

Definitions:

Backshore	The backshore is the area of the coastal zone that extends from the limit of high tides and storm waves to the base of a cliff or beach ridge.
Barrier beach	A bar essentially parallel to the shore, which has been built up so that its crest rises above the normal high water level.
Deep-water wave	A deep-water wave is a wave in which the depth of water is greater than one-half the wavelength.
Downcast	The direction of predominant movement of littoral currents and transport.
Embayment	An indentation in a shoreline forming an open bay.
Fetch	The length of unobstructed open sea surface across which the wind can generate waves.
Foreshore	The foreshore is the area of the coastal zone that extends from the low-tide level to the limit of high tides and storm-wave effects.
Headland	A headland is the seaward most projection of land from the shoreline. Because headlands project out into waves and currents, headlands are usually subjected to greater erosion forces. Headlands may be the remnants of submerged ridgelines or be composed of erosion resistant materials.

Appendix 13A-1 Definitions and Abbreviations

Lakeshore	Lakeshore, like coastal zone, refers to the strip of land from a lake shoreline inland to the first major change in terrain features. Except for tidal effects, large lakes and reservoirs of 100 mi ² or more in area, have shores that require many of the same type considerations as ocean bays and estuaries. Analogous to coastal zone tides, some lakeshores are subject to significant changes in water surface elevation due to operation practices.
Longshore	Longshore generally refers to currents or sediment transport that move parallel to the shoreline.
Mean Higher High Water (MHHW)	MHHW is the average tidal elevation of the highest tidal elevation in a tidal day experienced over the 19-year metonic cycle.
Mean High Water (MHW)	MHW is the average high water elevation (both Higher High Water and Lower High Water) experienced over the 19-year metonic cycle.
Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)	MLLW is the is the average tidal elevation of the lowest tidal elevation in a tidal day experienced over the 19-year metonic cycle.
Mean Low Water (MLW)	Tidal elevations and the vertical datums of coastal bathymetric maps are often referenced to Mean Low Water (MLW). MLW is the average low water elevation (both Lower Low Water and Higher Low Water) experienced over the 19-year metonic cycle.
Metonic Cycle	The Metonic cycle is a period of 19 years in which there are 235 lunations, or synodic months, after which the Moon's phases recur on the same days of the solar year, or year of the seasons.

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Seiche	A seiche is an oscillatory wave generated by an impulse that disturbs the local water level equilibrium. The impulse may be a heavy rainfall, vessel passage, tsunami, flood discharge from a river, or a storm surge. Much like dropping a stone in to a tank of water, seiche waves oscillate back and forth, gradually diminishing in magnitude.
Still-water Level (SWL)	SWL is used to refer to the imaginary elevation of water if all wave and wind action were to cease. SWL is used to define limits of coastal inundation during storm surges. Actual water levels are higher due to waves.
Surf Zone	The area where deep-water waves break (collapse) forming breakers. Note that on shallow sloped shorelines, waves may reform and more than one surf zone may be present.

Abbreviations:

CEM	Coastal Engineering Manual
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
MHW	Mean High Water
MHHW	Mean Higher High Water
MLW	Mean Low Water
MLLW	Mean Lower Low Water
MSL	Mean Sea Level
MTL	Mean Tide Level
MTR	Mean Tide Range
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NAVD	North American Vertical Datum
NGS	National Geodetic Survey
NGVD	National Geodetic Vertical Datum
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
SPM	Shore Protection Manual
SWL	Still Water Level
USACE or USCOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
WES	Waterways Experiment Station

