

CHA-EZ beach profile is 40

V. 3 Iss. 9 - Nov 2017

The CHA-EZ beach profile in Charlestown is 40 years old, and with four decades of observations and data come a wealth of information that has informed the Rhode Island scientific community on beach dynamics, the impacts of storms, and the long-term cycle of erosion and accretion.

Beach profiles have been a useful tool in describing beach and near-shore changes, according to Scott Rasmussen, a research associate at the University of Rhode Island's Environmental Data Center.

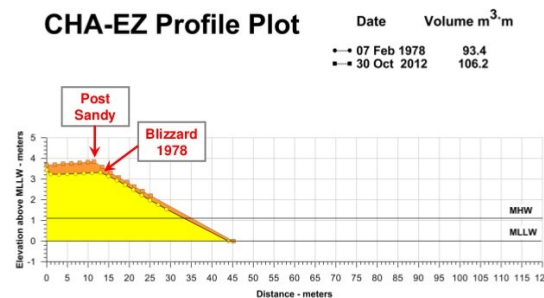
This one was established by the late Dr. Jon Boothroyd, state geologist and longtime professor at URI as the CHA-EZ (Charlestown Ero-

sional Zone). "Jon began this profile in 1977, shortly after arriving at URI. Jon had been profiling at other locations for years as a graduate and post-grad student," Rasmussen said. "He knew the importance of 'communing with the beach' and what it could teach us."

Simply put, anyone who regularly walks a particular beach has most likely noticed changes in its shape – at once it might be gently sloping and wide, another time carved away by the sea, with cliff-like edges – caused by storms, seasonal cycles and decades-long trends.

"By returning to the same point over a long period of time, these changes and trends can be documented to better understand shoreline dynamics," said Dr. Bryan Oakley, assistant professor of Environmental Geoscience at Eastern Connecticut State University.

CHA-EZ Profile Plot



Graph of CHA-EZ showing Blizzard of '78 and post-Sandy sand profile (courtesy of Dr. Bryan Oakley)

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Meet new CRMC Chair Jennifer Cervenka



For Jennifer Cervenka, the new chair of the R.I. CRMC, respect for the law and the environment – which lends itself well to her new post as head of the Council – is in the blood.

"When I see the ocean, I think of home," said the Oahu, HI native one recent morning, after speaking on behalf of the Council at an opening of a new Urban Coastal Greenway under CRMC's program of the same name. Cervenka was appointed in June as the new chair.

"I'm impressed by the importance of what we're doing and it doesn't intimidate me, but does give me pause," she said. "I know I have to read through every piece of paper; this is a public role, these are people's lives. I'm impressed that these have ramifications farther than a few cases. I do feel a seriousness of purpose."

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Spotlight: Federal Consistency

Congress passed the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) to assist coastal states in developing state coastal management programs to comprehensively manage coastal uses and resources. Federal consistency is the CZMA requirement contained in Section 307 that federal actions which affect any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone be consistent with the enforceable policies of a state's or territory's federally approved coastal management plan (CMP).

Under this section, federal agencies and applicants for federal approvals or assistance must provide state CMPs with consistency determinations or certifications. The CMPs then review proposed federal actions to determine if the actions will be consistent with the state CMP. Federal consistency reviews are the responsibility of the lead state CMP agency.

Federal actions subject to the federal requirement include: Direct federal actions -activities/projects performed by a federal agency, or contractor on behalf of it; Indirect federal actions -actions not performed by a federal agency, but requiring federal permits or other forms of federal approval; Federal financial assistance to states, territories and local governments.

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