

Coastal Working Group

**ERDC**

Engineer Research and  
Development Center

# Sediment Mobility Tool & Its Application

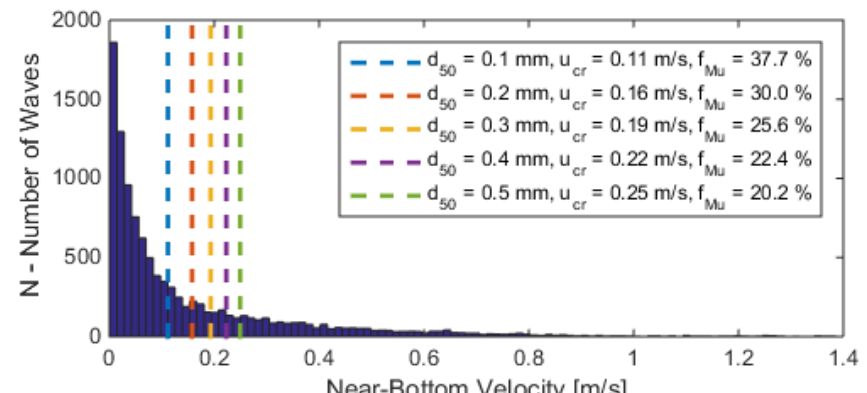
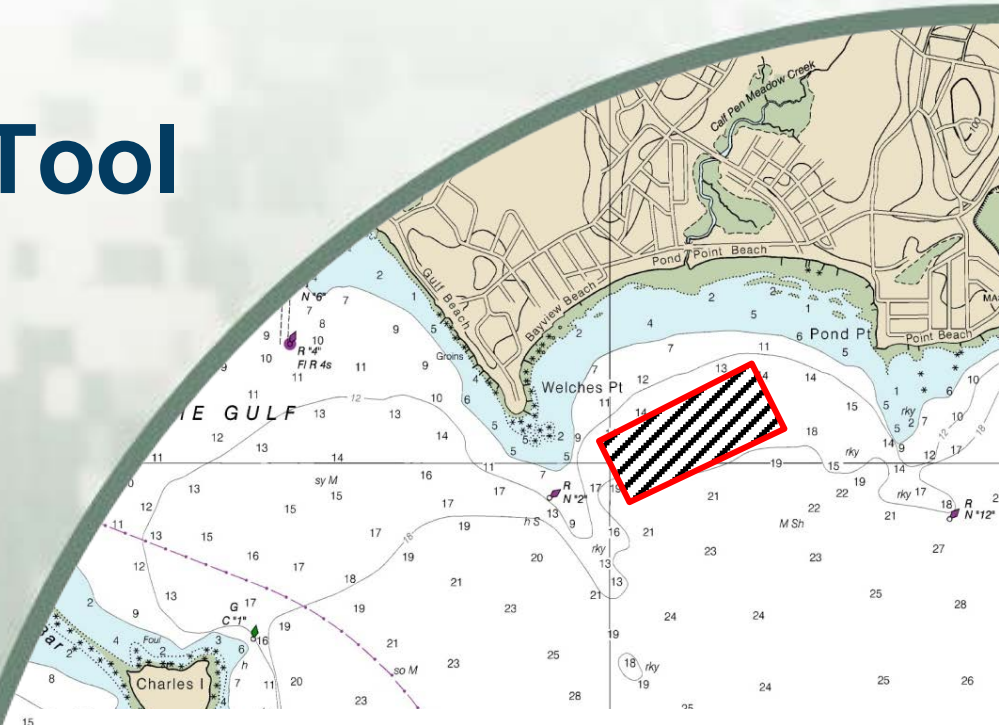
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US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



# Outline

- What is it?
- Why is it helpful?
- How does it work?
- How is it applied?
- How can I use it?
- Summary



# Outline

- **What is it?**
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# What is it?

