# COASTAL OBSERVATION PROGRAMME - ENGINEERING (COPE) MISSION BEACH - JOHNSTONE SHIRE

For the Years 1976 to 1979

All reasonable care and attention has been exercised in the collection, processing and compilation of the COPE data included in this report. However the accuracy and reliability of this information is not guaranteed in any way by the Beach Protection Authority and the Authority accepts no responsibility for the use of this information in any way whatsoever.

#### **DOCUMENTATION PAGE**

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#### ABSTRACT:

This report provides a summary of primary analyses of COPE data on wind, wave and beach processes observed at Mission Beach in the Johnstone Shire in northern Queensland. The data were recorded by volunteer observer Mr. Eric Bull, assisted by Miss Cheryl Bull, during the period April 1976 to May 1979. The recordings were made daily during the three year period and the information published is considered representative and reliable.

#### OTHERS AVAILABLE IN THIS SERIES:

Coastal Observation Program - Engineering (COPE), Machans Beach - Mulgrave Shire, (Report C 01.1).

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Coastal Observation Program - Engineering (COPE), Flying Fish Point - Johnstone Shire, (Report C 03.1).

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Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Cardwell - Cardwell Shire, (Report C 09.1).

Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Surfers Paradise - City of Gold Coast (Report C 10.1).

#### REFERENCES:

1. ROBINSON D.A. and JONES C.M.

Queensland Volunteer Coastal Observation Program - Engineering (COPE). 3rd Australian Conference on Coastal and Ocean Engineering, Melbourne, April 1979.

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Programme

The Beach Protection Authority requires basic data on the behaviour of Queensland's beaches in order to provide well founded advice on coastal management to local Authorities. The COPE project aims to collect information on wind, waves and beach behaviour in areas where extensive investigations are not practical and where otherwise little or no data exist.

The project is based on the recruitment of volunteer observers who are prepared to record a series of basic parameters once or twice daily for at least a three year period.

#### 1.2 Site Selection

In selecting a site for a COPE station, consideration is given to:-

- (a) the general shoreline configuration and the possibility of extrapolation of data to other adjacent beaches;
- (b) the distribution of stations along Queensland's coastline;
- (c) the need to correlate the COPE data with planned or existing data collection programmes.

#### 1.3 Instrumentation

Each COPE observer is supplied with a basic kit of recording instruments including:-

- 30 metre Tape
- Wind Meter
- Abney Level
- 1.5 metre Sighting Support
- Recording Forms
- Fluorescent Dye.

A graduated reference pole is installed on the beach to serve as the base point for all plan measurements and the control for vertical levelling.

#### 1.4. Observers

The majority of COPE observers are volunteers who may be local business people, local residents or school children. Some stations are manned by Government employees who carry out the observations as part of their official duties.

#### 1.5 Accuracy

Individual observers differ in their subjective assessment of the various parameters recorded as part of the COPE programme. Wave parameters such as type, height, and angle of approach together with surf zone width and the location of the vegetation line all require visual assessment, the accuracy of which will vary from observer to observer and from recording to recording.

Although the Authority is confident that all observers make their observations to the best of their ability and accepts these observations without adjustment, the existence of random and non - random errors in the recorded data is to be expected.

Problems associated with the use of data containing these errors are minimised in two ways. Firstly, regular visits are made to the COPE stations by the Authority's COPE Field Officer to provide a check on any bias introduced into the recordings by incorrect observation procedures. Secondly, it has been found that, with a large number of observations taken on a regular basis, a reasonable assessment can be made of the average climatologies of the observed parameters provided the observation errors are random. A minimum recording period of three years has been adopted for the analysis and publication of the data. Five day moving averages are applied to observations of the various beach width and foreshore slope parameters to smooth out random errors.

For these reasons, the Authority is of the opinion that published COPE data can be used with confidence provided the above inherent limitations are recognised.

#### 1.6 Presentation of Data

The purpose of this report is to present COPE data for the three year period 1976 to 1979 in a useful statistical form. No attempt has been made to interpret the observed data.

If this three year period is representative of the long term average meteorological conditions, the wind, wave and beach movement climatologies presented can be regarded as typical. However, this recording period is too short to be representative in terms of the average occurrence of extreme events such as cyclones and floods, and this should be taken into account when consideration is being given to the influence of such events on trends of long term beach behaviour.

#### 2.0 STATION PARTICULARS

#### 2.1 Location

Mission Beach is located within the Johnstone Shire and is 44 kilometres north of Cardwell on the northern Queensland coast. It is a 12 kilometre stretch of the coastline between Clump Point and Tam O'Shanter Point and lies in the lee of Dunk Island. The small settlement of Mission Beach is immediately adjacent to the COPE station. The location of the Mission Beach COPE station is shown in Figure 1.

#### 2.2 Observers

This station has been manned by Mr. Eric Bull, assisted by Miss Cheryl Bull, during the period April 1976 to May 1979. Mr. Bull and Miss Bull are residents of Mission Beach.

#### 2.3 Observed Parameters

The observers at this station recorded at 7.30 a.m. daily during the three year period 1976 to 1979.

#### This station has recorded:

- Wave Period
- Wave Height
- Wave Angle
- Wave Type
- Surf Zone Width
- Presence of Offshore Bar
- Wind Speed
- Wind Direction
- State of Tide
- Distance to Fixed Contour
- Distance to Vegetation
- Foreshore Slope
- Longshore Current Speed
- Longshore Current Direction

In addition, a sand sample was collected at the station each month and since December 1976 a profile of the beach has usually been recorded monthly also.

#### 2.4 Tidal Information

Tidal information for this station as presented below is essentially the same as that for Dunk Island, Datum is Low Water Datum.

