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An improved hybrid model for shoreline change

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Predicting the nearshore sediment transport and shifts in coastlines in view of climate change is important for planning and management of coastal infrastructure and requires an accurate prediction of the regional wave climate as well as an in-depth understanding of the complex morphology surrounding the area of interest. Recently, hybrid shoreline evolution models are being used to inform coastal management. These models typically apply the one-line theory to estimate changes in shoreline morphology based on littoral drift gradients calculated from a 2DH coupled wave, flow, and sediment transport model. As per the one-line theory, the calculated littoral drift is uniformly distributed over the active coastal profile. A key challenge facing the application of hybrid models is that they fail to consider complex morphologies when updating the shorelines for several scenarios. This is mainly due to the scarcity of field datasets on beach behavior and nearshore morphological change that extends up to the local depth of closure, leading to assumptions in this value in overall shoreline shift predictions. In this study, we propose an improved hybrid model for shoreline shift predictions in an open sandy beach system impacted by human interventions and changes in wave climate. Three main conclusions are derived from this study. First, the optimal boundary conditions for modeling shoreline evolution need to vary according to local coastal geomorphology and processes. Second, specifying boundary conditions within physically realistic ranges does not guarantee reliable shoreline evolution predictions. Third, hybrid 2D/one-line models have limited applicability in simple planform morphologies where the active beach profile is subject to direct impacts due to wave action and/or human interventions, plausibly due to the one-line theory assumption of a constant time-averaged coastal profile. These findings provide insightful information into the drivers of shoreline evolution around sandy beaches, which have practical implications for advancing the shoreline evolution models.

KEYWORDS

shoreline shift modeling, hybrid models, depth of closure, coastal geomorphology, wave climate

1 Introduction

The coast is temporally and spatially dynamic in nature and any changes in the shoreline are a result of complex interactions between the ocean and land surface. The complex interaction of many geologic and hydrodynamic processes at various spatiotemporal scales leads to the evolution of our coasts, making it extremely difficult to understand and predict (Payo et al., 2016; Ranasinghe, 2016; Chowdhury et al., 2023). Constant action of waves, wind, currents, tides, and extreme events (such as storm surge and tsunami) continuously reshape the physical nature of the coasts over relatively short (seasonal to multiannual) geological timescales (Mason et al., 2010; Splinter et al., 2014; Zarifsanayei et al., 2020). Long-term (e.g., decadal to centennial) processes such as natural and anthropogenic sediment supply, relative sea level changes, land use, and climatic variations are often responsible for chronic coastal change (Ashton and Murray, 2006; Warrick and Mertes, 2009; Zacharioudaki and Reeve, 2011). Coupled ocean and atmosphere phenomena like ENSO (El Niño–Southern Oscillation) and IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole), among others, also play a role in shaping and redefining coasts on various temporal scales (seasonal to annual) (Chowdhury and Behera, 2017; Scott et al., 2021). Therefore, predicting coastal evolution on different timescales requires accurate representations of the hydrodynamic as well as geologic forcings.

Shoreline changes and sediment transport at any site can be reliably estimated with numerical models that, in turn, rely on accurate wave climate data. Past wave data can be obtained from measurements and evidence-based modeling; however, for future predictions, there is a heavy dependency on wind projections, as they form the basis of wave modeling in future timescales. Several studies have future estimated sediment transport rates and shoreline changes using sophisticated wave modeling outcomes (Zacharioudaki and Reeve, 2011; Chowdhury et al., 2020). Investigations on the interaction of coastal hazards and extreme events with shoreline change or evolution often rely on detailed, computationally expensive, physics-based numerical models to resolve the hydrodynamic forcing and morphologic response (Van Dongeren et al., 2009; Barnard et al., 2014; Ferreira et al., 2024), whereas predicting chronic shoreline change can be achieved by using comparatively simpler process-based or empirical models (Bruun, 1962; Larson et al., 1997; Ashton et al., 2001; Miller and Dean, 2004; Davidson et al., 2010). Irrespective of the type of model used, the model outcomes must be treated with expert assessment as all types of models inevitably rely on approximations of complex, multiscale systems, and can incur some sources of error (Pape et al., 2010). To add to the complexity, Quadrado and Goulart (2020) commented that longshore sediment transport behavioral response and the effectiveness of the model used will be different for each specific region, especially in what concerns the beach morphodynamic stage.

The more complex physics-based 2D and 3D models of coupled hydrodynamics, waves, sediment transport, and morphology, e.g., Delft3D (Roelvink and Van Banning, 1995; Ton et al., 2023), XBeach (Roelvink et al., 2010; Shetty and Jayappa, 2020), Mike21 (Warren and Bach, 1992; Kaergaard and Fredsoe, 2013), and ROMS (Warner et al., 2010), solve conservation of mass and momentum of

fluid and sediment and seek to resolve nearly all of the important physical processes involved in coastal evolution. These models can simulate small-scale, short-term beach and dune erosion due to storm events on timescales of days to weeks (de Winter et al., 2015). However, most of the physics-based simulations of large-scale (km length) or long-term (decadal timescale) shoreline change are often computationally expensive and do not necessarily offer improvements over simplified models (Murray, 2007; Ranasinghe et al., 2013). This gives way to the process-based models when attempting to simulate large-scale, long-term shoreline evolution. In contrast to the physics-based approach of fully resolving the hydrodynamic and morphologic interaction (governing equations), process-based models typically account for a single dominant physical process. Process-based models are straightforward and computationally efficient. Process-based models have been applied most successfully on interannual timescales, with limited accuracy in locations where unresolved, secondary processes contribute to coastal evolution. Another widely used method to estimate long-term coastal evolution is the data-driven method or empirical model. These are generally constructed from observed behavior; i.e., historical shoreline analyses are used to derive rates of shoreline change from sets of orthorectified and georeferenced aerial photographs (Fletcher et al., 2003). Derived directly from observed behavior, empirical methods have the advantage of implicitly accounting for all relevant morphologic processes at the location but have the disadvantage of failing to reflect the specific processes responsible for morphologic change. In addition, the quality of data-driven model outputs is directly dependent on the quantity of data available to fit the model. For most of the world's coastlines, obtaining shoreline data is often challenging, as collection methods are expensive and site access is required. Examples of such shoreline data are (i) beach profiles, (ii) aerial photography, (iii) Global Positioning System (GPS)-based surveys, (iv) Airborne Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)-based surveys, (v) historical satellite imagery, and, more recently, (vi) analysis of sophisticated video camera or drone images and (vii) Coast Sat (a Google Earth Engine-enabled Python toolkit to extract shorelines from publicly available satellite imagery).

In summary, each modeling technique has advantages and disadvantages. Long and Plant (2012) developed a data assimilation method to combine empirical and process-based shoreline models, leveraging the advantages of each approach. Taking a similar approach, in this paper, we present a hybrid model that exploits the advantages of a physics-based model in combination with a suitable one-line theory model and field measurement campaign (to collect data such as beach profiles, sediment type, and nearshore bathymetry). This new hybrid 2D/one-line approach enables a spatially varying depth of closure value in response to variations in nearshore bathymetry arising from changes in rate of erosion due to wave climate. This approach is applied to hindcast seasonal to annual timescale shoreline evolution in a microscale sandy coastal system interrupted by sea wall construction. However, it must be noted that the end shoreline evolution model for our location of interest is a product of a combination of each of these models even though their contribution is independent to each other.

2 Study area

Globally, the coastal zone is the most heavily populated zone, with more than 10% of the world's population living in low-lying coastal areas (Reimann et al., 2023). As a result, a vast amount of development takes place within this zone. While these coastal communities, developments, and infrastructure are already threatened with coastal hazards such as storms and coastal flooding, variations in sea level driven by climate change, wave climate, and surges are expected to produce more frequent and more severe coastal erosion and, thus, flooding, resulting in loss of land and infrastructure. In India, a huge proportion of the coastal population is under the threat of climate change and on the verge of losing land to erosion. One such example is the coastal state of Maharashtra, which experiences cyclones and coastal flooding almost every year, with swell waves from the Arabian Sea also playing a major role in defining the state's coastline. Aboobacker et al. (2011) observed that the swell is higher along the coasts of Gujarat and Maharashtra and lower along the southwest coast of India, indicating that the open coasts of these two states are also highly influenced by "shamal" swells. Shamal swells are generated by the strong north-westerly winds (shamal winds) in the Arabian Peninsula and northwestern Arabian Sea. In another study, it was predicted that the coast of Maharashtra will receive higher waves under the future RCP 4.5 climate scenario (Chowdhury et al., 2020). It was also documented that erosion was highly likely along the central coast of Maharashtra due to changes in wave directions and periods. Therefore, the development of appropriate and localized coastal zone management and protection strategies will be even more important in the future. However, the lack of accurate prediction methods for wave climate under future scenarios and

understanding the implications of even slight changes in wave direction are major challenges for sustainable coastal zone management.

In this study, we focus on developing a multi-database hybrid model to accurately predict the shifts in local shorelines by conducting various field surveys and using field data to improve model simulations. The open sandy beach of Satpati was selected as the study site. The area is located in Palghar District of Maharashtra (Figure 1). The population of Satpati primarily constitutes fisherfolk (approximately 6,500 of the total village population of ca. 17,000, according to 2011 census data), with a major floating tourist population. The village is just south of the Banganga river mouth, with strong tidal currents and sediment movement in the creek region. In the past, *ad hoc* measures (such as construction of sea walls) were taken to arrest coastal erosion, but the entire length of open sea beach was left unprotected and unmanaged. The sea wall has been eroded by strong wave action and multiple cyclones (some of severe category [tropical cyclone with a wind speed of 64–85 knots (74–98 mph; 119–157 km/h) or higher], see Figure 2) and there has been severe coastal erosion during the past 5 years. In this study, we have selected a 5-year time frame (2019–2023) starting from our first data collection campaign at the site.

3 Data and methods

This section gives a brief overview of data collection methods and datasets used for mathematical modeling of hydrodynamic and morphodynamic aspects of the study. A flowchart of the methodology is provided in Figure 3, Table 1 summarizes the data used in model calibration and prediction.



