



# Beach Surveys and Data Assessment, Mackay Region

COPE Report - Cape Hillsborough Beach

Coastal Impacts Unit

2015



#### Prepared by

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Front Cover Photo: Blacks Beach July 1995 looking North Source: BPA file

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## 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Preamble

The Coastal Observation Program Engineering (COPE) data collection system was designed to collect data at selected sites along the Queensland coast to assist in the understanding of coastal processes and the way these processes affect the coast line. COPE was managed for the Beach Protection Authority (BPA) (now disbanded) by the Department of Harbours and Marine up until 1989 and then by the Coastal Management Branch in what is now the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP). COPE data was progressively analysed and reports at selected sites were compiled up to mid-1996¹ when the program was abandoned. After that date very little further analysis was carried out, however all data was archived for possible future use. Custodianship of this data rests with the Coastal Impacts Unit of the Department of Science, Information Technology, and Innovation (DSITI).

For this report, raw data was provided by DSITI for Cape Hillsborough Beach – COPE Station Number 20082. This data had not been pre-processed to identify errors in the recordings and/or errors from the transfer of the data from the recording sheets to the computer data file.

In February 2015, the Coastal Impacts Unit of DSITI commissioned GHD to compile a report on the COPE data from the Cape Hillsborough Beach site, located east of Risley Parade and north east of Hidden Valley road. The report is modelled on the Bilinga site report compiled in February 2014 by GHD for the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI).

DSITI provided the following data:

- 1. Recorded raw data in the form of a text file this was data compiled directly from the recording sheets;
- 2. Sieve data from the analysis of the sand samples collected by the observers at the site;
- 3. Beach profile data collected by the observers at the site and subsequent data collected by staff from DSITI at Deagon; and
- 4. Photographs and other relevant information about the Cape Hillsborough Beach COPE Station extracted from the BPA files.

GHD, through its Principal Coastal Engineer, Paul O'Keeffe, a former engineer to the BPA, was able to source other background information on the COPE program and make assessments of the data analysis based on first-hand experience with the COPE program.

In addition, the BPA Beach Conservation newsletters were reviewed for any articles on the COPE program relating to the Cape Hillsborough Beach site. However, no articles that provided additional information on the Cape Hillsborough Beach COPE station were identified.

Reference documents and technical papers that have been used to assist in the preparation of this report are listed in Section 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This date concurs with the recollection of Paul O'Keeffe (GHD) and Sel Sultmann (DEHP), Coastal Engineer and Dune Conservationist respectively for the BPA at the time that the COPE program was finalised.

## 1.2 The Program

The BPA required basic data on the behaviour of Queensland's beaches in order to provide evidence-based coastal management advice to Local Authorities. The COPE project aimed to collect information on wind, waves and beach behaviour in areas where extensive investigations were not practical and where otherwise little or no data existed.

The project was based on the recruitment of volunteer observers who were prepared to record a series of basic parameters daily for at least a three year period. The COPE project was operational from late in 1971 to about mid-1996<sup>2</sup>.

#### 1.3 Site Selection

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

- 1. The general shoreline configuration and the possibility of extrapolation of data to other adjacent beaches;
- 2. The distribution of stations along Queensland's coastline; and
- 3. The need to correlate the COPE data with planned or existing data collection programs.

#### 1.4 Instruments

The COPE observers were supplied with a basic kit of recording instruments including:

- 1. 30 m tape measure;
- 2. Wind meter;
- 3. Stop watch;
- 4. 2.0 m measuring sticks;
- 5. Recording forms;
- 6. Fluorescent dye (Rhodamine or Flourescene);
- 7. 1.5 m support stick (as suggested by Appendix A Instructions for filling out COPE recording form);
- 8. Hand held level (as suggested by Appendix A Instructions for filling out COPE recording form); and
- 9. Plastic bags and envelopes for sand samples, mailing envelopes for the return of recording sheets, clipboard, pencils and erasers.

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

#### 1.5 Observers

The majority of COPE observers were volunteers. Some stations were also operated by Government and Local Authority employees who carried out the observations as part of their official duties.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Refer previous footnote

## 1.6 Accuracy

Individual observers differed in their subjective assessment of the various parameters recorded as part of the COPE program. Wave parameters such as height, and angle of approach together with surf zone width and the location of vegetation line all required visual assessment. The accuracy of recorded details varied from observer to observer and possibly from recording to recording. Although the BPA was confident that all observers made their observations to the best of their ability and accepted these observations without adjustment, the existence of random and non-random errors in the recorded data was to be expected.

Problems associated with the use of data containing these errors are minimised in a number of ways as follows:

- 1. Regular visits were made to the COPE stations by the BPA's COPE Field Officer to provide a check on any bias introduced into the recordings by incorrect observation procedures.
- 2. It was determined that, with a large number of observations taken on a regular basis, a reasonable assessment can be made of the average values of the observed parameters provided the observation errors are random. A minimum recording period of three years was adopted for the analysis and publication of the data, in order to minimise the effects of random errors.
- 3. Five day moving averages are applied to observations of the various beach width and foreshore slope parameters to filter out random errors.
- 4. Pre-processing of the raw data was undertaken to remove obvious errors from either recording errors and/or errors from the transfer of the data from the recording sheets to the computer data file. For this report, these errors and how they were corrected have been documented in the Data Presentation section.

For these reasons, the BPA concluded that published COPE data can be used with confidence provided the above inherent limitations are recognised.

#### 1.7 Presentation of Data

The purpose of this report is to present COPE data for Cape Hillsborough Beach for the six years worth of data recorded between 1991 and 1996, and the continued profile data supplied by DSITI from April 1992 to September 2000 in a useful statistical form.

The six year period can be considered to be representative of the long term average meteorological condition and the statistics presented on wind, wave and beach movements can be regarded as typical of the ambient conditions. 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 given to the influence of such events on trends of long term beach behaviour.

## 2 Station Particulars

#### 2.1 Location

Cape Hillsborough Beach is located approximately 28 kilometres North of Mackay on the Eastern Queensland coastline. The beach is approximately 1.5 kilometres long extending from a northern rocky outcrop to Wedge Island in the south. The location of the Cape Hillsborough Beach COPE station is east of Risley Parade as shown on Figure 5 and Figure 6.

#### 2.2 Observers

From information available, the main observers for the Cape Hillsborough Beach site were Mr Peter Thompson, Steve de Keijzer and Mr T. Wilson. They took daily measurements from July 1991 until July 1995 when Alan Beckman and Catherine Wheeldon took over the observation duties. The involvement of these observers in the program is summarised in Table 1. Additionally, officers from DSITIA took the monthly profile recordings and sand samples from 1992 to 2000.

Table 1 Summar	y of Cape Hillsborough	beach observers
----------------	------------------------	-----------------

Year	Observer	Year	Observer
1991	Peter Thompson, Steve de Keijzer & T. Wilson	1994	Peter Thompson, Steve de Keijzer & T. Wilson
1992	Peter Thompson, Steve de Keijzer & T. Wilson	1995	Alan Beckman & Catherine Wheeldon
1993	Peter Thompson, Steve de Keijzer & T. Wilson	1996	Alan Beckman

## 2.3 Reports from Beach Conservation

Beach Conservation was the title of the newsletter of the Beach Protection Authority of Queensland and was published quarterly between September 1970 and June 1990. Various aspects of the COPE program were frequently featured in the newsletter including two main articles on the operation of the program in April 1977 (Issue No 27) and June 1990 (Issue No 69). In addition, the BPA Beach Conservation newsletters were reviewed for any articles on the COPE program relating to the Cape Hillsborough Beach site. However, no articles that provided additional information on the Cape Hillsborough Beach COPE station were identified.

## 2.4 Site History

Listed below is information compiled from the BPA files for this site, including details of the installation and maintenance of the COPE pole. A photograph of the installed COPE pole is shown in Figure 1.

- 1. July 1991 Observations commenced,
- 2. February 1992 COPE pole installed, painted and calibrated,
- 3. May 1996 Accumulation of sand on the vegetated section of the dune landward of the COPE pole,
- 4. 30 June 1996 Daily observations ceased, monthly profiles and samples continued,
- 5. 01 September 2000 All observations ceased.



Figure 1 Cape Hillsborough beach COPE pole, November 1994

#### 2.5 Observed Parameters

The observers at this station recorded the majority of observations in the afternoon between 12 pm and 4 pm throughout most of the recording period.

Data was recorded on the new recording sheet shown in Figure 7 from 12 July 1991 to 30 June 1996, with the following parameters being recorded:

- Wave height (average) (m);
- Wave height (maximum) (m);
- · Wave height method;
- Wave period (s);
- Wave direction (degrees);
- Surf zone width (s);
- Current speed longshore (m/min);
- Current direction longshore;
- Distance from shore (m);
- Offshore bar presence;
- Wind speed (mph);
- · Wind direction (degrees);
- Fixed contour elevation (m);
- Distance to fixed contour (m);
- Distance to the vegetation (m);
- Sand level at pole (COPE reference pole) (m); and
- Sand sample.

Surf zone width on the new recording sheet was measured as the time (in seconds) it took for a wave to traverse the surf zone from its break point until its final run-up position.

All directions in this report are magnetic. Sector bearings derived from True North were converted to magnetic bearings using the magnetic variation shown on marine charts.

The first recorded sand sample was taken in July 1992, and from then on, samples were taken every few months.

A profile of the beach was recorded semi frequently throughout the recording period with additional profiles recorded within the month depending on the state of the beach and the occurrence of storm events from 1992 to 2000. The beach profiles are shown in Figure 39 to Figure 43. Note that the September 2000 data has not been plotted as the data appears to be corrupted. It should be noted that the COPE location is always located at chainage 0 and that the first beach profile recorded in April 1992 has been repeated on each chart as a reference level.

#### 2.6 Tidal Information

Tidal information from the 1991 Official Tide Tables (H&M 1991) for Finlayson Point (approximately 11 km northwest of Cape Hillsborough) is presented in Table 2.

It should be noted that in 2010, the tidal plane levels were updated for the current Tidal Datum Epoch 1992 - 2011, using the latest available tidal observations, prediction information and allowance for sea level rise. The current tidal plane levels are provided in the 2015 Official Tide Tables (MSQ 2015) and the levels for Halliday Bay (being the nearest location to Cape Hillsborough Beach, approximately 7 km to the northwest)) are presented in Table 2. The datum for the 2010 levels is LAT.

Table 2 Tidal planes

Tidal Plane	1991 (m LAT)	2015 (m LAT)
	Finlayson Point	Halliday Bay
Highest Astronomical     Tide (HAT)		6.14
Mean High Water     Springs (MHWS)	5.1	5.03
Mean High Water     Neaps (MHWN)	3.7	3.73
Australian Height     Datum (AHD)		2.63
5. Mean Sea Level (MSL)	2.77	2.65
6. Mean Low Water Neaps (MLWN)	1.7	1.69
7. Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)	0.4	0.56
8. Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)		0.0

Depending on the difference in datums, the tidal plane levels have increased by around 0.16 m for MLWS and reduced by around 0.07 m for MHWS, Note that the value of the AHD relative to the tidal planes for Finlayson Point is unknown.

## 2.7 Beach Description

The beach at the Cape Hillsborough Beach COPE station exhibits the following characteristics:

- Beach width: Varied from 120 to 170 m measured from the seaward toe of the frontal dune to the Low Water Mark over a six year period recorded between 1992 - 2000 (by inspection of the monthly beach profiles in Figure 39 to Figure 43);
- D<sub>50</sub> grain size: 0.23 mm averaged over 11 samples collected over the five years (1992 1996); and
- Adjoining landform: Low vegetated dune seaward of natural areas that are part of the Cape Hillsborough National Park.

Images of the beach are provided in Figure 2 and Figure 3.



Figure 2 Cape Hillsborough Beach, July 1995 – Looking north



Figure 3 Cape Hillsborough Beach, July 1995 – Looking south

## 2.8 Meteorological Events

The following cyclones were recorded by the Brisbane Bureau of Meteorology as having tracks within 400 km of Cape Hillsborough Beach between January 1988 and February 1996. It is considered that these meteorological events may have had some effect on the condition of Cape Hillsborough Beach.

- Cyclone KELVIN: 24 February 05 March 1991
- Cyclone FRAN: 09 March 17 March 1992
- Cyclone OLIVER: 05 February 12 February 1993

- Cyclone ROGER: 12 March 21 March 1993
- Cyclone REWA: 28 December 1993 21 January 1994
- Cyclone VIOLET: 03 March 08 March 1995
- Cyclone CELESTE: 26 January 29 January 1996
- Cyclone DENNIS: 15 February 18 February 1996

See to Figure 51 for the cyclone tracks for a 400 km radius centred just east of Mackay over the recording period of 1991 - 1996.

## 2.9 Station Supervision

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

Installation of the reference pole for this station was carried out by the Pioneer Shire Council. Maintenance of the pole was carried out by the BPA COPE Field Officer.

## 3 Data

#### 3.1 General

COPE data for this station for the six year period July 1991 to June 1996 is presented in the tables in Section 5 - Tabular Results and the figures in Section 6 - Data Presentation. The data has 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 m above beach level. The wind direction was recorded in degrees by compass, and the speed was recorded in miles per hour (mph). Wind speed data in this report is presented in metres per second (m/s).

A summary of annual wind speed direction percentage occurrences is shown as a wind rose in Figure 9.

#### 3.3 Waves

The average and maximum breaker height (trough to crest) was usually estimated to the nearest 0.1 metre. Previous studies (Patterson and Blair, 1983) have shown that the estimate of average breaker height is comparable with the equivalent deep water significant wave height. The wave height was measured using one of the methods described on page two of the recording sheet (Figure 8), the method chosen being dependent on the wave height.

