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RECENT SEDIMENTS OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONTINENTAL SHELF

PIGEON POINT TO SAND HILLS BLUFFS

PART A. INTRODUCTION AND GRAIN SIZE DATA

by

J. LEE T. YANCEY and P. WILDE



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY OCTOBER 1970



University of California Hydraulic Engineering Laboratory

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Technical Report HEL-2-28

This work was supported by Contract 72-67-C-0015 with the Coastal Engineering Research Center, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army

RECENT SEDIMENTS OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONTINENTAL SHELF PIGEON POINT TO SAND HILL BLUFFS

PART A - INTRODUCTION AND GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS

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Introduction

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The following work is part of a continuing study of the sediments and sedimentary processes of the continental shelf of central California done in cooperation between the University of California, Berkeley, and the Coastal Engineering Research Center, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Sediment analyses of the samples 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 this study will be presented in three separate reports:

> Part A Introduction and Grain Size Data (this volume) Part B Mineralogical Data

Part C Interpretation and Summary of Results The first two reports, Parts A and B, will be presented with little or no interpretation. In Part C the authors' interpretation of the data plus background information and previous work in the study area will be given.

The area covered by this report extends from Pigeon Point in the north to Sand Hill Point in the south. With the completion of this report a complete section of the continental shelf of California from Russian River to Monterey Bay will have been studied. The methods of sediment analysis employed in the overall study are grain size analysis followed by heavy mineral analysis and interpretation.

Sample Collection

Samples studied in this report include 39 marine samples, and 9 intertidal beach samples taken specifically for this project. Marine bottom samples were obtained with an orange peel grab sampler from the converted fishing boat <u>San Michele</u>, September 1969. Participants in the marine sampling program were Ralf Carter, Eugene Silva, Tom Yancey, Jamison Bates, and Pat Wilde. Marine samples were obtained from the shoreline to 300 feet below sea level. The sample density is approximately uniform within the study area (see Fig. 1). Intertidal beach samples were obtained in April 1970 by James Lee and Tom Yancey. The beach samples were obtained using a pipe coring device. The coring device was inserted into the beach at approximately mid to low tide level. In this manner a core of the upper six to ten inches of the beach sediment was obtained.

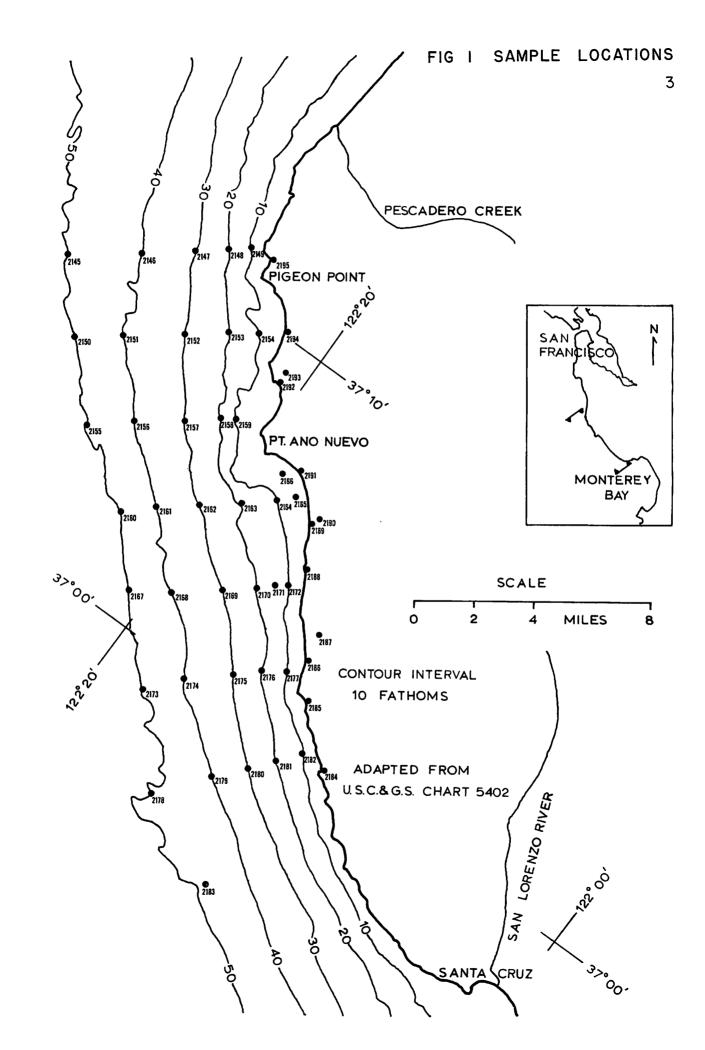
Figure 1 shows the sampling stations (numbers refer to Hydraulic Engineering Laboratory Sediment Collection numbers, U. C. Berkeley) plotted on U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart 5402. Location of each sample was obtained by Decca radar bearings on shore landmarks. Station depths were obtained by echo sounding with a Raytheon depth finder.

The orange peel bottom sampler took approximately 15 centimeters of surface material. About one liter by volume of sample was saved from each station. This portion of the sample was saved from each station. This portion of the sample was placed in a polyethylene bag and stored in a moist condition in a cylindrical cardboard container until analysis.

Grain Size Analysis

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The samples were analyzed by Tom Yancey and James Lee at half phi intervals (Krumbein and Pettijohn, 1938, p. 84) through the entire



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range of the sediment size spread. The sediments contain a wide spread of grain sizes, so for the finer grained samples sieving was supplemented by pipette analysis (Folk, 1965, pp. 37-40) for the silt and clay fraction of the sample. The samples were wet sieved through a 4φ (.0625 mm) screen with running sea water. The coarser than 4φ sediments were then dried and sieved in the standard manner. Particles in the silt and clay size range were washed into a reservoir of sea water, and recovered and stored wet in sea water. This procedure enables one to separate silts and clays from coarser particles in a non-destructive manner, i.e., the original composition and particle size of the finer sediments is not changed by treatment with distilled water and drying. The weight of the sample was determined using the Wet weighing method of Wilde and others (1970).

The pipette analysis was made at half phi intervals, and carried to a lower limit of $8\frac{1}{2}\varphi$ (0.0027 mm). Only a small number of the samples were carried to $8\frac{1}{2}\varphi$; these samples had 80% or greater in the silt and clay size fraction. The remaining samples were carried to a lower limit of 7 φ (0.0078 mm). 7 φ is a convenient lower limit to use in pipette analysis, and in most cases the finer than 7 φ fraction represented less than 5% of the sample. Data from this method was proportionately recalculated to fit the sieving data and the size frequency curve and cumulative curve were assembled from these two methods. Each size fraction of the sieving and pipette analysis were weighted on an analytical balance to 0.001 gram and a weight percent value was calculated for each fraction.

The samples were sized through the following sieves:

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U. S. Standard Mesh Num	nber Nominal Opening	<u>Phi Units</u>
5	3.962 mm	- 2.0
7	2.83 mm	- 1.5
10	1.981 mm	- 1.0
14	1.397 mm	- 0.5
18	0.991 mm	0
25	0.701 mm	+ 0.5
25	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

Data Format

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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.

Modes, or the order of frequency, are determined visually from the histogram, with the first mode being the size class with the 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 is plotted in order of decreasing grain size, which is the reverse of statistical practice.

Graphically Determined

Parameter	Grain Size at
P ₁₀	10 th percentile
Q ₂₅	25 th percentile (3 rd quartile)
Q ₅₀	50 th percentile (2 nd quartile)
	MEDIAN

Q ₇₅	75^{th}	percentile	(1 st	quartile)
P ₉₀	90^{th}	percentile		

Calculated

SORTING COEFFICIENT: (Trask, 1932) Degree of Scatter

QUARTILE SKEWNESS: (Trask, 1932) Symmetry of Distribution

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

KURTOSIS: (Krumbein and Pettijohn, 1938, p. 238)

Comparison of Central Portion of Curve to Spread of Whole Curve

The above calculated statistical parameters plus median grain size are plotted uncontoured on the basemap as follows - Fig. 2: Median Grain Size; Fig. 3: Sorting Coefficient; Fig. 4: Skewness; Fig. 5: Kurtosis.

For possible further analysis and for those who prefer phi units as the grain size measure, the following statistical parameters have been calculated: Inclusive Graphic Standard Deviation (sorting coefficient), (Folk, 1965, p. 46), Inclusive Graphic Skewness (Folk, 1965, p. 47), and Graphic Kurtosis (Folk, 1965, p. 48). The above calculated statistical parameters plus phi median grain size are plotted uncontoured on the basemap as follows - Fig. 6: Phi Median Grain Size; Fig. 7: Inclusive Graphic Standard Deviation; Fig. 8: Inclusive Graphic Skewness; and Fig. 9: Graphic Kurtosis.

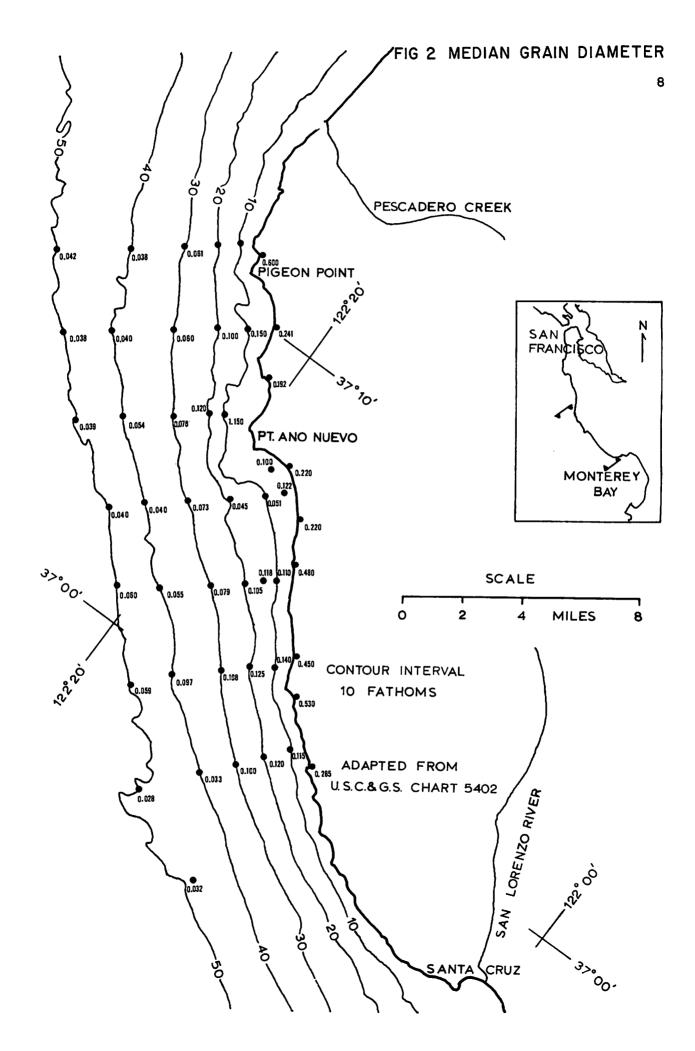
 $s_0 = \sqrt{Q_{25}/Q_{75}}$

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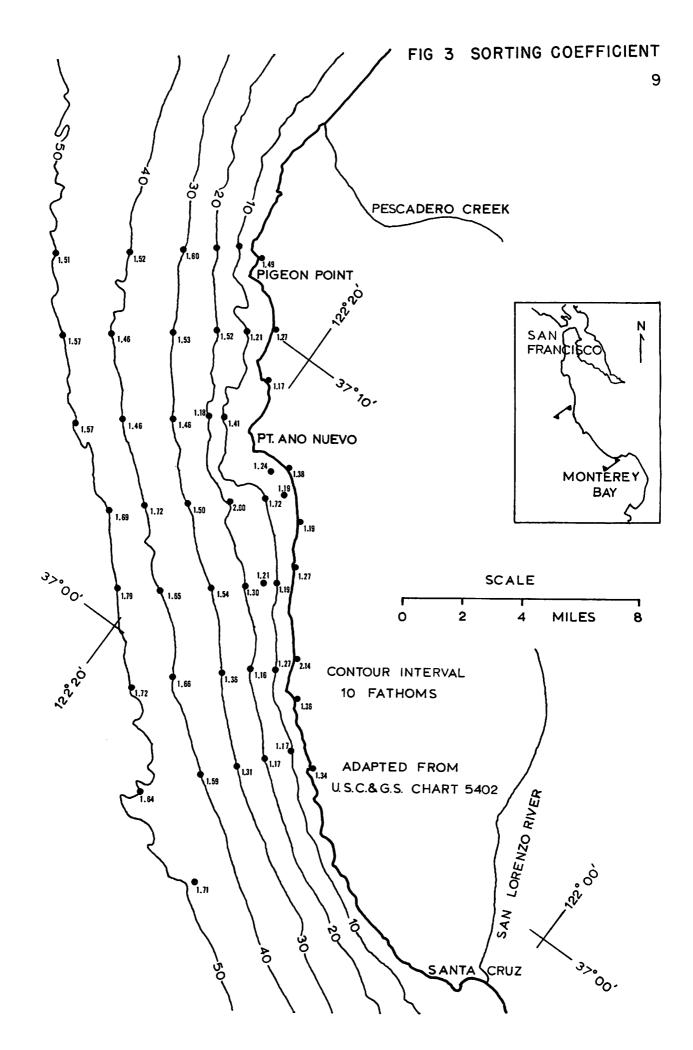
 $K = \frac{Q_{25} - Q_{75}}{2(P_{10} - P_{90})}$