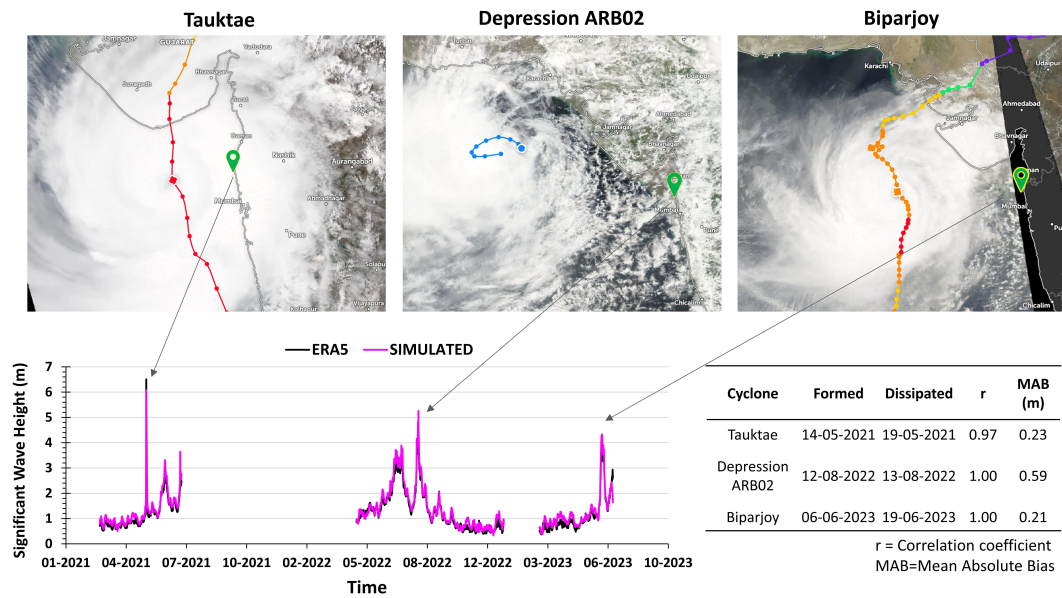


FIGURE 2

Tracks of cyclones Tauktae and Biparjoy (red markers) and a major depression ARB02 (blue markers) off the study area. The time series plot of extreme high waves (black line: ERA5 and pink line: simulated using numerical spectral wave model) during the abovementioned cyclone period (72.5°E, 19.5°N) off Satpati.

A summary of the methodology flowchart is given below:

1. Data collection and preprocessing

ERA5 wind data were gathered from the open-source repository of European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF ERA5). Historical shoreline positions, bathymetry, and sediment data were obtained from toposheets and field surveys. All the datasets were then pre-processed to ensure compatibility and quality, including georeferencing and interpolation.

2. Hydrodynamic and wave modeling

Coastal hydrodynamics at the study site was simulated using the MIKE 21 numerical model to calculate wave conditions, currents, and water levels. We then nested the regional model to a more focused local model and incorporated the wave transformation processes, including refraction, diffraction, and shoaling, to accurately represent wave propagation along the shoreline.

3. Sediment transport modeling

The MIKE 21 sediment transport model was used to simulate the movement of sediment along and across the shoreline. Important transport mechanisms were included in the modeling, like the longshore and cross-shore sediment transports, bedload, and suspended load transport.

4. Shoreline evolution modeling

The outcomes of the hydrodynamic and sediment transport models were integrated to predict shoreline evolution over time. In addition, in this study, we calculated the depth of closure separately for the six identified transects such that the

coastal profile predictions would be more realistic and accurate. These values were then fed back into the shoreline evolution model to modify the calculations for a better and accurate representation of the coastal profile over time.

5. Model calibration and validation

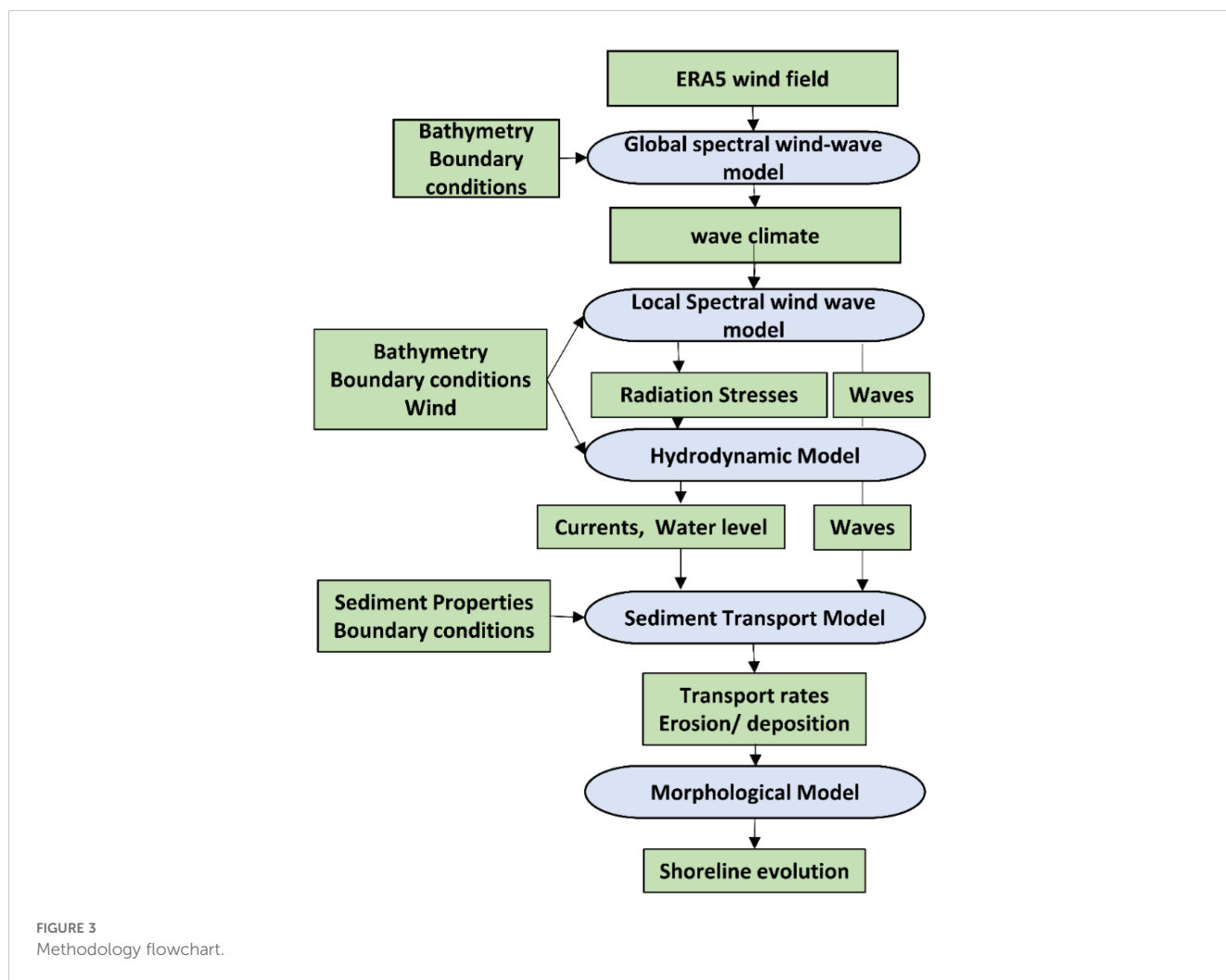
All our model parameters were calibrated using historical and field data and observed coastal changes. Datasets used for model calibration and validation are listed in Table 1.

3.1 Sediment data

The sediment samples were collected along the Satpati beach during the survey. The sediments were tested at the geotechnical laboratory of the Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Standard procedure was followed in carrying out all the tests (following Anderson, 2007). Sieve analysis was carried out, and it was observed that the d_{50} value pertaining to the site varied between 0.08 and 0.38 mm. The coarser sediments ($d_{50} = 0.38$ mm) were found near the dune and fine sediments with an average d_{50} of 0.1 mm were consistent along the swash zone.

3.2 Bathymetry and topography survey

The bathymetry survey was carried out using an echosounder mounted on a fishing boat, and topography survey was performed



with the Real-Time Kinematic Differential Global Positioning System (RTK DGPS). The nearshore bathymetry and topography survey outputs were merged with Satpati toposheet to obtain the high-resolution nearshore bathymetry and topography. This dataset is used for regional-scale hydrodynamic studies. The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) datasets were used for offshore global wave modeling. All the datasets are merged with reference to the chart datum. Figure 4 shows the field data setup and visit by staff.

3.3 Tidal levels

Satpati experiences semidiurnal macrotides, with a tidal range of 4.6 m varying between 0.8 and 5.4 m. The tidal level with reference to chart datum is given in Table 2. The tidal levels are taken from the hydrographic chart published by the Maharashtra Maritime Board. The measured tidal level time series during cyclone Phyan reported by Vinod Kumar et al. (2012) is used for validation of the hydrodynamic model.

TABLE 1 Data for model development.