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

Wave direction is estimated as one of five direction sectors in relation to the shore normal direction from which the waves were approaching the beach. From aerial photography the shore normal direction (True North) was determined to be 59 degrees for the Cape Hillsborough Beach COPE

site. The compass bearings (Adjusted for magnetic declination) for the sectors are displayed in Table 3 and in the diagram below:

Table 3 Sector directions (Magnetic North)

Sector	Direction
1	337° to 37°
2	37° to 62°
3	62° to 72°
4	72° to 97°
5	97° to 157°

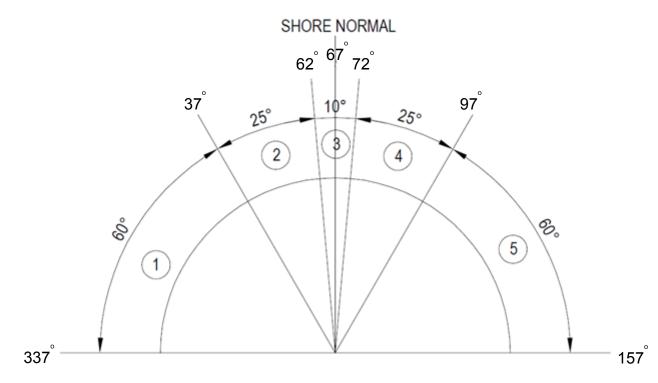


Figure 4 Sector Distribution (Magnetic North)

Note: At the Cape Hillsborough beach COPE station, the shore normal direction is approximately 67 degrees east of magnetic north.

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 10);
- The percentage occurrence of various combinations of wave heights, periods and directions (Figure 11 to Figure 15);
- Surf zone width with an indication of existence or otherwise of an offshore bar (Figure 16 to Figure 21); and
- Tabulation of the occurrence of various wave heights, periods, types and directions (Table 4 to Table 9).

Wave direction was recorded as a compass bearing (Refer Figure 8). Wave direction data in this report is presented as per the sectors summarised in Table 3.

## 3.4 Longshore Currents

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

The readings were then converted to a velocity which was plotted on a monthly basis (Figure 22 to Figure 27). A summary table for the mean upcoast and downcoast components and overall annual averages are provided on each of these yearly figures.

#### 3.5 Beach Profile Parameters

Fixed contour elevation was measured by using the supplied level and the 1.5 m support pole. The observer would stand the pole in the top of the berm, and by using the level, would site and record the elevation from the graduated COPE pole. The distance to the fixed contour was recorded using a tape measure. The fixed contour has been interpreted as being on top of a berm.

Sand level at the reference pole and the distance to the vegetation line were also recorded.

Changes in these parameters with time indicate how the beach moves in response to varying wave conditions. Plots of these parameters are shown in to Figure 37.

No foreshore slopes were recorded at this station.

Figure 38 show summaries of monthly averages of the distance to berm and the distance to vegetation line for the full recording period.

## 3.6 Monthly Beach Profiles

Measurements of beach profiles at Cape Hillsborough beach were usually taken monthly. However, if the beach experienced appreciable erosion or accretion during the month, the observer was requested to take an additional beach profile. Monthly beach profiles are shown in Figure 39 to Figure 43. The September 2000 data has not been plotted as the data appears to be corrupted. It should be noted that the profile taken in April 1992 has been repeated in each graph so comparisons between profiles can be easily made.

## 3.7 Sand Sample Particle Size Distribution

A total of 11 sand samples were collected over five years (1992 to 1996) when the station was operational. The data indicates that 11 samples underwent a standard sieve analysis to determine the particle size distribution. However, the data required some manipulation to extract meaningful results and therefore should be used with caution and preferably confirmed through the analysis of new samples from the same location.

The lower boundary ( $D_{16}$ ), upper boundary ( $D_{84}$ ) and the average  $D_{50}$  were derived from the data and are summarised in Figure 49. Particle Size Distribution  $D_{50}$  is the value of the particle diameter at 50% in the cumulative distribution. For cape Hillsborough, the average  $D_{50}$ =0.23 mm, then 50% of the particles in the sample are larger than 0.23 mm, and 50% smaller than 0.23 mm with the same concept applied for  $D_{16}$  and  $D_{84}$ .

## 4 References

- 1. BC No 27 Jones, C.M., *COPE (Coastal Observation Programme Engineering)*, Beach Conservation newsletter No 21, October 1975.
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- 5. MSQ 2015 Semi diurnals and diurnal tidal planed, http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/tides/tidal planes.aspx, Maritime Safety Queensland, 2015.
- 6. Patterson & Blair 1983 Patterson, D.C. and Blair, R.J., *Visually Determined Wave Parameters*, 6th Australian Conference on Coastal and Ocean Engineering, Gold Coast, July 1983.
- 7. Robinson & Jones 1977 Robinson, D.A. and Jones, C.M., *Queensland Volunteer Coastal Observation Programme Engineering (COPE)*, 3rd Australian Conference on Coastal and Ocean Engineering, Melbourne, April 1977.

## 5 Tabular Results

Table 4 Monthly and annual – mean wave height/mean wave period and wave direction occurrences. Cape Hillsborough Beach. Year 1991

	No.	Mean Wave	Mean Wave	No of	Per	centage o	curences -	wave dire	ction (Sec	tor)
Month	Observations	Period (s)	Height (m)	Obs.	1	2	3	4	5	Calm
Jan	0			0						
Feb	0			0						
Mar	0			0						
Apr	0			0						
May	0			0						
Jun	0			0						
Jul	16	5.0	0.2	16	0	3	0	13	0	0
Aug	31	5.4	0.3	31	0	3	0	22	4	0
Sep	30	5.7	0.2	30	1	8	4	17	0	0
Oct	28	5.6	0.3	28	0	15	2	11	0	0
Nov	29	4.6	0.2	29	1	8	2	18	0	1
Dec	27	6.4	0.2	27	3	9	0	15	0	0
Whole	_									
Year	161	5.5	0.2	161	5	46	8	96	4	1

Table 5 Monthly and annual – mean wave height/mean wave period and wave direction occurrences. Cape Hillsborough Beach. Year 1992

	No.	Mean Wave	Mean Wave	No of	Per	centage or	curences -	wave dire	ction (Sect	or)
Month	Observations	Period (s)	Height (m)	Obs.	1	2	3	4	5	Calm
Jan	30	5.7	0.2	30	1	10	0	18	1	0
Feb	28	6.7	0.2	28	1	8	0	17	1	0
Mar	24	6.1	0.3	24	0	4	2	18	0	0
Apr	30	5.4	0.4	30	0	2	0	28	0	0
May	27	4.2	0.2	27	0	0	0	14	10	0
Jun	25	4.7	0.2	25	0	2	0	19	1	0
Jul	31	4.7	0.3	31	0	5	0	24	1	0
Aug	30	5.0	0.2	30	0	7	0	20	0	0
Sep	31	3.5	0.2	31	5	13	0	8	0	1
Oct	29	3.3	0.2	29	0	5	0	21	1	0
Nov	26	3.1	0.2	26	2	10	0	13	0	0
Dec	30	4.0	0.3	30	0	12	0	18	0	0
Whole		_								
Year	341	4.7	0.2	341	9	78	2	218	15	1

Table 6 Monthly and annual – mean wave height/mean wave period and wave direction occurrences. Cape Hillsborough Beach. Year 1993

	No.	Mean Wave	Mean Wave	No of	Per	centage oc	curences -	wave dire	ction (Sec	tor)
Month	Observations	Period (s)	Height (m)	Obs.	1	2	3	4	5	Calm
Jan	31	3.7	0.2	31	0	6	0	25	0	0
Feb	27	5.3	0.3	27	0	2	0	25	0	0
Mar	29	6.6	0.3	29	0	17	2	9	1	0
Apr	30	6.5	0.3	30	1	18	6	5	0	0
May	0			0						
Jun	28	5.2	0.2	28	0	13	5	8	1	0
Jul	30	5.9	0.2	30	0	16	6	7	0	0
Aug	31	5.5	0.2	31	0	12	9	10	0	0
Sep	29	4.7	0.3	29	2	10	6	10	0	0
Oct	26	5.0	0.2	26	1	15	2	8	0	0
Nov	21	3.8	0.3	21	1	13	0	7	0	0
Dec	23	4.7	0.3	23	2	11	1	7	0	0
Whole			·							
Year	305	5.2	0.3	305	7	133	37	121	2	0

Table 7 Monthly and annual – mean wave height/mean wave period and wave direction occurrences. Cape Hillsborough Beach. Year 1994

	No.	Mean Wave	Mean Wave	No of	Per	centage o	curences -	wave dire	ction (Sec	tor)
Month	Observations	Period (s)	Height (m)	Obs.	1	2	3	4	5	Calm
Jan	31	5.0	0.4	31	2	18	2	9	0	0
Feb	26	5.0	0.3	26	1	13	6	6	0	0
Mar	0			0						
Apr	26	5.3	0.2	26	0	12	7	7	0	0
May	28	5.3	0.2	28	0	18	5	3	0	0
Jun	23	4.7	0.2	23	0	5	5	9	1	0
Jul	28	5.5	0.2	28	1	9	4	9	4	0
Aug	27	4.9	0.2	27	0	12	9	6	0	0
Sep	25	5.1	0.2	25	5	14	4	1	0	0
Oct	29	4.7	0.2	29	6	20	3	0	0	1
Nov	25	3.8	0.2	25	3	18	1	0	0	0
Dec	20	5.3	0.2	20	0	4	5	8	0	0
Whole										
Year	288	5.0	0.2	288	18	143	51	58	5	1

Table 8 Monthly and annual – mean wave height/mean wave period and wave direction occurrences. Cape Hillsborough Beach. Year 1995

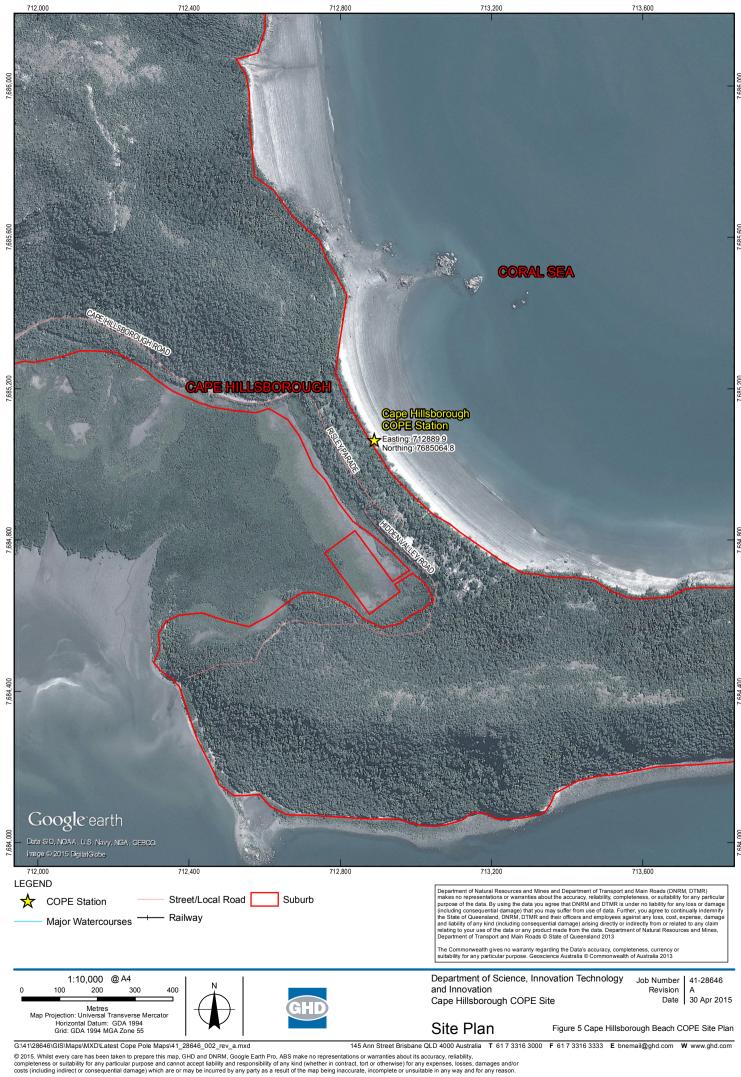
	No.	Mean Wave	Mean Wave	No of	Percentage occurences - wave direction (Sector)					tor)
Month	Observations	Period (s)	Height (m)	Obs.	1	2	3	4	5	Calm
Jan	27	4.5	0.2	27	0	19	6	2	0	0
Feb	22	5.4	0.3	22	0	12	8	2	0	0
Mar	23	5.5	0.2	23	1	7	10	4	0	0
Apr	9	4.6	0.2	9	1	2	3	1	2	0
May	30	4.7	0.2	30	1	17	9	2	0	0
Jun	26	4.5	0.2	26	2	9	11	1	2	0
Jul	22	3.9	0.2	22	1	8	8	5	0	0
Aug	22	5.1	0.4	22	0	9	7	6	0	0
Sep	21	3.7	0.2	21	0	14	4	3	0	0
Oct	21	3.7	0.3	21	0	5	6	8	1	0
Nov	25	3.9	0.3	25	5	17	1	1	1	1
Dec	19	4.1	0.3	19	7	12	0	0	0	1
Whole										
Year	267	4.5	0.2	267	18	131	73	35	6	2

Table 9 Monthly and annual – mean wave height/mean wave period and wave direction occurrences. Cape Hillsborough Beach. Year 1996

	No.	Mean Wave	Mean Wave	No of	Percentage occurences - wave direction (Sector)				tor)	
Month	Observations	Period (s)	Height (m)	Obs.	1	2	3	4	5	Calm
Jan	23	4.7	0.3	23	4	13	4	2	0	0
Feb	24	4.3	0.2	24	3	12	3	3	1	. 0
Mar	22	5.3	0.3	22	1	13	6	1	1	. 0
Apr	20	4.0	0.2	20	3	15	0	1	0	0
May	19	6.2	0.2	19	3	11	4	0	0	0
Jun	21	4.7	0.2	21	1	18	2	0	0	0
Jul	0			0						
Aug	0			0						
Sep	0			0						
Oct	0			0						
Nov	0			0						
Dec	0			0						
Whole										
Year	129	4.9	0.2	129	15	82	19	7	2	. 0

# **6 Data Presentation**

The data analysis for the Cape Hillsborough Beach COPE stations is presented in the following figures.





