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RECENT SEDIMENTS OF BOLINAS BAY CALIFORNIA PARTA. INTRODUCTION AND GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS

by

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Technical Report

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RECENT MARINE SEDIMENTS OF BOLINAS BAY, CALIFORNIA

Part A -- Introduction and Grain Size Analysis

by

C. Isselhardt, L. Osuch, and P. Wilde

Berkeley, California November 1968

INTRODUCTION

The following work is part of a long term study of sediment transport on the Continental Shelf of Central California. In particular, it is hoped that the data presented here will be useful also to the general study of the factors that influence the natural environment of Bolinas Lagoon now being conducted as a cooperative effort involving the University of California, Berkeley; the U. S. Corps of Engineers; the U.S. Geological Survey; the Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; and consultants for the Bolinas Harbor District.

The analyses of the marine sediments of Bolinas Bay were done at the University of California, Berkeley, utilizing the facilities of the Departments of Civil Engineering and Geology and the Institute of Marine Resources. The results of the marine study will be presented in three separate volumes:

> Part A -- Introduction and Grain Size Data Part B -- Mineralogical Data Part C -- Interpretation and Summary of Results

Sample Collection

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Three types of samples are examined in this report: (a) 6 rock samples from the cliffs on the north shore of Bolinas Bay, (b) 12 beach samples, and (c) 44 marine rock and sediment samples from Bolinas Bay. Rock samples are from surface out crops. Beach samples were scooped from the surface at low tide. Marine samples were obtained on 26-27 March 1968 from the converted fishing boat <u>San Michele</u>. Bottom samples were obtained by an orange-peel grab and thus were representative of approximately the upper 15 centimeters of sediment. About one liter by volume of sample was saved from each station, placed in a polyethylene bag, and stored until treatment in a one quart cardboard container.

Figure 1 shows the marine station locations which were obtained by radar bearings on shore landmarks. Station depths were obtained by echo sounding with a Raytheon fathometer. The bathymetric base map used in this study was contoured by C. Isselhardt from original U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey sounding sheets. Participants in the marine sampling were Ralf Carter, Courtney Isselhardt, Eugene Silva, and Pat Wilde.

Sample Treatment

Initially all samples were washed with fresh water to eliminate dried sea salt and then were placed in a drying oven at 100° C until dry. The dry sample was split in a Jones sample splitter into four fractions:

- (1) weighed and sieved for mineralogical analysis
- (2) to John Holden for paleontological analysis
- (3) archive
- (4) reserve



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GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS

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The sample was size separated in a Ro-Tap using nine sieves:

U.S. Standard Mesh Number	Nominal Opening	PHI Units
5	4.000 mm	- 2.0
10	1.981 mm	- 1.0
18	0.991 mm	0
35	0.495 mm	+ 1.0
45	0.351 mm	+ 1.5
60	0.246 mm	+ 2.0
80	0.175 mm	+ 2.5
120	0.124 mm	+ 3.0
170	0.088 mm	+ 3.5
230	0.061 mm	+4.0

The intervals from medium sand to very fine sand (0.500 - 0.062 mm) were monitored at half PHI intervals as the primary mode of most of the samples is in that size interval.

After sieving, each size fraction was weighed on an analytical balance to 0.001 grams and a weight percent value calculated for each fraction.

Data Format

The grain size information for each sample is presented in the following pages graphically as (1) a histogram where the width of each bar represents the size range considered and the height of the bar represents the weight percent of that size range; and (2) a cumulative frequency curve, which is a smooth curve drawn between points determined by adding weight percent values in successively smaller grain size classes. Points connected by dashed lines are symmetrically extrapolated values and do not represent measured values.

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Modes, or the order of frequency, are determined visually from the histogram, with the first mode being the size class with largest weight percent value.

Quartile and percentile values or grain size values at a given weight percent are determined visually from the cumulative curves and are used for calculating statistical measures below. The percentile and quartile subscripts given here indicate the percentage of the distribution coarser than the corresponding grain size value. For example, P_{10} refers to the grain size at which 10% of the distribution is coarser. This procedure does <u>not</u> conform to standard statistical usage but is less ambiguous for grain size work where by convention the cumulative curve is plotted in order of decreasing grain size, which is the reverse of statistical practice.

Graphically Determined

Parameter	<u>Grain Size at</u>	
P ₁₀	10^{th} percentile	
Q_{25}	25 th percentile (3 rd quartile)	
Q ₅₀	$50^{ ext{th}}$ percentile (2 nd quartile)	
	MEDIAN	
Q ₇₅	75 th percentile (1 st quartile)	
Р ₉₀	90 th percentile	

Calculated

$$S_0 = \sqrt{Q_{25}/Q_{75}}$$
 SORTING COEFFICIENT:
(Trask, 1932)

Degree of Scatter

QUARTILE SKEWNESS: (Trask, 1932) Symmetry of Distribution

 $S_k = \frac{Q_{25} Q_{75}}{(Q_{50})^2}$

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$$K = \frac{Q_{25} - Q_{75}}{2(P_{10} - P_{90})}$$

KURTOSIS: (Krumbein and Pettijohn, 1938, p. 238) Comparison of Central Portion of

Curve to Spread of Whole Curve

REFERENCES

- Krumbein, W. C. and Pettijohn, F. J., 1938, Manual of Sedimentary Petrography: New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 549 p.
- Trask, P. D., 1932, Origin and Environment of Source Sediments of Petroleum: Houston, Gulf Publishing Co., 67 p.













































































Q₇₅ 0.27 mm

Kurtosis 0.18

3rd Mode _____



 1st Mode
 0.246 - 0.175 mm
 Q₂₅ 0.40 mm
 Sorting Coef. 1.36

 2nd Mode
 Median:Q₅₀ 0.26 mmSkewness
 1.32

 3rd Mode
 Q₇₅ 0.22 mm
 Kurtosis
 0.10

