# COASTAL OBSERVATION PROGRAMME - ENGINEERING (COPE)

Yeppoon - Livingstone Shire

For the Years 1976 to 1980

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 Yeppoon in the Livingstone Shire on the central Queensland coast. The data were recorded by volunteer observer Mr. Keith Sleeman during the period October 1976 to October 1980. The recordings were made daily during the four year period and the information published is considered representative and reliable.

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Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Shingly Beach - Proserpine Shire, (Report C 14.1)

## REFERENCES:

## 4. 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 four year period 1976 to 1980 in a useful statistical form. No attempt has been made to interpret the observed data.

If this four 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

Yeppoon Beach is located within the Livingstone Shire and is situated approximately 36 kilometres north east of Rockhampton on the central Queensland coast. It forms part of a 20 kilometre stretch of the coastline between Sandy Point and Wave Point. The town of Yeppoon is immediately adjacent to the COPE Station. The location of the Yeppoon COPE Station is shown in Figure 1.

#### 2.2 Observers

This station has been manned by Mr Keith Sleeman during the period October 1976 to October 1980. Mr Sleeman is a resident of Yeppoon and is employed by Livingstone Shire Council.

#### 2.3 Observed Parameters

The observer at this station usually recorded at 8.00 a.m. daily, but during years 1978 and 1979 he recorded at either 8.00 a.m. or 2.00 p.m.

#### 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
- Foreshore Slope
- Longshore Current Speed
- Longshore Current Direction

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

#### 2.4 Tidal Information

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

M.H.W.S.: 4.1 metres M.H.W.N.: 3.2 metres M.S.L.: 2.38 metres M.L.W.N.: 1.6 metres M.L.W.S.: 0.7 metres

#### 2.5 Description of the Beach

The beach at the Yeppoon COPE station has experienced severe erosion and a rock sea wall has been constructed to protect the esplanade. The beach exhibits the following characteristics:-

- Typical beach slopes: foreshore slope is in the range 1 in 30 to 1 in 60 (10 to 20).
- Beach width: Rock sea wall coincides with high water mark.
- D50 sand size: 0.26 mm averaged over four years.
- Adjoining Landform: The frontal dune has been eroded by the sea. The beach is backed by a top-soiled esplanade protected by a rock sea wall.
- Vegetation: The esplanade has been developed as a grassed parkland with coconut palms (Cocus nucifero) and Norfolk Island pine (Araucaria heterophylla).

## 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 Livingstone 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 four year period October 1976 to October 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 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 12.
- (d) tabulation of the occurrence of various wave heights, periods, types and directions (Tables 1 to 5).

#### 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 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 AHD, fixed contour level, from May 4, 1979 to October 31, 1980.
- 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 23 to 24.

#### 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 25 to 28.

# TABLE 1.

## MONTHLY AND ANNUAL

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

YEPPOON

YEAR 1976

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER	MEAN	MEAN	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction											
	WAVE PERIOD	WAVE HEIGHT		Wave T	Гуре					Wave D	irection			
	(Secs)	(Metres)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	. 3	4	5	Calm	
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SEPTEMBER							'				1			
OCTOBER	5.3	0.25	95.2	-	-	4.8	- '		66.7	33.3	-		-	
NOVEMBER	4.1	0.19	86.7	13.3		-		- '	<b>4</b> 6.7	53.3	-	-	-	
DECEMBER	4.0	0.18	96.7	-	-	-	3.3	-	54.8	41.9	-		3.3	
WHOLE YEAR	4,4	0.20	92.7	4.9	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	54.9	43.9	0.0	0.0	1.2	

SP - Spilling

PL = Plunging

 $SP/PL-Combined\ Spilling\ and\ Plunging$ 

TABLE 2

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

YEPPOON

YEAR 1977

MONTH  JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER	MEAN WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	MEAN	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction											
		WAVE HEIGHT		Wave 7	Гуре			Wave Direction						
		(Metres)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm	
JANUARY	4.5	0.49	79.3	20.7	-	-		-	50.0	46.7	3.3	-	-	
FEBRUARY	4.7	0.58	67.9	32.1			-	-	42.9	57.1	-	-	-	
MARCH	4.8	0.52	71.0	29.0	-	-			45.2	54.8			-	
APRIL	4.7	0.36	66.7	33.3	-		-	-	33.3	66.7	-	-	-	
MAY	4.8	0.13	100.0	-	-	_	-	_	9.7	90.3	-	-	-	
JUNE	4.7	0.12	100.0	-	-		-	-	14.8	85.2	-	-	-	
JULY	4.8	0.17	82.1	17.9	-	-	-		21.4	78.6	-	-	-	
AUGUST	4.6	0.13	100.0		-	-		-	-	100.0			-	
SEPTEMBER	4.7	0.10	100.0	[ -	-	-	-		-	100.0	i -	·	-	
OCTOBER	4.9	0.14	86.2	13.8	-		-	-	37.9	62.1	-	-	-	
NOVEMBER	5.4	0.11	100.0	-	-	-	-		26.7	73.3		-	-	
DECEMBER	5.6	0.14	91.7	8.3	-			•	35.5	64.5	-	-		
WHOLE YEAR	4.9	0.26	85.9	14.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.7	71.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	

SP = Spilling

PL - Plunging

SP/PL-Combined Spilling and Plunging

TABLE 3

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

YEPPOON

YEAR 1978

	MEAN WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	MEAN	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction											
MONTH		WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)		Wave 1	Гуре			Wave Direction						
		(Menes)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm	
JANUARY	5.6	0.27	87.1	9.7	-	3.2	-	-	19.4	80.6	-	-		
FEBRUARY	5.7	0.18	96.4	3.6	-	-	-	-	14.3	85.7	_	-	-	
MARCH	5.7	0.21	73.7	26.3	-	-	-		26.3	73.7	-	_	-	
APRIL	5.6	0.12	96.7	3.3	-	-	-	- 1	13.3	86.7	-	-	-	
MAY	5.8	0.16	90.3	9.7	-		-		25.8	67.7	6.5	_	-	
JUNE	9.7	0.12	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	96.7	-	_		
JULY	9.7	0.26	81.8	18.2	-	-			24.0	76.0	-	-		
AUGUST	8.9	0.14	63.6	36.4	-	-	-	-	•	100.0	-	-	-	
SEPTEMBER	9.2	0.11	90.9	9.1	-	-		-	13.6	86.4	-	-	.	
OCTOBER	8.4	0.20	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	
NOVEMBER	7.1	0.16	96.7	3.3	-	-	-	3.3	13.3	83.3	_	-	-	
DECEMBER	6.5	0.19	86.7	13.3	-	-	-	-	46.7	53.3	-	-	-	
WHOLE YEAR	7.1	0.18	89.9	9.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	19.0	79.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	

