## COASTAL OBSERVATION PROGRAMME - ENGINEERING (COPE)

#### NOOSA BEACH - NOOSA SHIRE

For the Years 1977 to 1980

Beach Protection Authority November 1984 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.

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#### ABSTRACT:

This report provides a summary of primary analyses of COPE data on wind, wave and beach processes observed at Noosa Beach in Noosa Shire in southern Queensland. The data were recorded by volunteer observers Mr. Barry Admans, Mr. Val Smart, Mr. Noel Westaway, Mr. Alf Weimann and Mr. Gerry Helton, during the period November 1977 to December 1980. 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).

Coastal Observation Program - Engineering (COPE), Baffle Creek - Miriam Vale Shire, (Report C 02.1).

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

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Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Shelly Beach - Landsborough Shire, (Report C 05.1).

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Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Lammermoor Beach - Livingstone Shire, (Report C 07.1).

Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Noah Creek - Douglas Shire, (Report C 08.1).

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

Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Mission Beach - Johnstone Shire. (Report C 11.1).

Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Urangan - Town of Hervey Bay, (Report C 12.1).

## **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 1977 to 1980 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

The Noosa Beach COPE Station is adjacent to the town of Noosa which is located approximately 120 kilometres north of Brisbane. Noosa Beach forms part of the coastline of Laguna Bay, between the Noosa River mouth in the north and the rocky headland of Noosa Head in the south. The location of the Noosa Beach COPE Station is shown in Figure 1.

#### 2.2 Observers

This station has been manned by Mr. Barry Admans, Mr. Val Smart, Mr. Noel Westaway, Mr. Alf Weimann and Mr. Gerry Helton during the period November 1977 to December 1980. All observers are or have been local residents.

#### 2.3 Observed Parameters

The observers at this station recorded at either 9.30 a.m. or 4.00 p.m. daily from November 1977 to December 1980.

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 Berm
- Berm Elevation
- Distance to Vegetation
- Foreshore Slope
- Longshore Current Speed
- Longshore Current Direction

In addition, a sand sample was collected at the station each month from February 1978 and since October 1978 a beach profile has usually been recorded monthly also.

#### 2.4 Tidal Information

Tidal information for this station is presented below. Datum is Low Water Datum.

M.H.W.S.: 1.7 metres M.H.W.N.: 1.4 metres M.S.L. : 0.94 metres M.L.W.S.: 0.2 metres M.L.W.N.: 0.5 metres.

#### 2.5 Description of the Beach

The beach at the Noosa beach COPE station has had extensive development along the foredune thus necessitating in the construction of a boulder wall. It exhibits the following charcteristics:-

- Typical beach slopes: foreshore slope is in the range 1 in 10 to 1 in 15  $(4^{\circ} 6^{\circ})$
- Beach width: typically 10 to 25 metres from the vegetation line.
- D50 sand size: 0.30 mm averaged over three years.
- Adjoining Landform: well developed frontal dune.
- Vegetation: Beach spinifex (*Spinifex hirsutus*) open-grassland on the seaward slope and crest of the frontal dune. Horsetail she-oak (*Casuarina equisetifolia* var. *incana*) low open-forest on the crest and landward slope of the frontal dune.

#### 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 Noosa 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 November 1977 to December 1980 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 observer 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 | -   | $0^{\rm O}$      | to | 60 <sup>0</sup>  |
|----------|-----|------------------|----|------------------|
| Sector 2 | -   | 60 <sup>0</sup>  | to | 85 <sup>0</sup>  |
| Sector 3 | -   | 85 <sup>0</sup>  | to | 950              |
| Sector 4 | -   | 95 <sup>0.</sup> | to | 120 <sup>0</sup> |
| Sector 5 | - 3 | 120 <sup>0</sup> | to | 180 <sup>0</sup> |
|          |     |                  |    |                  |

Note:  $0^{\circ}$  is the beach alignment to the left of the observer when facing seaward.

Statistical representations of the observed wave data include:-

(a) 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 12.
- (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 13 to Figure 19). Mean upcoast and downcoast components and the overall annual means are also prsented.

