

HYDRAULICS DIVISION
TECHNICAL NOTE



DATE: May 1984 **REPORT NO:** 84-16

TITLE: Wave Hindcast for the Sinking of the Stanley
Clipper, Long Point Bay, Lake Erie

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REASON FOR REPORT: Requested by Mr. N.S. Gurnell of Marine Casualty
Investigations, Canadian Coast Guard.

CORRESPONDENCE FILE NO:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A severe storm with southwest winds gusting to 60 knots (30.9 m/s) occurred over the Great Lakes on April 30, 1984. A 30 ton fishing boat, the Stanley Clipper, sank at position latitude $42^{\circ} 36' 56''$ N longitude $80^{\circ} 09' 54''$ W (Figure 1) between 1415 and 1430 hours Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on April 30. The three men aboard perished.

The Hydraulics Division, NWRI, has been asked to supply information on the wavelengths and sea state at the time of the casualty for a Marine Casualty Investigation by the Canadian Coast Guard.

2.0 LAKE ERIE AREA WINDS

Wind measurements for April 30 at Windsor, Toledo, Cleveland, Simcoe, Erie and Buffalo airports are provided in Table 1 (courtesy Mr. Klaus Schaedlich, Ontario Hydro). A location map is shown in Figure 1. Buffalo recorded the highest one-minute speed at 40 knots (20.6 m/s), while the highest recorded gust was 63 knots (32.4 m/s) at Simcoe. Measurements were made at the standard 10 m height above ground for the Canadian stations and 6.1 m for the American stations.

3.0 WAVES

Waves have been hindcast using a two-dimensional lake wave prediction system (Schwab et al, 1984) developed for use on the Great Lakes. Using the methods of Donelan (1980), it uses wind speed and direction to obtain reliable estimates of wave height, wave period and wave direction. Input to the model consists of wind speed and direction, which are considered to be uniform over the lake. The

model uses linear deep water theory, and waves subject to shoaling, refraction, diffraction and breaking are not derived.

Model output consists of characteristic wave height (H_C), peak energy period (T_p) and wave direction "to". The characteristic wave height is defined as four times the square root of the area under the variance density spectrum of the water surface elevation. For narrow band, single-peaked spectra in deep water, H_C is approximately the same as the significant wave height (H_s). The significant wave height is defined as the average of the one-third highest waves in a sample; roughly fourteen percent of the waves in a sample will have wave heights larger than H_s . The maximum wave height in a sample in deep water is usually less than 2 H_s . The peak energy period is the inverse of the frequency at the peak of the wave energy spectrum.

Wind speed and direction values were obtained by arithmetically averaging the measurements at Windsor, Toledo, Cleveland, Erie and Buffalo (Simcoe was omitted due to the large amount of missing data). Overland wind speeds were adjusted to give overwater windspeeds using the methods of Brown and Baird (1980). The overwater winds were considered to be representative winds at a height of 5 m for neutral stability conditions (air temperature equal to water temperature) for use in the numerical model (no corrections for differences in measurement elevations were made).

The model was run for 24 hours on a 5 km grid by Dr. D. Schwab of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The 5 km grid in the eastern part of Lake Erie is shown in Figure 2 to show the correspondence between the digitized shoreline and the actual shoreline. The model results for 1400 and 1500 hours on April 30, in terms of characteristic wave height in metres, peak energy period in seconds, and wave direction "to" are shown in Figures 3 and 4. Wave direction is in degrees counter-clockwise from the X-axis of the numerical grid. The grid is rotated

27.33 degrees counterclockwise from east-west. All parameters are defined at the centre of their particular 5 km x 5 km grid.

The Stanley Clipper sank in the grid square just north of the easternmost land grid square on Long Point. The actual tip of Long Point is one grid square to the east and one to the south. A summary of computed storm wave parameters for these two locations is given in Table 2.

Computed wave data at the location of the sinking does not include any diffracted-refracted wave energy from the main body of the lake; it is locally generated within Long Point Bay.

Diffraction is a wave phenomenon by which energy is transmitted laterally along a wave crest. When part of a train of waves is interrupted by a barrier, such as Long Point, the effect of diffraction is manifested by propagation of waves into the sheltered region within the barrier's geometric shadow.

Refraction is the process by which the direction of a wave moving in shallow water at an angle to the contour is changed. The part of the wave advancing in shallower water moves more slowly than that part still advancing in deeper water, causing the wave crest to bend toward alignment with the underwater contours.