Data	Time period	Application	Horizontal datum	Vertical datum	Units
Open-source bathymetry data (GEBCO)	1979–2023	Calibration and model development	WGS84	MHW	m
Measured bathymetry data	27-12-2019, 12-06-2023	Calibration and model improvement			m
Tide	1979–2023	Calibration	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	m
Wave height	1979–2023				m
Wave period	1979–2023				s
Wave direction	1979–2023				deg

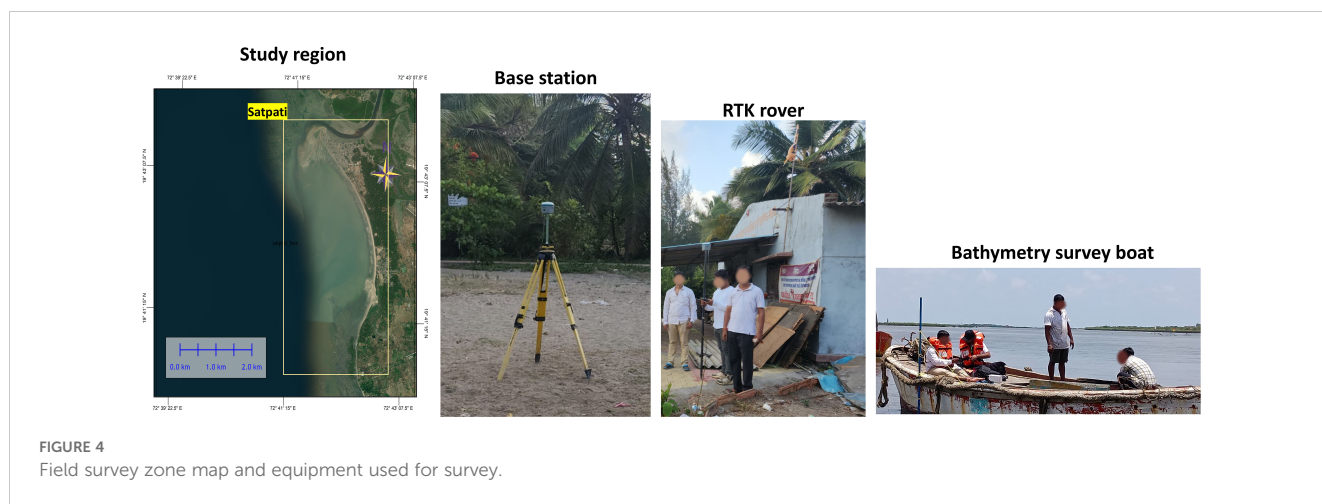


FIGURE 4
Field survey zone map and equipment used for survey.

3.4 Hydro-morphodynamic modeling

Climate change drives potential changes to wave climate (Hemer et al., 2013; Erikson et al., 2015; Shope et al., 2016), which must be accounted for when predicting long-term coastal evolution or determining design of coastal structures. Accurate predictions of nearshore wave conditions are needed because the formulations for shoreline change and longshore sediment transport are highly sensitive to wave conditions. Variations in wave angle and wave energy can significantly affect the calculation of longshore transport and equilibrium shoreline response, respectively. In this study, we used a third-generation spectral wave model MIKE21 (DHI, 2024) to simulate the wave climate over the Indian Ocean region and subsequent smaller domains. MIKE21 is an operational wave simulation model of the Danish Hydraulic Institute and has been extensively validated for wave simulation (Sørensen et al., 2004; Venugopal and Smith, 2007; Remya et al., 2012; Chowdhury and Behera, 2018). The phase-averaged numerical spectral wave model (MIKE21 SW) simulates the growth, decay, and transformation of wind-generated waves and swell from offshore areas by solving the wave action balance equation. The wave climate over the Arabian Sea is dynamic in nature throughout the year due to the southwest monsoon, shamal winds, and swells from the Southern Ocean (Aboobacker et al., 2011; Glejin et al., 2013). Therefore, to properly capture the wave

climate at study location, we first developed a global wave model (in this case, for the Indian Ocean domain, left-hand image, Figure 5) and, subsequently, constructed a high-resolution regional wave model (middle image, Figure 5), which was forced with waves extracted from the global model to simulate the nearshore wave climate corresponding to the study area. We used the GEBCO bathymetry data for the global and regional wave models, but to improve predictions near the coast, we added the local bathymetry data obtained from various site visits (right-hand image, Figure 5). We ran the wave model using wind forcing from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF ERA5). The fully spectral formulation with instationary time formulation in MIKE21 SW model is used. The fully spectral formulation considers the complete wave action balance equation without any parameterization, and it results in the capability of the model to represent the complex sea states with multiple peak frequencies. In the fully spectral formulation, the source functions are based on the WAM Cycle 4 formulation (Komen et al., 1994). The wave action balance equation is given below:

$$\frac{dN}{dt} + \nabla \cdot (vN) = \frac{S}{\sigma} \quad (1)$$

where N is the wave action density spectrum ($N = \frac{E(\sigma, \theta)}{\sigma}$), E is the wave energy density spectrum; σ is the relative angular frequency ($\sigma = 2\pi f$); f is the wave frequency; θ is the direction of wave propagation; v is the propagation velocity; S is the energy source function ($S = S_{in} + S_{nl} + S_{ds} + S_{bot} + S_{surf}$); S_{in} is the wind energy input; S_{nl} is the energy transfer due to quadruplet wave-wave interaction; S_{ds} is the dissipation of energy due to white capping; S_{bot} = dissipation of energy due to bottom friction; and S_{surf} = dissipation of energy due to depth induced breaking.

The time evolution of the action density wave spectrum over a spatial grid is obtained by solving the wave action balance equation with an implicit, cell-centered finite volume method. The model is based on an unstructured flexible mesh that allows simultaneous computation at regional (coarser) and local (finer) scales, in which time integration is performed using the fractional step approach. The time step is dynamic and estimated based on a constrained Courant–Friedrichs–Lewy (CFL) number of 0.8. The water level

TABLE 2 Tidal levels at Satpati.

	Description	Level (m)
1.	Highest high-water level (HHWL)	(+) 5.40
2.	Mean high water spring (MHWS)	(+) 5.00
3.	Mean high water neap (MHWN)	(+) 3.80
4.	Mean sea level (MSL)	(+) 3.10
5.	Mean low water neap (MLWN)	(+) 2.30
6.	Mean low water spring (MLWS)	(+) 1.10
7.	Lowest low water level (LLWL)	(+) 0.80

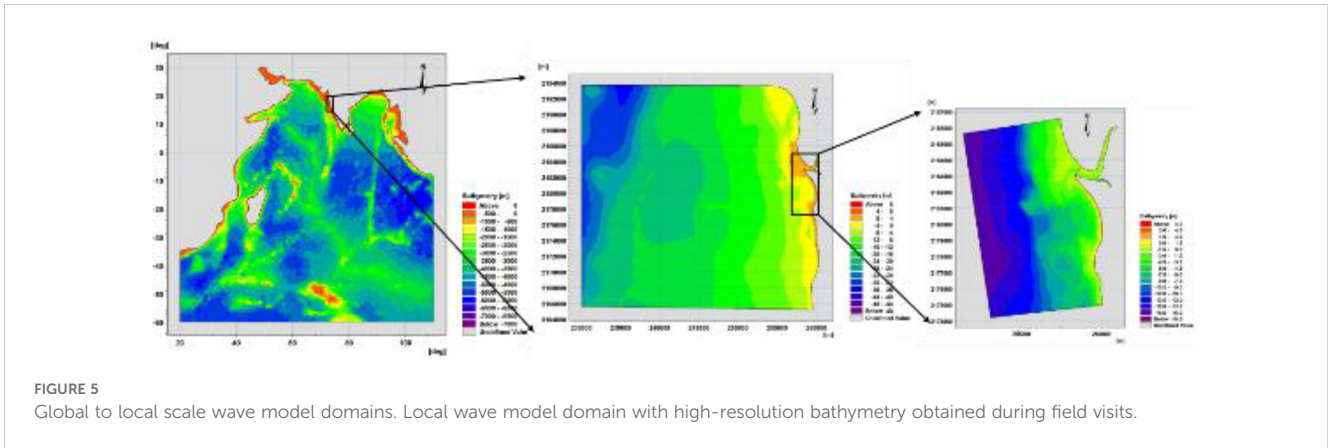


FIGURE 5

Global to local scale wave model domains. Local wave model domain with high-resolution bathymetry obtained during field visits.

variation is not considered for the global wave model, whereas the wave level variation is accounted in regional and local wave models. The generation waves and its growth depend on the energy transfer from wind and wave age; thus, we have used coupled formulation with a Charnock parameter of 0.01 to realistically represent the exchange of energy considering both wind and wave states as per Jassen’s formulations (Komen et al., 1998). The waves can dissipate the energy in deep water through breaking due to higher steepness, known as white capping. The source function for white capping is based on the formulation given by Hasselmann (1974), and this dissipation is controlled through two calibration parameters: C_{dis} and $DELTA_{dis}$; C_{dis} controls the white capping dissipation and $DELTA_{dis}$ controls the dissipation rate. For the current study domain, a C_{dis} of 2.1 and a $DELTA_{dis}$ of 0.6 are found to be suitable. When waves reach intermediate or shallow waters, the bottom friction and depth-induced breaking control the dissipation of source terms. The bottom friction is specified in the form of Nikuradse roughness ($5e-5$ is considered for this domain) and a free breaking parameter (ratio of wave height and water depth) of 0.79 is used. The source term for depth-limited wave breaking is based on the formulation by Battjes and Janssen (1978). Overall, the spectral wave model simulates the growth, transformation, and decay of wind-generated waves and swells considering the physical processes of wave generation by wind, dissipation due to bottom friction, deep and shallow water wave breaking, refraction, shoaling, and wave-current interaction. The simulated wave climate is validated with wave parameters provided by observations from buoys located in the Arabian Sea (Figure 6). The global wave model performed well in representing the hindcast daily means of significant wave height (H_s , correlation coefficient of 0.96) and mean wave period (T_m , correlation coefficient of 0.86). The comparison of simulated H_s and T_m with observed AD07 (2014–2016) and nearshore [Karwar (2012–2019), Ratnagiri (2012–2019), and Versova (2016–2019)] buoy measurements are shown in Figures 7, 8, respectively. Furthermore, the model performs well across diverse climate variable scales. Notably, a greater performance of the global wave model is observed in capturing extreme wave climate during cyclonic periods (with a mean correlation coefficient of 0.99 and a mean absolute bias of 0.34 m), as shown in Figure 2; this enhances the reliability of the wave model.

