# COASTAL OBSERVATION PROGRAMME - ENGINEERING (COPE) SHINGLY BEACH - PROSERPINE SHIRE

For the Years 1976 to 1979

**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.

#### 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 Shingly Beach in Proserpine Shire on the Central Queensland Coast. The data were recorded by volunteer observers Dr. Morrie Rapson, Mr David McRae, Mr Andrew Peach and Mr Ted Priestler during the period August 1976 to December 1979. The recordings were made daily during the three year period and the information published is considered representative and reliable.

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

Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Noosa Beach - Noosa Shire, (Report C13.1).

#### 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.

CON	ITENTS			PAGE
1.0	INTRODUCTION			
	1.1 The Programme	·	·	1
	1.2 Site Selection			1
	1.3 Instrumentation			1
	1.4 Observers	•		1
	1.5 Accuracy			1
	1.6 Presentation of Data	•		. 2
2.0	STATION PARTICULARS			
	2.1 Location	•		2
	2.2 Observers			2
	2.3 Observed Parameters	•		2
	2.4 Tidal Information	•		3
	2.5 Description of Beach			3
	2.6 Supervision of Station			4
3.0	DATA			
	3.1 General			4
	3.2 Wind	•		4
	3.3 Waves			4
	3.4 Longshore Current			5
	3.5 Beach Profile Parameters	•		5
	3.6 Monthly Beach Profiles			5
4.0	ATTACHMENTS			

Tables (see over for List of Tables)
Figures (see over for List of Figures)

## LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	
1	Monthly and Annual Wave Parameters Summary	1976
2	Monthly and Annual Wave Parameters Summary	1977
3	Monthly and Annual Wave Parameters Summary	1978
4	Monthly and Annual Wave Parameters Summary	1979

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	
1	Locality Plan	
2	Wind Data	
3	Wave Height % Exceedance	
4	Wave Height and Period % Occurrence	
5	Wave Direction Analysis	
6	Surf Zone Width - Afternoon	1976
7	Surf Zone Width – Afternoon	1977
8	Surf Zone Width - Afternoon	1978
9	Surf Zone Width — Afternoon	1979
10	Littoral Currents — Afternoon	1976
11	Littoral Currents — Afternoon	1977
12	Littoral Currents – Afternoon	1978
13	Littoral Currents – Afternoon	1979
14	Beach Profile Parameters	1976
15	Beach Profile Parameters	1977
16	Beach Profile Parameters	1978
17	Beach Profile Parameters	1979
18	Monthly Beach Profiles	1977
19.	Monthly Beach Profiles	1978
20	Monthly Beach Profiles	1979

#### 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.

#### 4.3 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

Shingly Beach is located on the central Queensland coast within the Proserpine Shire, is situated approximately 20 kilometres north east of the town of Proserpine and is a small well protected beach, lying in the lee of the Whitsunday Island group. The location of the Shingly Beach COPE station is shown in Figure 1.

#### 2.2 Observers

This station has been manned by Dr Morrie Rapson, Mr David McRae, Mr Andrew Peach and Mr Ted Priestler during the period August 1976 to December 1979. All observers were local residents who lived near the COPE Station.

#### 2.3 Observed Parameters

The observers at this station usually recorded at 5.30 p.m. daily during the three year period August 1976 to December 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 every month and from June 1977 a beach profile was usually recorded monthly also.

#### 2.4 Tidal Information

Tidal information for this station as presented below is essentially the same as that for Cannon Vale. Datum is Low Water Datum.

M.H.W.S.: 3.0 metres M.H.W.N.: 2.4 metres M.S.L.: 1.9 metres M.L.W.N.: 1.4 metres M.L.W.S.: 0.7 metres.

#### 2.5 Description of the Beach

The beach at the Shingly Beach COPE Station exhibits the following characteristics:-

- Typical beach slopes: foreshore slope is in the range 1 in 7 to 1 in 11  $(5^{\circ} 8^{\circ})$
- Beach width: typically 12 to 15 metres from vegetation line.
- D50 sand size: 0.36 mm averaged over three years.
- Adjoining Landform: Low frontal beach ridge.
- Vegetation: Vertetation on the beach ridge consists of mixed grassland which is mowed. Mangroves, beach grass (Thiwarea involunta), love grass (Eragrostis spp.) and green couch (cynoden dactylon) grow on the upper part of the beach and along the seaward toe of the frontal ridge.

#### 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 Proserpine 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 August 1976 to December 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 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° 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:-

(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 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 0.9 metre relative to AHD, fixed contour level from November 1976 to December 1979.
- Distance from the reference pole to the vegetation line.
- 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 Figures 18 to 20.

TABLE 1

SHINGLY BEACH

YEAR: 1976

,	MEAN	MEAN WAVE	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction												
MONTH	WAVE PERIOD	HEIGHT	Wave Type						Wave Direction						
	(Secs)	(Metres)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm		
JANUARY															
FEBRUARY															
MARCH															
APRIL															
MAY				ļ ·											
JUNE															
JULY		,													
AUGUST	3.5	0.01	7.7	-			92.3		-	7.7	-	-	92.3		
SEPTEMBER	4.4	0.07	25.0	-	4.2		70.8	-	4.2	16.7	8,3	-	70.8		
OCTOBER	4.3	0.20	66.7	7.4	7.4	-	18.5	-	-	77.8	3.7	-	18.5		
NOVEMBER	3.0	0.26	46.7	3.3		46.7	3.3	-	6.7	90.0		-	3,3		
DECEMBER	4.0	0.22	42,3	7.7	-	42.3	7.7	-	-	92.3		-	7.7		
WHOLE YEAR	3.8	0.16	38.3	3.8	2.3	19.3	36.3	0.0	2.3	59.1	2.3	0.0	36.3		