- Tool Predicts:
  - ▶ Frequency of Sediment Mobility
  - ▶ Onshore/Offshore Migration
  - ▶ Axis of Wave Dominated Transport
- Single Depth or Range of Depths
- Matlab Script to Automate Process
- Applied to WIS, NACCS, or Other Wave Gauge Data



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# Why is it helpful?

- Ideal for:
  - ▶ Preliminary Siting of Nearshore Placement Areas
  - ▶ Small Projects That Don't Warrant a Full Numerical Model
- Answers:
  - ▶ Will the Sediment Move?
  - ▶ Where Is the Sediment Likely To Go?



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# How does it work?

- Frequency of Mobility:

- ▶ Linear Wave Theory (Bed Shear Stress)

$$\tau_{cr} = \theta_{cr} g (\rho_s - \rho) d_{50}$$
$$\tau_m = \tau_c \left[ 1 + 1.2 \left( \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_c + \tau_w} \right)^{3.2} \right]$$
$$\tau_{max} = [(\tau_m + \tau_w \cos \phi)^2 + (\tau_w \sin \phi)^2]^{1/2}$$

- ▶ Nonlinear Stream Function Wave Theory (Near-bed Velocity)

$$u_{cr} = \sqrt{8 g \gamma d_{50}} \quad d_{50} \leq 2.0 \text{ mm}$$
$$u_{max \text{ crest}} = \left( \frac{H}{T} \right) \left( \frac{h}{L_o} \right)^{-0.579} \exp \left[ 0.289 - 0.491 \left( \frac{H}{h} \right) - 2.97 \left( \frac{h}{L_o} \right) \right]$$





# How Does It Work?

- Onshore/Offshore Migration:

- ▶ Dean's Number

$$D = \frac{H_0}{\omega T} \quad \begin{array}{l} > 7.2, \text{ Offshore Migration} \\ < 7.2, \text{ Onshore Migration} \end{array} \quad (\text{Larson \& Kraus, 1992})$$

- Axis of Wave Dominated Transport:

- ▶ Wave Rose



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# Where Has It Been Applied?

- Been Applied To:
  - ▶ Duck, NC (WIS data)
  - ▶ Milford, CT (NACCS & U.Conn. Buoy)
- Will be Applied Next FY:
  - ▶ Vilano Beach, FL
  - ▶ Amelia Island, FL
  - ▶ Burns Waterway Harbor, IN
  - ▶ Illinois Beach State Park, IL



# How Is It Applied?

- User Defines:
  - ▶ Data Source
  - ▶ Offshore Water Depth of Data Source
  - ▶ Shoreline Orientation
  - ▶ Median Grain Size
  - ▶ Current Velocity 1 m above the Bed