Using manual methods described in the Shore Protection Manual (U.S. Army Coastal Engineering Research Center, 1977) the wave energy that could reach the sinking location by diffraction and refraction from the tip of Long Point was estimated. At the time of the sinking, about 1430 hours, wave conditions at the tip were $H_c = 3.5 \text{ m}$, $T_p = 7.6 \text{ s}$ from 216 degrees (deep water wavelength equals 90 m). Treating Long Point as a semi-infinite rigid impermeable breakwater, and using SPM Figure 2-36 for a 135 degree wave angle, shows that the diffracted wave height on a line towards the sinking location is less than 0.5 m within 400 m of the tip of Long Point. The sinking location is 13 km northwest of the tip of Long Point. Refraction and further diffraction will decrease the wave height even

more. Thus, wave energy contributions from the tip of Long Point to the wave energy at the sinking location are negligible.

Wave conditions at the sinking location can be considered to be purely locally generated. Due to the coarse shoreline schematization of the numerical model's grid, the predicted wave data in Table 2 for the sinking location is overestimated. Manual calculations using the Donelan equations (Bishop, 1983) have been carried out for a wind speed of 35 knots (18.0 m/s), a maximum fetch of 8000 m and assuming wind and wave directions are coincident ($\cos\theta = 1.0$). The resulting wave conditions are $H_c = 0.97$ m and $T_p = 3.5$ s from 245 degrees. These are the conditions believed to be prevailing at the time and location of the sinking.

4.0 DISCUSSION

Waves of 1.0 m height would not normally be considered a hazard to a 30 ton fishing boat. However, a wave period of 3.5 s corresponds to a wavelength of 19.1 m (62.7 ft). A sketch of the Stanley Clipper (Figure 5) shows that her length was about 17.7 m (58 ft). Thus the dominant wavelength and the length of the boat were almost the same at the time of the sinking.

If the boat was roughly end on to the waves (as it would have been if making for Ryersons Island), it would fit between successive wave crests (see Figure 5). As the weight of the boat is supported mainly by the buoyancy of the midships section, there is a tendency for the bow or the stern to be slow in reacting to the changing water level at each end. Consequently, depending on the freeboard and the design of the hull, waves could break aboard. The situation could have been aggravated if the boat were underway and plunging its bow into the trough as it passed over each crest.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

1. At the time and location of the sinking of the Stanley Clipper, waves were purely locally generated (maximum fetch = 8 km). Wave conditions have been estimated to be

$$H_c = 1.0 \text{ m}$$

$$T_p = 3.5 \text{ s}$$

Wave direction "from" = $245^\circ \pm 20^\circ$

This means that approximately 14 percent of the wave heights at the sinking location exceeded 1.0 m, with a maximum wave height of roughly 2 m occurring occasionally. Similarly, the wave periods vary around 3.5 s with most of the periods being less than 3.5 s. Based on a period of 3.5 s the wavelengths would vary around 19 m crest to crest.

2. The much larger waves to the southeast of the tip of Long Point made a negligible contribution to the wave energy at the location of the sinking.

