

Combined Effect of Ocean Acidification and Fluid Turbulence on Puerto Rico Coastal Barriers

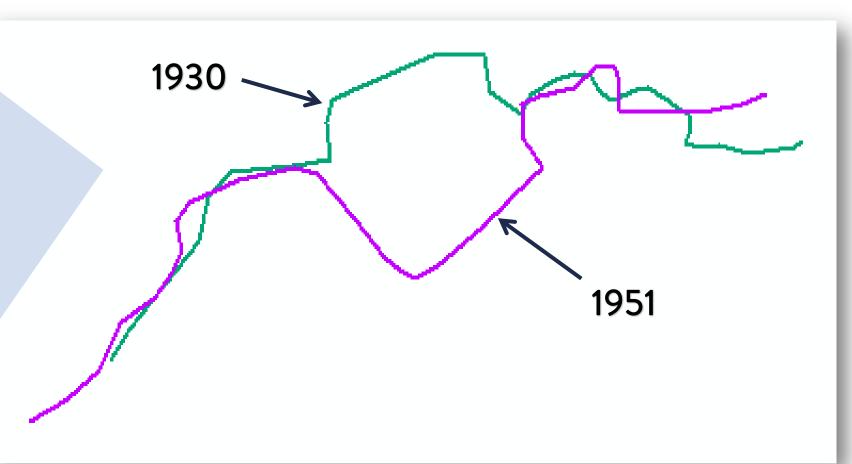
Jorge Algarin^{1,3}, Nerida H. De Jesus-Villanueva⁴, Sylvia Rodríguez-Abudo^{1,2}, Julio M. Morell^{1,2} and Monique A. Lorenzo-Perez⁵ ¹Center for Applied Ocean Science and Engineering, Department of Engineering Sciences and Materials, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez ²Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System, ³Department of Mechanical Engineering, ⁴Department of Civil Engineering and ⁵Department of Geology, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez



Motivation and Objectives

Physical stressors such as waves and currents, combined with chemical stressors like the raising acidic levels of the ocean, may cause degradation of coastal barriers as shown in Peñón Amador, Camuy Puerto Rico. This project seeks to further understand the combined effect of acidic water and fluid turbulence on sandstones. We will evaluate the following pre-and post-treatment characteristics: $CO_2 + H_2O \implies H_2CO_3$

- strength
- roughness
- morphology
- mass
- carbonate
- binding.



Physical Stressors Waves, Currents, Abrasion, etc.