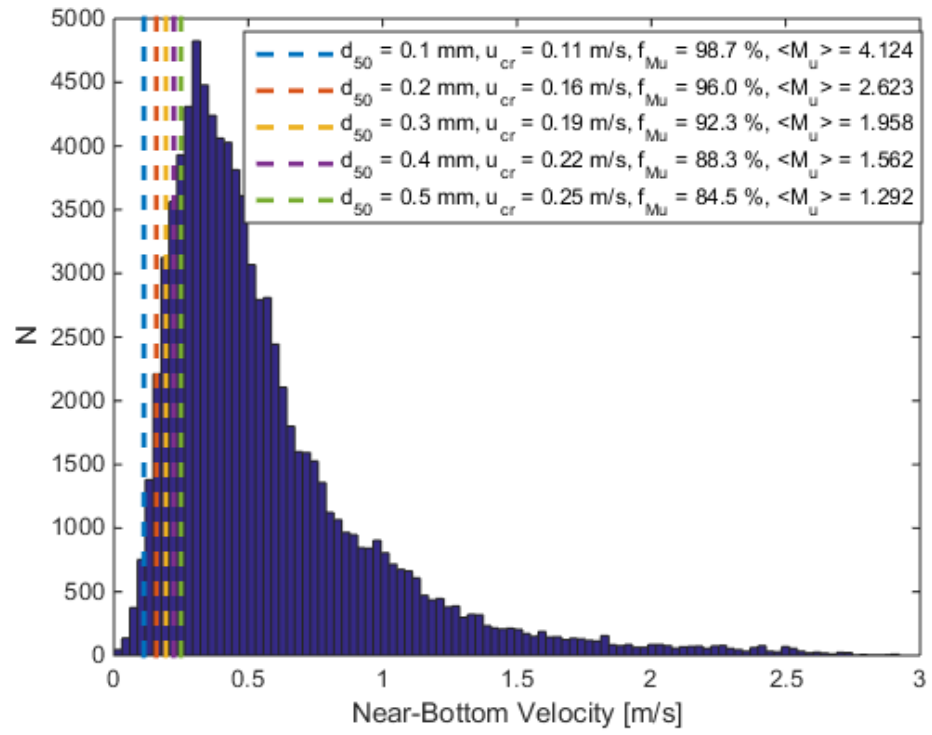
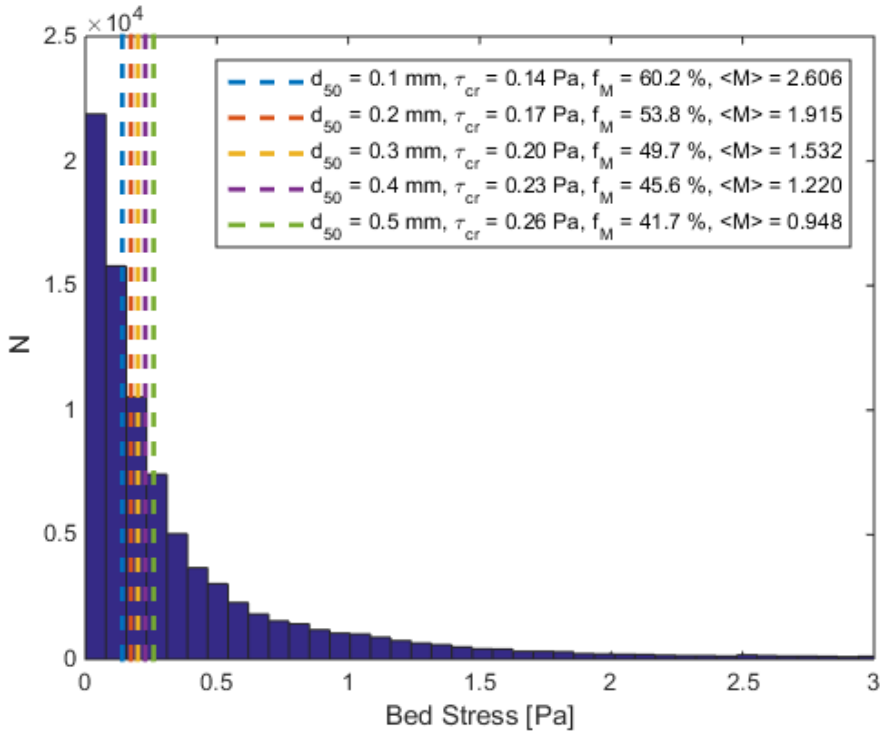