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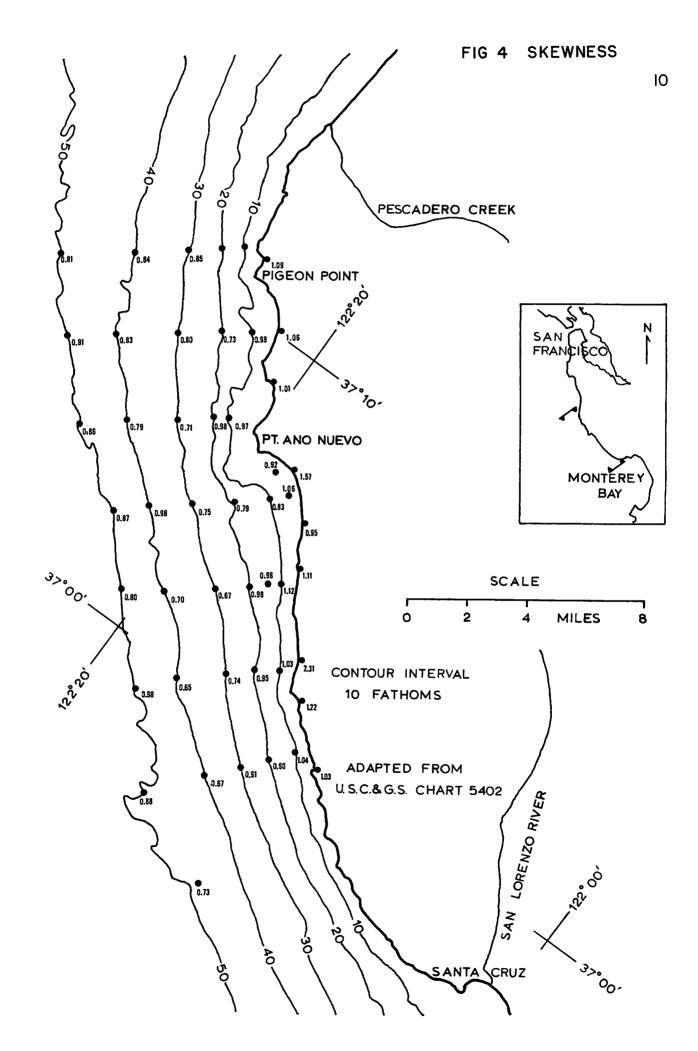
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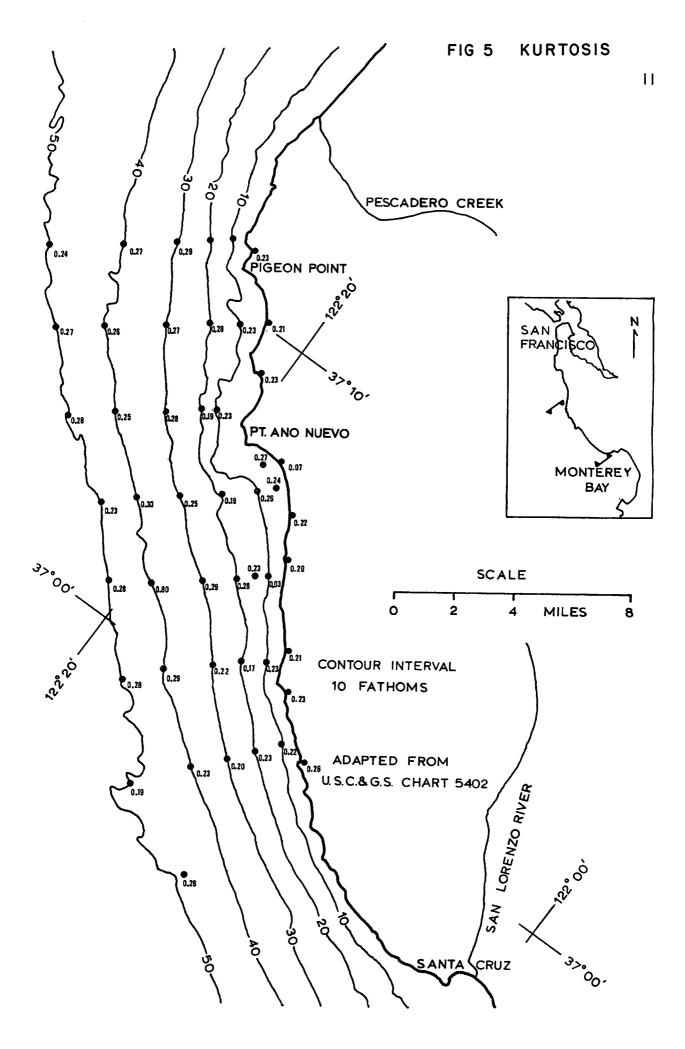
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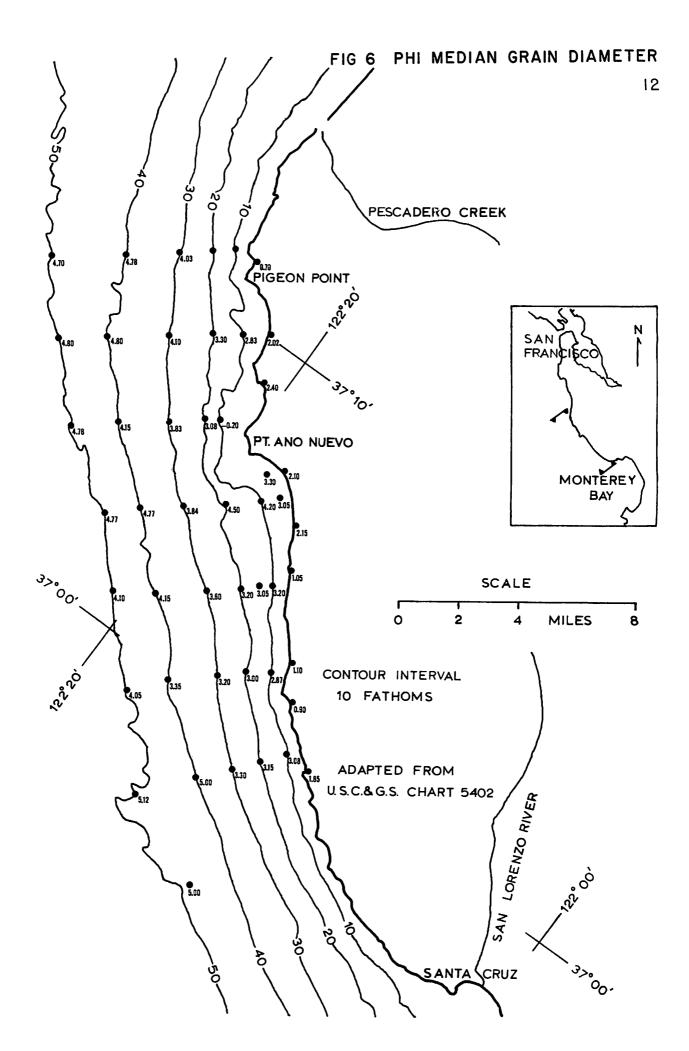
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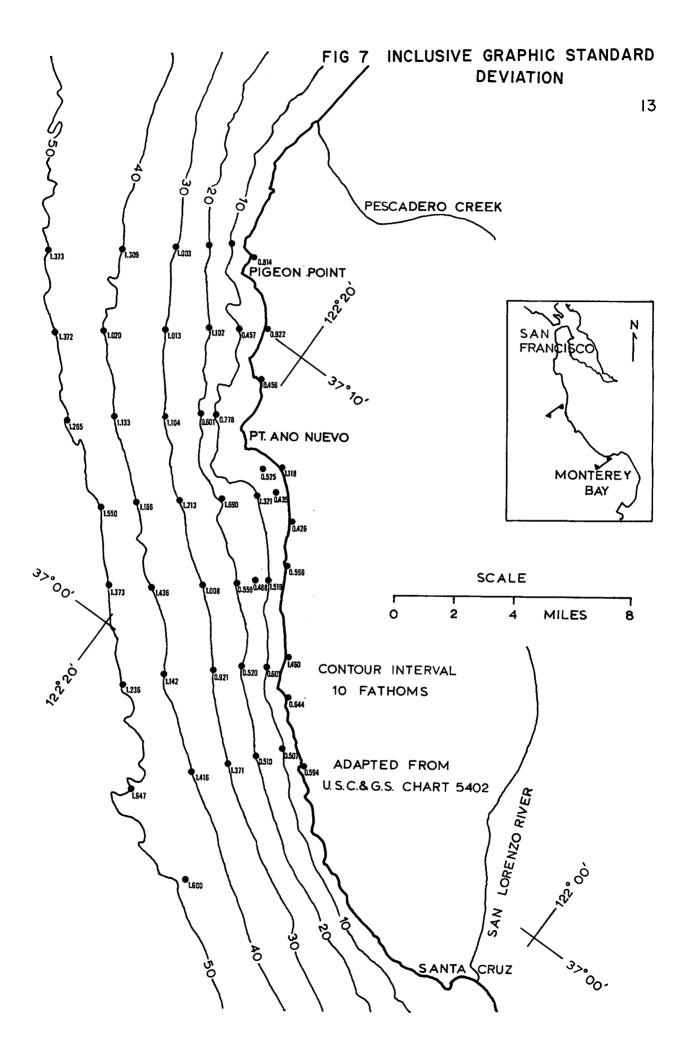
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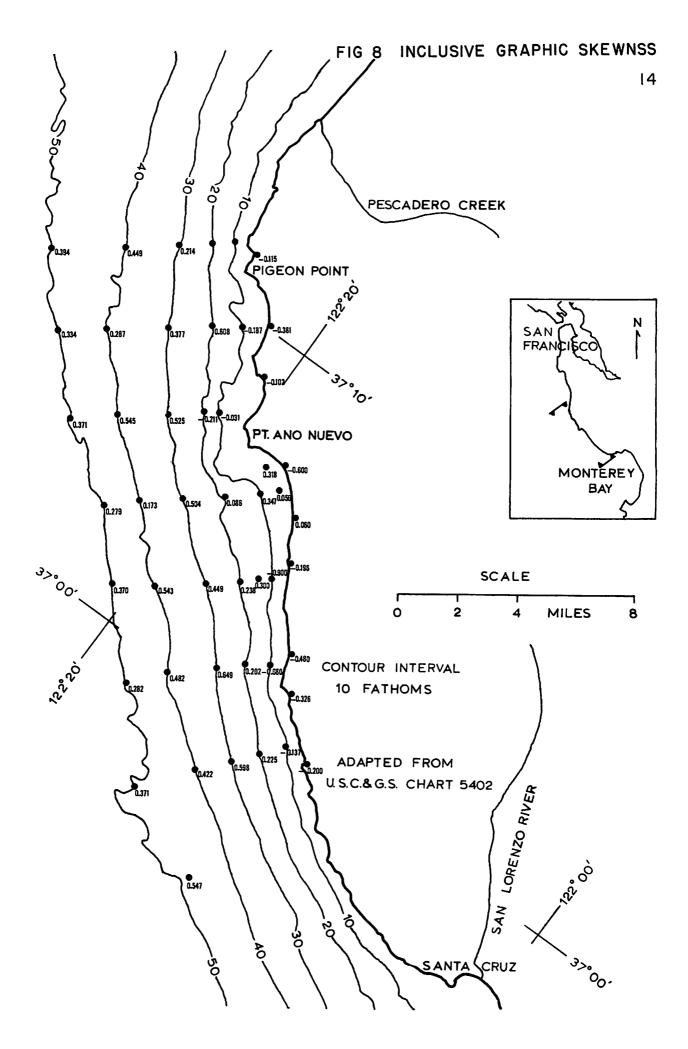


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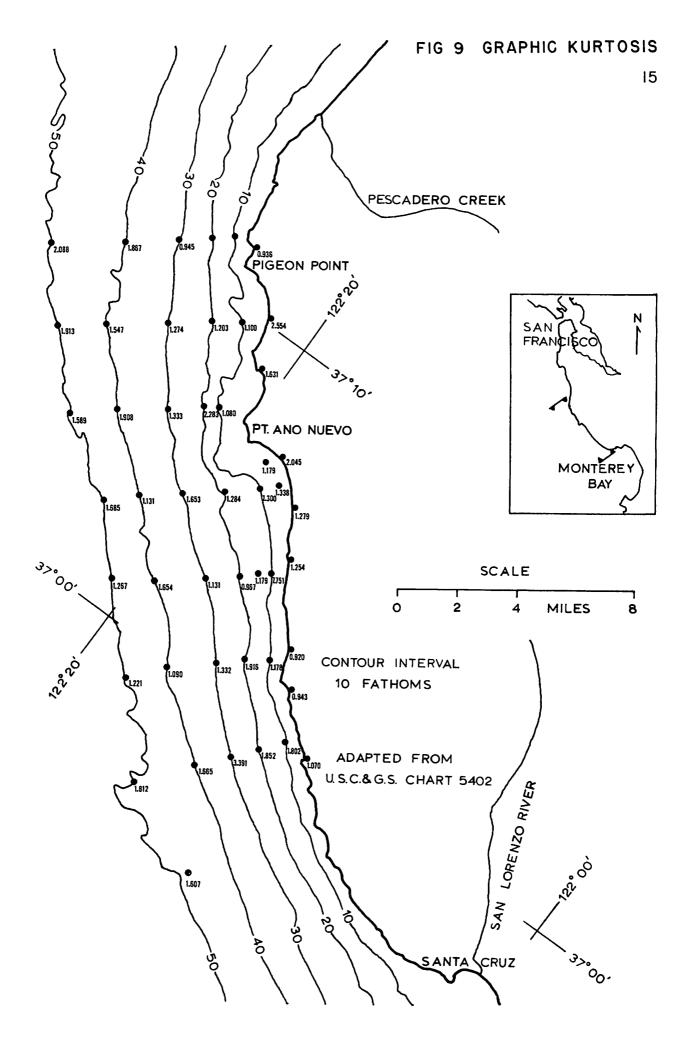
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References

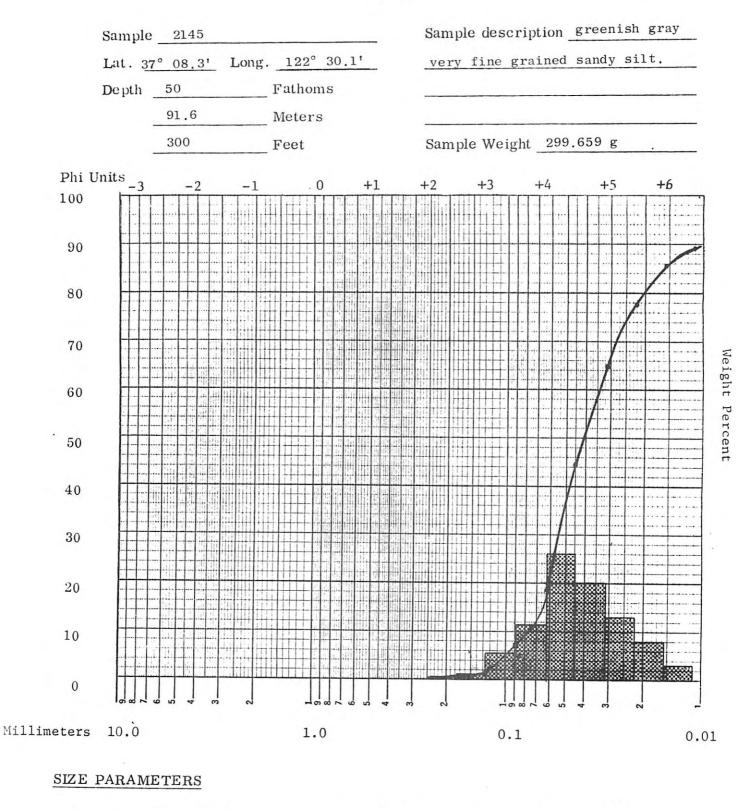
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- Krumbein, W. C. and Pettijohn, F. J., 1938, Manual of Sedimentary Petrography: New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 549 p.
- Sayles, F. L., 1965, Coastal Sedimentation: Point San Pedro to Miramontes Point, California: University of California, Berkeley, Hyd. Eng. Lab., HEL-2-15, 105 p.
- Trask, P. D., 1932, Origin and Environment of Source Sediments of Petroleum: Houston, Gulf Publishing Co., 67 p.
- Wilde, P., Holden J., and Isselhardt, C., 1970, Non-Destructive Wet Weighing of Marine Sediments: Marine Geology, v. 8, pp. 173-178.

