

Sea erosion impact at Yermal, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka

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Sea or coastal erosion occurs mainly through the actions of currents and waves and results in the loss of naturally formed sea walls and sediment in some places and accretion in others. There has been a dramatic increase in coastal erosion over the last two decades and is expected to continue as sea level rises and storm frequency and severity increases. Bada Yermal and Thenka Yermal in Dakshina Kannada are minor landing centers where *Kairampani* (Shore seine) canoes with the traditional nets and small entangling nets are operated. Fishing operation during this year was severely affected due to extensive sea erosion in the region where the wave breaker were totally washed off and the adjacent road was fully destroyed.

Frequent and severe erosion in the coastal areas results in loss of invaluable natural habitat. In this

process, the nesting, breeding and feeding areas of turtles, birds and other sea dependent animals are completely destroyed.

Coastal land reclamation, construction of huge concrete structures, destruction of mangrove areas is the main cause for increased sea erosion. Construction of sea walls and placing varied shaped concrete structures along the beach helps in reducing the impact of sea erosion to a certain extent. Restoration of mangroves is so far the best solution for beach or coastal erosion. Beach restoration projects have proved that adding sand in the right quantities, properly engineered and maintained, can make a beach last forever. Such well proved restoration activities may be taken up along Dakshina Kannada coast to minimize the impact of sea erosion.