Findings are based on both referenced materials and author assertions, a nice balance. For example, one option to alleviating tourism impacts is touted to be spreading the tourist season. The authors assert that the island and residents alike require respite from tourists as a “much-needed winter break.”

Recommendations emphasize enhancing the quality of life in Bermuda through raising the quality of tourists, service offered, economic diversification, and education of tourist and resident. One important recommendation is the need to enhance environmental quality for residents rather than solely for tourists, since Bermudians will not demand higher quality until their self-image is enhanced. One quibble is the lack of cross referencing between pertinent items such as the impact of riots on tourism appearing in the chapter on health. Other chapters are written in this same easy-to-read vein. As seemingly complete as this book appears, there are two important omissions: one, the book contains no chapters on Bermudian institutions and their decision-making system; two, the book’s thirty-six authors do not include business executives, worker leaders, racial leaders, military commanders, or a spectrum of politicians. The former would have related how and why people decide as they do on Bermuda’s people and environment, while the latter would have included those responsible for implementing past decisions and the present recommendations.

The authors represent concerned elites, educated for the most part in environmental sciences. Alerting people to a problem is as insufficient to resolve it as passing a law. Thus, their book does not reflect the cross-section of Bermuda residents needed to substantiate their claim to global leadership. However, thanks to this book, I look forward to watching how well Bermuda’s delicate balance is maintained and, presumably, enhanced over time. In fact, as a global participant, my appetite has awakened for my first visit to Bermuda! The question for me is how to get there without fouling their air or water, much less the cost to me.

David W. Fischer
Pensacola, Florida, USA


Afficionados of the laid-back Floridian lifestyle will appreciate this book. The volume oozes nostalgia, recalling Jimmy Buffett, boiled peanuts, white sand and condominiums. I remember my first visit to St. George’s Island, down on the Gulf of Mexico. As an innocent European, I was appalled to see acres of bare sand, neatly sub-divided into lots, all begging for development. Eventually having traversed and criss-crossed the coast from Cape Cod to Padre Island, I decided nobody cared. But they do — this book proves it. Pilkey, Pilkey, Pilkey, and Neal (sounds like a long-established law firm) have written a super book. Only the price is wrong, at $25.00 it is too cheap — suspicious coast dwellers will not believe that for such a small outlay they can have such good advice!

What’s the book about? In a nutshell it sets out to provide a guidance manual for people living on, or intending to live on the coast. It covers marine erosion, storm hazards, weatherproofing, design standards, advise on insurance, how to evacuate when the hurricane approaches, etc. I particularly liked the set questions to ask your realtor. I can just imagine lots of apoplectic developers with unsold duneland.

The book is well-written, has plenty of pictures, diagrams, information (tables, addresses), a bibliography, glossary, and index. The text includes a number of thought-provoking examples. Altogether a really useful book. An excellent investment for beach bums, nautical wheelers, condo-owners, and everyone interested in relaxed coastal living.

R.W.G. Carter
Ulster, Northern Ireland


This multi-author book forms part of a series which ‘aims to identify environments of international ecological importance, to summarize the present knowledge of the flora and fauna, to relate this to recent environmental changes and to suggest, where possible, effective management and conservation strategies for the future’ (Treherne). The Galapagos are widely recognized as of prime importance to biologists, partly because of the historical association with Charles Darwin and partly because the peculiar flora and fauna has survived the arrival of man better than those of many other oceanic islands. The story would have been very different if the islands had had more potential for