		BEACH I	PROTECTION	N AUTHO	RITY OF QUEE	NSLAND	Form No. BE 4E			
18	COASTAL OBSERVATION PROGRAMME - ENGINEERING COPE									
1	RECORD ALL DATA CAREFULLY AND LEGIBLY									
-	SITE NUMB		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	- COLDET	TIME			
	1 2 3 4		6 7	8 9	10 11	D	2 13 14 15			
_				Щ		Record time using 24 hour system				
(i)	WAVE HEIGHT ( Record the best es		rage 16	17	WAVE HEIGHT	,	18 19			
	breaking wave height of a metre. If leas t and go directly to Sc	nt to the nearest t	enth		Record the best estimate of the maximum breaking wave height during the entire observation period to the nearest tenth of a metre.					
	WAVE HEIGHT N			20	WAVE PERIOD		21 22 23			
	Record the method to Record 1 if visual es Record 2 if measure Record 3 if measure	timate d with COPE sticks			Record the time in seconds for eleven (11) wave crests to pass a stationary point just seaward of the surf zone.					
	WAVE DIRECTION		24 25	26	SURF ZONE WI		07 00 00			
	Determine the direct entering the surf zo provided and reco degrees.	one using the comp	0888	20	Record the time in seconds for a wave of average height to traverse the surf zone from break point to final run-up on the beach.					
(ii)	CURRENT SPEE	:D			CURRENT DIRE	CTION				
	Measure in metres the the dye patch is obser (1) minute period; if record 000.	rved to move during a	one	32	When the observer 0 — no long shore r L — dye moves to to R — dye moves to to	movement he left	33			
$\vdash$	DISTANCE FROM		34	35	OFFSHORE BA	R				
	Record the distance shore to where the were commenced.				is an off-shore ba break?	r causing the waves to				
(iii)	WIND SPEED				1—yes 0—no WIND DIRECTIO	ON				
	Record wind speed calm record 00 and go			38		ction that the wind is the compass provided ction in degrees.	39 40 41			
(iv)	FIXED CONTOUR	ELEVATION	40		DISTANCE TO F	IXED CONTOUR				
	Record the elevation of		42	43	reference post to landward of the reference. 009 measures 9	to the nearest metre, from the the fixed contour. Distance rence post are negative. metres seeward (No sign); 7 metres landward. (Minus sign	s			
(v)	DISTANCE TO T		47 48	49	SAND LEVEL A	T POLE	50 51			
	Record the distance fi the average vegetation of the reference post a	n line. Distances land			Record to nearest t	enth of a metre.				
(vi)	SAND SAMPLE	PLEASE PRINT		Pleas	se check the form for o	ompleteness				
	If sample taken then record 1. Otherwise leave blank.		SITE NAI	ME		OBSE	RVER			
	52	REMARKS:								
		(tor office use only		ny additional i	remarks, computations	or sketches on the reverse	side of this form.			
		53 54 55 56	57 58 59 60 6	1 62 63 64	65 66 67 68 69	70 71 72 73 74 75	76 77 78 79 80			

Figure 7 **COPE Recording Sheet - New Format, Page 1** 





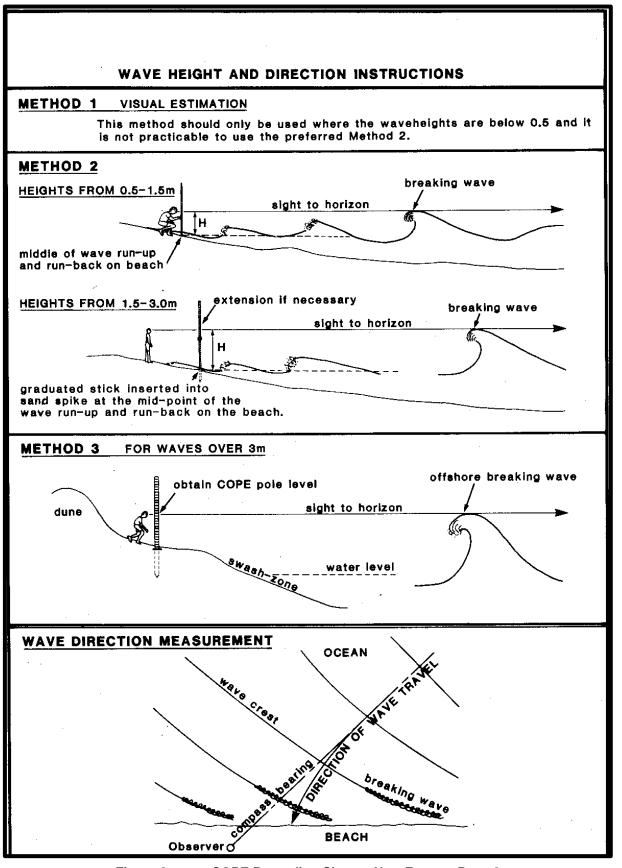


Figure 8 COPE Recording Sheet – New Format, Page 2





# Wind Rose - Cape Hillsborough Beach

Cape Hillsborough Beach: July 1991 - June 1996

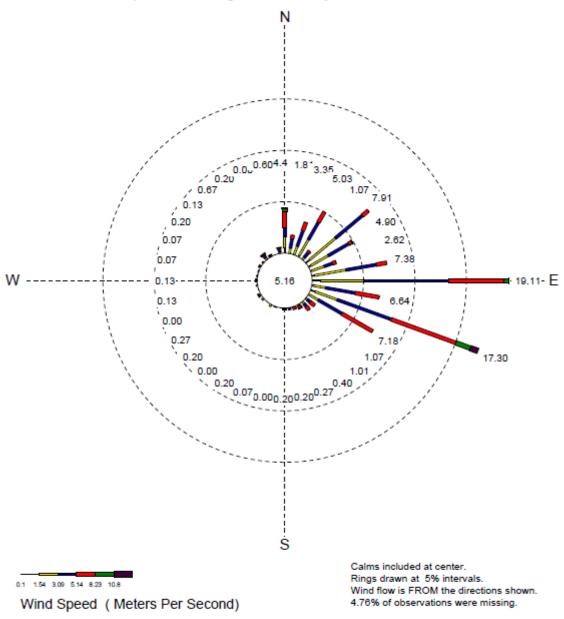


Figure 9 Wind Rose Diagram - Cape Hillsborough Beach





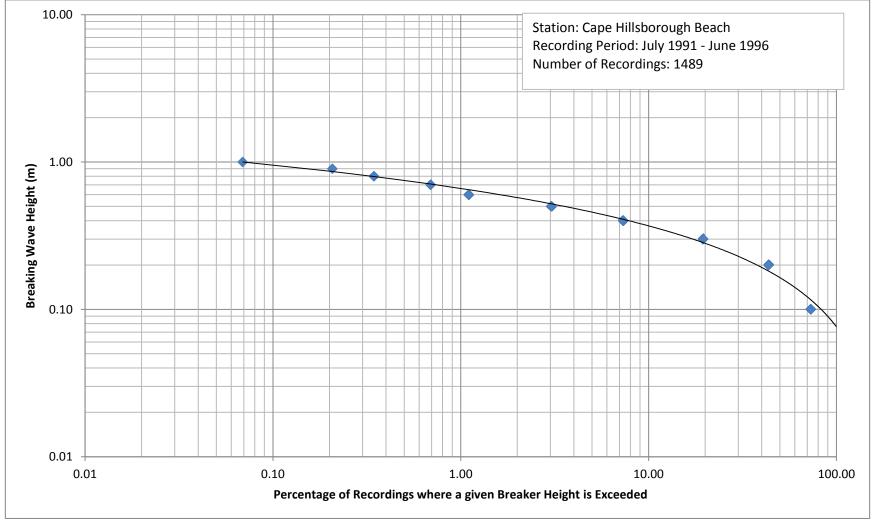


Figure 10 Wave height percentage exceedance





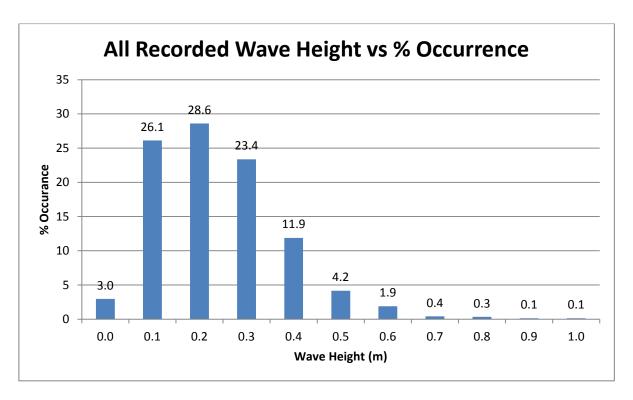


Figure 11 Percentage occurrence of wave height Jul 1991 to Jun 1996

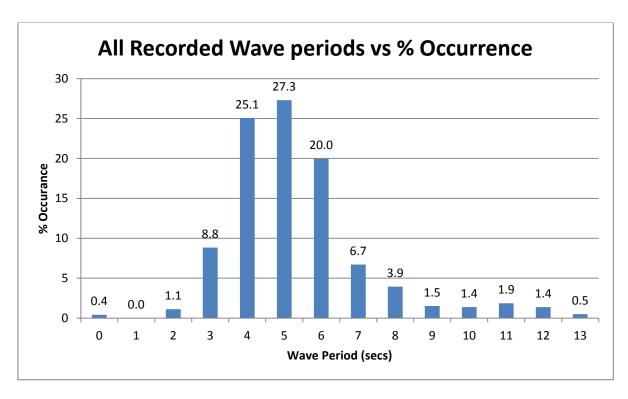


Figure 12 Percentage occurrence of wave period Jul 1991 to Jun 1996





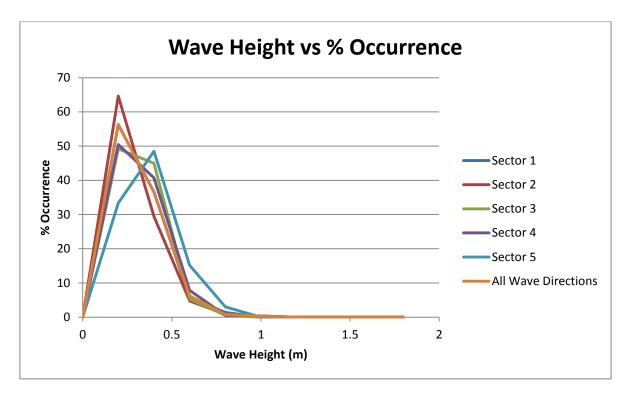


Figure 13 Wave direction analysis – wave height vs occurrence Jul 1991 to Jun 1996

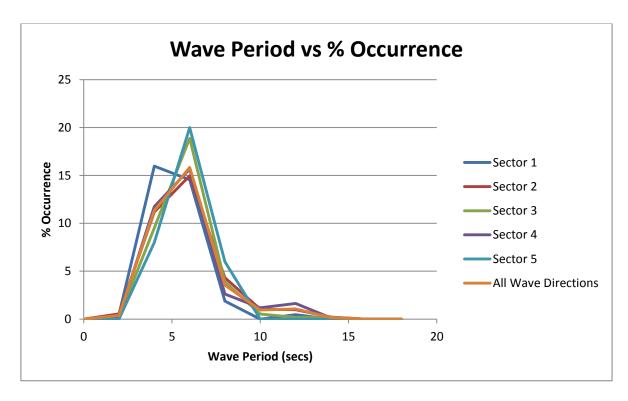


Figure 14 Wave direction analysis – wave period vs occurrence Jul 1991 to Jun 1996





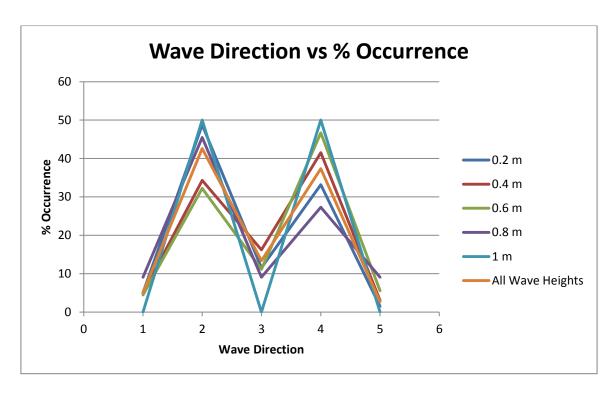


Figure 15 Wave direction analysis – wave direction vs occurrence Jul 1991 to Jun 1996