SP — Spilling

PL — Plunging

TABLE 2

SHINGLY BEACH

YEAR 1977

	MEAN WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	MEAN WAVE	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction											
MONTH		HEIGHT (Metres)	Wave Type						Wave Direction					
	(3333)	(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	. 2	3	4	5	Calm	
JANUARY	4.9	0.09	32.3	6.5	-	25.8	35,5	-	-	64.5	-	-	35.5	
FEBRUARY	6.0	0.20	20.8	16.7	8.3	20.8	33,3	_		66.7			33.3	
MARCH	5.5	0.16	19.2	3.8	-	26.9	50.0		-	50.0	_	-	50.0	
APRIL	6.8	0.09	-	20.0		20.0	60.0	-		40.0		-	60.0	
MAY	4.9	0,10	7.4	11.1	-	18.5	63.0			37.0	-	-	63.0	
JUNE	6.8	0.02	•	•	-	15.0	85.0	-	_	15.0		_	85.0	
JULY	8.8	0.01	-	10.3	-	3.4	86.2			13.8	-	_	86.2	
AUGUST	5.0	0,00	-	3.2	-	-	96.8		_	3.2	-		96.8	
SEPTEMBER	5.6	0.05	•	14.3		7.1	78.6	-		21.4	_		78.6	
OCTOBER	4.1	0.05	4.0	12.0	-	-	84.0	_		16.0		-	84.0	
NOVEMBER	4.2	0.16	12.5	16.7	-	20.8	50.0	-	4.2	45.8			50.0	
DECEMBER	3.9	0.08	3.2	•	-	16.2	80.6		9.7	9.7	-	-	80.6	
WHOLE YEAR	5.4	0.08	8.7	9,3	0.6	14.7	66.7	0.0	1.3	32.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	

SP - Spilling

PL - Plunging

TABLE 3

SHINGLY BEACH

YEAR 1978

	MEAN	MEAN	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction											
MONTH	PERIOD (Secs)	WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)		Wave Direction										
	(0003)	(IAICTER)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm	
JANUARY	4.5	0.06	5.3	_	-	10.5	84.2	-	-	15.8	-		84.2	
FEBRUARY	4.8	0.07	18.2	-	4.5		77.3	-	13.7	9.0	-	-	77.3	
MARCH	4,3	0.04	-	5.3	_	5.3	89.5	•	5.2	5.3	-		89.5	
APRIL	8.3	0.02	•	4.2		4.2	91.7	-	-	4.1	4.2	-	91.7	
MAY	6.5	0.06	8.7	-	-	8.7	82.6		4.3	13.1	-	-	82.6	
JUNE	0.0	0.00	-			-	100.0		-		-	-	100.0	
JULY '	3.2	0.02	5.3	j .	-		94.7	-	5.3	-	-	-	94.7	
AUGUST	5.4	0,04	10.5			-	89,5	-	-	5.2	5.3		89.5	
SEPTEMBER	3.4	0.04	-	6.3		6.3	87.5	-	6,3	-	6.2		87.5	
OCTOBER	4.5	0.02	•	-	_	6.3	93.8		6.2	-	-	-	93.8	
NOVEMBER	3.0	0.10	•			28.0	72.0	•	12.0	16.0			72.0	
DECEMBER	. 3.4	0.16	14.3	7.1	-	28.6	50.0	-	28.6	21.4	-	-	50.0	
WHOLE YEAR	4.4	0.05	5.1	1.7	0.4	8.2	84.6	0.0	6.4	7.8	1.2	0.0	84.6	

