

Nearshore Placement: Engineering Considerations to Optimize Benefits

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Regional Sediment Management Approach

RSM Program

Regional Approaches Coordination Technology Data Gaps

Integrate Across Projects and Authorities

**Navigation
O&M**

Continuing
Authorities
Program

Dredge
Material
Mgmt Plans

Feasibility
Studies

Other

Construction



U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Projects at St. Johns County, Florida, U.S.



RSM Operating Principles

- Recognize sediment as a regional resource – connect beaches & inlets
- Evaluate use of all sediment sources & sinks
- Optimize operational efficiencies & natural exchange of sediments
- Balanced, economically viable, environmentally sustainable solutions
- Improve economic performance by linking multiple interacting projects
- Consider regional impacts
- Adaptively manage

Why Nearshore Berms?

- **Sand is a Resource:** Sand is a valuable resource. Every effort should be made to retain it to the nearshore.
- **Nearshore Berms may provide** - a supplementary route in addition to beach nourishment.
- **New numerical modeling methods and field data** - including CMS and LIDAR provide new tools for design analysis

OFFSHORE

d_{outer} = the closure depth of the shoal/buffer zone

d_{inner} = the closure depth of the littoral zone

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100%

In the context of Regional Programs and Scales, what are the Engineering Considerations for Nearshore Berm Design?

- Tides
- Waves
- Currents
- Sediment Types



Engineering with Nature: Given what we do know about the character of the nearshore, how do we optimize placement to retain sediment to the littoral zone?

- Tides
- Waves
- Currents
- Sediment Types



In a nutshell . . .



. . . Sediment Transport is:

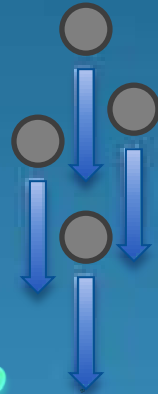
*What goes up . . .
Must come down . . .*

That's pretty easy.

. . . It's just the "where" and "when" that's the tough part.



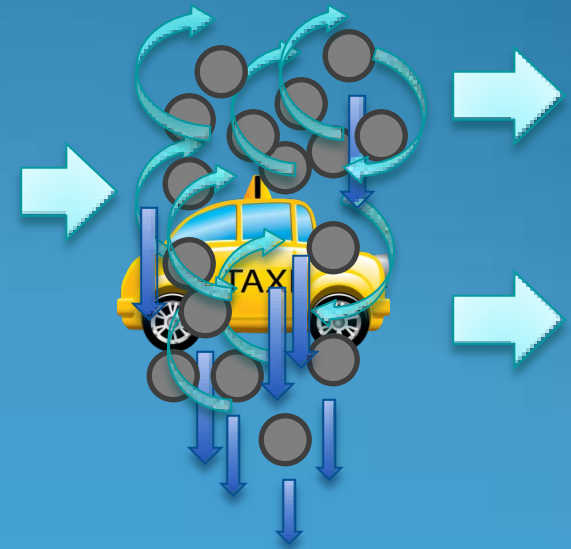
Fall Velocity = DOWN



Turbulence = UP



Currents = Transport

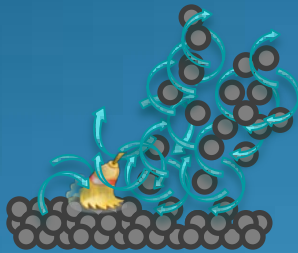


Sediment Transport is Described by the Advection Diffusion Equation

DIFFUSION



Turbulence = UP



Bed Stress

- Currents
- Waves

*Sweeps the sediment up
into the water column*

VELOCITIES



Fall Velocity = DOWN



Gravity

- Sediment Size/
Shape
 - Sediment Density
- Brings sediment to
the bed*

SEDIMENT

ADVECTION



Currents = Transport



Currents

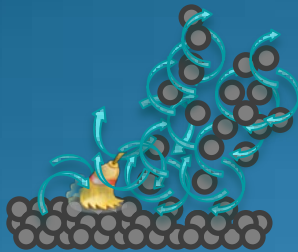
- Upwelling/
Downwelling
 - Wind
- Surf Zone
Currents
 - Waves

FLOW

What do I need to know?



Turbulence = UP



Currents = Transport



Fall Velocity = DOWN



Turbulence

- Wave orbital velocities
- Current velocities
- Broken Waves



• Sediment characteristics



• Surf zone currents

- Broken Waves
- Undertow
- Alongshore Currents

- WAVES
- CURRENTS

• SEDIMENT

• SURF ZONE
HYDRODYNAMICS

Nearshore Waves

- Waves are important because they provide:
 - Turbulence – Pick Up Sediments at the Bed
 - Wave Refraction – Longshore Currents
 - Wave Breaking – Cross-Shore Currents

