

Articles

Current issue

Past issues

News update

Resources

News release

Media kit

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May 2007 issue

Product News

Precast concrete Beach Prisms used in erosion control

Two shoreline erosion control projects currently underway in Maryland and Virginia will feature the Smith-Midland Corp. Beach Prisms.

Beach Prisms (beachprisms.com) are permeable, precast concrete products that work by reducing the amount of energy in incoming waves before the waves reach the shoreline. Waves pass through the specially designed slots in the triangular 3- or 4-foot-tall, 10-foot-long Beach Prisms.

Beach Prisms are for river- and bay-front property owners who want an alternative to traditional armor stone, or groins and jetties. They are jointly permitted by state and federal agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The first project, located near Ocean City, Md. will provide a mainland community protection in two erosion-prone areas from the damaging effects of boaters who do not adhere to posted speed limits. Such practices can accelerate shoreline erosion, according to Jay McKenna, Beach Prisms regional sales manager for Smith-Midland.

This project, which includes 40 prisms, will result in the formation of an artificial reef, that will immediately provide a sanctuary for small marine life, slow or stop erosion and contribute to the overall improvement of water quality. Funding for this project is being provided by the Assateague Coastal Trust, and the progress of the installation will be featured on the organization's website at actforbays.org.

The second project, located in the Northern Neck of Virginia north of Kilmarnock, will help a private property owner protect his property from the effects of erosion. The wave action from Hurricane Ernesto and a subsequent nor'easter filled the homeowner's pool with sand. The installation of 40 prisms will reduce the energy of incoming waves and protect the shoreline.

"Our experience has proven that Beach Prisms either slow the rate of shore erosion, stop erosion or reverse erosion by replenishing sand in front of and behind the prisms," Ashley Smith, Smith-Midland's vice president for sales and marketing, said.

Smith-Midland develops, manufactures and sells precast concrete products for use primarily in the construction, transportation and utilities industries. Smith-Midland has two manufacturing facilities located in Midland, Va. and Reidsville, N.C. Easi-Set Industries, a wholly owned subsidiary of Smith-Midland, licenses the production of Smith-Midland developed products around the world. CM

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