SP - Spilling

PL - Plunging

SP/PL - Combined Spilling and Plunging

TABLE 4

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

YEPPOON

YEAR 1979

MONTH	MEAN WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	MEAN WAVE	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction											
		HEIGHT		Wave T	уре	•		Wave Direction						
		(Metres)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm	
JANUARY	7.1	0.75	54.8	45.2	-	-	-	-	32.3	67.7		-		
FEBRUARY	6.9	0.33	69.6	30.4	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	1 -	
MARCH	6.7	0.17	93.1	6.9	-		-	3.3	23.4	73.3		-	-	
APRIL	8.6	0.13	92.0	8.0		-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	
MAY	7.6	0.14	92.6	7.4	-	-	-	-	, -	100.0	-		] .	
JUNE	7.4	0.12	100.0		-	.	-		-	100.0	_	_	*	
JULY	8.1	0.13	100.0	-	_	-	-	17.2	-	82.8	-	_		
AUGUST	7.3	0.11	90.0	10.0			-	-	16.1	83.9	-	-	-	
SEPTEMBER	6.8	0.10	100.0		_		-		-	100.0		-	.	
OCTOBER	6.9	0.22	91.7	8.3	-		-	-	29.2	70.8	-	-	-	
NOVEMBER	6.6	0.12	100.0	-	-	- 1	-		73.3	26.7		-	-	
DECEMBER	7.4	0.10	100.0	-	-	-	-		100.0	-	-	-	-	
WHOLE YEAR	7.3	0.22	88.9	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	19.5	78.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	

SP - Spilling

PL - Plunging

SP/PL ~ Combined Spilling and Plunging

TABLE 5

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

YEPPOON

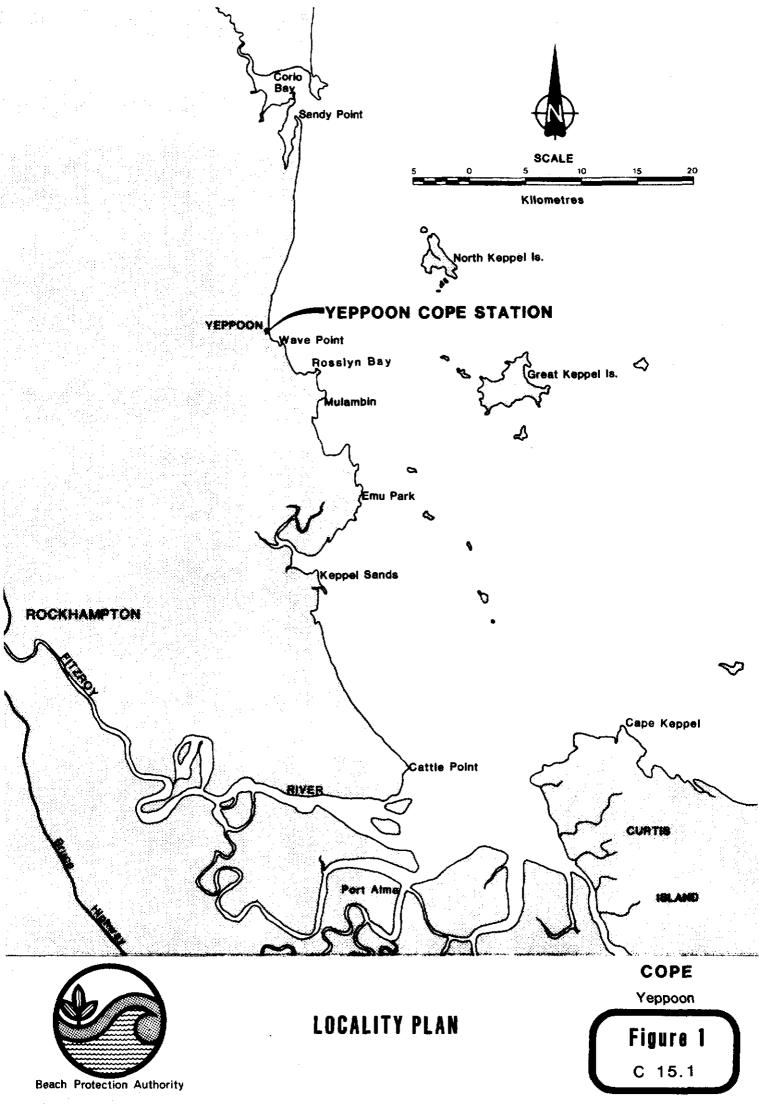
YEAR 1980

	MEAN WAVE	MEAN WAVE	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type /Wave Direction											
MONTH	PERIOD (Secs)	HEIGHT (Metres)			Wave Direction									
	(Gecs)	(Metres)	SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	I	2	3	4	5	Calm	
JANUARY	6.0	0.14	100.0			0	-	•	72.2	27.8	_			
FEBRUARY	8.0	0.66	46.4	50.0	-	3.6	-		32.1	64.3	-	3.6	-	
MARCH	7.4	0.20	93.1	6.9			.		3.3	93.4	3.3	-	-	
APRIL	7.2	0.17	100.0		-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-			
MAY	7.5	0.11	100.0	-	-				-	100.0	-	-	-	
JUNE	7.0	0.12	100.0	] .			-	-	_	86.7	13.3	.	-	
JULY	7.4	0.11	100.0	-	-	-	. [	<u>-</u>	-	100.0			-	
AUGUST	6.8	0.13	91.3	8.7		-				78.3	21.7	-	.	
SEPTEMBER	7.2	0.11	100.0	-	-	-	-	- ]	31.3	68.7	1.	-	-	
OCTOBER	7.5	0.12	90.3	9.7		-	_		45.2	54.8	-	-	-	
NOVEMBER				1										
DECEMBER														
WHOLE YEAR	7.3	0.19	91.6	8.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	15.9	79.9	3.8	0.4	0.0	