SP - Spilling

PL — Plunging

TABLE 4

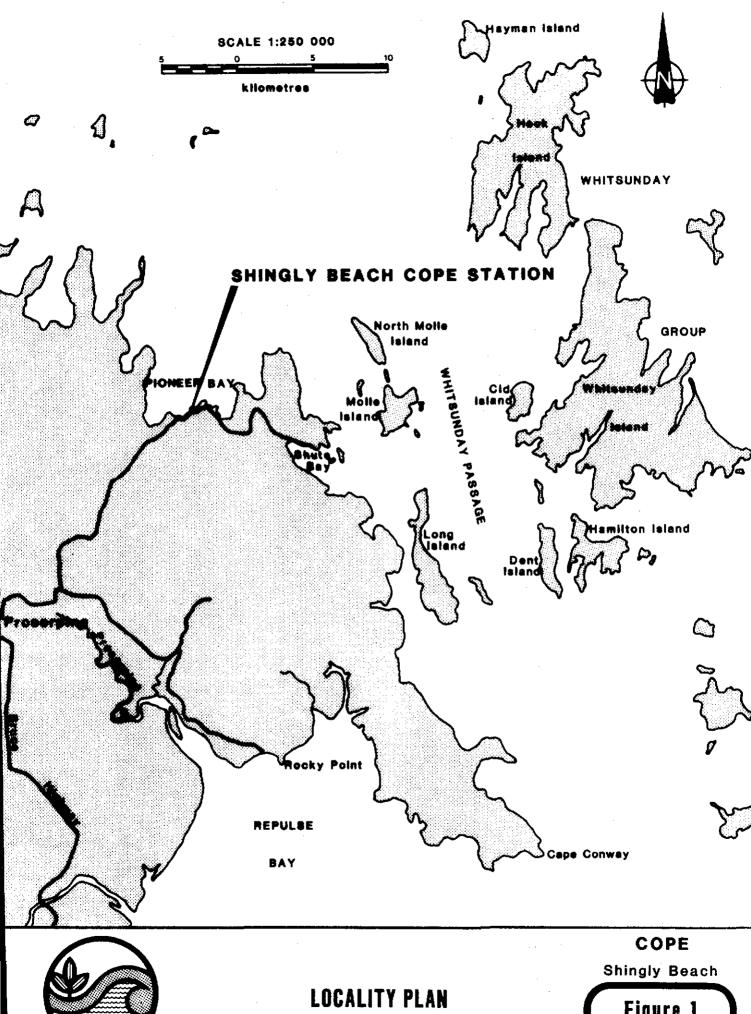
SHINGLY BEACH

YEAR: 1979

	MEAN	MEAN	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction												
MONTH	WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)	Wave Type						Wave Direction						
·	(Secs)	(Meries)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm		
JANUARY	3.1	0.06	_	5.9	-	11.8	82.4		_	17,6			82.4		
FEBRUARY	9.9	0.12	11.1	-	5.6	11.1	72.2		-	27.8	-	-	72.2		
MARCH	4.7	0.09	-	9.1	-	4.5	86.4	-		9.0	4.6	-	86.4		
APRIL	7.2	0.02	•	-	5.3	-	94.7	•	-	5.3		-	94.7		
MAY	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-		] -	] -	100.0		
JUNE	5.2	0.01	•	-	-	5.0	95.0		•	5.0	-	-	95.0		
JULY	0.0	0.0	-	-		-	100.0	-	•		-	-	100.0		
AUGUST	-		•	-	-		-	-	-	-	-		-		
SEPTEMBER		-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-		-		
OCTOBER	3.7	0.12	11.1	11.1	-	11.1	66.7		22.2	11,1	-	-	66.7		
NOVEMBER	3.2	0.17	-	-	-	45.5	54.5	•	9.1	27.3	9.1	١.	54.5		
DECEMBER	3.0	0.29	•	-	-	62.5	37.5		25.0	37.5	-	_	37.5		
WHOLE YEAR	5.0	0.09	1.8	2.4	1.2	10.2	84.4	0.0	3.0	11.4	1.2	0.0	84.4		

SP - Spilling

PL — Plunging



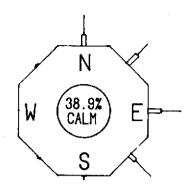
Beach Protection Authority

Figure 1 C 14.1

SHINGLY BEACH

2101

#### ALL OBSERVATIONS



Total No. of Observations: 835

MORNING - AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS  $N_{\underline{bu}}$ ρm am W 39.32 am pm Sam

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

**LEGEND** 

NOTES :

