

# **WISPAC *Now Online***

*Barbara Tracy, Jeffrey Hanson, Alan Cialone*

*CHL*

*Thomas Smith, Jessica Hays*

*POH*

**ERDC**



Engineer Research and Development Center

Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory  
**Wave Information Studies (WIS)**

Hindcast Wave Data for U.S. Coasts

# Outline

- Overview of WIS website and products
- Pacific 10-year Basin Level Hindcast
  - Wave Model Comparisons
  - Validation with Wave MEDS
- District applications of PACWIS

Wave Hindcasts - Microsoft Internet Explorer

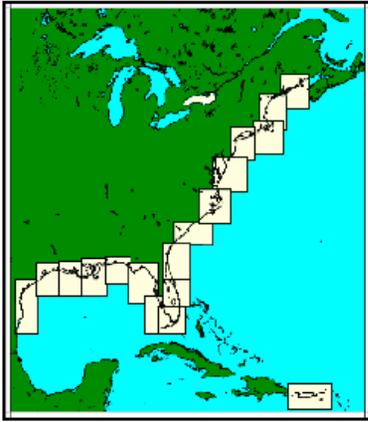
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites

Address [http://www.frf.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/atl/atl\\_main.html](http://www.frf.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/atl/atl_main.html) Go Links >>

**Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory  
Wave Information Studies**

Click an area, or lake, on the map



[← Go To Pacific](#)

[|WIS Home](#) | [How To](#) | [WIS Data Definitions](#) |  
[|Buoy/Gauge Info](#) | [Contact WIS Staff](#) |  
[|References](#) | [Other Wave Data Sources](#) |  
**Error processing SSI file**



**Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory  
Wave Information Studies (WIS)**  
Hindcast Wave Data for U.S. Coasts

The Wave Information Studies (WIS) were authorized in 1976 by the Office, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to produce wave climate information for U.S. coastal waters. WIS information is generated by numerical simulation of past wind and wave conditions, a process called hindcasting. Knowledge of the wave climate is required to design and maintain the nation's coastal navigation and shore protection projects.

Through the years, hindcasts were added and updated as wave modeling technology advanced and computer power increased. At the end of 1998, hindcasts for all U.S. coasts had been completed; the Atlantic Ocean for two different periods, 1956-1975 and 1976-1995; the Pacific Ocean for 1956-1975; the Gulf of Mexico for 1956-75 and 1976-1995; and the Great Lakes for 1956-1987, and an update of Lake Michigan for 1988-1997.

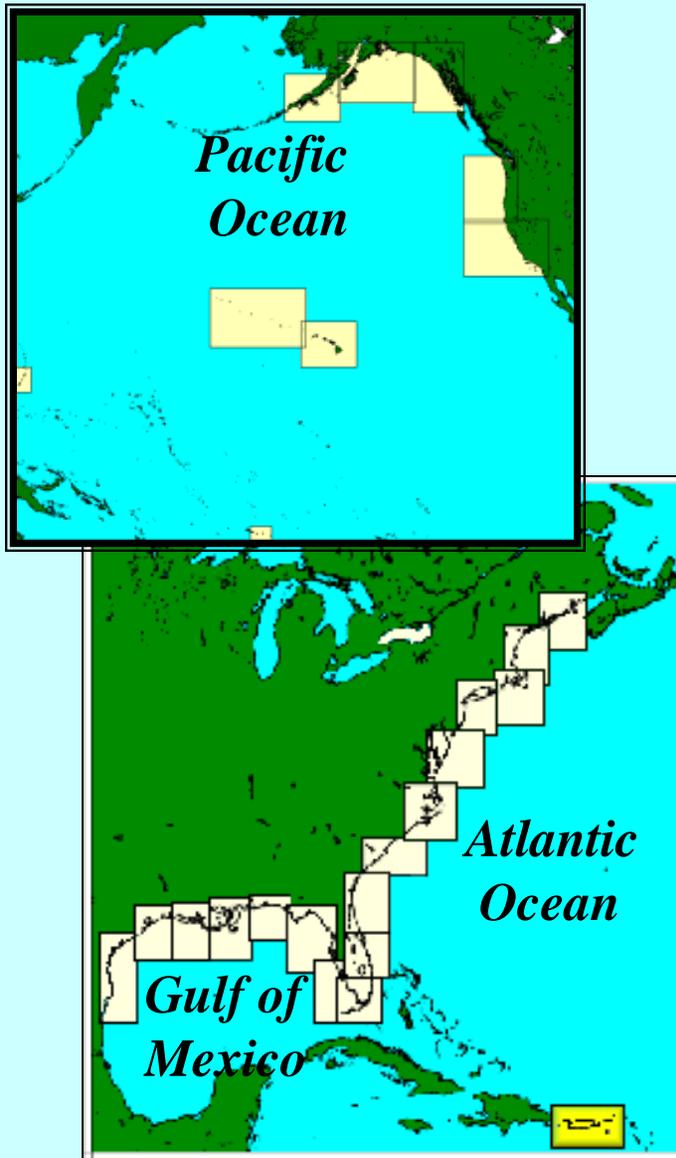
A reanalysis project is presently underway. Its goal is to improve the quality of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico hindcasts using an advanced version of the wave hindcast model [WISWAVE](#), more accurate and more highly resolved input winds, and better representation of shallow water topographic effects and sheltering by land forms through use of more highly resolved model domains. Advancements in weather modeling, increased availability of measured wind data (from buoys and satellites), and improved methods for integrating measured data with model-generated wind fields have all contributed to significant improvements in the quality of wind input that is available for use in hindcasting.

This reanalysis project has also been applied to the Pacific Basin which presents many wave hindcasting challenges. Information from a new Pacific basin hindcast for 1995-2004 has been added to this website. A third generation wave model [WAVEWATCH III](#), was used for this hindcast. WAVEWATCH III uses state-of-the-art physics for source term analysis, simulates island blocking, and has demonstrated skill in long distance swell propagation. Please check the [References](#) section on this website for a set of PDF documents that comprise a draft report of **"Pacific Ocean Wave Information Study Validation of Wave Model Results Against Satellite Altimeter Data"** produced by Baird and Associates, Pacific

Done Internet

[http://www.frf.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/atl/atl\\_main.html](http://www.frf.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/atl/atl_main.html)

# WIS Wave Information

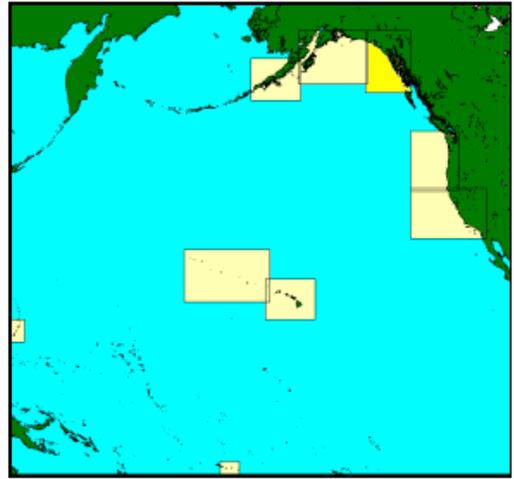


- Hourly wave parameters, Hs, Per, Dir, Ws, Wdir
- Stations in 10-20m depth, also deep stations
- 500+ stations in Atlantic 1980-1999
- 300+ stations in Gulf 1980-1999
- 12 stations Puerto Rico 1980-1999
- *177 Pacific Basin stations 1995-2004*
- *300+ Lake Ontario stations 1961-2000*
- Info available via WEB
- Plot, table and data list tools
- Spectra at 3-hr available from WIS staff

**Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory**  
**Wave Information Studies**  
 Click an area on the map

product station year1 year2 month go

PLOT 51001 1995 1995 All Months

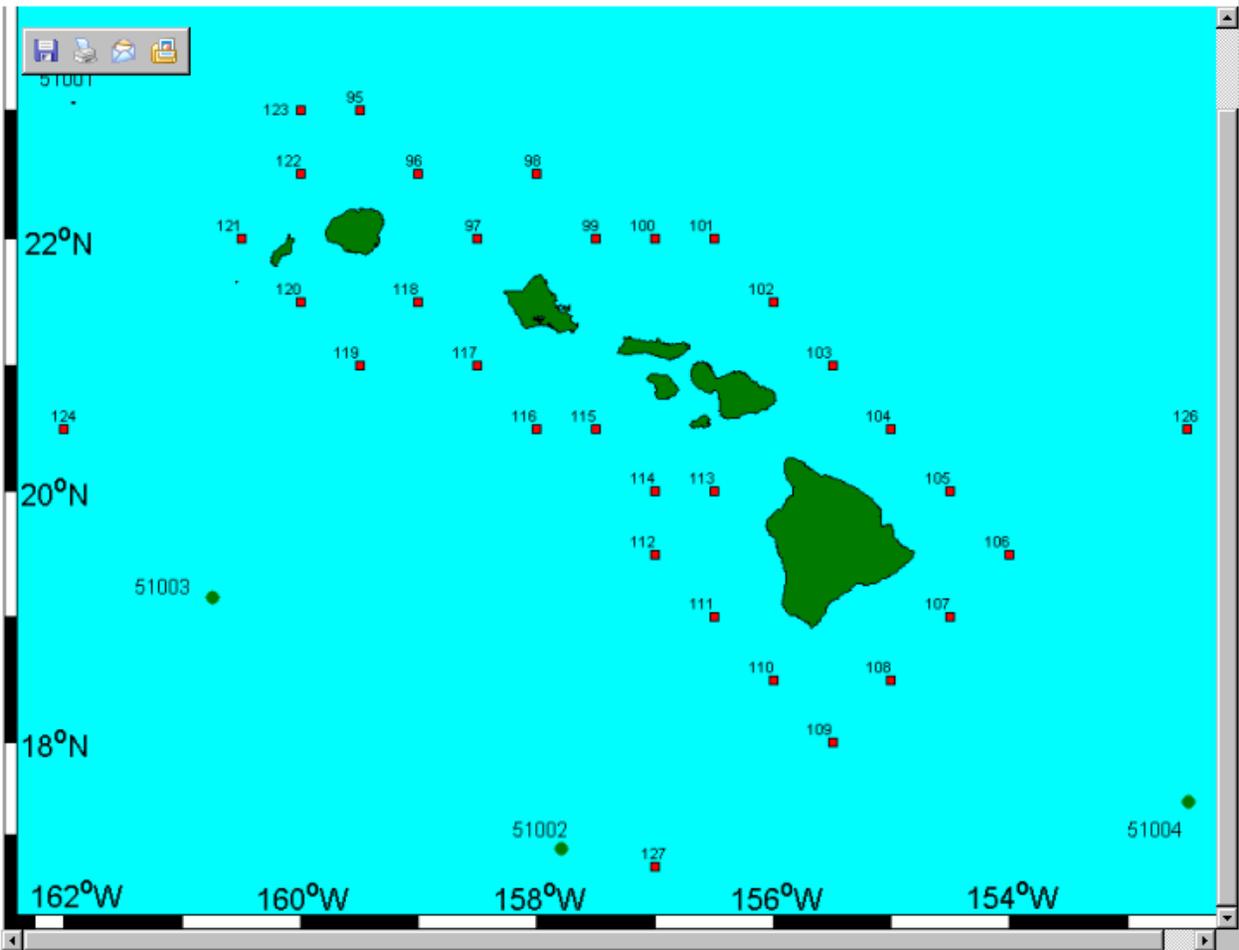


Go To Atlantic ->

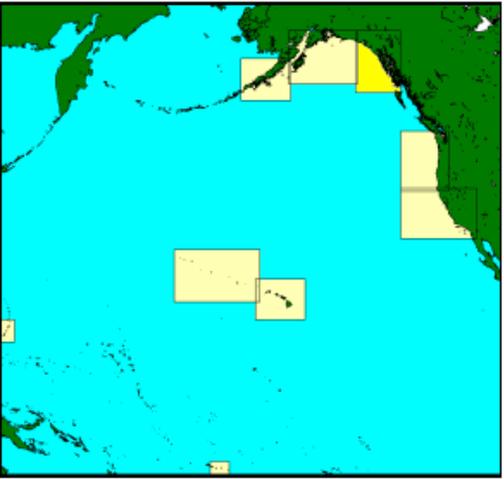
- [WIS Home](#) | [How To](#) | [WIS Data Definitions](#) |
- [Buoy/Gauge Info](#) | [Contact WIS Staff](#) |
- [References](#) | [Other Wave Data Sources](#) |
- Error processing SSI file**