SP - Spilling

PL - Plunging

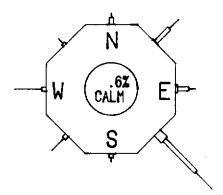
SP/PL - Combined Spilling and Plunging



**YEPPOON** 

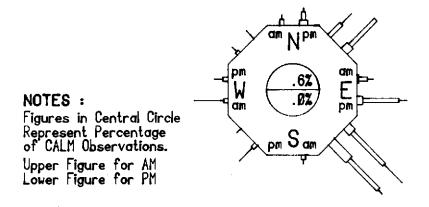
1604

# ALL OBSERVATIONS



Total No. of Observations: 713

# MORNING - AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS



WIND DATA - OCT 1976 to DEC 1980



WIND DATA

COPE Yeppoon

Figure 2 C 15.1

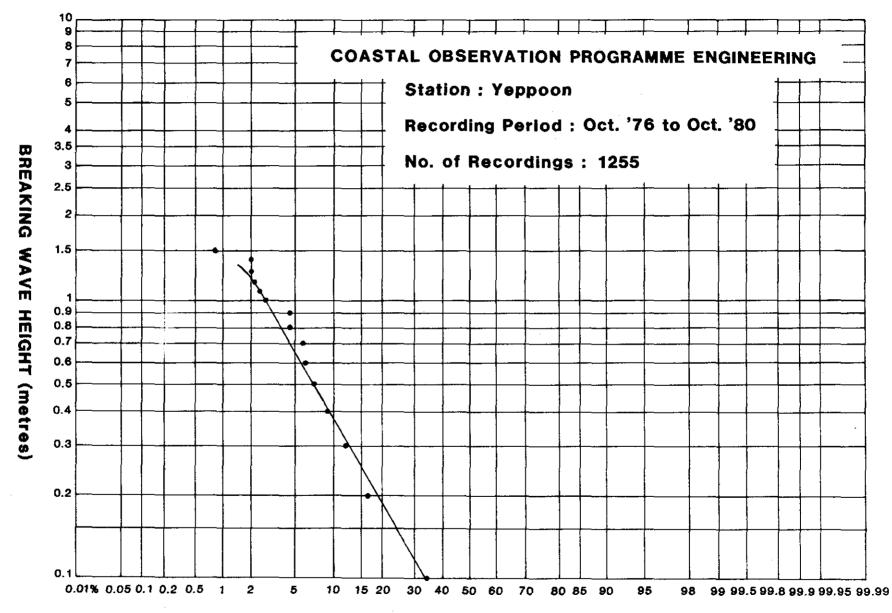


# WAVE HEIGHT % EXCEEDANCE

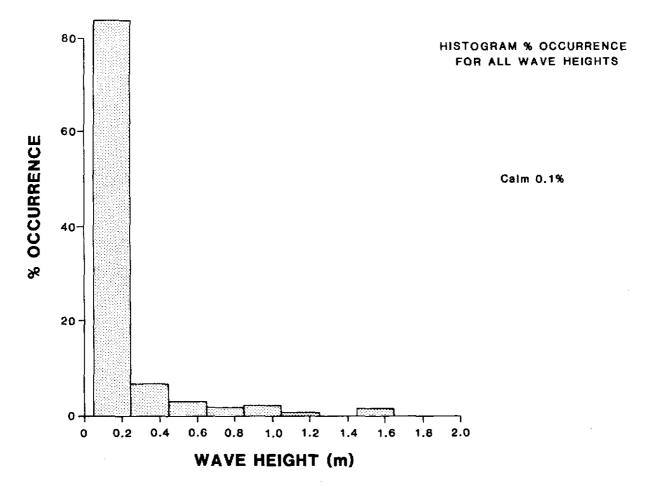


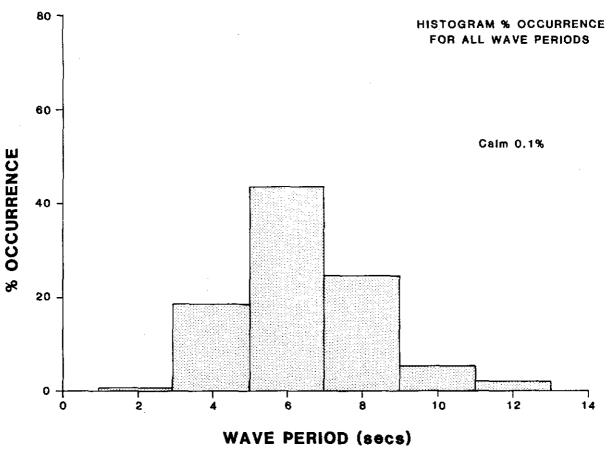
Yeppoon

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PERCENTAGE OF RECORDINGS WHERE A GIVEN BREAKER HEIGHT IS EXCEEDED



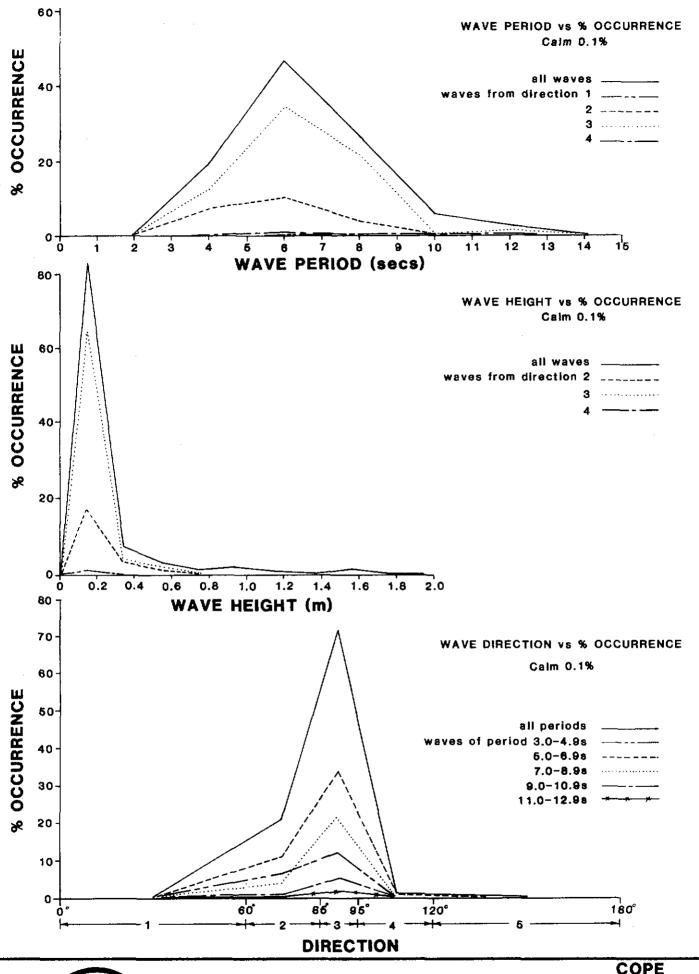




WAVE HEIGHT AND PERIOD % OCCURRENCE
ALL DATA

Yeppoon
Figure 4
C 15.1

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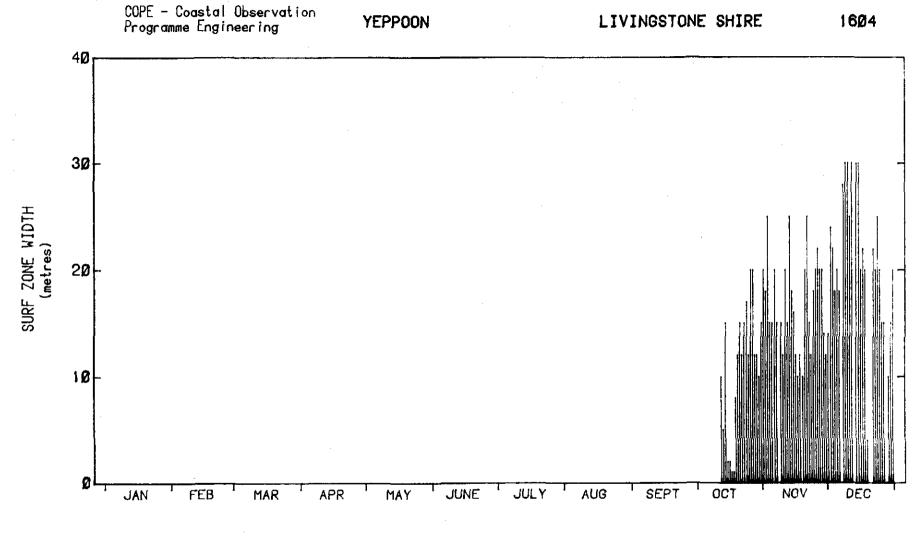




WAVE DIRECTION ANALYSIS
ALL DATA

Yeppoon
Figure 5
C 15.1





SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1976

No. of Observations:

MORNING OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width = 16.5 m

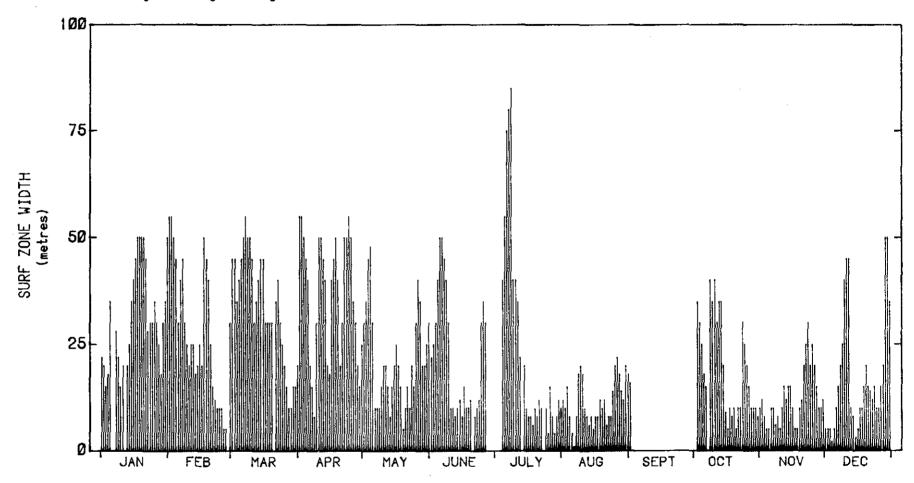


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**YEPPOON** 

LIVINGSTONE SHIRE

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SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1977

No. of Observations: 321

MORNING OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width = 23.5 m

igure

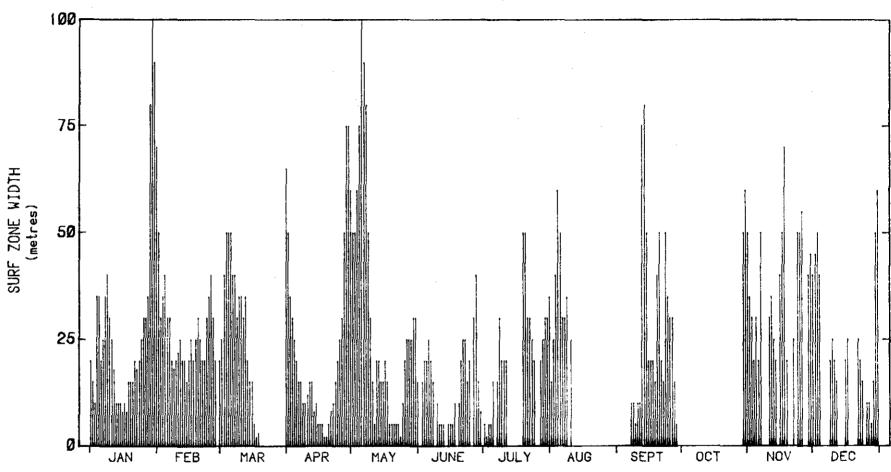


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SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY -

No. of Observations: 259

MORNING OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width = 27.1 m

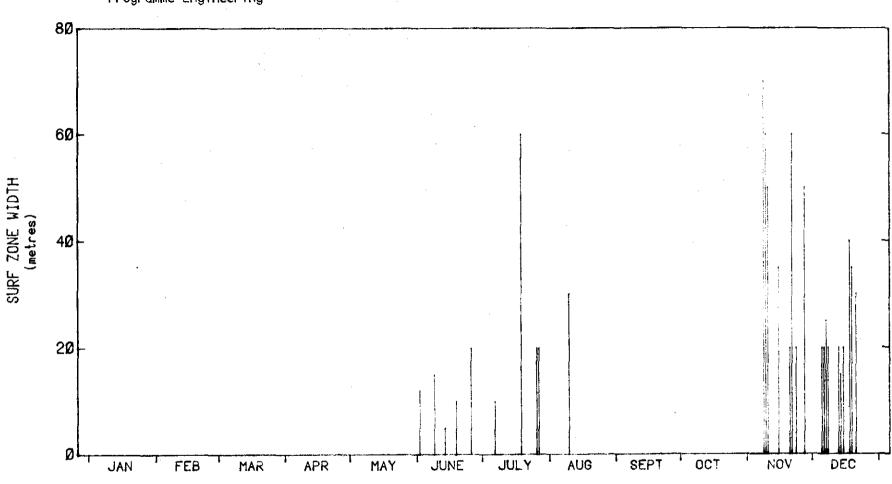


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LIVINGSTONE SHIRE

1604



SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY -

No. of Observations :

AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width = 29.0 m

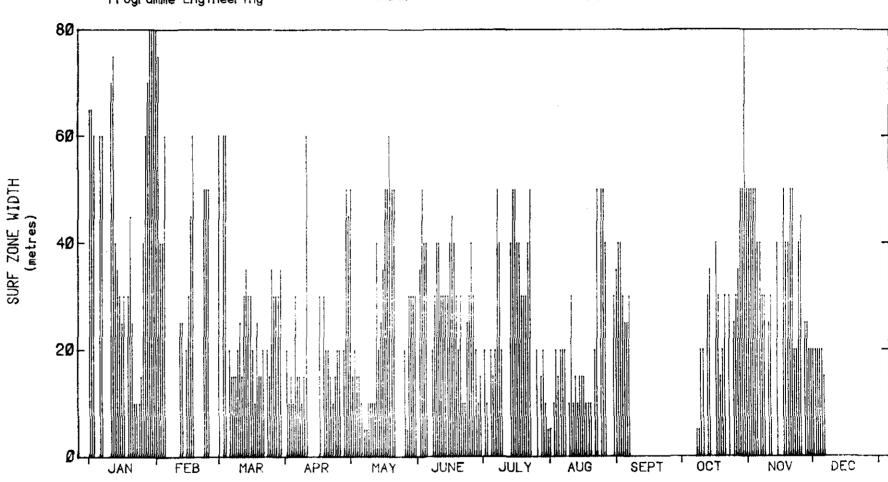


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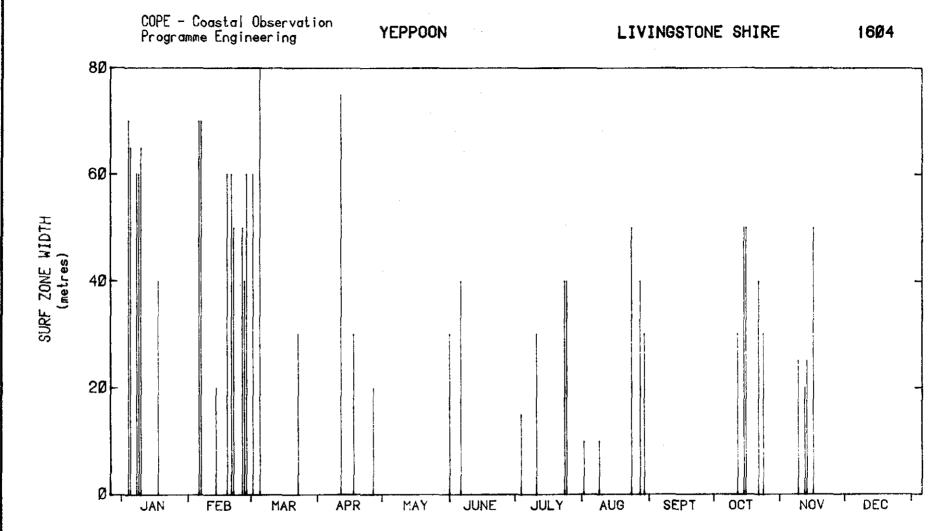
SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1979

No. of Observations: 247

MORNING OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width = 30.5 m





SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY - 1979

No. of Observations: 41

AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width = 43.7 m



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JUNE

MAY

SURF ZONE WIDTH SUMMARY -1980

JULY

SEPT

OCT

No. of Observations: 253

APR

MORNING OBSERVATIONS

Mean Surf Zone Width = 29.7 m

NOV

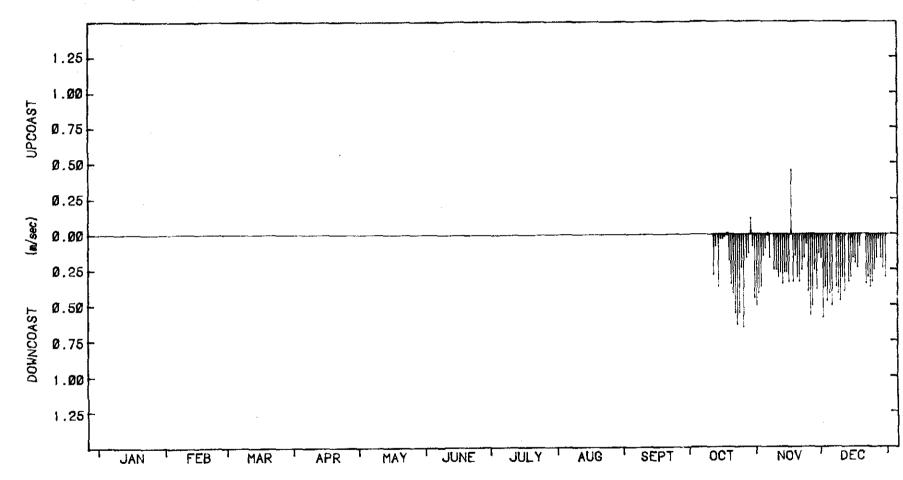
DEC



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LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1976

Mean Vel = -.273 m/sec (down)

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.283 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.296 m/sec

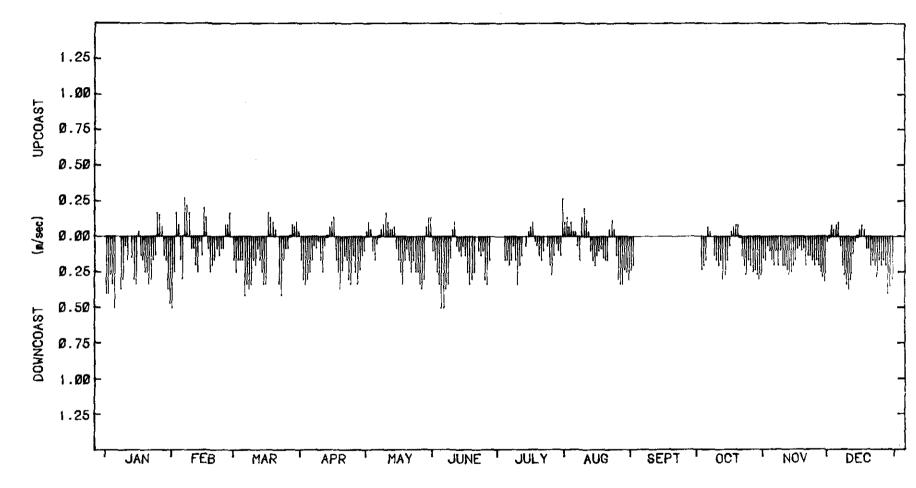
MORNING OBSERVATIONS - ( 76 recordings)



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LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1977

Mean Vel = -.134 m/sec (down)

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.096 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.203 m/sec