No. of Morning Observations : No. of Afternoon Observations: 825

kts kts 챦 12

Mean Time :- Morning Obs : 0936 hrs Mean Time :- Afternoon Obs : 1718 hrs

SCALE 10 20 30 40 50 Percentage

WIND DATA -AUG 1976 to NOV 1979

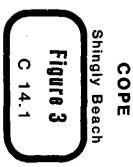


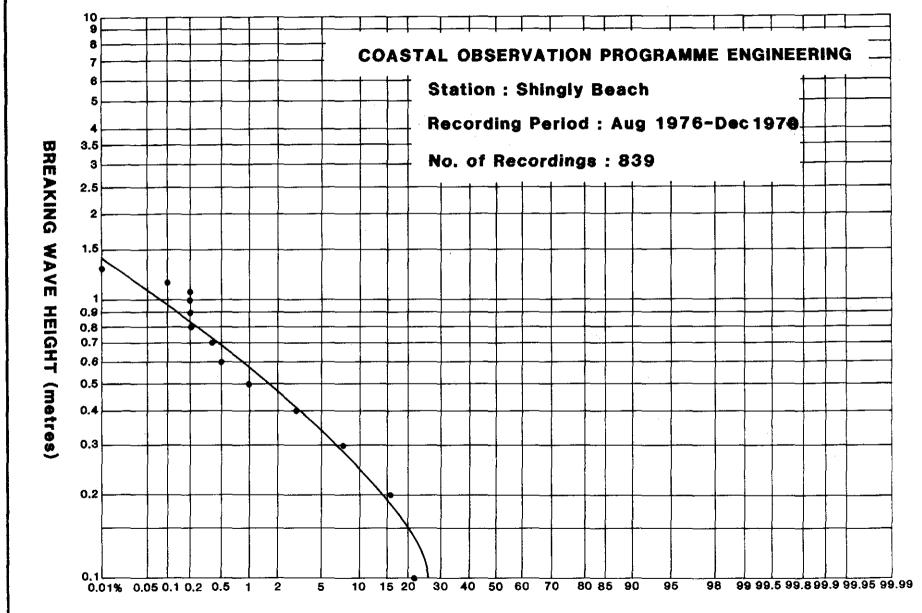
WIND DATA

COPE Shingly Beach Figure 2 C 14.1

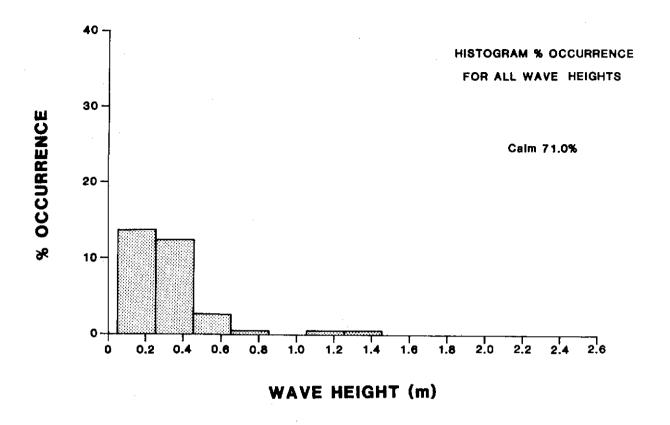


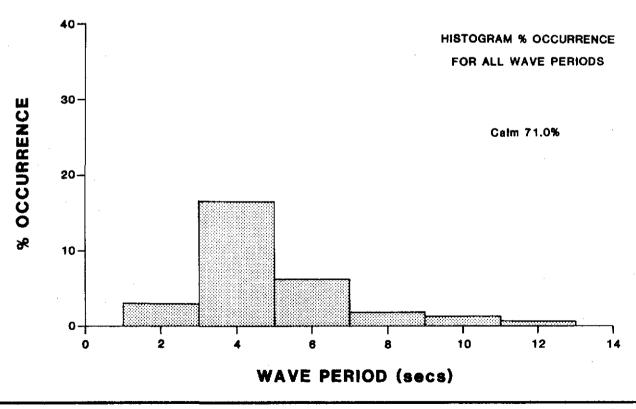
# WAVE HEIGHT % EXCEEDANCE





PERCENTAGE OF RECORDINGS WHERE A GIVEN BREAKER HEIGHT IS EXCEEDED

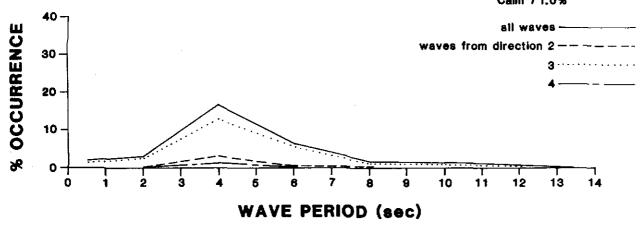


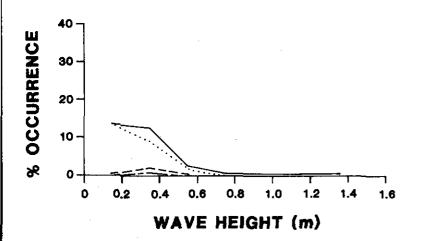




WAVE HEIGHT AND PERIOD % OCCURRENCE ALL DATA COPE
Shingly Beach
Figure 4
C 14.1

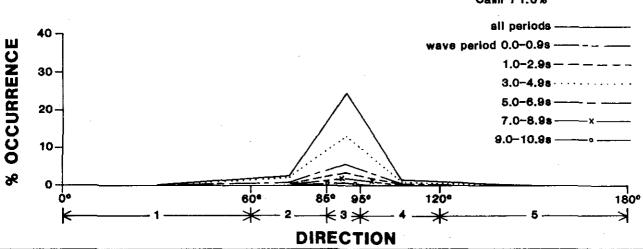
#### WAVE PERIOD vs % OCCURRENCE Calm 71.0%