SIZE ANALYSIS

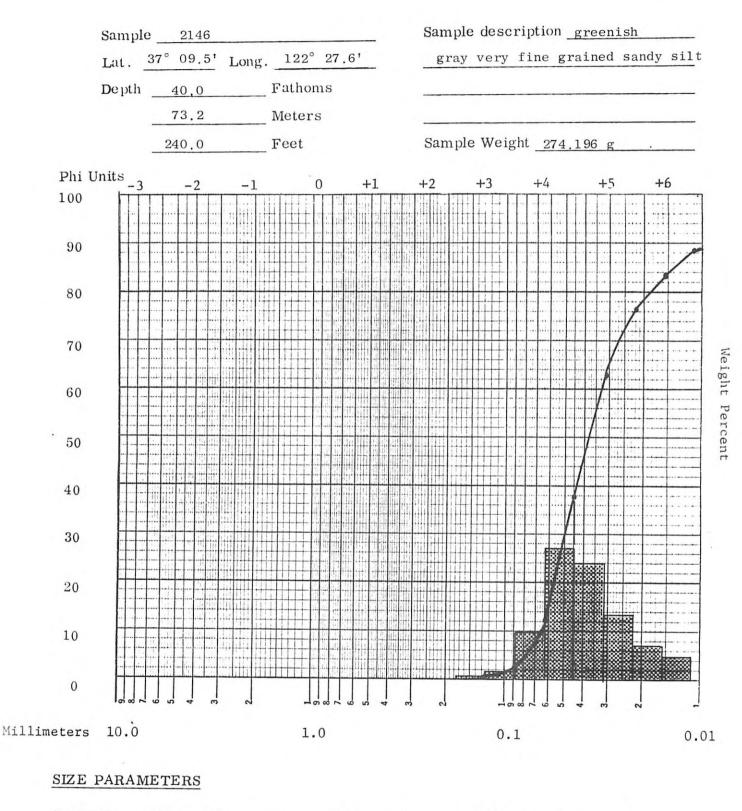


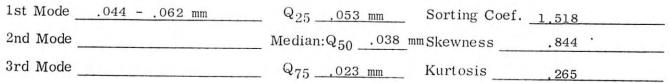
 1st Mode ______ 044 - .062 mm
 Q_{25} .057 mm
 Sorting Coef. 1.51

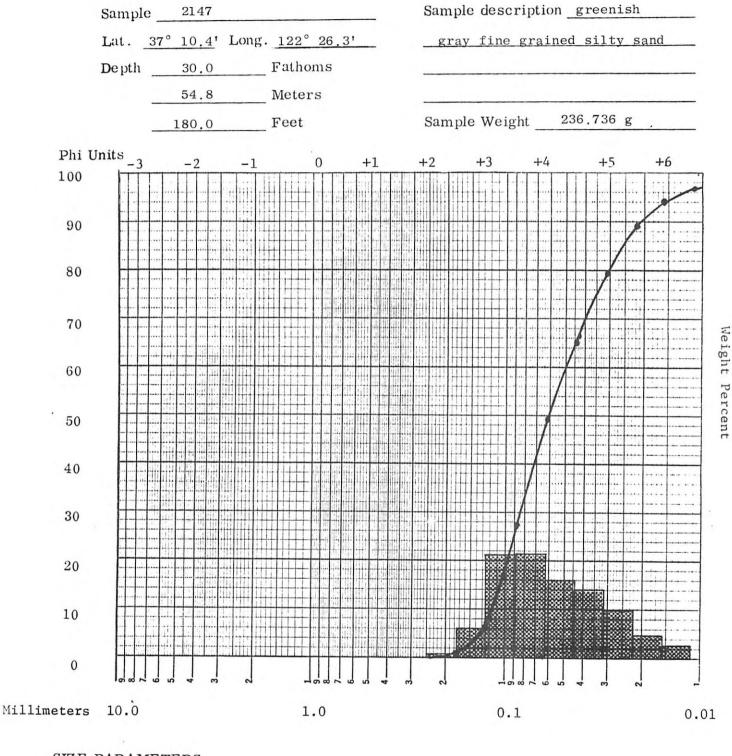
 2nd Mode ______ Median: Q_{50} .042 mm
 Skewness ______ .808 ·

 3rd Mode ______ Q_{75} .025 mm
 Kurtosis ______ .235

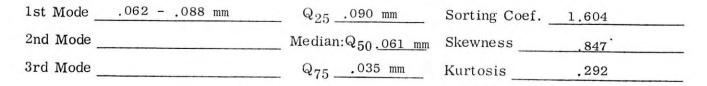
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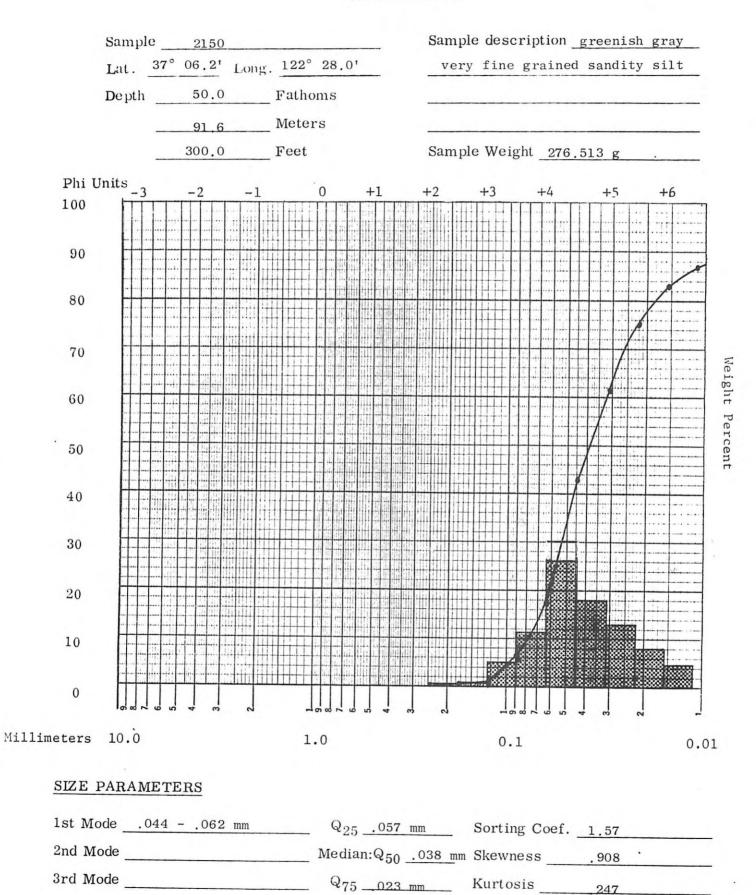


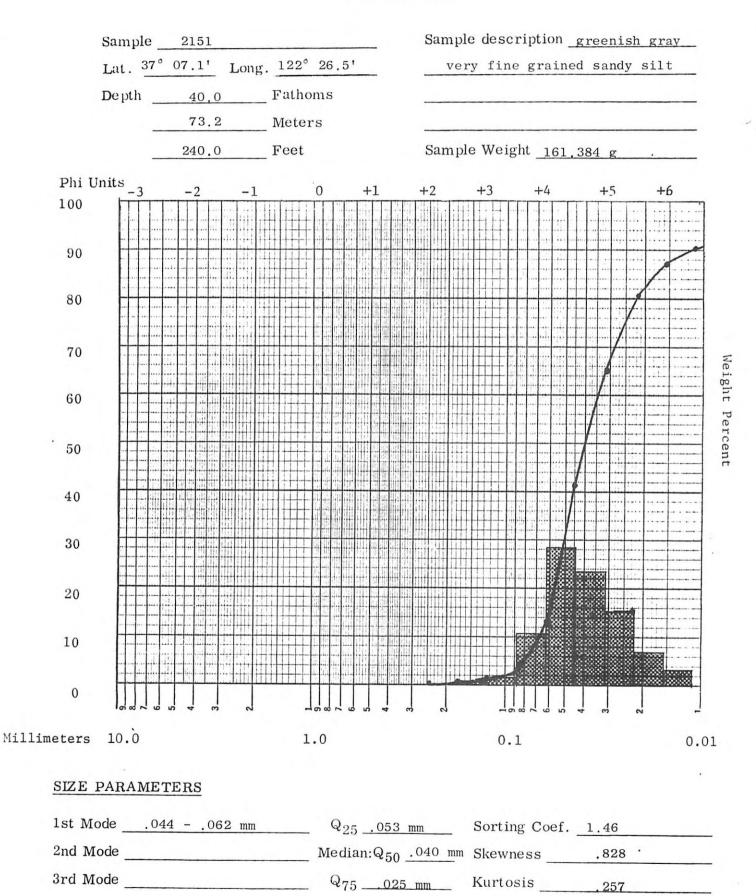


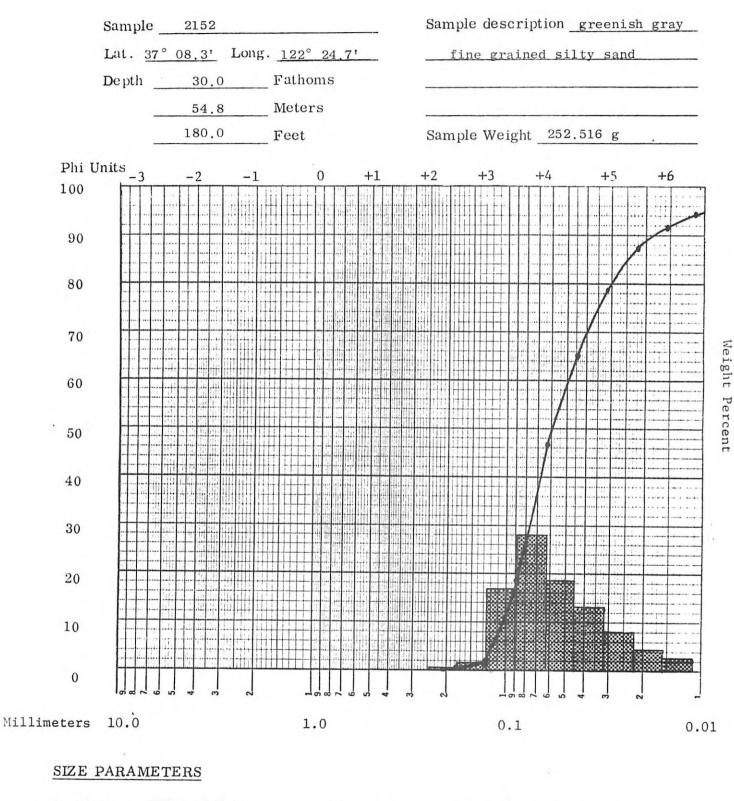


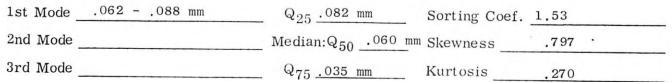
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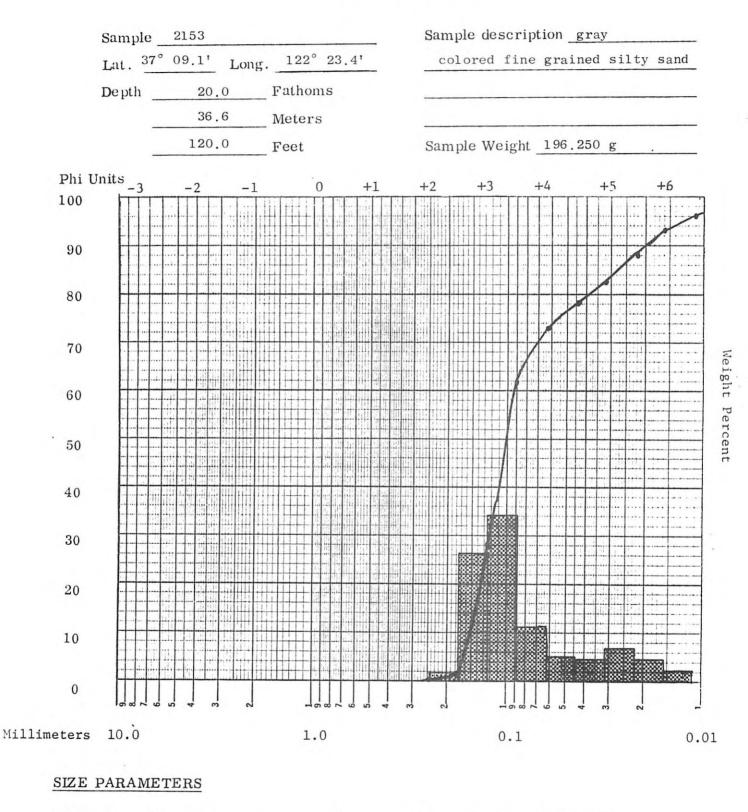