The coupled wave (MIKE21 SW), hydrodynamic (MIKE21 HD), sediment (MIKE21 ST), and morphology (MIKE21 SM) models are used to investigate the shoreline changes. The wave climate and radiation stresses calculated from the numerical spectral model are given as input to the hydrodynamic model. The depth-integrated incompressible Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes equations, i.e., shallow water equations, are governing equations, as given below:

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial h\bar{u}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h\bar{v}}{\partial y} = hS \tag{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial h\bar{u}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial h\bar{u}^2}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h\bar{v}\bar{u}}{\partial y} \\ & = f\bar{v}h - gh\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} - \frac{h}{\rho_o}\frac{\partial P_a}{\partial x} - \frac{gh^2}{2\rho_o}\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} + \frac{\tau_{sx}}{\rho_o} - \frac{\tau_{bx}}{\rho_o} \\ & - \frac{1}{\rho_o}\left(\frac{\partial S_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial S_{xy}}{\partial y}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(hT_{xx}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(hT_{xy}) + hu_sS \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial h\bar{v}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial h\bar{v}\bar{u}}{\partial yx} + \frac{\partial h\bar{v}^2}{\partial y} \\ & = f\bar{u}h - gh\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} - \frac{h}{\rho_o}\frac{\partial P_a}{\partial y} - \frac{gh^2}{2\rho_o}\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial y} + \frac{\tau_{sy}}{\rho_o} - \frac{\tau_{by}}{\rho_o} \\ & - \frac{1}{\rho_o}\left(\frac{\partial S_{yx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial S_{yy}}{\partial y}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(hT_{xy}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(hT_{yy}) + hv_sS \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where h is the total water depth ($h = \eta + d$), η is the surface elevation and d is the still water depth; \bar{u} and \bar{v} are the depth-averaged velocity components in the x and y directions; S is the energy source dissipation term; f is the Coriolis force parameter ($f = 2\Omega\sin\theta$, Ω is the angular velocity and θ is the latitude); g is the acceleration due to gravity; P_a is the pressure due to atmosphere; ρ and ρ_o are the density of sea water and reference water; τ_{sx} and τ_{sy} are the wind stresses in the x and y directions; τ_{bx} and τ_{by} are the bottom stresses in the x and y directions; S_{xx} , S_{xy} , S_{yx} and S_{yy} are the component of radiation stress tensor; T_{xx} , T_{xy} , T_{yx} and T_{yy} are the lateral stresses; S is the magnitude of the discharge due to point sources and its velocity denoted by u_s and v_s .

These equations’ spatial discretization is carried out using the cell-centered finite volume method, and an explicit scheme is used for time integration. The hydrodynamic model can estimate the

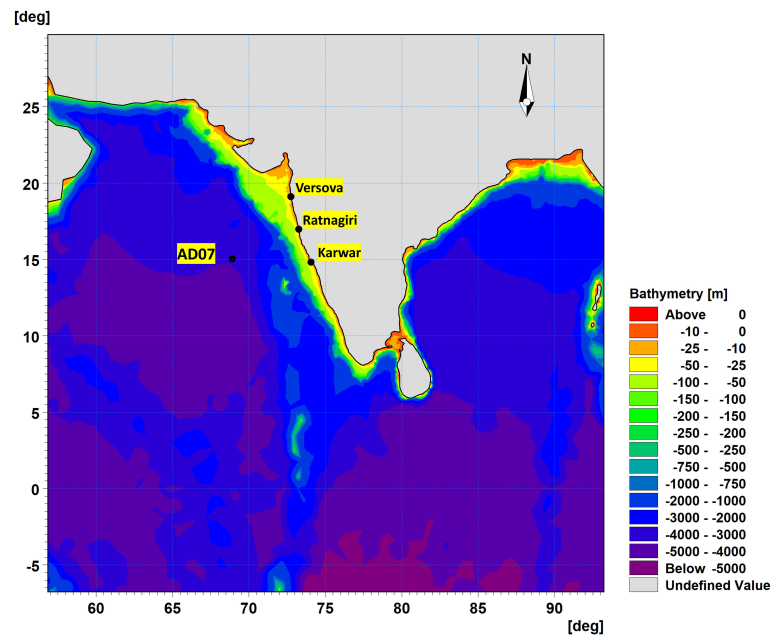


FIGURE 6
Location of buoys used to validate the wave model.

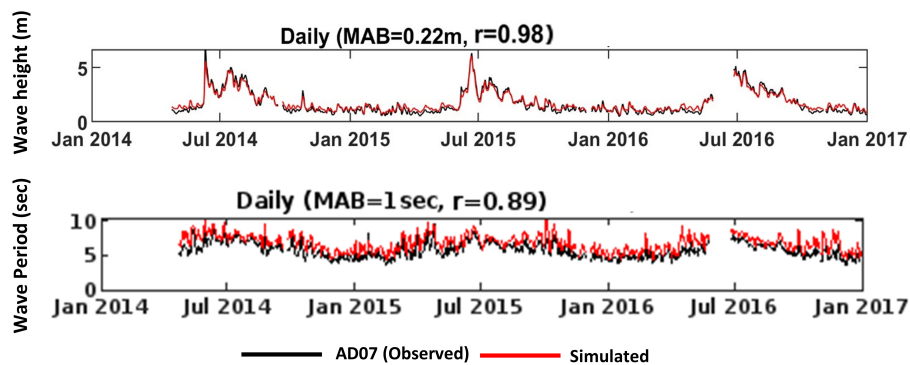


FIGURE 7
Comparison of simulated wave heights (upper plot) and wave periods (lower plot) with observed values at the AD07 buoy. MAB = Mean Absolute Bias and r = Correlation coefficient.

flow parameters considering both tide and wave variations. The influence of tide is accounted for by forcing tide from open boundaries of domain as time series of water level. The radiation stresses from the wave model are accounted for in momentum equations. The eddy viscosity concept is used to model the unresolved small-scale turbulence processes using sub-grid scale models (Smagorinsky, 1963). The Eddy viscosity (Smagorinsky formulation coefficient) of 0.28 is considered. The spatially varying bed resistance (with Manning number $5 \text{ m}^{1/3}/\text{s}$ over the reef zones and $32 \text{ m}^{1/3}/\text{s}$ over remaining domain) is found from calibration runs. Considering the aforementioned forcings with calibration parameters, the hydrodynamic model estimates the depth-averaged velocity, tidal water levels, wave set-up, and wave set-down by solving the governing equations. The water levels from the hydrodynamic model are validated with the measured water

level reported by Vinod Kumar et al. (2012) during the Phyan cyclone. They carried out the water level measurements at a depth of $\sim 15 \text{ m}$ off Satpati (72.618075°E , 19.733525°N) using sea level gauge. The current hydrodynamic model shows greater agreement ($r = 0.97$, $\text{MAB} = 0.22 \text{ m}$) with the measured water level and showed better performance than Vinod Kumar et al. (2012) model output (Figure 9). The calculated wave and current parameters from the hydrodynamic model, along with sediment properties ($d_{50} = 0.1 \text{ mm}$, sediment grading coefficient of 1.5, relative density of 2.65, and porosity of 0.4), are given as input to the sediment transport model to calculate the sediment transport rates by interpolation from pre-simulated sediment transport table. This table is generated from the quasi three-dimensional sediment transport model in the MIKE21 toolbox, which estimates the vertical variation of time-dependent flow velocity, turbulence,

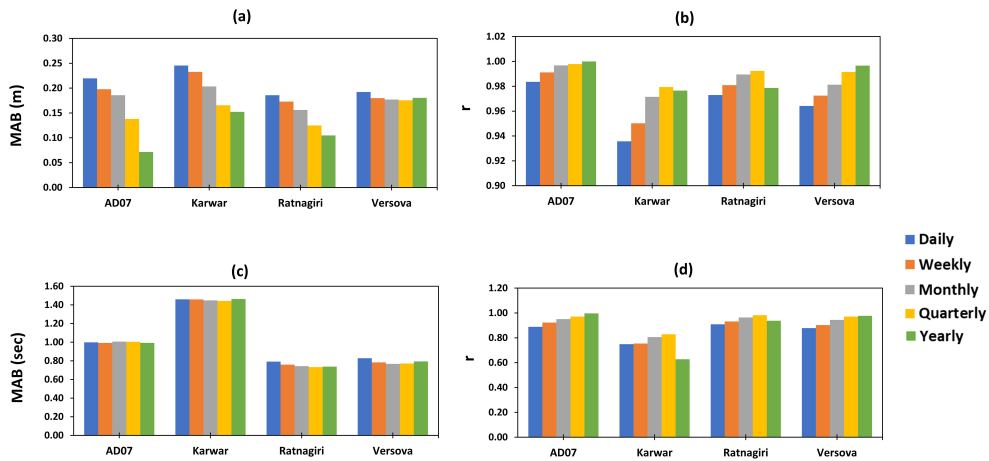


FIGURE 8 Comparison of simulated wave heights (A, B) and wave periods (C, D) with observed values at the nearshore buoys—Karwar, Ratnagiri, and Versova. MAB = mean absolute bias and r = correlation coefficient.

shear stress, and sediment concentration using an integrated momentum approach (Fredsoe, 1984). The sediment transport model estimates the bed load and suspended load based on the formulation of the Engelund and Fredsoe (1976) model. The variation of suspended concentration across the depth is estimated by solving the vertical sediment diffusion equation (Fredsoe et al., 1985), as given below.