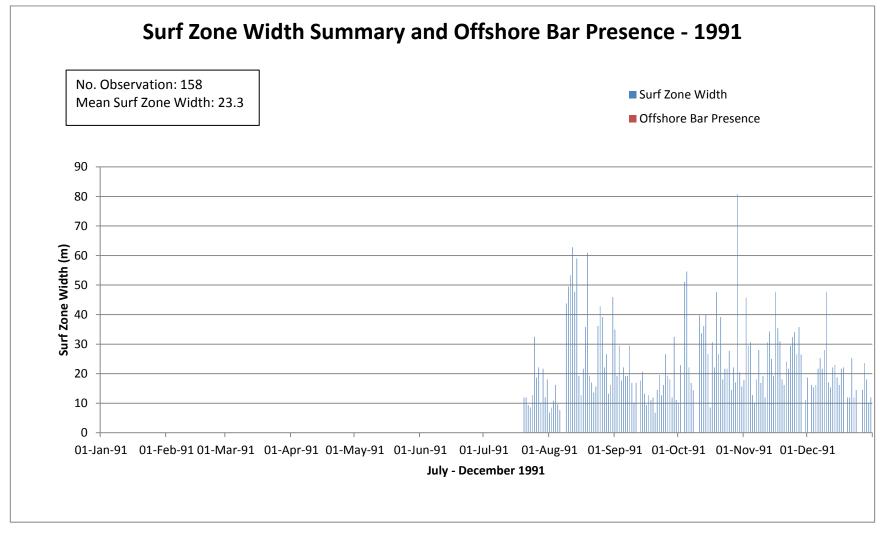


Figure 16 Surf Zone Width - 1991





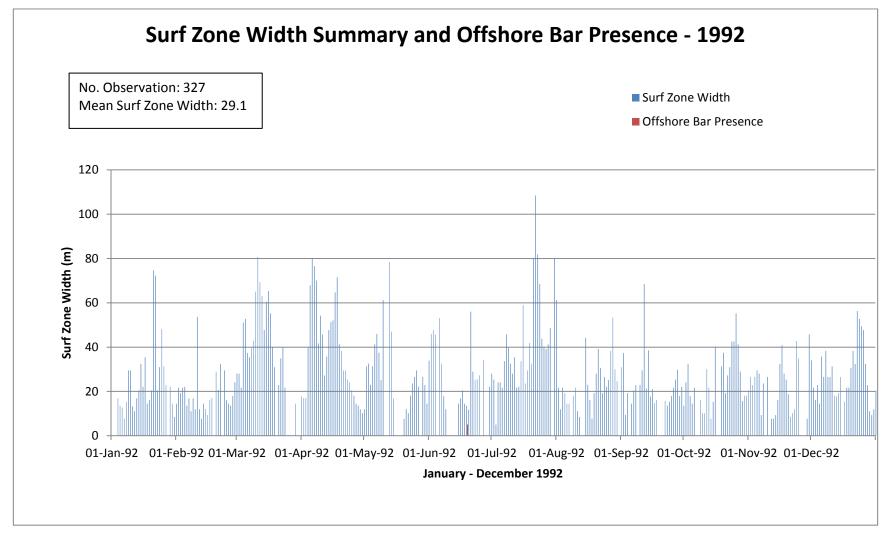


Figure 17 Surf Zone Width - 1992





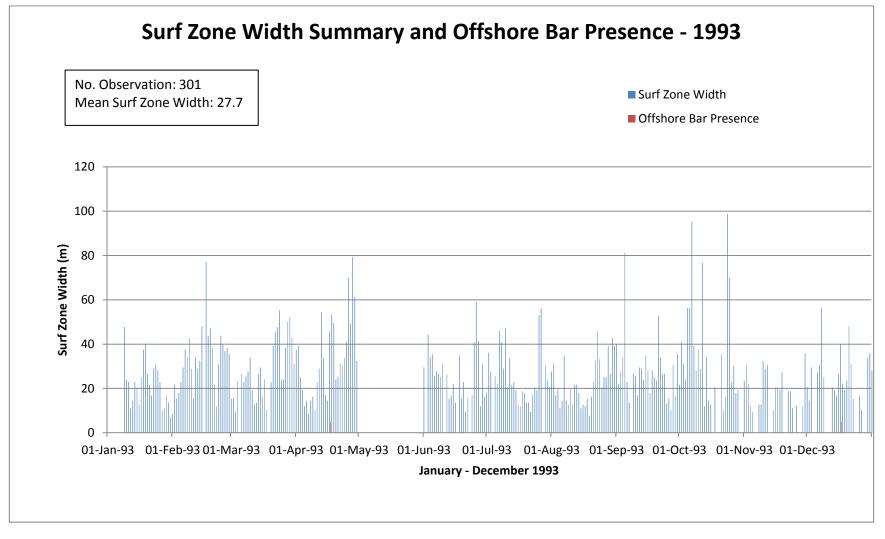


Figure 18 Surf Zone Width - 1993





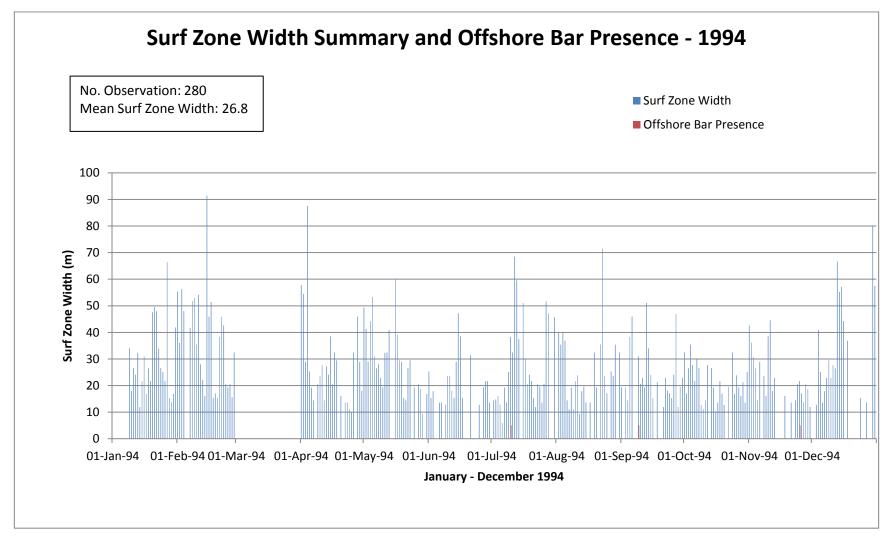


Figure 19 Surf Zone Width - 1994





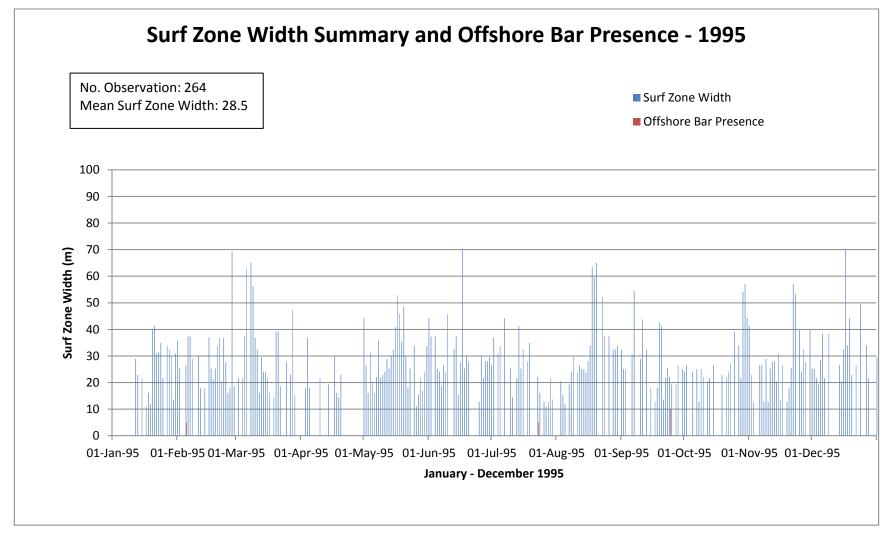


Figure 20 Surf Zone Width - 1995





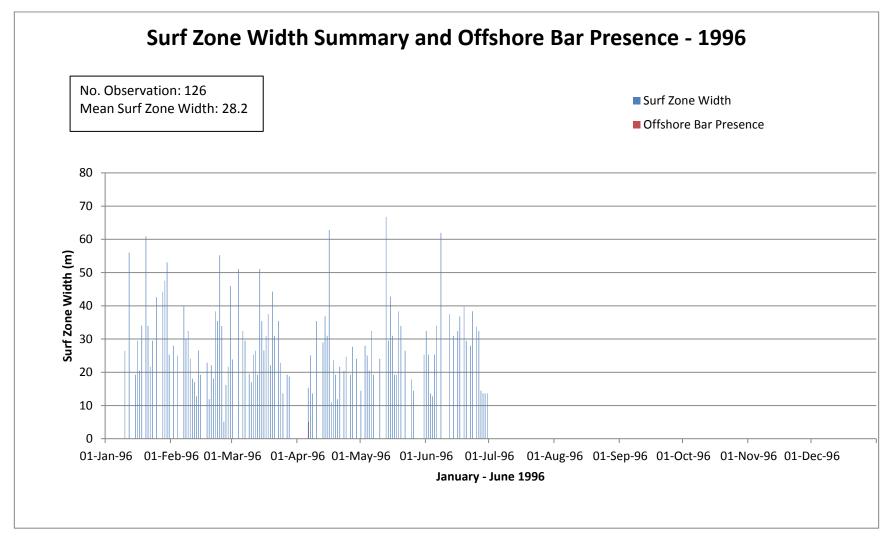


Figure 21 Surf Zone Width - 1996





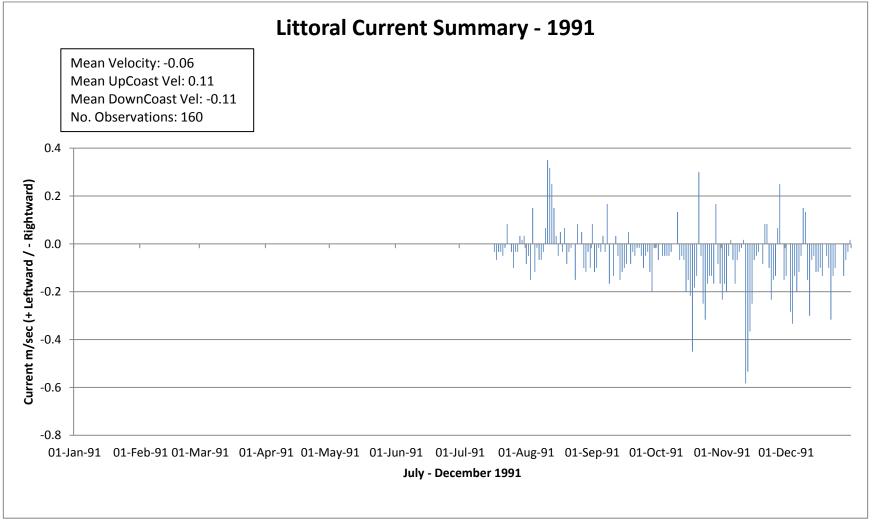


Figure 22 Littoral Current Summary 1991





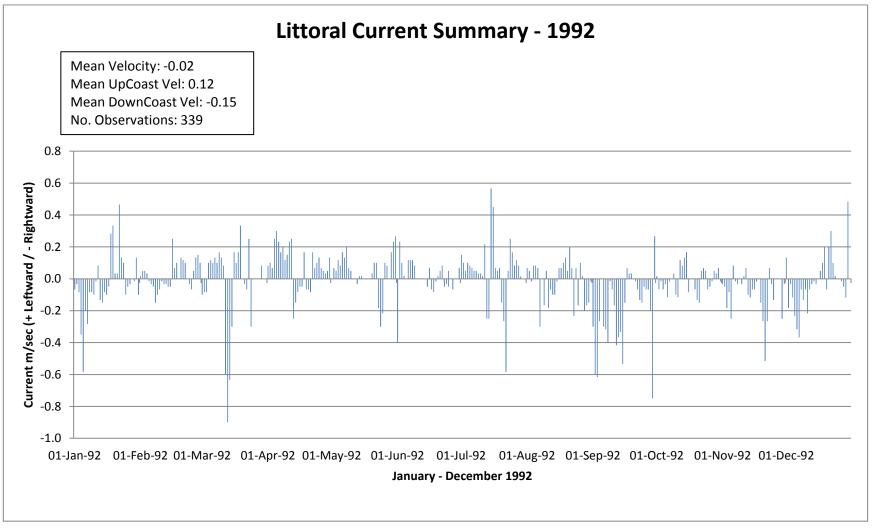


Figure 23 Littoral Current Summary 1992





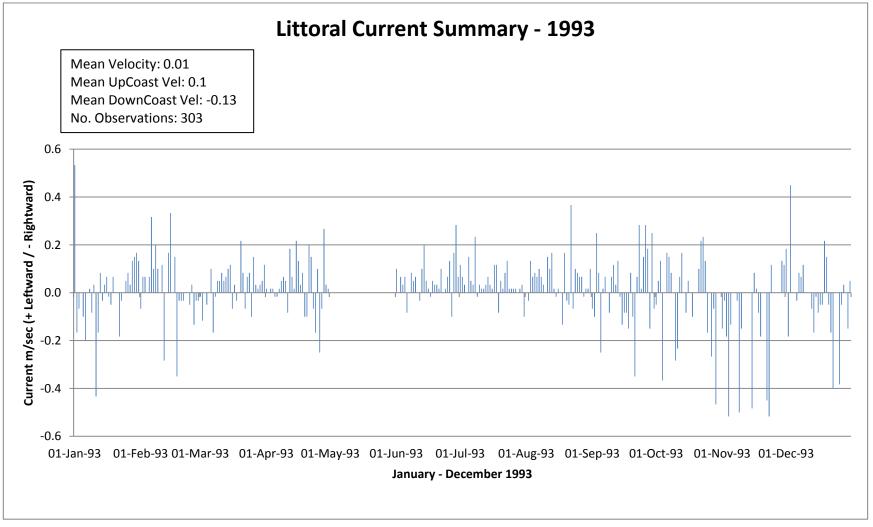


Figure 24 Littoral Current Summary 1993





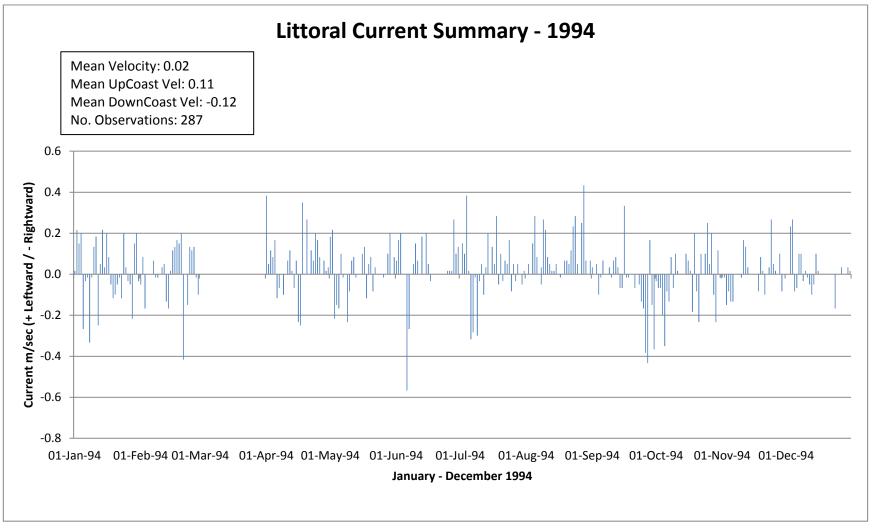


Figure 25 Littoral Current Summary 1994





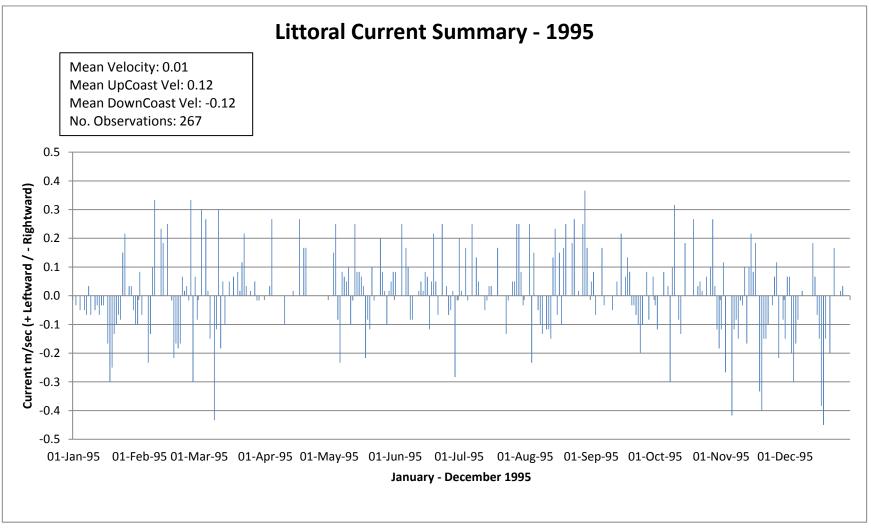


Figure 26 Littoral Current Summary 1995





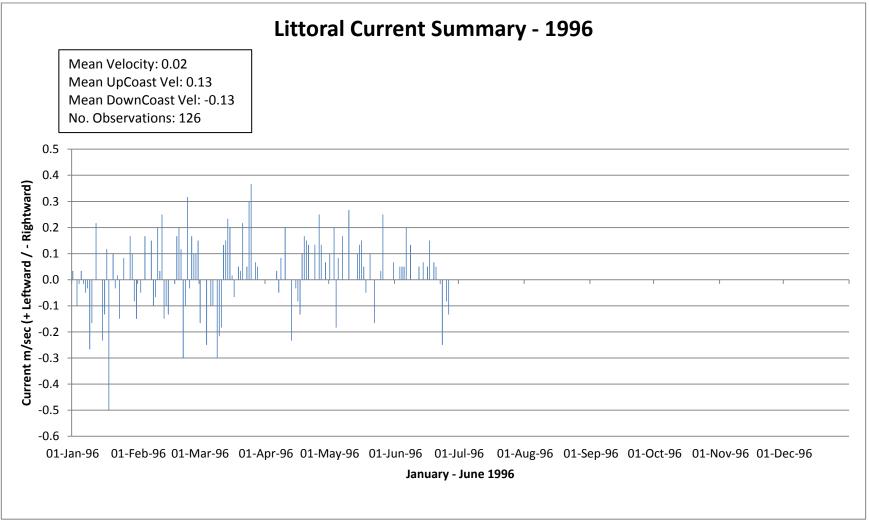


Figure 27 Littoral Current Summary 1996