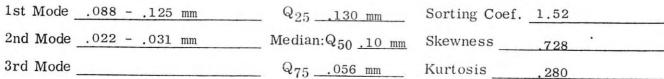


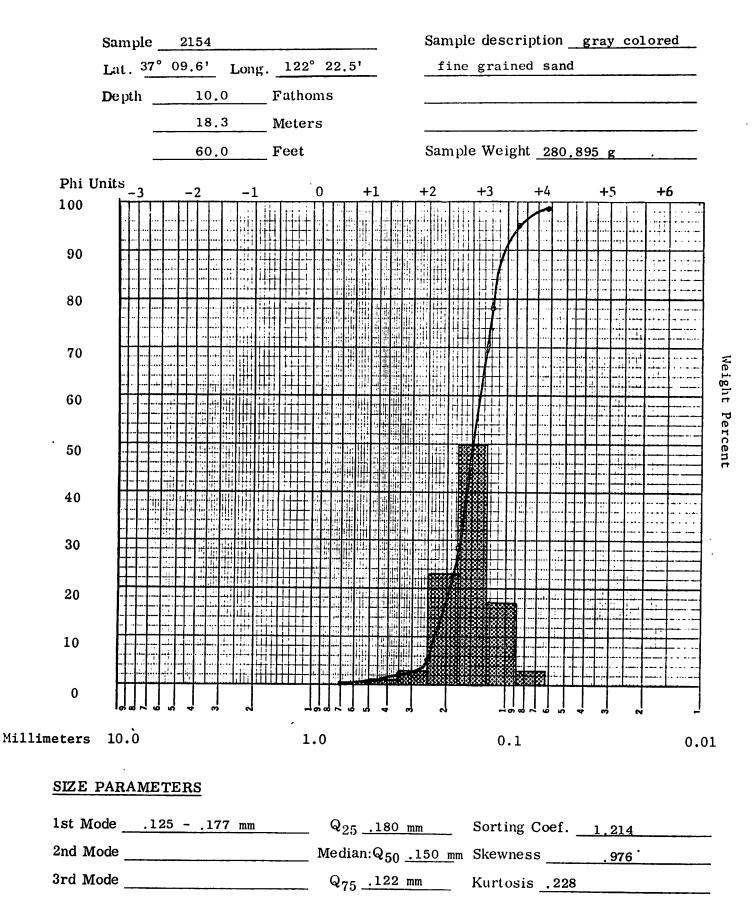


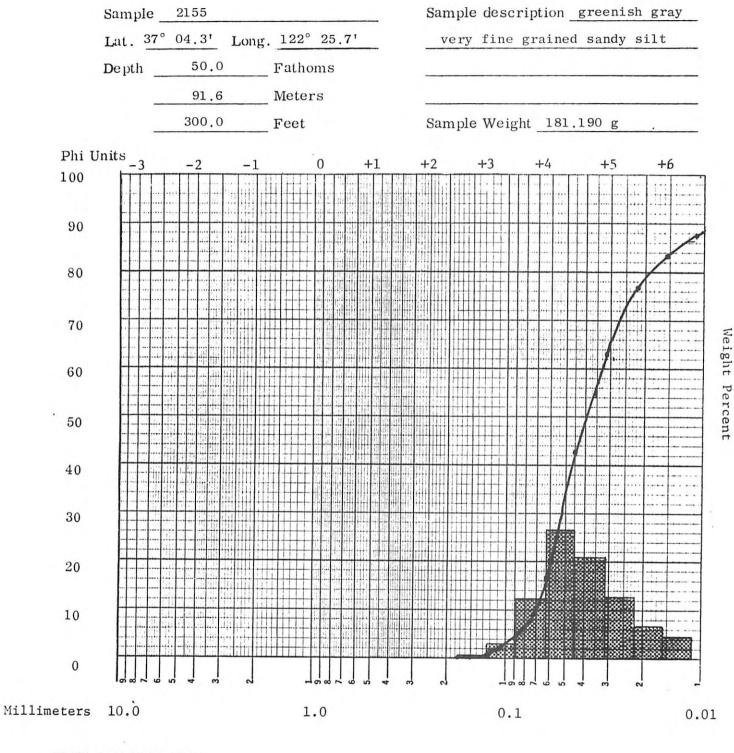






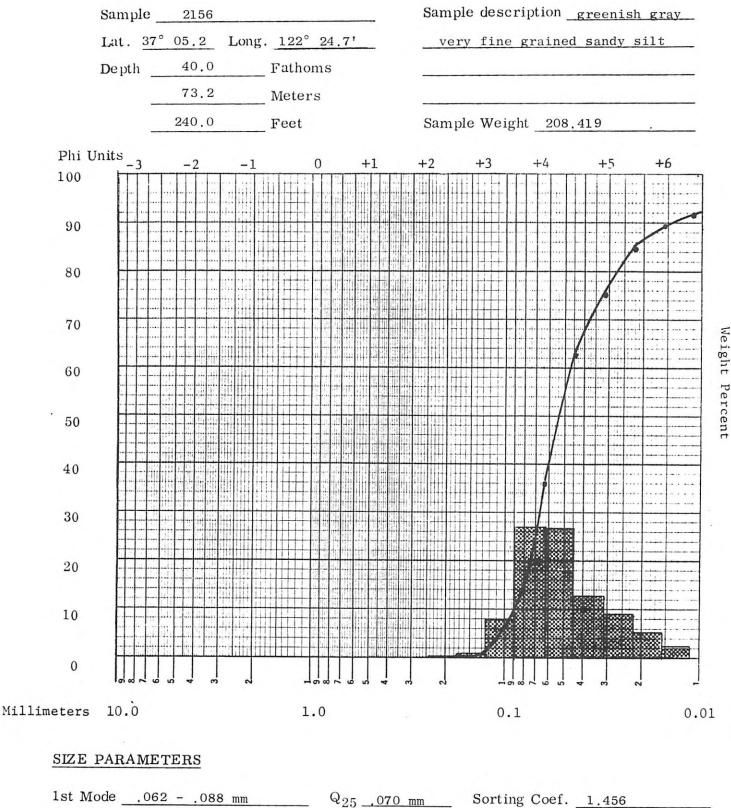






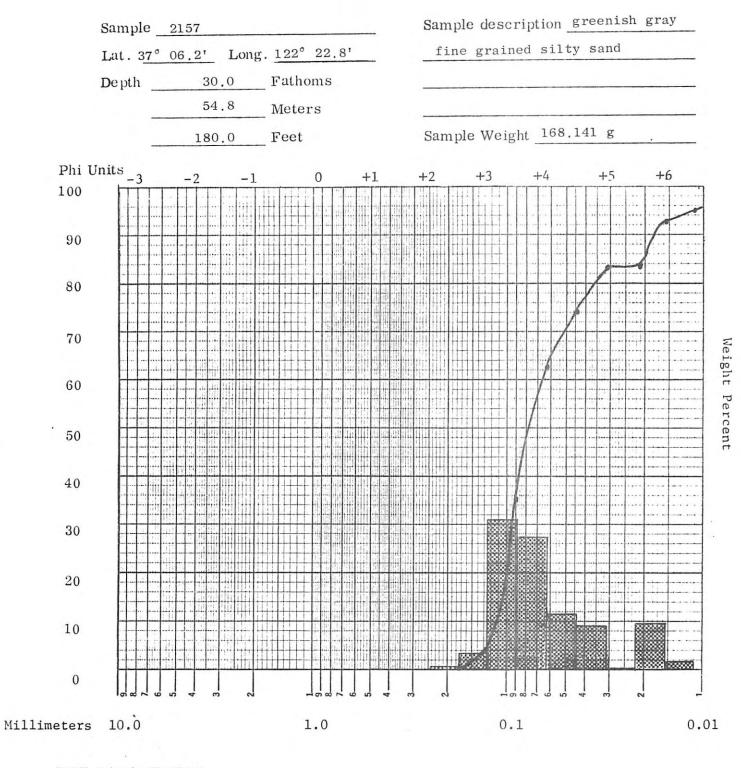
SIZE PARAMETERS

1st Mode	.044062 mm	Q ₂₅ _	.057	mm	Sorting Coef.	1.574	
2nd Mode		Median	:Q ₅₀	.039 mm	Skewness	.862	·
3rd Mode		Q ₇₅ _	.023	3 mm	Kurtosis	.276	



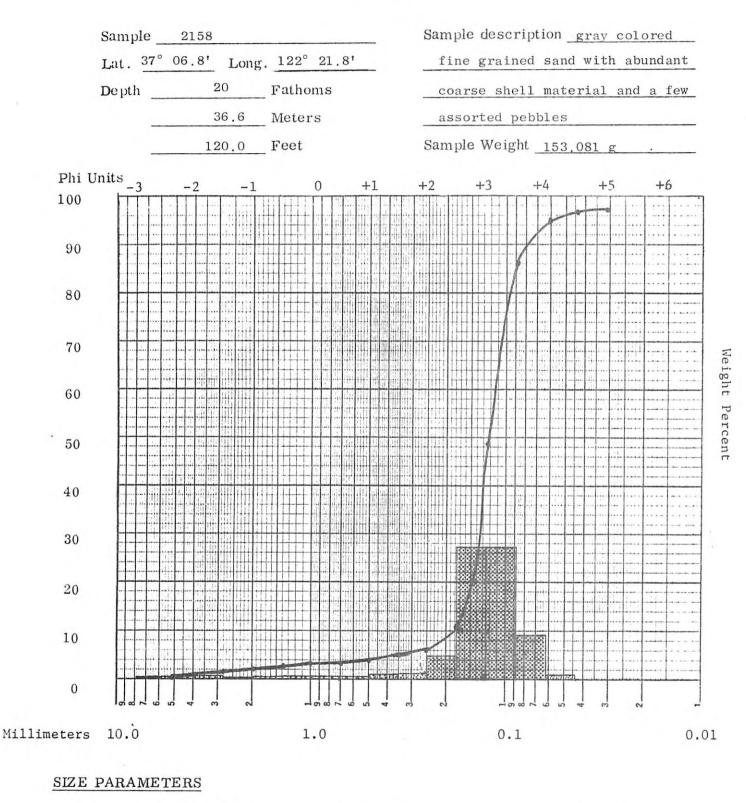
 2nd Mode ______
 Median: Q_{50} .054 mm Skewness ______

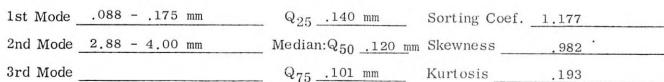
 3rd Mode ______
 Q_{75} .033 mm Kurtosis ______

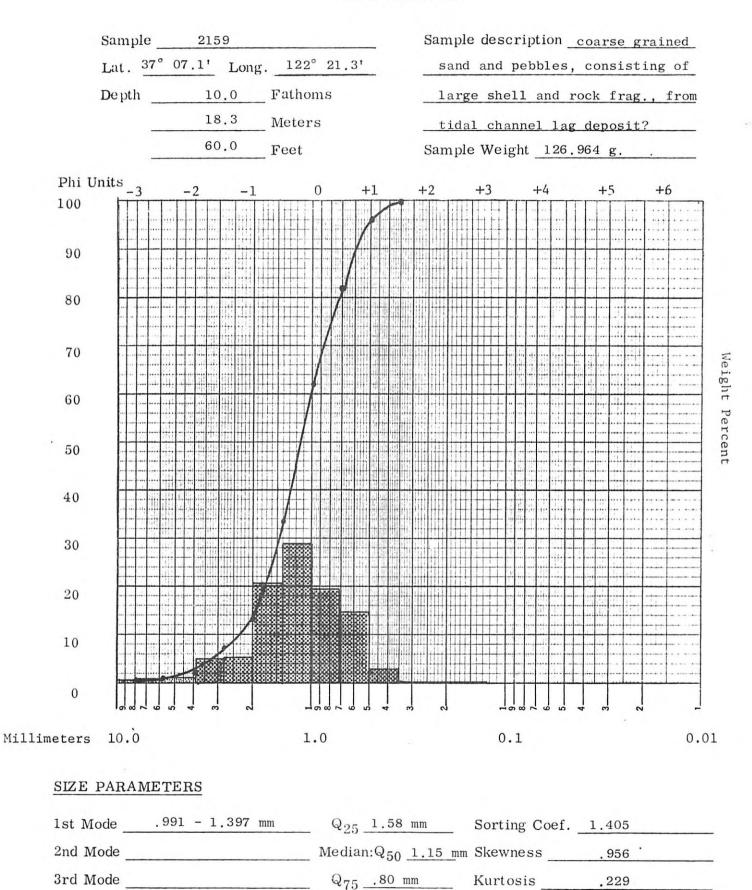


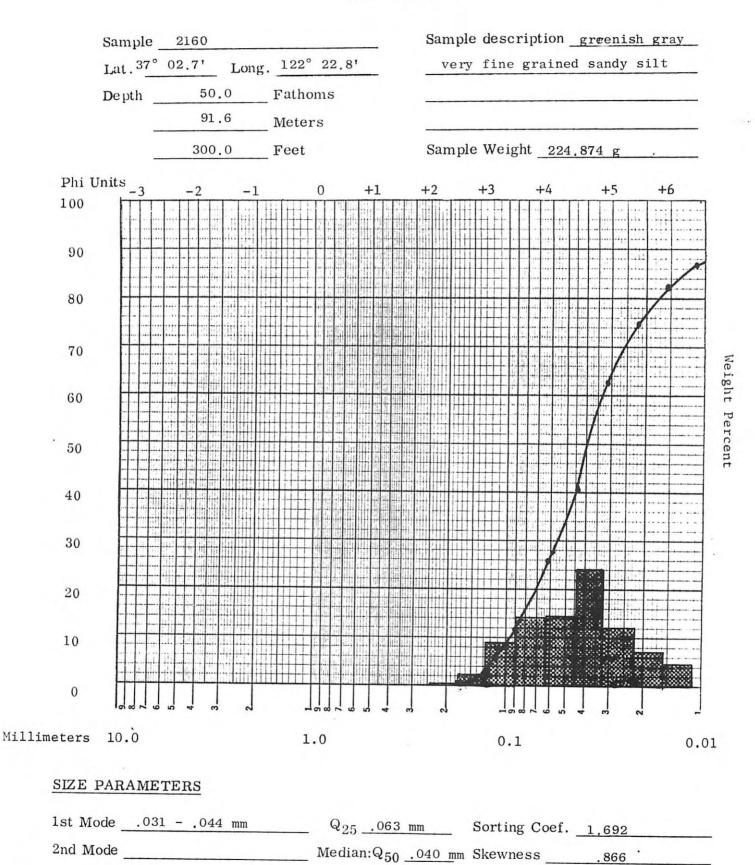
SIZE PARAMETERS

1st Mode _	.088125 mm	Q_25096 mm	Sorting Coef.	1.460	_
2nd Mode	.0156022 mm	Median:Q ₅₀ 078_mm	Skewness	.710 .	_
3rd Mode		Q ₇₅ 045 mm	Kurtosis	. 277	_