M.H.W.S.: 3.0 metres M.H.W.N.: 2.3 metres M.S.L.: 2.01 metres M.L.W.S.: 1.0 metres M.L.W.N.: 1.8 metres

#### 2.5 Description of the Beach

The beach at the Mission Beach station exhibits the following characteristics:-

- Typical beach slopes: foreshore slope 1 in 30 (2°).
- Beach width: typical 20 to 45 metres from vegetation line.
- D50 sand size: 0.21 mm averaged over three years.
- Adjoining Landform: low frontal beach ridge, which is backed by relatively flat hind ridges.
- Vegetation: Beach spinifex (Spinifex hirsutus) open-grassland occurs on the seaward slope of the frontal beach ridge. Beach bean (Canavalia rosea) is also present. Horsetail She-oak (Casuarina equisetifolia var. incana) low closed-forest occurs on the crest and landward slope. Coconut palms (Cocus nucifera) are also present. The hind ridges support rain forest vegetation.

#### 2.6 Supervision of Station

The observers were instructed in the recording program by the COPE Field Officer and the initial instruction period was followed up with visits to the station during the period of recordings presented in this report.

Installation and maintenance of the reference pole for this station has been carried out by the Johnstone Shire Council, and the Authority wishes to thank the Council for its assistance in all matters associated with the COPE project.

#### 3.0 DATA

#### 3.1 General

COPE data for this station for the three year period April 1976 to May 1979 are presented on the attached figures. The data have been analysed statistically and/or smoothed to reveal long term averages or trends. A brief description of each of the observed parameters is given below with the relevant figure references.

#### 3,2 Wind

The observers recorded the wind speed at the beach using a hand held wind meter at 1.5 metres above beach level. Wind direction is estimated to the nearest compass sector.

A summary of annual wind speed and direction percentage occurences are shown as a wind rose in Figure 2. Where applicable, morning and afternoon readings as well as the overall average are shown.

#### 3.3 Waves

The average breaker height (trough to crest) is usually estimated to the nearest 0.1 metre. From experience this estimate has been found to be comparable with the equivalent deep water significant wave height.

The observer estimates the wave period by recording the time taken for eleven wave crests (the duration of 10 waves) to pass a point.

The wave direction is estimated as one of five direction sectors indicating the angle to the shoreline alignment from which the waves are approaching the beach. These sectors have been selected as:-

Sector 1 - 0° to 60° Sector 2 - 60° to 85° Sector 3 - 85° to 95° Sector 4 - 95° to 120° Sector 5 - 120° to 180°

Note: 0° is the beach alignment to the left of the observer when facing seaward.

Statistical representations of the observed wave data include:-

the percentage of wave height recordings which exceed any given wave height for all directions combined (Figure 3).

- (b) the percentage occurrence of various combinations of wave heights and periods and directions (Figure 4 and Figure 5).
- (c) surf zone width with an indication of the existence or otherwise of an offshore bar in Figures 6 to 9.
- (d) tabulation of the occurrence of various wave heights, periods, types and directions (Tables 1 to 4).

#### 3.4 Longshore Currents

The observer measured the distance parallel to the shoreline that a dye patch in the surf zone moved in one minute. Current direction is either upcoast or downcoast, upcoast being to the left when facing the sea from the beach.

The readings are converted to a velocity which is plotted on a daily basis (Figure 10 to Figure 13). Mean upcoast and downcoast components and the overall annual means are also presented.

#### 3.5 Beach Profile Parameters

Beach profile parameters were measured using an Abney level, tape measure and reference pole. These include:

- distance from the reference pole to the 1.5 metre, relative to A.H.D., fixed contour level
- distance from reference pole to the vegetation line (usually front face of foredune).
- the foreshore slope.

Changes in these parameters with time indicate how the beach moves in response to varying wave attack. Plots of these parameters are shown in Figures 14 to 17.

#### 3.6 Monthly Beach Profiles

Beach profiles are normally taken at the beginning of each month. However should the beach undergo appreciable erosion or accretion during the month, then the observer is requested to take another beach profile. Monthly beach profiles are shown in Figure 18.

TABLE 1.

# MEAN WAVE HEIGHT /MEAN WAVE PERIOD AND WAVE TYPE / WAVE DIRECTION OCCURRENCES

MISSION BEACH

YEAR 1976.

	MEAN	MEAN	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction												
MONTH	PERIOD (Secs)	WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)		Wave	Туре			l	Wave Direction						
	(3003)	(vase(16\$)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Çalm		
JANUARY			_												
FEBRUARY															
MARCH															
APRIL	5.2	0.58	18.5	-	-	70.4	11.1		- 1	88.9	-	-	11.		
MAY	5.1	0.55	3.2	.		80.6	16.1		l - 1	83.9	-	] - ]	16.1		
JUNE	5.2	0.45	3.3	-	-	73,3	23.3			<b>76</b> .7	-	-	23.3		
JULY	4.8	0.57	36.7	.	-	50.0	13.3	-		86.7	-		13.		
AUGUST	5.2	0.21	30.0	-	-	26.7	43.3	-	-	56.7	-	-	43.3		
SEPTEMBER	5.3	0.06	3.3	-		10.0	86.7		] .	13.3	-	- 1	86.		
OCTOBER	4.1	0,13	3.3	. }		16.7	80.0	-	-	20.0			80.0		
NOVEMBER	4.4	0.04	3.3	.	-	6.7	90.0	-		10.0	-	-	90.0		
DECEMBER	3.7	0.12	9,7	-	-	16.1	74.2	-		25.8	-	-	74.		
WHOLE YEAR	4.9	0.30	12.2	0.0	0.0	38.7	49.1	0.0	0.0	50.9	0.0	0.0	49.		

SP - Spilling

PL — Plunging

TABLE 2.

