COASTAL OBSERVATION PROGRAMME – ENGINEERING (COPE) BARWELL CREEK – LIVINGSTONE SHIRE FOR THE YEARS 1975 TO 1978

REPORT NO. C17.1

Beach Protection Authority

October 1985

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ABSTRACT:-

This report provides a summary of primary analyses of COPE data on wind, wave and beach processes observed at Barwell Creek which is in Livingstone Shire on the central Queensland coast. The data were recorded by volunteer observers Mr. & Mrs. E. Dunstone during the period November 1975 to November 1978. The recordings were made daily during the three year period and the information published is considered representative of the long term conditions.

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Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Yeppoon - Livingstone Shire, (Report C15.1).

Coastal Observation Programme - Engineering (COPE), Bargara - Woongarra Shire, (Report C16.1).

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2. PATTERSON, D.C. AND BLAIR, R.J.

Visually Determined Wave Parameters. 6th Australian Conference on Coastal and Ocean Engineering, Gold Coast, July 1983. CONTENTS

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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 operated 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 1975 to 1978 in a useful statistical form. No attempt has been made to interpret the observed data.

If the three year period is representative of the long term average meteorological conditions, the statistics presented on wind, wave and beach movements can be regarded as typical. However, this recording period may be considered 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 Barwell Creek COPE station is located on the central Queensland coast within the Livingstone Shire. It forms part of an 18 kilometre stretch of coastline between Spring Head to the south and Sandy Point to the north. The town of Yeppoon is situated immediately south of the COPE station. The location of the Barwell Creek COPE station is shown in Figure 1.

2.2 Observers

This station has been operated by Mr. & Mrs. Eric Dunstone during the period November 1975 to November 1978. Mr. & Mrs. Dunstone were residents of Yeppoon.

2.3 Observed Parameters

The observers at this station usually recorded once daily at approximately 9.15 a.m. or 4.00 p.m. during the three year period 1975 to 1978.

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 Line
- Foreshore Slope
- Longshore Current Speed
- Longshore Current Direction.

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

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. 4.10 metres M.H.W.N. 3.20 metres M.S.L. 2.38 metres M.L.W.N. 1.60 metres M.L.W.S. 0.70 metres.

A.H.D. is 2.300 metres above Low Water Datum.

2.5 Description of the Beach

The beach at Barwell Creek is essentially in its natural state and has a well formed dunal system which supports an abundance of vegetation. It exhibits the following characteristics:

- Typical beach slopes: foreshore slope is in the range 1 in 57 to 1 in 19 $(1^{\circ} \text{ to } 3^{\circ})$.
- Beach width: typically 30 to 100 metres from the seaward edge of the frontal dune to low water mark.
- D50 sand size: 0.22 mm averaged over three years.
- Adjoining Landform: Low frontal dune backed by a well developed hind dune system.
- Vegetation: The frontal dune supports sand spinifex grass (<u>Spinifex</u> <u>sericeus</u>) and goats foot convolvulus (<u>Ipomoea pes-caprae</u>) herbland. Vegetation on the foredune system consists of mixed grassland dominated by blady grass (<u>Imperata cylindrica var. major</u>) with scattered horsetail she-oak (<u>Casuarina equisetifolia</u> var. <u>incana</u>) and screw pine (Pandanus pedunculatus).

2.6 Supervision of Station

The observers were instructed in the recording programme 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 three year period November 1975 to November 1978 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 occurrences 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 observers estimate 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 $1 - 0^{\circ}$ to 60° Sector $2 - 61^{\circ}$ to 85° Sector $3 - 86^{\circ}$ to 95° Sector $4 - 96^{\circ}$ to 120° Sector $5 - 121^{\circ}$ to 180°

Note: 0° is the beach alignment to the left of the observer when facing seaward, and at the COPE station this direction is approximately true north.

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 13.
- (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 14 to Figure 21). 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 2.5 metre, relative to A.H.D., fixed contour level from November 1975 to the end of December 1977 and distance from the reference pole to the 1.8 metre, relative to A.H.D., fixed contour level from January 1978 to November 1978.
- Distance from 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 22 to 25.

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 26 and 27.

MONTHLY AND ANNUAL

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

Barwell Creek

YEAR 1975

	MEAN WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	MEAN WAVE HBIGHT (Metres)	EAN Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type/Wave Direction												
MONTH				Way	ие Туре			Wave Direction							
			SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm		
JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER	5.2 5.1	0.36 0.41	54.5 74.5	9.1 2.1	0 0	27.3 21.3	9.1 2.1	0 0	9.3 12.5	81.6 85.4	0 0	0 0	9.1 2.1		
WHOLE YEAR	5.2	0.38	66.3	5.0	0.0	23.7	5.0	0.0	11,0	84.0	0.0	0.0	5.0		

