

Quotes from THE LAST BEACH

by Orrin H. Pilkey and J. Andrew G Cooper*

- The biggest threat to the future of the world's beaches is posed by the coastal engineering profession. Engineers attempt to hold shorelines despite the fact that flexibility is essential to the survival of beaches.
- If one compares pre-project predictions with post project outcomes of beach engineering, failure would seem much more common than success.
- The process (beach replenishment) is devastating.....and may change the nature of the waves striking the shoreline
- A natural beach never needs the protection from forces of nature; it is perfectly adapted to cope with anything thrown at it.
- Coastal behavior cannot be predicted with the accuracy claimed. Beach engineers claim the ability to predict the future of beaches (using numerical mathematical models), an ability that is truly nonexistent.
- Driven by the eternal need for projects, the Corps, basically, cannot be trusted to provide an unbiased view.
- Much of the design of replenished beaches and their environmental impacts are based on mathematical models. In Palm Beach FL. In 2008 the proposed project was rejected...based on the refutation of mathematical modeling.

Quotes from Dr. Beach

(Stephen Leatherman)**

- We have to do no harm, that is the first rule.
- Coastal Engineering has advanced quite a bit, but it is sometimes more an art than a science, because there are so many variables.
- I would not go into these major projects and not expect that something is going to happen.
- There is a lot at stake. If you make a mistake, it is going to be very hard to correct it.
- I think you ought to have an environmental (EIS) impact statement done.
- I think we need to study this very carefully and leave no stone unturned. If it takes more time (to undertake an EIS), so be it.
- Once the (USACE) get going on a project it could take over 50 years.
- Every place is a little bit different.... Models aren't perfect...these equations aren't perfect, and so we make assumptions.

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