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OTEC Thermal Resource Report for Western Coast Mexico

May 1979

Prepared for
U.S. Department of Energy
Assistant Secretary for Energy Technology
Division of Central Solar Technology

Under Contract No. ET-78-C-01-2898

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May 1979

Prepared for
U.S. Department of Energy
Assistant Secretary for Energy Technology
Division of Central Solar Technology
Washington, D.C. 20585

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SUMMARY OF SITE PARAMETERS

Site	Monthly Mean Temperature (°C) Surface Range	Monthly Mean Temperature (°C) 1000M	Annual Mean ΔT (°C) 500M	Annual Mean ΔT (°C) 1000M	Coldest Monthly Mean ΔT (°C) 500M	Coldest Monthly Mean ΔT (°C) 1000M
Sri Lanka	27.5-28.6	6.5-6.7	18.0	21.3	17.5	20.8
Mombasa N	25.4-28.7	7.2-7.5	17.0	19.5	15.6	18.2
Mombasa S	25.5-28.4	6.3-7.0	18.0	20.2	15.9	18.5
Jakarta	27.2-29.0	5.1-5.6	19.1	22.8	17.9	21.9
Dampier Land	25.6-28.2	4.9-5.0	19.1	22.6	17.4	20.7
Manila	27.1-29.5	4.4-4.6	20.0	24.0	18.6	22.6
Guam	27.7-29.2	4.3-4.4	21.1	24.1	20.4	23.4
Off Mexico	22.5-28.0	4.4-4.5	17.6	20.9	14.9	18.0
Plant Ship Pacific	27.1-28.5	4.6-4.8	19.4	22.8	18.1	21.7
Ivory Coast	24.3-28.1	4.5	19.2	22.1	16.8	19.7
Plant Ship Caribbean	26.4-28.4.	5.0-5.3	18.1	22.4	17.2	21.3

SUMMARY OF SITE PARAMETERS

SITE	RANGE DISTANCE (IN KILOMETERS) TO SHORE FROM 1000 METERS	MONTHLY MEAN MIXED LAYER DEPTH METERS	MONTHLY MEAN SURFACE CURRENTS (CM/SEC)	SEA STATE MAX % OF TIME >3 METERS	NUMBER TROPICAL CYCLONES PER YEAR
SRI LANKA	22-55	30-80	25-62	3	0.2-1.2
MOMBASA	33-130	30-90	30-62	2	0.0-0.1
JAKARTA	18-60	55-80	25-52	2	0.0-0.1
DAMPIER LAND	265-417	30-80	25-47	4	0.4-1.2
MANILA	6-82	20-80	30-52	5	4.0-6.0
GUAM	7-18	60-120	30-47	5	2.0-3.0
OFF MEXICO	5-104	10-30	25-31	2	0.6-4.0
PLANT SHIP PACIFIC	-	0-30	30-52	2	0.0-2.0
IVORY COAST	33-52	0-30	25-31	2	0.0-0.1
PLANT SHIP CARIBBEAN	-	40-110	30-62	3	0.6-1.2

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The site chosen for study off the western coast of Mexico between 20-23° North latitude, 105-110° West longitude has a temperature difference resource which is more than adequate for potential OTEC use. The annual mean ΔT to 1000 meters is 20.9°C. An annual mean ΔT of 20.0°C is available at 800 meters. The monthly mean ΔT for the coldest month of the year is 17.2°C; at 800 meters while there is some variation in the monthly mean temperature difference, even the coldest month is adequate.

The mixed layer depth is very shallow throughout the entire year. Storms are a problem for this area between May and November. Low sea and swell predominate throughout the year. The surface currents are generally weak to moderate with some variation in direction during the year. The continental shelf is fairly wide for most of the region making the distance to shore from depths of 1000 meters somewhat large. There is one bay from which deep water can be reached within 5 kilometers.

INTRODUCTION

One of the basic environmental considerations in site selection for an Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) power plant is the availability of an adequate temperature difference resource. OTEC plants are designed to convert the potential energy in the temperature difference between the warm ocean surface water and the cold water existing at deeper depths into electricity. The turbines which produce the electricity must run on temperature differentials which are extremely small by the standards of conventional energy plants. Therefore, a definition of the most probable temperature structure for a site is most important.

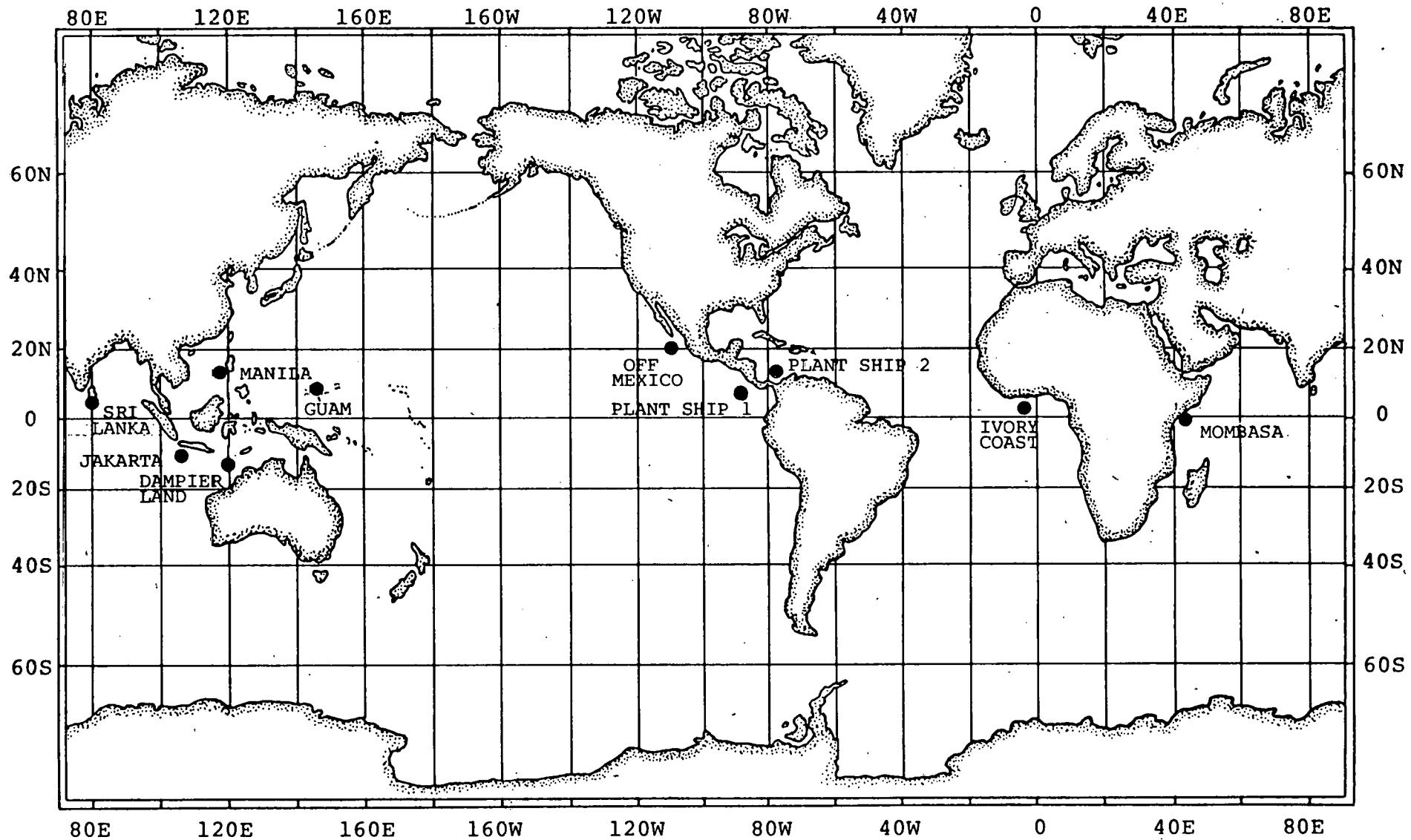
In order to define temperature structures for OTEC areas of interest, Ocean Data Systems, Inc. (ODSI) has developed computer data files of all unclassified soundings available. The primary sources for the data were NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center, and the U.S. Navy's Fleet Numerical Weather Central. The files were updated in September 1978. Included in the data base were mechanical bathythermographs (MBT), expendable bathythermographs (XBT), salinity temperature depth systems (STD), and Nansen casts.

Under U.S. Department of Energy, Division of Solar Energy Contract No. EY-78-C-2989, ODSI has analyzed the monthly temperature structure for ten different geographical areas. The ten sites selected for study by the Department of Energy are:

		<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
Bottom Mounted or			
Shore Plants: Dampier Land	13-18°S	118-121°E	
Manila	14-16°N	118-120°E	
Guam	12-15°N	142-146°E	
Ivory Coast	3-6°N	3-8°W	
Jakarta	6-9°S	104-109°E	
Mexico	20-23°N	105-110°W	
Sri Lanka	5-10°N	78-83°E	
Mombasa	5°S-3°N	40-45°E	
Ship Plants: No. 1	5-10°N	90-95°W	
No. 2	13-15°N	75-80°W	

The location of these sites is shown on the following map; a separate report was produced for each site.

For each area, the most probable temperature structures were determined. When the most probable temperature soundings were plotted, some month to month variability was present which was caused by the non-uniform data sample rather than by real changes in the ocean. These short-period time variations were removed by a filtering process described by Wolff, *et al* (1977), [44]. Availability of cold and warm water was examined at each site. In addition to warm and cold water availability, there are other requirements for the continuous operation of an OTEC plant. An adequate temperature differential (ΔT) is the primary need. A ΔT greater than 16.7°C (30°F) for the coldest month of the year would enable year round operation. The annual mean ΔT for



LOCATION OF THE TEN SELECTED SITES

a site should equal or exceed 20°C (36°F). Besides the thermal resource, there are other operational requirements. Bottom depth should be less than 1500 meters for mooring. Minimum distances offshore to 1000-meter depth is another important consideration for shore plants. Currents should be sufficient to guarantee good cold/warm water sources and to provide for dispersion of modified water. Desirable sites also have light winds, minimum sea and swell, and the lack of severe storms. These parameters have been examined for each site. The following tables summarize some of the key site parameters for each location.

