# UNF's Initial Attempt to Collect Wave, Current, and Wind Measurements on the Beaches of the GTM

William (Bill) Dally, Ph.D., P.E.

Associate Professor Taylor Engineering Research Institute University of North Florida w.dally@unf.edu

## OUTLINE

- Motivation
- ► Instrumentation
- Mount installation & Instrument deployment
- ► Data collected
- Lessons learned
- ► Future hopes

#### MOTIVATION

- Assist the GTMNERR in exploring the preliminary issues/challenges for establishing a long-term program to collect wave, wind, water level, current and survey data for use in the study of the dynamics of its natural beaches.
- Identify the source(s) of the now chronic 'hot spots' of erosion that threaten many beachfront homes in the area and how they might be effectively mitigated.
- Provide UNF's undergraduate Coastal Field Methods class with the opportunity to tackle a meaningful, potentially important issue in surf zone dynamics: The effects of the local wind on the direction and strength of longshore currents.

#### INSTRUMENTATION

Nearshore (10 m depth) Acoustic Doppler Current

Profiler (ADCP) to provide high-resolution directional wave spectra, current profiles, and water levels.

► Two Acoustic Doppler Velocimeters (ADVs) to

measure current speed and direction in the surf zone.

Directional anemometer mounted to a 6 m tall pole installed at the top of the dune.





## ADCP MOUNT





## ADCP DEPLOYMENT







## ADV PIPE INSTALLATION





## ADV 'DEPLOYMENT'





#### ADV 'PLAN B' - TRIPOD DEPLOYMENT



## ANEMOMETER INSTALLATION















## ADV DATA ?! (DARN VANDALS)

#### ANEMOMETER DATA ?! (DARN ELECTRONICS)

#### LESSONS LEARNED

- ▶ Install ADVs in a more remote location (?), attach GTM/UNF signage, and use booby traps ☺.
- ► Find funding to buy/build proper data-collector for anemometer.



#### FUTURE HOPES

- Cable ADCP and ADVs to a shore station and use wireless/cell to transmit all data to a website.
- ► Frequent lidar surveys of the local (dry) beach.
- Subaerial beach profile surveying.
- Develop vertically self-adjusting ADV platform to accommodate tide range and bar formation and movement.