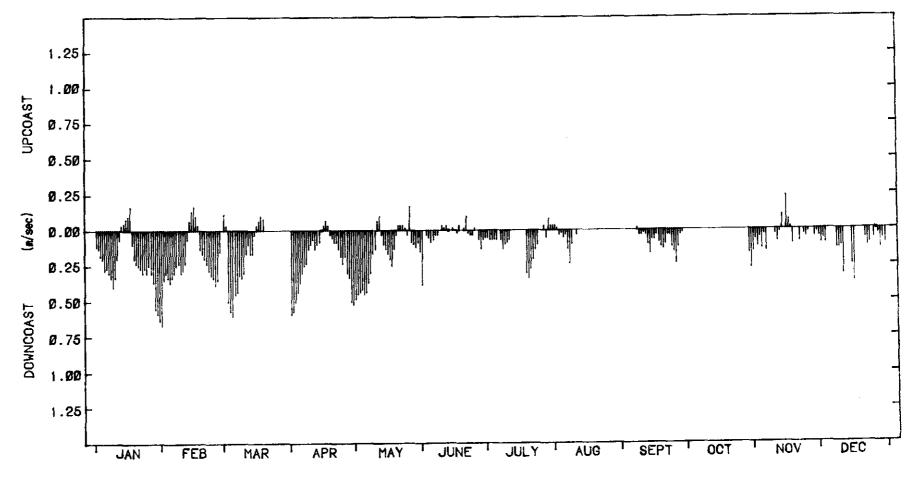
MORNING OBSERVATIONS - (321 recordings)



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LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1978

Mean Vel = -.141 m/sec (down)

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.063 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = Ø.188 m/sec

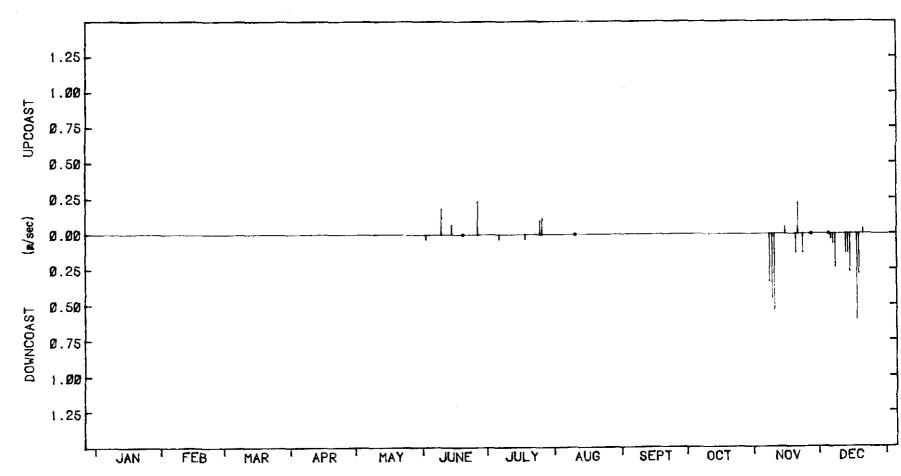
MORNING OBSERVATIONS - (259 recordings)



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LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY - 1978

Mean Vel = -.087 m/sec (down)

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.125 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.215 m/sec

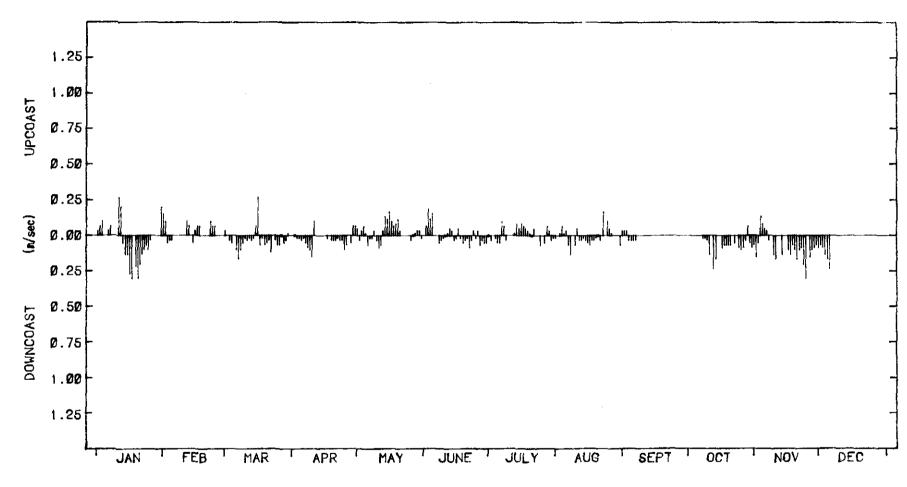
AFTERNO(IN OBSERVATIONS - ( 28 recordings)



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CURRENT SUMMARY 1979 LITTORAL

Mean Vel = -.021 m/sec (down)

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.073 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vei = 0.072 m/sec

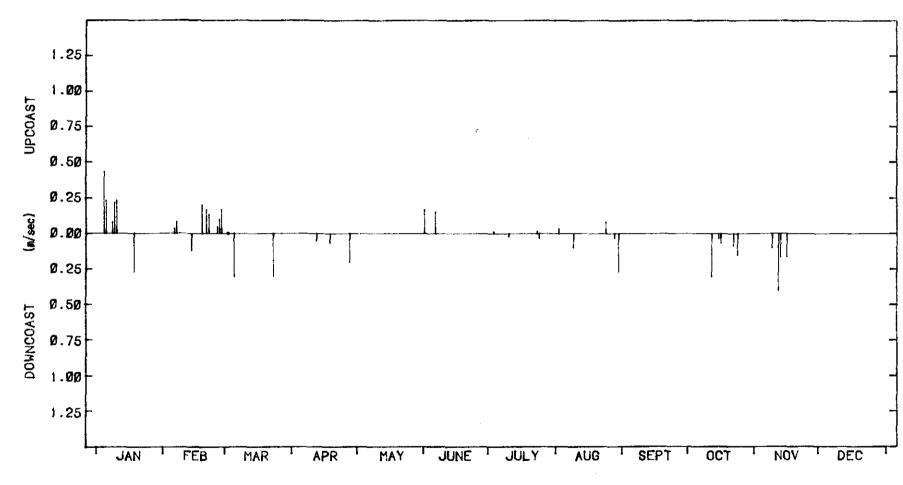
MCRNING OBSERVATIONS - (243 recordings)



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LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY -

Mean Vel = -.015 m/sec (down)

Mean Upcoast Vel = 0.137 m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.153 m/sec