II. BATHYMETRY

Figure II-1 shows the general location of the site selected off Mexico. Figure II-2 provides a rough bathymetry of the area under consideration to depths of 1500 meters. The source of bathymetry is the U.S. Naval Bathymetric Atlas of the Northeastern Pacific Ocean (1971), [40]. The continental shelf is fairly wide for most of this region, making distances to shore fairly large from the 500 and 1000 meter depth. This is especially true for the area off the coast between 21-23°N. At 20° 30'N in Banderas Bay there is the Banderas Canyon that provides deep water within 4-5 kilometers. Distance to 1000 meters are generally less between 16°N-20°N than 20°-23°N however. Table II-1 summarizes extreme distances from shore to specified depths.

TABLE II-1: DISTANCES TO SELECTED DEPTHS FOR LOCATIONS OFF MEXICO. From U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, (1971), [40].

DEPTH (Meters)	CLOSEST DISTANCE (Kilometers)	FARTHEST DISTANCE (Kilometers)
100	1.8	69
500	3.7	100
1000	5.6	104
1500	11.1	141

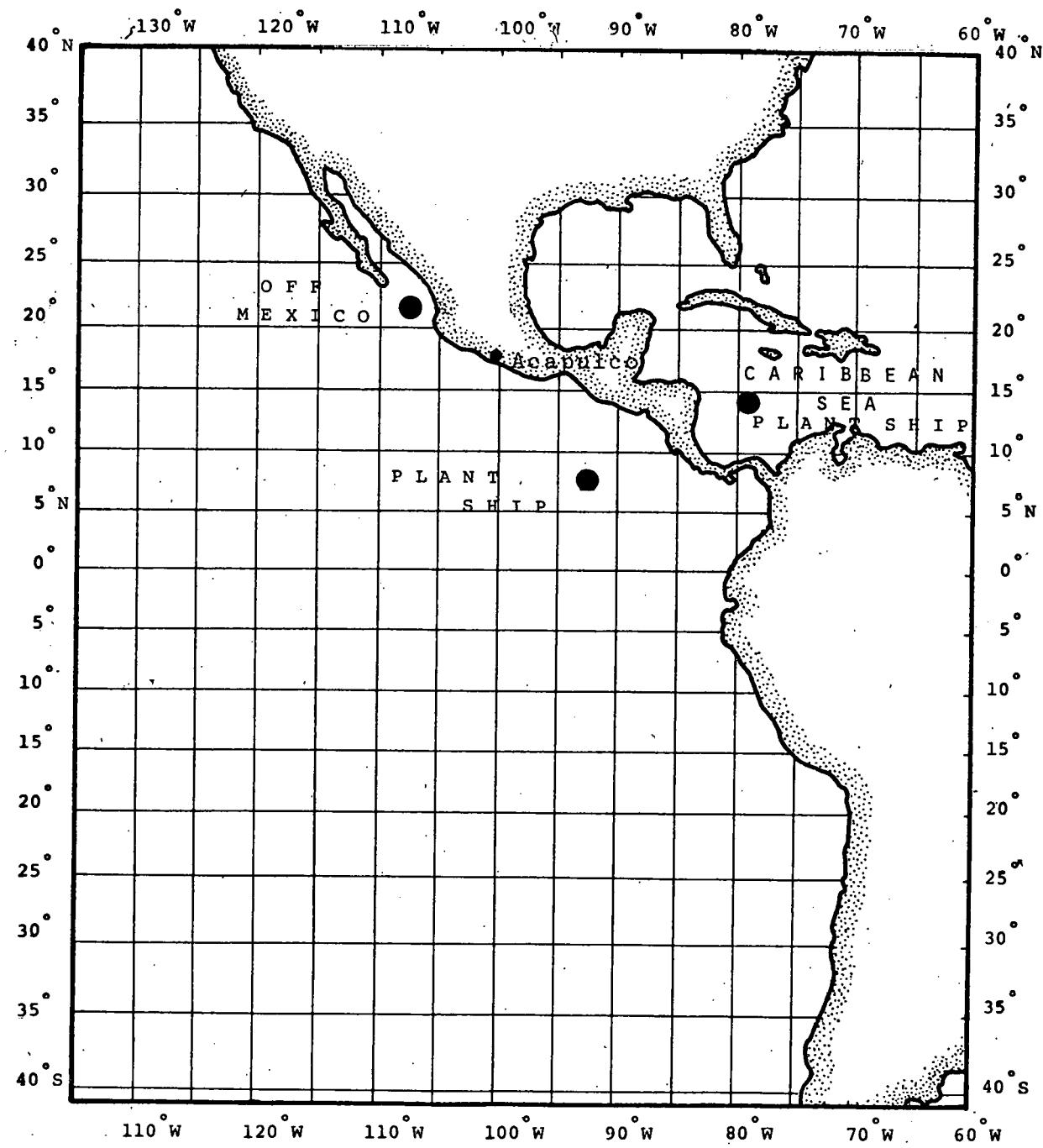


FIGURE II-1: LOCATOR CHART SHOWING AREA OF RESOURCE INVESTIGATION OFF MEXICO

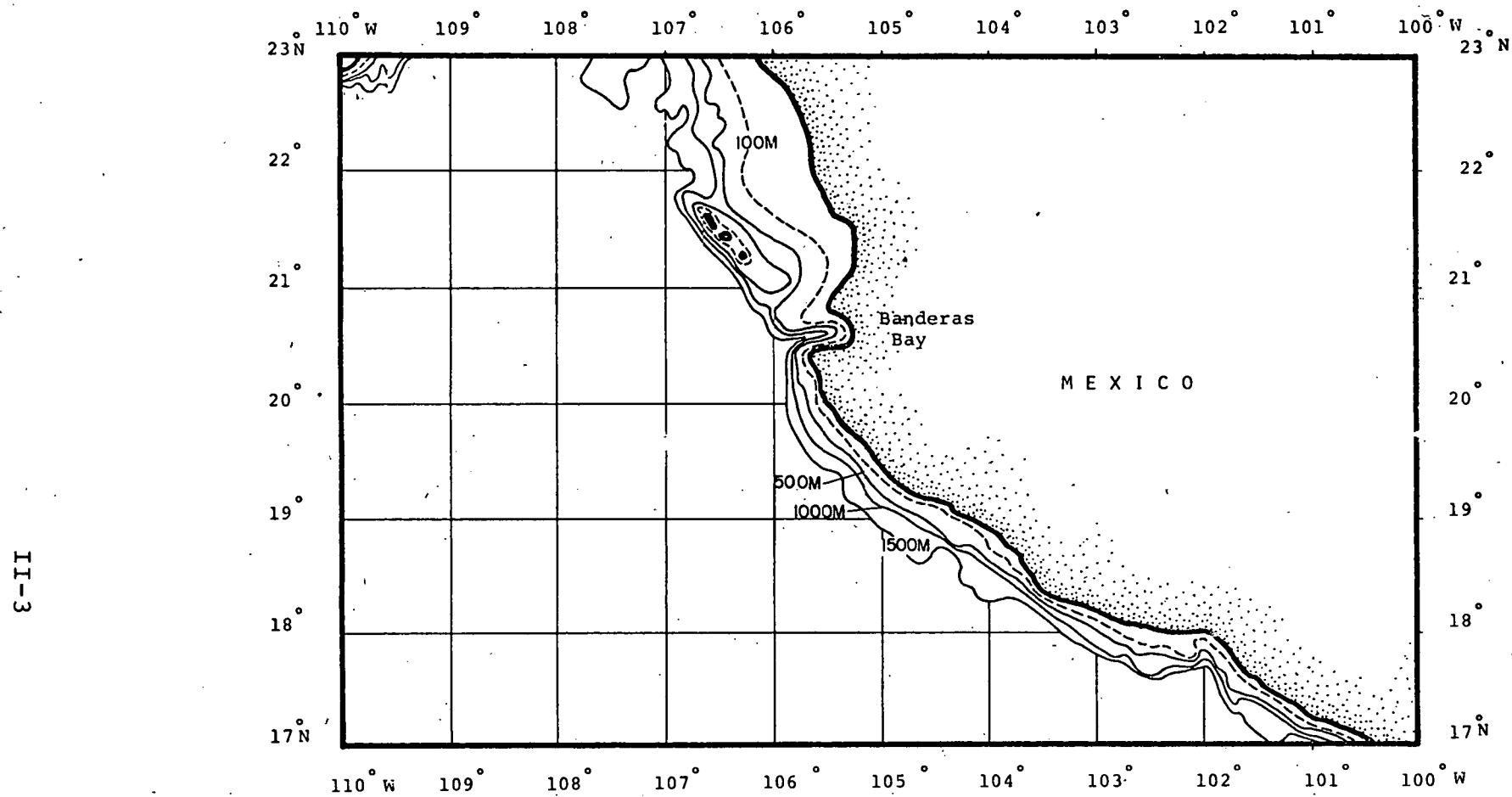


FIGURE II-2: CHART SHOWING ROUGH BATHYMETRY OFF MEXICO
TO DEPTHS OF 1500 METERS. From U.S. Naval
Oceanographic Office, (1971), [40].

III. THERMAL RESOURCE

The main sources for the temperature data contained in this report were NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center, and the U.S. Navy's Fleet Numerical Weather Central, although soundings from other sources were added when available. For the site examined off the western coast of Mexico between 20-23° north latitude and 105-110° west longitude there was data for each month of the year at every depth in 50 meter increments from the surface to 1000 meters. Below 1000 meters there was no data for some months and some depths, and what data existed was sparse. When the available data was plotted some month-to-month variability was present which was caused by the sparse and non-uniform data sample rather than by real variations in the ocean. These short-period time variations were removed by a filtering process described by Wolff, et al (1977), [44].

