

Invitation to Submit to Estuaries and Coasts Special Issue:  
Functional Assessments of Living Shorelines

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**Submission Timeframe: August 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024 **APRIL 30, 2024****

Restoration projects falling under the umbrella of “Living Shorelines” have been utilized in a wide range of habitats and scenarios, including saltmarsh creation, oyster reef restoration, and shoreline armoring. Currently, millions of dollars go into living shoreline projects, a mix of restoration and creation, but there is not a concomitant amount going toward post-effort monitoring. Waltham et al. (2020) notes coastal ecosystem restoration is still in an ‘innovation phase’ and the inevitable failures of projects could deliver powerful insight into best practice methods if those projects are ‘rigorously assessed’. Restoration science is built on experimentation and only through detailed and extended use of the scientific method are we able to provide data, levels of precision, results, recommended future actions, and confidence to managers and funders that the use of living shorelines is worthwhile. Further, Smith et al. (2020) note the wide range of coastal restoration approaches referred to as ‘living shoreline’ and point out that to optimally allocate restoration money, there is a need to understand which approaches have impacts backed by scientific study and effects that meet project goals. They also highlight the need for more geographic range in published studies and preferably in concentrated, easily accessible outlets to provide better dissemination of the results.

This issue focuses on the assessments of living shoreline function across habitats, locations, and uses to determine: 1. are they meeting the intended project goals, and 2. what else do they do? We have a broad geographic scope of projects and will be highlighting what we are learning from ongoing efforts in determining their function and effectiveness, especially in terms of providing supplemental habitat. We aim to fill knowledge gaps and provide precise recommendations on moving forward.

**Submission Guidelines:**

For inclusion in this Special Issue, please incorporate discussion on the following points, if applicable to your study:

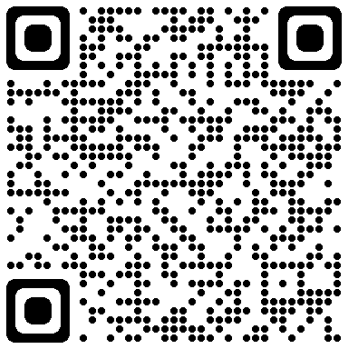
1. What was the goal of the Living Shoreline installation/project? (If unknown, you should state this)
2. What was the goal of your study?
3. Based on the data you have collected and other relevant peer-reviewed studies, provide a projection for how this project will function long-term (e.g., 30 to 50 years), given local

threats and stressors (e.g, urbanization, climate change, local sea levels). Do you think the current outcomes/functions you have measured will have long-term persistence?

4. Are natural ecosystem processes, relative to shorelines in the local area, enhanced, disrupted or unaffected by this living shoreline project and can you describe how, using the history of the site and baseline conditions (if data are available)?
5. Are the metrics and timeline of your scientific monitoring of the living shoreline sufficient to capture unintended outcomes, either positive, negative, or neutral?

\*Please note that if the authors feel that they cannot respond to the questions we pose, please include a discussion of this in your cover letter. We recognize that some studies will not be geared to being able to answer all of these questions, especially perspectives and meta-analyses, but we appreciate the effort to discuss these questions, as we think they will help tie the special issue together and deepen our understanding of Living Shoreline studies.

Please submit your manuscripts to the Guest Editors listed above for pre-review prior to submitting them through the ESCO Submission Portal and receiving formal reviews. This will ensure each manuscript fits into the theme and with our pre-review feedback, will have the best chance of acceptance.



[Functional Assessments of Living Shorelines | SpringerLink](#)

References:

Smith, C. S., Rudd, M. E., Gittman, R. K., Melvin, E. C., Patterson, V. S., Renzi, J. J., Wellman, E. H., & Silliman, B. R. (2020). Coming to Terms With Living Shorelines: A Scoping Review of Novel Restoration Strategies for Shoreline Protection. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 7, 434. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2020.00434>;

Waltham, N. J., Elliott, M., Lee, S. Y., Lovelock, C., Duarte, C. M., Buelow, C., Simenstad, C., Nagelkerken, I., Claassens, L., Wen, C. K.-C., Barletta, M., Connolly, R. M., Gillies, C., Mitsch, W. J., Ogburn, M. B., Purandare, J., Possingham, H., & Sheaves, M. (2020). UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030—What Chance for Success in Restoring Coastal Ecosystems? *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 7, 71. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2020.00071>