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(uc)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(vc)}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial(wc)}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\epsilon_x \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\epsilon_y \frac{\partial c}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\epsilon_z \frac{\partial c}{\partial z} \right) + w_s \frac{\partial c}{\partial z} \quad (5)$$

where c is the concentration volume; the left side of equation represents the temporal variation of c , followed by the advection

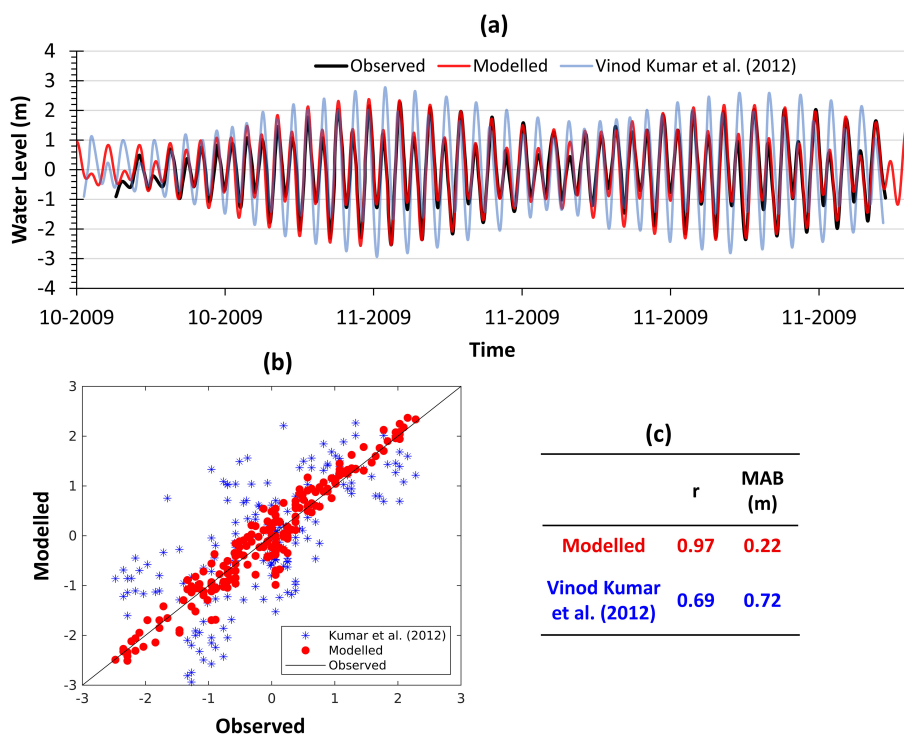


FIGURE 9 The comparison of modeled water levels relative to observed water levels off Satpati (72.618075°E, 19.733525°N). (A) Time series plot of observed water levels (black line), modeled water level (red line), and the water levels reported by Vinod Kumar et al. (2012). (B) Scatter plot between observed and modeled water levels. (C) Comparison statistics summary; r = correlation coefficient and MAB = mean absolute bias.

mechanism [transport of c with flow velocities (u , v and w)]. The right side of the equation represents the diffusion [terms with diffusion coefficients (ε_x , ε_y and ε_z)] and settling mechanism [last term with settling velocity of sediment (w_s)].

Having estimated the concentration of sediments, the total sediment load transport is calculated. The two-dimensional sediment transport model updates the changes in bed level using sediment continuity equation, which is given below:

$$-(1-n)\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial S_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial S_y}{\partial y} - \Delta S \quad (6)$$

where the left side represents the rate of change in bed level (z), and n is the porosity; the right side represents the spatial changes in total sediment transport including provision for beach nourishment (source) or sink rate. Once the rate of bed level change is estimated, the new bed levels are updated at every time step with a forward in time difference scheme (Equation 7).

$$Z_{new} = Z_{old} + \frac{1}{1-n} \frac{\partial z}{\partial t} \Delta t \quad (7)$$

The two-dimensional sediment transport model results are found to be satisfactory for analyzing shorter timescale changes. However, in applications of investigating long-term morphological changes, the model was found to result in the degeneration of profile due to higher cross-shore transport (Kristensen et al., 2013). This led to the development of the hybrid shoreline morphology model, in which the hydrodynamics and sediment transport rates are calculated based on two-dimensional models, and an update of morphology and shoreline is based on the concept of the one-line model. In the shoreline morphology model, the active nearshore zone is divided into shore normal strips, the offshore extent of these strips should cross the depth of closure, and the cross-shore bed variation is defined by profile on each shoreface strip. For each time step, the one-line shoreline model integrates the total sediment volume changes along the shoreface strip and updates the change in shoreline position by solving a one-line equation (Kaergaard and Fredsoe, 2013). In this study, the shoreline model is forced with a single projected time series of wave conditions (Hegermiller et al., 2016) as we are interested in past shoreline evolution. This single source time series type wave forcing scenario represents only one instance of representing the wave climate and subsequent coastal evolution. When predicting future shoreline shifts, the range of potential shoreline positions can be improved by using an ensemble wave forcing approach providing estimates of uncertainty; however, this comes at a significantly increased computational effort (by a factor representing the number of ensemble wave scenarios).

3.5 Shoreline change prediction

3.5.1 Importance of local depth of closure in shoreline change prediction

The depth at which significant sediment motion is absent is often called the depth of closure (hereafter, D_c). It is time-dependent: the longer the wave period being considered, the

larger the D_c value (Stive et al., 1992). Kraus et al. (1999) highlighted temporal significance when they proposed that, for a given time interval, D_c should be defined as the depth seaward where neither a significant change in bottom elevation nor a significant net sediment exchange between nearshore and offshore occurred. D_c can be estimated using a range of techniques, including grain-size trends (Larson, 1991; Work and Dean, 1991) and orientation of offshore contours and wave statistics (Hallermeier, 1981). It can be defined as the ratio of change in cross-sectional area divided by the advance or retreat of the high-water line, or other convenient contours that can be determined from an analysis of beach profiles, providing they continue far enough underwater (Simm, 1996). Field surveys consist of repeated profile measurements over multiple years to establish the depth at which the seabed remains stable (Nicholls et al., 1996). The estimated D_c through the profile survey method is accurate but requires long-term profile time series data. In the absence of field measurements, the mathematical formulas proposed by Hallermeier (1979) and Houston (1996) are recommended.

Hallermeier (1979) proposed an analytical solution for estimating annual D_c using linear wave theory. The D_c formulation is a function of wave height and wave steepness:

$$D_c = 2.28H_e - 68.5\left(\frac{H_e^2}{gT_e^2}\right)$$

where H_e is the wave height exceeding 12 h per year, g is the acceleration due to gravity, and T_e is the associated wave period.

The existing mathematical formulations are based on specific events (H_e) and they do not account for the local sediment characteristics. A newer approach proposed by Aragonés et al. (2018) estimates D_c based on the distribution of cross-shore median sediment size only, but identifying the point of change in sediment size through sampling is complex and costly.

Most D_c studies have focused only on a single transect profile because repeated profile data are not generally available, and these studies mainly use hindcast wave outputs from a single source with coarse resolution bathymetry. This study is an improvement over the existing approach as we not only used transect profiles surveyed in 2019 and again in 2023, but we also improved the wave hindcast during this time period by incorporating higher-resolution nearshore bathymetry (see Figure 5). Here, D_c is estimated through numerical modeling, which accounts both wave hydrodynamics and sediment characteristics along the profile. The following steps were followed:

- An initial average D_c over the domain was calculated based on existing formulas proposed by Hallermeier (1979).
- Profiles were surveyed and constructed from the shoreline to this D_c .
- Wave-driven current and littoral drift along the profile were estimated by forcing with a nearshore significant wave height exceeding 12 h per year and the respective wave period.
- Finally, various points (P1 to P3, Figure 10) were identified, across which the respective depths were identified and

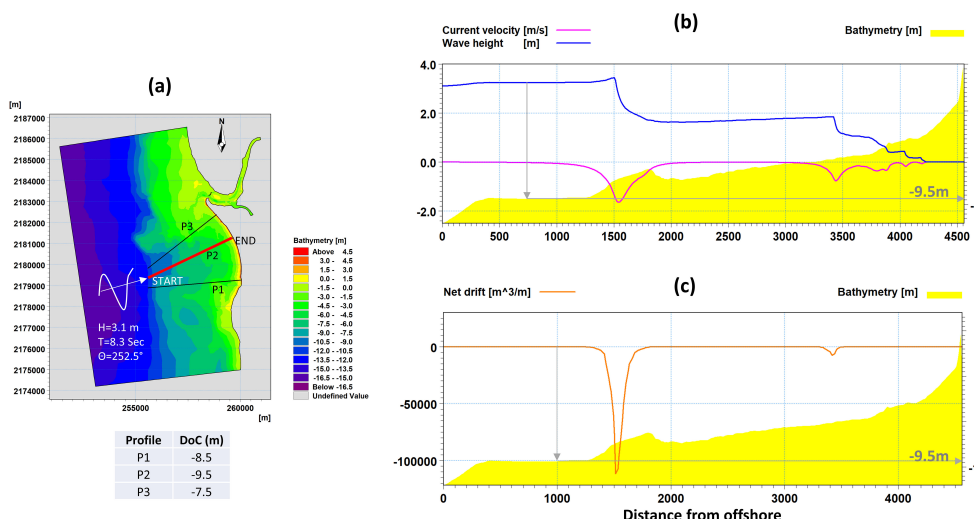


FIGURE 10 (A) The spatial extent of the study domain showing profiles used for estimating depth of closure. (B) Variation of wave height and current along profile P2. (C) The net littoral drift along profile P2.

beyond which the littoral drift would become zero for each profile, hence giving us actual D_c . The D_c values were estimated using the 12-h exceedance wave data during the same period as the profile measurements for determining the initial D_c as shown in Table 3.

Three profiles were constructed to the offshore depth 12 m from shore, as shown in Figure 10. The profiles were forced with wave climate obtained as per Hallermeier (1979). The LITDRIFT module of LITPACK is used to estimate the cross-shore distribution of wave height, current, and littoral drift. The hydrodynamic model of LITDRIFT transforms the wave climate from deep water to each grid point of the profile, and the resolution of the profile reflects the accuracy of processes. The wave processes, such as refraction, are based on Snell’s law, shoaling is estimated by the conservation of wave energy flux, the ratio of wave height to water depth governs the breaking, the wave set-up and set-down are estimated based on the cross-shore gradient in cross-shore radiation stresses, and longshore currents are estimated based on the cross-shore gradient in longshore radiation stress. All these major wave processes and wave-driven currents are clearly reflected in Figure 10 along the profile. The sediment transport might occur in two modes: the first mode is the transport of bed material by sliding, rolling, or jumping within a thin layer ($\sim 2 * d_{50}$ thickness) near the bed, and in the second mode, the suspended sediments transport along the predominant current direction. Along the profile, the uniform mean grain size of 0.1 mm is considered and

the respective fall velocity and bed roughness ($2 * d_{50}$) are estimated, and given as input to model. The LITPACK estimates the bed load transport based on the instantaneous Shields parameter and the suspended load by integrating the product of sediment concentration and mean circulation current over the wave period. The concentration of suspended sediment varies over time and water depth, and it is estimated by solving a diffusion equation (one-dimensional form of Equation 5) using the finite difference technique. The mean circulation currents are obtained from the hydrodynamic model. The total sediment transport (sum of bed load transport and suspended load transport) is computed at the grid point of the profile, and the net sediment transport across the profile is shown in Figure 10C. The predominant transport is observed in breaking zones. The LITPACK modeling suite has been applied successfully by many investigators for the Indian coast (for example, Noujas and Kankara, 2018; Rao et al., 2009). The mean size of the sediment used was 0.1 mm, as obtained from the sample collected during field visits. The cross-shore distribution of wave height, current, and net sediment transport along the profiles (Figures 10B, C) was analyzed, and the depth beyond which current and littoral drift becomes almost zero was identified as the working D_c (Figure 10). We found that D_c obtained as per the Hallermeier (1979) equation was underestimated when compared to the outcomes of the deterministic model run for the same wave parameters, implying that accurate wave hydrodynamics and sediment properties along the transects are important for D_c calculations. The offshore extent of the local domain was

TABLE 3 Analytical estimation of depth of closure (D_c).

