***Ogunquit Beach***



### ***How Can I Get Involved ?***

- ◆ Allow beach access to monitors.
- ◆ Take note of erosion problems and contact local officials to inform them of such problems.
- ◆ Become a beach profile monitoring volunteer.

*Special thanks to beach monitoring  
volunteers who have made profiling  
data available to scientists and  
policy-makers.*



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To examine the profile results, visit the  
project's web site at:  
<http://www.geology.um.maine.edu/beach/>

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