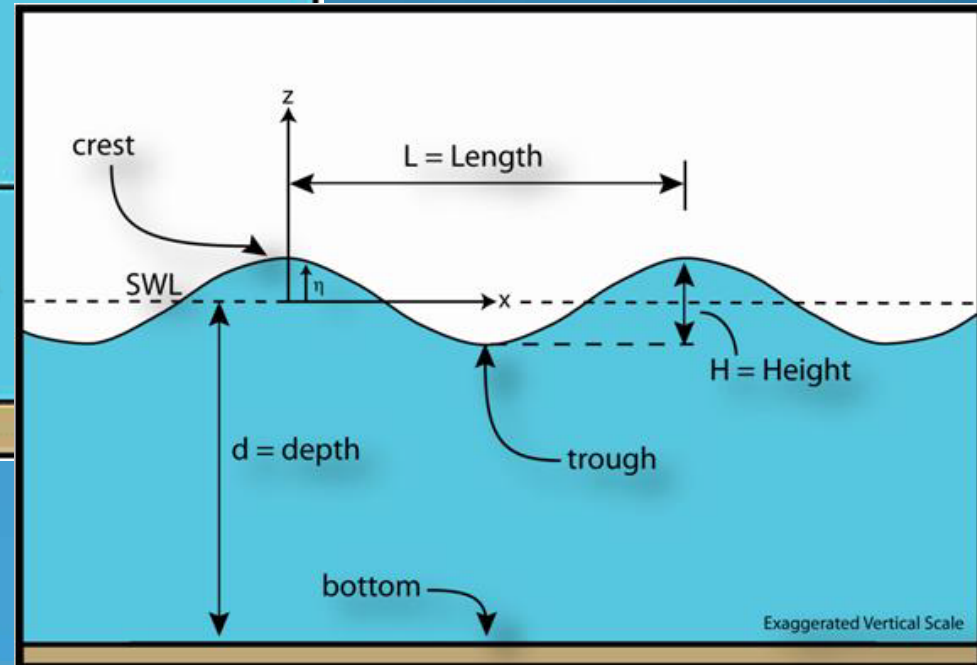
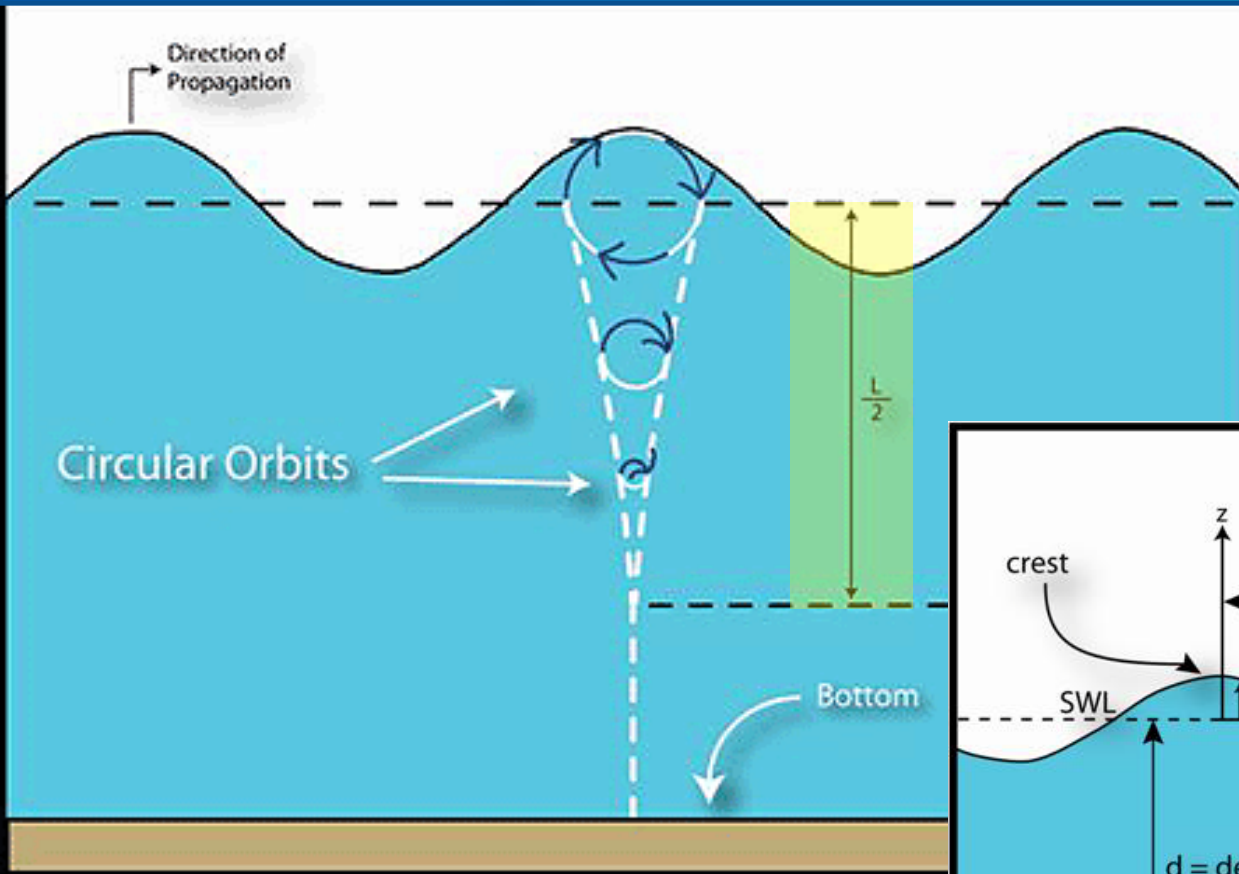


