

Round: 4A

There is a relationship between wave energy striking the shoreline and sand grain sizes that may accumulate on a beach.

1. Image 1 shows two beaches, labeled A & B, located near one another on the island of O’ahu. Which beach appears to receive more or less wave energy?

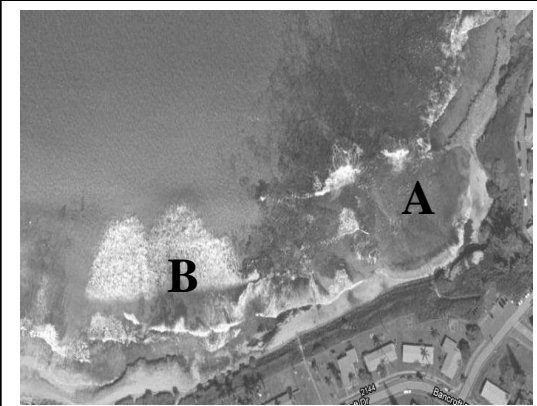


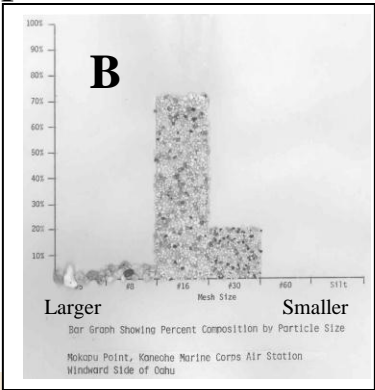
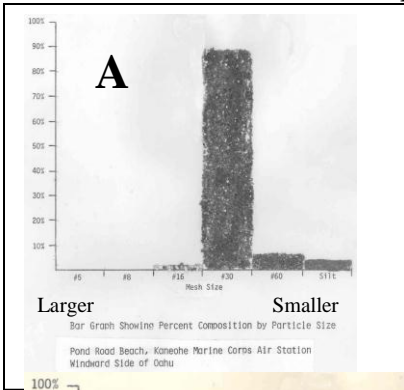
Image 1: Mōkapu Point, O'ahu, 2011

a. More wave energy: *B (1 pt)*
b. Less wave energy: *A (1 pt)*
2. Provide two (2) likely reasons for the amount of wave energy each beaches receives.

Beach A: *This beach is more protected. (1 pt)*
Rock outcrops on its seaward side break the force of incoming waves. (1 pt)
Beach B: *This beach is more exposed. (1 pt)*
No rock outcrops protect it, so incoming waves hit this beach directly. (1 pt)

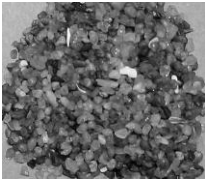
3. The bar graphs below document sand size frequency distributions from these two beaches. Do the sand size profiles of these 2 beaches support the evaluation you made in Question 1?

a) Which beach experiences greater wave energy? Why?
B (1 pt) - It shows a higher proportion of larger sand grain size. (2 pts)
b) Which beach experiences less wave energy? Why?



A (1 pt) - It shows a higher proportion of smaller sand grain size. (2 pts)
4. In one sentence, describe how wave energy affects sand grain size. *The stronger the wave action, the larger the sand grain size that accumulates on the beach (4 pts) OR There is a direct relationship between the size of sand grains deposited and the wave energy. (4 pts)*

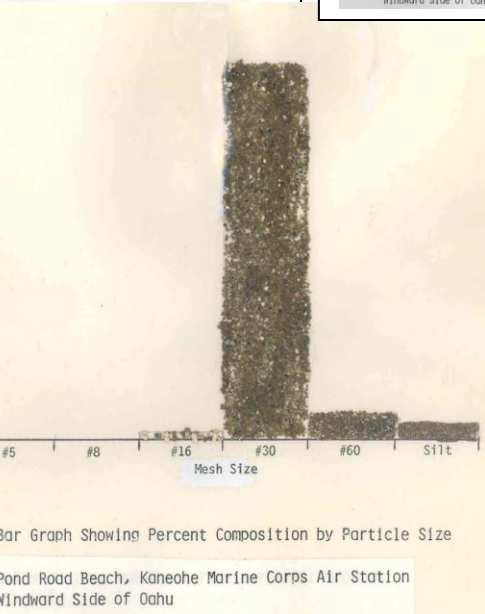
5. Using the relationship you developed in Question 4, evaluate the wave energy at each beach. (4 = highest wave energy)



2 (1 pt)



4 (1 pt)



3 (1 pt)

References:

*Neal, W.J., O.H. Pilkey & J.T. Kelly. Atlantic Coast Beaches. 2007. Mountain Press Publishing. Pg. 68-74.

*Siever, R. 1988. Sand. Scientific American Library. W.H. Freeman & Company.

* <http://geology.uprm.edu/Morelock/beachsys.htm>

Photos: C Hopper Brill, Bourgebros.com, theenergycollective.com