Table III-1 provides the monthly most probable temperature (°C) profile as a function of depth for this site. The annual mean temperatures for each depth were computed by averaging the monthly most probable temperature figures. Table III-2 shows the same data tabulated in terms of ΔT , the surface temperature minus the temperature at depth differential (°C). The annual mean ΔT was computed by taking the differential of the annual mean temperature at depth from Table III-1. The thermal resource for the site selected off the western coast of Mexico is a good one with

an annual mean ΔT of 20.0°C available at 800 meters. The monthly ΔT s show a fairly wide range however. The variation is due to seasonal variation of the surface temperature, and not to any appreciable variation at depth. Indeed from 600 meters and deeper the monthly mean temperatures are extremely consistent.

Figure III-1 provides a plot of monthly ΔT contours for the off Mexico site. These contours show the seasonal variation. Still the thermal resource is a good one.

TABLE III-1: MONTHLY MOST PROBABLE TEMPERATURE (°C) PROFILE

OFF MEXICO 20-23°N/105-110°W

Depth	Month												Annual Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
0	24.3	23.1	22.5	23.2	23.6	25.4	26.5	28.0	27.9	27.5	27.0	25.2	25.4
50	23.0	19.3	19.3	18.6	17.2	18.2	18.8	20.2	20.2	21.1	21.9	20.0	19.8
100	15.1	15.1	14.7	14.4	13.8	14.1	14.6	14.5	14.9	15.0	15.3	15.3	14.7
150	12.9	13.0	12.8	12.8	12.5	12.7	12.6	12.8	12.7	13.0	13.0	13.1	12.8
200	12.0	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.8	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.9
250	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.3	11.3	11.2
300	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.5	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.5
350	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.8
400	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.0
450	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3
500	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.7
550	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.2
600	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.7
650	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.2
700	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.9
750	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6
800	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3
850	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
900	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
950	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6
1000	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
1050	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3
1100	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
1150	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
1200	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
1250	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
1300	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
1350	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3
1400	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
1450	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
1500	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

TABLE III-2: SURFACE TEMPERATURE - TEMPERATURE AT DEPTH

DIFFERENTIAL (°C) BY MONTHS OFF MEXICO 20-23°N/105-110°W

Depth	Month												Annual Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
50	1.3	3.8	3.2	4.6	6.4	7.2	7.7	7.8	7.7	6.4	5.1	5.2	5.5
100	9.2	8.0	7.8	8.8	9.8	11.3	11.9	13.5	13.0	12.5	11.7	9.9	10.6
150	11.4	10.1	9.7	10.4	11.1	12.7	13.9	15.2	15.2	14.5	14.0	12.1	12.5
200	12.3	11.1	10.6	11.3	11.8	13.5	14.6	16.1	16.0	15.5	15.0	13.2	13.4
250	13.0	11.8	11.3	12.1	12.5	14.2	15.2	16.8	16.7	16.3	15.7	13.9	14.1
300	13.7	12.6	12.1	12.7	13.2	14.9	15.9	17.4	17.4	17.0	16.4	14.6	14.8
350	14.5	13.4	12.9	13.5	14.0	15.6	16.7	18.1	18.1	17.7	17.1	15.3	15.6
400	15.2	14.1	13.6	14.4	14.6	16.3	17.4	18.9	18.8	18.4	17.9	16.1	16.3
450	16.0	14.8	14.3	15.0	15.5	17.1	18.1	19.6	19.5	19.1	18.6	16.9	15.8
500	16.7	15.4	14.9	15.6	16.1	17.7	18.7	20.1	20.2	19.6	19.3	17.4	17.6
550	17.2	15.9	15.4	16.1	16.6	18.2	19.3	20.7	20.8	20.2	19.9	18.0	18.2
600	17.6	16.4	15.9	16.6	17.0	18.7	19.8	21.3	21.3	20.8	20.4	18.5	18.7
650	18.0	16.8	16.3	17.0	17.4	19.1	20.2	21.7	21.7	21.3	20.9	19.0	19.1
700	18.3	17.1	16.6	17.4	17.8	19.4	20.5	22.0	22.1	21.6	21.2	19.3	19.4
750	18.7	17.5	17.0	17.7	18.1	19.7	20.8	22.3	22.3	22.0	21.5	19.6	19.8
800	19.0	17.8	17.2	18.0	18.3	20.0	21.1	22.6	22.5	22.2	21.8	20.0	20.0
850	19.2	18.0	17.5	18.2	18.6	20.3	21.4	23.0	22.9	22.5	22.0	20.2	20.3
900	19.5	18.2	17.7	18.4	18.8	20.5	21.6	23.2	23.1	22.7	22.2	20.4	20.5
950	19.7	18.5	18.0	18.7	19.1	20.7	21.8	23.4	23.4	23.0	22.4	20.6	20.8
1000	19.9	18.7	18.0	18.7	19.1	21.0	22.1	23.6	23.5	23.1	22.6	20.8	20.9
1050	20.0	18.9	18.2	18.9	19.3	21.2	22.3	23.8	23.7	23.3	22.8	21.0	21.1
1100	20.2	19.0	18.4	19.1	19.5	21.4	22.5	24.0	23.9	23.4	22.9	21.1	21.3
1150	20.4	19.2	18.5	19.2	19.6	21.5	22.6	24.1	24.0	23.6	23.1	21.3	21.4
1200	20.6	19.4	18.7	19.4	19.8	21.7	22.8	24.3	24.2	23.8	23.3	21.5	21.6
1250	20.7	19.5	18.9	19.6	20.0	21.8	22.9	24.4	24.3	23.9	23.4	21.6	21.8
1300	20.8	19.6	19.0	19.7	20.1	21.9	23.0	24.5	24.4	24.0	23.5	21.7	21.9
1350	21.0	19.8	19.2	19.9	20.3	22.1	23.2	24.7	24.6	24.2	23.6	21.9	22.0
1400	21.1	19.9	19.3	20.0	20.4	22.2	23.3	24.8	24.7	24.3	23.8	22.0	22.2
1450	21.2	20.0	19.4	20.1	20.5	22.3	23.4	24.9	24.8	24.4	23.9	22.1	22.3
1500	21.3	20.1	19.5	20.2	20.6	22.4	23.5	25.0	24.9	24.5	24.0	22.2	22.4

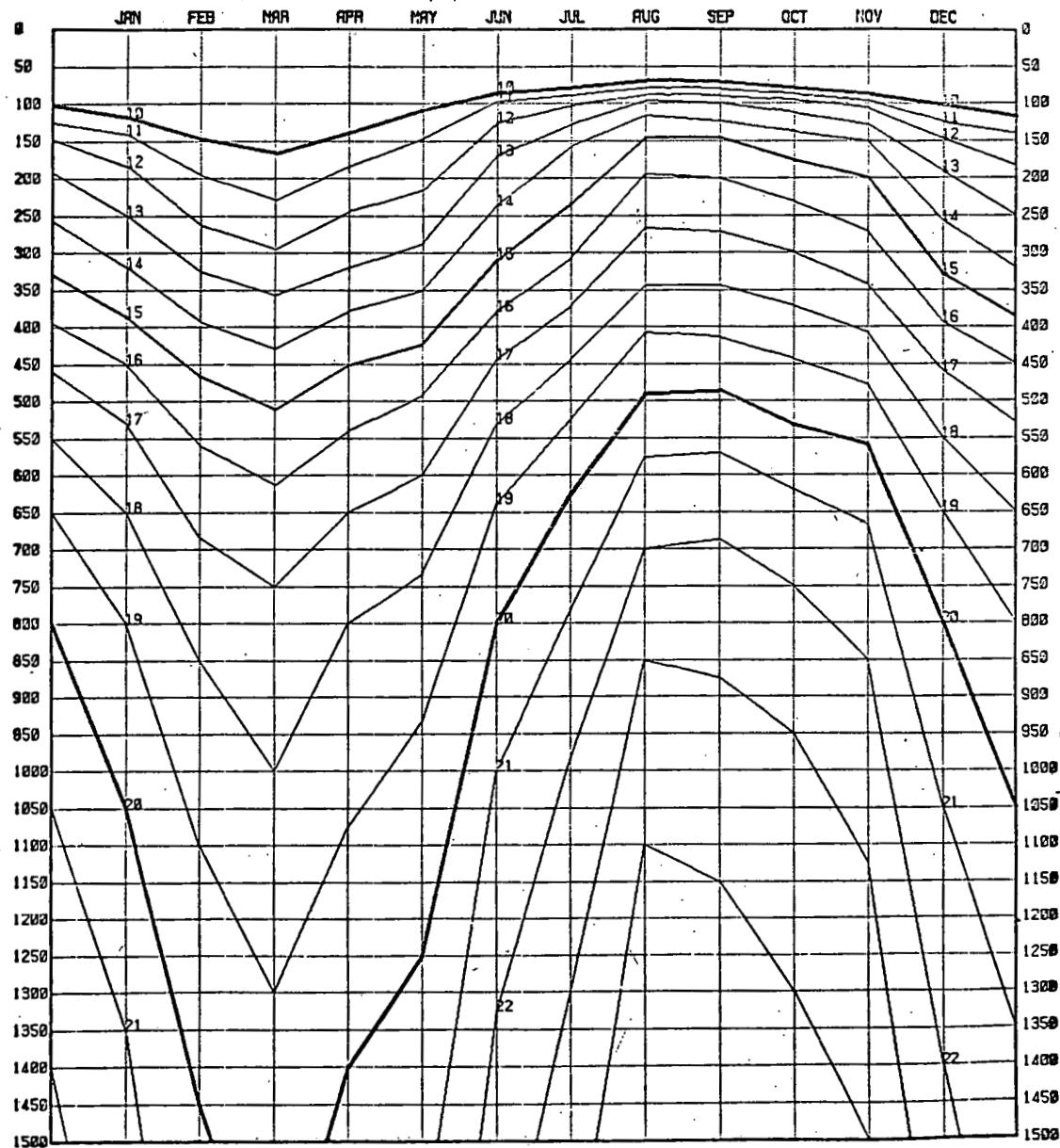


FIGURE III-1: CHART SHOWING MONTHLY AT CONTOURS (°C) AT A DEPTH RESOLUTION OF 50 METERS FOR THE OFF MEXICO SITE (20-23 N/105-110W)

IV. MIXED LAYER DEPTH

The upper mixed layer depth, MLD, was defined for OTEC purposes to be the depth at which the temperature is first colder than the surface temperature by 1° Centigrade. An ever-present mixed layer depth is favorable for OTEC operation. Ideally the MLD is deep enough to assure an intake of uniformly warm water. Also the mixed layer is ideally not so deep that there are problems of recirculation of mixed exhaust water.

