

The Shifting Sands Through Time

This catchy title may seem at first an error, with the word “Through” an awkward substitute for the well known cliché with the word “Of” but actually, this is exactly what this series of pictures describes: the shifting sands on the beach front around a fisherman’s “langkaw” or hut (this is just a small roofed platform where they rest) over a period of almost three years.

I found making this photo series irresistible when I arrived the other week after an absence of 2 months and found that the Monsoon winds and waves, the “Amihan”, had carved the shoreline (again) into a different configuration, with the lagoon in front of our nipa rest house totally filled up with sand, and the two sandbars further out from shore totally eroded. But most amazingly, the mouth of the creek nearby was now closed, and a new outlet had been created further north along the shore. Perhaps one day we’ll awaken to find out that our rest house is also gone.

So I dug up photos of this hut to document the changes. For those who have visited us, this should look familiar, and interesting. The first two photos show the fence of our property.



1) Jun 1, 2005 - note far sand bar



2) Aug 18, 2005 - no more bar



3) Aug 18, 2005 - view from sea



4) Aug 18, 2005 – high tide



5) Feb 6, 2006 - almost buried



6) Apr 8, 2006 - high tide, no sand



7) Apr 9, 2006 - low tide



8) Sep 30, 2006 - floor is chest high



9) Feb 16, 2007 - almost buried again



10) May 18, 2007 - high tide



11) May 24, 2007 - low tide



12) Feb 15, 2008 - rip tide, all gone