Deep Water Waves – No Pick-Up

OFFSHORE



ONSHORE



Wave Shoaling

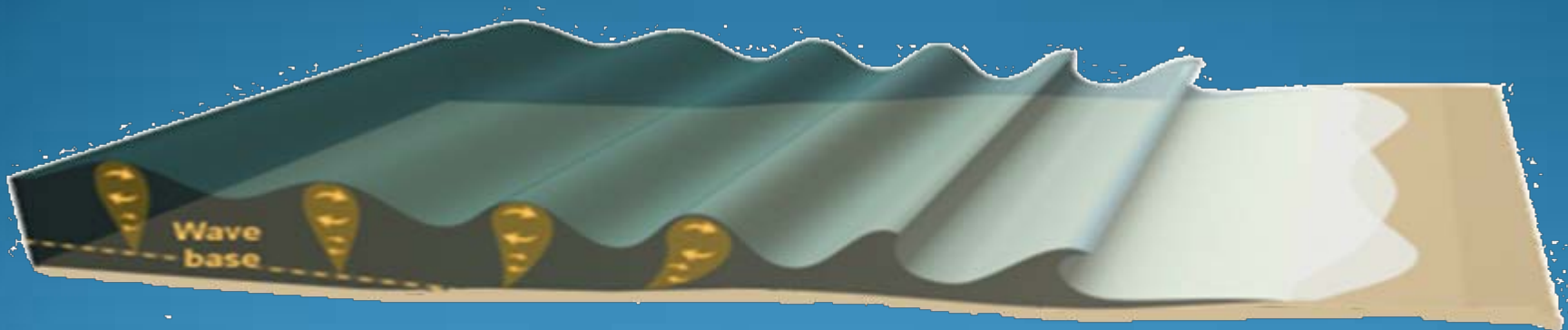


OFFSHORE



ONSHORE

... as waves move onshore:



- Friction @ BED
- Δ Wave Shape

Wave Refraction

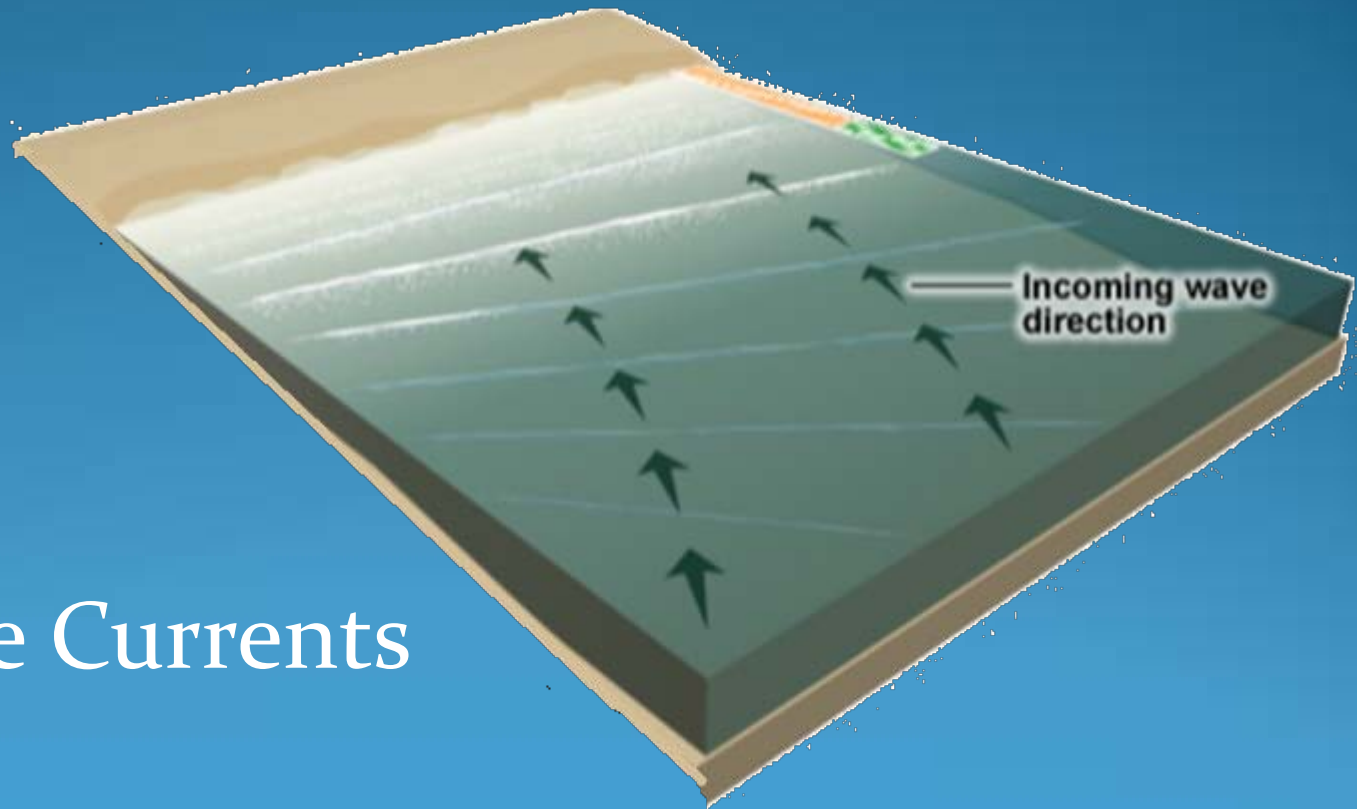


OFFSHORE



ONSHORE

... as waves move onshore:



- Alongshore Currents

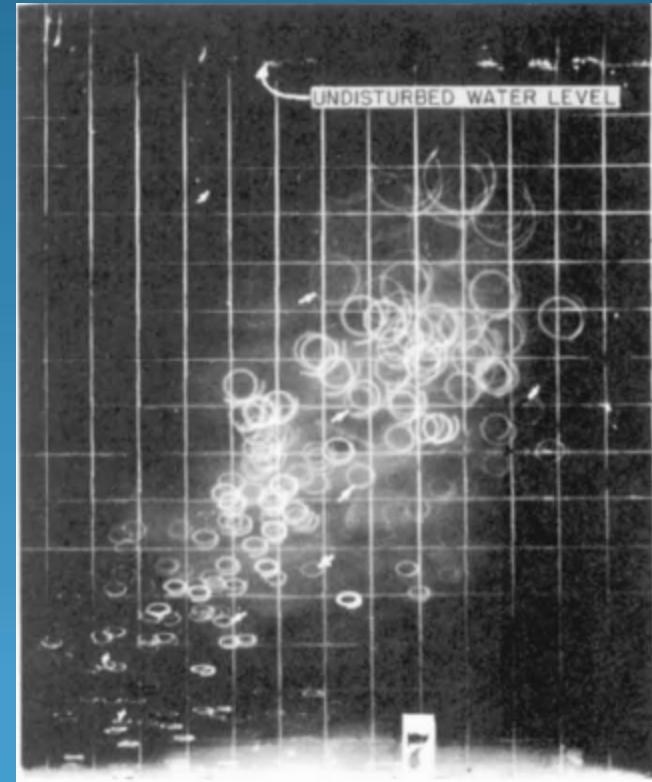
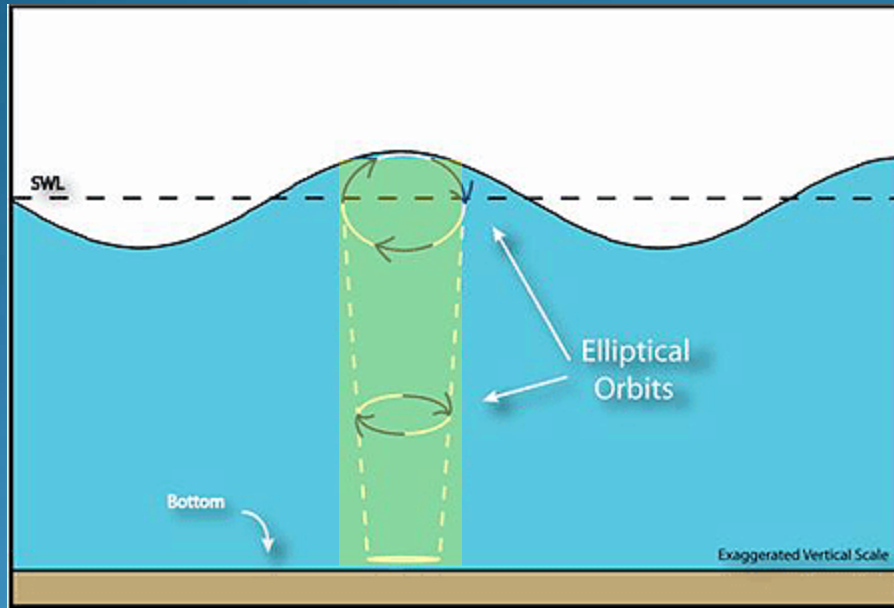
Shallow Water Waves – Pick Up



OFFSHORE



ONSHORE



Wave Breaking



OFFSHORE



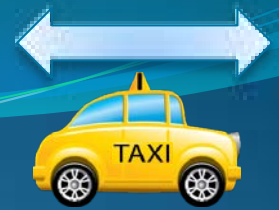
ONSHORE

Wave Breaking = Turbulence and Transport

- Breakers pick up large amounts of sediment and transport landward



Wave Run-Up - Undertow



OFFSHORE



ONSHORE

- From the Breakers



- Shoreline interrupts flow – returns as undertow



Putting it all together on the Beach



Turbulence = UP



Turbulence

- *Wave orbital velocities*
- *Current velocities*
- *Broken Waves*



Fall Velocity = DOWN



Gravity

- *Sediment characteristics*



Currents = Transport



Currents

- *Surf zone currents*
 - *Broken Waves*
 - *Undertow*
 - *Alongshore Currents*

How do these forces influence beach profile evolution?

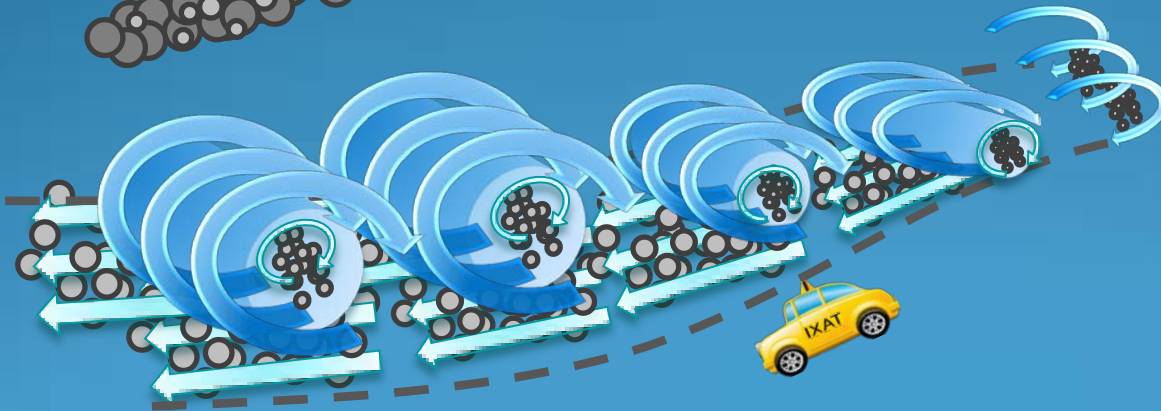
Destructive Forces that move sediment offshore