REFERENCES

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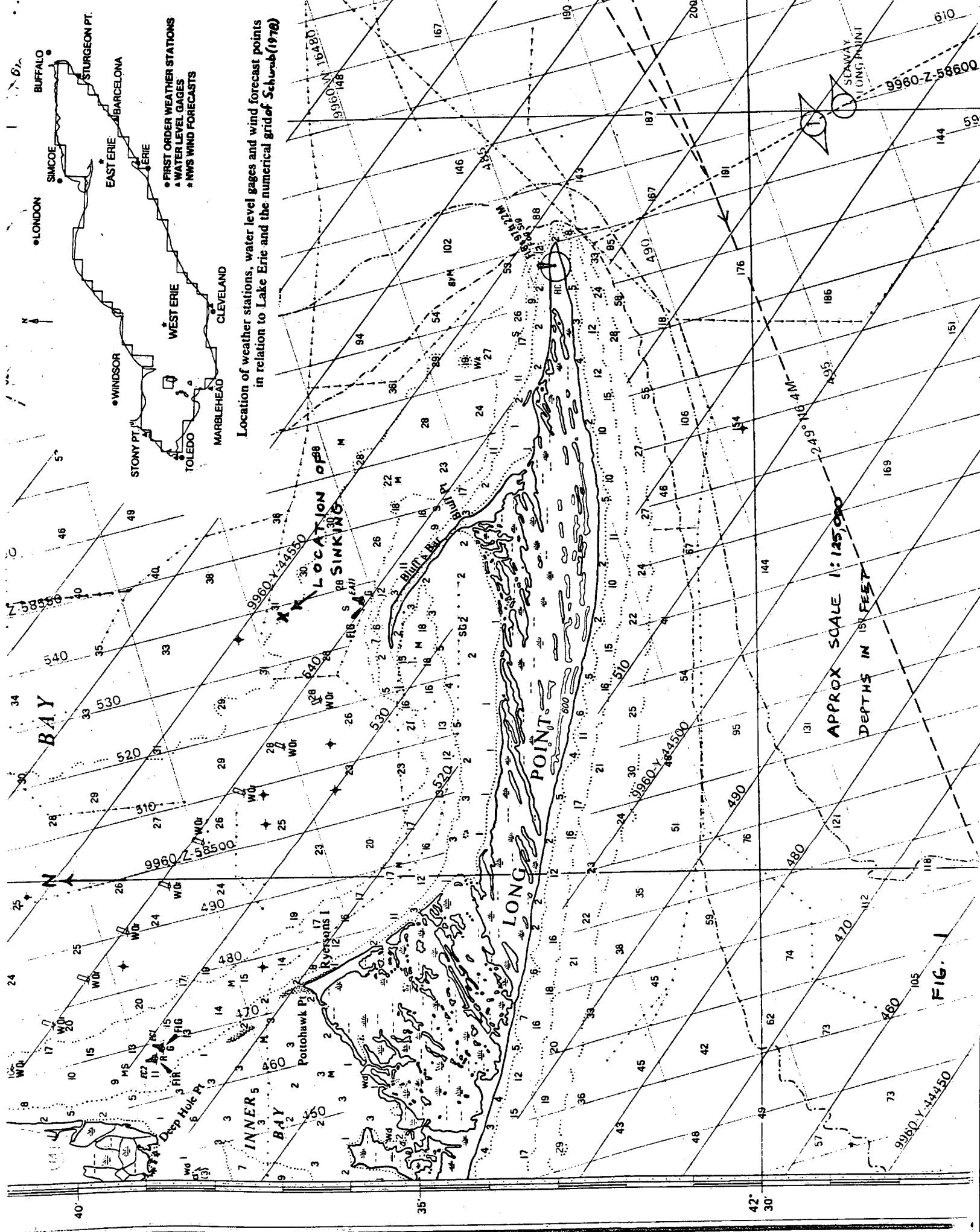
TABLE 1. Lake Erie Area Winds

NOTES.

1. Times in GMT. Subtract four hours to convert to EDT.
 2. 6031 is code for gusts.
 3. Units of WS and 6031 are knots; 1 knot = 0.515 m/s.
 4. YQG = Windsor, TOL = Toledo, CLE = Cleveland, WNK = Simcoe, WSI = Simcoe-automatic, ERI = Erie, BUF = Buffalo
 5. Ontario Hydro has observed that automatic gauges, in general, produce data of lower quality.
 6. MSG = missing data.
 7. Wind direction is in degrees true north "from".