The mixed layer depth of this site off the western coast of Mexico is too shallow to be ideal for OTEC purposes. Weak and variable currents and winds are the main causes of the shallow MLD throughout the entire year. The Eastropac Atlas, (1971), [32] was consulted for preliminary mixed layer depths. ODSI's OTEC data file was then analyzed. The monthly mixed layer depths in meters for this area are shown in Table IV-1.

TABLE IV-1: TYPICAL MIXED LAYER DEPTHS (METERS)
OFF MEXICO.

<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>
30	30	20	20	20	10
<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>
20	20	10	30	30	30

V.. WINDS AND STORMS

High winds and storms are a definite problem for the off Mexico site. Figure V-1 and V-2 are adopted from H.C. Crutcher and R.G. Quayle (1974), [7]. Figure V-1 shows the preferred annual storm tracks for this site. Figure V-2 provides the average number of tropical cyclones per 5° square per year. These figures demonstrate that storms will be a problem for this site. The main season is from June through October although storms can also occur in May and November. The number of storms to be expected over a period of ten years per month is:

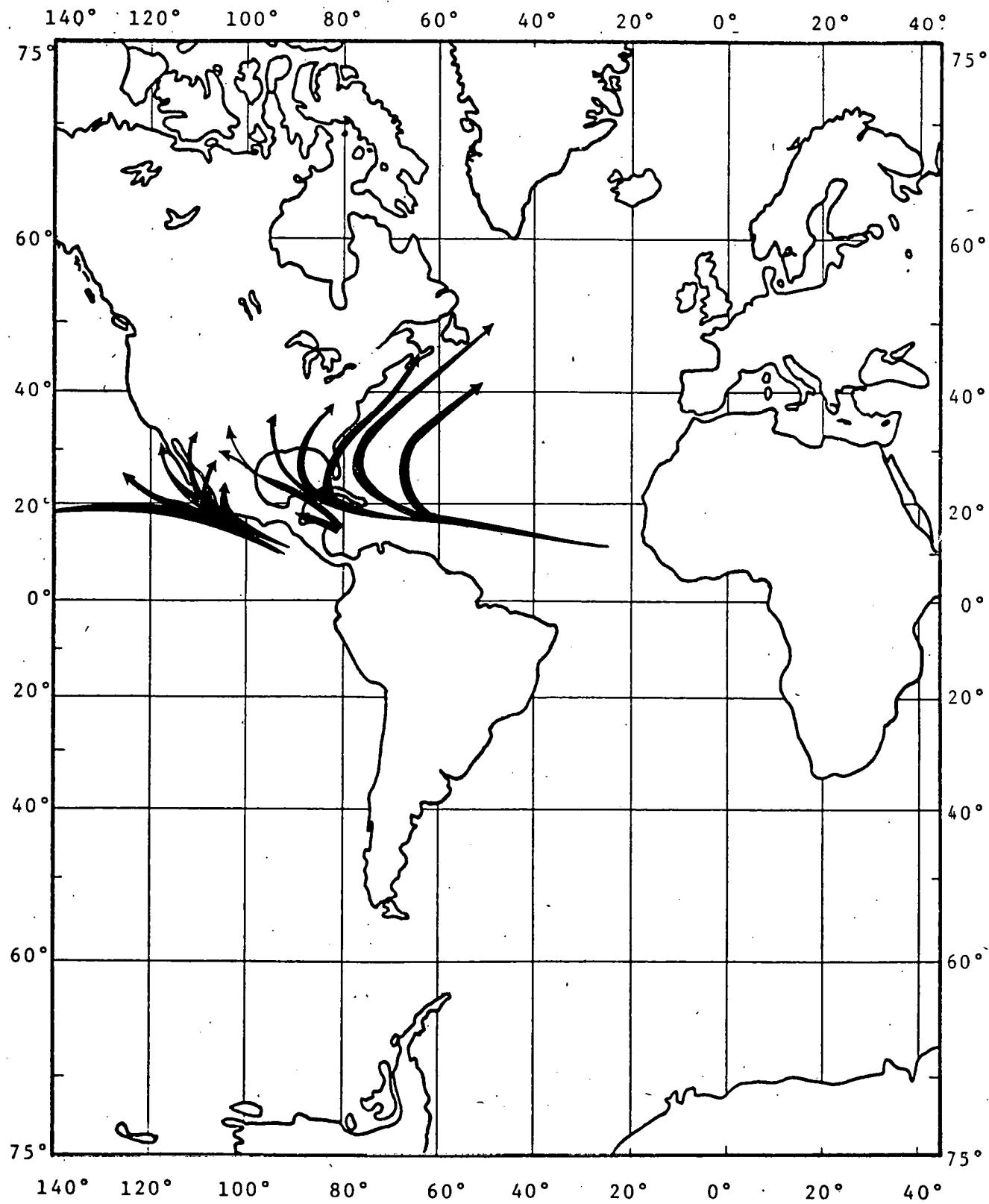
	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>
Tropical Storms	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	9	7	4	1	0

These figures are derived from records over 106 years. A site farther south along Mexico would provide a better thermal resource, but be subject to even more storms.

Hurricanes will cause winds which may sustain speeds of 30 to 50 meters per second. Mountainous waves will be produced. Gentry (1970), [18] states that occasional waves of over 20 meters have been reported, and that numerous reports of waves 10-15 meters exist. Currents will be formed by hurricanes. Johnson and Denwick indicate that hurricanes can cause a temperature anomaly of -3°C for a period of four days. While this result was measured in the Gulf of Mexico, it is indicative of the effects of hurricanes on the thermal resource anywhere in the tropics.

Tables V-1 through V-4 with data from the U.S. Naval Weather Service provide information on the winds for each of the ten sites examined.

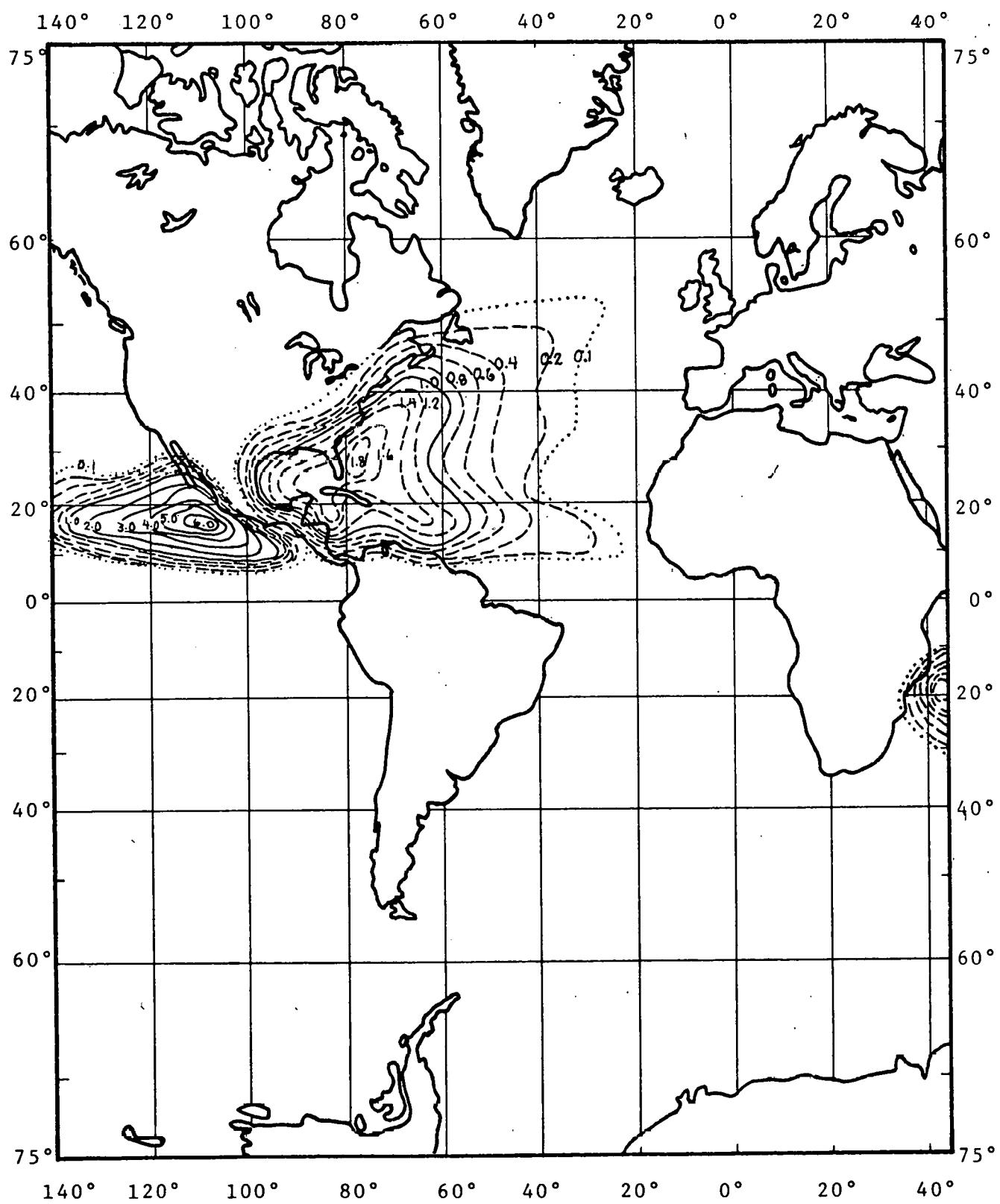
Figures V-3 through V-6 from Wolff and Hubert (1976), [43] summarize storm and hurricane statistics by seasons for the area.



