



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Engineer Research and
Development Center

Coastal Engineering Research Center (CERC)

Description

The Coastal Engineering Research Center (CERC) focuses on the enhancement of coastal engineering research and development to meet high-priority requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Established in 1963 to replace the Beach Erosion Board, CERC is now part of the [Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory \(CHL\)](#). Serving as CHL's interface with the Congressionally-mandated [Coastal Engineering Research Board \(CERB\)](#), an advisory board to the Chief of Engineers, CERC's responsibilities include reviewing coastal projects, providing recommendations on the application of research developed technologies, and providing oversight to coastal related research and development requirements and direction.

Capabilities

In addition to assisting with determining coastal research and development needs through CERB, CERC provides technical and administrative support to the board, including recording and publishing proceedings of the board's meetings which occur semiannually around the U.S. coastline and the Great Lakes.

Benefits

CERC works closely with CERB to provide broad policy guidance to make sure the needs of the coastal engineering field are met and the objectives of the Chief of Engineers are followed.

Success Stories

CERC has contributed to the research of the following programs:

- [Dredging Operations and Environmental Research \(DOER\) Program](#), which supports the USACE Operation and Maintenance Navigation Program. Research is designed to balance operational and environmental initiatives and to meet complex economic, engineering, and environmental challenges of dredging and disposal in support of the navigation mission. Research results have provided dredging project managers with technology for cost-effective operation, evaluation of risks associated with management alternatives, and environmental compliance.
- [Regional Sediment Management](#) Program whose emphasis is on working with nature to improve the environment and quality of life while maintaining the



A 42-ton dolos is placed on the Crescent City breakwater in Northern California as part of a study conducted by CERC in the mid-1980s to determine stress levels in large dolosse

functionality of our waterways. Issues include beach preservation, wetland creation, navigation, inland flooding, and ecosystem stability.

- [National Shoreline Erosion Control Development and Demonstration Program](#). The Program was authorized under Section 227 of the Water Resources and Development Act of 1996 and is commonly known as Section 227. The focus of the program is the demonstration of prototype-scale “innovative” or “non-traditional” methods of coastal shoreline erosion abatement. In addition to field demonstrations, Section 227 investigators are conducting surveys of academic institutions, Federal and State agencies and private consultants regarding recent advancements in shoreline erosion control technologies. Results from these are included in an interactive database that serves as a clearinghouse for innovative coastal erosion control information.

Point of Contact

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