... an incomplete list

- **Gravity.** Tries to make a profile horizontal



- **High Turbulence.** Picks up sediment in the surf zone and, with the help of gravity, moves them offshore



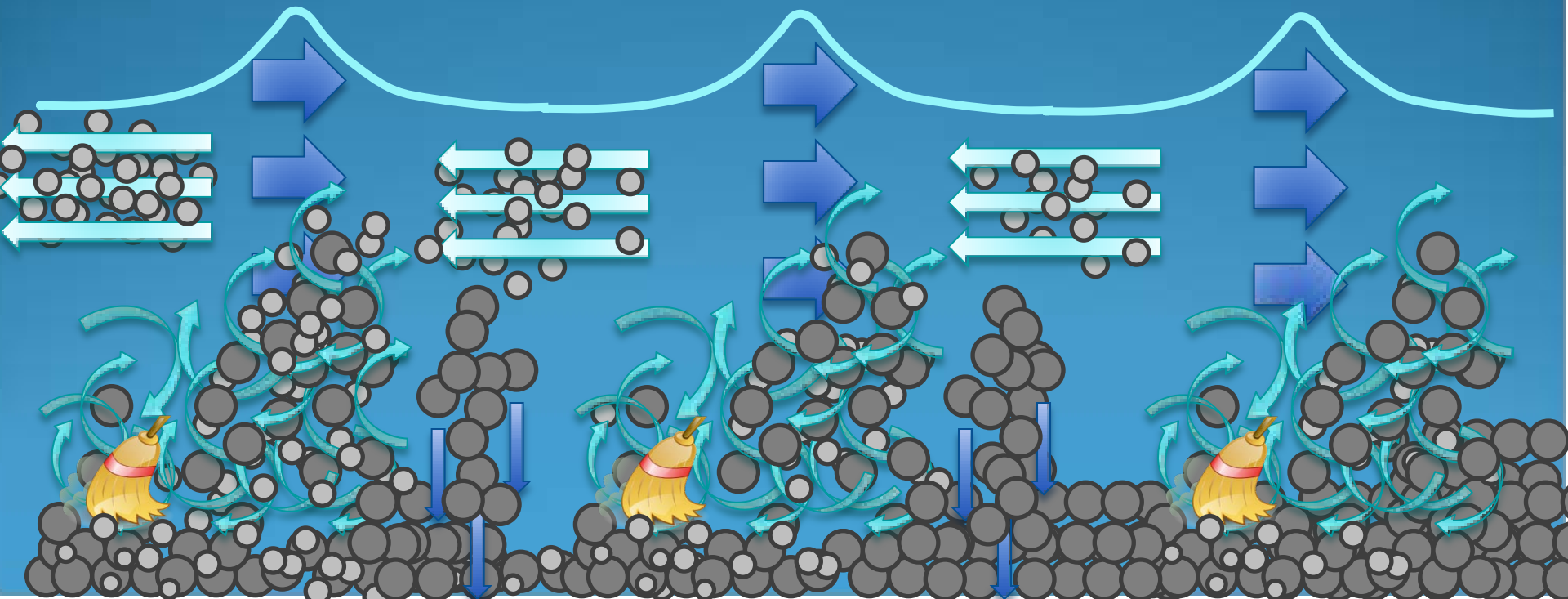
- **Undertow.** Seaward return of wave-induced mass transport (surface roller)