Method	Wave height (m)	Wave period (s)	Mean wave direction (degree w.r.t. north)	Depth of closure (m)
Hallermeier (1979)	3.10	8.31	254.57	6.1

considered beyond the mark of working D_c and the coastal profile in the shoreline morphology model was also considered. The summary of conventional and new methodology approaches are shown in [Figure 11](#).

4 Results and discussion

4.1 Wave climate at the study area

The Indian Ocean region may be subdivided into two main water bodies, the northern Indian Ocean region and the southern Indian Ocean region, based on its spread over both hemispheres. Furthermore, the Indian subcontinent divides the northern Indian Ocean into the Arabian Sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on the east. The ocean–land interaction that exists in the northern Indian Ocean due to the presence of the Indian subcontinent influences the wave climate in this region. The Indian subcontinent experiences southwest monsoon from June to September (JJAS) and northeast monsoon from October to December (OND). Most of the wave activity in the AS is driven by the monsoon winds ([Chowdhury and Behera, 2019](#); [Chowdhury et al., 2019](#)). The current study region, along the west coast of India, is a stretch of open sandy beach facing the Arabian Sea where the predominant waves are observed from south-westerly and westerly directions. The typical annual and seasonal wave climate near the area of interest is shown in [Figure 12](#). Here, interest is in the microscale; hence, the results were extracted at various locations along the beach at approximately 1-km (or lesser) intervals across the beach into deep water at 4–5 km apart. [Table 4](#) shows the external forcings associated with the shoreline evolution of a beach considered at the microscale.

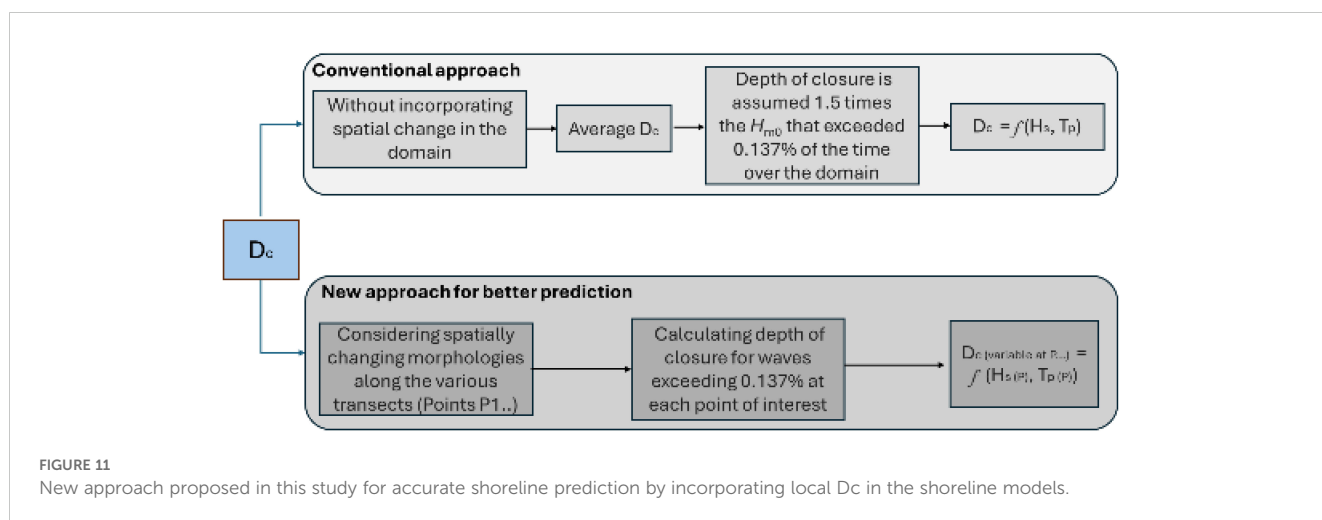
4.2 Shoreline shift calculations

Shoreline change analysis and prediction are important for integrated coastal zone management. The shifts in shorelines are

conventionally estimated using data from field and/or aerial surveys, numerical models, and satellite remote sensing images. The Satpati coastline is macrotidal and comprises a wave-dominated sandy beach with an average length of 5.5 km. The RTK-GPS survey was carried out on 12 June 2023. An element of the survey involved measuring six cross-shore profiles, hereafter referred to as P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, and P6 ([Figure 13](#)).

In general, the shoreline is defined as a position at which the highest high tide line intersects the beach profile. For the current study region, no significant change in the shoreline position (based on high tide line) is observed during the study period. However, a significant rate of erosion is observed along all profiles located in the swash zone (tidal variation zone), which has led to the landward shift in the point of intersection (i.e., MSL line and beach profile). Thus, the position at which the MSL intersects the beach profile is defined as shoreline for the purpose of the current study.

The historical cross-shore profiles (27-12-2019) were extracted from the hydrographic chart (dashed line with markers in [Figure 14](#)). The coastal profiles extracted from the 2019 hydrographic chart was present close to mean sea level (MSL) but did not touch the actual MSL line (dotted blue line in [Figure 14](#)). Therefore, the profiles were extended using the linear regression technique to make them coincide with the MSL. Linear regression for shoreline changes prediction involves using a mathematical model to analyze the relationship between predictor variables (such as coastal features, wave characteristics, sediment transport, etc.) and the response variable, which is typically the change in shoreline position over time. However, owing to the lack of measured data points until the MSL mark, we also estimated the uncertainty range showing three possible 2019 profiles (the regression line and its upper and lower confidence bands) to estimate the shoreline position. In this, we assume the distance from the coastline as the dependent variable and elevation as the independent variable. The goodness of fit of regression line is summarized by R^2 , standard error (SE), and p -value statistics ([Table 5](#)). The evolution of cross-shore profiles P1 to P6 between 2019 and 2023 with respect to tides and MSL is shown in [Figure 15](#). For a better understanding of how



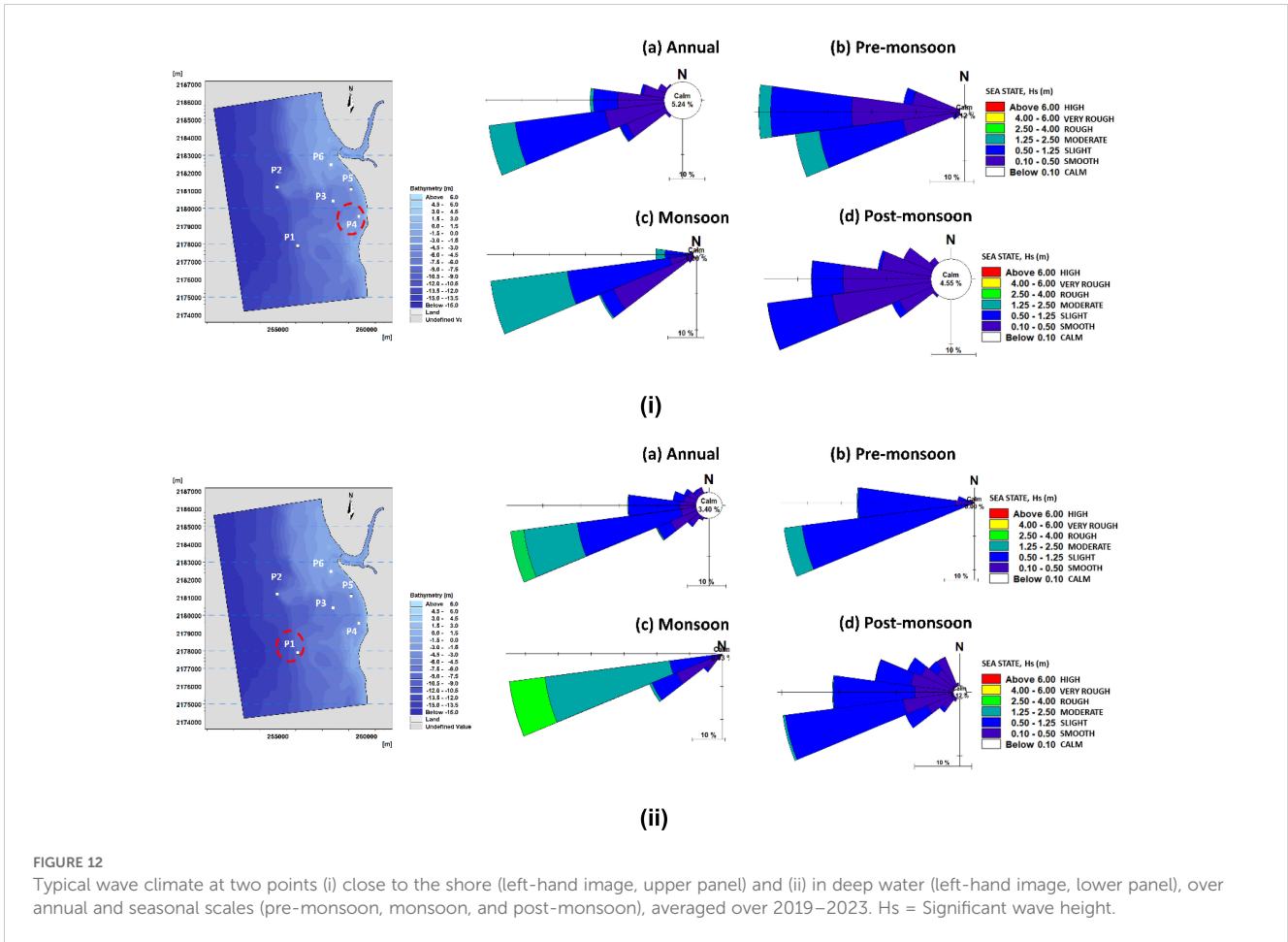


FIGURE 12 Typical wave climate at two points (i) close to the shore (left-hand image, upper panel) and (ii) in deep water (left-hand image, lower panel), over annual and seasonal scales (pre-monsoon, monsoon, and post-monsoon), averaged over 2019–2023. Hs = Significant wave height.