#### WAVE HEIGHT vs % OCCURRENCE Calm 71.0%

#### WAVE DIRECTION vs % OCCURRENCE Caim 71.0%





WAVE DIRECTION ANALYSIS
ALL DATA

COPE

Shingly Beach

Figure 5

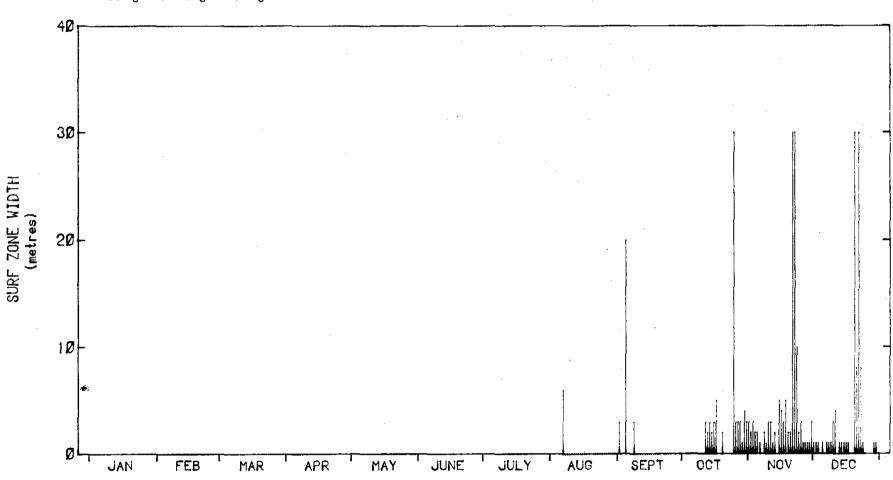
C 14.1



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PROSERPINE SHIRE

2101



SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1976

No. of Observations: 127

AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS

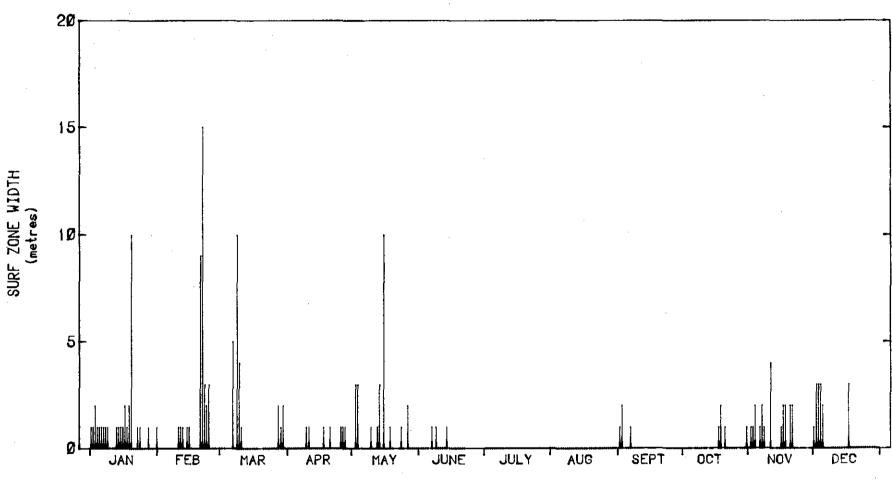
Mean Surf Zone Width = 2.6 m



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PROSERPINE SHIRE

2101



SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1977

No. of Observations: 312

AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width =

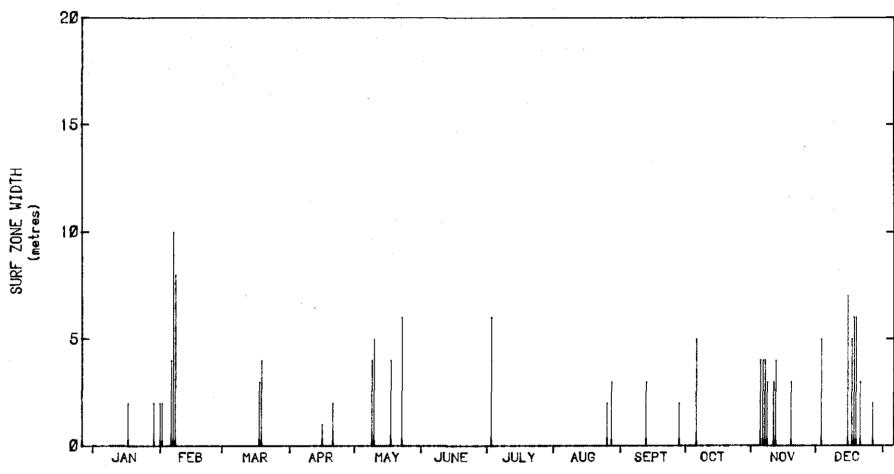
.6 m



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PROSERPINE SHIRE

2191



SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1978

No. of Observations: 233

AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width =

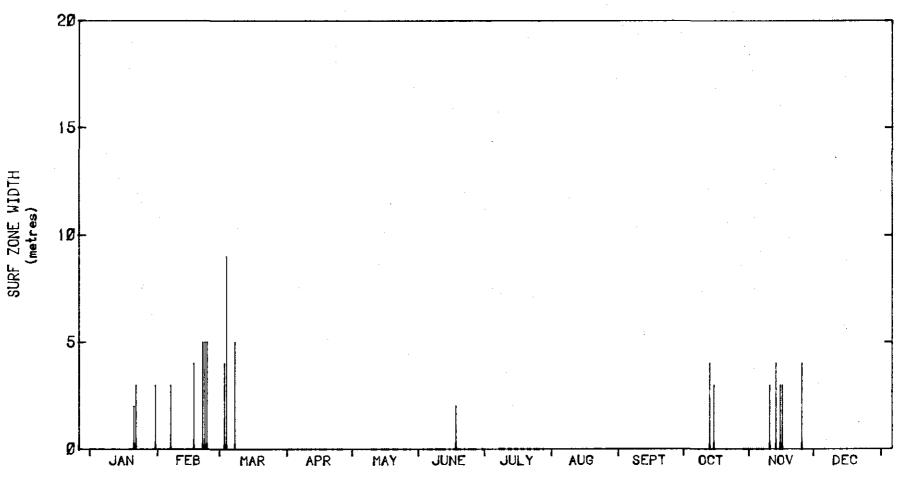
.6 m



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PROSERPINE SHIRE

2101



SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY -1979

No. of Observations: 157

AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width =

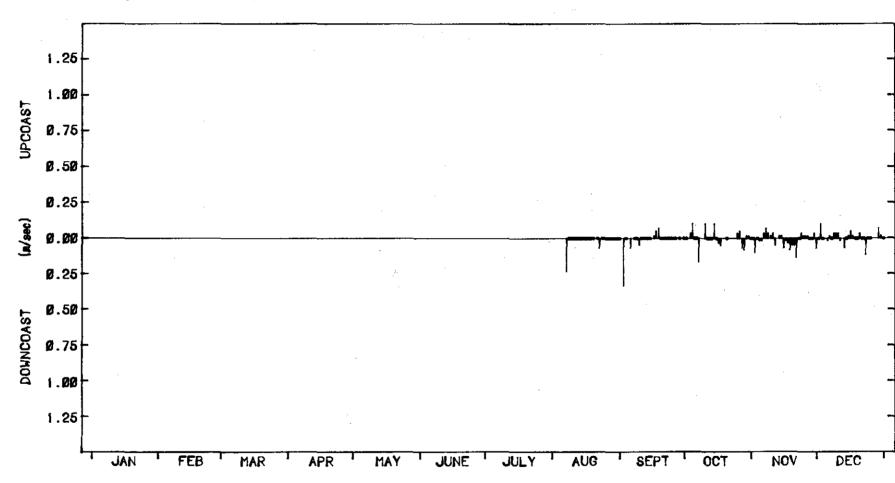
.5 m



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SHINGLY BEACH

2101



LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1976

Mean Ve = -.006m/sec (down) Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.038 m/sec

Mean Douncoast Vel = 0.079 m/sec

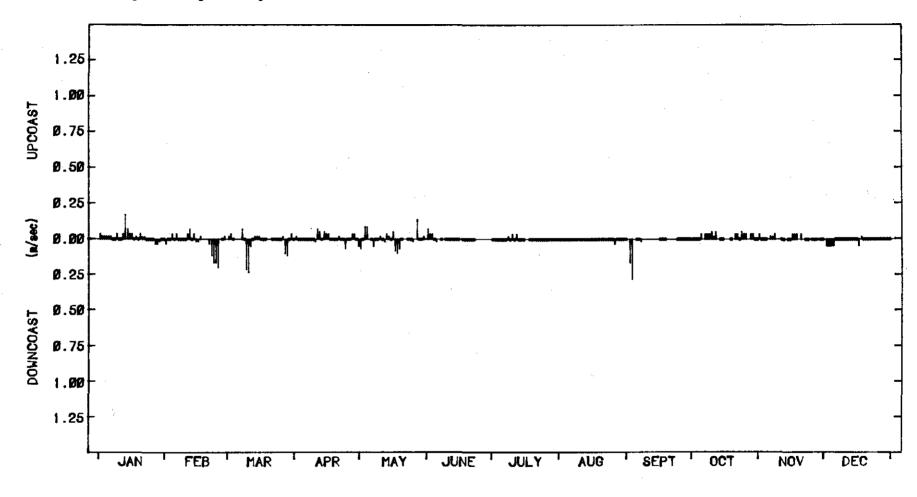
AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS - (125 recordings)