#### 3.5 Beach Profile Parameters

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

- elevation of berm crest and distance from the reference pole to the seaward edge of the berm. (from 12/10/78 to 26/9/80).
- 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 20 to 27.

#### 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 Figures 28 and 29.

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

NOOSA BEACH

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YEAR 1977

| MONTH      | MEAN<br>WAVE<br>PERIOD | MEAN<br>WAVE<br>DHEIGHT |       | Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction |       |       |      |                |     |      |       |     |      |  |  |
|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--|-------|-------|------|----------------|-----|------|-------|-----|------|--|--|
|            |                        |                         |       | Wave   | Туре  | _     |      | Wave Direction |     |      |       |     |      |  |  |
|            | (Jecs/                 | (meties)                | SP    | PL   | Surge | SP/PL | Calm | 1              | 2   | 3    | 4     | 5   | Calm |  |  |
| JANUARY    |                        |                         |       |  |       |       |      |                |     |      |       |     |      |  |  |
| FEBRUARY   |                        |                         |       |  |       |       |      |                |     |      |       |     | 1    |  |  |
| MARCH      |                        |                         |       |  | ]     |       |      |                |     |      |       |     |      |  |  |
| APRIL      |                        |                         |       |  |       | 1     |      | }              |     |      |       | 1   |      |  |  |
| MAY        |                        |                         |       |  |       |       |      |                |     |      |       |     |      |  |  |
| JUNE       |                        |                         |       |  |       |       |      |                |     |      |       |     |      |  |  |
| JULY       |                        |                         |       |  |       |       |      |                |     |      |       |     |      |  |  |
| AUGUST     |                        |                         |       |  |       |       |      |                |     |      |       | ļ   |      |  |  |
| SEPTEMBER  |                        |                         |       |  |       |       |      |                |     |      |       |     | 1    |  |  |
| OCTOBER    |                        |                         |       |  |       |       |      |                |     |      |       |     |      |  |  |
| NOVEMBER   | 10.9                   | 0.73                    | 100.0 | •  | -     | -     | -    | -              | -   | -    | 100.0 | -   | •    |  |  |
| DECEMBER   | 8.9                    | 0,40                    | 96,3  | 3.7  | -     | -     | -    | -              | -   | 17.9 | 82.1  | -   | -    |  |  |
| WHOLE YEAR | 9.1                    | 0.44                    | 96.7  | 3.3  | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0  | 0.0            | 0.0 | 16.1 | 83.9  | 0.0 | 0.0  |  |  |

SP - Spilling

PL - Plunging

SP/PL - Combined spilling and plunging

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

NOOSA BEACH

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YEAR 1978

|            | MEAN   | MEAN   | Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction |      |       |       |      |     |                |       |      |     |      |  |
|------------|--------|--------|--|------|-------|-------|------|-----|----------------|-------|------|-----|------|--|
| MONTH      | PERIOD | HEIGHT | Wave Type  |      |       |       |      |     | Wave Direction |       |      |     |      |  |
|            |        | (100)  | SP   | PL   | Surge | SP/PL | Calm | 1   | 2              | 3     | 4    | 5   | Calm |  |
| JANUARY    | 10.2   | 0.50   | 58.1   | 6.5  | 3.2   | 29.0  | 3.2  |     | -              | 25.8  | 71.0 | •   | 3.2  |  |
| FEBRUARY   | 6.7    | 0.34   | 89.3   | 7.1  | -     | 3.6   | -    | -   | -              | 92.9  | 7.1  | -   | -    |  |
| MARCH      | 7.2    | 0.55   | 80.0   | -    | - 1   | 20.0  | -    |     | -              | 100.0 | -    | -   | -    |  |
| APRIL      | 8.7    | 0.61   | 53.3   | 33.3 | 6.7   | -     | 6.7  | -   | -              | 46.7  | 46.6 | -   | 6.7  |  |
| MAY        | 8.4    | 0.54   | 48.4   | 12.9 | -     | 35.5  | 3.2  | -   | -              | 87.2  | 9.6  | -   | 3.2  |  |
| JUNE       | 13.4   | 0.53   | 6.7  | 60.0 | -     | 33.3  | -    | -   | -              | 100.0 | -    | -   | -    |  |
| JULY       | 9.7    | 0.55   | 35.7   | 25.0 | -     | 35,7  | 3.6  | -   | -              | 96.4  | -    | -   | 3.6  |  |
| AUGUST     | 10.9   | 0.35   | 71.0   | 12.9 | -     | 16.1  | -    | -   | -              | 51.6  | 48.4 | -   |      |  |
| SEPTEMBER  | 11.6   | 0,32   | 24.1   | 24.1 | i -   | 44.8  | 6.9  | -   | -              | 65.5  | 27.6 | -   | 6.9  |  |
| OCTOBER    | 9.7    | 0.47   | 33.3   | 20.0 | -     | 46.7  | -    | -   | -              | 96.7  | 3.3  | -   | -    |  |
| NOVEMBER   | 7.8    | 0.54   | 34.6   | -    | -     | 65.4  | -    |     | -              | 96.1  | 3.9  | -   | -    |  |
| DECEMBER   | 8.6    | 0.46   | 67.9   | 17.9 | -     | 14.3  | -    | -   | -              | 100.0 | -    |     | -    |  |
| WHOLE YEAR | 9.4    | 0.48   | 50.3   | 18.4 | 0.9   | 28.4  | 2.0  | 0.0 | 0.0            | 79.2  | 18.8 | 0.0 | 2.0  |  |