Available data for 51001

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1995	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
1996	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
1997	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
1998	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
1999	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2000	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2001	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■



**Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory  
 Wave Information Studies**  
 Click an area on the map



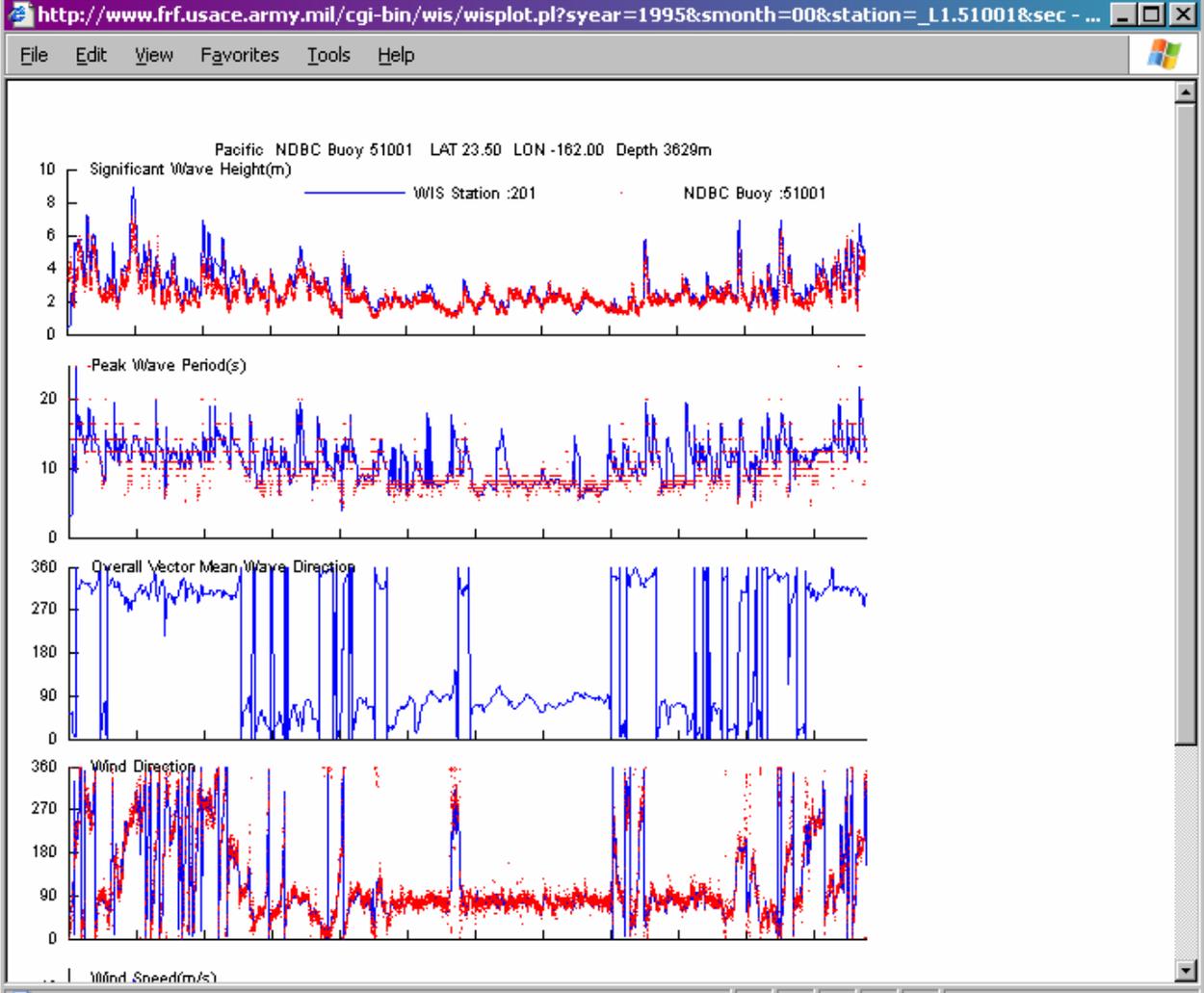
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Available data for 51001

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1995	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1996	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1997	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1998	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1999	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2000	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2001	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

product station year1 year2 month  
 PLOT 51001 1995 1995 All Months go



http://www.frf.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/wislist.pl?syear=1995&smoth=00&eyear=1995&emonth=00...

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ID	YEAR	MM	DD	HH	LONG	LAT	DPTH	Hmo	DTp	Atp	tmean	wdvmn
201	1995	1	1	0	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.41	9999	3.18	2.84	53.1
201	1995	1	1	1	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.39	9999	3.19	2.90	53.5
201	1995	1	1	2	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.38	9999	3.20	2.95	53.6
201	1995	1	1	3	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.37	9999	3.20	2.97	53.6
201	1995	1	1	4	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.36	9999	3.20	2.97	53.3
201	1995	1	1	5	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.37	9999	3.18	2.96	52.8
201	1995	1	1	6	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.38	9999	3.17	2.95	52.3
201	1995	1	1	7	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.39	9999	3.16	2.96	51.8
201	1995	1	1	8	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.39	9999	3.16	2.97	51.4
201	1995	1	1	9	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.39	9999	3.17	2.99	51.0
201	1995	1	1	10	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.39	9999	3.19	3.02	50.6
201	1995	1	1	11	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.38	9999	3.22	3.04	50.1
201	1995	1	1	12	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.38	9999	3.25	3.07	49.5
201	1995	1	1	13	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.38	9999	3.26	3.07	49.4
201	1995	1	1	14	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.39	9999	3.25	3.06	49.7
201	1995	1	1	15	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.41	9999	3.22	3.04	50.4
201	1995	1	1	16	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.44	9999	3.21	3.04	51.1
201	1995	1	1	17	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.48	9999	3.22	3.07	51.9
201	1995	1	1	18	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.52	9999	3.24	3.13	52.7
201	1995	1	1	19	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.56	9999	3.28	3.20	53.4
201	1995	1	1	20	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.58	9999	3.34	3.27	54.1
201	1995	1	1	21	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.59	9999	3.48	3.34	54.7
201	1995	1	1	22	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.60	9999	3.56	3.39	55.0
201	1995	1	1	23	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.59	9999	3.59	3.44	54.9
201	1995	1	2	0	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.59	9999	3.63	3.50	54.3
201	1995	1	2	1	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.59	9999	4.15	3.54	53.6
201	1995	1	2	2	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.59	9999	4.18	3.59	52.5
201	1995	1	2	3	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.60	9999	4.21	3.67	51.0
201	1995	1	2	4	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.62	9999	4.25	3.78	49.0
201	1995	1	2	5	-162.00000	23.50000	3629.1	0.65	9999	4.29	4.13	45.9

Opening page http://www.frf.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/wisli: Internet

1995-1995 PAC WIS STATION: 121 LAT: 22.00 N, LON: -160.50 W, DEPTH: 3112 M  
 PERCENT OCCURRENCES OF WAVE HEIGHT BY MONTH

Hmo (m)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	CASES	PCT
0.00 - 0.49	0.19	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17	0.2
0.50 - 0.99	0.21	.	.	.	0.25	1.08	.	.	.	.	.	.	136	1.6
1.00 - 1.49	0.02	.	.	0.18	1.80	2.31	3.32	3.15	3.65	0.66	0.46	.	1364	15.6
1.50 - 1.99	0.75	0.48	0.37	2.18	3.69	3.30	3.87	4.68	3.08	4.17	2.60	1.05	2647	30.2
2.00 - 2.49	1.15	1.12	2.07	2.06	1.69	1.53	0.92	0.65	0.78	2.53	2.00	1.66	1590	18.2
2.50 - 2.99	0.89	1.78	1.60	2.37	0.31	.	0.34	.	0.14	1.04	1.00	1.21	936	10.7
3.00 - 3.49	1.13	1.64	1.88	1.02	0.29	.	0.03	.	0.10	0.09	0.54	1.42	713	8.1
3.50 - 3.99	0.87	1.30	1.10	0.23	0.32	.	.	.	0.10	.	0.66	1.37	521	5.9
4.00 - 4.49	0.54	0.61	0.57	0.18	0.14	.	.	.	0.11	.	0.22	0.94	289	3.3
4.50 - 4.99	0.75	0.51	0.37	.	.	.	.	.	0.10	.	0.15	0.51	210	2.4
5.00 - GREATER	1.98	0.23	0.55	.	.	.	.	.	0.15	.	0.59	0.34	336	3.8
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>8759</b>	

1995-1995 PAC WIS STATION: 121 LAT: 22.00 N, LON: -160.50 W, DEPTH: 3112 M  
 PERCENT OCCURRENCES OF PEAK PERIOD BY MONTH

Tp(sec)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	CASES	PCT
3.0 - 3.9	0.39	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	34	0.4
4.0 - 4.9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.03	.	.	.	.	3	0.0
5.0 - 5.9	.	0.06	.	.	.	.	.	0.03	0.01	.	0.05	.	13	0.1
6.0 - 6.9	.	0.03	0.11	0.06	.	.	1.11	1.54	0.08	.	0.10	.	266	3.0
7.0 - 7.9	.	.	0.64	0.03	0.02	0.59	1.83	2.32	0.26	1.02	.	.	588	6.7
8.0 - 8.9	0.01	.	.	0.31	0.47	0.78	1.30	1.85	0.53	0.41	0.26	.	518	5.9
9.0 - 9.9	0.32	0.10	.	0.65	1.70	1.04	0.31	0.47	1.52	0.42	0.45	0.14	623	7.1
10.0 - 10.9	0.51	0.88	0.69	2.16	1.69	0.99	0.71	0.86	1.43	1.29	1.15	0.34	1112	12.7
11.0 - 13.9	3.84	5.81	4.34	3.38	3.72	3.22	2.69	0.82	3.19	4.09	4.04	6.04	3957	45.2
14.0 - LONGER	3.41	0.79	2.72	1.63	0.89	1.60	0.55	0.57	1.21	1.27	2.17	1.98	1645	18.8
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>8759</b>	

# Table Product on Website

- % occurrences of Hmo by month
- % occurrences of TP by month
- % occurrences of mean DIR by month
- % occurrences of Hmo and Tp by Dir Bands
- % occurrences of WS by month
- % occurrences of WDIR by month
- Summary of mean Hmo by month and year
- Max Hmo with associated TP and Dir by month/year
- Overall Max values and means