Constructive Forces that move sediment onshore

... *an incomplete list*

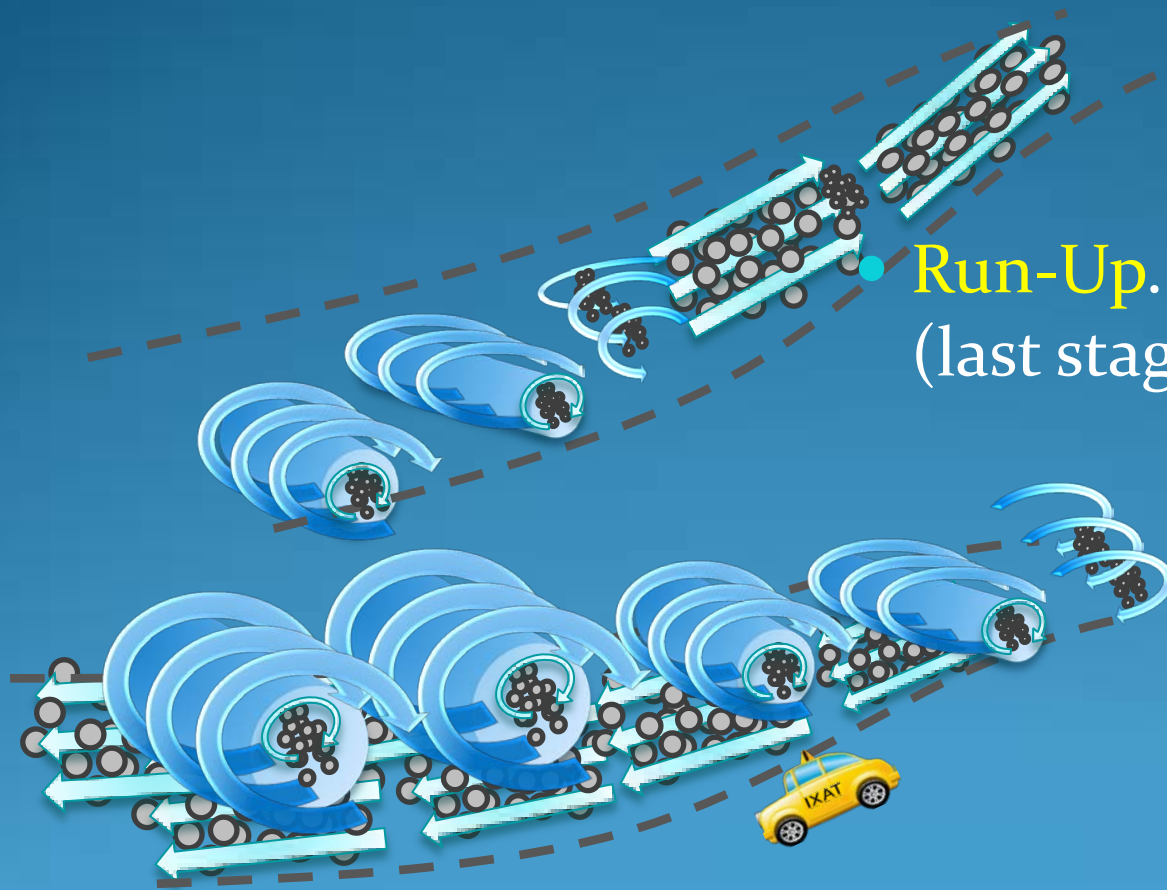
- SHALLOW WATER WAVES

- Strong Velocity under the Crest sweeps coarse grains shoreward. Weak velocities under Trough keep fines in suspension and they move offshore in the longer duration trough. *A means of natural sorting.*



Constructive Forces that move sediment offshore

... an incomplete list



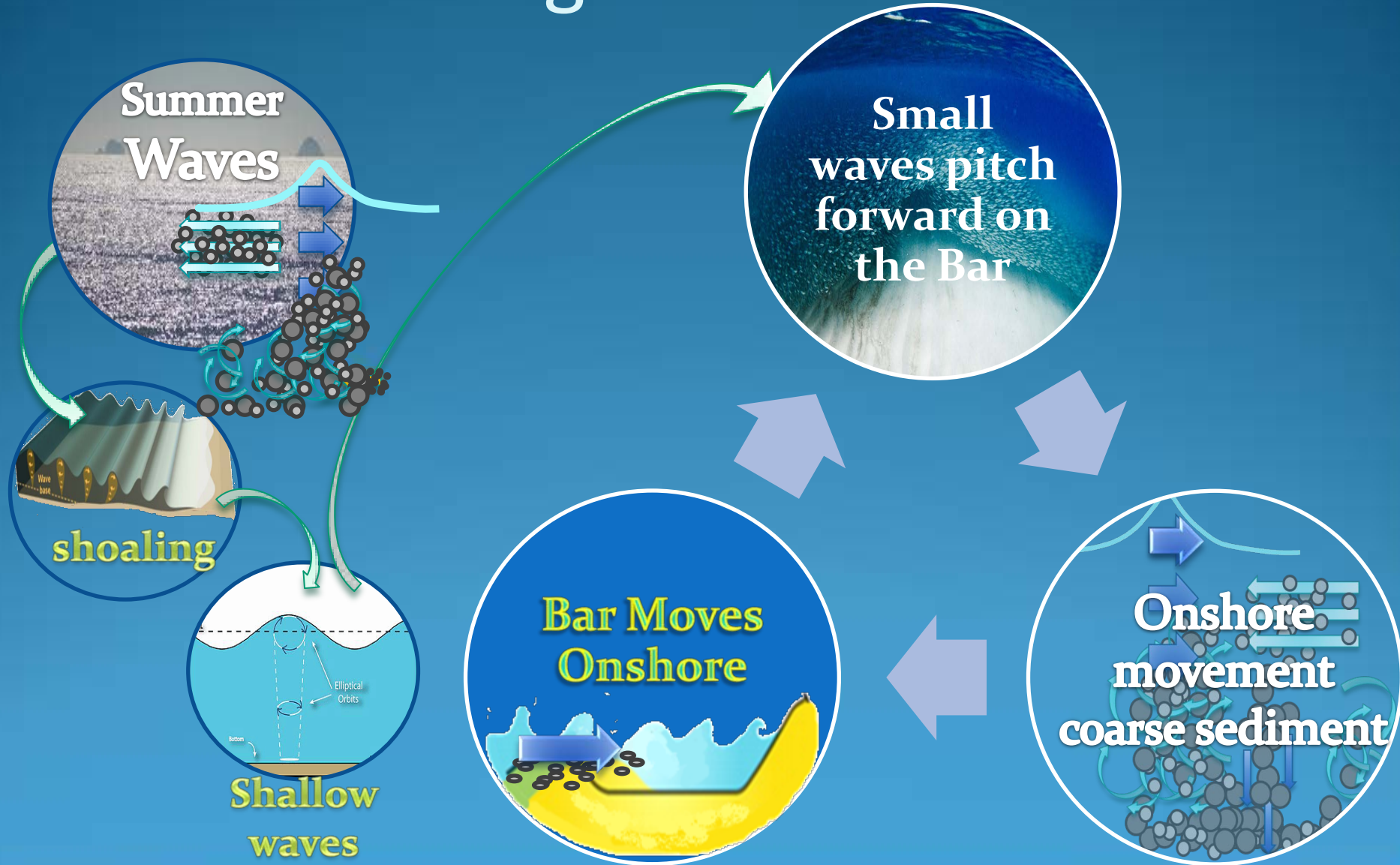
• **Run-Up.** Shoreward transport (last stage of wave dissipation)