SP - Spitting

PL -- Plunging

SP/PL - Combined spilling and plunging

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

YEAR 1979

|            | MEAN   |          |      |        | Percen | tage Occurre | ences - Wave | Type /Wave | e Direction |        |           |     |      |
|------------|--------|----------|------|--------|--------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------|-----------|-----|------|
| MONTH      | PERIOD | HEIGHT   |      | Wave T | уре    |              |              |            |             | Wave D | lirection | -   |      |
|            | (Secs) | (Wetres) | SP   | PL.    | Surge  | SP/PL        | Calm         | 1          | 2           | 3      | 4         | 5   | Caim |
| JANUARY    | 8,5    | 1.01     | 19.4 | 9,7    | -      | 71.0         | -            | -          | •           | 96.8   | 3.2       |     | -    |
| FEBRUARY   | 8.2    | 0.62     | 3.8  |        |        | 96.2         | -            | -          | -           | 100.0  | -         | -   | -    |
| MARCH      | 8.3    | 0.37     | 61.5 | 3.8    |        | 34.6         | -            | -          | -           | 100.0  | -         |     |      |
| APRIL      | 8.6    | 0.46     | 25.0 | -      | -      | 75.0         | .            | •          | -           | 100.0  |           | -   | -    |
| MAY        | 9.3    | 0,35     | -    | 24.1   | -      | 75.9         | -            | -          | -           | 100.0  | -         |     |      |
| JUNE       | 8.7    | 0.41     | 3.7  | 18,5   | · ·    | 77.8         |              | -          | -           | 100.0  | -         |     | -    |
| JULY       | 8.1    | 0.38     | 16.7 | 23.3   | ·      | 60.0         | -            | -          | -           | 100.0  | -         | -   | .    |
| AUGUST     | 8.9    | 0.30     | 41.4 | 10,3   | - I    | 41.4         | 6.9          | -          | -           | 93.1   | -         | .   | 6.9  |
| SEPTEMBER  | 7.2    | 0.41     | 52.2 | 8.7    | -      | 39.1         | -            | -          | 4.3         | 95.7   |           | -   |      |
| OCTOBER    | 6.2    | 0,34     | 51.9 | 11.1   |        | 37.0         | -            | -          | -           | 100.0  | -         |     | -    |
| NOVEMBER   | 6.1    | 0.35     | 34.5 | 10,3   | -      | 55.2         | -            | -          | -           | 100.0  | -         | -   | .    |
| DECEMBER   | 5.8    | 0.35     | 22.7 | 9.1    | -      | 68.2         | -            | -          | -           | 100.0  | •         | -   | -    |
| WHOLE YEAR | 7.4    | 0.45     | 27.2 | 11.0   | 0.0    | 61.2         | 0.6          | 0.0        | 0.3         | 98.8   | 0,3       | 0.0 | 0.6  |