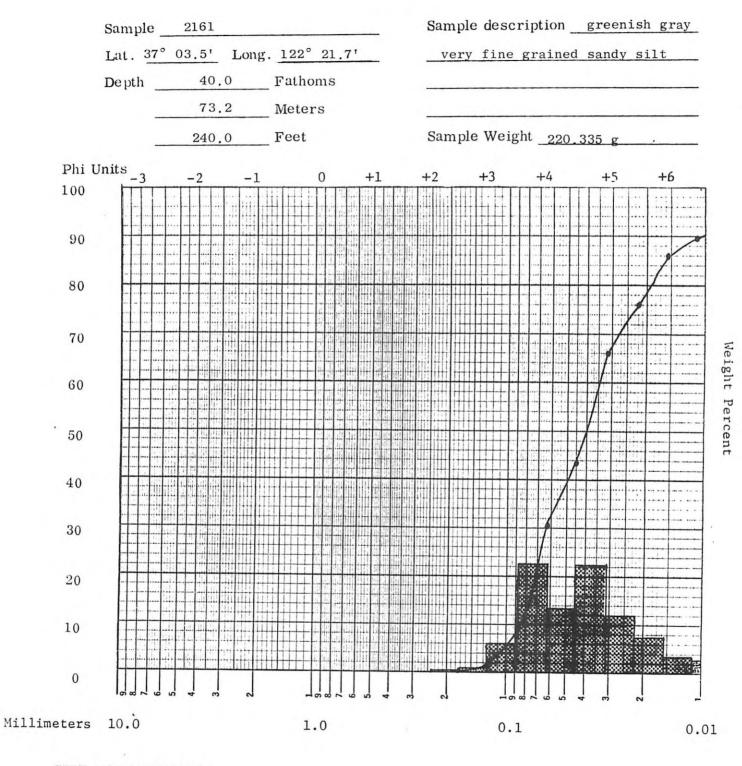






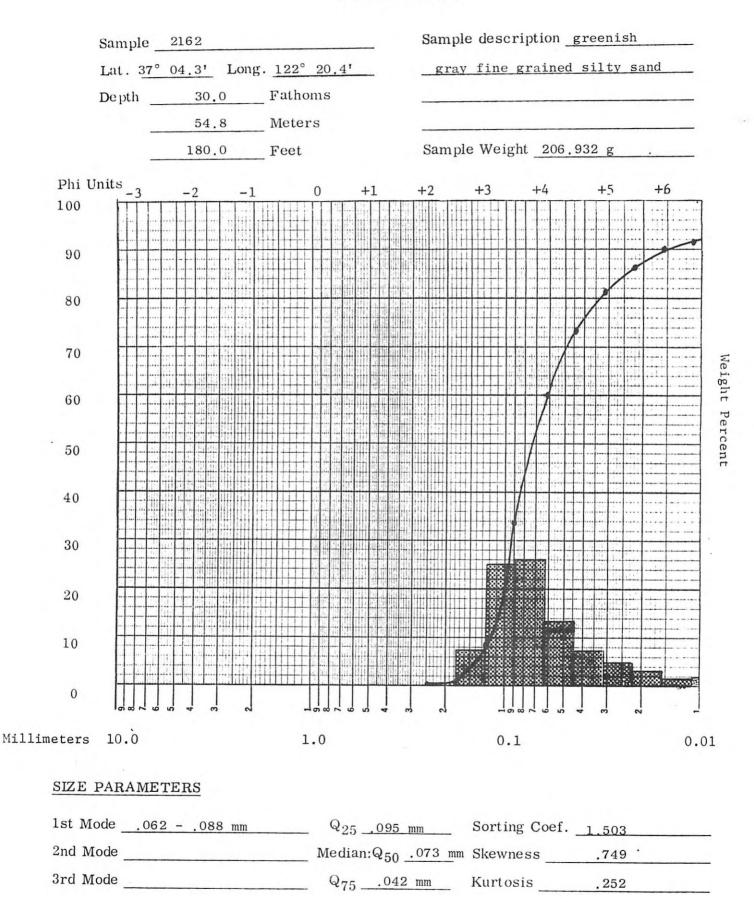


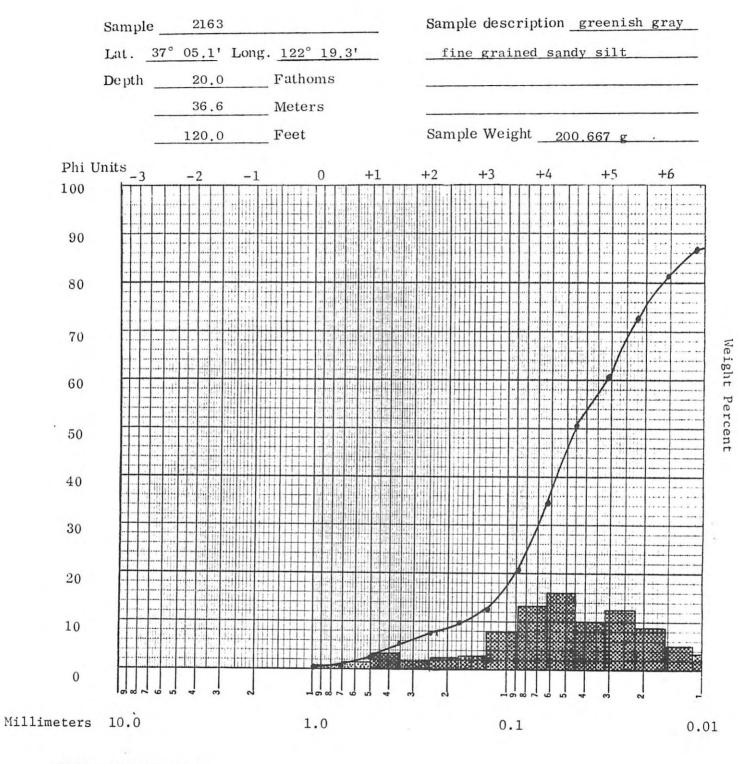
3rd Mode ______ Q₇₅ __.022 mm Kurtosis ____.233



SIZE PARAMETERS

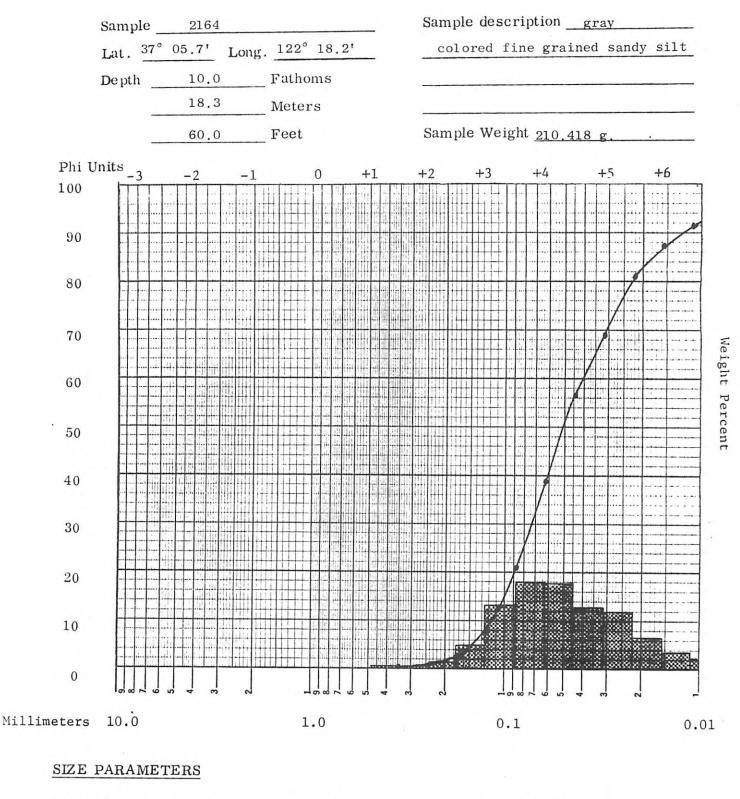
1st Mode _	.062088 mm	Q ₂₅ .068 mm	Sorting Coef.	1,719	
2nd Mode _	.031044 mm	Median:Q50040 mm	Skewness	. 977 [`]	
3rd Mode _		Q75023 mm	Kurtosis	,302	

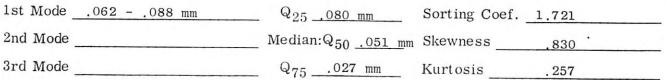


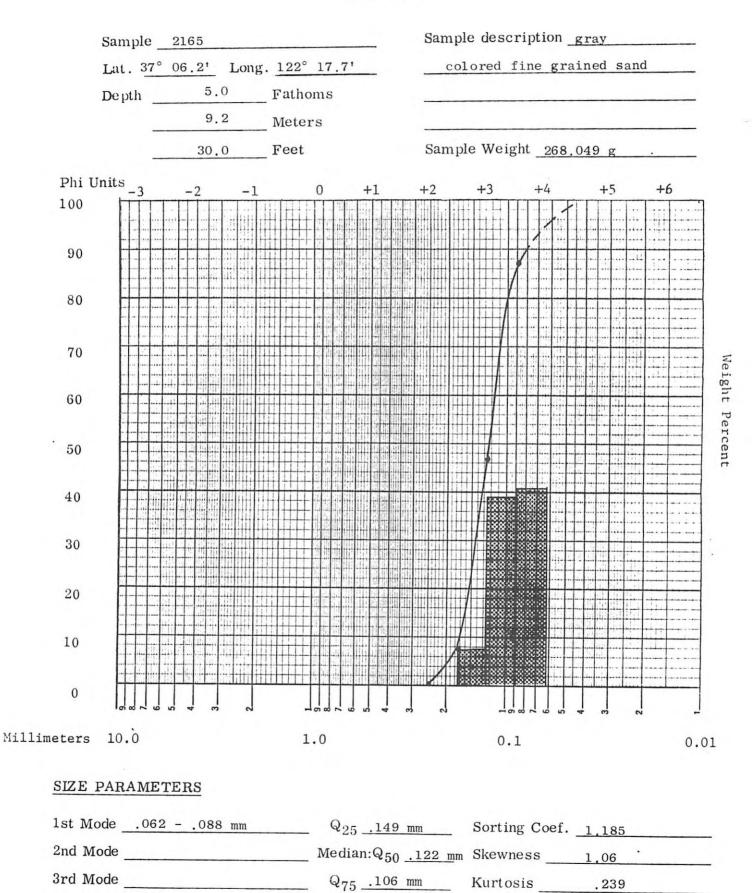


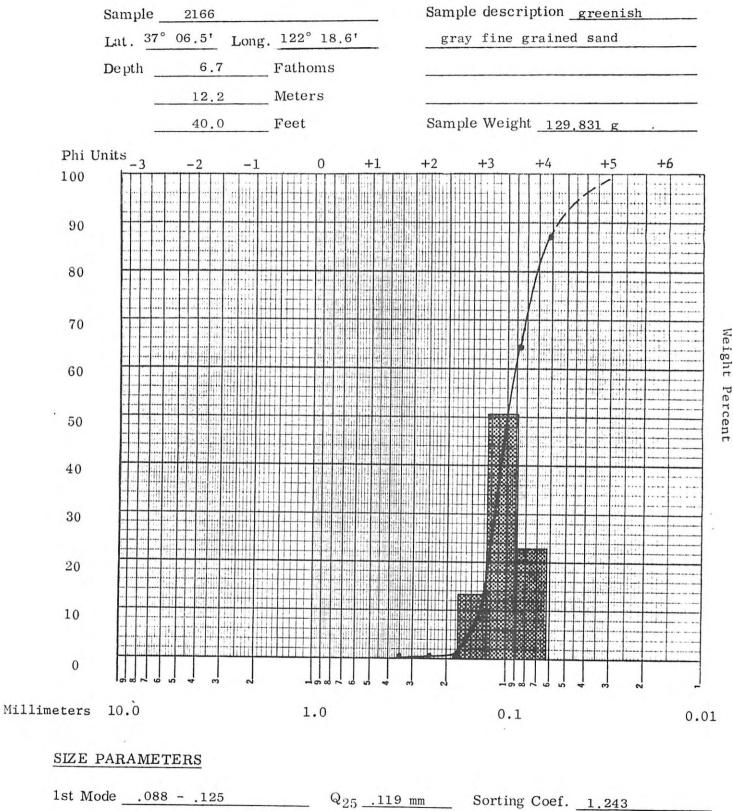
SIZE PARAMETERS

1st Mode	.044 -	.062	mm	Q ₂₅ .080 mm	Sorting Coef.	2.000
2nd Mode	.022 -	.031	mm	Median:Q ₅₀ <u>.045 mm</u>	Skewness	.790
3rd Mode	.351 -	.495	mm	Q75020 mm	Kurtosis	.192





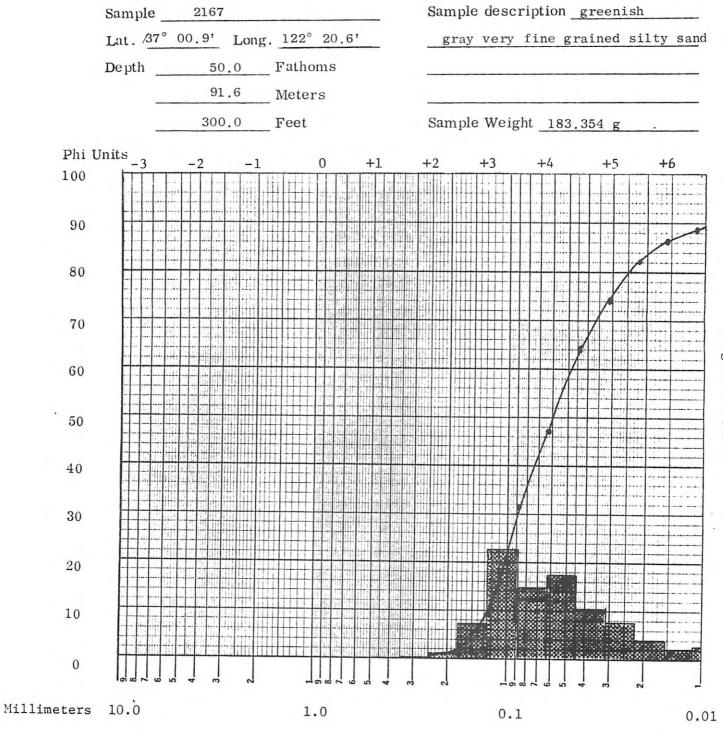




 2nd Mode ______
 .125 ______
 Q25 __.119 mm ______
 Sorting Coef. __1.243 _____

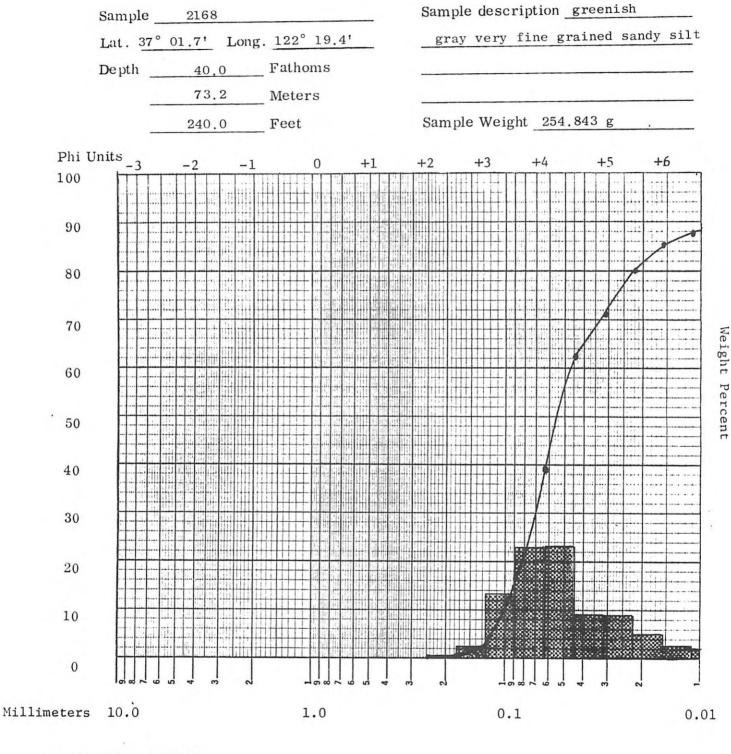
 2nd Mode ______
 Median:Q50 _.100 mm Skewness ______
 .916 `______

 3rd Mode ______
 Q75 _.077 mm _____
 Kurtosis _______
 .269 ______

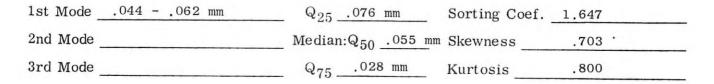


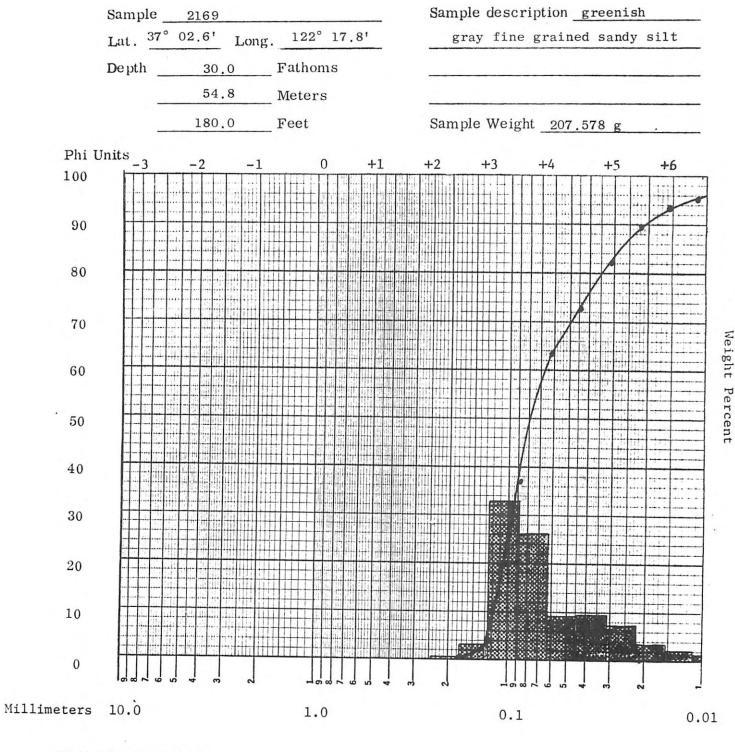
1st Mode _	.088125 mm	Q ₂₅ 096 mm	Sorting Coef.	1.788
2nd Mode	.044062 mm	Median:Q ₅₀ .060 mm	Skewness	.800 .
3rd Mode	.008011 mm	Q ₇₅ .030 mm	Kurtosis	.284