ANNUAL PREFERRED STORM TRACKS FOR TROPICAL STORMS

FIGURE V-1

V-3



AVERAGE NUMBER OF
TROPICAL CYCLONES PER 5°
SQUARE PER YEAR

FIGURE V-2

V-4

TABLE V-1
RESULTANT WINDS
Average Wind Velocity in Meters per Second

Location	Dec-Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr-May	Jun-Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct-Nov
Ivory Coast	3.1-4.1	3.1-4.1	4.1-5.1	4.1-5.1
Mombasa	5.1-6.2	4.1-5.1	6.2-7.2	4.1-5.1
Sri Lanka	4.1-5.1W 5.1-6.2E	4.1-5.1	6.2-7.2W 7.2-8.2E	5.1-6.2
Jakarta	4.1	3.1-4.1	5.1-6.2	5.1-6.2
Dampier Land	4.1-5.1	4.1-6.2	5.1-6.2	4.1-5.1
Philippines	5.1-6.2	3.1-4.1	4.1	6.2-7.2
Guam	5.1-6.2	4.1-5.1	4.1-5.1	4.1-5.1
Off Mexico	3.1-4.1	2.1-4.1	2.1-4.1	4.1-5.1
Plant Ship Pacific	3.1-4.1	3.1-4.1	4.1-5.1	4.1-6.2
Plant Ship Caribbean	6.2-7.2	5.1-6.2	6.2-8.2	4.1-5.1

TABLE V-2

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE OF MODERATE GALES AND STRONGER WINDS,
 BEAUFORT FORCE 7 AND HIGHER
 (> 14.4 meters per second)

MCNTH	IVORY CCAST	MOMBASA	SRI LANKA	JAKARTA	DAMPIER LAND	PHILLIPINES	GUAM	OFF MEXICO	PLANT SHIP (PACIFIC)	PLANT SHIP (CARIBN)
JAN	0*	0-1	0	0	0	1-5	1-5	1-5	0	5
FEB	0	0	1	1-5	1-5	5	1-2	1-2	0	5
MAR	1-2	0	0	1-2	1-2	1	0	1-2	0	1-5
APR	0	0	0	1-2	0	1	1-5	1	0	1-5
MAY	0	1	1-5	1	0	1-5	0	0	0	1
JUN	0	5-10	5-10	1-5	0	1-5	0	1	0	1-5
JUL	0	5-10N 10-20S	1-5	1-5	1-5	5	0	0	0	1-5
AUG	0	1-5S 5-15N	1-5	0	0	1-5	1-5	1-5	0	1-5
SEF	0	0	1-5	1-5	0	5	1-5	0	0	1
OCT	0	0	OW 1-5E	1-5	0	1-5	1-2	1	1	1-5
NOV	0	0	1-5	1-5	0	10-15N 1-10S	5-15	1-5	0-5	1-5
DEC	0	1-2	OW 1-5E	1-5	0	10-15N 5-10S	1-5	1-5	0	1-5

* 0 = few or none.

TABLE V-3

PERCENTAGE OF WINDS WITH BEAUFORT FORCE 8 AND HIGHER

(≥ 17.5 meters per second)

LOCATION	Dec-Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr-May	Jun-Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct-Nov
Ivory Coast	0	1	0	0
Mombasa	N 1 S 0	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	0	0	1	0
Jakarta	1	1	0	1
Dampier Land	1	1	0	0
Philippines	5	0	1	1-5
Guam	0	1	1	1-5
Off Mexico	1	1	0	1
Plant Ship Pacific	0	1	0	0
Plant Ship Caribbean	1	0	1	0

TABLE V-4
PREDOMINANT SURFACE WIND DIRECTION

MONTH	MOMBASA	SRI LANKA	DAMPIER LAND	JAKARTA	MANILA	GUAM	OFF MEXICO	PLANT SHIP (PACIFIC)	PLANT SHIP (CARIBN)	IVORY COAST
JAN	↓ ↓	↖	↑↑	↓	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↑↑
FEB	↓	↖	→	→	↖	↖	↓	↖	↖	↑
MAR	↖	↖ O ↘	↖ ↗	↓	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↑
APR	0° ↖ →	0° ↗	↑↑	↑	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↑
MAY	↑↑	↗	↑	↑	↗ ↘	↖	↖	↗	↑	↑
JUN	↑	↗	↑	↑	↗	↑	↖	↖ ↙	↑	↑
JUL	↑	↗	↑	↑	↗	↗ ↙	↖	↑	↖	↑
AUG	↑	↗	↑	↑	↗	↗ ↙	↓	↗ ↗	↖	↗
SEP	↑	→ O ↗	↗	↗	↖	↖	↖	↗	↖	↑
OCT	↑	→	↗	↗	↖	↖	↖	↑	↖	↑
NOV	↖ ↙	↖ ↗	↗	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖ ↙	↖	↑
DEC	↖	↖	↗	↗	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↗

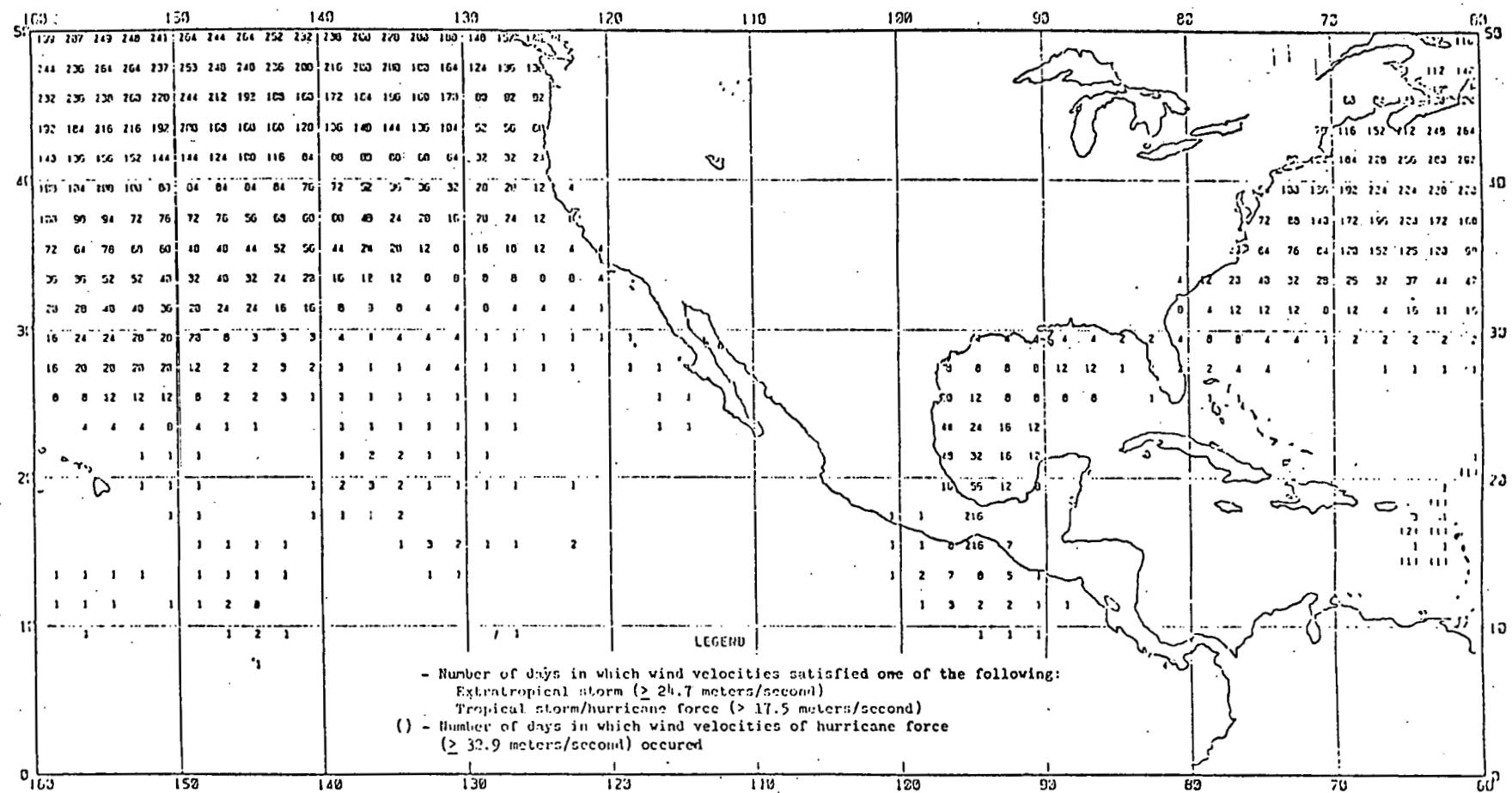


FIGURE V-3: STORM/HURRICANE STATISTICS - DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY

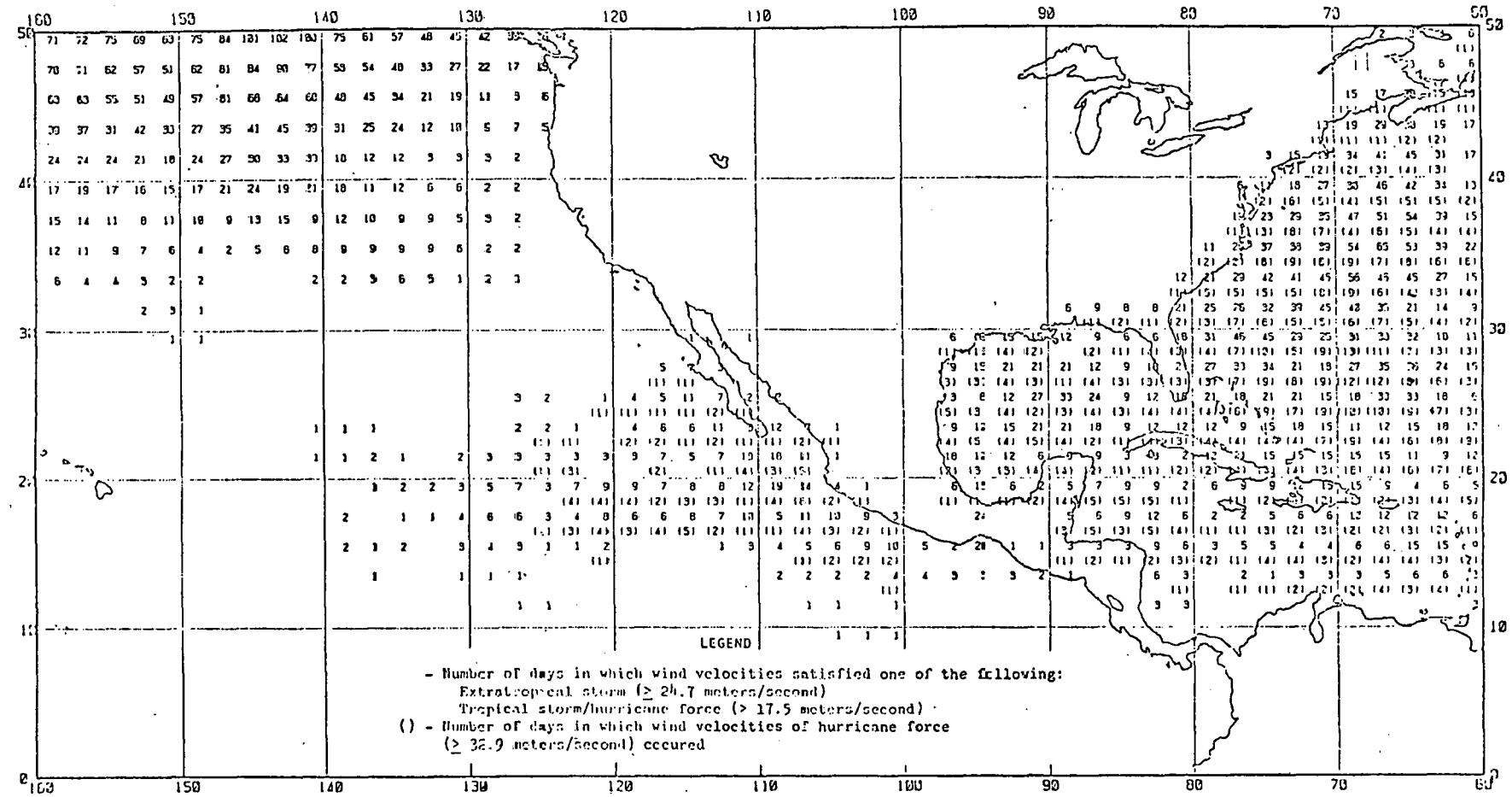


FIGURE V-4: STORM/HURRICANE STATISTICS - SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

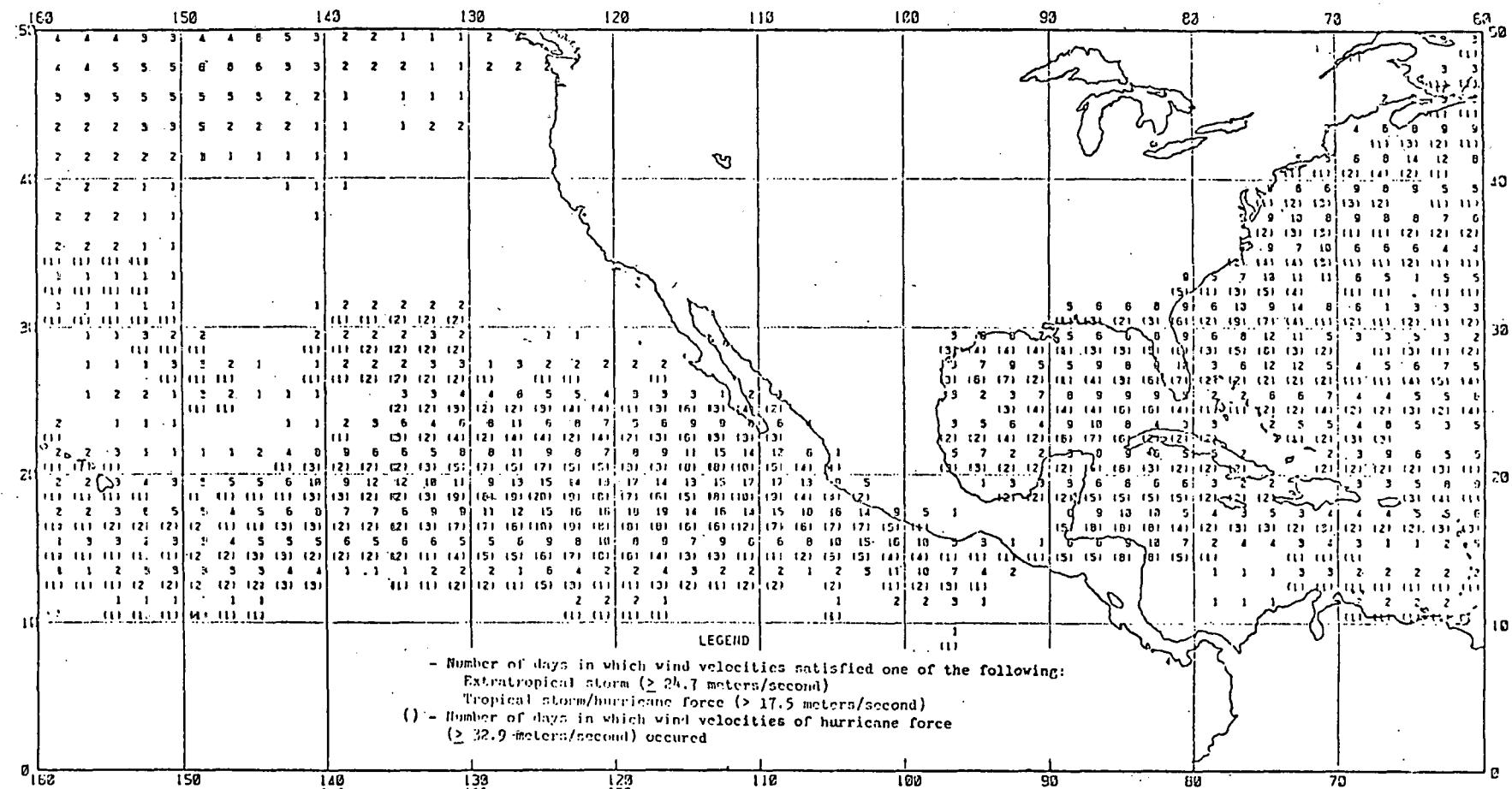


FIGURE V-5: STORM/HURRICANE STATISTICS - JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

