

## How Can I Get Involved ?

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



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



# Southern Maine Beach Profile Monitoring

*Mapping the State of  
Maine's Beaches*



*Kinney Shores Beach in Saco*

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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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*Photo: York County Coast Star. Kevin A. Byron*



*Mile Beach, Reid State Park*

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

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

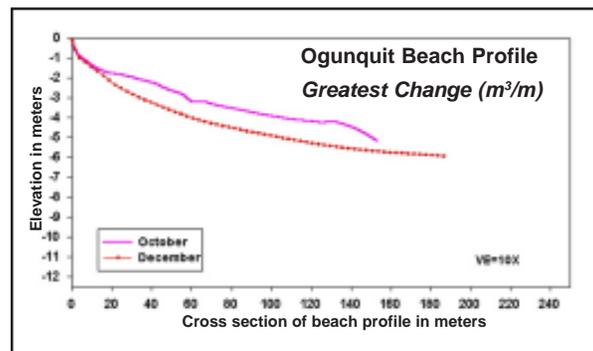
### **Why Do We Need Beach Profiling Data?**

Long-term beach profiling 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.

Profiling 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 Profiling the Beaches Tell Us?**

This profile of Ogunquit beach indicates that between October and December of 1999, the beach 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 Profiling?**

**Community volunteers**, in collaboration with Maine Sea Grant, Maine Geological Survey, and the University of Maine, have been profiling local beaches from Georgetown to York on a monthly basis since the program began in 1999. Volunteers have included students, teachers, community groups, scout troops, coastal property owners, and business people.



*Wells Beach*

### **Who Will Use Beach Profiling 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. Findings of the beach profiling program are shared at the Maine Beaches Conference, an annual forum for information exchange among beach stakeholders.