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SHINGLY BEACH

2101



LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY -

Mean Vel = m/sec (down) Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.036 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vei = 0.077 m/sec

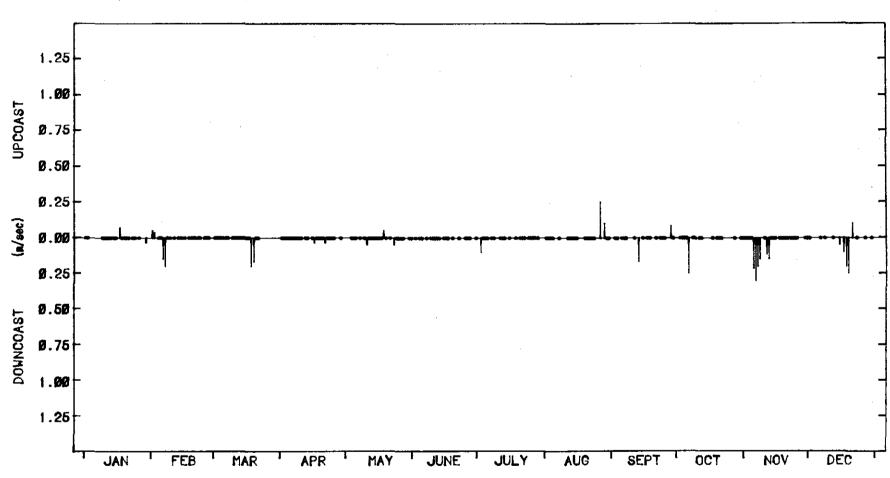
AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS - (308 recordings)



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SHINGLY BEACH

2101



LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1978

Mean Vel = -.010 m/sec (down)

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.092 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.144 m/sec

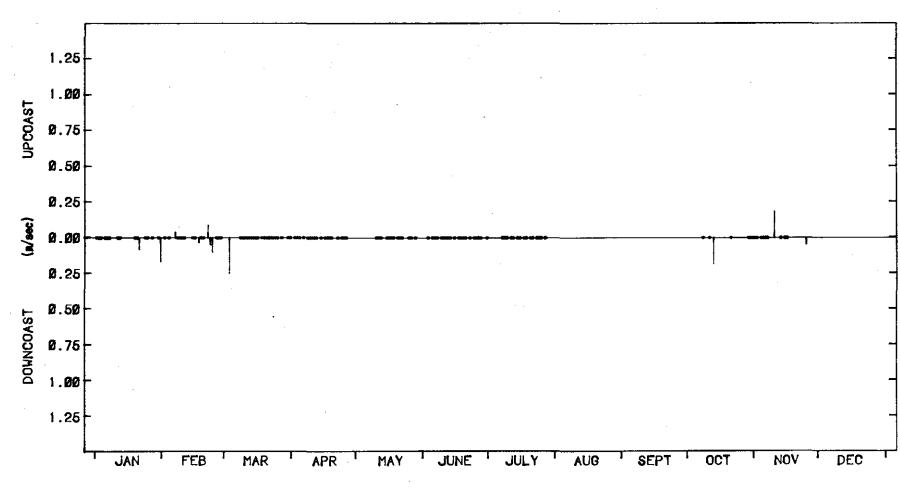
AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS - (232 recordings)



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SHINGLY BEACH

2101



LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1979

Mean Vel = -.004 m/sec (down)

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.100 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.115 m/sec

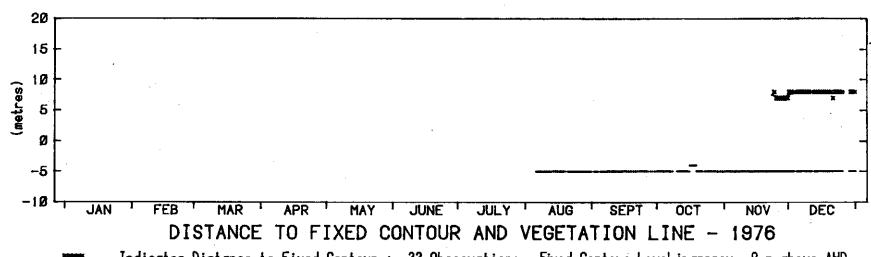
AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS - (154 recordings)



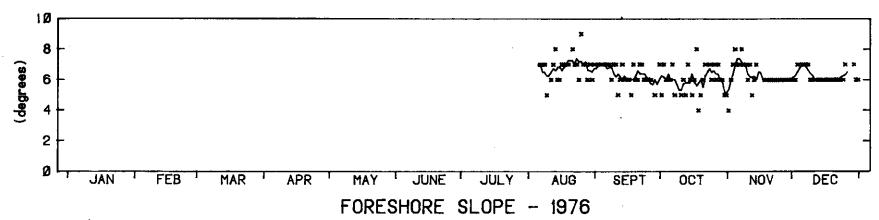
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SHINGLY BEACH

2101



Indicates Distance to Fixed Contour: 33 Observations Fixed Contour Level is approx. 9 m above AHD Indicates Distance to Vegetation Line: 135 Observations



