

# Review of: "Evaluating Hydrologic, Geomorphic, and Vegetation Parameters to Assess Natural, Living, and Hardened Shorelines along the Northern Gulf of Mexico"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I have read through and reviewed the article by Spellman and Bieber and have attached a copy of my specific comments. I am not an ecologist or botanist so all of the vegetation lists and descriptions are of little meaning to me personally. My overall impression is that the research deals with a very relevant topic, that the field and lab work were very meticulously carried out and the results were presented in great detail. There is not really anything Earth-shaking in the results and these are what would be expected. I think the overall environmental conditions were not that widely different and so the results follow. To me this reads like a MS or PhD dissertation with lengthy descriptions of methods, a very large amount of specific data, a lot of tables and plots, and very wordy descriptions, some of which state the obvious as I've noted - *more coarse sediment in a sample (sand) is inversely related to fines (amount of silt and clay).... higher energy results in coarser sediment, etc.* For an international journal I think this should be edited extensively to reduce the length and the wordy descriptions and figures. The detailed results are so specific to this site, and what is important to an international audience are the main messages. What are the significant differences, not the detailed analysis of every sample and bit of data. I think it's worthy of publication after heavy editing, and this manuscript could be easily reduced by 50%