



PRESS RELEASE

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Major Changes to Beach Topography Could Affect State's 2010 Top Ten Beaches

(Sandy Hook, NJ).....Many beaches on this year's voting list for New Jersey's Top Ten Beaches (NJTTB) pummeled by late winter storms could look dramatically different this summer according to coastal processes experts and the NJTTB project organizers.

Dr. Stewart Farrell, Director of the Richard Stockton College Coastal Research Center (CRC) and co-creator of the New Jersey Top Ten Beaches project noted that at least eight significant weather events impacted New Jersey's beaches this past winter. Late season storms in particular took their toll on dozens of beaches and modified shorelines along the New Jersey coast, especially in the southern part of the state where eight of the top ten beaches named for 2009 were located.

According to Dr. Farrell, many of the state's favorite beach destinations suffered significant erosion and dune damage during the late winter storms, but the affected communities are working hard to resolve that and restore them before Memorial Day weekend and the start of the summer tourism season.

The NJTTB project was started three years ago by the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium/New Jersey Sea Grant (NJMSC/NJSG) and the CRC to promote stewardship and pride in New Jersey's beaches and help put a positive pre-seasonal focus on the benefits of visiting and vacationing at Jersey Shore beach communities from Sandy Hook to Cape May.

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Kim Kosko, Director of Communications for NJMSC/NJSG, said interest in the NJTTB project continues to grow annually. With voting just about at the half-way mark, the number of votes cast so far in 2010 have nearly doubled compared with last year. Votes can be cast on the project's official website, www.njtopbeaches.org until midnight, April 30th. Those results will be tallied and then combined with more objective physical beach data collected by Dr. Farrell and his science team at the CRC. The final results will be announced at NJMSC/NJSG's 8th Annual *State of the Shore* Media Event, which is set for Thursday May 27th at the Seagull's Nest on Sandy Hook.

The title of New Jersey's Top Beach gives the winner not only bragging rights but its day in the sun as well. Past winners (Wildwood in 2008 and Ocean City in 2009) have been featured on national television and in major publications including the Washington Post and New York Times.

The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium/New Jersey Sea Grant is an affiliation of colleges, universities and other groups dedicated to advancing knowledge and stewardship of New Jersey's marine and coastal environment. NJMSC/NJSG meets its mission through its innovative research, education and outreach programs. For more information about NJMSC/NJSG, visit njmsc.org.

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