### MEAN WAVE HEIGHT /MEAN WAVE PERIOD AND WAVE TYPE / WAVE DIRECTION OCCURRENCES

MISSION BEACH

YEAR 1977,

	MEAN	MEAN WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction												
монтн	WAVE PERIOD (Secs)		Wave Type						Wave Direction						
	(Secs)		SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm		
JANUARY	4.2	0,21	12.9	-	3.2	29.0	54.8	-	-	41.9	3.3	-	54.8		
FEBRUARY	4.8	0.43	17.9	-	-	50.0	32.1	-	-	67.9	-	-	32.1		
MARCH	4.4	0.11	6.5	•	-	12.9	80.6	] -		19.4	-	١.	80.6		
APRIL	4.4	0.53	13.3		-	86.7		.	-	100.0	-	-			
MAY	4.5	0.24	13.8		-	37.9	48.3		3.4	48.3		-	48.3		
JUNE	4.6	0.31	13.3	-	-	45.4	41.3	1 - 1	-	44.8	13.8	- '	41.3		
JULY	4,3	0.38	13.3	•	- !	56.7	30.0	-	-	56.7	13.3	-	30.0		
AUGUST	4.3	0.37	9.7	•	-	51.6	38.7		-	54.8	3.2	3.3	38.7		
SEPTEMBER	3.7	0.28	3.3	6.7	3.3	50.0	36.7	1 .	- '	60.0	3.3	-	36.7		
OCTOBER	3.7	0.28	25.8		-	45.2	29.0		3.2	64.6	3.2	- !	29.0		
NOVEMBER	4.5	0.08	3.4	•		10.3	86.2	. !	-	13.8			86.2		
DECEMBER	4.1	0.15	3.2	-	-	22.6	74.2	-	-	25.8	-		74.2		
WHOLE YEAR	4,3	0.28	11.1	0.6	0.6	41.6	46.1	0.0	1.1	49.2	3,3	0.3	46.1		

SP - Spilling

PL — Plunging

TABLE 3.

# MEAN WAVE HEIGHT /MEAN WAVE PERIOD AND WAVE TYPE / WAVE DIRECTION OCCURRENCES

MISSION BEACH

YEAR 1978.

	MEAN	MEAN	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction											
MONTH	PERIOD (Secs)	WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)	· ·	Wave	Туре			Wave Direction						
	(0000)	(tate n ga)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm	
JANUARY	4.5	0.17	6.5	-	-	35,5	58.1			41.9	-	-	58.1	
FEBRUARY	3.8	0,30	14.3	-	3.6	39.3	42.9	-		53.6	3.5	_	42.9	
MARCH	4.1	0.37	16.1		-	45.2	38.7	} .		61.3	) -	) .	38.3	
APRIL	4.0	0.28	16.7	.		43.3	40.0		-	60.0	.		40.0	
MAY	4.2	0.33	6.5	.	-	48.4	45.2		3.2	51.6	-	-	45.3	
JUNE	4.2	0.13	3.4	-	-	23,3	73.3	_	-	26.7	-		73.3	
JULY	4.3	0,15	12,9			22.6	64.5		-	25.5	9.9	-	64.6	
AUGUST	3.9	0.23	22.6	3.2	3.2	25.8	45.2		3.2	45.2	6.4		45.2	
SEPTEMBER	3.3	0.11	26.7	-	-	13.3	60.0	-	30.0	10.0	j .		60.0	
OCTOBER	3.9	0.32	6.5		3.2	45.2	45.2	-	9.6	45.2		-	45.2	
NOVEMBER	4.1	0.23	6.7			40.0	53.3			43.4	3.3		53.3	
DECEMBER	3.7	0.14	3.2	-	-	25.8	71.0	-	12.9	16.1		-	71.0	
WHOLE YEAR	4.0	0.23	11.8	0.3	0.8	33.9	53.2	0.0	4.9	40.0	1.9	0.0	53.:	

SP — Spilling

PL - Plunging

TABLE 4.

# MEAN WAVE HEIGHT /MEAN WAVE PERIOD AND WAVE TYPE / WAVE DIRECTION OCCURRENCES

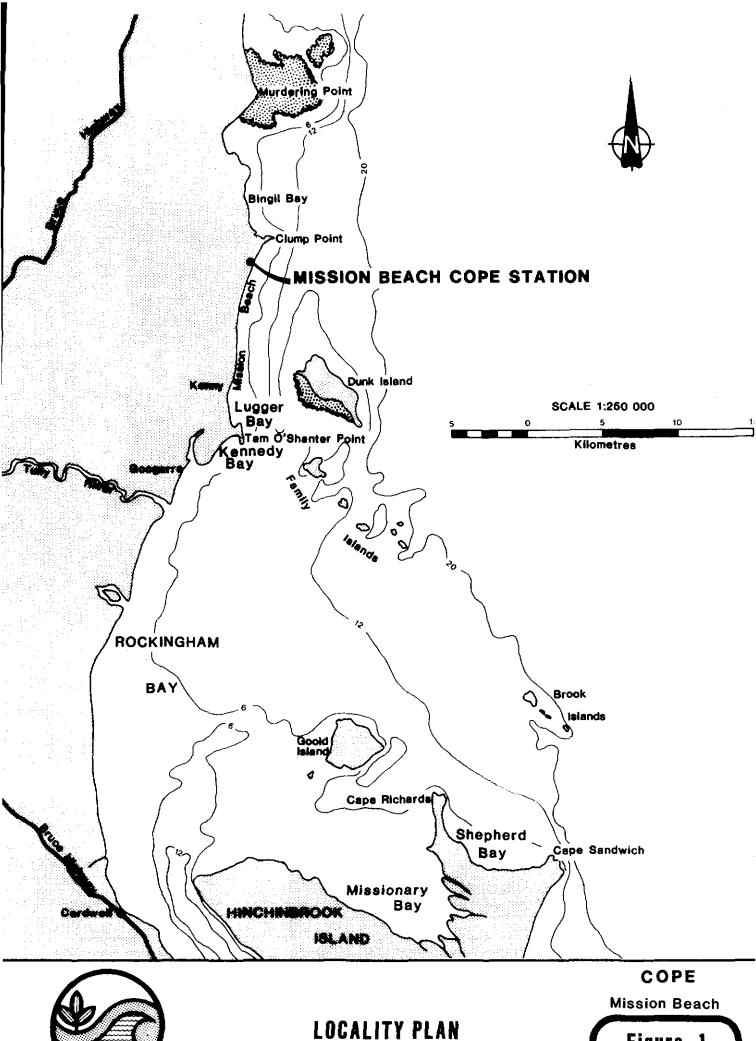
MISSION BEACH

YEAR 1979.

