

## Information about Shoreline Armoring provided by Michael Eder of the Sippewissett Association Board.

Many people have expressed dismay at the loss of some of what had been some of the best bathing beaches between Quissett and West Falmouth over the last ten years.

The reasons are clear and well stated in the following abstract of the document by James F. O'Connell, "Shoreline Armoring Impacts and Management Along the Shores of Massachusetts and Kauai, Hawaii" which can be found at [http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5254/pdf/sir20105254\\_chap7.pdf](http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5254/pdf/sir20105254_chap7.pdf) .

"Shoreline armoring has both beneficial and adverse effects.

On the beneficial side, shoreline armoring continues to save millions of dollars of valuable waterfront real estate, thus preserving valuable upland by reducing direct exposure to damaging coastal storm waves and flooding (fig. 1). Shoreline stabilization can also help waterfront property owners protect the sales value of individual properties. The financial benefits of maintaining the value of waterfront construction as a result of shoreline armoring, however, appear to remain only with the waterfront dwellings or dwellings within very close proximity of the shore. Property values only several rows inland lower with the on-going effects of shoreline armoring, and even waterfront property values decline as more and more waterfront property owners rely on shoreline stabilization/armoring.

On the adverse side, shoreline armoring along eroding shores continues to be responsible for the reduction in the beneficial functions and sometimes complete loss of valuable coastal resources, such as beaches, dunes, and intertidal areas. This results in the loss or alteration of associated marine habitat. Lateral beach access can also be restricted or completely lost."

Much more detailed information can be found at this link (note that not a single recommended method includes hard wrapping of the shore)

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm/program-areas/stormsmart-coasts/>