SP - Spilling

PL - Plunging

SP/PL - Combined spilling and plunging

#### NOOSA BEACH

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

NOOSA BEACH

YEAR 1980

| MONTH      | MEAN<br>WAVE<br>PERIOD<br>(Secs) | MEAN   | N Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction |                |       |       |          |     |     |       |     |     |      |
|------------|----------------------------------|--------|--|----------------|-------|-------|----------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|------|
|            |                                  | HEIGHT |  | Wave Direction |       |       |          |     |     |       |     |     |      |
|            |                                  |        | SP   | PL             | Surge | SP/PL | Calm     | 1   | 2   | 3     | 4   | 5   | Calm |
| JANUARY    | 5.8                              | 0.41   | 3.6  | -              | -     | 96.4  | <u> </u> |     | -   | 100.0 |     | -   |      |
| FEBRUARY   | 9.3                              | 0.59   | 24,1   | 6.9            | -     | 69.0  |          | -   | -   | 100.0 | -   | -   | -    |
| MARCH      | 10.6                             | 0.31   | 61.9   | -              |       | 38.1  | · ·      | -   | •   | 100.0 | -   | -   | -    |
| APRIL      | 8.2                              | 0.47   | 4.2  | 62.5           | -     | 33.3  | -        | .   | -   | 100.0 | -   | -   | - 1  |
| MAY        | 8.4                              | 0.55   | 19.2   | 30.8           | .     | 50.0  | -        |     | -   | 100.0 |     | -   | -    |
| JUNE       | 7.8                              | 0.34   | 40.0   | 6.7            | -     | 53.3  | -        | -   | •   | 100.0 | -   | -   |      |
| JULY       | 6.8                              | 0.17   | 28.6   | 14.3           | .     | 57.1  | ] .      |     | -   | 100.0 | -   | ] . | - 1  |
| AUGUST     | •                                | -      | •  | -              | -     | -     |          |     | -   | -     | -   | -   | •    |
| SEPTEMBER  | 10.0                             | 0.38   | 26.3   | 47.4           |       | -     | 26.3     | -   | -   | 73.7  | -   | -   | 26.3 |
| OCTOBER    | 11.6                             | 0.38   | 22.2   | 51.9           | -     | 22.2  | 3.7      | •   | -   | 96.3  | -   | -   | 3.7  |
| NOVEMBER   | 9.2                              | 0.37   | 51.7   | 27.6           |       | 20.7  | .        |     | -   | 96.4  | 3.6 |     | -    |
| DECEMBER   | 11.2                             | 0.64   | 50.0   | 50.0           | -     | -     | -        | -   | -   | 100.0 | -   | -   | -    |
| WHOLE YEAR | 9.0                              | 0.43   | 27.9   | 26.6           | 0.0   | 42.9  | 2.6      | 0.0 | 0.0 | 96.9  | 0.5 | 0.0 | 2.6  |

SP - Spilling

PL - Plunging

SP/PL - Combined spilling and plunging



NOOSA SHIRE

NOOSA BEACH

**Ø8Ø**2

# ALL OBSERVATIONS





MORNING - AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS



NOTES :

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





Beach Protection Authority

WIND DATA

COPE Noosa Beach





WAVE HEIGHT % EXCEEDANCE All Data











Beach Protection Authority

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COPE Noosa Beach

Figure



Beach Protection Authority

SURF ZONE WIDTH - AFTERNOON 1978

COPE Noosa Beach

igure

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Beach Protection Authority



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**Beach Protection** Authority Values of Berm Crest Elevations were not measured.



**BERM CREST ELEVATIONS 1977** 

Noosa **Figure 20** C 13.1

COPE



COPE Noosa Beach BERM CREST ELEVATION - 1978 Figure **21** C 13.1

Indicates Five Day Moving Average

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BERM CREST ELEVATION - 1979





BERM CREST ELEVATION - 1980





\_\_\_\_ Indicates Five Day Moving Average

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