

Beach Nourishment Glossary

Accretion Historically, accretion was the gradual addition of sand to a parcel of oceanfront property through the natural action of the Atlantic Ocean. Today, accretion typically also encompasses the historical terms reliction and avulsion. A reliction is the expansion of an oceanfront parcel of property due to a portion of the property which was previously covered by water becoming dry when the water recedes. An avulsion is a rapid addition of sand to a parcel of oceanfront property through natural processes or through human driven forces such as a beach nourishment project.

Beach Nourishment The placement of sand on the beach or dunes by human driven means. Typically, sand is provided through the use of mechanical or hydraulic dredging of material from a borrow site which is pumped to the site of the beach nourishment and distributed upon the beach by mechanical equipment.

Beach Renourishment Beach nourishment occurring upon an area of the beach which has already been the subject of an initial beach nourishment project.

Benthic Monitoring The monitoring of organisms that live on the sub-aquatic bottom. We would be required to perform benthic monitoring as part of its beach nourishment project permit. The information obtained from benthic monitoring is often considered to be a suitable indicator of negative or positive effects on the marine environment and can act as an early warning system of potential issues with a beach nourishment project. Benthic monitoring can also be used to show the rate of recovery of the marine environment following a beach nourishment project.

Borrow Site The site from which sand is obtained for placement on the beach during a beach nourishment project. Typically, a borrow site is chosen because of the amount of sand available and the consistency of the sand with the natural sand existing upon the beach to be nourished. A borrow site may be located on land, in the sound or in the Atlantic Ocean.

Cross-Shore Transport A wave and/or tide generated movement of sand toward or away from the shoreline.