ATL6

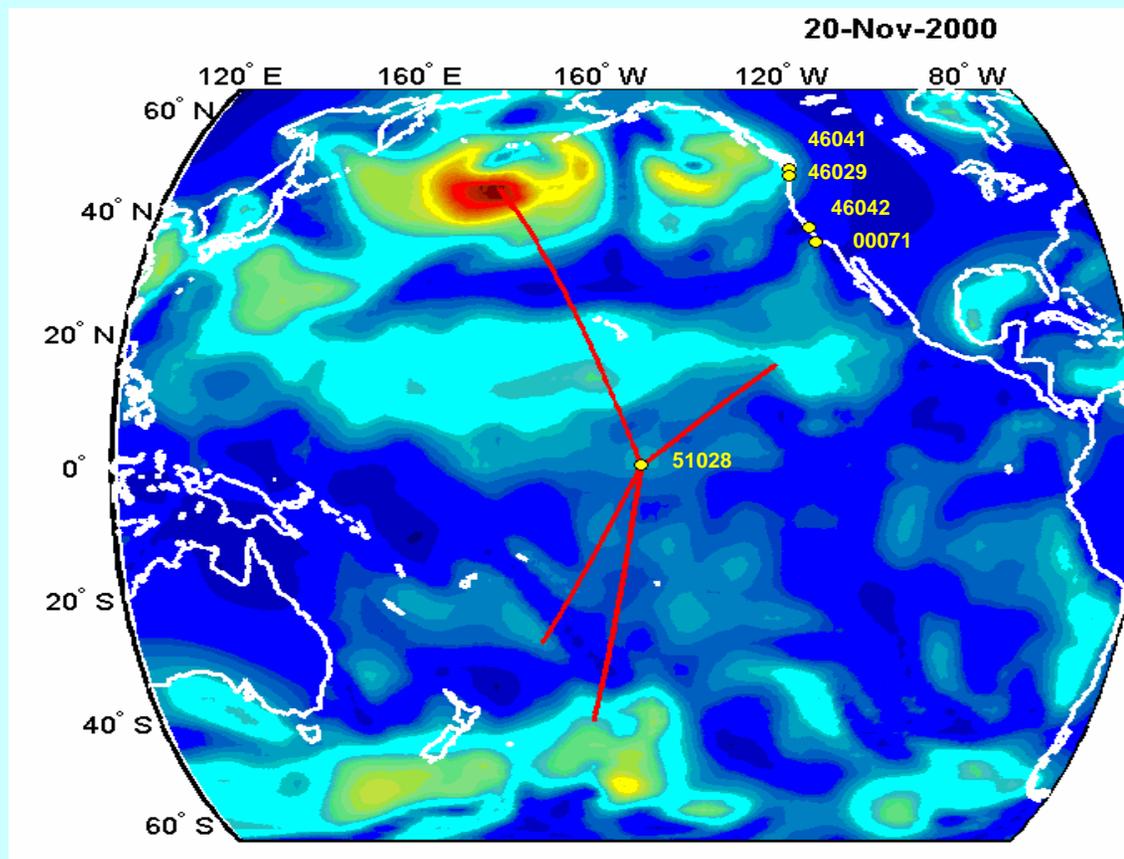


# WIS 10-year Pacific Hindcast

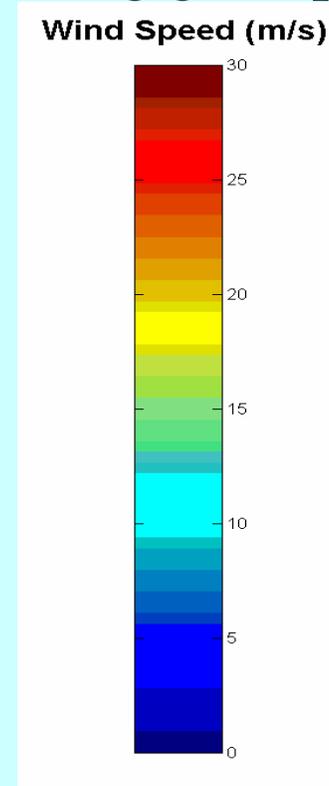


*WIS takes aim at the Pacific...*

# OWI Wind Field



0.5-deg grid spacing



*From Wave Hindcast Workshop Paper by Hanson and Jensen(2004)*

# OWI Wind Fields

- Begin with NCEP/NCAR reanalysis wind fields
- Adjust using QuikSCAT scatterometer winds for full Pacific
- Convert to neutral stability
- Interpolate to grid using IOKA
- Tropical cyclones blended in over full domain at IOKA step
- Winds on 0.5-deg grid at 3 hour time interval

# PLAN: Wave Model

## Collaboration to choose model that does the best job in the Pacific

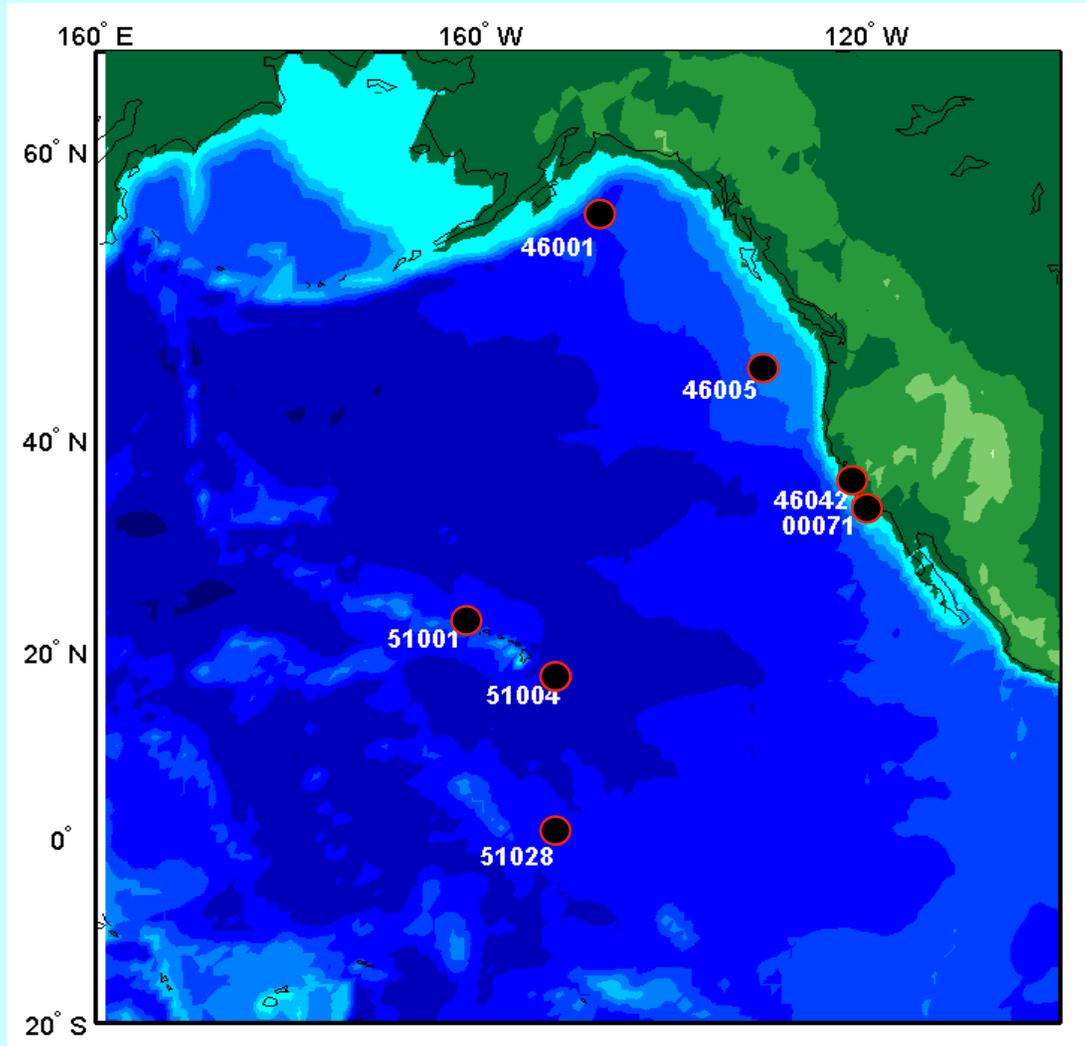


From Reuters

# Wave Model Contenders

- **WAM Cycle 4.5** – Bob Jensen
- **Wavewatch III**
  - Collaboration with Hendrik Tolman
  - Use NCEP Pacific grid and obstruction information to simulate island blocking
- **WAVAD** (version of 2-G **WISWAVE**)
  - Collaboration with Baird and Assoc. (Doug Scott)
  - Use NCEP Pacific grid and obstruction information to simulate island blocking

# Pacific Hindcast Validation Stations



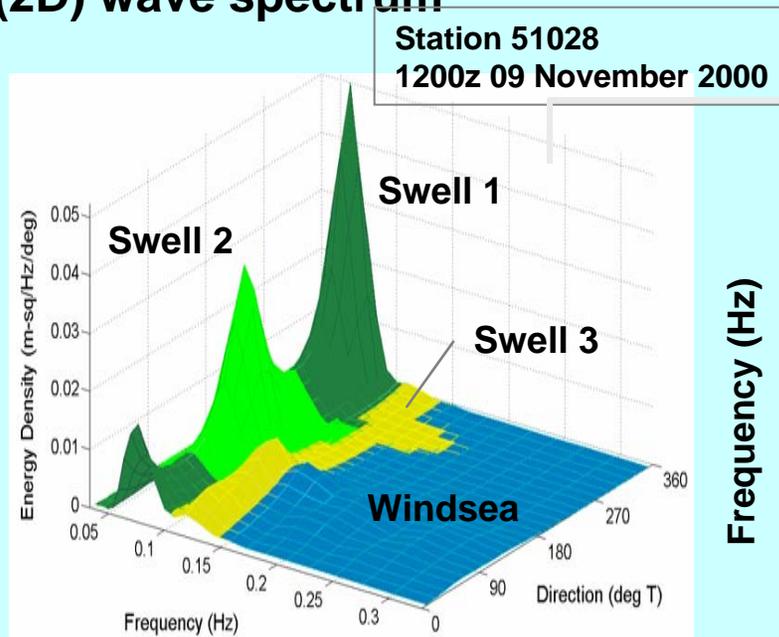
# Atlantic and Gulf Validation

- Comparisons made to all available measured data
- Monthly line comparison plots and scatter plots for all bulk parameters
- Statistics calculated
- 10-year contour plots showing results for various wave height categories
- Energy flux comparisons with measured energy flux
- Review committee

# Definitions

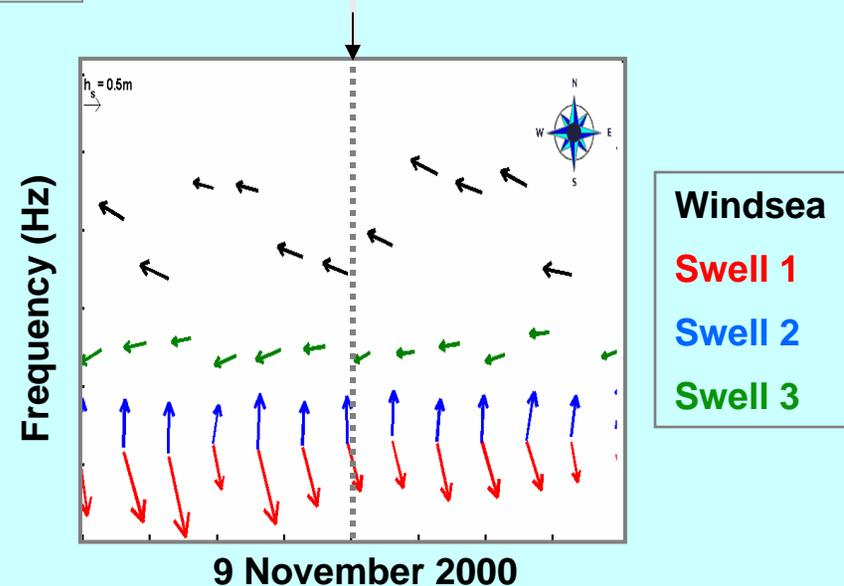
## Wave Component

A specific wind sea or swell that is attributed to a region of enhanced energy in a directional (2D) wave spectrum