# Site 1: Duck, NC

- $h = 8 \text{ m}$
- WIS Station 63218
- $0.1 \leq d_{50} \leq 0.5 \text{ mm}$



# Site 1: Duck, NC

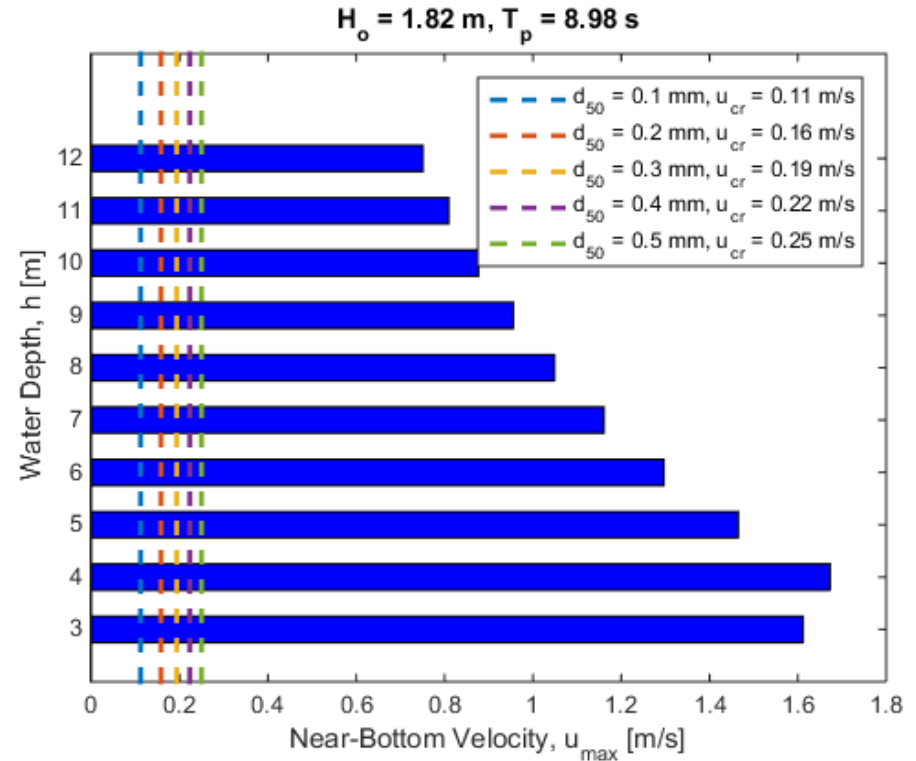
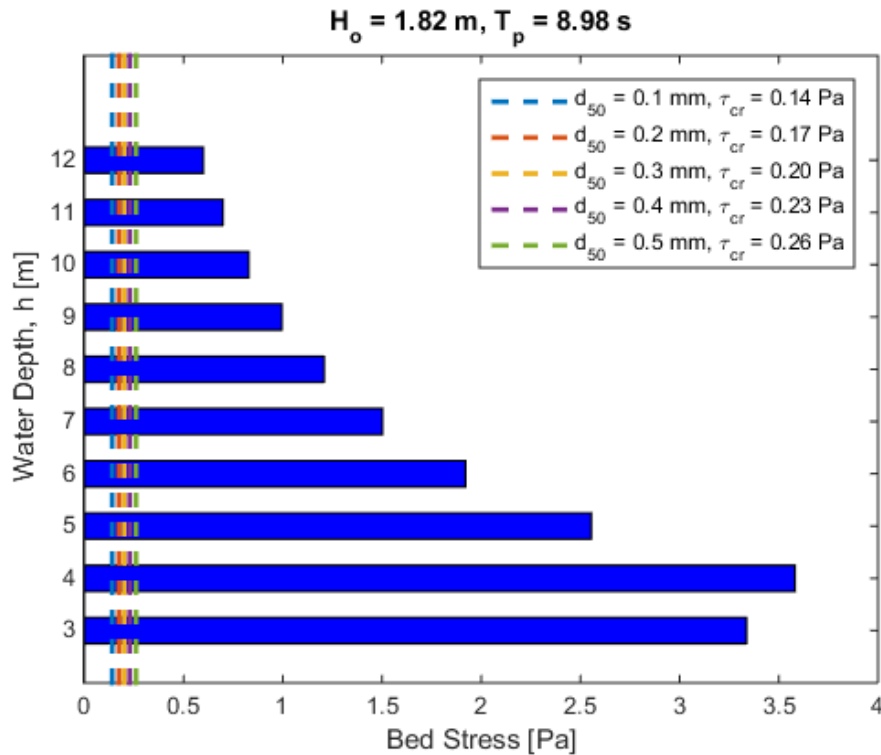


