

**Initial Performance Evaluation of a Nearshore Berm, Fort Myers Beach, Florida**  
**Katherine E. Brutsché and Ping Wang**  
**University of South Florida**

**Abstract**

A nearshore berm was placed 600 feet offshore of Fort Myers Beach, Florida. An initial survey of the project area was conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of engineers in October 2009, and another survey was conducted by the University of South Florida in April 2010. A comparison of these two surveys shows an onshore migration of the bar during that period, with small volumes of sediment loss (which would indicate longshore transport gradients). Changes in volume between the berm and the entire profile indicate that most changes in volume are occurring over the berm, and not adversely affecting shoreline, but rather somewhat stabilizing it through wave energy dissipation. Analysis on surface sediment samples shows that the artificial berm is sandy with less than 3 percent mud. The beach above mean sea level is also sandy with less than 2 percent mud. Relatively high mud content of up to 4% was found in the trough landward of the berm. Southeast of the berm area, substantial mud of up to 40% was found in the offshore sediment. This should be the native muddy sediment and should not be related to the artificial berm.