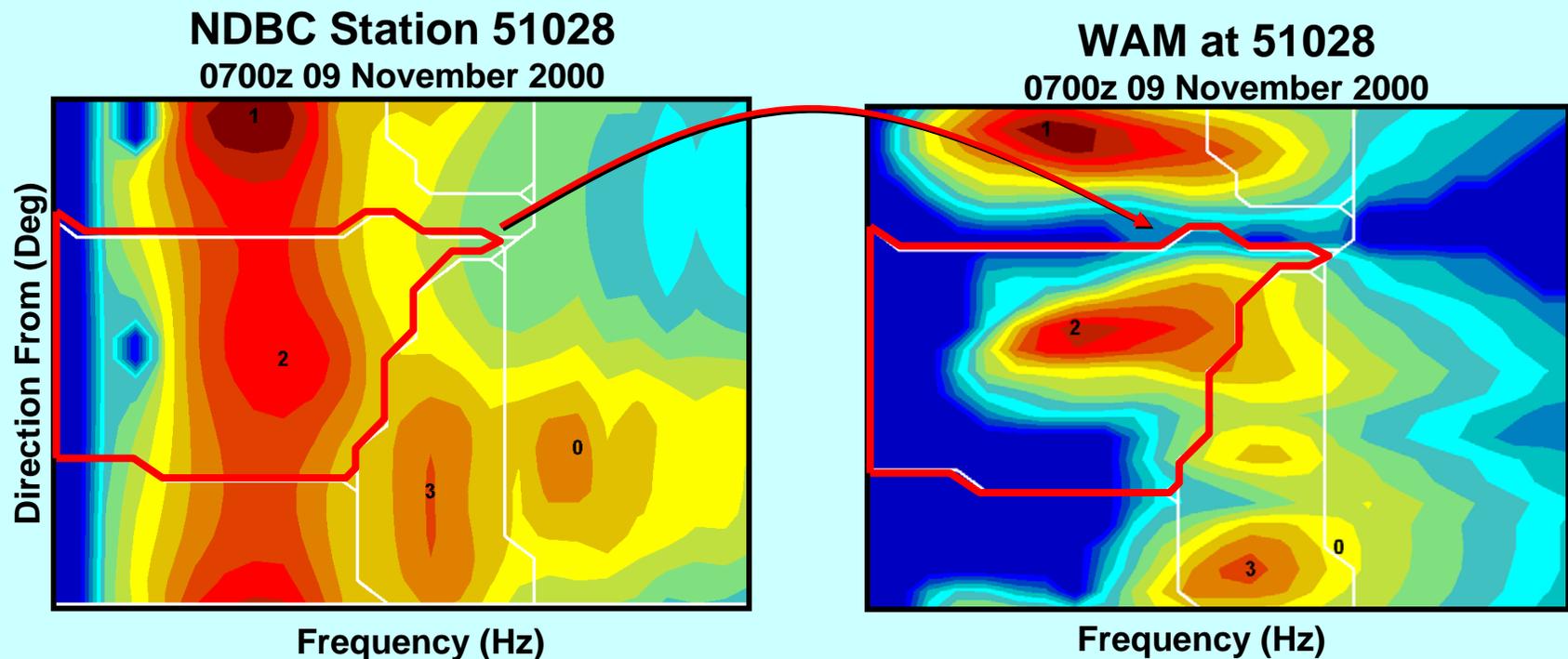
## Wave System

An evolving series of wave components that can be traced to a specific wind generation event on the ocean surface



# Wave Component Analysis

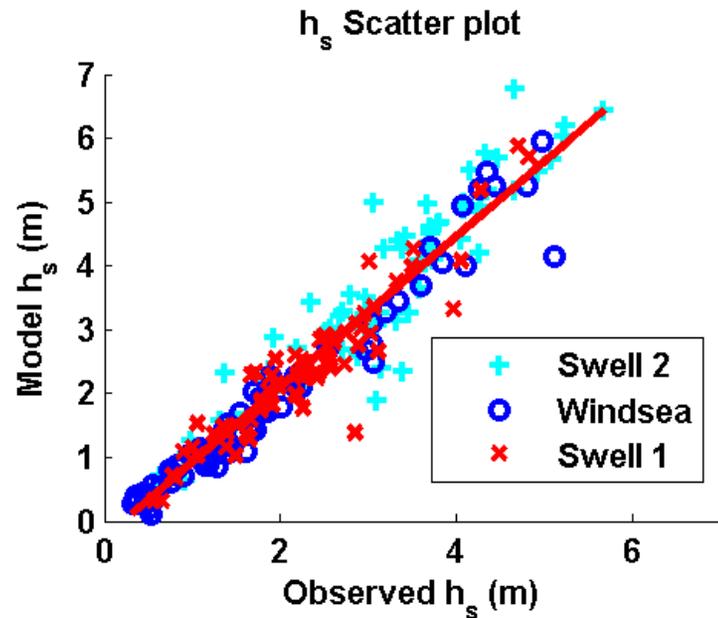
1. Partition Buoy Spectrum
2. Overlay Buoy Partition Template on Hindcast Spectrum
3. Compute Integral Parameters in each Partition Domain:  $H_{m0}$ ,  $T_p$ ,  $\theta_m$ ,  $P_{xy}$



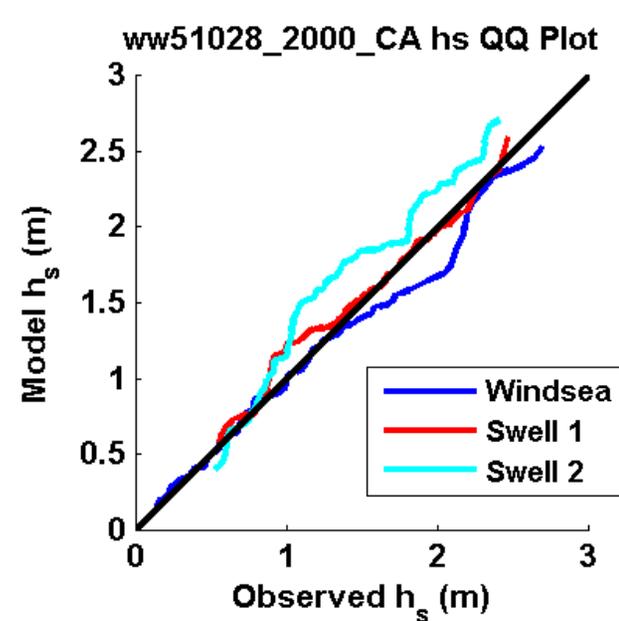
Reference: Hanson and Jensen, 8TH International Workshop on Wave Hindcasting and Forecasting, November 2004

# Wave Component Analysis

1. Partition Buoy Spectrum
2. Overlay Buoy Partition Template on Hindcast Spectrum
3. Compute Integral Parameters in each Partition Domain:  
 $H_{m0}$ ,  $T_p$ ,  $\theta_m$ ,  $P_{xy}$
4. Perform Statistical Analyses: RMS Error, Bias, Scatter