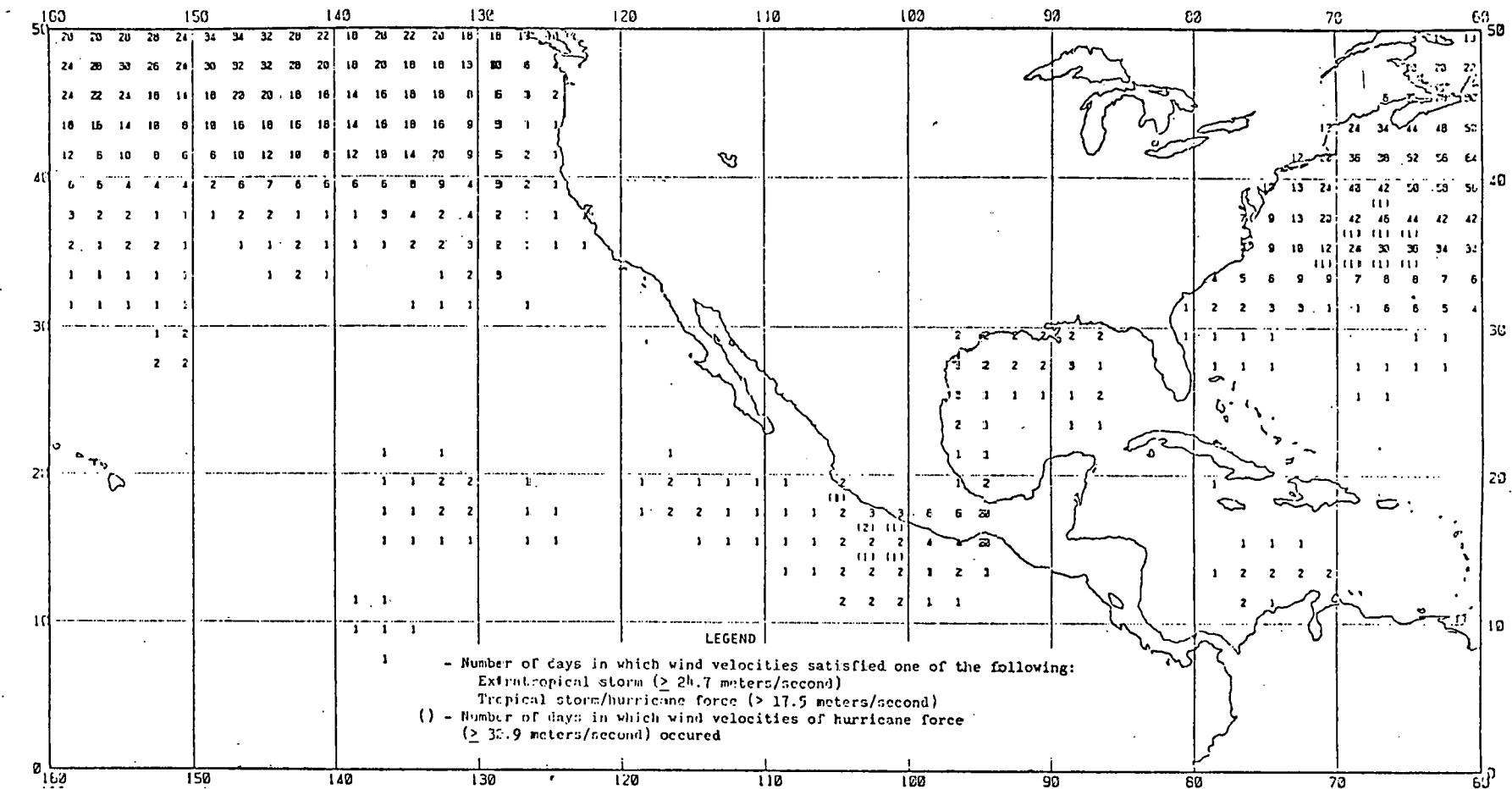


FIGURE V-6: STORM/HURRICANE STATISTICS - MARCH, APRIL, MAY

VI. SEA AND SWELL CHARACTERISTICS

Low sea and swell conditions predominate throughout the year for the off Mexico site. For each of the four seasons the wave height of 2.4 meters or more exists two percent of the time or less.

Monthly sea and swell data for this site was taken from the U.S. Hydrographic Office, (1964), [34]. For January the predominant direction of the sea and swell was from the north and the northwest. Six percent of the sea observations and nineteen percent of the swell observations were calm. Less than five percent of either the sea or swell observations were high. For March the predominant direction of the sea and swell was from the northwest, with less than two percent of the observations being high. For June the predominant direction of the sea and swell was again from the northwest, although a significant portion was from the west. Only one percent of the observations were high, that is with force 5 or greater. For August the predominant direction of the observations was from the northwest, although there were significant observations from the west, south and southwest. The percentage of low sea and swells was between 70 to 80% from each direction. For October through December the predominant direction of sea and swell was from the northwest, and particularly from the latter two months also from the north. The percentage of high sea and swell was less than 2% of the total number of observations.

VII. CURRENTS

This off Mexico site is not located near one of prominent surface current systems in the North Pacific. The area is south of the California current and north of Pacific North Equatorial Current. Figures VII-1 through VII-4 present the ocean surface current patterns from Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic Center Pilot Charts (1975) for the months of January, April, July and October. Monthly mean surface currents from 1978 Pilot Charts in cm/sec are as follows:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
25.7	25.7	30.8	25.7	25.7	25.7	25.7	25.7	25.7	25.7	25.7	30.8

Current directions are shown by arrows and current speeds are given in cm/sec. The currents in this area are weak and variable in direction. This basic current information is derived from Pilot Charts which are based on ship logs. These records of a ship's position are interpreted in terms of the set and drift of current between fixes of the ship's position. Few direct measurements of currents are available, and very few sub-surface measurements.

These current figures are mean, useful as a rough estimate, but not indicators of currents where high wind or sea and swell conditions exist. Hurricanes also effect surface current conditions. Leipper's (1967, [21]) study of Hurricane Hilda showed that a current had developed in the

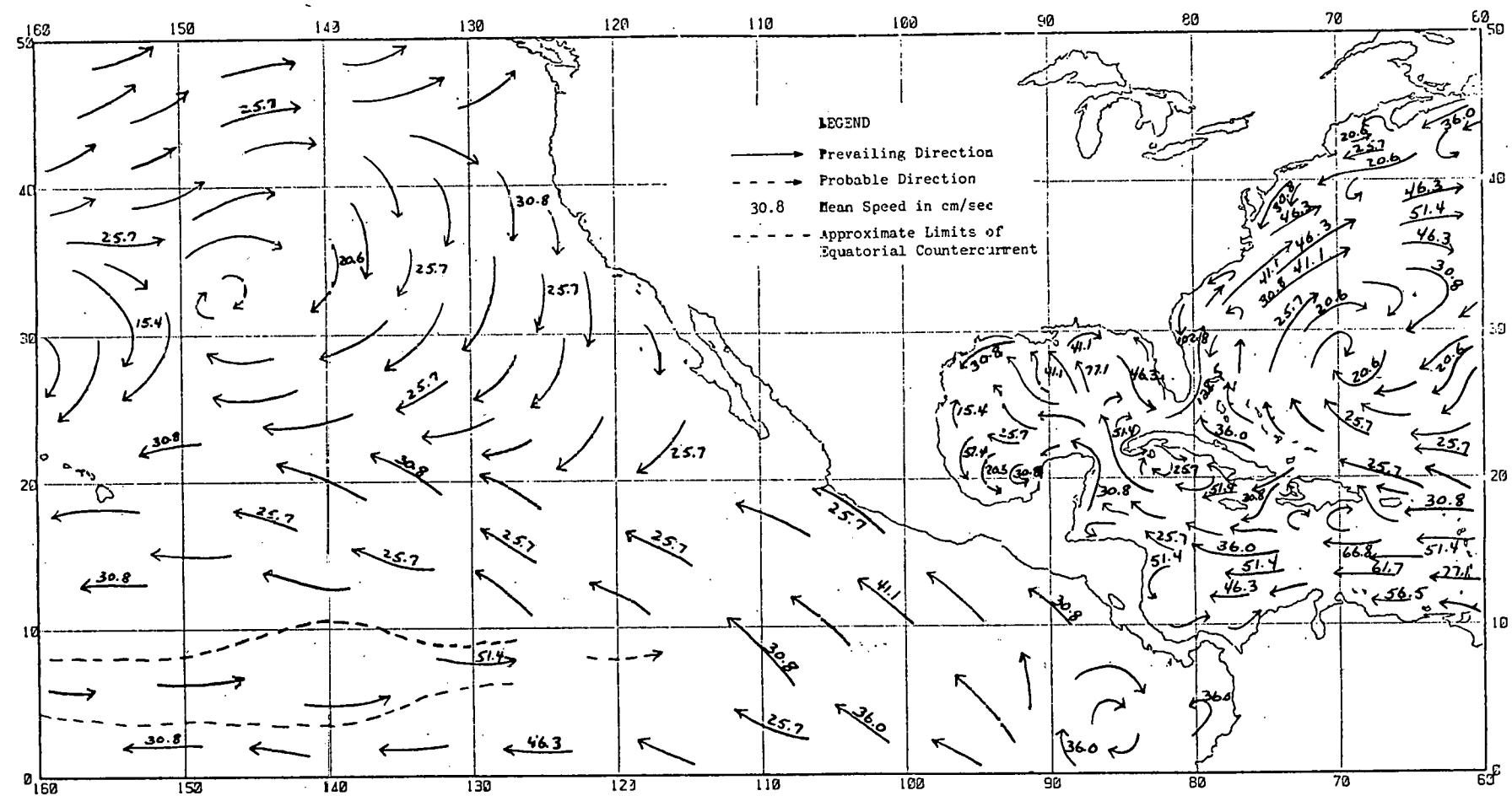
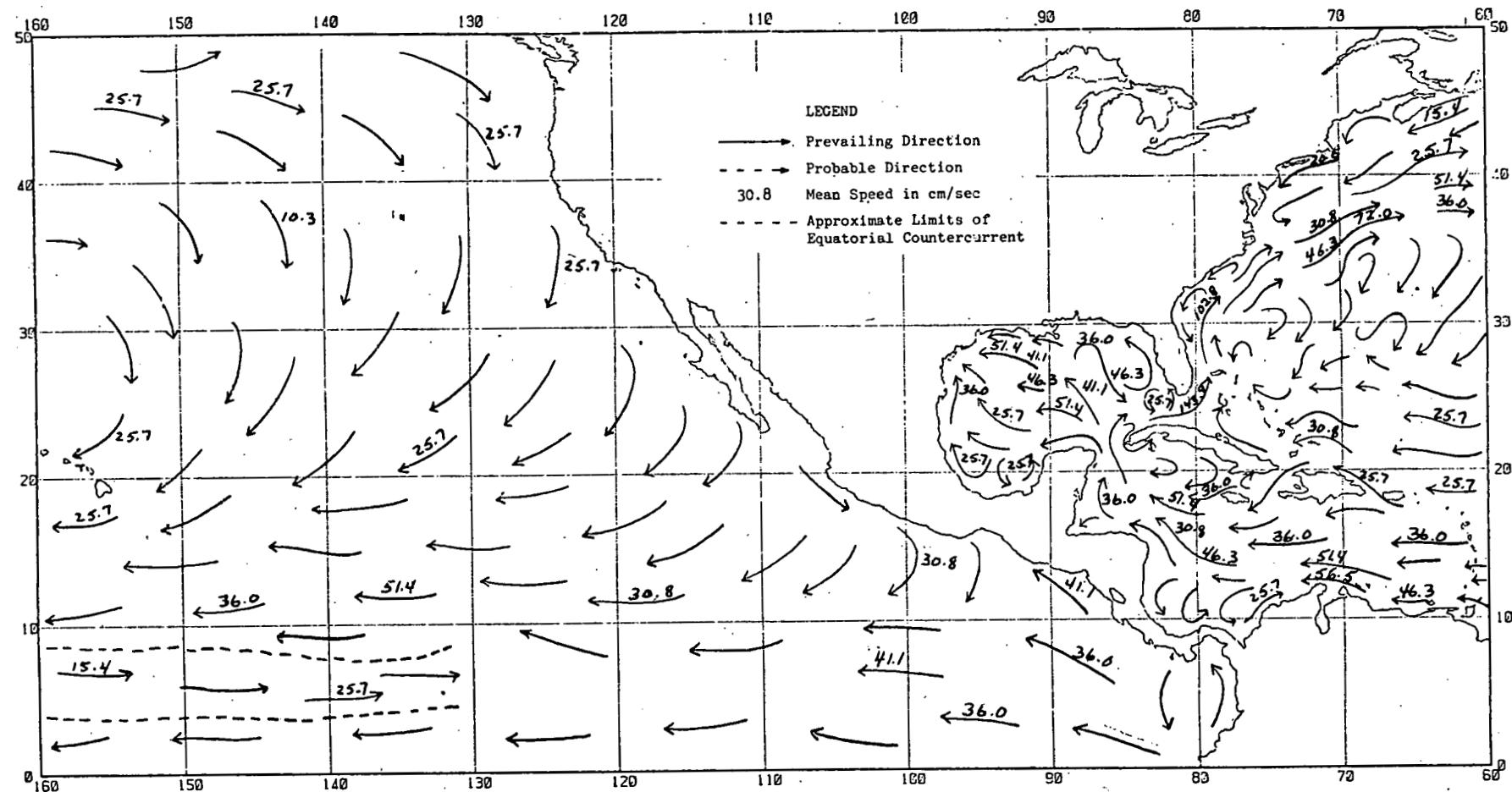