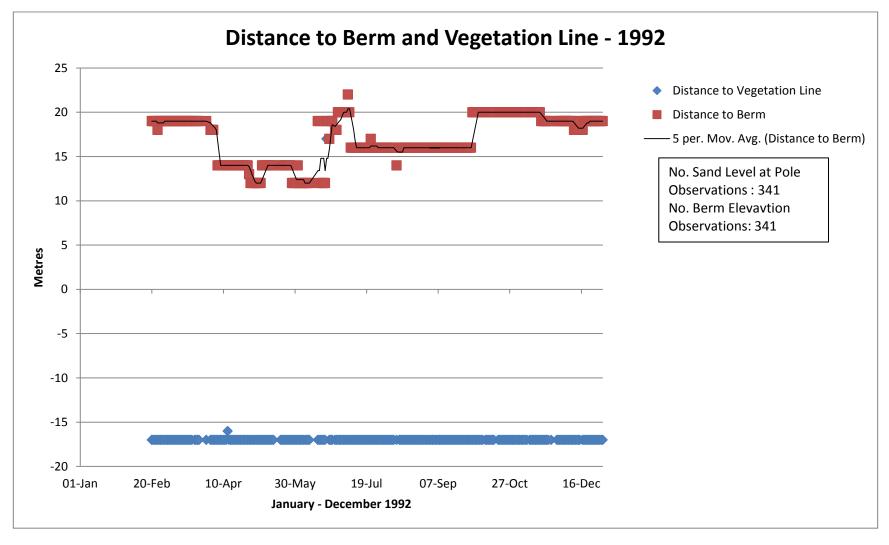


Figure 28 Beach profile parameters – Distance to berm and vegetation line- 1992





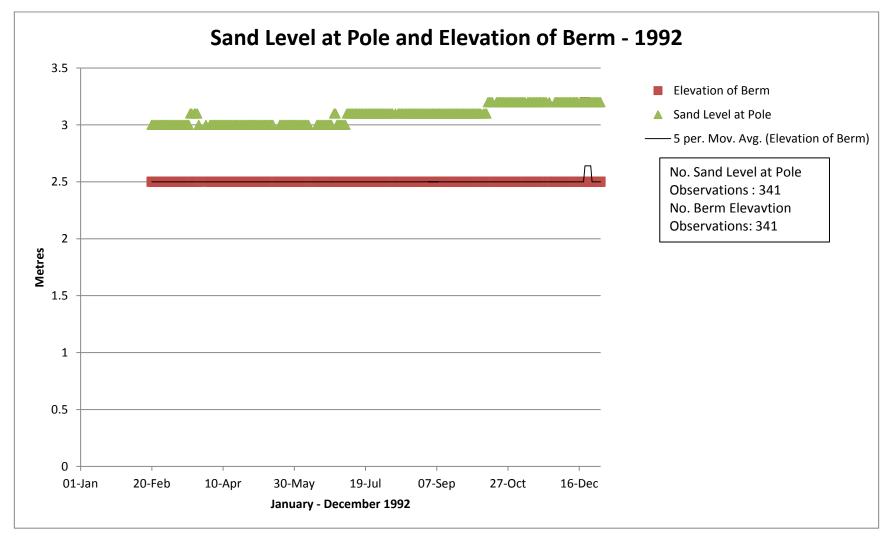


Figure 29 Beach profile parameters – Sand level at pole and elevation of berm- 1992





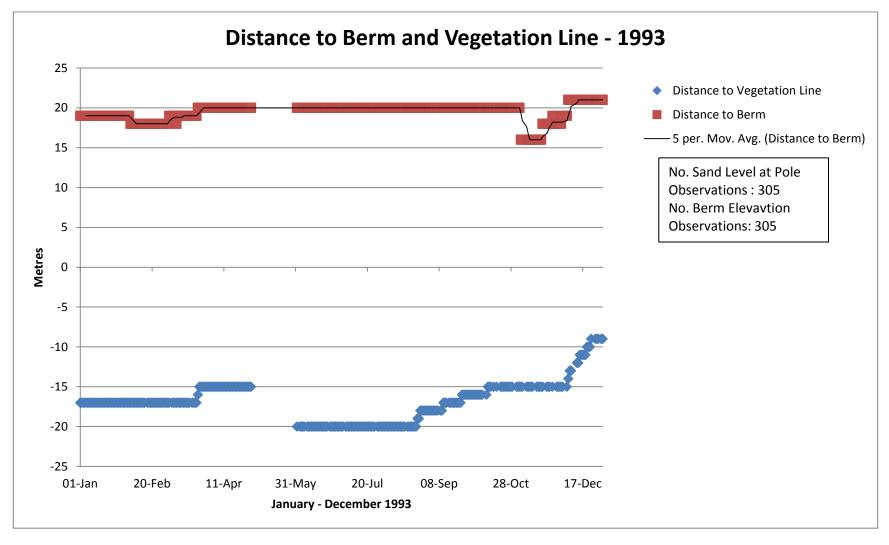


Figure 30 Beach profile parameters – Distance to berm and vegetation line- 1993





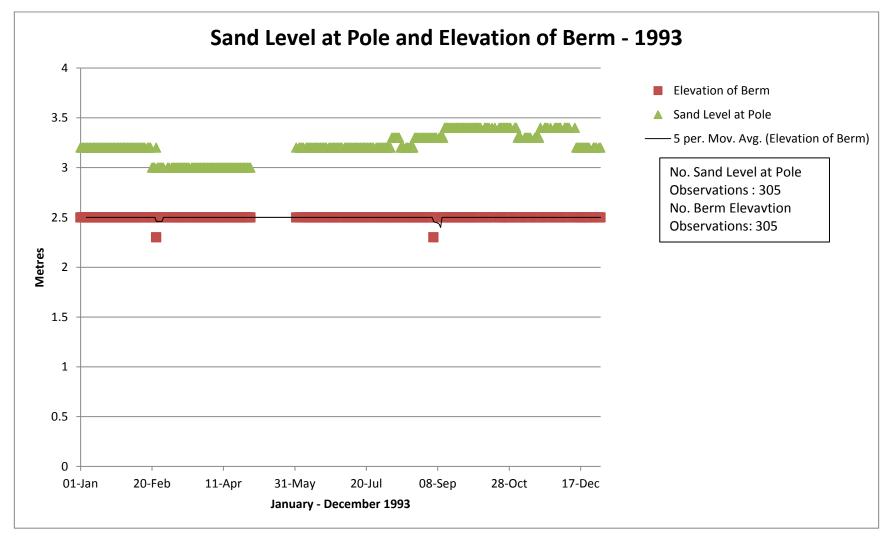


Figure 31 Beach profile parameters – Sand level at pole and elevation of berm- 1993





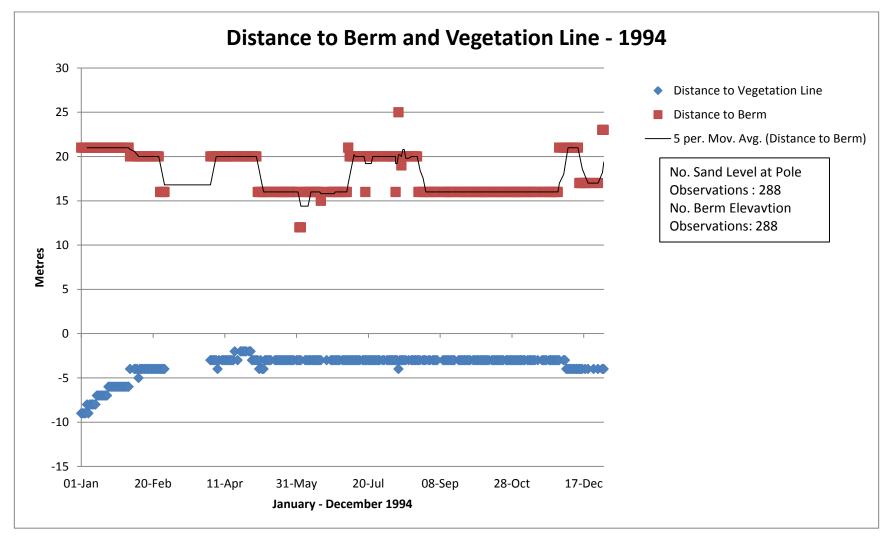


Figure 32 Beach profile parameters – Distance to berm and vegetation line- 1994





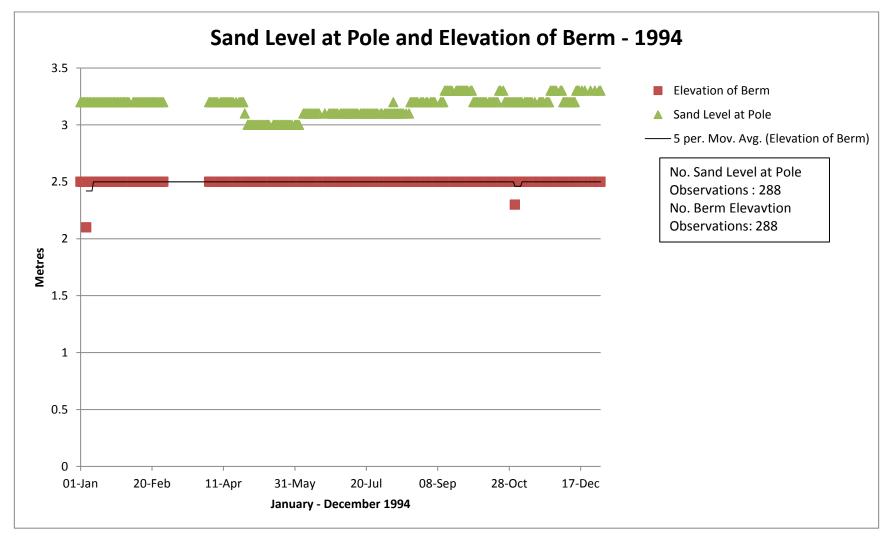


Figure 33 Beach profile parameters – Sand level at pole and elevation of berm- 1994





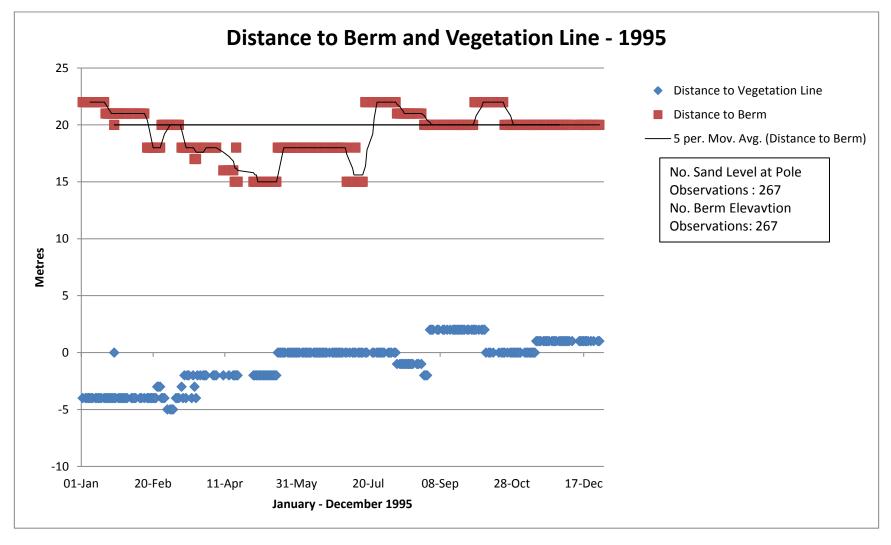


Figure 34 Beach profile parameters – Distance to berm and vegetation line- 1995





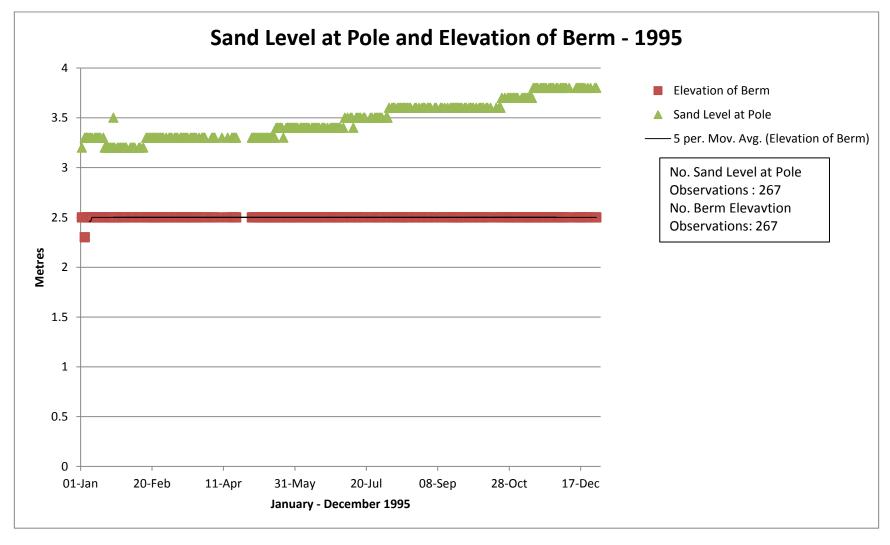


Figure 35 Beach profile parameters – Sand level at pole and elevation of berm- 1995