Five Day Moving Average

No. of Observations: 130

Shingly Beach

COPE



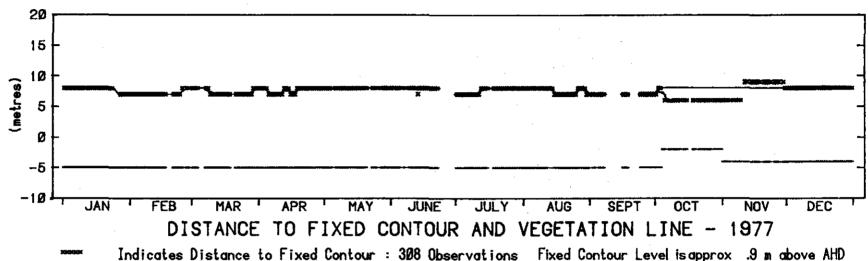
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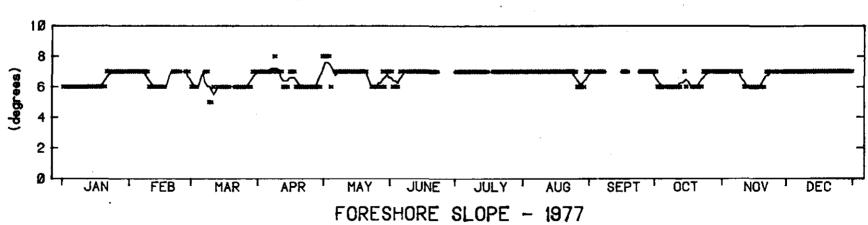
PROSERPINE SHIRE

Indicates Distance to Vegetation Line: 313 Observations

SHINGLY BEACH

2191





Five Day Moving Average

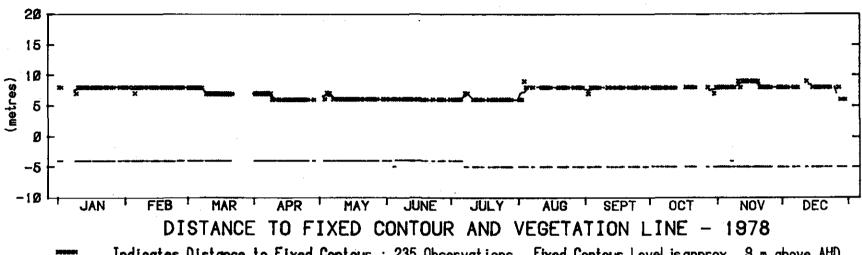
No. of Observations: 311



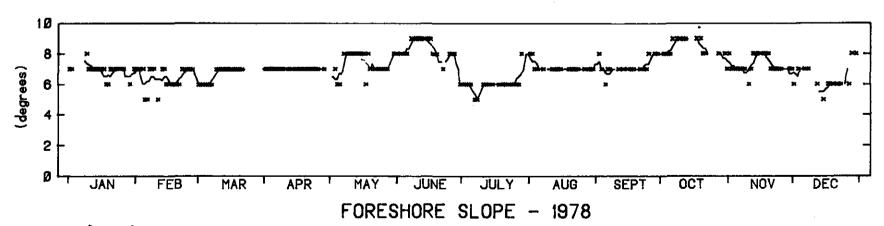
COPE - Coastal Observation Programme Engineering

SHINGLY BEACH

2101



Indicates Distance to Fixed Contour: 235 Observations Fixed Contour Level is approx. 9 m above AHD Indicates Distance to Vegetation Line: 232 Observations



Five Day Moving Average

No. of Observations: 235

COPE

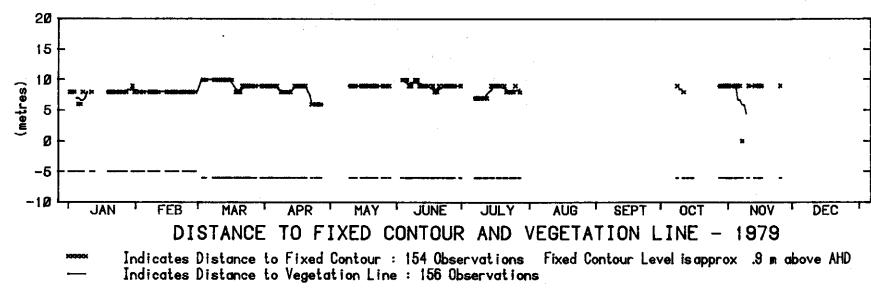


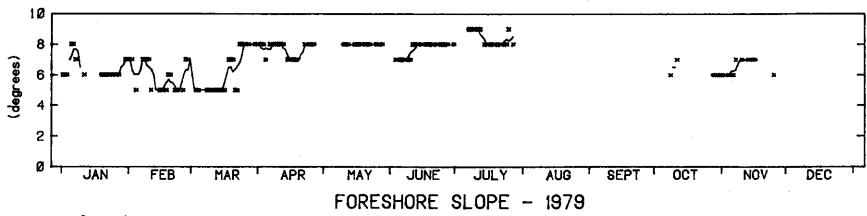
COPE - Coastal Observation Programme Engineering