Weight Percent

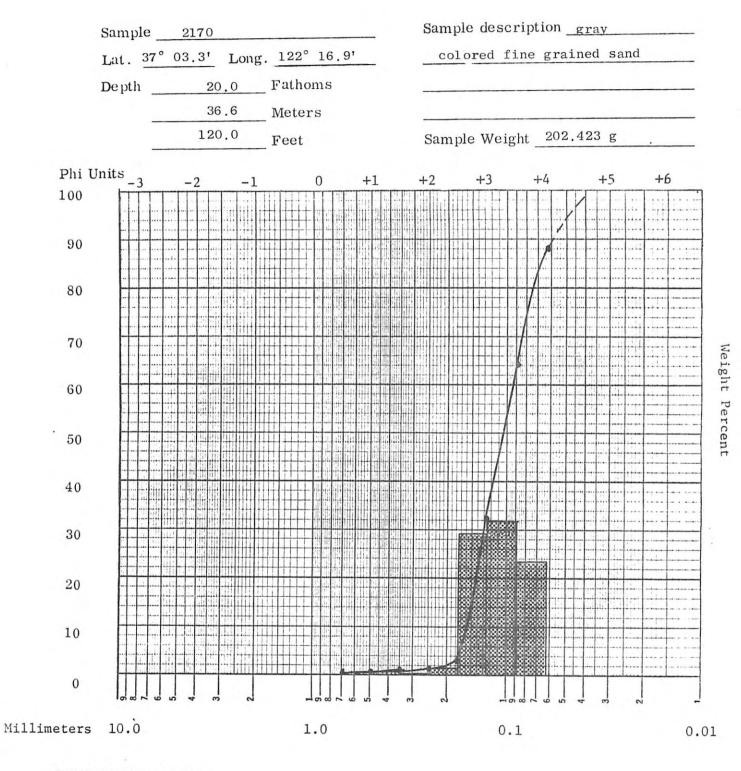




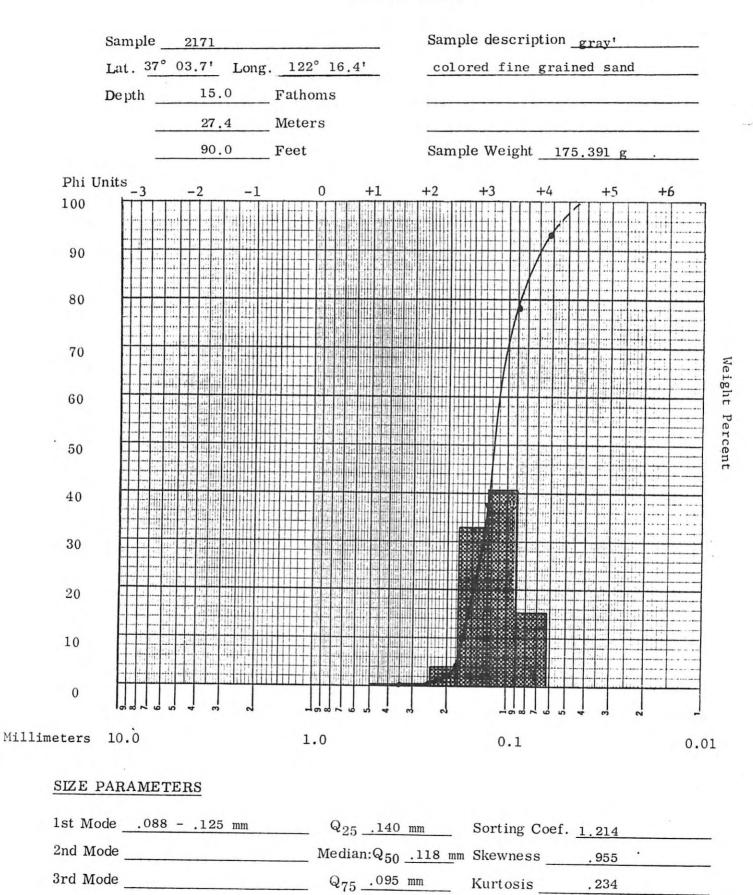


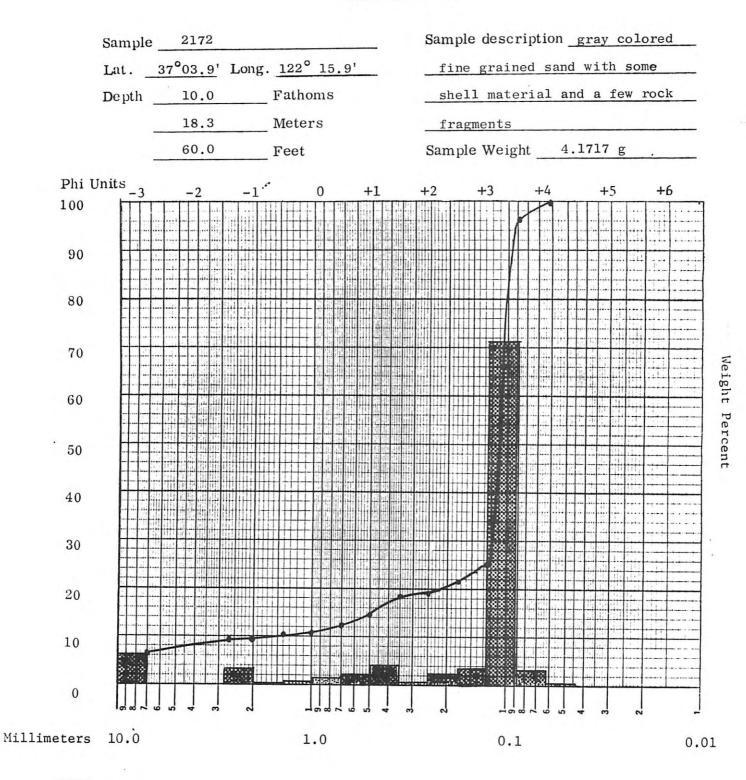


1st Mode _	.088125 mm	Q ₂₅ 100 mm	Sorting Coef.	1.543	
2nd Mode	.031044 mm	Median:Q ₅₀ 079 mm	Skewness	.673 .	
3rd Mode		Q75042 mm	Kurtosis	.293	

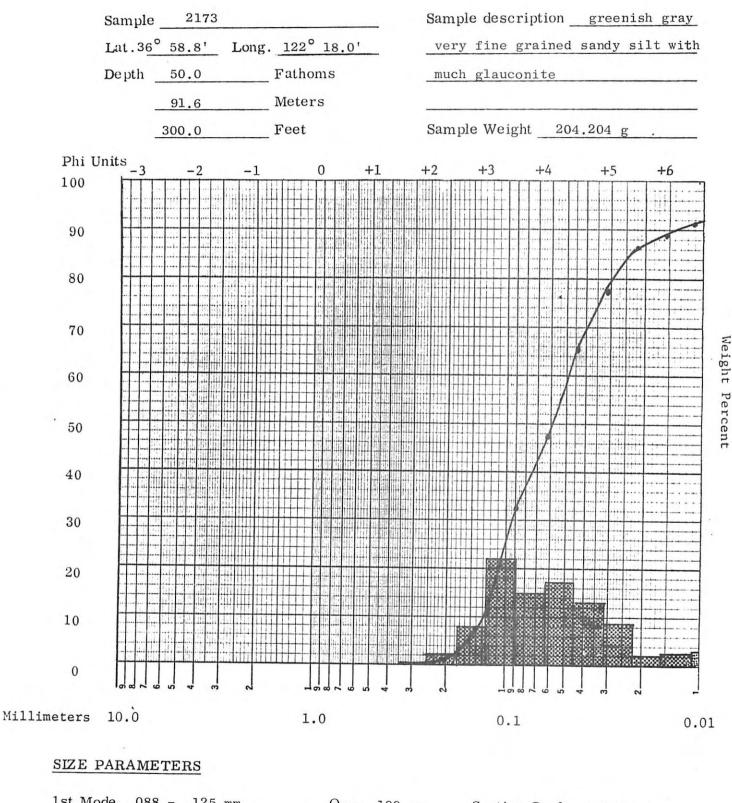


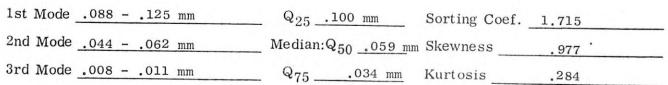
1st Mode _	.088125 mm	Q ₂₅ 135 mm	Sorting Coef.	1.300
2nd Mode _	.351495 mm	Median: Q ₅₀ .105 mm	Skewness	.976 .
3rd Mode		Q75080 mm	Kurtosis	. 275

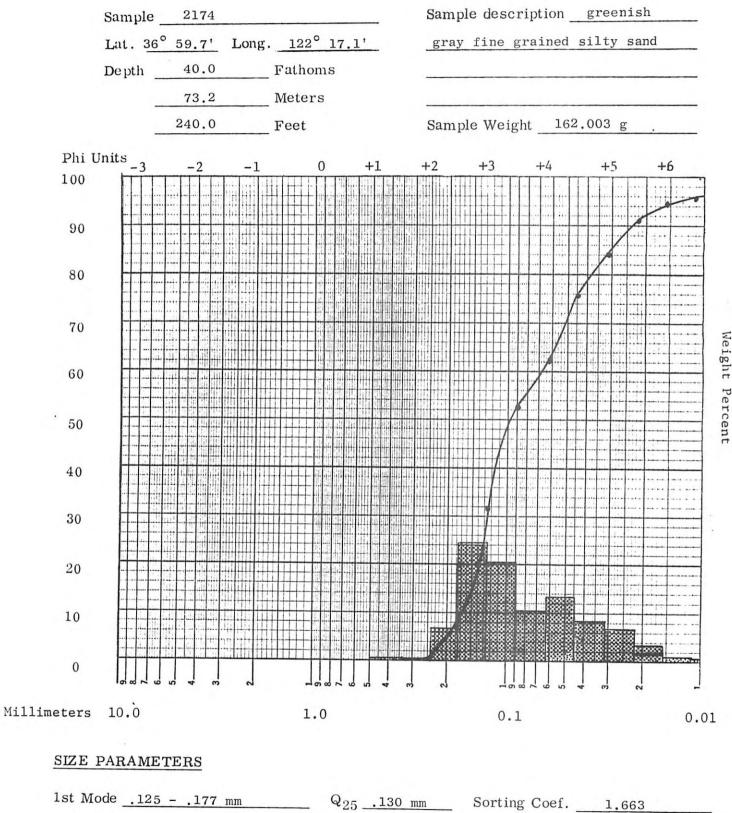




1st Mode	.088	-	.125	mm	Q ₂₅ 130 mm	Sorting Coef.	1.118
2nd Mode	7.0	-	10.0	mm	Median:Q50 .110 mm	Skewness	1.117
3rd Mode	.351	-	.495	mm	Q ₇₅ 104 mm	Kurtosis	.033