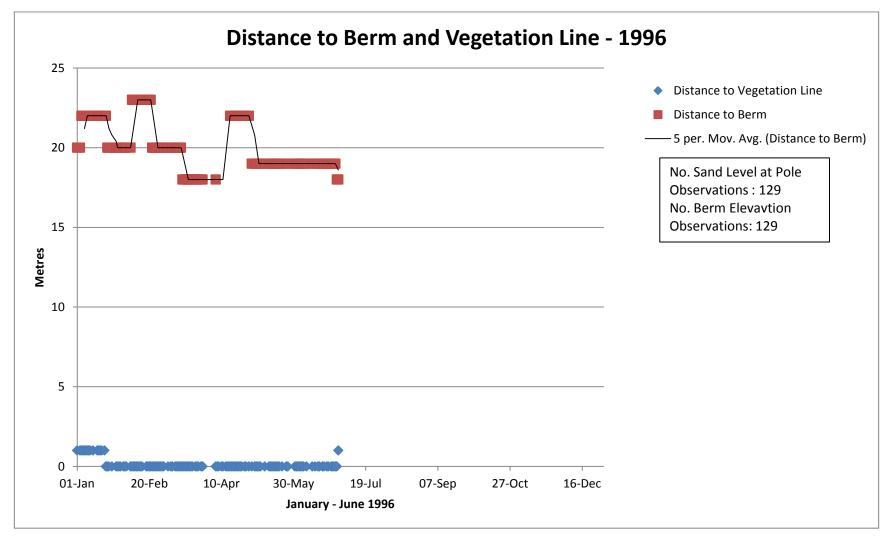


Figure 36 Beach profile parameters – Distance to berm and vegetation line- 1996





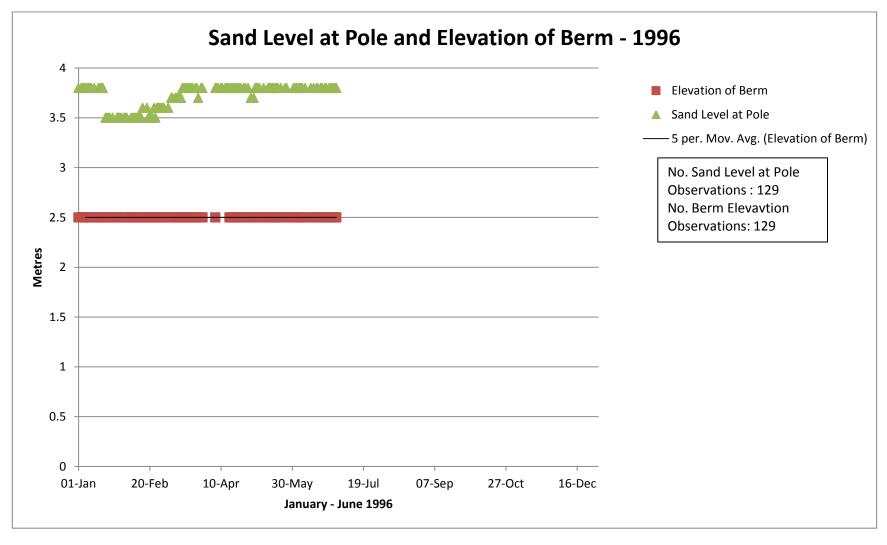


Figure 37 Beach profile parameters – Sand level at pole and elevation of berm- 1996