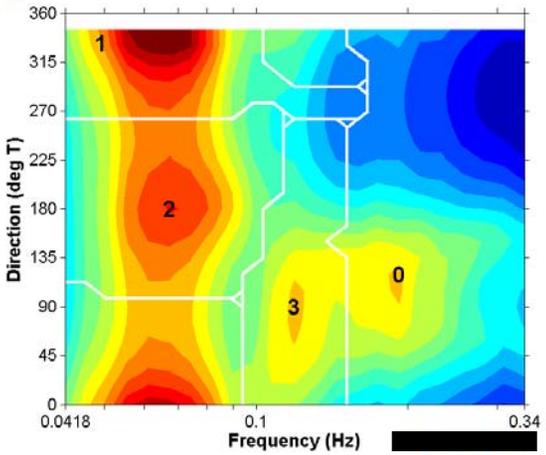


Temporal Correlations

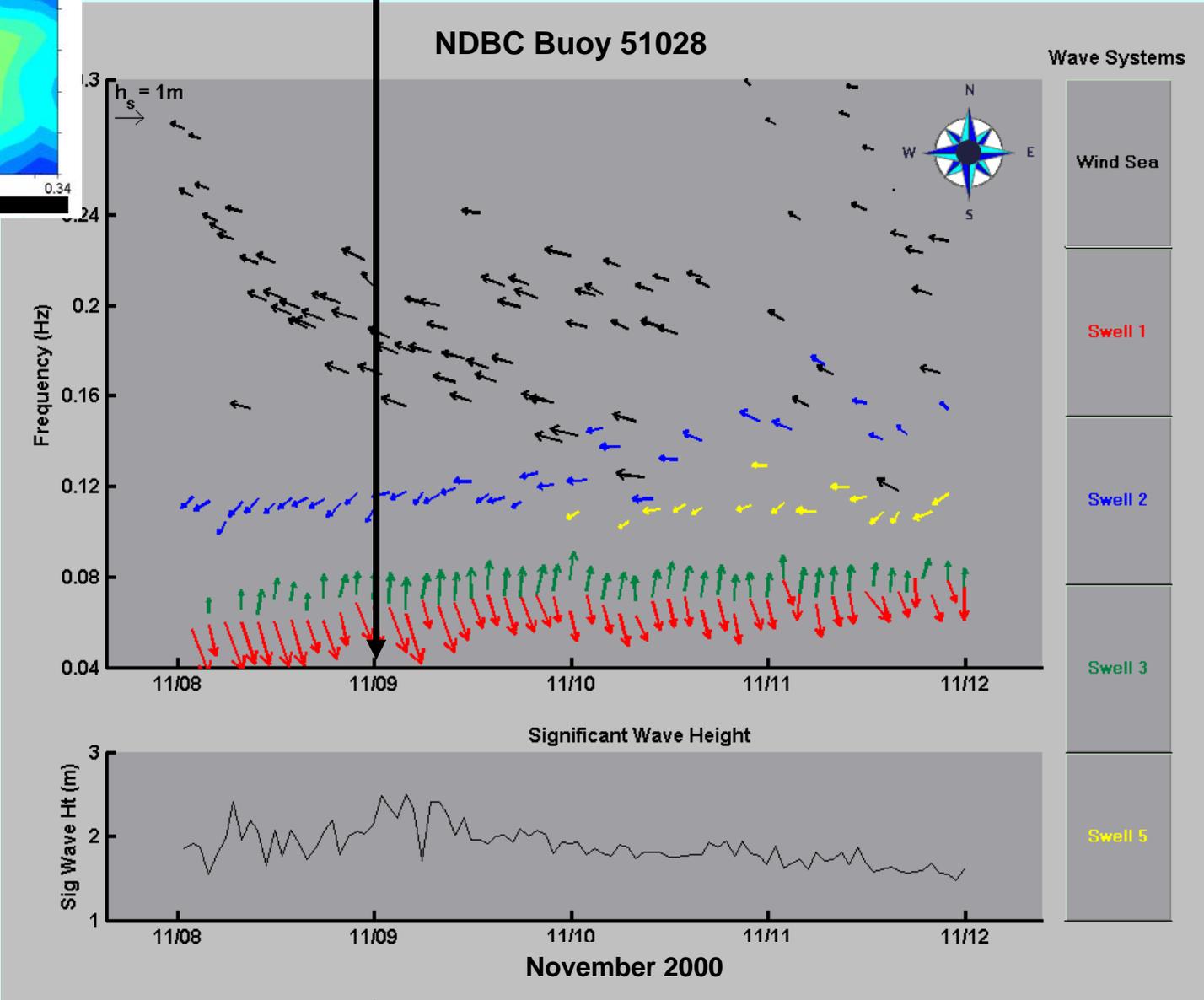


Quantile-Quantile Analysis

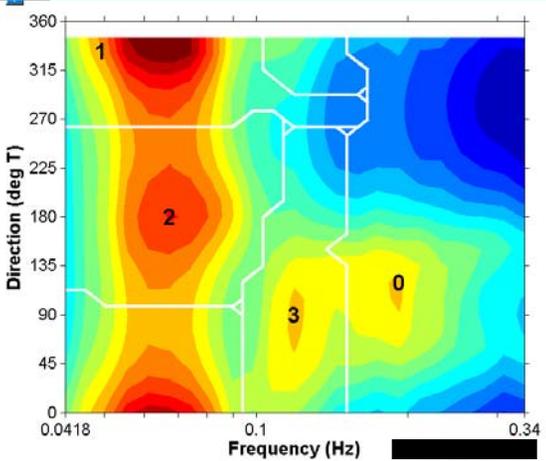
# Wave System Analysis



Time-Evolving  
Wave Components

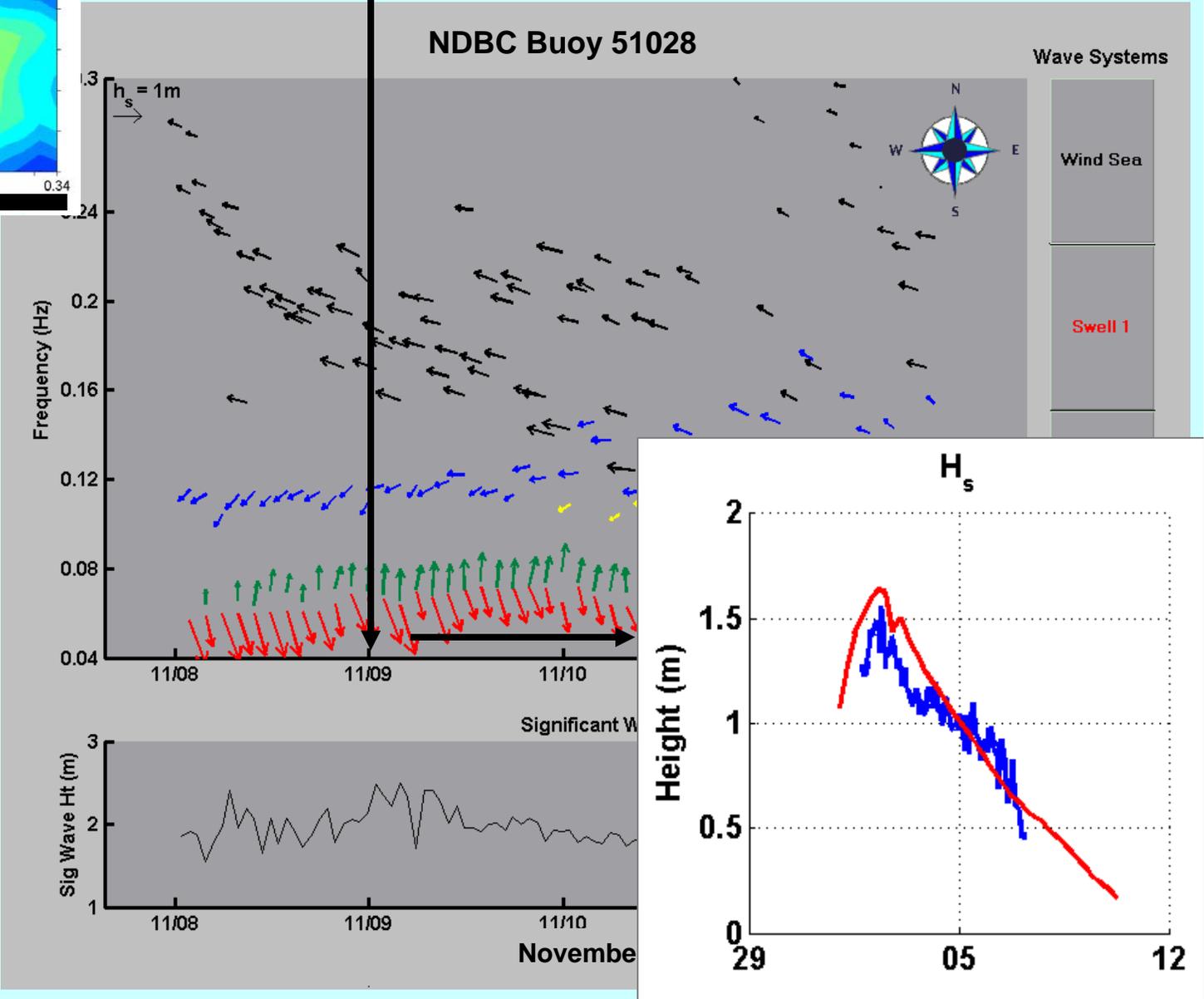


# Wave System Analysis



Time-Evolving  
Wave Components

Compare Buoy  
Observations  
With Hindcast



# Significant Wave Height Annual Performance Summary

Component	Temporal Correlations			Quantile-Quantile		
	WAVAD	WAM	WW3	WAVAD	WAM	WW3
Windsea	0.83	0.79	0.88	0.88	0.82	0.92
Young Swell	0.79	0.84	0.85	0.86	0.90	0.89
Mature Swell	0.73	0.72	0.78	0.81	0.78	0.83
<b>Combined</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>0.88</b>

# Peak Wave Period

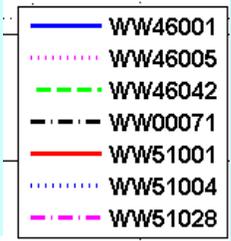
## Annual Performance Summary

Component	Temporal Correlations			Quantile-Quantile		
	WAVAD	WAM	WW3	WAVAD	WAM	WW3
Windsea	0.89	0.87	0.92	0.94	0.91	0.96
Young Swell	0.86	0.86	0.92	0.89	0.89	0.96
Mature Swell	0.91	0.90	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.97
<b>Combined</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>0.96</b>

# Significant Wave Height Annual Performance Summary

Component	Temporal Correlations			Quantile-Quantile		
	WAVAD	WAM	WW3	WAVAD	WAM	WW3
Windsea	0.83	0.79	0.88	0.88	0.82	0.92
Young Swell	0.79	0.84	0.85	0.86	0.90	0.89
Mature Swell	0.73	0.72	0.78	0.81	0.78	0.83
Combined	0.78	0.79	0.84	0.85	0.83	0.88

# Monthly Mature Swell Height Metrics

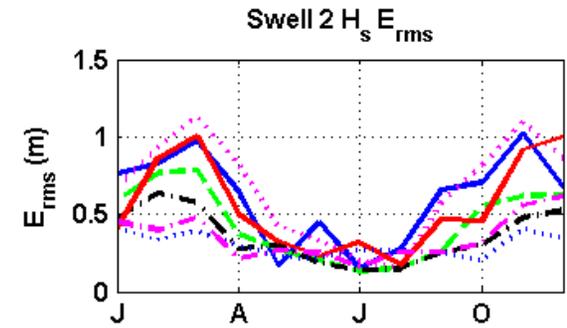
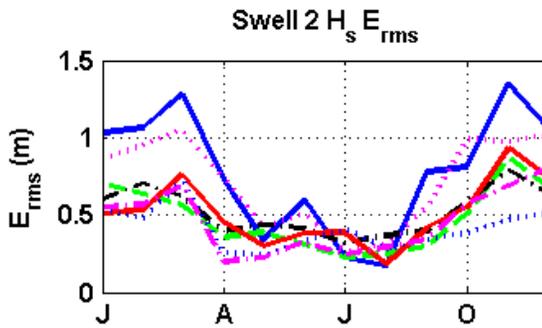
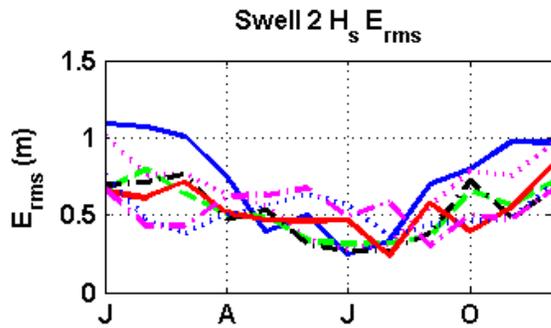


WAVAD

WAM

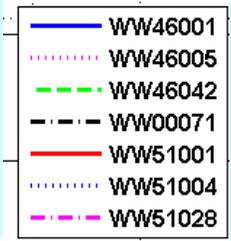
WW3

RMS Error



Month (2000)

# Monthly Mature Swell Height Metrics

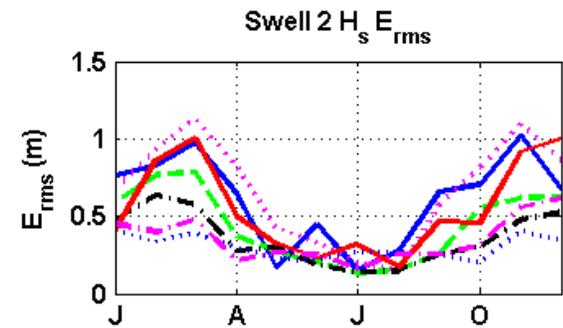
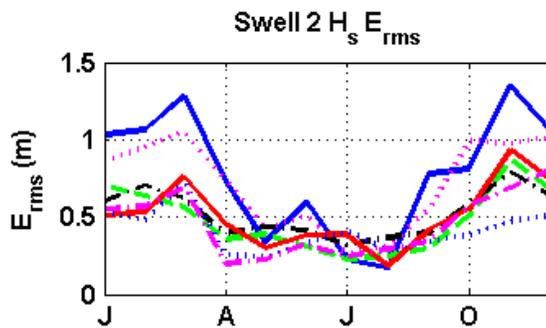
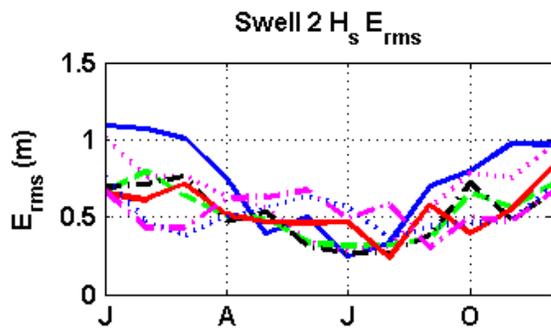


WAVAD

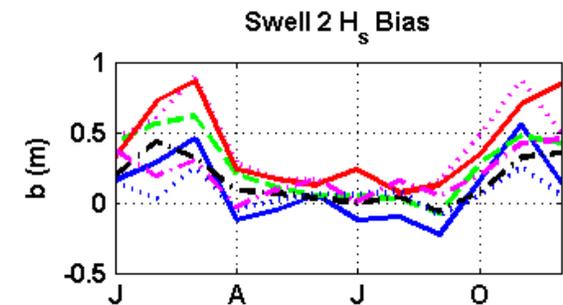
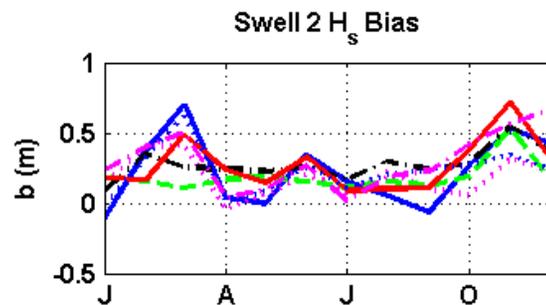
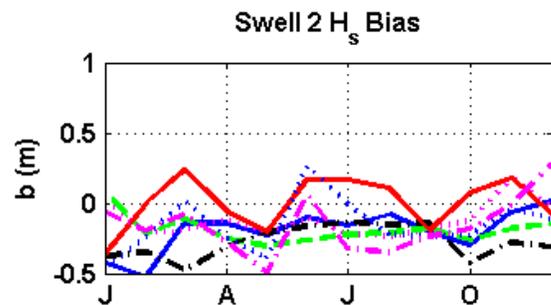
WAM