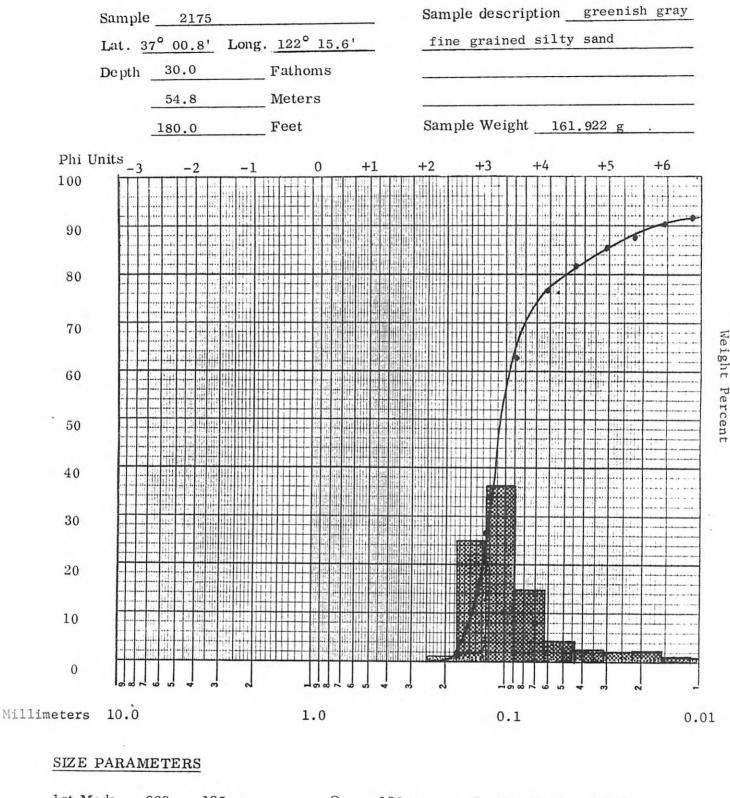


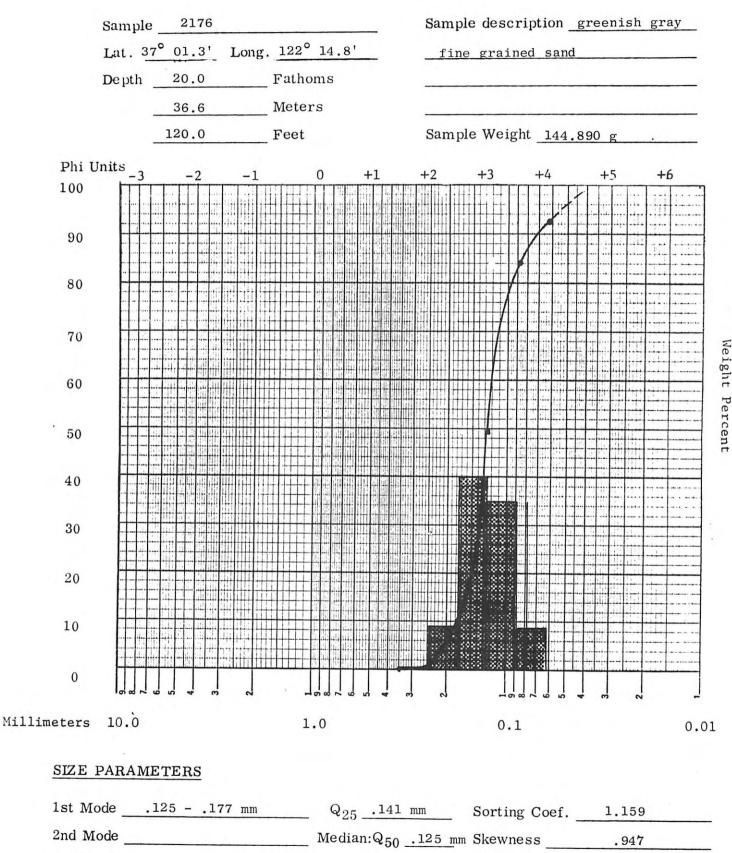


 Ist Mode
 .125 - .177 mm
 Q_{25} .130 mm
 Sorting Coef.
 1.663

 2nd Mode
 .044 - .062 mm
 Median: Q_{50} .097 mm Skewness
 .649

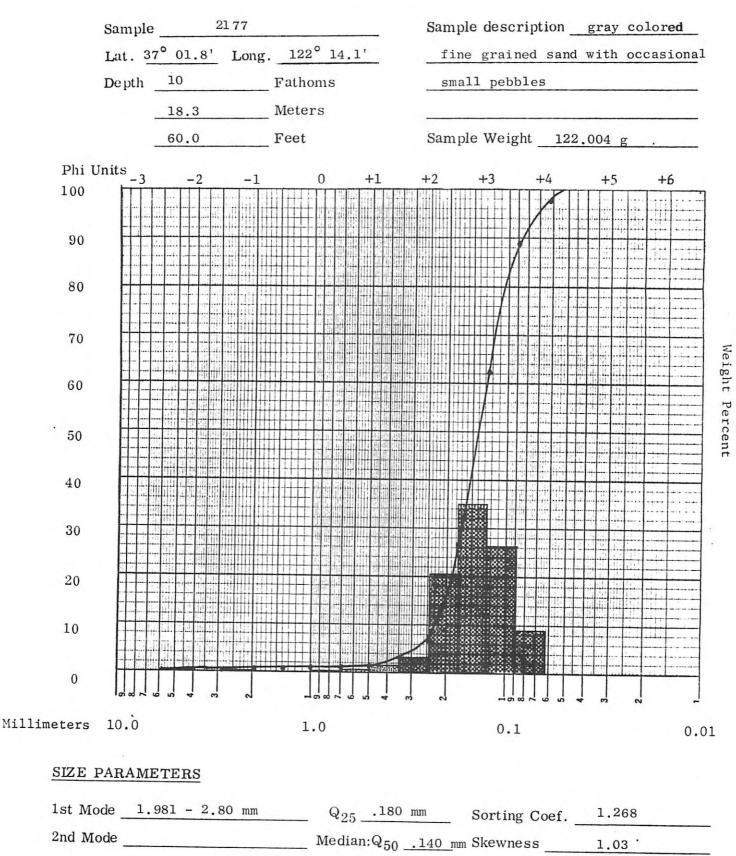
 3rd Mode
 .047 mm
 Kurtosis
 .287



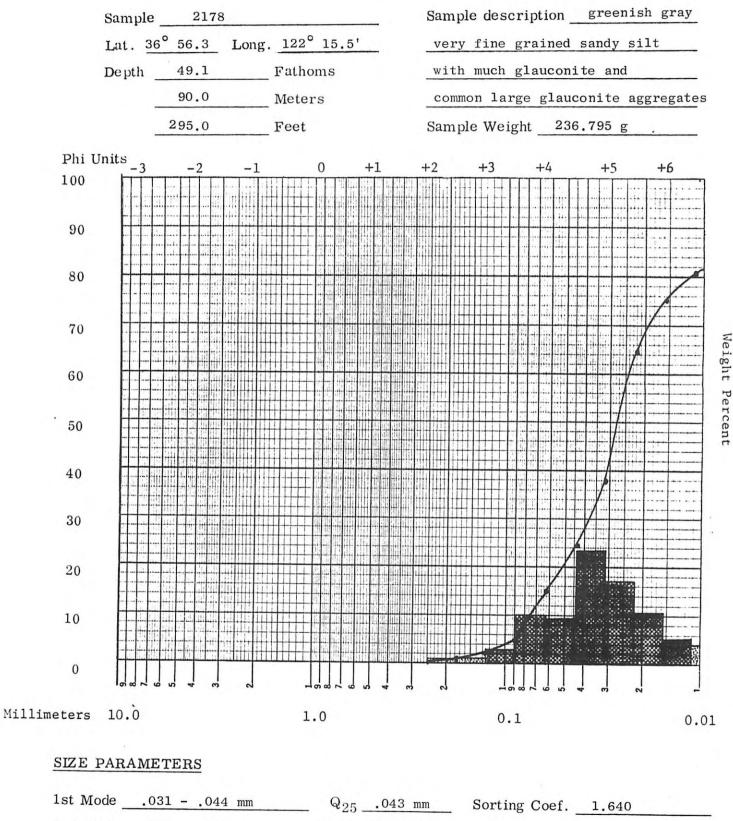


Kurtosis .165

3rd Mode ______ Q₇₅ __.105 mm



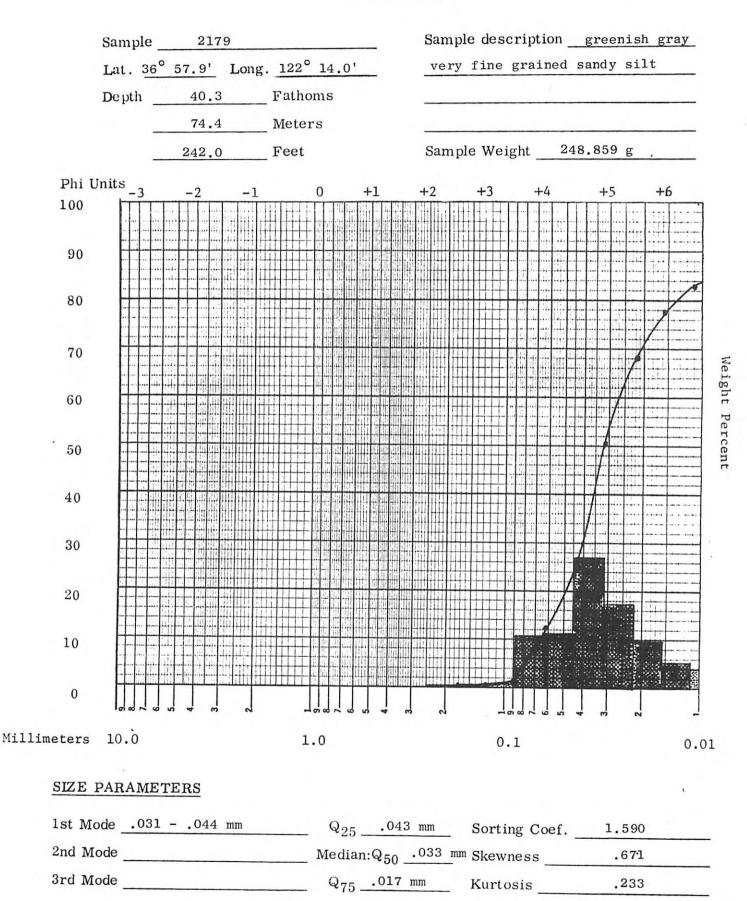
3rd Mode ______ Q₇₅ <u>.112 mm</u> Kurtosis ___.234

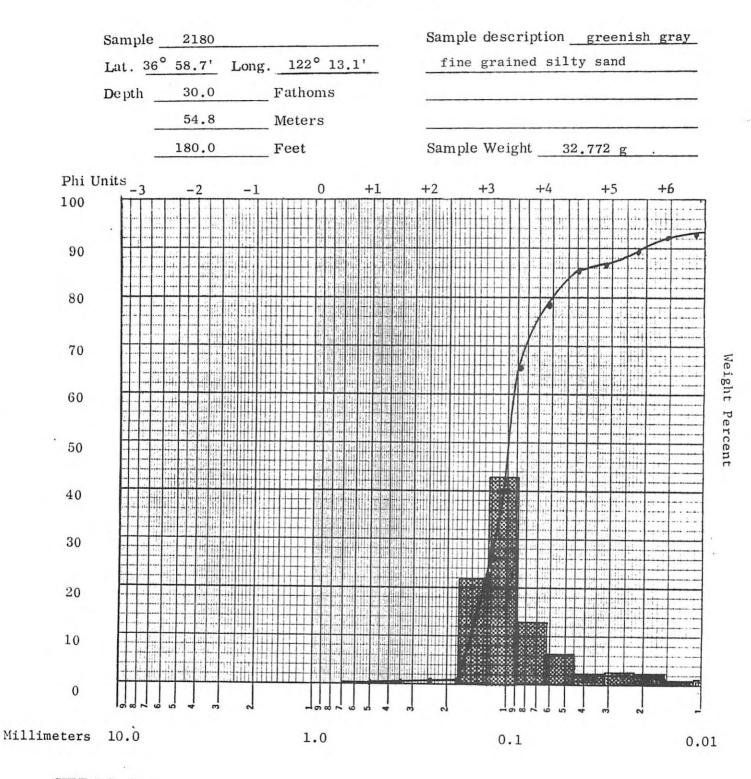


 2nd Mode
 .062 - .088 mm
 Median: Q_{50} .028 mm
 Sorting Coef. 1.640

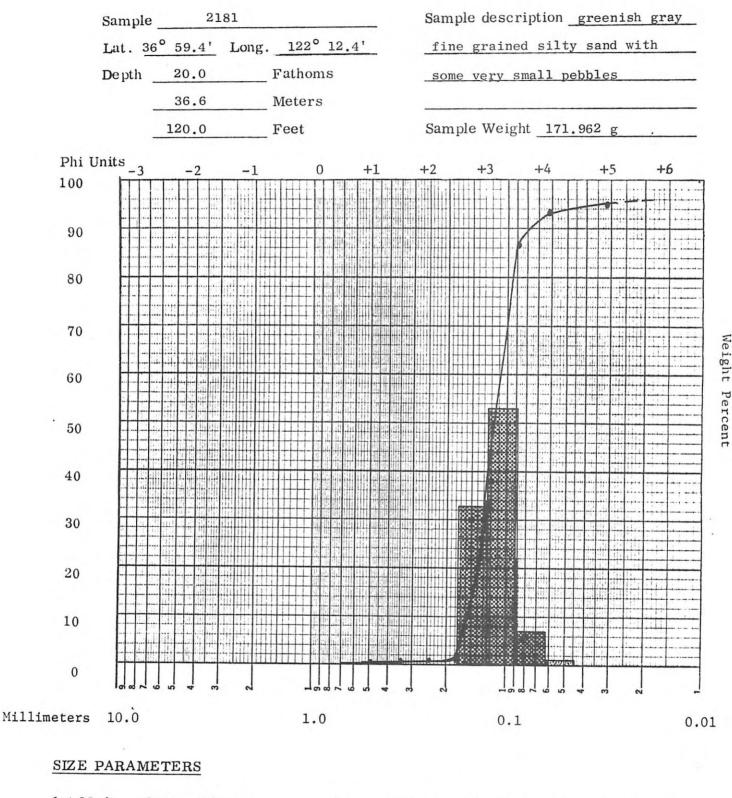
 2nd Mode
 .062 - .088 mm
 Median: Q_{50} .028 mm
 Skewness
 .878 ·

 3rd Mode
 .075 .016 mm
 Kurtosis
 .190





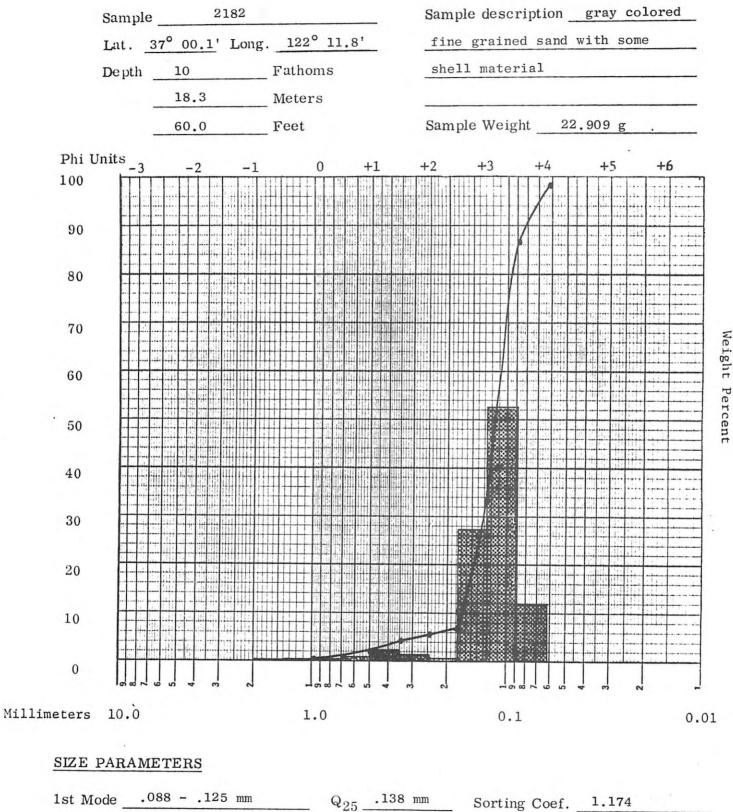
1st Mode	.08812	5 mm	Q ₂₅ 125 mm	Sorting Coef.	1.309
2nd Mode	.02203	1 mm	Median:Q ₅₀ 100 mm	Skewness	.913
3rd Mode _	.35149	5 mm	Q75073 mm	Kurtosis	.202



 1st Mode
 .088 - .125 mm
 Q_{25} .133 mm
 Sorting Coef.
 1.171

 2nd Mode
 .351 - .495 mm
 Median: Q_{50} .120 mm Skewness
 .896'

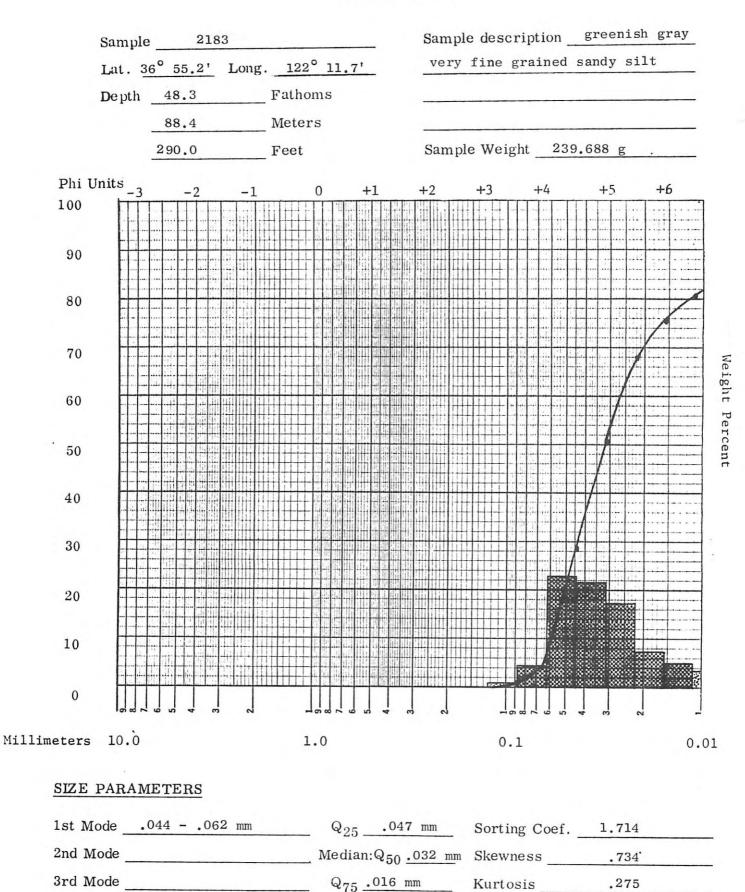
 3rd Mode
 Q_{75} .097 mm
 Kurtosis
 .225