	MEAN WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	MEAN	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction												
MONTH		WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)	Wave Type						Wave Direction						
		(Mietres)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm		
JANUARY	3.9	0.47	3.2	3.2	3.2	51.6	38.7		9.7	51.6	-		38.7		
FEBRUARY	3.8	0.29	7,1	-		35.7	57.1		3.6	39.3	-	-	57.1		
MARCH	3.7	0.18	3.2			22.6	74.2	-		25.8		-	74.2		
APRIL	4.0	0.16	6.7			20.0	73.3	-	6.7	20.0	-	-	73.3		
MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER	3.6	0.35	16.1	-	-	51.6	32.3		3.2	64.5	-	-	32.3		
WHOLE YEAR	3.8	0.29	7.3	0.7	0.7	36.3	55.0	0.0	4.6	40.4	0.0	0.0	55.0		

SP - Spilling

PL -- Plunging



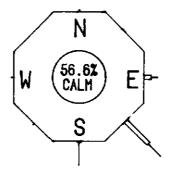
Beach Protection Authority

Figure C 11.1

MISSION BEACH

2801

#### **ALL OBSERVATIONS**

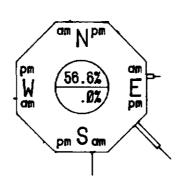


Total No. of Observations: 1113

#### MORNING - AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS

NOTES :

Figures in Central Circle Represent Percentage of CALM Observations. Upper Figure for AM Lower Figure for PM



**LEGEND** 

No. of Morning Observations: 1113 No. of Afternoon Observations: 0

38 kts -38 kts F5 kts F5 kts

Mean Time :- Morning Obs : 9730 hrs

SCALE 0 10 20 30 40 50 Percentage

WIND DATA - APR 1976 to APR 1979



WIND DATA

COPE
Mission Beach

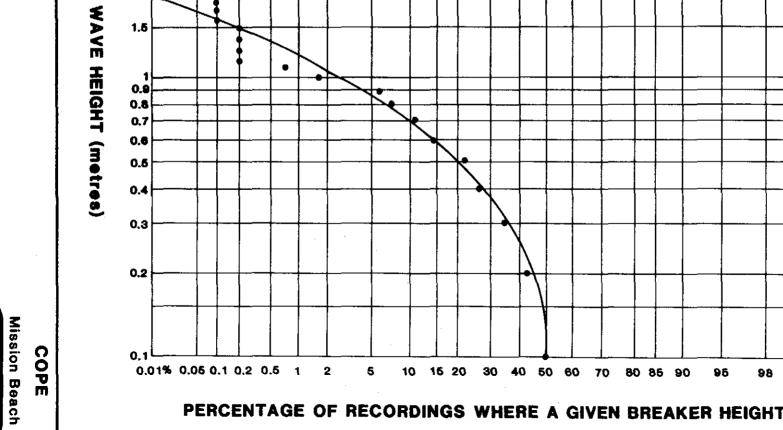
Figure **2** 0 11.1



# WAVE HEIGHT % EXCEEDANCE

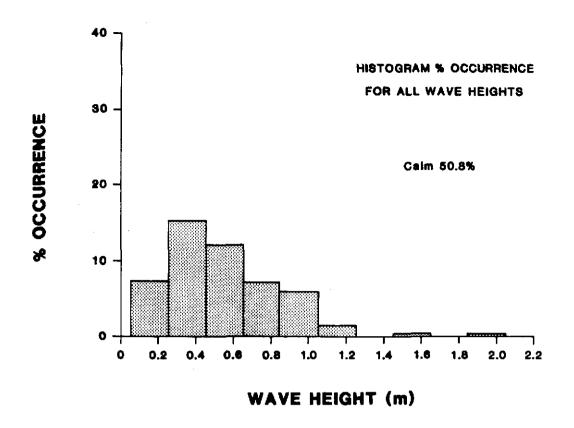


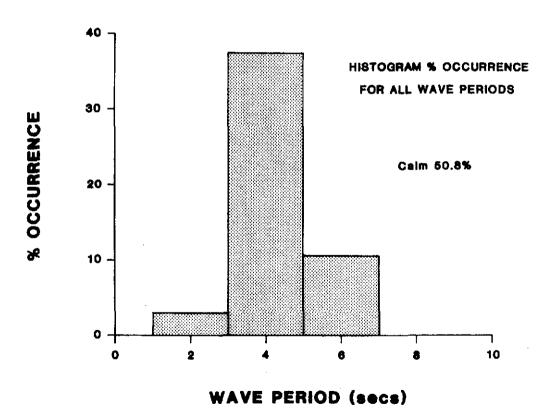
BREAKING



COASTAL OBSERVATION PROGRAMME ENGINEERING Station: Mission Beach Recording Period: Apr 1976-May 1979 No. of Recordings: 1115 2.5 98 99 99.5 99.8 99.9 99.95 99.99