$$M = \left( \frac{\tau_{max} - \tau_{cr}}{\tau_{cr}} \right)$$

$$M_u = \left( \frac{u_{max} - u_{cr}}{u_{cr}} \right)$$



# Site 1: Duck, NC

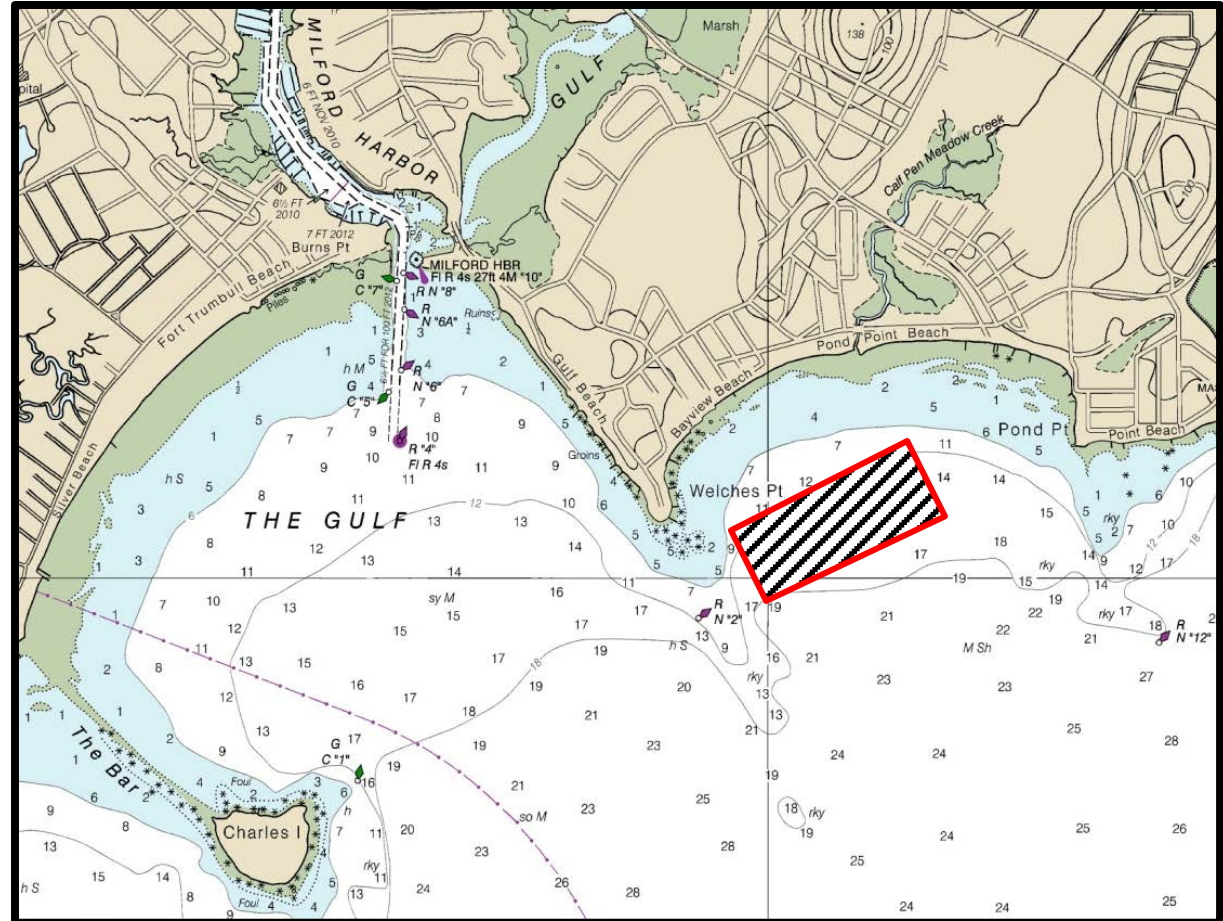