TABLE 2. Wind Input to and Wave Output from Numerical Model

Date	Time (EDT)	Wind Dir. From (degrees true north)	Wind Speed (knots)	Grid Square of Sinking	H_c (m)	T_p (s)	Tip of Long Point Wave from degrees true north
4/29/1984	17:00	56	14.6	-	-	-	-
4/29/1984	18:00	60	13.7	0.27	1.91	1.91	59
4/29/1984	19:00	62	12.8	0.41	2.48	0.41	59
4/29/1984	20:00	88	13.4	0.50	2.82	0.50	61
4/29/1984	21:00	94	11.4	0.55	3.07	0.56	64
4/29/1984	22:00	108	10.2	0.57	3.26	0.59	66
4/29/1984	23:00	116	12.0	0.55	3.24	0.61	70
4/29/1984	00:00	144	15.2	0.52	3.10	0.63	80
4/30/1984	1:00	136	17.2	0.53	2.96	0.65	93
4/30/1984	2:00	160	21.0	0.58	3.02	0.72	107
4/30/1984	3:00	172	22.1	0.62	3.11	0.81	124
4/30/1984	4:00	172	23.9	0.65	3.14	0.97	138
4/30/1984	5:00	176	26.5	0.71	3.21	1.25	148
4/30/1984	6:00	176	25.3	0.73	3.32	1.54	155
4/30/1984	7:00	188	27.0	0.69	3.56	1.71	161
4/30/1984	8:00	196	24.9	0.56	3.68	1.79	169
4/30/1984	9:00	198	29.8	0.28	2.57	1.92	177
4/30/1984	10:00	214	33.7	0.18	2.10	2.21	187
4/30/1984	11:00	214	34.6	0.60	3.80	2.61	195
4/30/1984	12:00	228	36.3	0.91	4.67	3.00	202
4/30/1984	13:00	238	34.2	1.10	5.14	3.28	209
4/30/1984	14:00	244	34.6	1.16	5.28	3.45	214
4/30/1984	15:00	244	35.1	1.12	5.18	3.64	219
4/30/1984	16:00	246	34.2	1.10	5.14	3.80	223