PERCENTAGE OF RECORDINGS WHERE A GIVEN BREAKER HEIGHT IS EXCEEDED

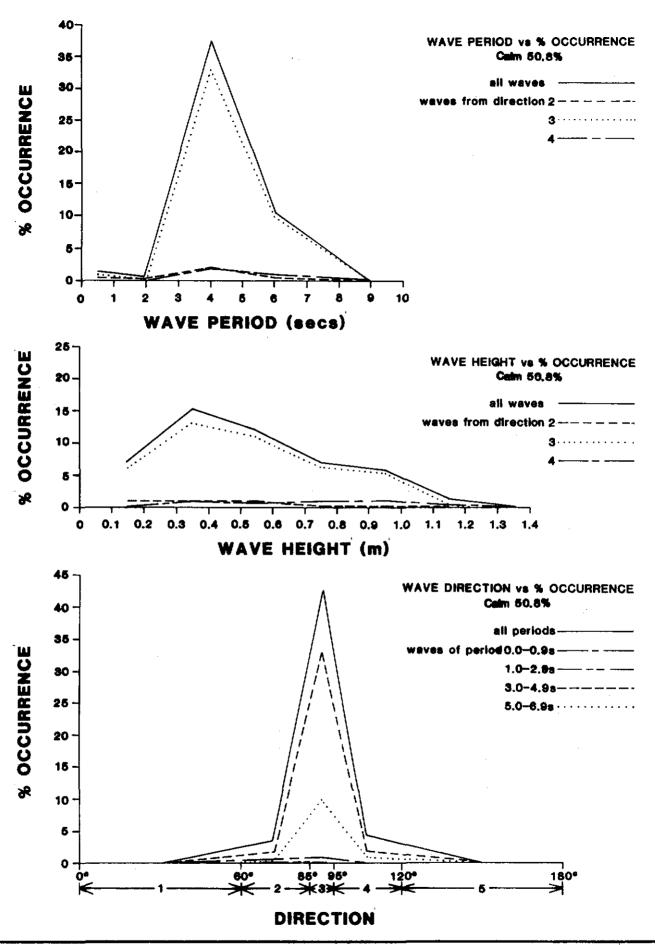






WAVE HEIGHT AND PERIOD % OCCURRENCE
ALL DATA

COPE
Mission Beach
Figure 4
C 11.1





WAVE DIRECTION ANALYSIS
ALL DATA

COPE

Mission Beach

Figure 5

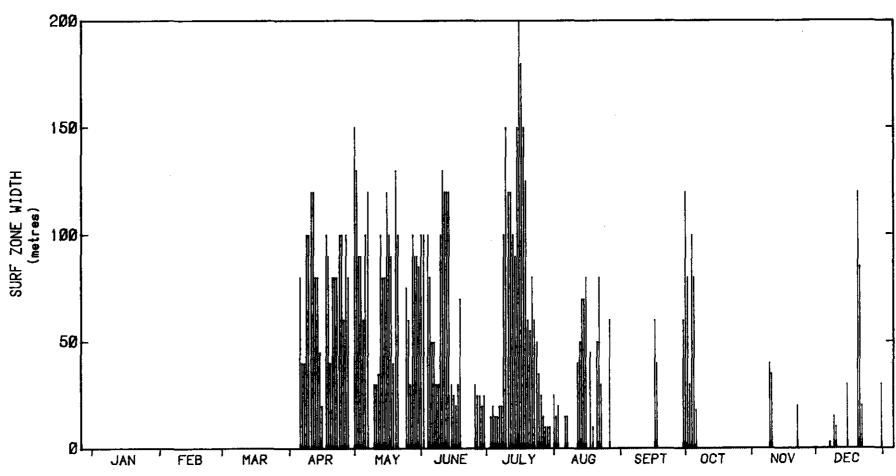
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JOHNSTONE SHIRE

28Ø1



SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1976

No. of Observations: 268

MORNING OBSERVATIONS

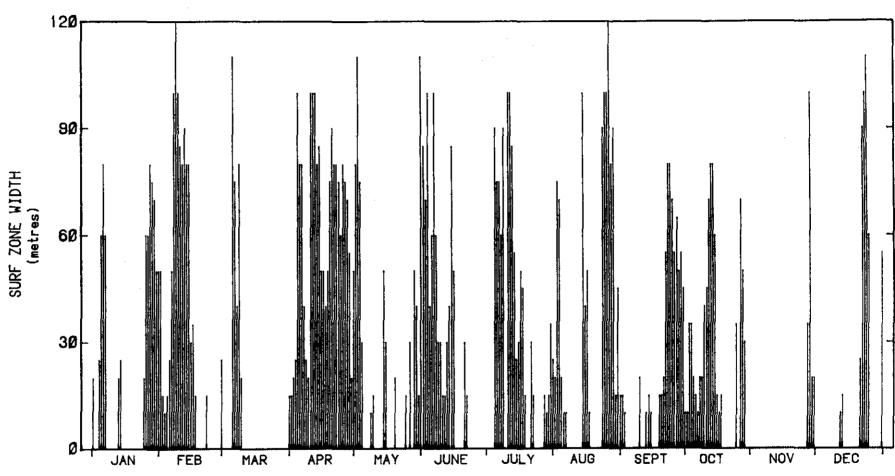
Mean Surf Zone Width = 33.7 m



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SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY -1977