PROSERPINE SHIRE

SHINGLY BEACH

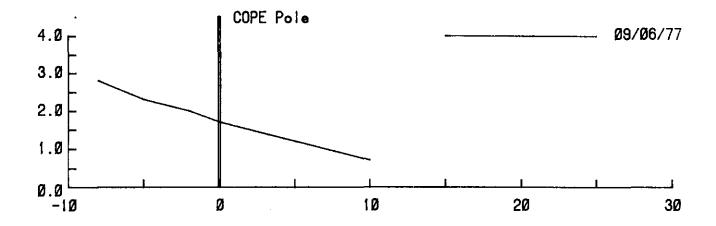
21Ø1

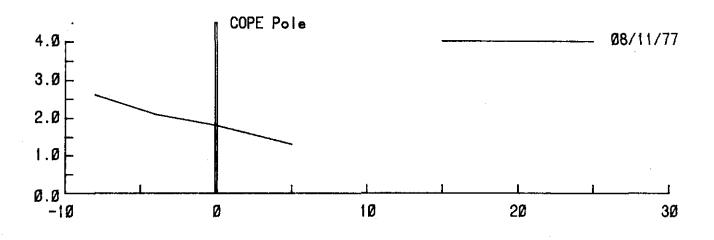


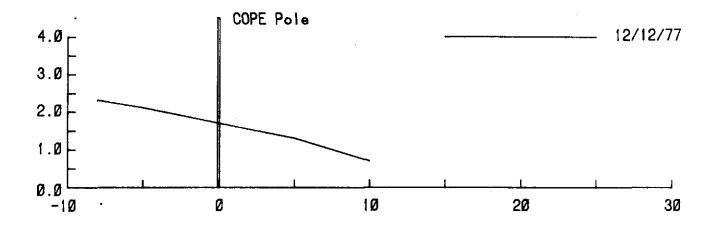


Five Day Moving Average

No. of Observations: 154







Level Datum is A.H.D.

Distances and Levels are measured in Metres

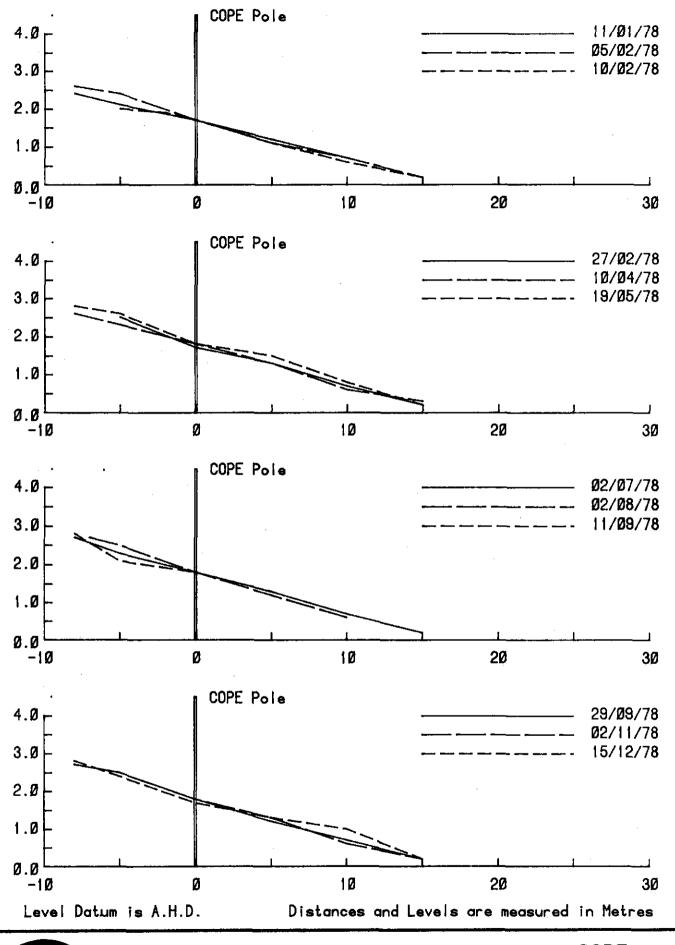


MONTHLY BEACH PROFILES

1977

COPE Shingly Beach

Figure **18** C 14.1

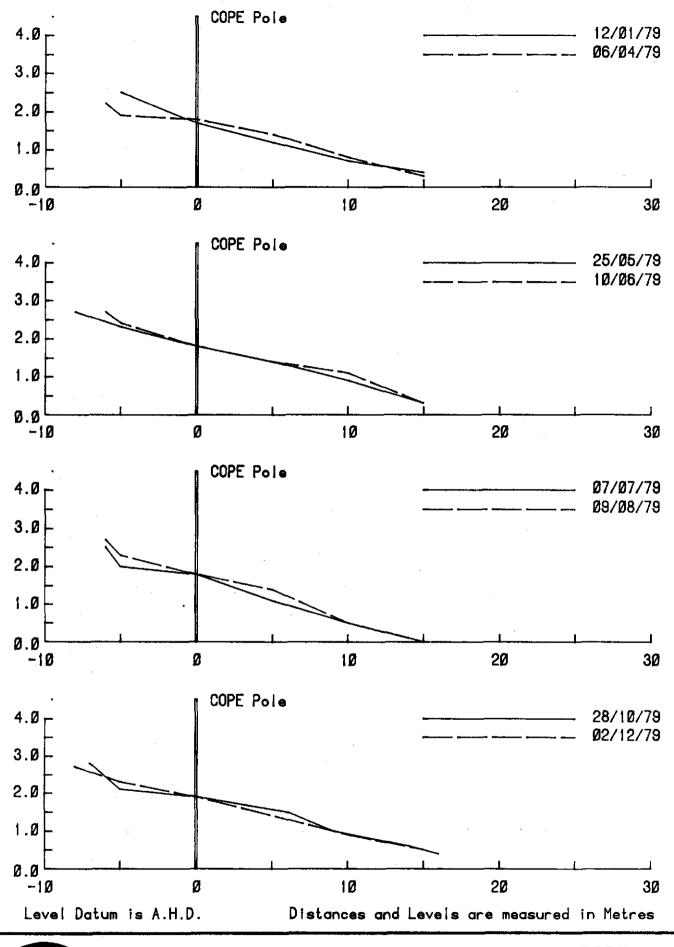




MONTHLY BEACH PROFILES

1978

COPE
Shingly Beach
Figure 19
C 14.1





MONTHLY BEACH PROFILES
1979

Figure 20