Significant Wave Height and Period



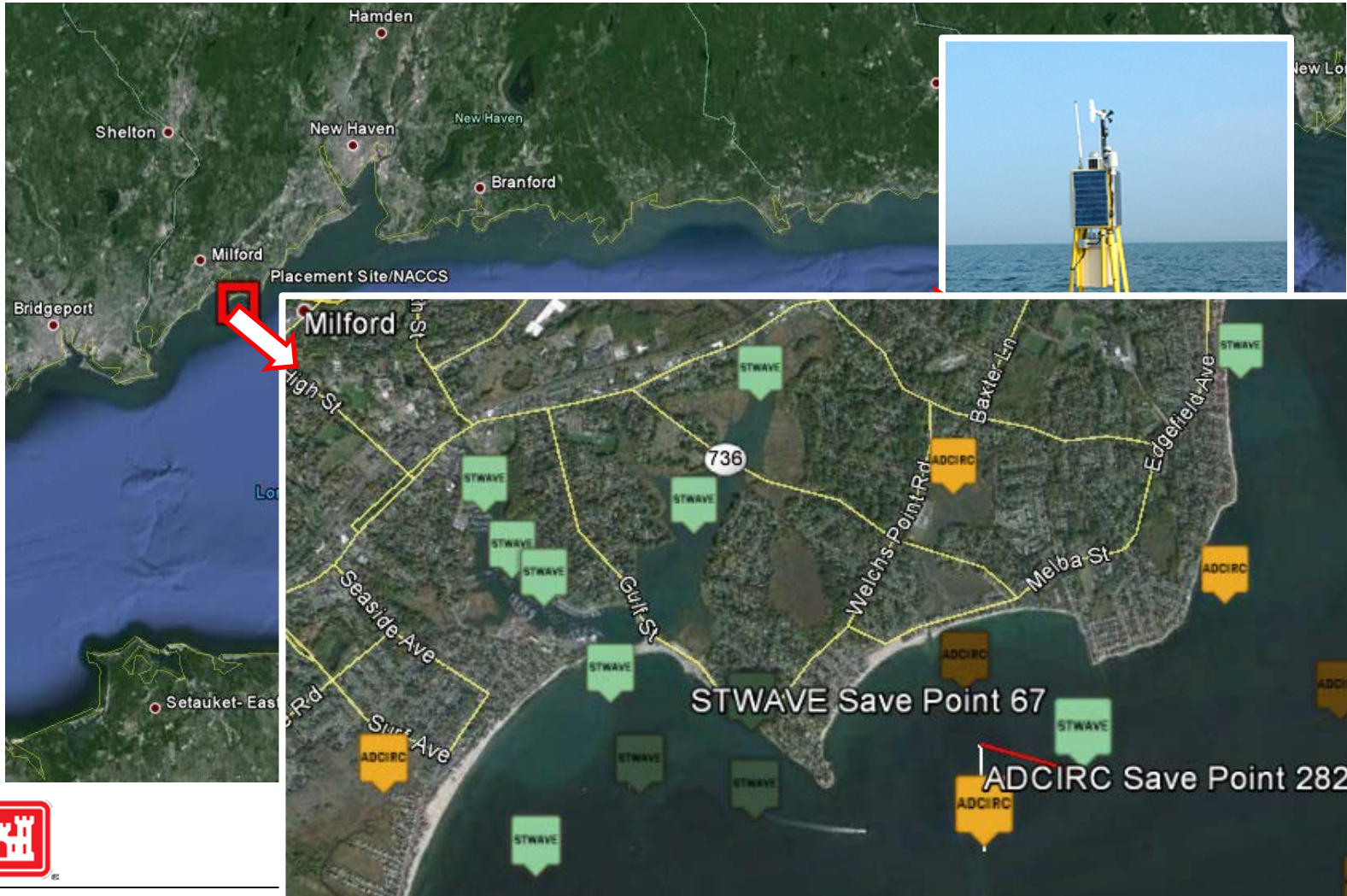
# Site 2: Milford, CT

- Milford, CT
- 20,000 cy
- $d_{50}=0.21$  mm