No. of Observations: 361

MORNING OBSERVATIONS

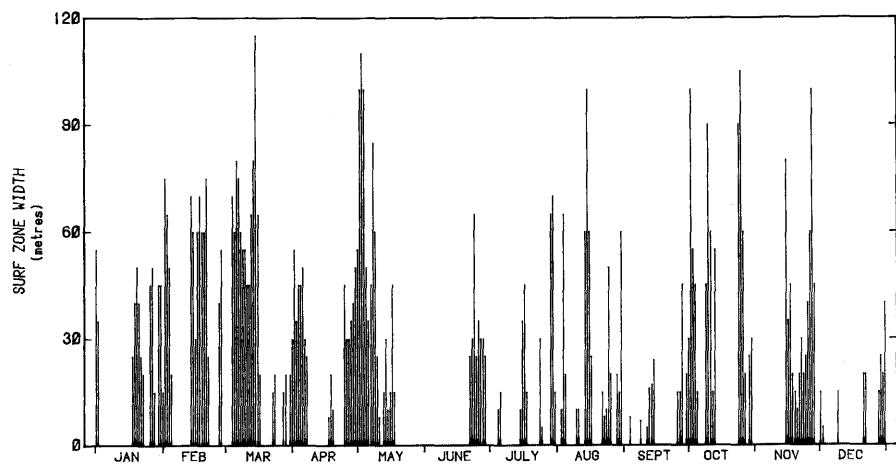
Mean Surf Zone Width = 27.0 m



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2901



SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1978

No. of Observations: 365

MORNING OBSERVATIONS

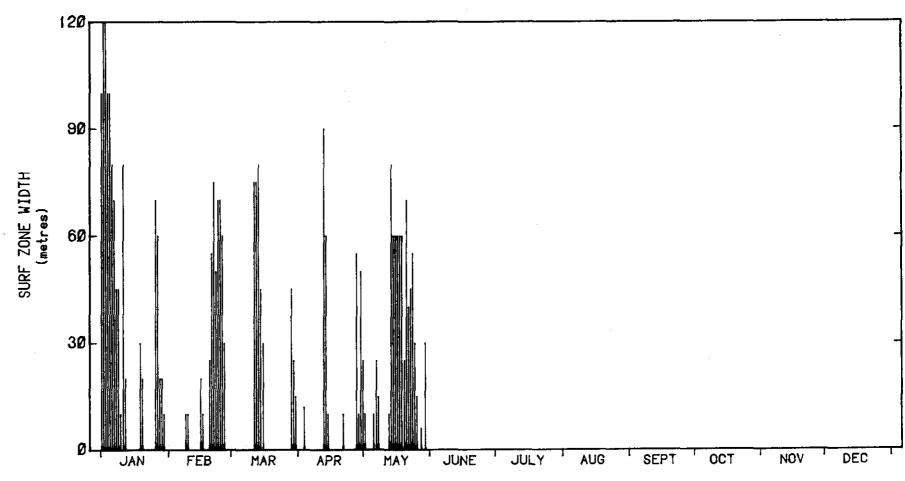
Mean Surf Zone Width = 18.0 m



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SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1979

No. of Observations: 151

MORNING OBSERVATIONS

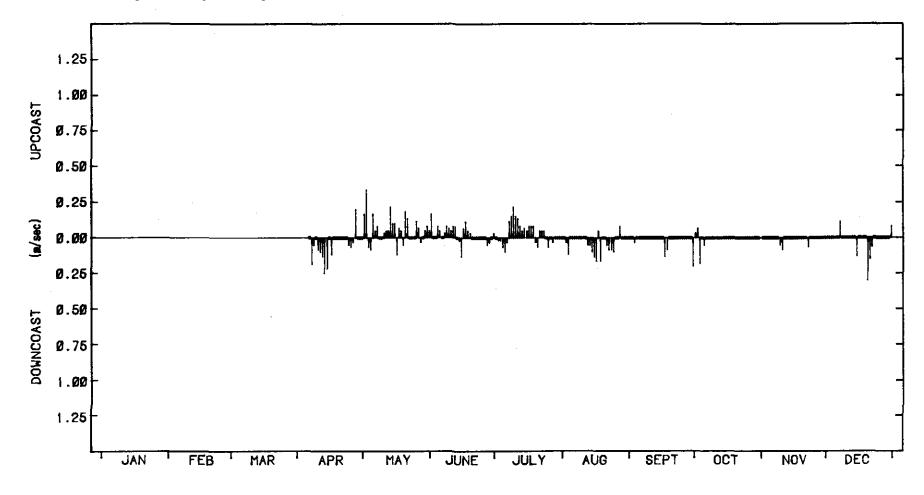
Mean Surf Zone Width = 20.4 m



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MISSION BEACH

2801



LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1976

Mean Vel = 0.001 m/sec (up)

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.093 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.092 m/sec

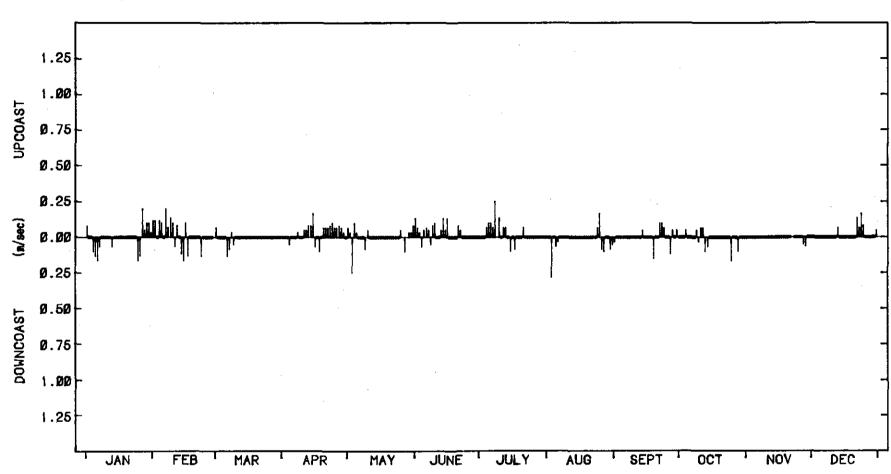
MORNING OBSERVATIONS - (269 recordings)



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LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1977

Mean Vel = 0.007 m/sec (up)

