Methods of coastal protection

	Method	Description	Cost - H/L	Advantages	Disadvantages
HARD ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES*	Groynes	Groynes are fences made from large wooden or concrete posts. They trap the sand and stop the beach being washed away.			
	Revetments	These are wooden posts with slats of wood or concrete laid on top of the beach to stop the sand being eroded.			
	Sea Walls	Rounded wall with a 'lip' at the top. This breaks up the waves energy and stops them going over the top in a storm.			
	Gabion	These are metal cages filled with rocks. They are stacked together to make a wall to protect the coast.			
	Rip Rap – Rock Armour	Concrete blocks which absorb the power of the waves.			

SOFT ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES**	Beach Nourishment	Sometimes it is necessary to replace the sand and shingle that has been lost by the action of the sea. Lorries are used to transport material dredged up from the sea bed to the beach.		
	Sand dune stabilization	Grasses are planted in the sand dunes to bind them together, holding them in place.		

^{*} Hard engineering – Controlled disruption of natural processes by using man-made structures

^{**} Soft engineering – Use of ecological principles to reduce erosion and stabilize the environment