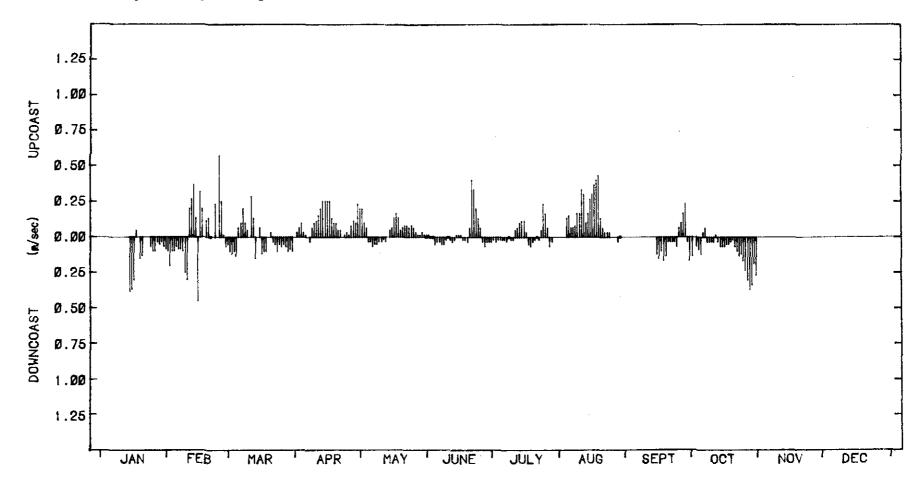
AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS - ( 41 recordings)



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LITTORAL CURRENT SUMMARY

Mean Vel = 0.016 m/sec (up)

Mean Upcoast Vel = Ø.13Ø m/sec

Mean Downcoast Vel = 0.088 m/sec

MORNING OBSERVATIONS - (253 recordings)

Values of distances to fixed contour and foreshore slope angles were not measured.



**BEACH PROFILE PARAMETERS - 1976** 

COPE Yeppoon

Figure 20 C 15.1

Values of distances to fixed contour and foreshore slope angles were not measured.



**BEACH PROFILE PARAMETRES - 1977** 

COPE Yeppoon

Figure 21 C 15.1

Values of distances to fixed contour and foreshore slope angles were not measured.

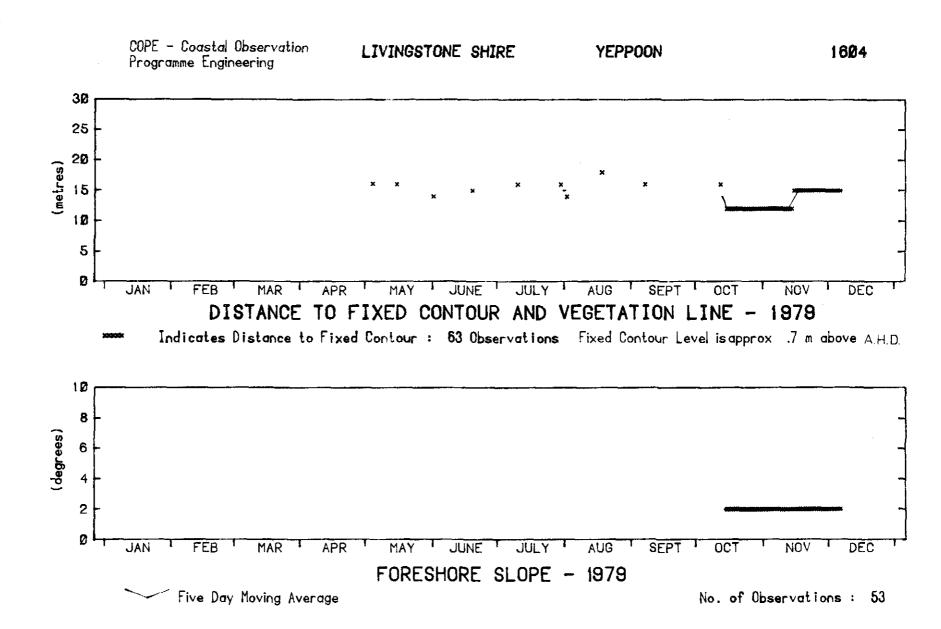


**BEACH PROFILE PARAMETRES - 1978** 

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Figure 22

C 15.1



COPE

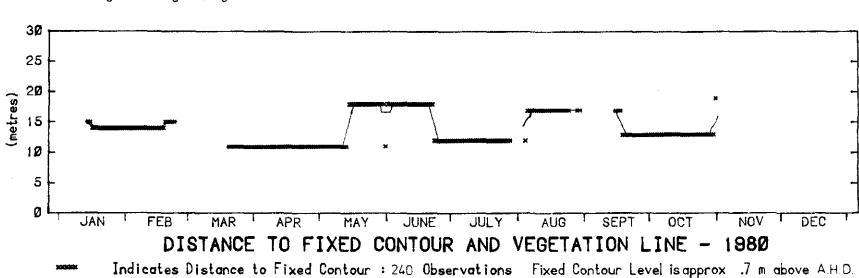


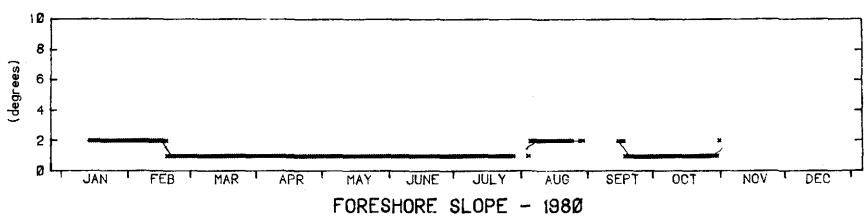
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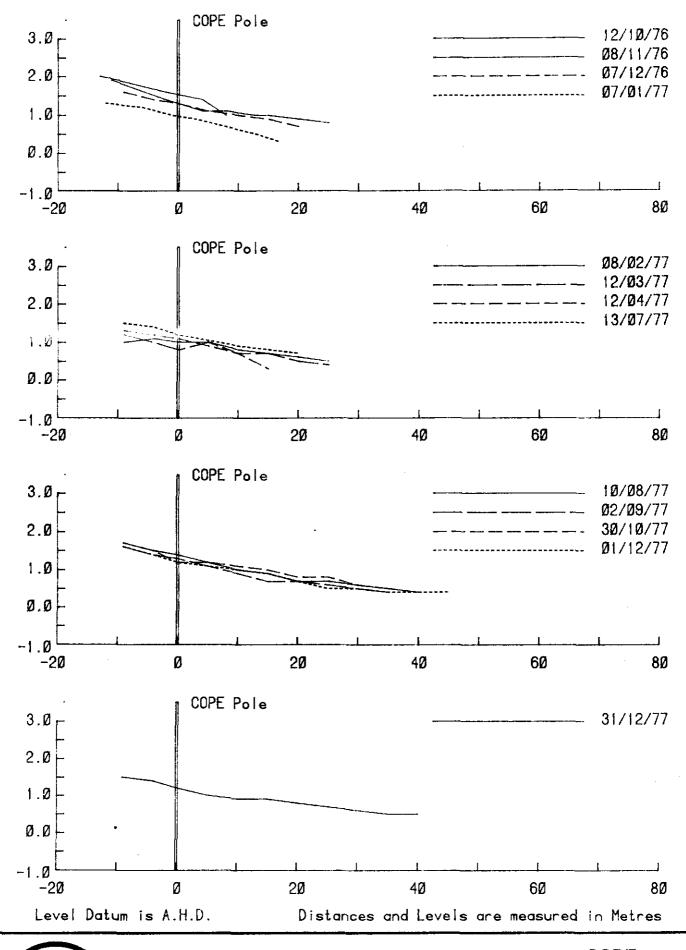
1604