- $0.1 \leq d \leq 0.5$ mm





# Wave & Current Info



# Sed. Mobility

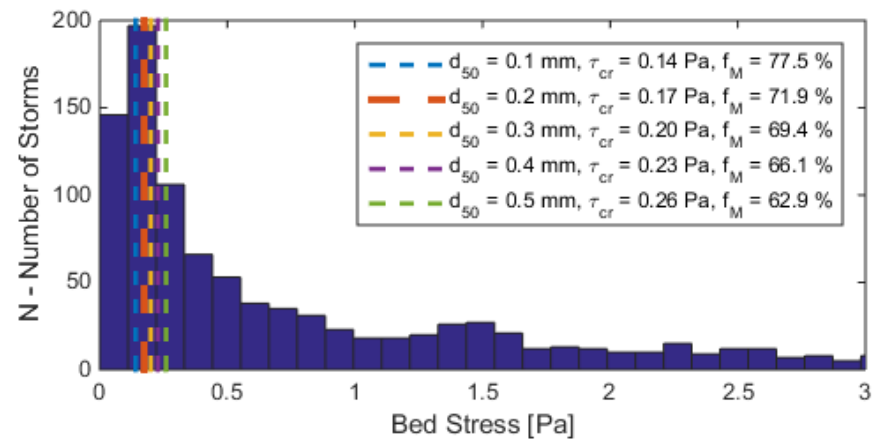
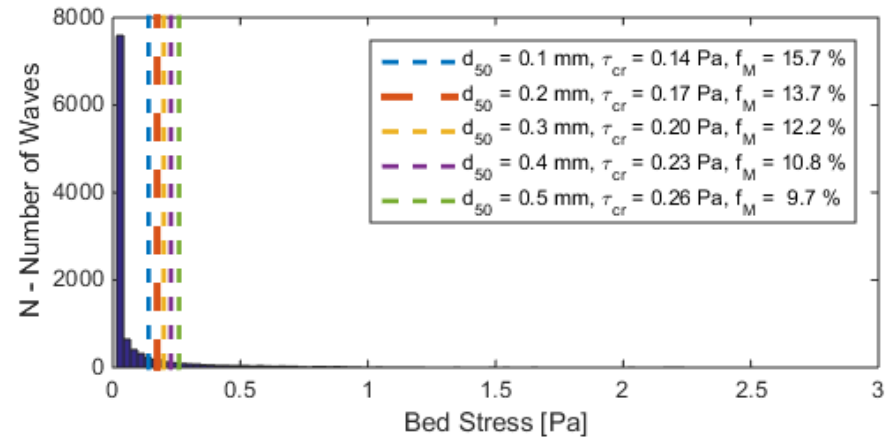
$$d_{50} = 0.21\text{mm}$$