to read the estimated shoreline and the uncertainty associated with the fitted shoreline, the values estimated at profile P2 are represented in Figure 16, and for all other profiles, the values are listed in Table 5. The position of 2023 shoreline profiles is estimated, and the shoreline shift (i.e., the difference between coastal profiles pertaining to 2019 and 2023) is calculated for P1 to P6. The 2019 shoreline (pink line), 2023 shoreline (cyan line), and a summary of the modeled shoreline shift are summarized in Figure 13. The landward shift of shoreline is observed along the entire Satpati, indicating an active rate of erosion along the beach (Figure 13C). It is observed that the erosion is higher near the southern end of the beach compared to the northern region of the Satpati coast. The shifts in the coastal profiles (estimated using linear regression) from the hydrographic chart baseline is within the confidence interval range for the first five profiles (P1–P5), whereas

for profile P6, we observe that the change is negligible, indicating a stable coastal profile. This is attributed to the construction of the sea wall in the northern part of the beach, which might have hindered sediment exchange.

The quantitative summary of comparison between the new approach and the conventional approach is shown in Figure 17. The overestimation of the landward shift of the shoreline is observed in the conventional approach. The nearshore bathymetry of profiles (P1–P3) is uniform alongshore, which results in less significant difference in capturing the pattern of erosion from both approaches. However, the conventional approach shows overestimation of erosion due to the difference in DoC considered. Notably, the new approach shows greater improvement at P4, P5, and P6 relative to the conventional approach, where the bathymetry is nonuniform alongshore and the reef is present. This highlights the significance of the current approach.

TABLE 4 External forcing associated with microscale evolution of shorelines.

Space dimensions	~10 m to 1 km
Time dimensions	Hours to years
Natural forcing	Wave, tide, and surge conditions
Human intervention	Coastal infrastructure (sea wall, ports etc.)

5 Conclusions and recommendations

Hybrid 2D/one-line shoreline evolution models are becoming increasingly popular over the traditional 2DH methods to inform the management of sandy coastal systems. The computational framework adapted in this study, i.e., a hybrid 2D/one-line shoreline model, is superior to the traditional 2DH-only models,

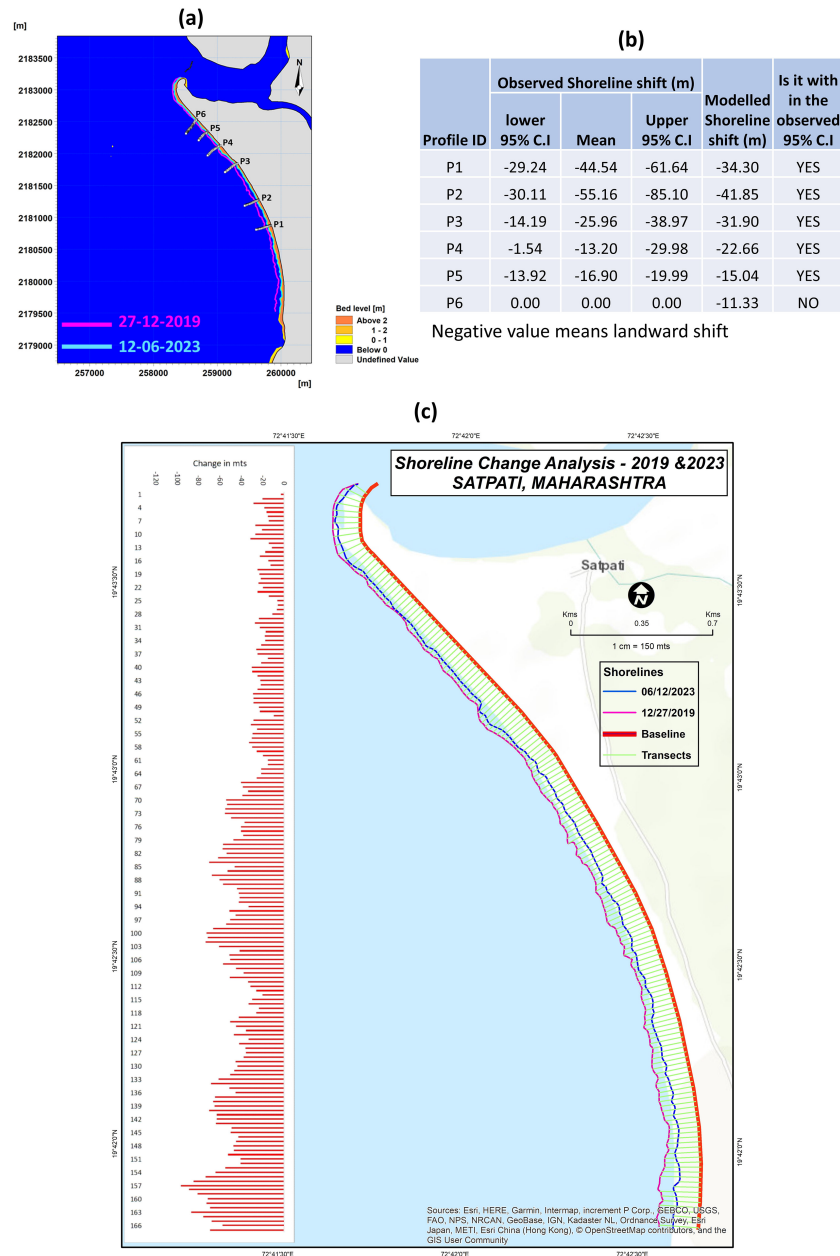


FIGURE 13 Shoreline shift between 2019 and 2023 based on hydrographic and MSL chart data (2019) and field measurements (2023). **(A)** shows the Transect Points (P1–P6); **(B)** shows the uncertainty range for the predicted 2019 shoreline; and **(C)** shows the landward shift in the 2023 shoreline compared to the shoreline in the year 2019.

with the main computational difference between them being the shoreline morphology update. The 2DH models update the morphology across the entire domain at each time step, and the change in morphology from one time step updates the mesh bathymetry for the next time-step, to continue the simulation. The hybrid 2D/one-line models maintain the same principles as 2DH models, except they constrain the morphology update within the limits of the active coastal profile.

The most significant findings derived from this study are summarized below:

- The optimal boundary conditions for simulating shoreline evolution are linked to observed coastal system morphology and processes, especially in complex morphological regions.
- The nearshore bathymetry that defines the mesh resolution in the nearshore is an important addition to any regional

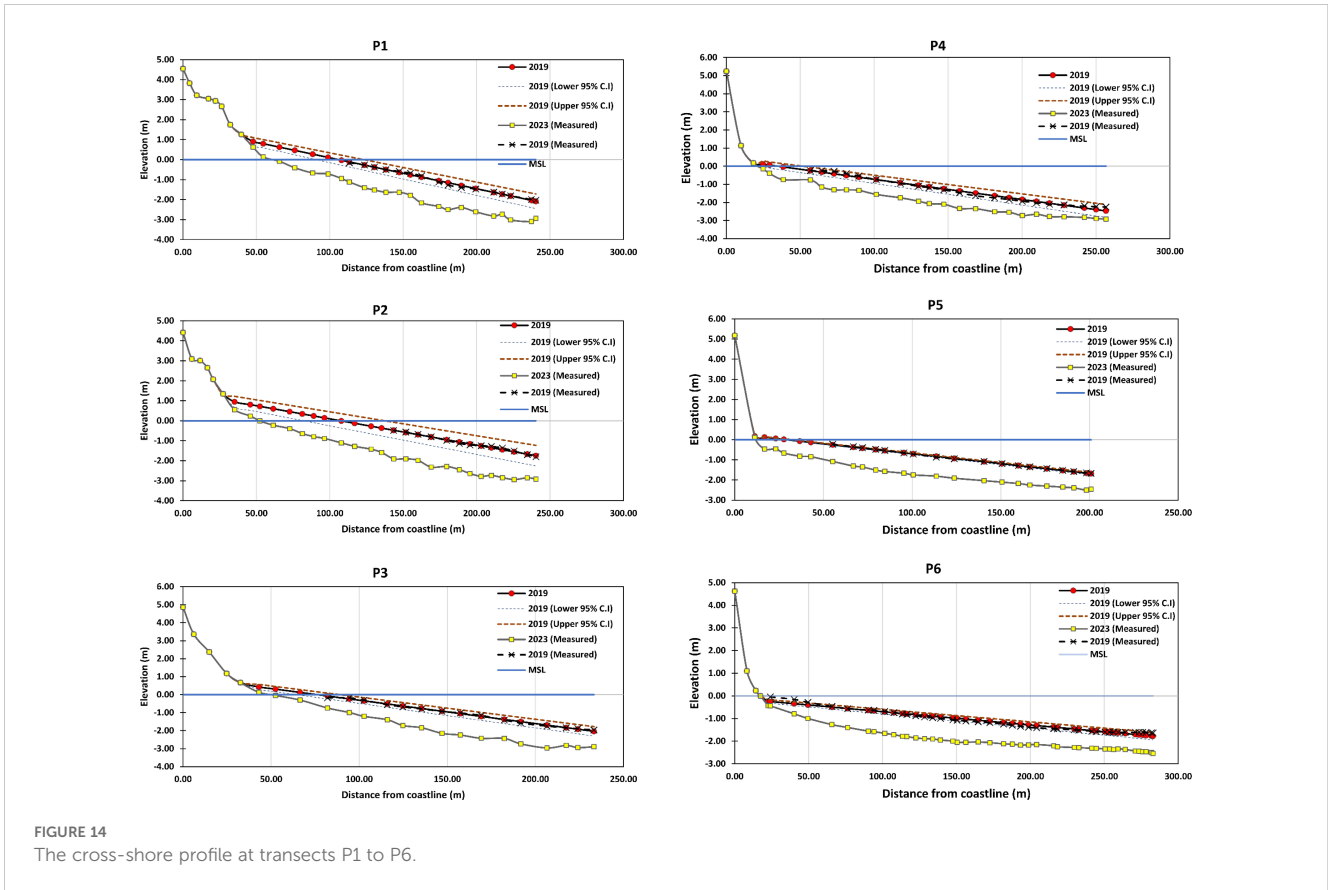


FIGURE 14 The cross-shore profile at transects P1 to P6.