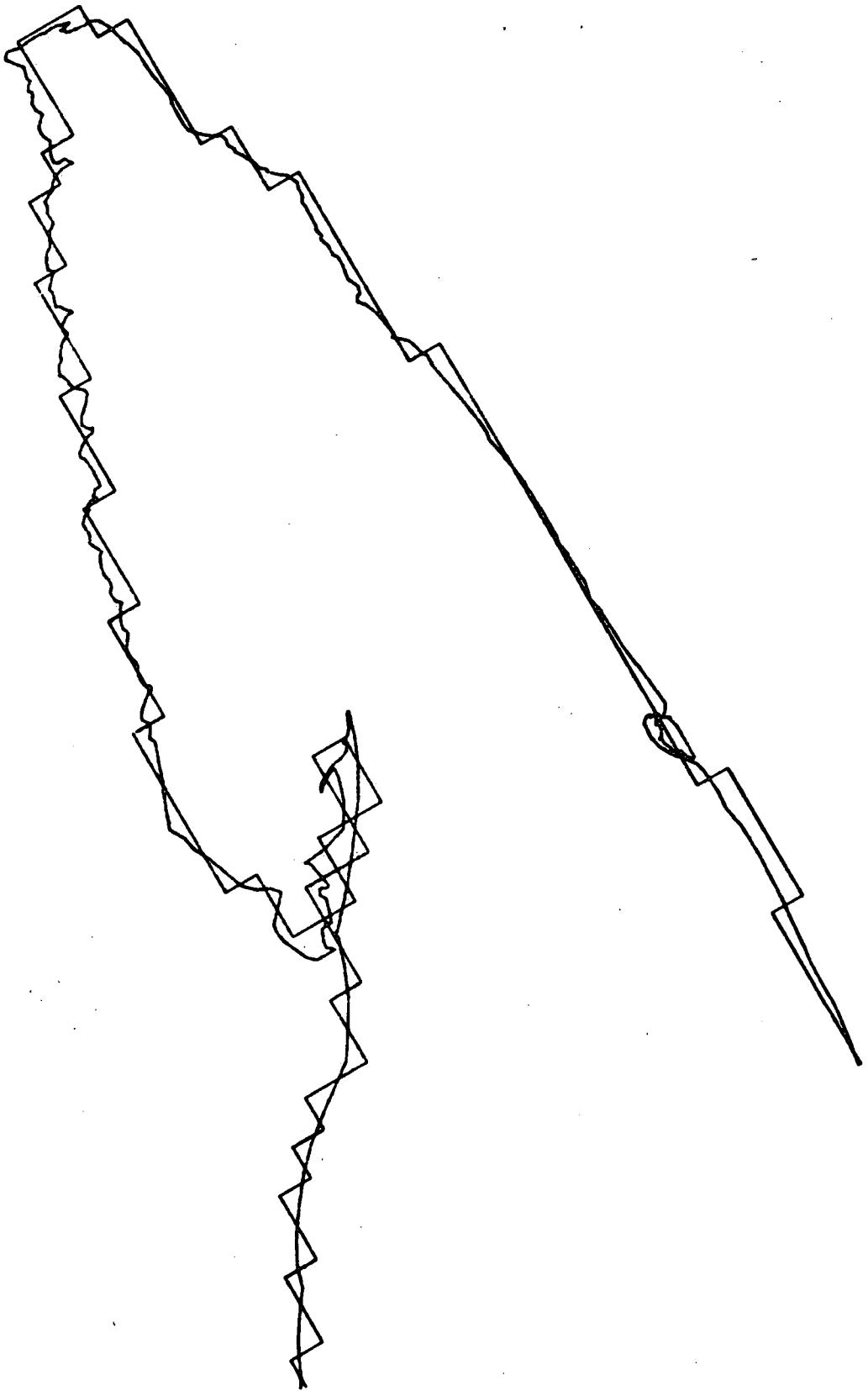


FIG. 2 SCHWAB'S 5 km GRID FOR
EASTERN LAKE ERIE

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TIME = LATITUDE = LONGITUDE = Z = T-AIR = T-H2C = W-SPD = W-DIR = CDE3 = X = Y
=====
21.0 = 43.000000 = 85.000000 = 5.0 = 4.00 = 4.00 = 17.80 = 244. = 2.29 = -35. = 283.
=====
SIGNIFICANT WAVEHEIGHT AT      21 HOURS      m/s
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VALUES MULTIPLIED BY 10** 2
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361 361***** 96 132 159 184 213 241 261 274 286 296*****
357 357 357 257**** 101 146 173 201 233 256 273 287 299 309 318 325*****
353 353 353 253 352**** 132 116 185 234 263 282 296 307 315 323 329 335 340 343*****
349 348 348 348 348**** 226 271 292 304 312 319 325 330 334 338 341 344 346 348 349*****
343 343 343 243 343 343 343 345 340 336 334 333 334 336 337 339 341 343 344 345 345 346 346 346 346 ****
338 337 337 337 337 337 337 338 338 339 339 339 340 340 340 340 341 341 342 342 342 342 342 341 341 340 ****
331 331 330 330 331 331 331 332 332 333 334 334 335 335 336 337 337 337 337 337 337 337 337 336 335 333 331 329 327 ****
322 323 323 323 323 324 325 326 326 327 328 328 329 330 330 331 332 332 332 332 332 331 331 331 331 330 329 327 324 323 319 ****
313 310 308 309 311 314 317 319 320 321 323 324 325 326 327 328 328 328 327 327 327 326 326 325 325 318 315 314 316 ****
308 313 313 312 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 320 321 322 324 325 324 323 321 320 320 320 320 317 316 ****
249 243 246 259 275 299 298 303 307 309 311 312 314 315 316 318 314 313 313 315 317 319 317 319 ****
229 226 230 247 273 290 300 307 311 315 317 319 320 322 322 323 ****
190 201***** PEAK ENERGY PERIOD AT      21 HOURS
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PEAK ENERGY PERIOD AT 21 HOURS

WAVE DIRECTION AT 21 HOURS

FIG. 3 OUTPUT FROM NUMERICAL MODEL FOR APRIL 30/84, 1400 HOURS

TIME * LATITUDE * LONGITUDE * Z * T-AIR * T-H2O * W-SPD * W-DIR * CDE3 * X * Y
 22.0 * 43.000000 * 85.000000 * 5.0 * 4.0C * 4.00 * 18.06 * 244. * 2.31 * -36. * 283.
 SIGNIFICANT WAVEHEIGHT AT 22 HOURS