Mean Upcoast Vel = Ø.082 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.101

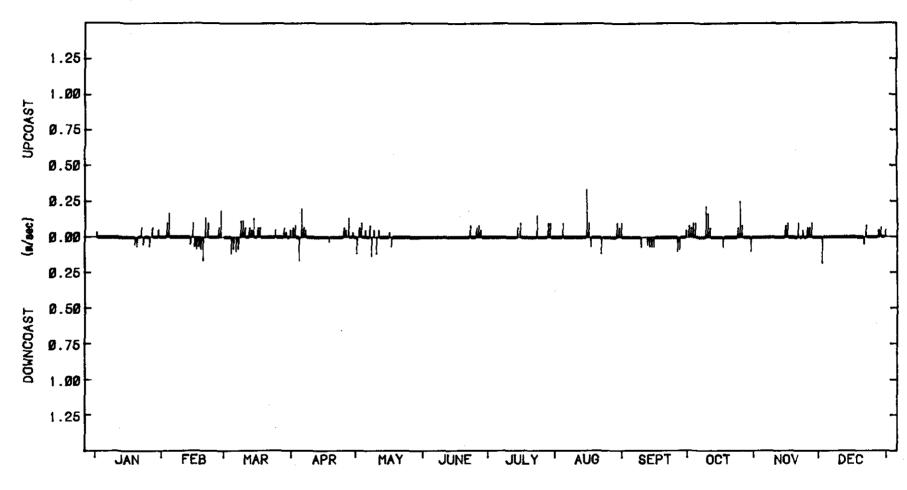
MORNING OBSERVATIONS - (361 recordings)



COPE - Coastal Observation Programme Engineering



28Ø1



LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1978

Mean Vel = 0.011 m/sec (up) Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.089 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.081 m/sec

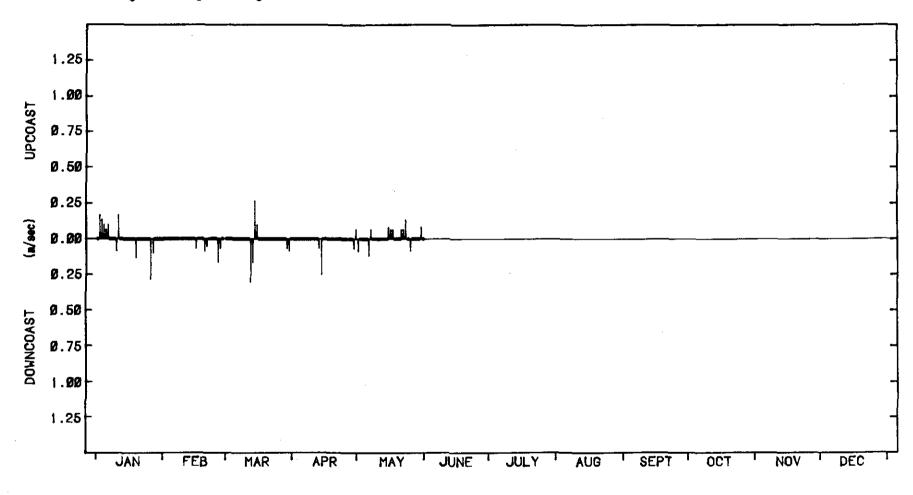
MORNING OBSERVATIONS - (365 recordings)



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MISSION BEACH

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LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1979

m/sec (down) Mean Vel = -.003

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.106 m/sec

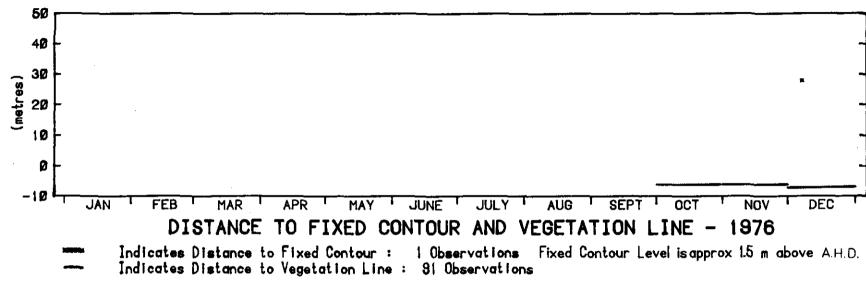
Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.122 m/sec

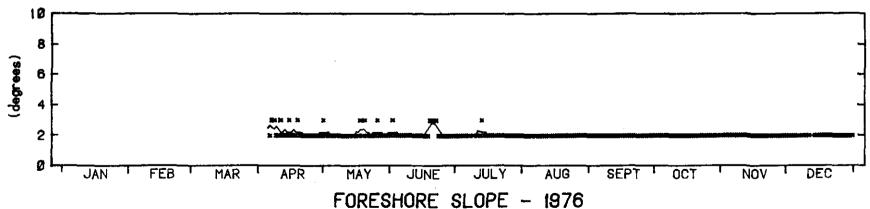
MORNING OBSERVATIONS - (151 recordings)