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

Barwell Creek

YEAR 1976

MONTH	MEAN WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	MEAN WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type/Wave Direction											
			Wav e Туре						Wave Direction					
			SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm	
		0.50	00.0											
JANUARY	6.1	0.50	80.8	-	-	15.4	3.8	-	3.8	84.7	1 7.7	-	3.8	
FEBRUARY	6.5	0.45	81.5	-	-	14.8	3.7		3.7	92.6	_	-	3.7	
MARCH	7.3	0.37	62.5	12.5	-	12.5	12.5	-	-	81.2	6.3	-	12.5	
APRIL	5.7	0.34	63.6	-	-	27.3	9.1	-	-	86.4	4.5	\	9.1	
MAY	6.4	0.38	76.2	-	-	14.3	9.5	-	4.8	76.2	9.5	-	9.5	
JUNE	6.5	0.22	40.0	-	-	6.7	53.3	-	_	40.0	6.7	_	53.3	
JULY	6.2	0.33	50.0	-	_	30.0	20.0	-	12.5	55.0	12.5	- 1	20.0	
AUGUST	7.2	0.24	61.9	-	_	-	38.1	_	_	61.9	-	-	38.1	
SEPTEMBER	7.2	0.26	59.1	-	_	13.6	27.3	_	13.6	50.0	9.1	-	27.3	
OCTOBER	9.0	0.25	75.0	-	-	-	25.0	12.5	25.0	31.2	6.3	-	25.0	
NOVEMBER	7.4	0.33	100.0	-	_	_		-	33.3	66.7	_	_		
DECEMBER	5.6	0.59	52 7	-	1_	26.8	10.5	_	596	21 6	5.2		10.5	
BECEMBER	0.0	0.04	9211			30.0	10.0		52.0	91.0	0.0		10.0	
	 			··								<u> </u>		
WHOLE YEAR	6.6	0.36	66.5	0.9	0.0	15.1	17.5	0.9	10.2	65.9	5.5	0.0	17.5	

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

Barwell Creek

YEAR 1977

	MEAN WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	MEAN WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)	Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type/Wave Direction												
MONTH			Wave Type						Wave Direction						
			SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm		
JANUARY	7.2	0.45	77.3	~	-	13.6	9.1	_	13.6	68.2	9.1	-	9.1		
FEBRUARY	5.8	0.40	100.0	~	-	-	-	-	- 1	100.0	-	-			
MARCH	7.3	0.32	82.4	-	-	5.8	11.8	-	5.9	58.8	17.6	5.9	11.8		
APRIL	6.3	0.34	85.7		-	14.3	-	-	-	85.7	14.3	-	-		
MAY	7.6	0.20	46.2	~	-	11.5	42.3	3.8	-	50.1	3.8	-	42.3		
JUNE	7.6	0.25	41.6	~	-	29.2	29.2	-	-	37.5	33.3		29.2		
JULY	7.1	0.39	51.8	-	-	31.0	17.2	-	-	62.1	20.7	-	17.2		
AUGUST	7.2	0.32	77.8	-	-	11.1	11.1	-	-	77.8	11.1	-	11.1		
SEPTEMBER	9.1	0.33	80.0	-	i –	12.0	8.0	-	8.0	84.0	-	-	8.0		
OCTOBER	7.6	0.35	61.9			28.6	9.5	-	14.4	71.3	4.8	-	9.5		
NOVEMBER	7.7	0.37	78.6		-	10.7	10.7	-	14.3	75.0	-	-	10.7		
DECEMBER	7.4	0.30	63.0	~	-	7.4	29.6	-	7.4	63.0	-	-	29.6		
WHOLE YEAR	7.5	0.33	66.2	0.0	0.0	16.1	17.7	0.4	5.9	65.7	9.9	0.4	17.7		

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

Barwell Creek

YEAR 1978

MONTH	MEAN WAVE PERIOD (Secs)	MEAN WAVE HEIGHT (Metres)	EAN Percentage Occurrences - Wave Type/Wave Direction											
			Wave Type						Wave Direction					
			SP	PL	Surge	SP/PL	Calm	1	2	3	4	5	Calm	
JANUARY	7.3	0.34	85.0	_		-	15.0	-	5.0	75.0	5.0	-	15.0	
FEBRUARY	8.2	0.40	50.0	-	-	29.2	20.8		-	70.8	8.4	-	20.8	
MARCH	8.4	0.32	71.4	-	-	9.6	19.0	4.8	4.8	71.4	-	-	19.0	
APRIL	12.4	0.30	80.0		-	-	20.0	-	20.0	60.0	-	-	20.0	
MAY	7.8	0.34	66.7	-	1 –	8.3	25.0	· -	4.2	58.3	12.5	-	25.0	
JUNE	9.7	0.13	43.7	-	-	6.3	50.0	-	-	37.5	12.5	-	50.0	
JULY	9.7	0.27	68.4	-	-	15.8	15.8	-	5.2	63.2	15.8	-	15.8	
AUGUST	9.1	0.29	78.6	-	-	14.3	7.1	-	7.1	78.7	7.1	-	7.1	
SEPTEMBER	6.5	0.28	100.0	-	-	-	-	9.1	36.4	54.5	-	-	-	
OCTOBER	7.3	0.67	83.3	-	-	16.7	-	-	22.2	61.1	16.7	-	-	
NOVEMBER	7.5	0.42	95.0	-	-	5.0	-	5.0	25.0	45.0	25.0	-	-	
DECEMBER	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WHOLE YEAR	8.2	0.35	72.9	0.0	0.0	11.0	16.1	1.6	9.9	62.0	10.4	0.0	16.1	

SP - Spilling

PL - Plunging SP/PL - Combined Spilling and Plunging



LIVINGSTONE SHIRE

BARWELL CREEK

ALL OBSERVATIONS



Total No. of Observations : 754

MORNING - AFTERNOON OBSERVATIONS



No. of Morning Observations : 352 LEGEND No. of Afternoon Observations : 402 SCALE kts kts kts 10 20 30 4Ø 5Ø kts Mean Time - Morning Obs : 0914 hrs Mean Time - Afternoon Obs : 1553 hrs Percentage >30 | 16-30 6-15 ŝ

WIND DATA - NOV 1975 to DEC 1978



NOTES :

WIND DATA

COPE Barwell Creek



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ALL DATA

Beach Protection Authority



WAVE HEIGHT

% EXCEEDANCE

















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Beach Protection Authority

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Authority

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DEC

DEC