WW3

RMS Error



Bias



Month (2000)

# Monthly Mature Swell Height Metrics

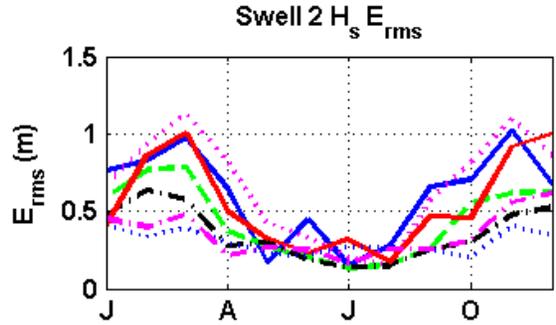
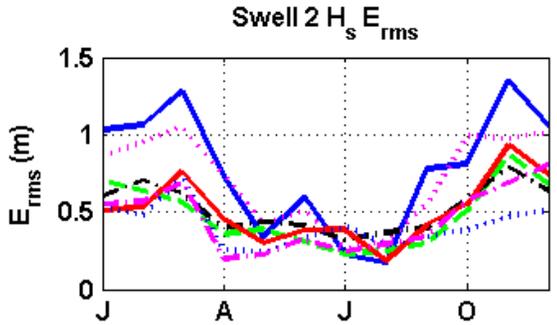
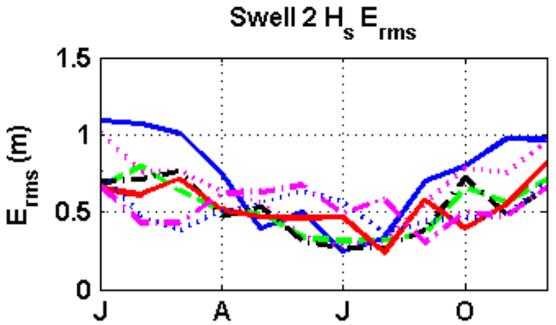
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- WW51001
- ⋯ WW51004
- - WW51028

WAVAD

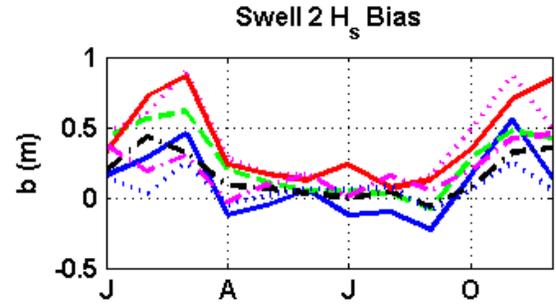
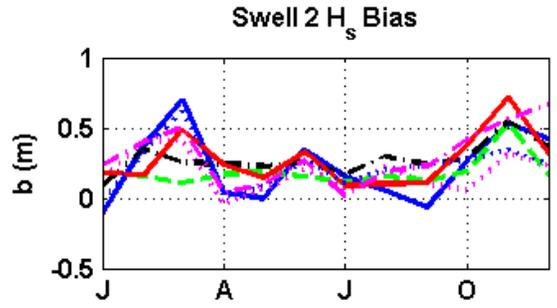
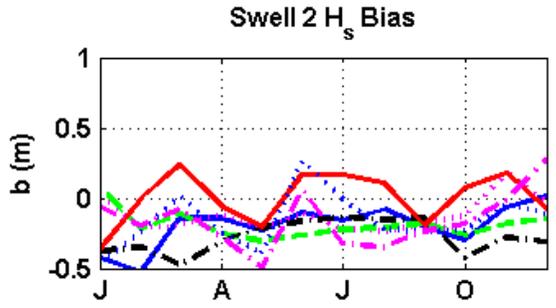
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WW3

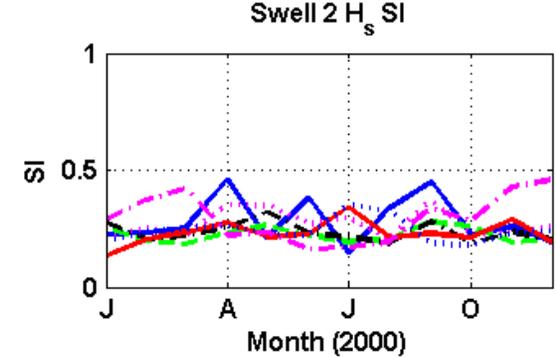
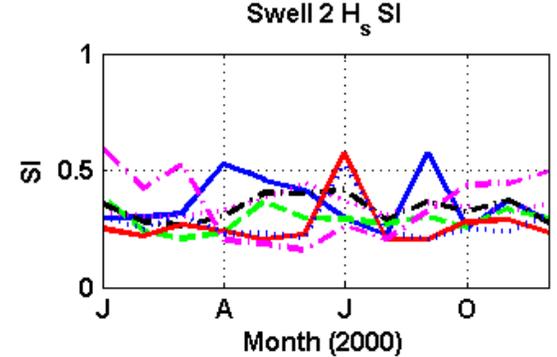
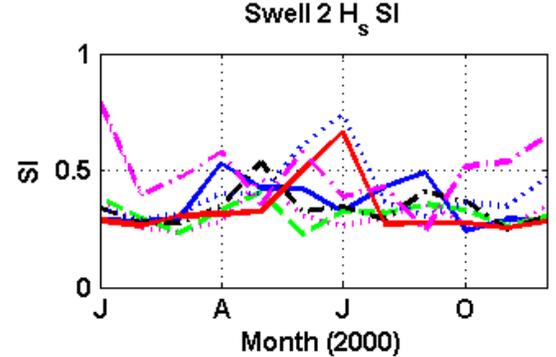
RMS Error