VALUES Multiplied BY 10** 2

107	146	182	220	249	279	290	299	310	319	327	332	339	344	349	354	359	360	362	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	8010	8011	8012	8013	8014	8015	8016	8017	8018	8019	8020	8021	8022	8023	8024	8025	8026	8027	8028	8029	8030	8031	8032	8033	8034	8035	8036	8037	8038	8039	8040	8041	8042	8043	8044	8045	8046	8047	8048	8049	8050	8051	8052	8053	8054	8055	8056	8057	8058	8059	8060	8061	8062	8063	8064	8065	8066	8067	8068	8069	8070	8071	8072	8073	8074	8075	8076	8077	8078	8079	8080	8081	8082	8083	8084	8085	8086	8087	8088	8089	8090	8091	8092	8093	8094	8095	8096	8097	8098	8099	80100	80101	80102	80103	80104	80105	80106	80107	80108	80109	80110	80111	80112	80113	80114	80115	80116	80117	80118	80119	80120	80121	80122	80123	80124	80125	80126	80127	80128	80129	80130	80131	80132	80133	80134	80135	80136	80137	80138	80139	80140	80141	80142	80143	80144	80145	80146	80147	80148	80149	80150	80151	80152	80153	80154	80155	80156	80157	80158	80159	80160	80161	80162	80163	80164	80165	80166	80167	80168	80169	80170	80171	80172	80173	80174	80175	80176	80177	80178	80179	80180	80181	80182	80183	80184	80185	80186	80187	80188	80189	80190	80191	80192	80193	80194	80195	80196	80197	80198	80199	80200	80201	80202	80203	80204	80205	80206	80207	80208	80209	80210	80211	80212	80213	80214	80215	80216	80217	80218	80219	80220	80221	80222	80223	80224	80225	80226	80227	80228	80229	80230	80231	80232	80233	80234	80235	80236	80237	80238	80239	80240	80241	80242	80243	80244	80245	80246	80247	80248	80249	80250	80251	80252	80253	80254	80255	80256	80257	80258	80259	80260	80261	80262	80263	80264	80265	80266	80267	80268	80269	80270	80271	80272	80273	80274	80275	80276	80277	80278	80279	80280	80281	80282	80283	80284	80285	80286	80287	80288	80289	80290	80291	80292	80293	80294	80295	80296	80297	80298	80299	80300	80301	80302	80303	80304	80305	80306	80307	80308	80309	80310	80311	80312	80313	80314	80315	80316	80317	80318	80319	80320	80321	80322	80323	80324	80325	80326	80327	80328	80329	80330	80331	80332	80333	80334	80335	80336	80337	80338	80339	80340	80341	80342	80343	80344	80345	80346	80347	80348	80349	80350	80351	80352	80353	80354	80355	80356	80357	80358	80359	80360	80361	80362	80363	80364	80365	80366	80367	80368	80369	80370	80371	80372	80373	80374	80375	80376	80377	80378	80379	80380	80381	80382	80383	80384	80385	80386	80387	80388	80389	80390	80391	80392	80393	80394	80395	80396	80397	80398	80399	80400	80401	80402	80403	80404	80405	80406	80407	80408	80409	80410	80411	80412	80413	80414	80415	80416	80417	80418	80419	80420	80421	80422	80423	80424	80425	80426	80427	80428	80429	80430	80431	80432	80433	80434	80435	80436	80437	80438	80439	80440	80441	80442	80443	80444	80445	80446	80447	80448	80449	80450	80451	80452	80453	80454	80455	80456	80457	80458	80459	80460	80461	80462	80463	80464	80465	80466	80467	80468	80469	80470	80471	80472	80473	80474	80475	80476	80477	80478	80479	80480	80481	80482	80483	80484	80485	80486	80487	80488	80489	80490	80491	80492	80493	80494	80495	80496	80497	80498	80499	80500	80501	80502	80503	80504	80505	80506	80507	80508	80509	80510	80511	80512	80513	80514	80515	80516	80517	80518	80519	80520	80521	80522	80523	80524	80525	80526	80527	80528	80529	80530	80531	80532	80533	80534	80535	80536	80537	80538	80539	80540	80541	80542	80543	80544	80545	80546	80547	80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FIG. 4 OUTPUT FROM NUMERICAL MODEL FOR APRIL 30/84, 1500 HOURS