TABLE 5 The summary statistics of linear regression.

Profile ID	R^2	Standard error (m)	Intercept	Slope	p -value		Location of MSL from coastline (m)		
					Intercept	Slope	Lower 95% CI	Mean	Upper 95% CI
P1	0.992	0.058	1.642	-0.015	9.81E-12	7.36E-15	90.66	105.97	123.07
P2	0.984	0.050	1.410	-0.013	9.68E-08	2.31E-10	82.34	107.39	137.33
P3	0.994	0.050	0.989	-0.013	1.95E-10	1.43E-14	64.40	76.17	89.19
P4	0.978	0.106	0.389	-0.011	2.16E-05	2.47E-16	23.31	34.96	51.74
P5	0.999	0.015	0.288	-0.010	1.33E-13	7.52E-24	26.35	29.33	32.42
P6	0.967	0.084	-0.108	-0.006	2.56E-03	4.02E-31	17.37	17.37	17.37

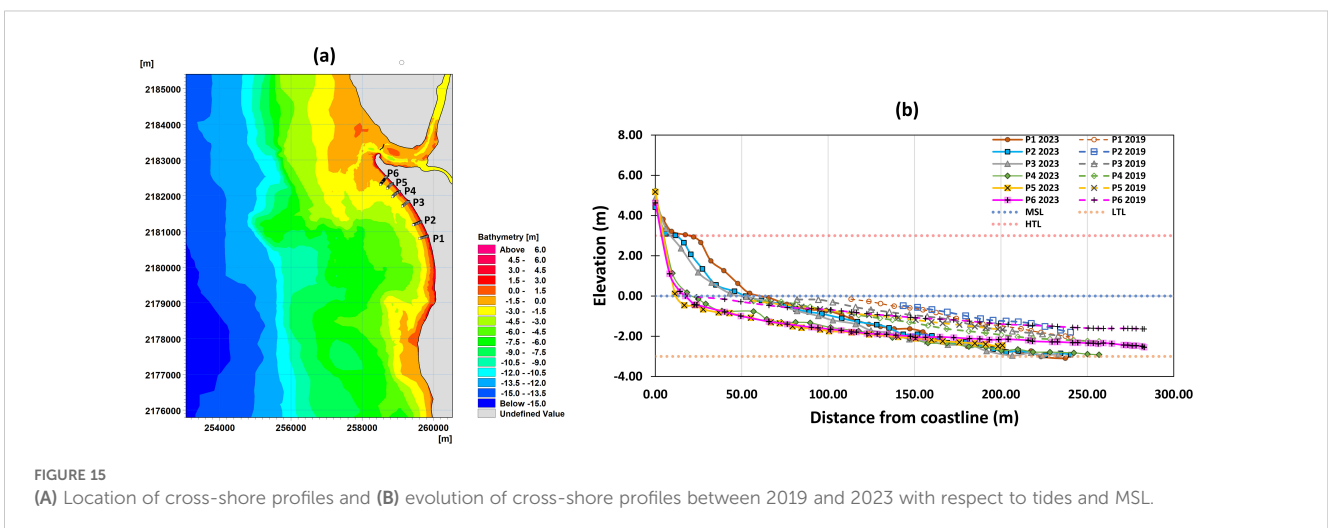


FIGURE 15 (A) Location of cross-shore profiles and (B) evolution of cross-shore profiles between 2019 and 2023 with respect to tides and MSL.

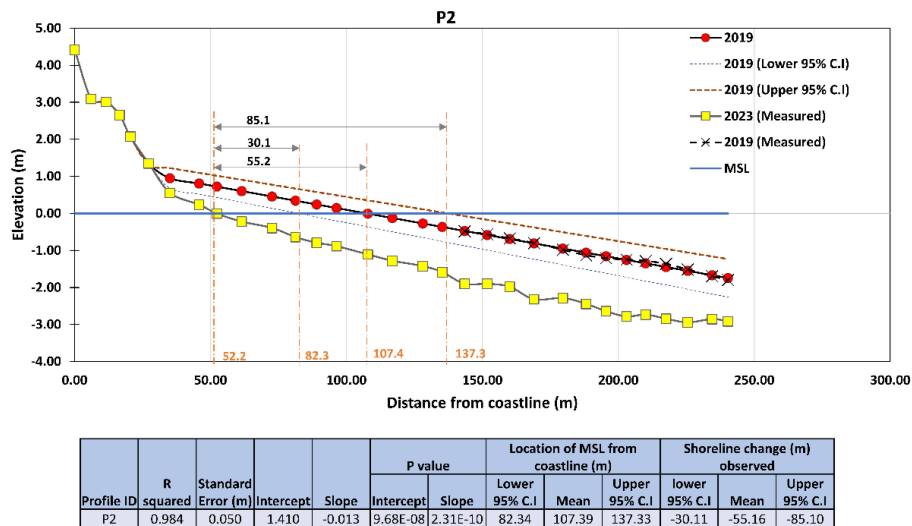


FIGURE 16 Illustration of the estimated shoreline and the uncertainty range at point 2. Summary statistics of all points are given in Table 5.

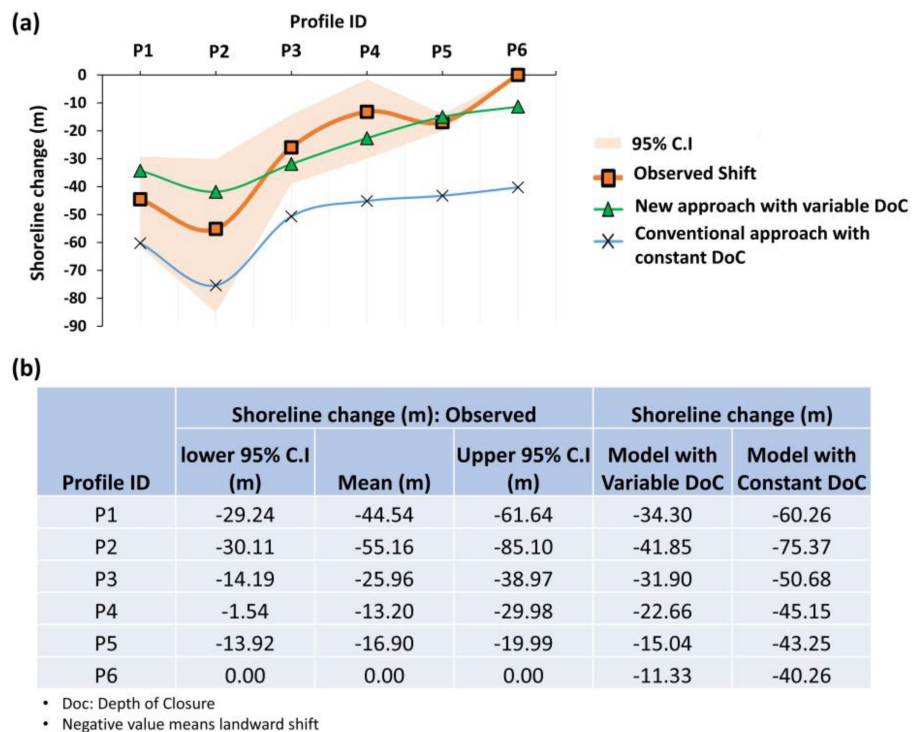


FIGURE 17 Comparison summary of the new approach (variable depth of closure) and the conventional approach (constant depth of closure); (A) graphical summary and (B) quantitative summary.

model as the near-accurate wave conditions define the depth of closure calculations for better sediment transport and shoreline prediction studies.

- The hybrid 2D/one-line modeling approach used in the present study is restricted to simple planform morphologies as tested here. This is plausibly attributed to the use of the one-line theory assumption that the active coastal profile

maintains a constant time-averaged form and vertical limits (depth of closure).

Some future research recommendations based on this study are listed below:

- Expanding model applicability to complex morphologies

While the current study's hybrid 2D/one-line shoreline model performs well for simple planform morphologies, future research should focus on extending this approach to more complex coastal settings, such as highly curved shorelines, multiple inlets, and regions with varying bathymetric features.

2. Long-term model calibration and validation

Extending the timescales of model simulations and calibrations could help in evaluating the long-term performance and stability of the hybrid 2D/one-line models. Future studies should consider long-term datasets (including changes in wave directions) to improve model robustness and applicability over decadal timescales.

3. User-friendly and computationally efficient implementations

To encourage widespread adoption by coastal managers and practitioners, future efforts should aim at creating user-friendly interfaces and reducing computational costs of hybrid models.

These recommendations aim to address current limitations while exploring new opportunities for improving the performance and applicability of hybrid shoreline evolution models in diverse coastal environments.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material. Further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Author contributions

NL: Methodology, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Data curation, Formal analysis, Software. PC: Methodology, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Project administration,

Supervision. MB: Formal analysis, Methodology, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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