

COASTAL ENGINEERING IN CYPRUS

by

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SUMMARY

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, with a total coastal length of some 735 km, of which about 365 km is under Turkish occupation since 1974.

In the end of the 19th century the first coastal works were built by the British empire in order to serve the troops and the local trade. During the first half of the 20th century a number of small harbours were built around the island mainly for shipping purposes.

In the 1960's and early 70's tourism became a growing industry. The natural sandy beaches of Famagusta and the picturesque beaches of Kyrenia were the key tourist attractions. After the facts of 1974 there was a shortage of sandy beaches and there was a pressure to develop new tourist beach resorts. This together with the problem of erosion has led to the construction of a large number of coastal works such as small scale groynes and breakwaters.

A considerable length of the Cyprus coastline (free part of Cyprus) is subject to erosion. Major causes of erosion are believed to be the construction of many river dams, extensive beach quarrying and possibly the adverse environmental effects caused by the coastal works.

Cyprus economy increasingly depends on its tourism industry. This creates a considerable and growing pressure for the utilization and the exploitation of the coastal zone. This requires a rapid development of Coastal Management for Cyprus so that the utilization and exploitation of the coastal zone will be controlled in the best possible way to avoid the problems of erosion.

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