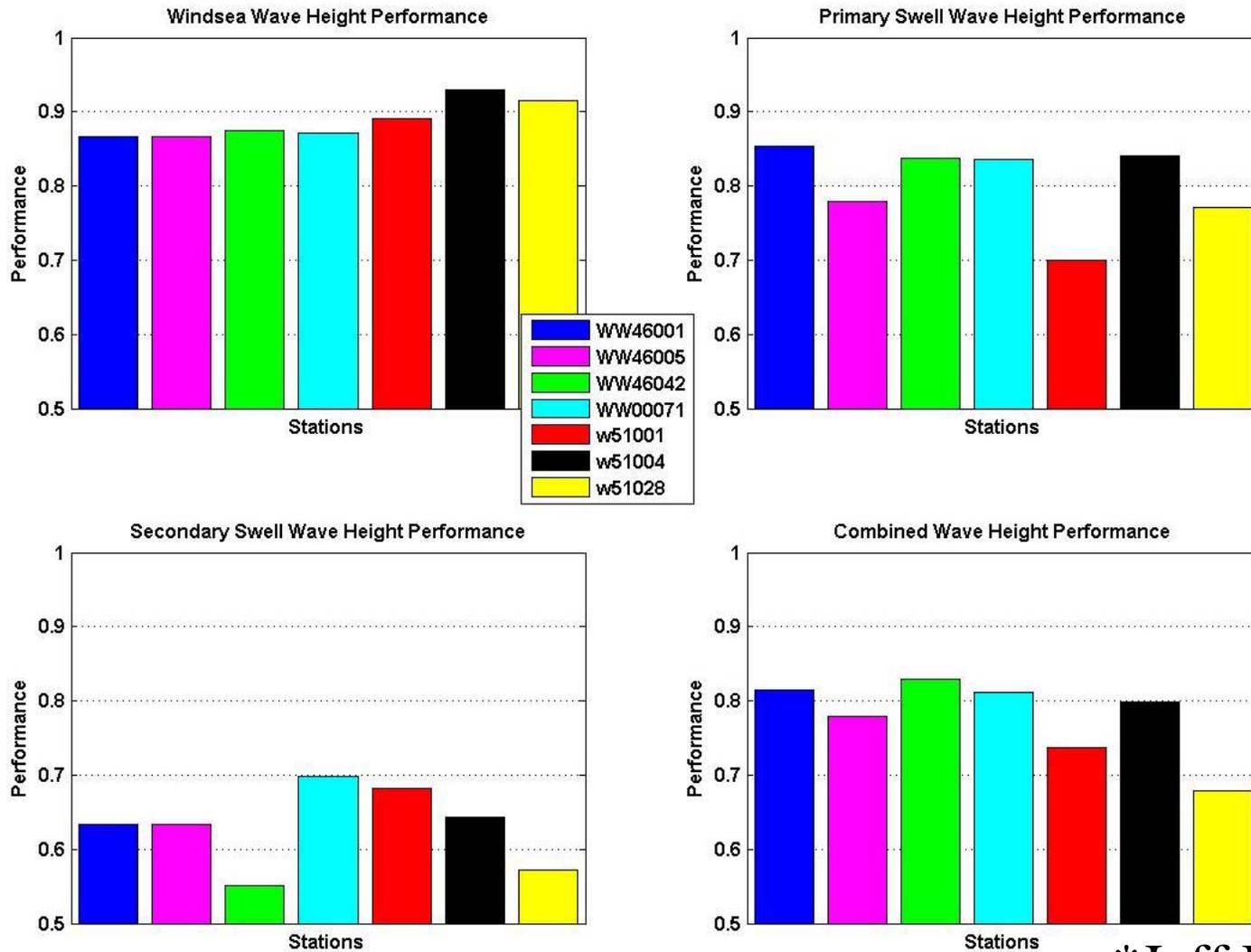
Bias



Scatter Index



# Station Significant Wave Height Performance\* March 2000 (NRAQ+ winds)

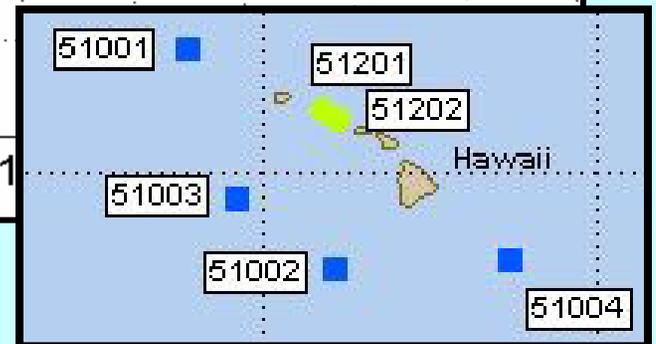
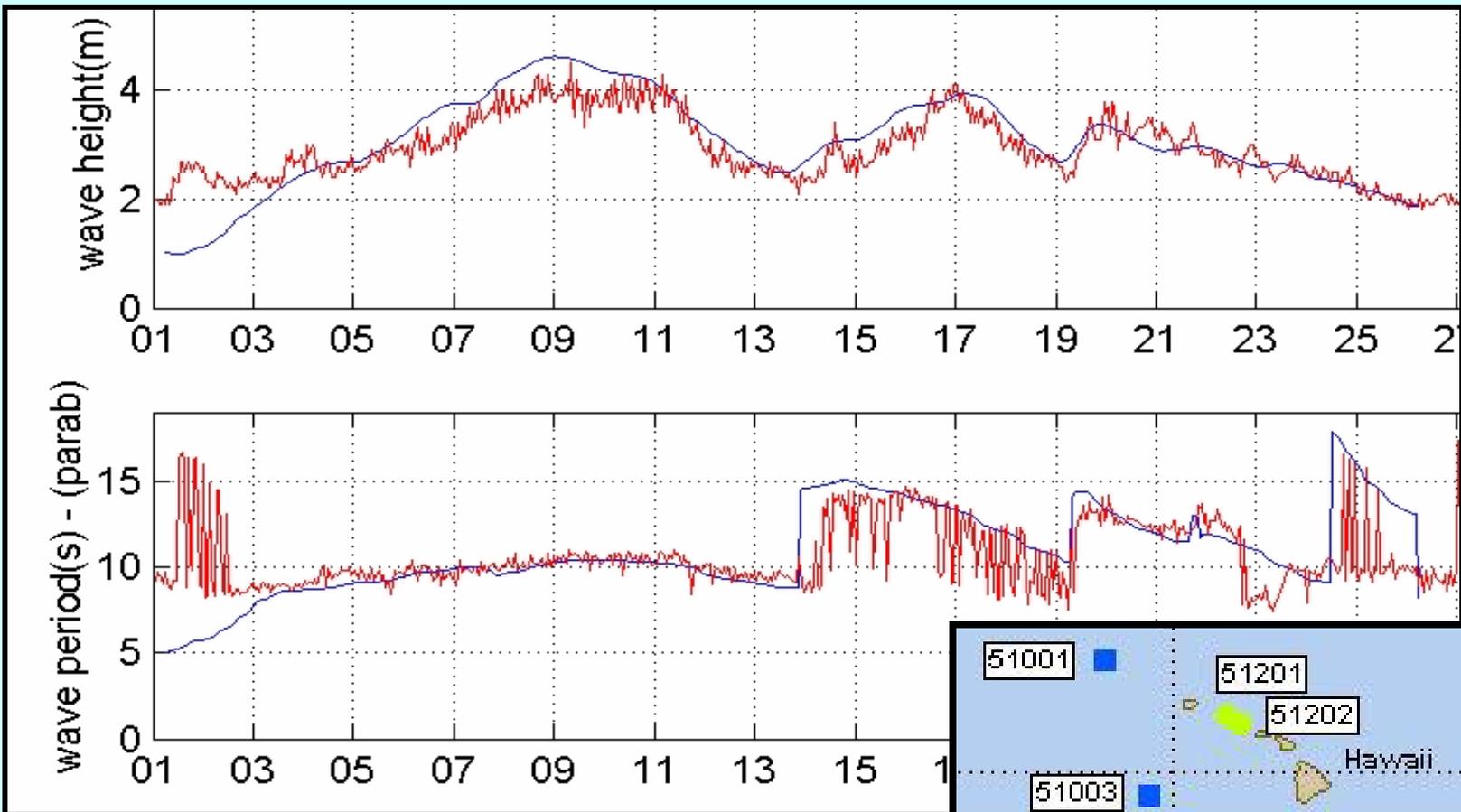


\*Jeff Hanson

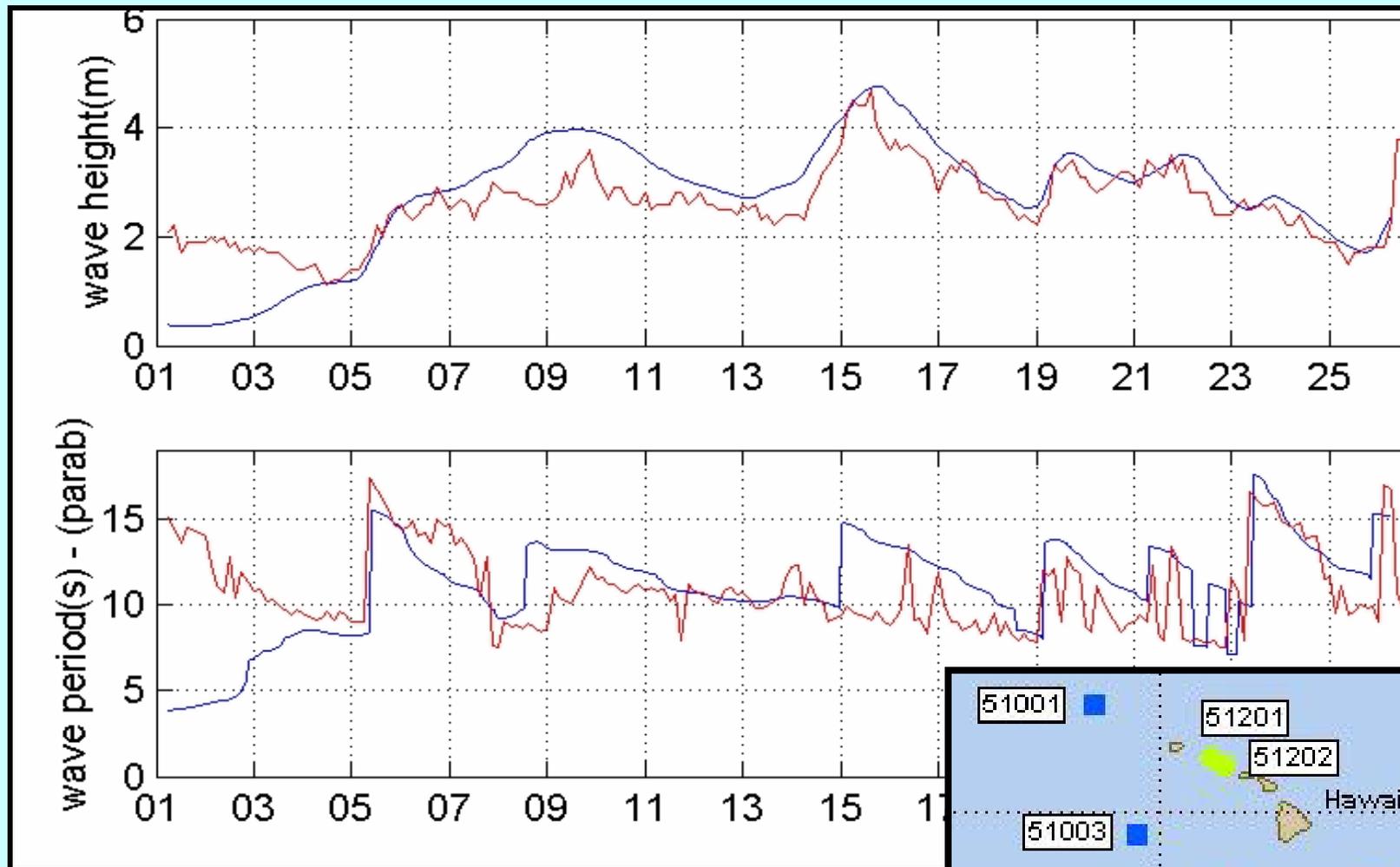
# Wavewatch III Chosen for Pacific Hindcast

- All models did well
- WW3 statistics were best
- WW3 obstruction grid to represent islands was effective
- WW3 MPI implementation on HPC computers allowed parallel processing for fast computation

# WW3 results for Hawaii Buoy- January 2000 51004 (NRAQ winds)



# WW3 results for Hawaii Buoys-January 2000 51001 (NRAQ winds)



How is WISPAC being used?



Wave Hindcasts - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address [http://www.frf.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/pac/pac\\_main.html](http://www.frf.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/pac/pac_main.html) Go Links >>

**Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory**  
**Wave Information Studies**

Click an area on the map

product station year1 year2 month  
 PLOT 95 1995 1995 All Months go

Go To Atlantic->

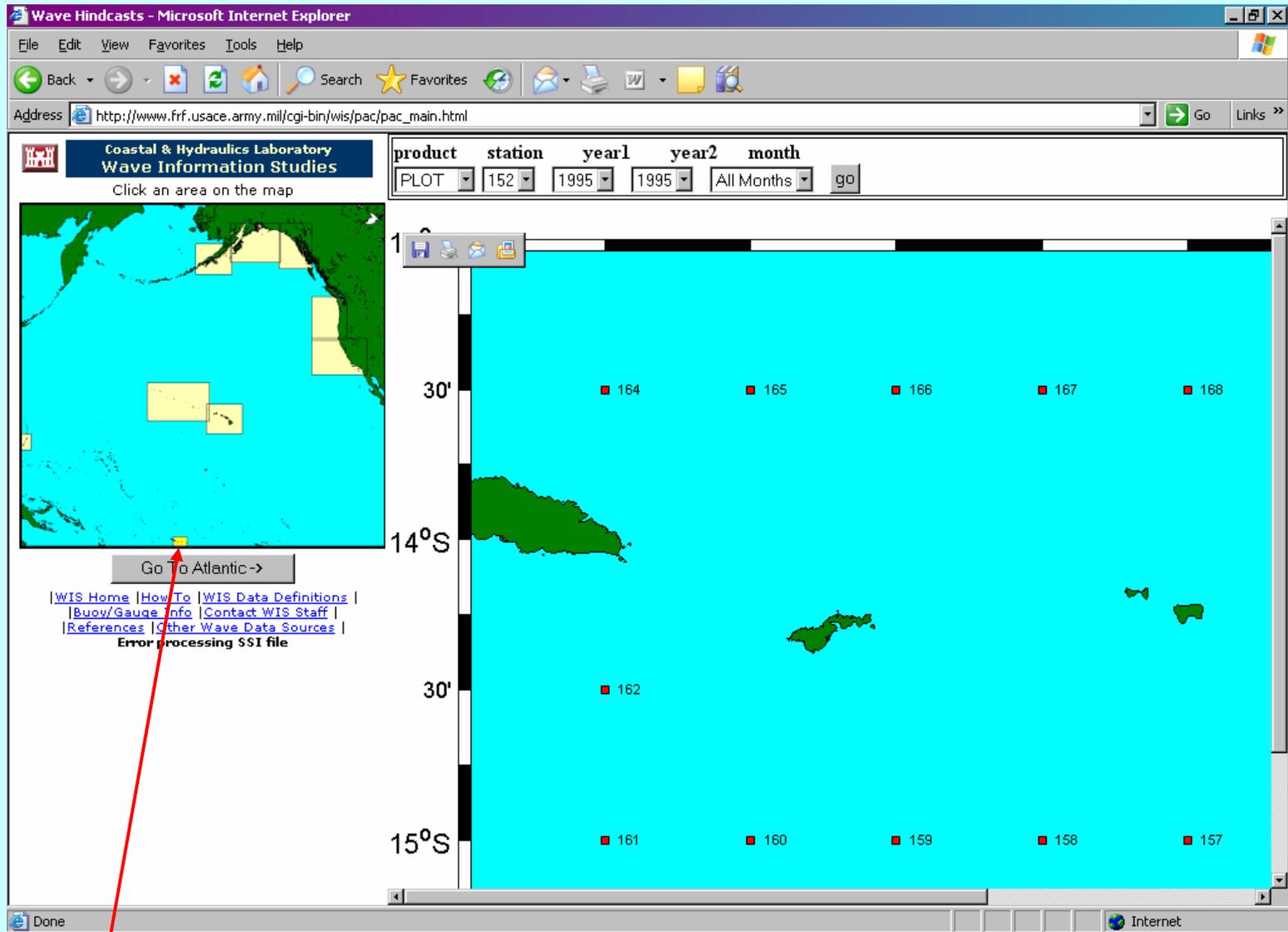
[|WIS Home](#) | [|How To](#) | [|WIS Data Definitions](#) |  
[|Buoy/Gauge Info](#) | [|Contact WIS Staff](#) |  
[|References](#) | [|Other Wave Data Sources](#) |  
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# WIS HAWAII