COPE - Coastal Observation Programme Engineering



2891





Five Day Moving Average

No. of Observations: 258

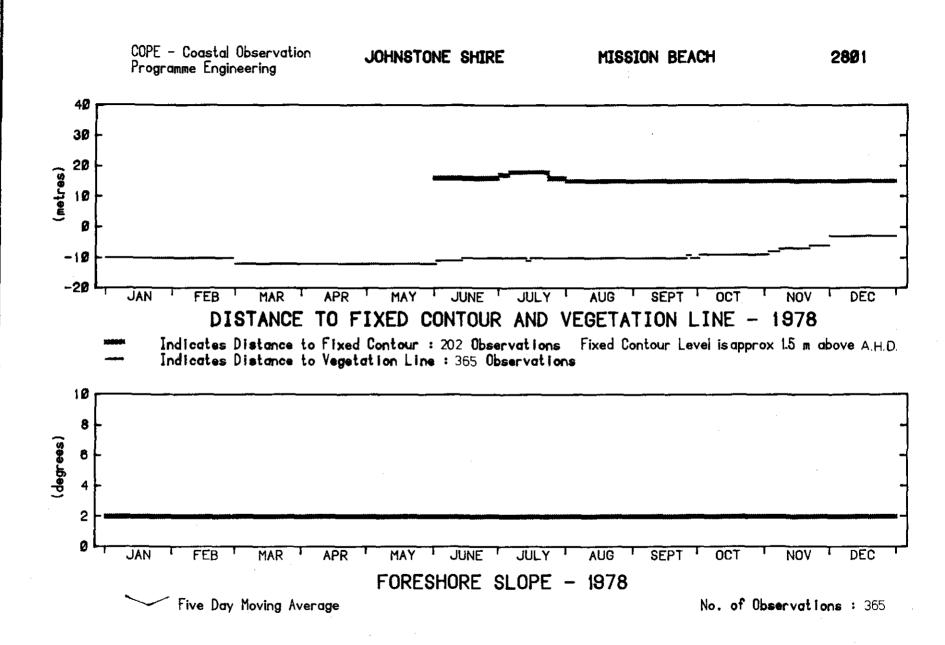
COPE



COPE - Coastal Observation JOHNSTONE SHIRE 2801 MISSION BEACH Programme Engineering 30 20 (metres) 10 -10 -2Ø FEB MAR APR JUNE DEC DISTANCE TO FIXED CONTOUR AND VEGETATION LINE - 1977 Indicates Distance to Fixed Contour: 31 Observations Fixed Contour Level is approx 1.5 m above A.H.D. Indicates Distance to Vegetation Line: 351 Observations 10 (degrees) FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE SEPT T DEC AUG OCT NOV FORESHORE SLOPE - 1977 Five Day Moving Average No. of Observations: 349

COPE

COPE



COPE



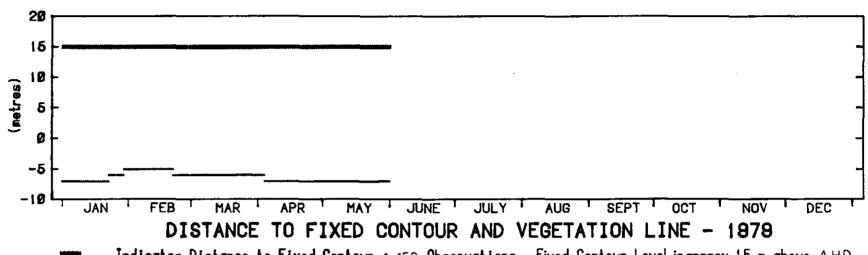
COPE - Coastal Observation Programme Engineering

-U -

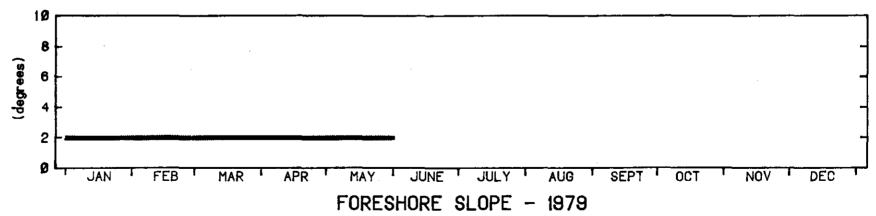
JOHNSTONE SHIRE

MISSION BEACH

2801

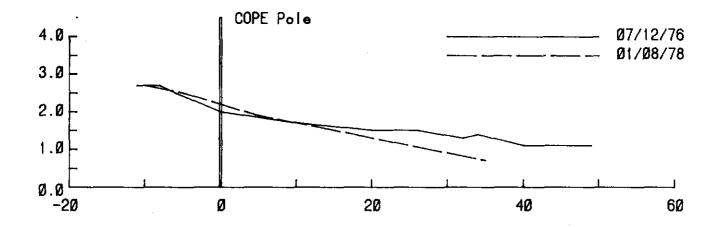


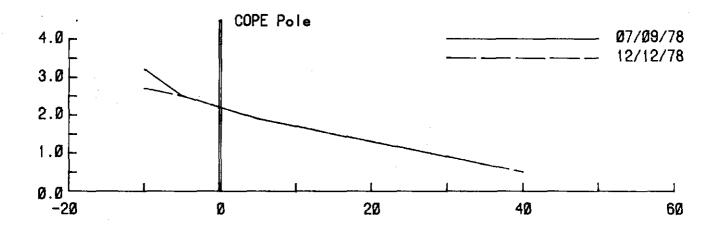
Indicates Distance to Fixed Contour: 150 Observations Fixed Contour Level is approx 1.5 m above A.H.D. Indicates Distance to Vegetation Line: 150 Observations

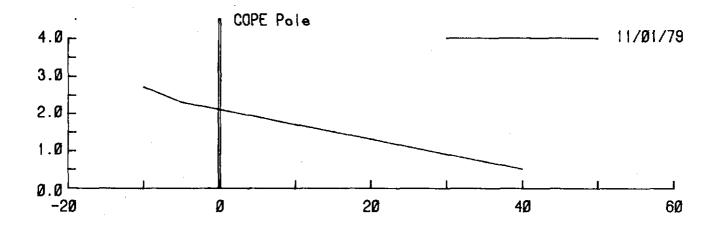


Five Day Moving Average

No. of Observations: 150







Level Datum is A.H.D.

Distances and Levels are measured in Metres



MONTHLY BEACH PROFILES

1976-1979

COPE
Mission Beach
Figure 18
C 11.1