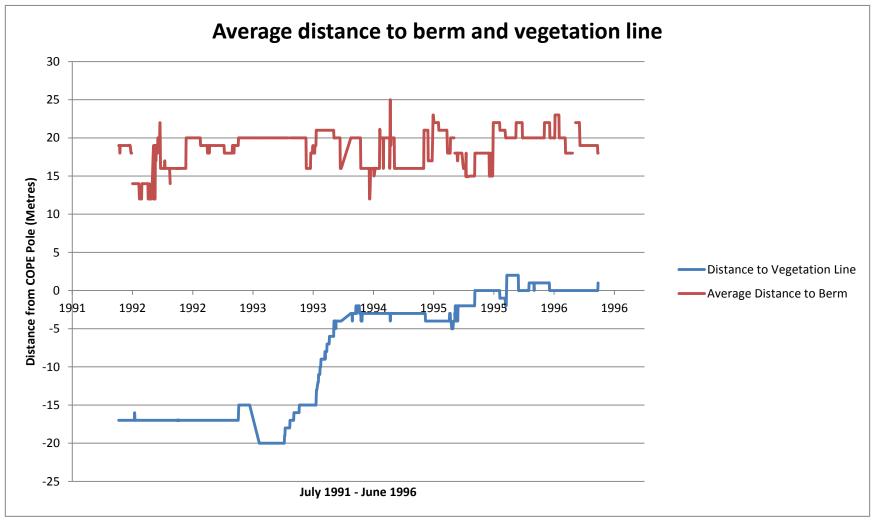


Figure 38 Average distance to berm and vegetation line





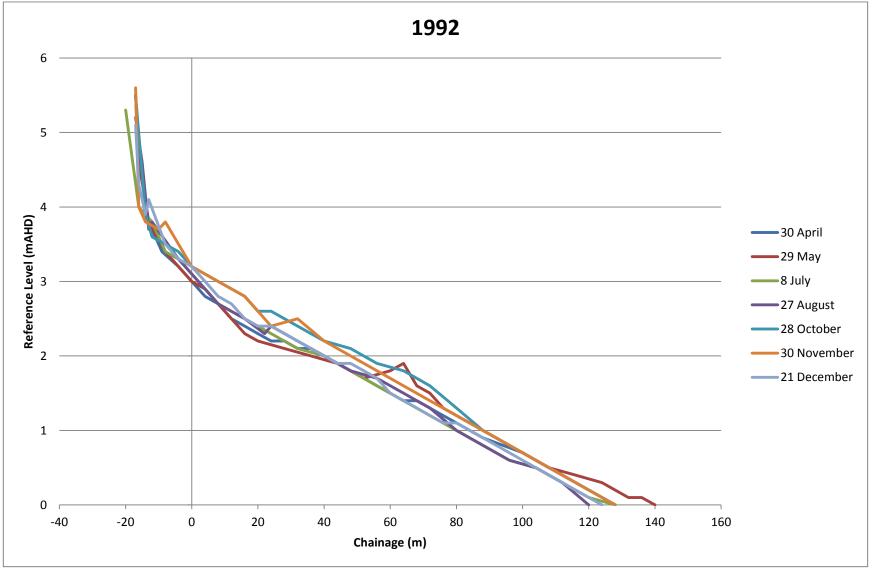


Figure 39 Monthly beach profile – 1992





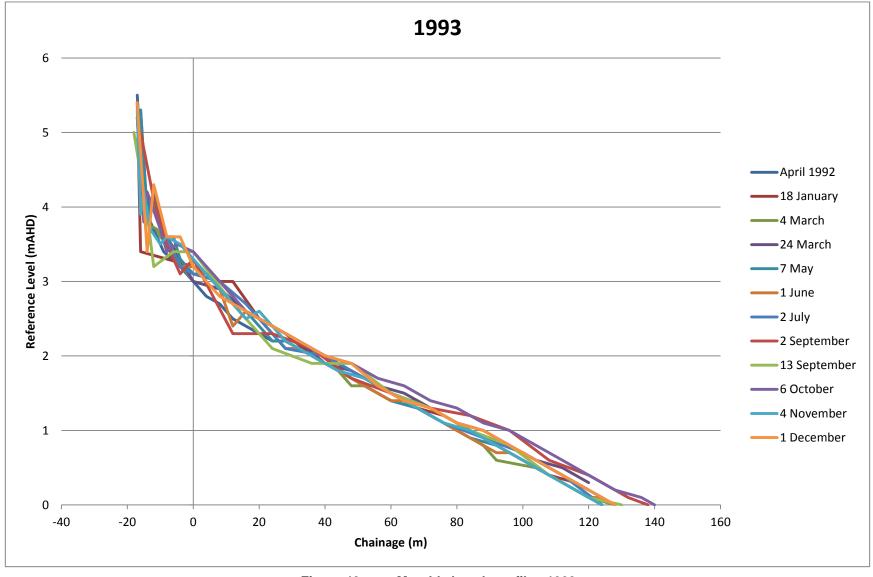


Figure 40 Monthly beach profile - 1993





 Job Number
 41-28646

 Revision
 A

 Date
 07 May 2014

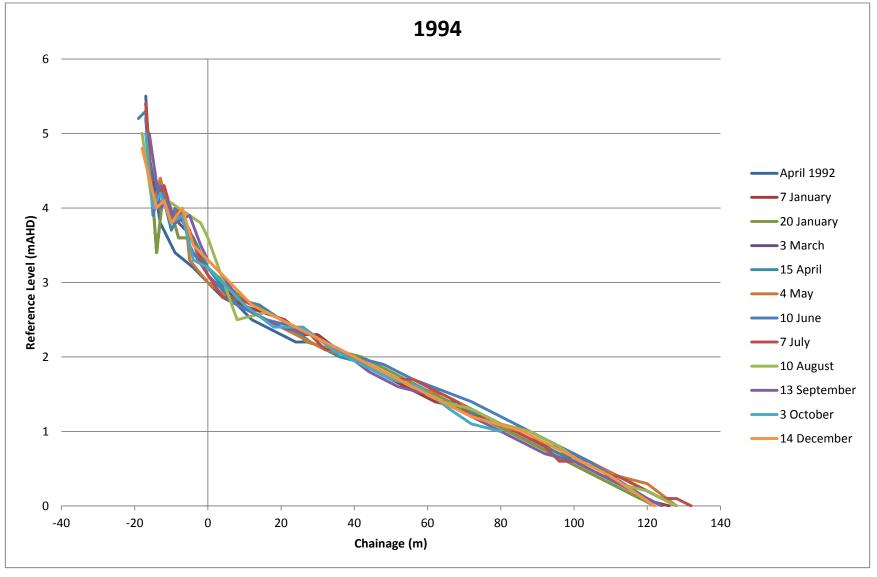


Figure 41 Monthly beach profile - 1994





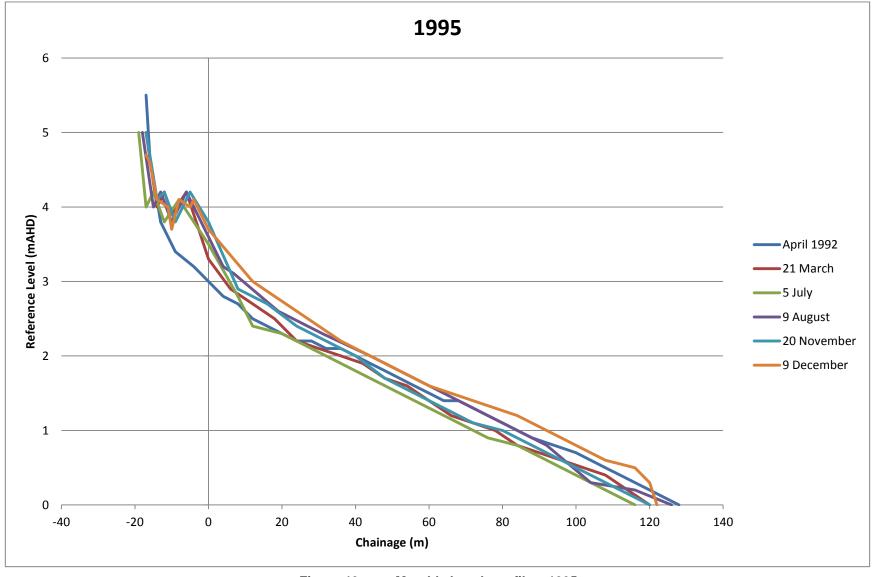


Figure 42 Monthly beach profile – 1995





Job Number Revision A
Date 41-28646
A
07 May 2014

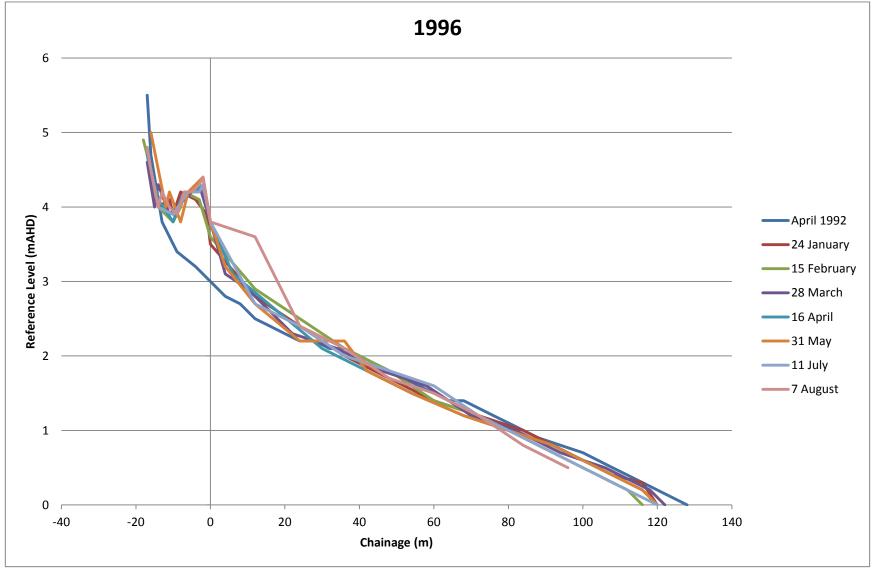


Figure 43 Monthly beach profile – 1996





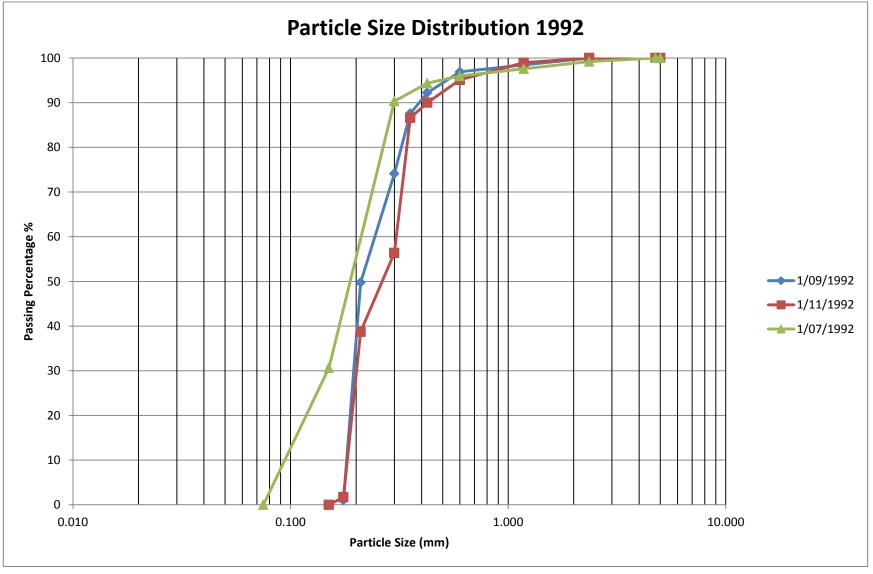


Figure 44 Particle size distribution - 1992





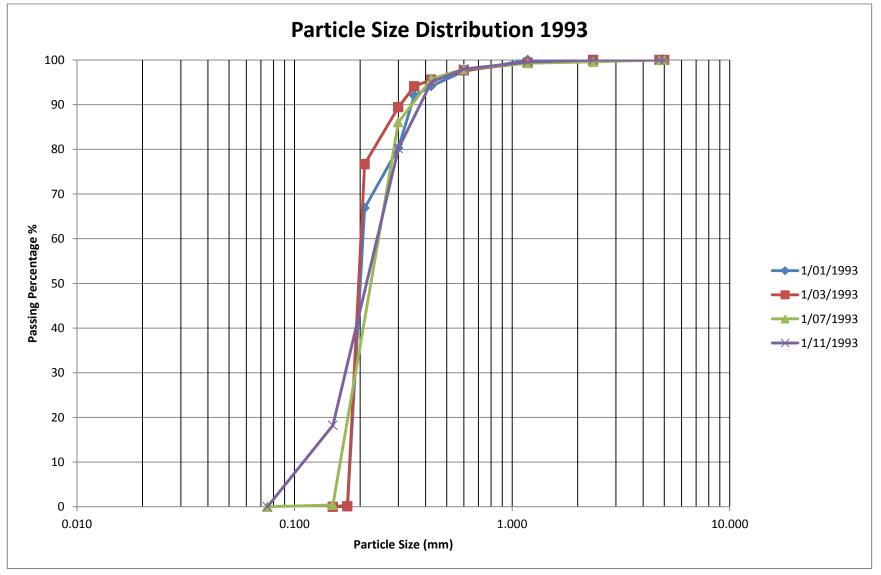


Figure 45 Particle size distribution - 1993





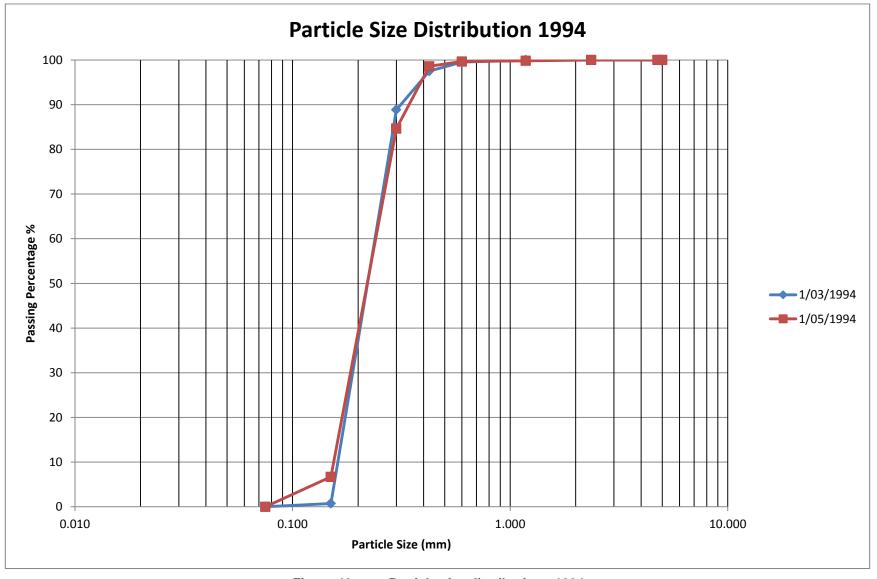


Figure 46 Particle size distribution - 1994





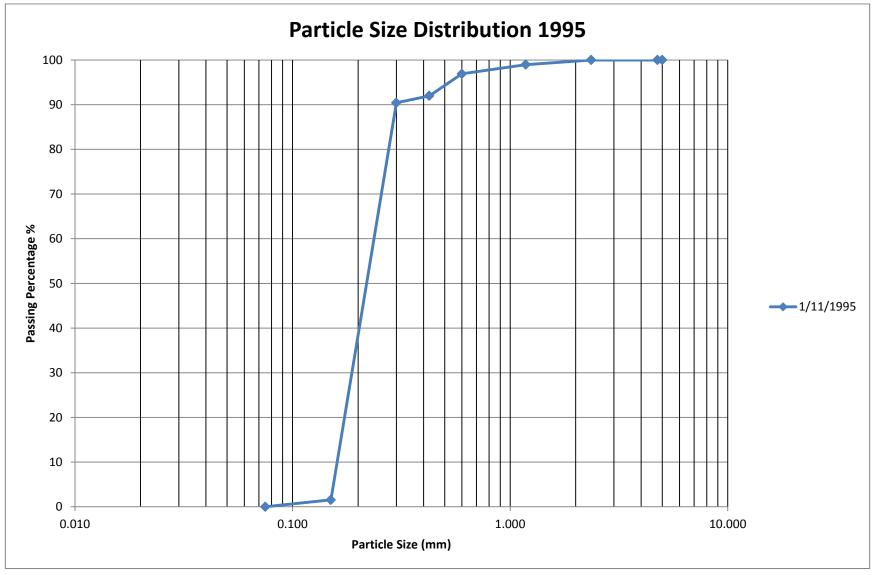


Figure 47 Particle size distribution – 1995





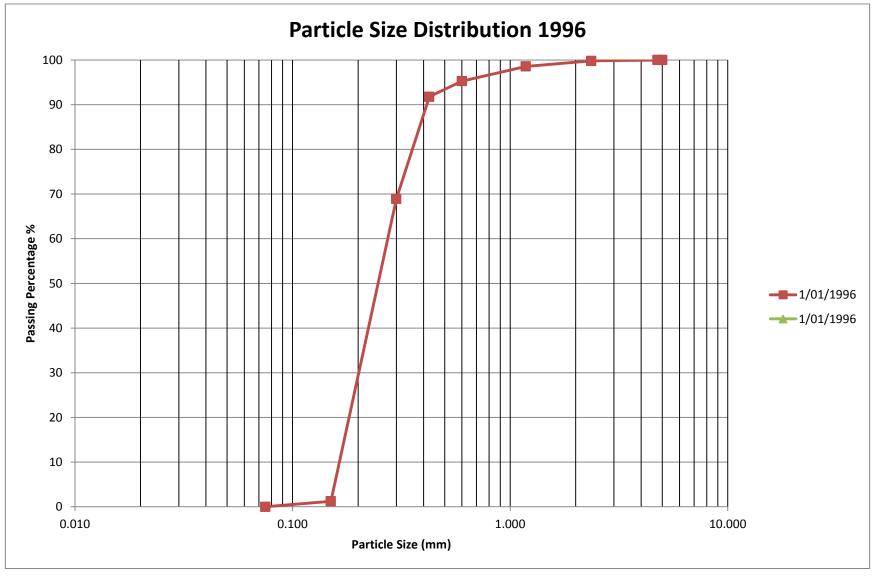


Figure 48 Particle size distribution – 1996





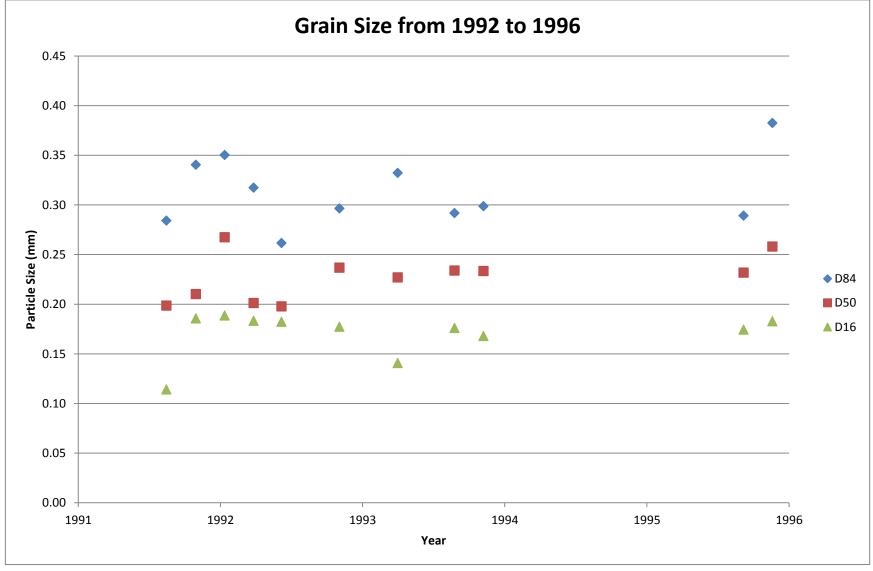


Figure 49 Grain size distribution 1992-1996





 Job Number
 41-28646

 Revision
 A

 Date
 07 May 2014

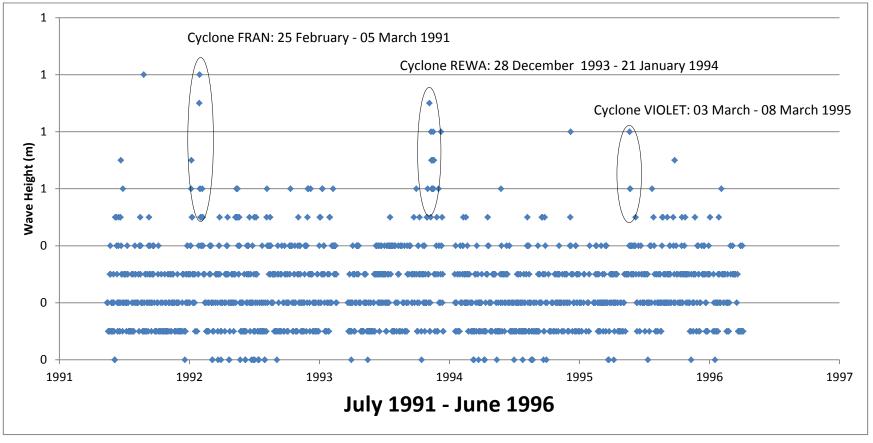


Figure 50 Wave height and cyclone influence





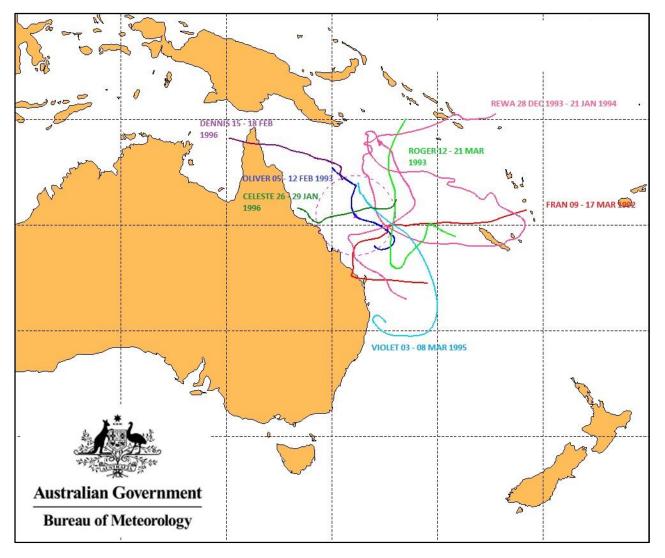


Figure 51 Cyclone tracks 1992 to 1996





Table 10 Amendments to Data

Date	Parameter	Changed From	Changed To	Justification
24/08/1991	Wave direction	165	135	Changed from 165 to 135 for consistency
27/09/1991	Wave period	15.4	5.4	Changed from 15.4 to 5.4 for consistency
27/02/1992	Distance to vegetation	17	-17	Changed from positive to negative for consistency
13/05/1992	Wave direction	270	90	Basis compass has been read 180 degrees out and direction from previous days
14/05/1992	Wave direction	315	135	Misrecording of data transfer error. Also consistent with following day.
17/06/1992	Distance to vegetation	17	-17	Changed from positive to negative for consistency
29/09/1992	Current speed	45	15	Surf zone width was changed from 35 to -15 for consistency
26/01/1993	Fixed contour elevation	3.2	2.5	Changed from 3.2 to 2.5 for consistency
28/04/1993	Wave direction	175	75	Changed from 175 to 75 for consistency
25/06/1993	Wind speed	42.3	8.3	Change to 4/0.45 = 8.9 on basis that was recorded as 04 which was misinterpreted as 94
11/07/1993	Wave period	14.7	4.7	Changed from 14.7 to 4.7 for consistency
15/07/1993	Wave period	15.2	5.2	Changed from 15.2 to 5.2 for consistency
13/09/1993	Sand level	-3.4	3.4	Changed from positive to negative for consistency
14/09/1993	Sand level	-3.4	3.4	Changed from positive to negative for consistency