Five Day Moving Average

No. of Observations: 264

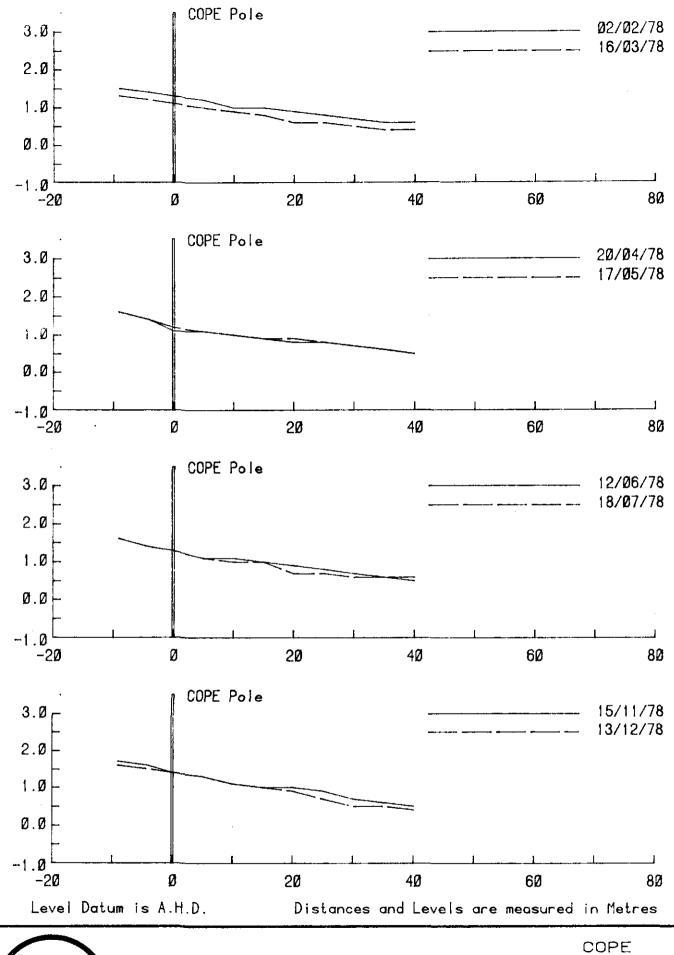




MONTHLY BEACH PROFILES

1976-1977

Figure 25

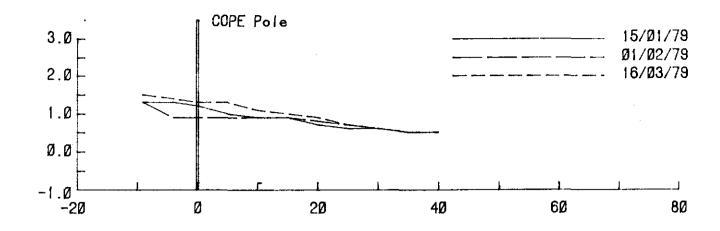


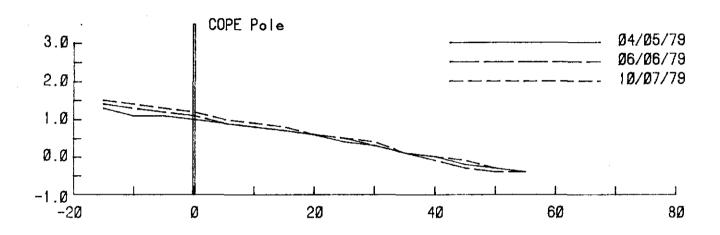


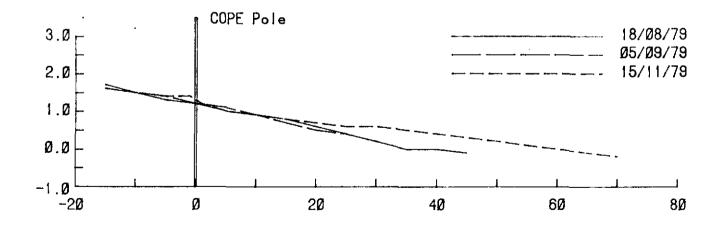
MONTHLY BEACH PROFILES

1978

Figure 26 C 15.1







Level Datum is A.H.D.

Distances and Levels are measured in Metres

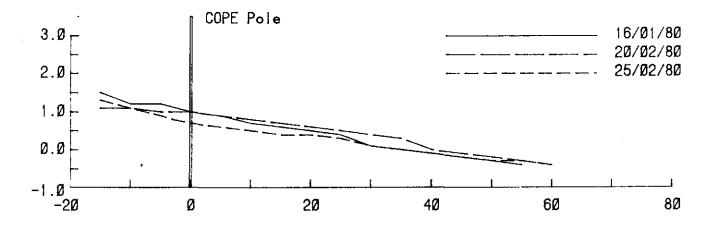


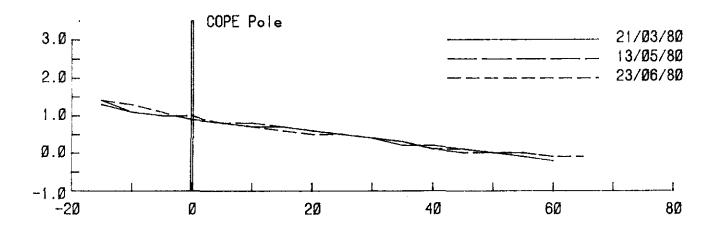
MONTHLY BEACH PROFILES

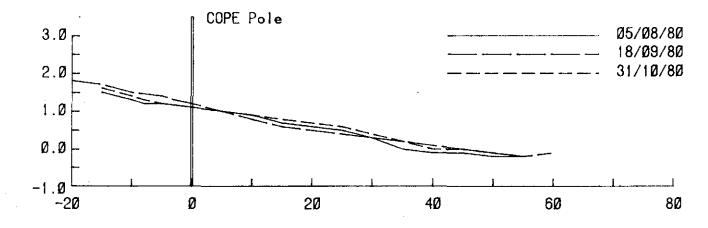
1979

Figure 27 C 15.1

COPE







Level Datum is A.H.D.

Distances and Levels are measured in Metres



MONTHLY BEACH PROFILES
1980

COPE
Yeppoon
Figure 28
C 15.1