# Hawaii Projects using PACWIS

- Maui Shoreline Change Analysis
  - Delft-3D application to model seasonal swing in shoreline width at Kaanapali embayment
  - No directional measurements available
  - 10 years of WIS directional waves meet their needs
- Southeast Oahu RSM Project
  - ADCIRC and STWAVE application for circulation and wave transformation in area
  - Significant wave events to drive models are determined from PACWIS
  - PACWIS determines wave climate of typical events



# WIS American SAMOA

# American Samoa



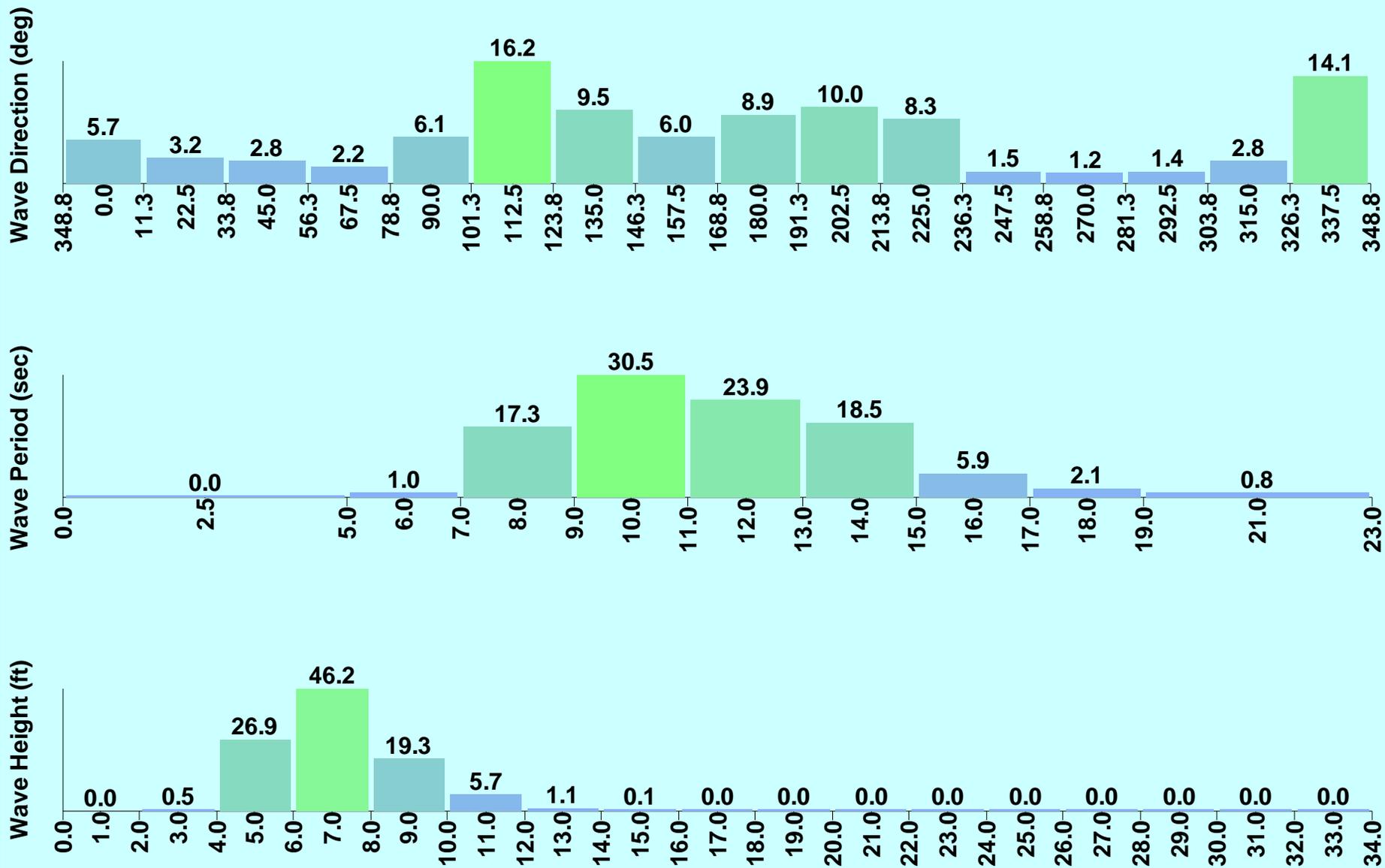
- Leloaloa shore protection project (north shore of Pago Pago Harbor)
  - Storm waves have eroded shoreline making a road and utilities vulnerable
  - Previous info was from a database of ship obs for 1970-77 (not reliable for storms)
  - PACWIS has a reliable 10 years of information
- Pago Pago Harbor improvements
  - A second harbor on Tutuila is being considered because of congestion at existing facility
  - PACWIS is being used for this study







## WIS American Samoa Station 159 Percent Occurrence

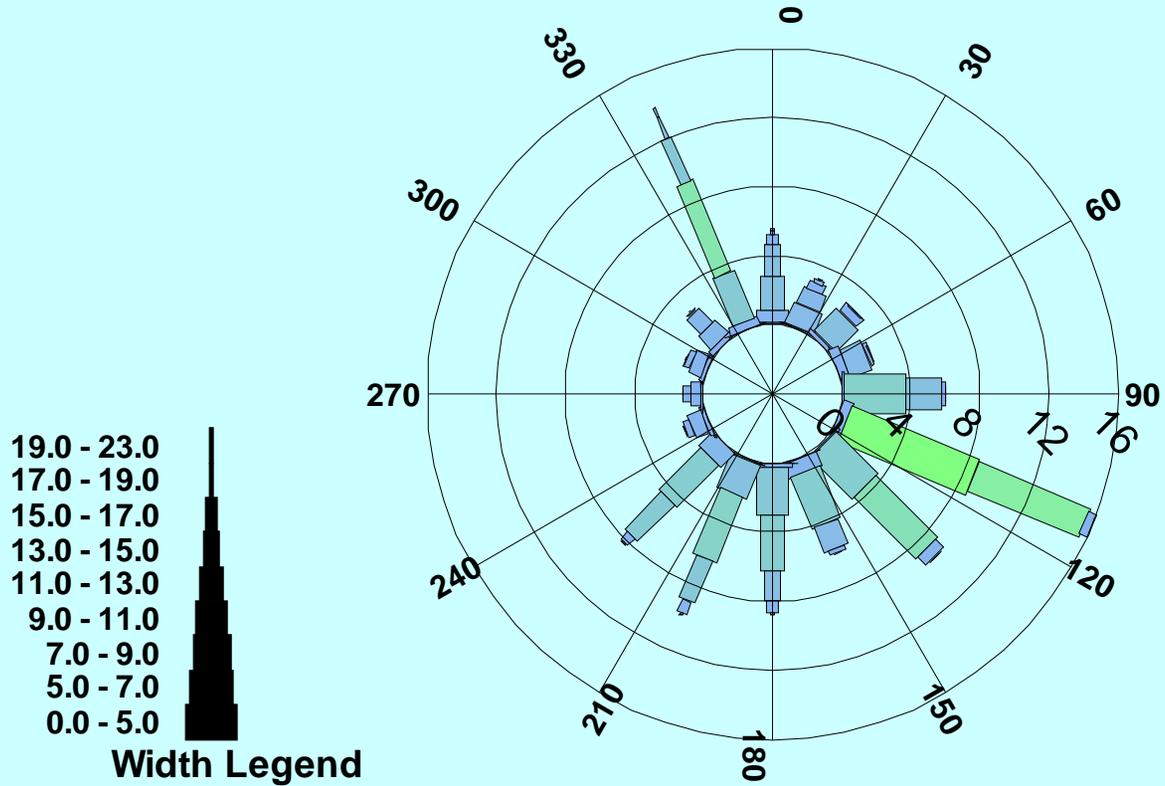


# Percent Occurrence

*Wave Direction (deg)*

vs.

*Wave Period (sec)*



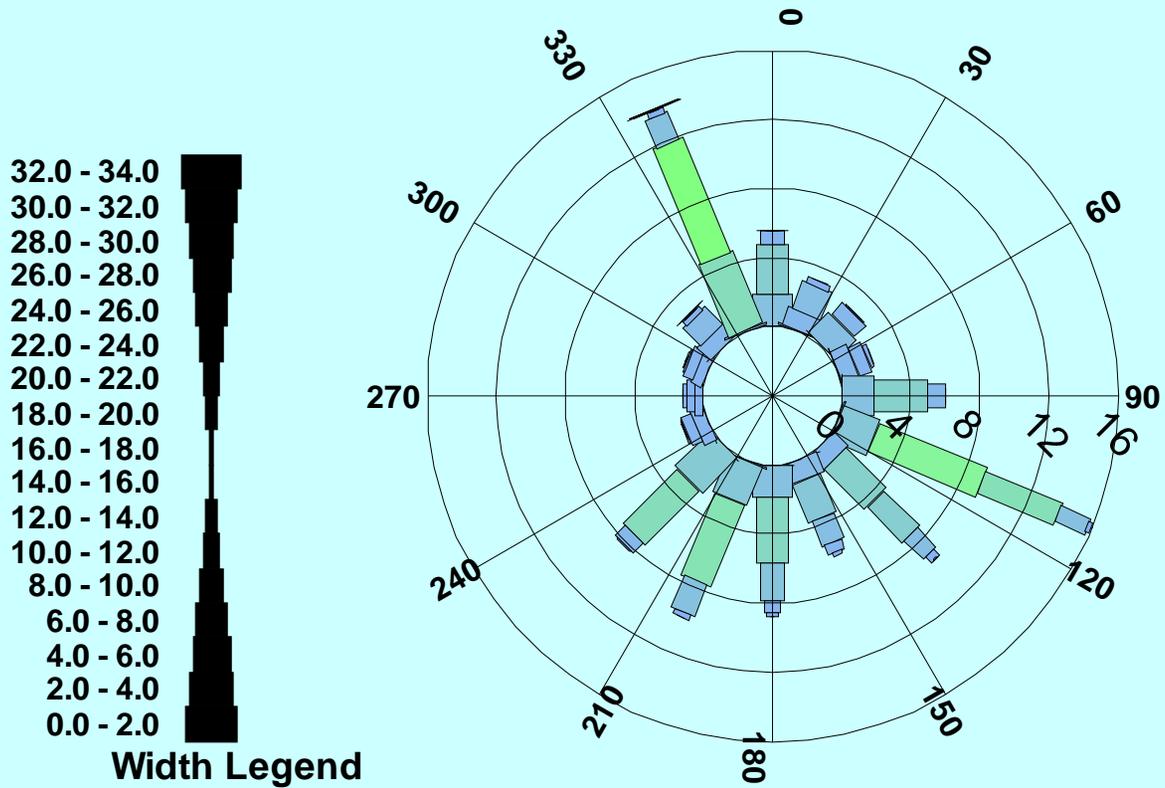
WIS American Samoa Station 159

# Percent Occurrence

*Wave Direction (deg)*

vs.

*Wave Height (ft)*



**WIS American Samoa Station 159**

Wave Hindcasts - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address [http://www.frif.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/pac/pac\\_main.html](http://www.frif.usace.army.mil/cgi-bin/wis/pac/pac_main.html) Go Links >>

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[Buoy/Gauge Info](#) | [Contact WIS Staff](#) |  
[References](#) | [Other Wave Data Sources](#) |  
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WIS GUAM



## WIS Plans for this FY:

- 10 additional years for Pacific Basin Hindcast
- One year Pacific regional forensics