23787

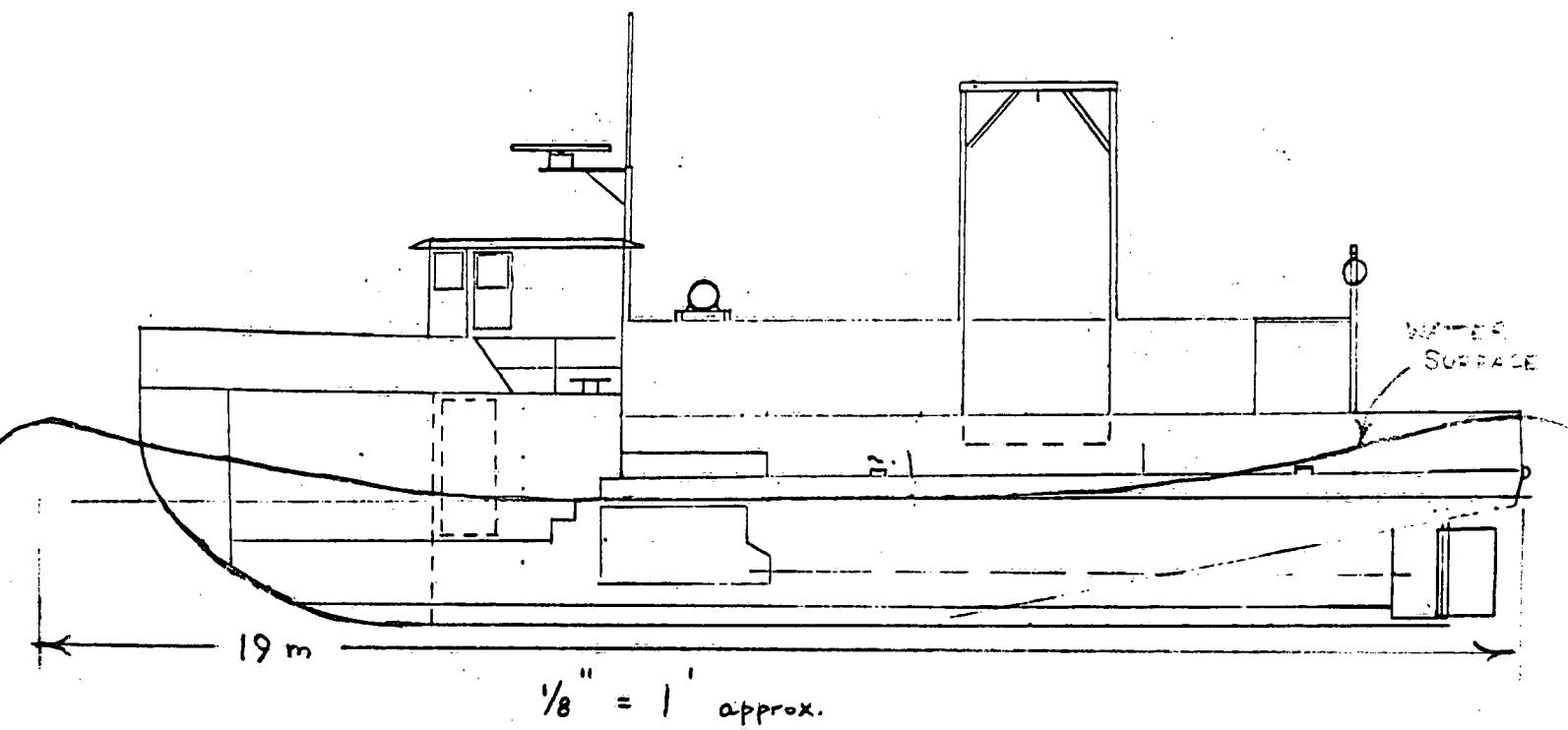
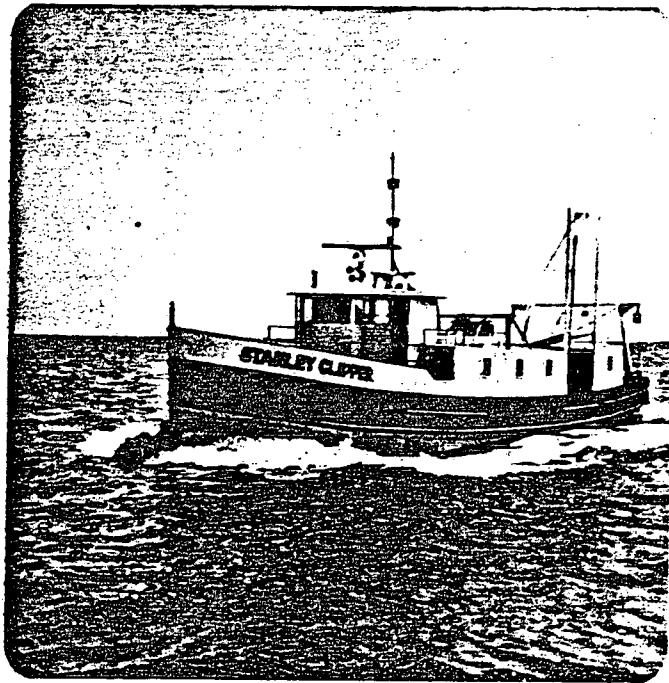


FIG. 5 STANLEY CLIPPER