Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE 04 SEP 2014		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2014 to 00-00-2014	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Coastal Modeling System				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center,CIRP - The Coastal Inlets Research Program,3909 Halls Ferry Road,Vicksburg,MS,39180				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 2	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified

**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Engineer Research and
Development Center

Coastal Inlets Research Program

Coastal Modeling System

Description

The work unit develops the Coastal Modeling System (CMS) and conducts basic research to further understanding of sediment transport under mixed forcing from waves and currents. The CMS is a suite of coupled two-dimensional numerical models for simulating waves, hydrodynamics, salinity and sediment transport, and morphology change. The CMS was identified by the USACE Hydraulics and Hydrology - Coastal Community of Practice (CoP) as a Preferred model for Coastal Engineering and Coastal Navigation investigations. The work unit also conducts basic research in nearshore hydrodynamics and sediment transport. Ongoing research includes bed-load dispersion, mixed cohesive/non-cohesive sediment transport, modeling long-term morphology change, cross-shore sediment transport, and computer-based model calibration and uncertainty analysis.

Coastal processes simulated by the CMS

Issue Addressed

District scientists and engineers need efficient tools to understand coastal processes and for the design and management of coastal inlets, navigation channels, ports, harbors, coastal structures, and adjacent beaches.

Products

The primary product of the work unit is the Coastal Modeling System (CMS). Auxiliary products include the Surface water Modeling System (SMS) interface. The CMS has been verified and validated with analytical, laboratory, and field data sets that document idealized and applied wave, current, sediment transport and morphology change studies.

Application of Products

CMS has been applied at more than 70 project sites in the US and 7 international project sites. Examples documented in CMS reports include Matagorda Bay, Texas; Grays Harbor, Washington; Mouth of the Columbia River, Washington/Oregon; Ocean Beach, California; Southeast Oahu Coast, Hawaii; Field Research Facility, Duck, North Carolina; Hazaki Oceanographic Research Facility, Japan; Mississippi Sound and Barrier Islands; Gironde Estuary, France; St. Augustine Inlet, Florida; and Shark River Inlet, New Jersey.

Projected Benefits

The CMS provides coastal engineers and scientists a PC-based, easy-to-use, accurate, and efficient tool to assist in designing and managing coastal engineering and navigation projects by facilitating the following:

- Integrated and coupled calculations of waves, currents, water levels, sediment transport and morphology change in and around inlets, ports and harbors, and associated navigation channels and coastal structures such as jetties, breakwaters, groins, and seawalls.
- High resolution short- (weeks) to mid-term (seasonal to multiple years) project scale simulations.

- Representation of a wide range of nearshore physical processes, such as wetting and drying, advection, turbulent mixing, forcing from tides, wind, atmospheric pressure, and waves; river flows, wave-current interaction, multiple-sized sediment transport, bed sorting, and morphology change.
- Representation of weirs, culverts, porous rubble mounds, and tidal gates.

Documentation

CMS help is available through workshops, webinars, on-site training, and a [wiki](#). Technical documentation for CMS-Flow and CMS-Wave is presented in ERDC/CHL TR-14-2 and TR-08-13, respectively. Documentation on verification and validation is given in TR-11-10. The wiki website [wiki](#) contains technical documentation, user guidance, step-by-step instructions, links to utilities, and many other useful resources. The User Manual may be downloaded from the wiki website. For more information, please visit [CIRP](#) online.

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CIRP Website

- Please see the CIRP website to download documentation: <http://www.erdc.usace.army.mil/Missions/WaterResources/CIRP/Publications.aspx>
- View archived webinars: <http://www.erdc.usace.army.mil/Missions/WaterResources/CIRP/TechTransfer.aspx> and
- Review guidance documented on the CIRP wiki: <http://cirpwiki.info/wiki/CMS>.