

New Hazards in Surf Zone

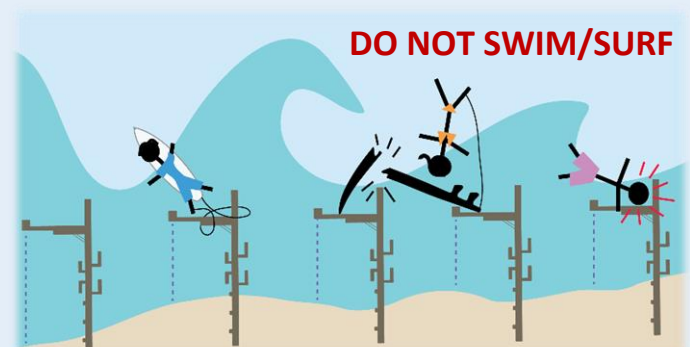
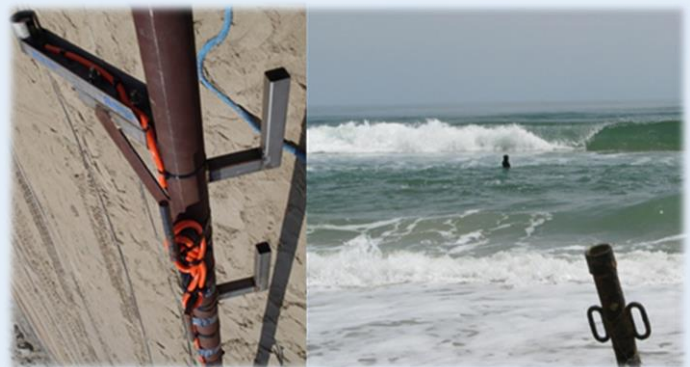
DANGER to Swimmers and Surfers

North of Duck Research Pier

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory Field Research Facility (FRF) uses state of the art instruments to measure waves, currents, and the ever-changing morphology (shape of the sea floor) in the energetic surf zone. These measurements contribute to research on how waves transform (shoal and break) as they approach the shoreline, how breaking waves generate currents (rip and longshore), and how the waves and currents transport sand to shape the seafloor and coastline.

To withstand the tremendous power of the ocean during storms, these instruments are mounted on 20ft-long steel pipes that are jettied into the seafloor using the 3-wheeled Coastal Research Amphibious Buggy (CRAB). Once installed, 3-6 ft of pipe and attached instruments still protrude from the seafloor up towards the sea surface, and may even stick out of the water on very low tides.

While the pipes provide stable platforms for measurements, they create an extreme hazard to swimmers and surfers. Swimming and surfing are therefore prohibited on the north end of the FRF property (1261 Duck Rd). The hazardous area is indicated by signs placed on the beach. For your own safety please avoid swimming or surfing in this area and be cautious of currents that may cause you to drift into the hazardous area.



Thank you for your understanding. For more information visit www.frf.usace.army.mil or call 252-261-3511