**Typical Waves:**

$$f_M = 13.6\%$$

**Storm Waves:**

$$f_M = 71.4\%$$



# Sed. Migration Direction

- Dean's Number

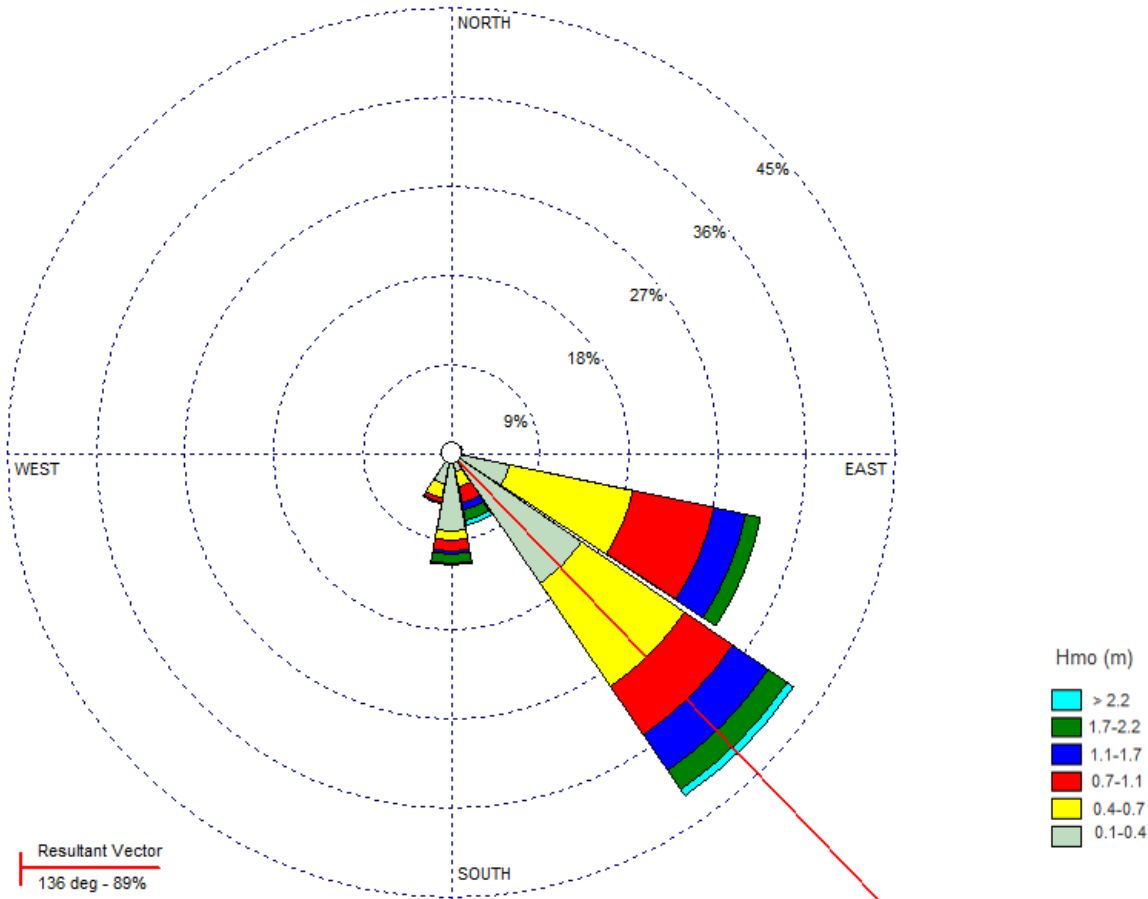
$$D = \frac{H_0}{\omega T} > 7.2, \text{ Offshore Migration}$$

$$< 7.2, \text{ Onshore Migration} \quad (\text{Larson \& Kraus, 1992})$$

d (mm)	Typical Waves	Storm Events
	Predicted Sediment Migration	Predicted Sediment Migration
0.1	83% Offshore	97% Offshore
0.2	60% Onshore	52% Offshore
<b>0.21</b>	<b>63% Onshore</b>	<b>52% Onshore</b>
0.3	84% Onshore	74% Onshore
0.4	96% Onshore	91% Onshore
0.5	99% Onshore	99% Onshore



# Storm Wave Direction



- Storm waves
- Resultant: 136°
- Accretion Towards Northwest



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# How Can I Use It?

- Currently:
  - ▶ Matlab Script
  - ▶ Run the Tool & Letter Report
    - Contract with ERDC (\$10k)
    - DOTS Request (<http://el.erdcl.usace.army.mil/dots/>)
- Future:
  - ▶ Working with OPJ to create a webtool



# Summary

- What is it?
  - ▶ Tool Predicts:
    - Frequency of mobility
    - On/Offshore migration direction
    - Axis of wave dominated transport
- Why is it helpful?
  - ▶ Answers:
    - Will the Sediment Move?
    - Where Is the Sediment Likely To Go?



# Summary

- How does it work?
  - ▶ Linear and Nonlinear Wave Theories
  - ▶ Critical Dean Number (*Larson & Kraus, 1992*)
- How can I use it?
  - ▶ Run Tool & Letter Report
    - Contract with ERDC
    - DOTS Request (<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/dots/>)
  - ▶ Future: Webtool





# Conclusion

**Powerful preliminary tool to make educated decisions with little data.**



# Thank you!

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