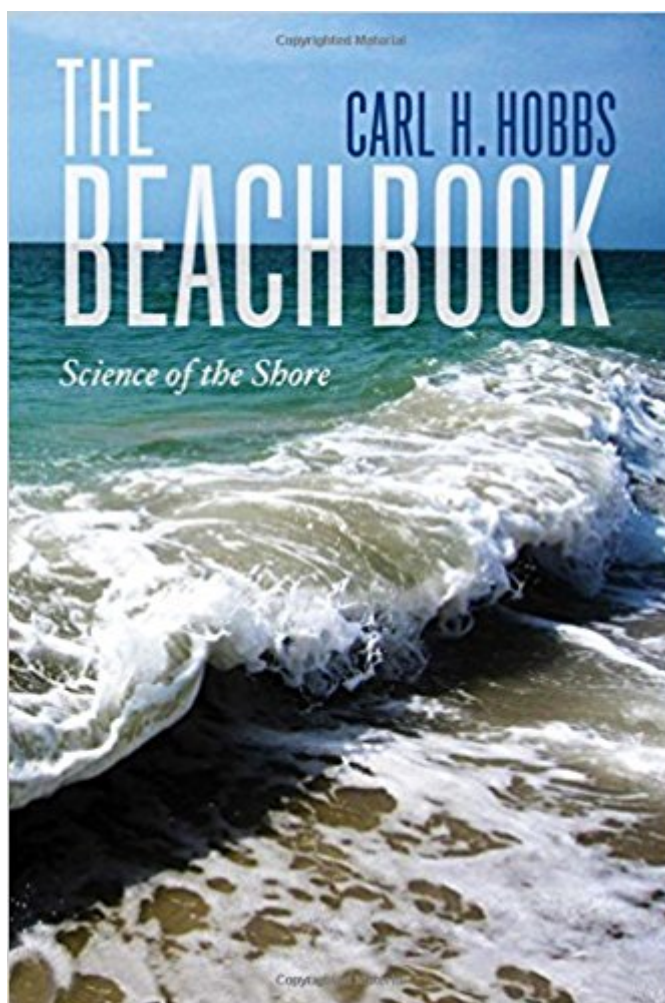


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# The Beach Book: Science Of The Shore



## Synopsis

Waves and tides, wind and storms, sea-level rise and shore erosion: these are the forces that shape our beaches, and beach lovers of all stripes can benefit from learning more about how these coastal processes work. With animation and clarity, *The Beach Book* tells sunbathers why beaches widen and narrow, and helps boaters and anglers understand why tidal inlets migrate. It gives home buyers insight into erosion rates and provides natural-resource managers and interested citizens with rich information on beach nourishment and coastal-zone development. And for all of us concerned about the long-term health of our beaches, it outlines the latest scientific information on sea-level rise and introduces ways to combat not only the erosion of beaches but also the decline of other coastal habitats. The more we learn about coastline formation and maintenance, Carl Hobbs argues, the better we can appreciate and cultivate our shores. Informed by the latest research and infused with a passion for its subject, *The Beach Book* provides a wide-ranging introduction to the shore, and all of us who love the beach and its associated environments will find it timely and useful.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

...interesting to anyone curious about the science of the shore. (Library Journal)...for the serious minded beachgoer... (Los Angeles Times) Fascinating phenomena — from surf beat, edge waves and beach cusps to the dunes known as barchans — bob through this crisply written guide to ecology and geology at the edge. (Nature)...offers material not only for science junkies but for anyone who loves the beach experience. (Richmond Times-Dispatch) It is an easy read for those

who live by the shore and want a good, simple understanding of why it's there, what is going on now, and what might happen in the future... (Andrew D. Short Oceanography) Engaging and easy to read.... This book helps readers understand the physical processes that form that shore... Highly recommended. (Choice) a good comprehensive introduction to the shore... (Judith S. Weis Quarterly Review of Biology)

Carl H. Hobbs is a professor of marine science at Virginia Institute of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary. His research interests include coastal geology and processes, the geologic history of the Chesapeake Bay and the surrounding region, marine archaeology, and the environmental consequences of marine sand mining and beach nourishment. Additionally, with colleagues from the Center for Archaeological Research and the Department of Geology at William & Mary, he has investigated physical changes to Jamestown Island that have occurred since the beginning of the Holocene, when humans first inhabited the region.

Lightweight. Should have looked at the number of pages

This book provides excellent background on how sandy beaches work, which should be of interest to any beach-goer or coastal property owner.

Good read.

Great book, timely delivery.

This book is perfect for all of us who love the sea shore, are curious, and want to understand what makes beaches, shores, and barrier islands so dynamic, with their constantly changing features. The text is descriptive and easily accessible to anyone, but there are just enough equations, explained well, to give those of us interested in the details that additional depth of understanding. The author's introduction says the book "describes the physical processes and materials that create and change the edge of the sea." A very apt description. The chapter titles are beaches, wind, waves, tides, sediments, barrier islands and tidal inlets, sand dunes and salt marshes, sea level and sea level rise, storms and storm surge, and erosion and shore protection. As noted in the introduction, each chapter can stand alone for those interested in the specific topics.

The author does a great job of putting in the science of the beach into layman's terms. I'll look at many things differently when I go to the beach. A lot of important information with so much in the news about storms and climate change as well.

The author states early in the book that  $\text{Force} = (\text{mass}) \times (\text{velocity})^2$ . This is blatantly incorrect, as any first-year student of physics will tell you. This expression doesn't even have the correct units for force. IMHO, that makes the book as a whole suspect for accuracy.

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