- **Wave Bore.** Shoreward wave-induced mass transport (surface roller)

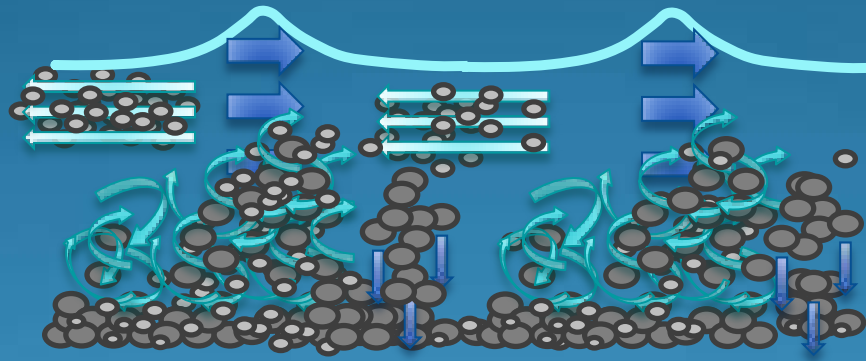
Mimicking Nature: *Destructive* Forces and migration of sand bars



Mimicking Nature: *Constructive* Forces and migration of sand bars



Engineering with Nature: Create a nearshore berm that behaves similarly to a summer bar – Shallow Waves.



fn=
WAVES,
sediment

Hallermeier Depth of Closure 1981,1983:

$d_{\text{inner}} (H^2, T^2), d_{\text{outer}} (H, T, d_{50})$

d_{outer} waves and sediment characteristics

d_{inner} wave climate, alone

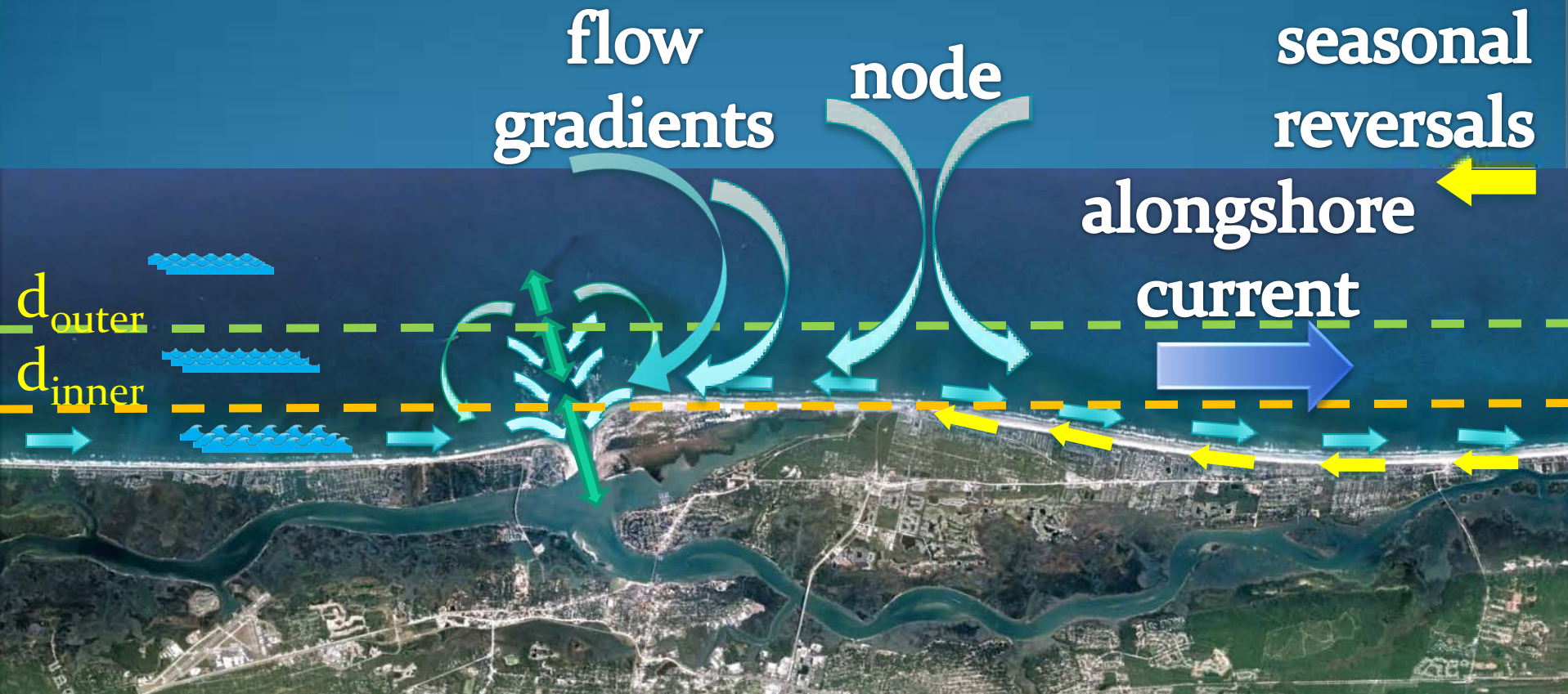
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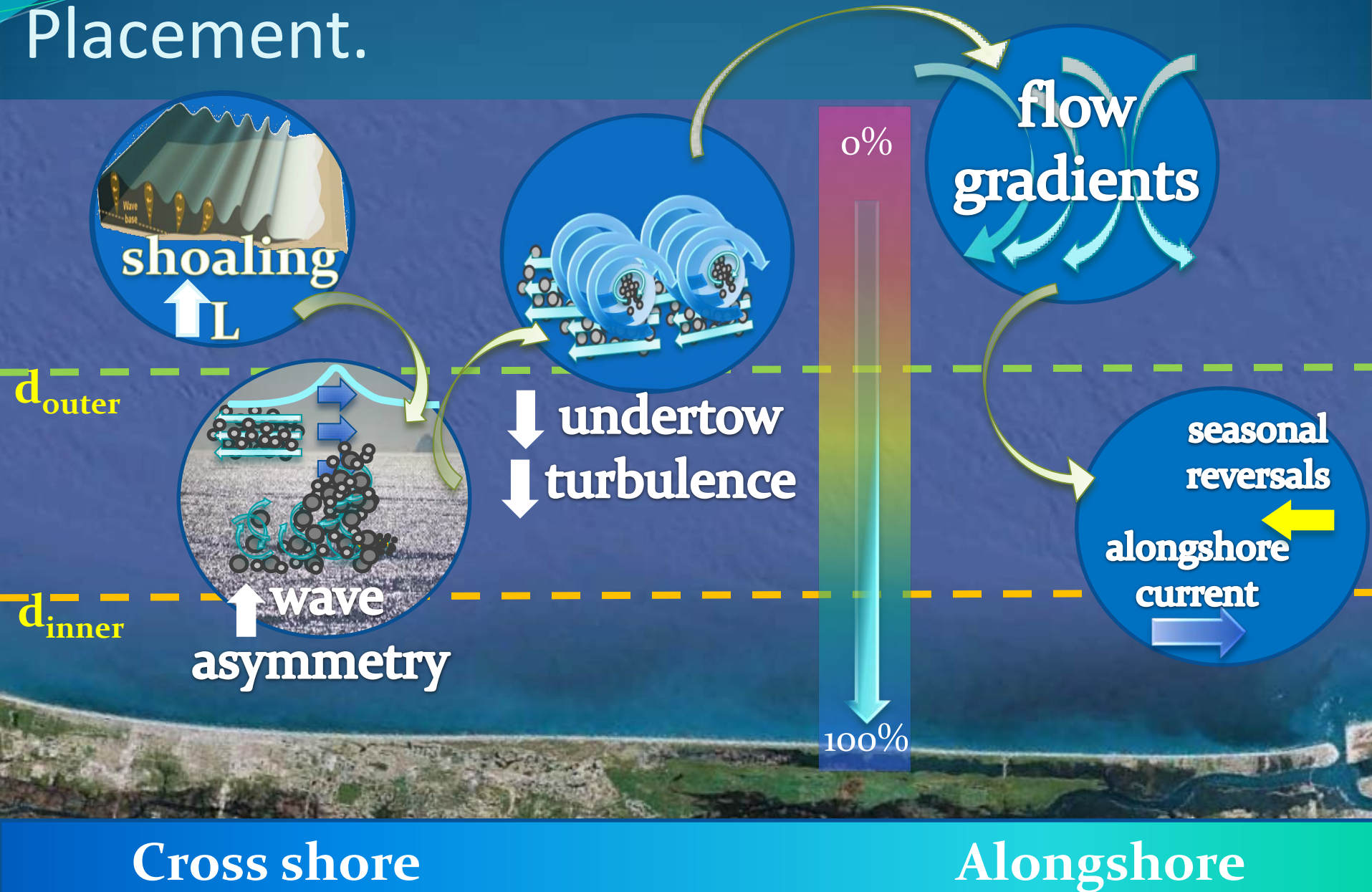
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Engineering with Nature: Large Scale Alongshore Advection and Diffusion.



Engineering with Nature: Optimizing Placement.



Why Nearshore Berms?

- **Sand is a Resource:** Sand is a valuable resource. *We find a good surrogate in nature, nearshore bars, about which we have a good understanding.*
- **Nearshore Berms may provide** - a supplementary route in addition to beach nourishment which will retain sediment to the littoral zone
- **New numerical modeling methods and field data** - including CMS and LIDAR provide new tools for design analysis. CSHORE and GENESIS coming online as well.
- **Given the wealth of existing knowledge on cross-shore transport and predictive tools, we are in an excellent position to consider nearshore berms as an additional option for sediment placement.**

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