CURRENTS

Chemical Stressor Ocean Acidification

Peñón Amador, Camuy, PR

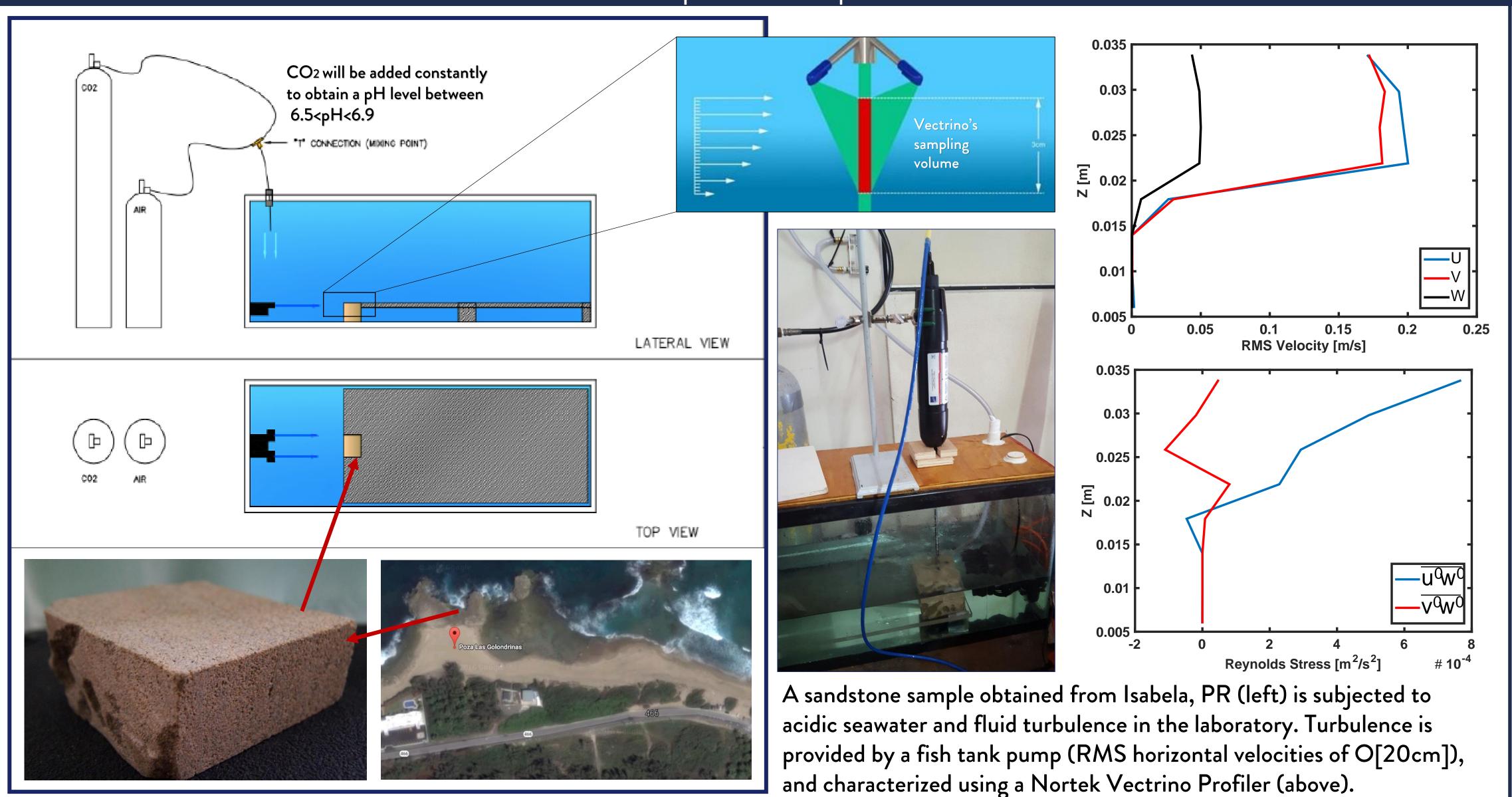


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Experimental Setup



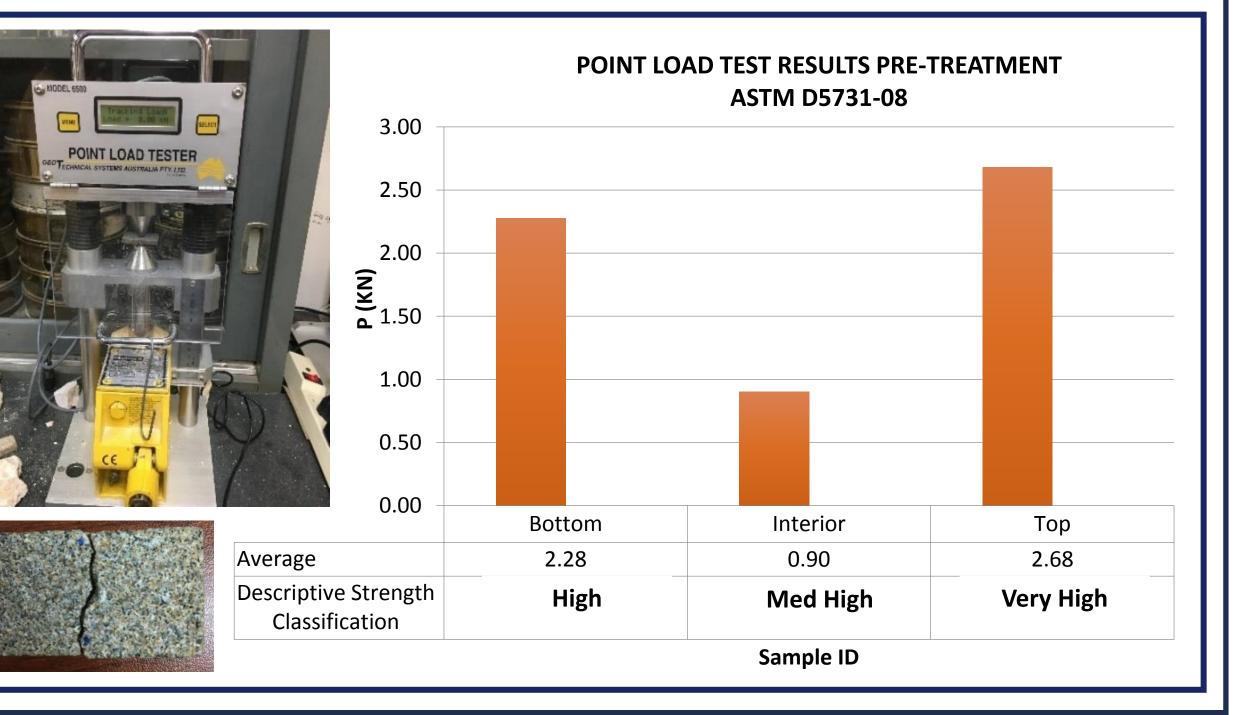
Ongoing and Future Work

Characterization of sandstone samples took place before the chemical and physical treatment. Mineralogy images (below right) were collected to record the pre-treatment carbonate binding and roughness. A cast (below left) was also taken to record the pre-treatment morphology. Additionally, a point load test was used to characterized the material strength (right).

These tests will be repeated after treatment to evaluate net effect of the combined physical and chemical stressors.







Acknowledgements

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