

The Delaware Breakwater was the first large-scale Federal funded public works project in the country. Its construction began in 1829 and was substantially complete in 1846 but not finished until 1869. An addition was constructed between 1882 and 1898.

Approximate location of former Cape Henlopen Light (destroyed 1926)

Arrows indicate general direction of sediment movement along beach

**SPIT COMPLEX**

End point of sediment movement along a coastline. A spit is a body of sediment being built out into an open body of water.

**HEADLAND**

Older geologic deposits intersected by the shoreline that contribute sediment to the beach-barrier system.

**BAY BARRIER**

A narrow body of sediment (a barrier) that separates the open ocean from the lagoon behind. It is maintained by sediment movement along the barrier beach.

Arrows indicate general direction of sediment movement along beach

**HEADLAND**

Location of previous inlet (pre-1929)

**BAY BARRIER**

**HEADLAND**

Sand moves to the north and south along the beach depending on the direction of the wind and waves. If you add together all the sand that moves north and south past one point on the beach in one year, it can be as much as 1,000,000 cubic yards. This is enough sand to fill 71,000 dump trucks or enough to fill Abbotts Pond, Garrisons Lake, and Trap Pond!

Depending on the time of year and prevailing winds and waves, the direction of sediment movement varies from north to south in a zone called a NODE.

**NODE**

Arrows indicate general direction of sediment movement along beach

**BAY BARRIER**

**HEADLAND**

COASTAL LAGOONS

COASTAL

DELAWARE

MARYLAND

Kelvin W. Ramsey, William S. Schenck, and Lillian T. Wang