FIGURE VII-1: MEAN SURFACE CURRENT CHART - JANUARY.



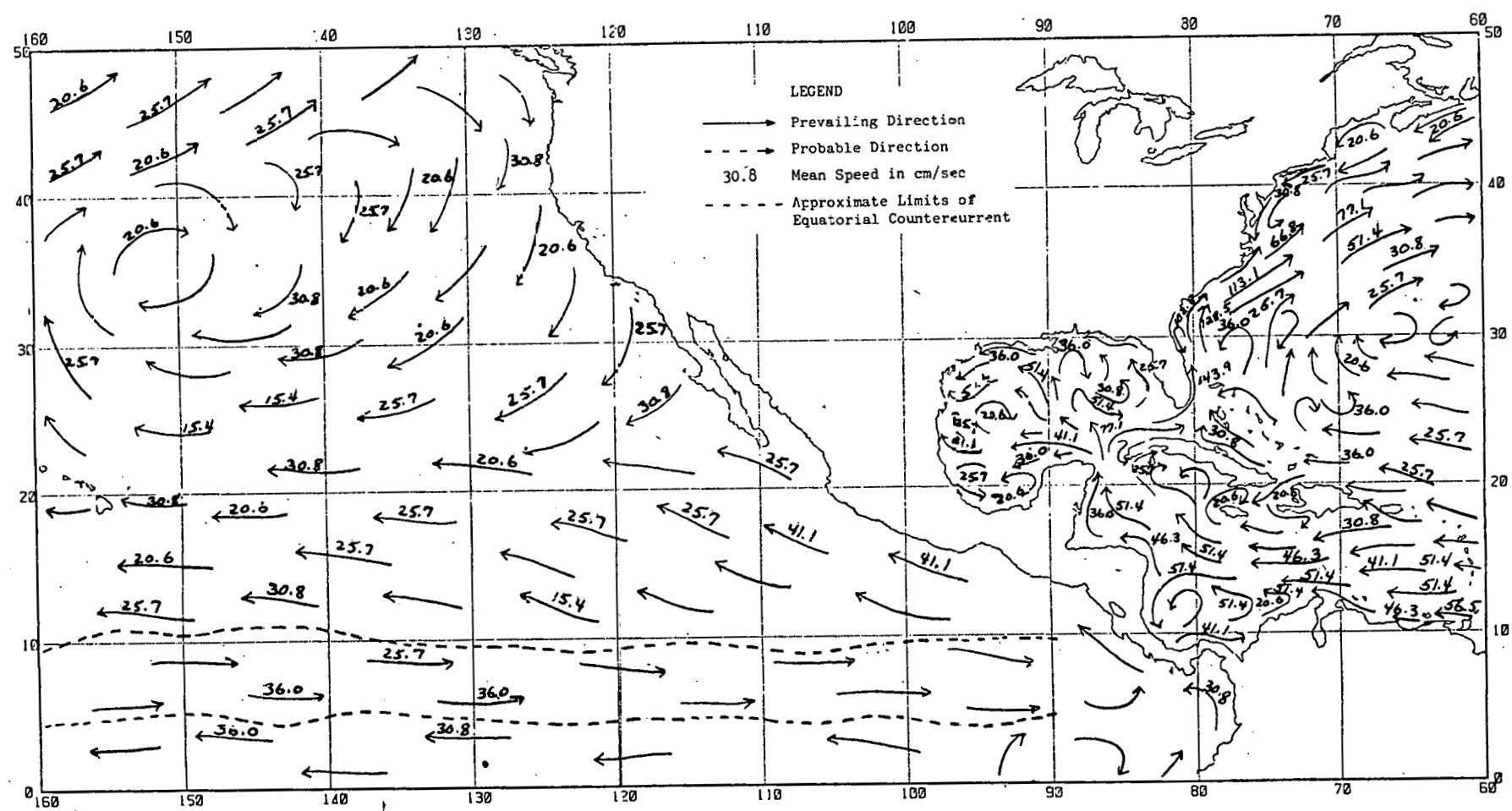


FIGURE VII-3: MEAN SURFACE CURRENT CHART - JULY.

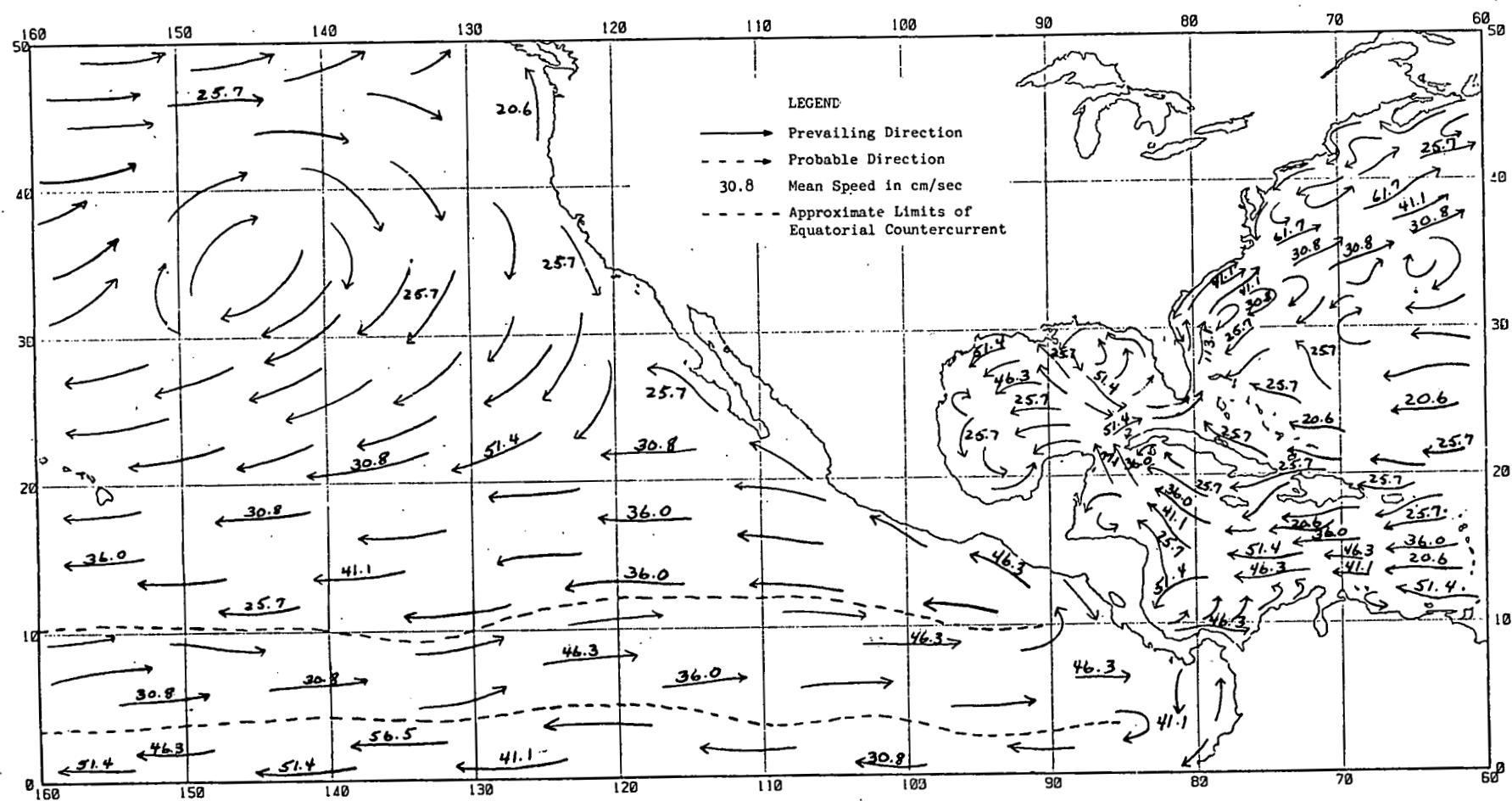


FIGURE VII-4: MEAN SURFACE CURRENT CHART - OCTOBER

area transversed by the storm. Analysis of temperature-depth data showed a current of approximately 50 cm/sec. A theoretical study by O'Brien and Reid (1967, [27]) states that hurricanes will cause currents with a speed of approximately one meter per second.

The passage of hurricanes will induce upwelling of subsurface waters for a temporary period. This upwelling will cause anomalous vertical current shears. Strongest vertical and horizontal current shears are usually associated with major current systems and should not be a problem for this site.

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