15/09/1993	Sand level	-3.4	3.4	Changed from positive to negative for consistency
16/09/1993	Sand level	-3.4	3.4	Changed from positive to negative for consistency
02/10/1993	Fixed contour elevation	3.2	2.5	Changed from 3.2 to 2.5 for consistency
03/10/1993	Fixed contour elevation	3.2	2.5	Changed from 3.2 to 2.5 for consistency
04/10/1993	Fixed contour elevation	3.2	2.5	Changed from 3.2 to 2.5 for consistency
02/11/1993	Fixed contour elevation	3.2	2.5	Changed from 3.2 to 2.5 for consistency
11/01/1994	Fixed contour elevation	0.8	2.5	Changed from 0.8 to 2.5 for consistency
26/05/1994	Distance to fixed contour	-16	16	Changed from positive to negative for consistency
10/08/1994	Distance to fixed contour	65	25	Change based on the basis that 2 has been misinterpreted as 6 by the reader
12/08/1994	Surf zone width	342	42	Change original recording of 342 to 42 for consistency
19/02/1995	Wave height	1.5	0.1	Change original recording of 1.5 to 0.1 for consistency
23/02/1995	Distance to vegetation	3	-3	Changed from positive to negative for consistency
02/03/1995	Distance to vegetation	5	-5	Changed from positive to negative for consistency

15/03/1995	Distance to fixed contour	-18	18	Changed from positive to negative for consistency
18/07/1995	Wave period	13.2	3.2	Change original recording of 13.2 to 3.2 for consistency
02/10/1995	Fixed contour elevation	3.6	2.5	Change original recording of 3.6 to 2.5 for consistency
22/11/1995	Wave direction	360	0	Change original recording of 360 to 0 for consistency
01/12/1995	Wave direction	360	0	Change original recording of 360 to 0 for consistency
01/06/1996	Distance to vegetation	20	0	Change original recording of 20 to 0 for consistency

Note: On the new recording sheet, surf zone widths (m) were recorded as the time (s) it takes for an average wave to traverse the surf zone. Using the following equation from Patterson & Blair 1983, the value was converted into metres:

Surf Zone Width (metres) = 
$$0.86 \times g^{\frac{1}{2}} \times H_{obs}^{\frac{1}{2}} \times t_w$$

where:

 $g = acceleration due to gravity = 9.81m/s^2$ 

 $H_{obs} = observed wave height (m)$ 

 $t_w = elapsed$  time for a wave of average height to transgress the surf zone from the break point to the final runup position on the beach (s)

Where a correction to the surf zone width was required, a value was estimated by using a surf zone parameter for a wave with a similar height and period. This value was then converted from seconds to metres using the above formula.

## **Appendix A – Cope Instructions**

The following text is an extract from BPA newsletter – Beach Conservation No. 69 in which the COPE program was the feature article. The extract describes how the recordings were performed for the **new format** recording sheet, which was introduced in March 1986.

#### OBSERVATIONS

The data is recorded on special forms which are suitable for computer processing. An example is shown in Figure 2. The wave parameters recorded are:

- estimate of wave heights (average and maximum):
- (ii) wave period (average time interval between waves);
- (iii) wave direction (as a compass bearing);
- (iv) surf zone width (traverse time of surf zone by average wave).

The beach parameters recorded, using the installed reference pole are:

- elevation of the fixed contour or beach berm;
- (ii) distance to the fixed contour or beach berm;
- (iii) distance to the average vegetation line:
- (iv) sand level at the pole.

Wind speed and compass direction are determined by the use of a hand held wind meter.

The longshore current in the surf zone causes the transportation of sand along the beach, and it is important that this current is measured. This is done by introducing a harmless dye into the water and measuring the distance that the dye patch travels along the beach in one minute. Wave action soon dissipates the dye.

The survey of a monthly beach profile, using the installed reference pole, provides information on beach movements. During periods of change, such as cyclonic wave attack, profiles are usually taken before and after the event. All reference poles are surveyed at the time of installation to allow replacement in the same position if they are destroyed or are washed out by erosion.

The average sand grain size is an element to be considered in the assessment of longshore sand transport rates. Therefore, a monthly sample is taken from a specified beach level and analysed to reveal any seasonal or long term changes.

The following document details the instructions on how to fill out the **old format** recording sheet which was discontinued in March 1986.



FORM No. BE3

#### BEACH PROTECTION AUTHORITY - QUEENSLAND

## Instructions for filling out COPE recording form

# COASTAL OBSERVATION PROGRAMME - ENGINEERING (COPE)

#### STATION IDENTIFICATION:

Each site for COPE has been assigned a numerical code consisting of five digits. The first two digits define the Shire or City in which the site is located, and the remaining three digits define the particular beach and reference mark position within a particular Local Authority area. A space is provided to write in the name of the beach at which the observation is made.

#### DATE:

Record the year, month and day in the spaces provided on each page of the recording sheet.

### TIME: (Column 2)

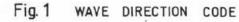
Record the time to the nearest quarter-hour in Eastern Standard Time (E.S.T.) at which the observation is made. (e.g. 10.00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time is 0900 E.S.T.). The 24-hour clock system of recording time is used to avoid any confusion between a.m. and p.m. (e.g. 0900 is 9.00 a.m. and 1500 is 3.00 p.m.).

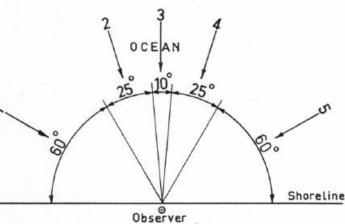
Daily observations should be made as close as possible to 0900 hours, and twice-daily observations should be made once in the morning and once in the afternoon and as close as possible to 0900 and 1500 hours. Observations should be made at the same time every day.

## WAVE OBSERVATIONS:

(These observations are to be made twice daily.)

- (a) Wave Period: (Column 3). Record the time in seconds for eleven wave "crests" to pass a stationary point. Eleven "crests" will include ten complete waves (crests and trough). Crest 1 is zero-time, crest 11 is cut time.
- (b) Wave Height: (Column 4). This observation is based solely on the judgement of the observer. The observer's best estimate will be sufficient. Record the breaking wave height to the nearest one-fifth metre. If wave height is less than one-fifth metre (0.2), the wave height is "O". If no waves exist at all, mark "O" for both WAVE HEIGHT and WAVE PERIOD columns.





(c) Wave Direction: (Column 5). Darken the space which best describes the direction of the approaching waves according to Fig. 1 above. If no waves exist at all, write the direction as "O". (d) Type of Breaking Waves: (Column 6). If no waves exist, leave the item blank, otherwise choose only ONE of the following four types of waves:

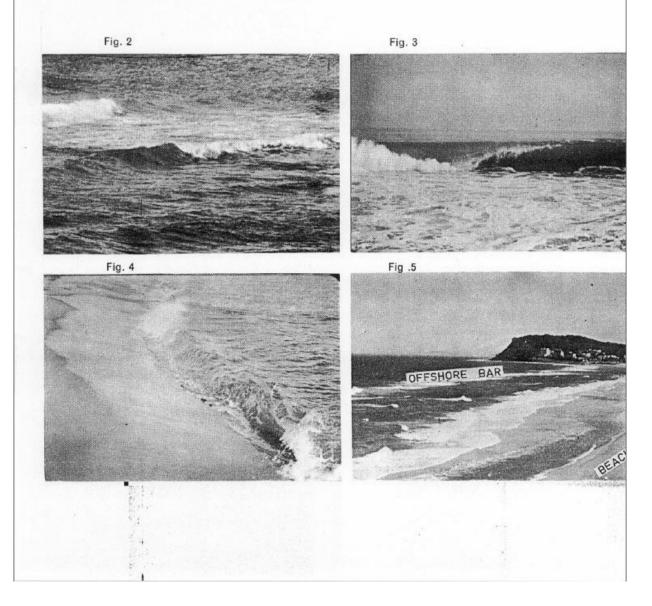
Spilling – Spilling occurs when the wave crest becomes unstable at the top and the crest flows down the front face of the wave, producing an irregular, foamy water surface. This wave is sometimes referred to as a "roller" (see Fig. 2 below). Mark "SP" for spilling.

Plunging — Plunging occurs when the wave crest curls over the front face of the wave and falls into the base of the wave, producing a high splash and much foam. This wave is sometimes referred to as a "dumper" (see Fig. 3 below). Mark "PL" for plunging.

Plunging/Spilling — Darken this space only when there is a combination of spilling and plunging waves. Mark "PS" for plunging/spilling.

Surging — Surging occurs when the wave crest remains unbroken while the base of the front of the wave advances up the beach (see Fig. 4 below). Mark "S" for surging.

- (e) Surf Zone Width: (Column 7). This observation is based on the judgement of the observer. The observer's best estimate is sufficient. Record the distance, to the nearest whole metre, from the water line at the time of observation to the line of the most seaward row of breakers, at the time of observation. If no waves exist at all, mark "O". If two or more breaker zones exist, record the distance to the most seaward row of breakers of the most seaward breaker zone.
- (f) Offshore Bar: (Column 8). Record whether or not a significant offshore bar exists. This may be determined as "yes" if there is a distinct gutter between the initial breakpoint and the beach, allowing the wave to reform; and "no" if the wave continues in a broken state from the initial breakpoint to the beach (see Fig. 5).



#### WIND OBSERVATIONS: (These observations are to be made twice daily).

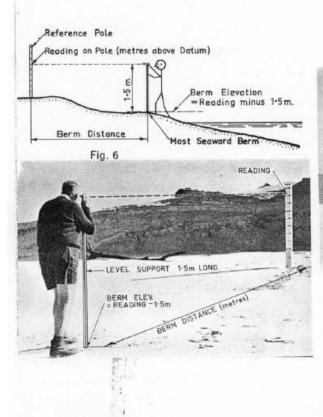
- (a) Wind Velocity: (Column 9). A wind meter is provided for each observer. The instructions provided with the meter should be followed to obtain wind velocity measurements.
- (b) Wind Direction: (Column 10). Determine the orientation of the beach with respect to the compass directions, and record the direction from which the wind is coming. The direction of true north should be indicated on the reference mark or nearby.

## STATE OF TIDE: (Column 11). (This observation is to be made twice daily).

Indicate the relative state of tide by marking one of the ranges: low tide "O/4", quarter tide "1/4", half tide "2/4", three-quarter tide "3/4", full tide "4/4", and mark whether the tide is rising "R", falling "F", or stationary "S" at the time of observation.

#### BEACH OBSERVATIONS: (These observations are to be made once daily.)

- (a) Elevation of the most seaward beach berm crest: (Column 12). To obtain this, a graduated reference pole has been installed on the beach and the observer has been provided with a hand level. The observer should also have a 1.5 m-long support for the level. To use the Clinometer as a level, set the bubble lever to zero and sight through the instrument to the reference pole so that the bubble is centred on the cross hair. To obtain this measurement, the observer must place himself on the most seaward berm crest and take a reading of the reference pole (see Fig. 6 below). This reading minus 1.5 metres (length of support) is recorded on the form. If no berm can be easily recognised mark "NB" for no berm.
- (b) Distance to the most seaward berm crest from the reference pole: (Column 13). Record the distance (to the nearest whole metre) between where the level reading is taken and the reference pole (see Fig. 6 below). If no berm exists, leave the distance blank: DO NOT mark the "O". If the distance is measured landward from the reference pole, the distance is a minus value. After erosion the berm may be at the erosion scarp.
- (c) Distance to the vegetation line from the reference pole: (Column 14). Record the distance to the nearest whole metre between the reference pole and a line along the average seaward extent of the existing perennial vegetation. If the distance is measured landward from the reference pole, the distance is a minus value.
- (d) Angle of Foreshore Slope: (Column 15). This observation can be made by placing the support pole for the level on the foreshore slope and laying the level on the support, as shown in Fig. 7 below. The foreshore is the uniform sloped section of the beach between H.W.M. and L.W.M. Next, adjust the bubble level so as to centre the bubble in the bubble tube, and then note reading on the DEGREE scale.





Continued overleaf

### LITTORAL CURRENT OBSERVATIONS: (These observations are to be made once daily.)

- (a) Current Velocity: (Column 16). For this measurement the observer is provided with dye. The dye is very powerful, and care must be observed when handling it so as not to allow any dye to accidentally spill. The dye should be thrown as near as possible to the midpoint of the surf zone. The observer will note the position of the dye at entry to the breaker zone and the position of the dye after an elapsed time of one minute. The distance between these two positions is entered in the spaces provided on the form. If no current is evident, darken the "O" marks.
- (b) Current Direction: (Column 17). If no current is evident, mark "C" for "calm". Otherwise indicate whether the dye patch moves downcoast or upcoast. In general, current that flows to the north is considered upcoast, and that which flows to the south is considered downcoast.

#### SAND SAMPLES:

Sand samples should be collected once a month in the special plastic bags provided. The sample should be obtained from the foreshore slope of the beach at about half tide level. Identify the sample with the name and code number of the beach, and record the date and time the sample was collected. Write this information directly on the outside of the specially provided padded envelope.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS: (Optional)

Photographs are to be taken once a month, preferably early each month and at low tide. General panoramic views of the beach in the up and down coast directions are desired. Photographs should be taken from the same location each time and view the same area with a recognisable landmark in the background. Each photo must be identified with the name and code number of the beach, and the date and time and tide level when it was taken.

#### COMMENTS:

Note any remarks or sketches or unusual events (e.g. erosion scarps, cyclone damage, surge etc.) in the comments column of the recording form.

Remember: There are about 50 COPE stations in Queensland.

emember: To mark all recording sheets, sand samples and photographs with

your code number, and time and date.



Issued by

## BEACH PROTECTION AUTHORITY OF QUEENSLAND

Department of Harbours and Marine Edward Street, Brisbane 4000 (G.P.O. Box 2195, Brisbane 4001)

# **Appendix B – Historical Photographs**



Figure 52 Cape Hillsborough Beach looking North – November 1994



Figure 53 Cape Hillsborough Beach looking South – November 1994



Figure 54 Cape Hillsborough Beach looking North – July 1995



Figure 55 Cape Hillsborough Beach looking South – July 1995