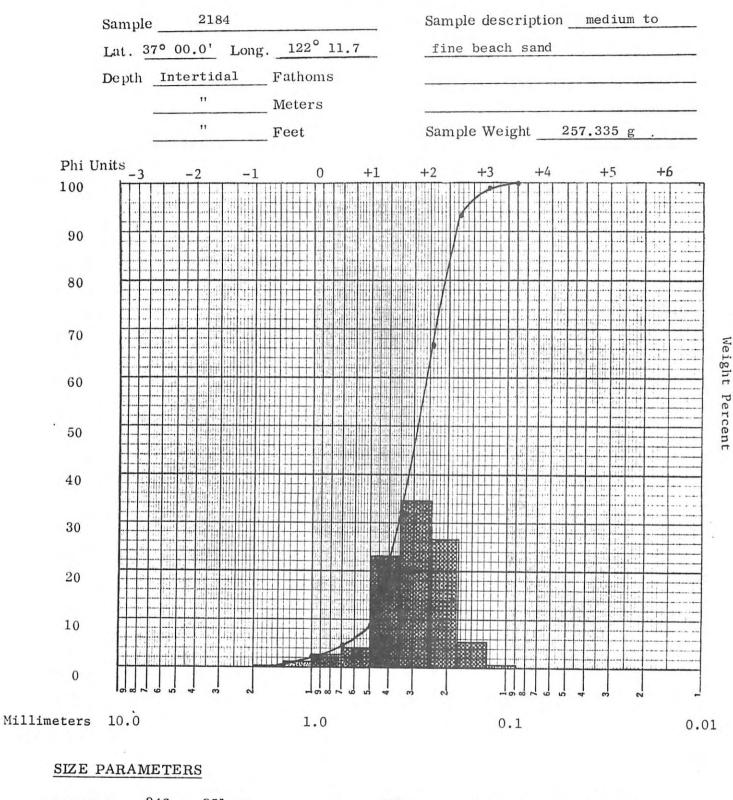


 Ist Mode
 .088 - .125 mm
 Q_{25} .138 mm
 Sorting Coef.
 1.174

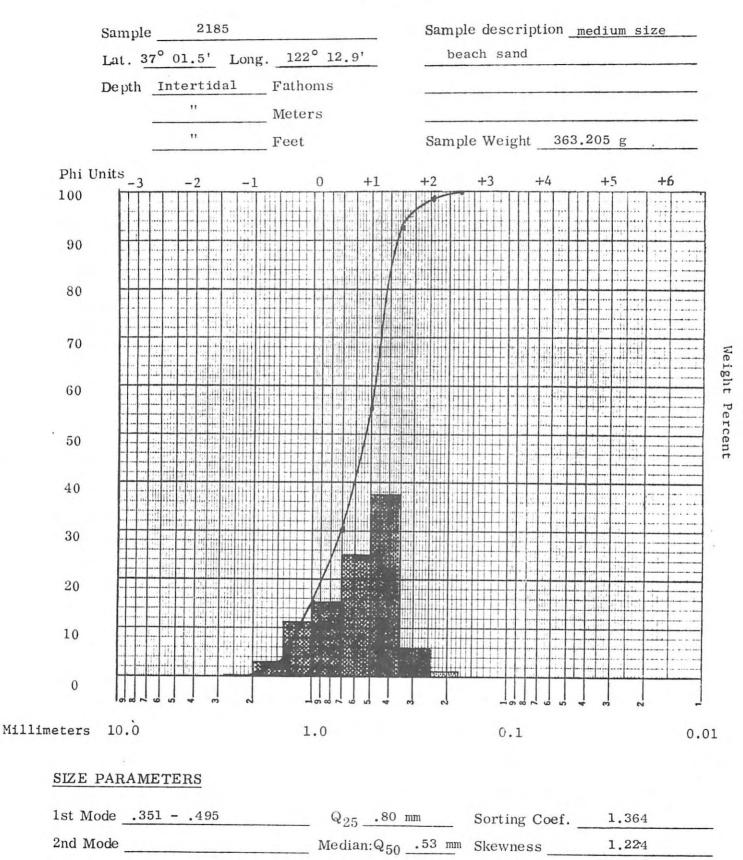
 2nd Mode
 .351 - .495 mm
 Median: Q_{50} .115 mm
 Skewness
 1.04

 3rd Mode
 Q_{75} .100 mm
 Kurtosis
 .218

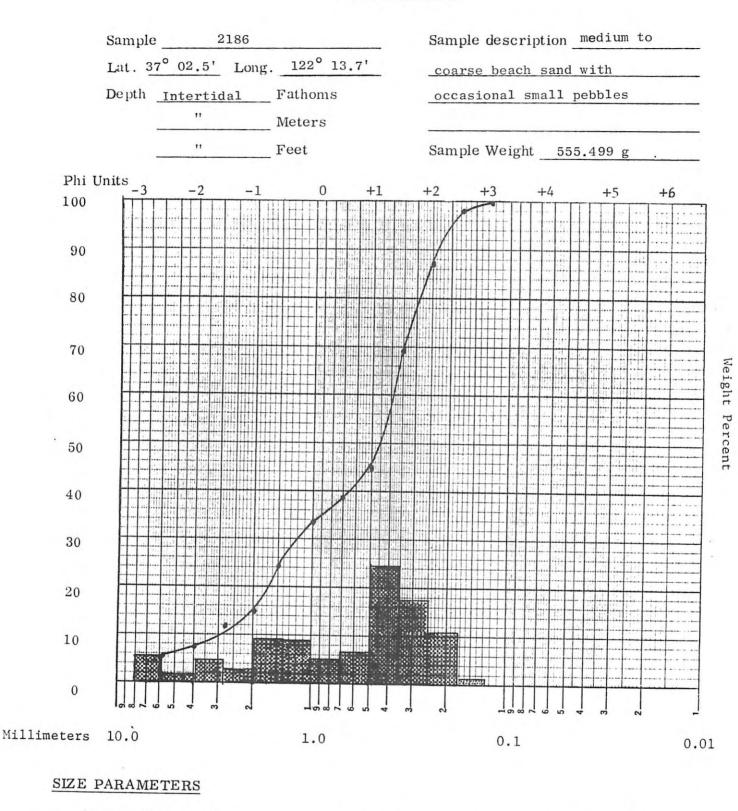




1st Mode246351 mm	Q ₂₅ .380 mm	Sorting Coef.	1.314
2nd Mode	Median:Q ₅₀ .285 mm	Skewness	1.029
3rd Mode	Q75 .220 mm	Kurtosis	.262



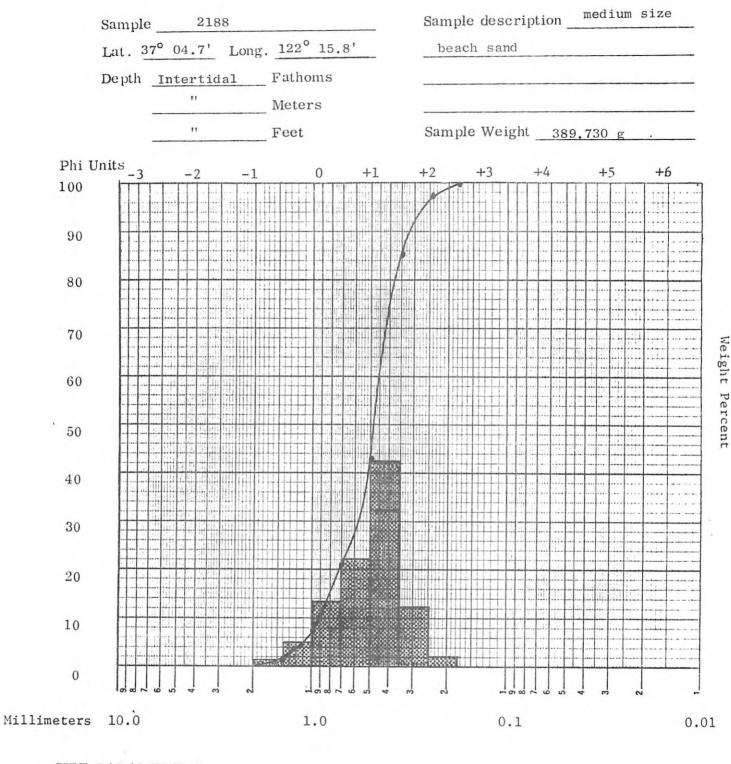
 3rd Mode
 Q75 .43 mm
 Kurtosis
 .228



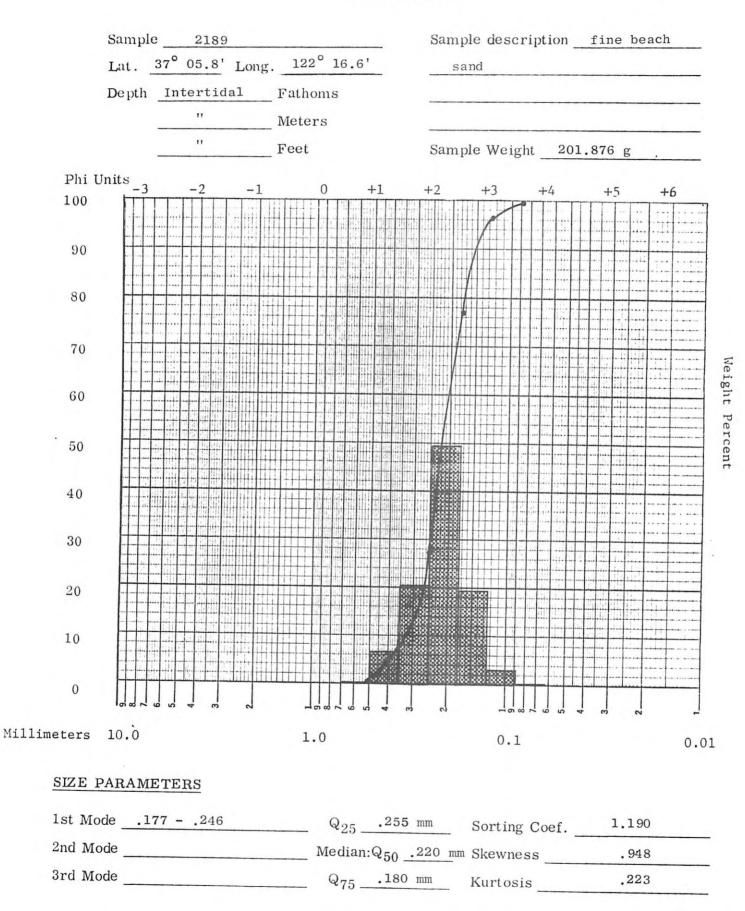
 1st Mode
 .351 - .495 mm
 Q_{25} 1.46 mm
 Sorting Coef.
 2.136

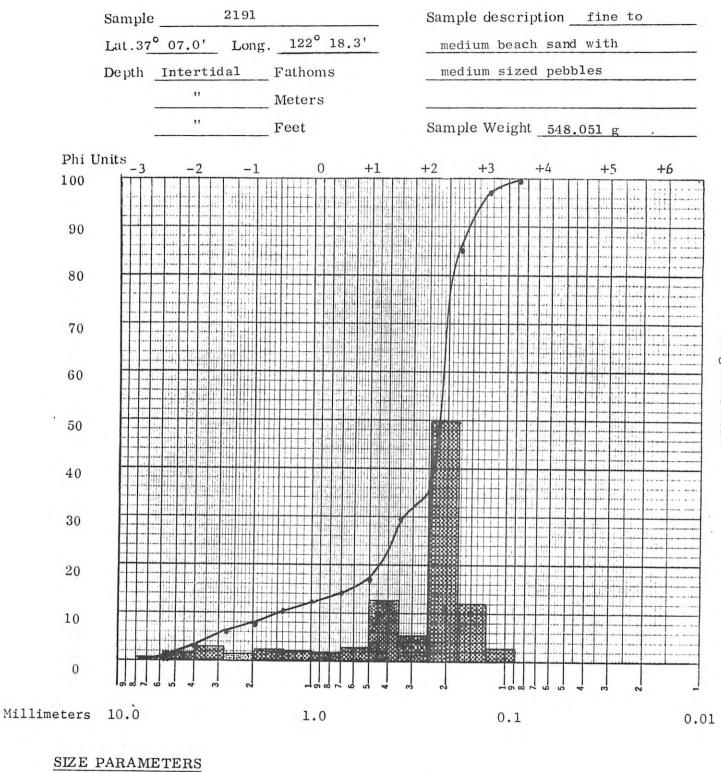
 2nd Mode
 1.41 - 2.00 mm
 Median: Q_{50} .45 mm
 Skewness
 2.307

 3rd Mode
 5.80 - 8.00 mm
 Q_{75} .32 mm
 Kurtosis
 .214



1st Mode _	.351495 mm	Q ₂₅ 64 mm	Sorting Coef.	1.265
2nd Mode		Median:Q ₅₀ .48 mm	Skewness	1.111.
3rd Mode		Q75 .40 mm	Kurtosis	.203



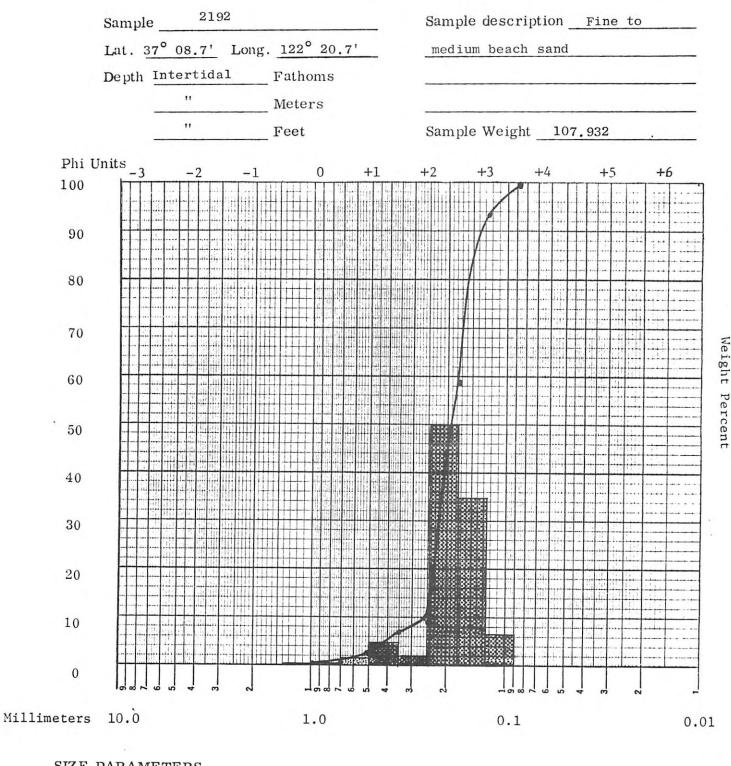


 1st Mode
 .177 - .246 mm
 Q_{25} .380 mm
 Sorting Coef.
 1.378

 2nd Mode
 .351 - .495 mm
 Median: Q_{50} .220 mm
 Skewness
 1.57

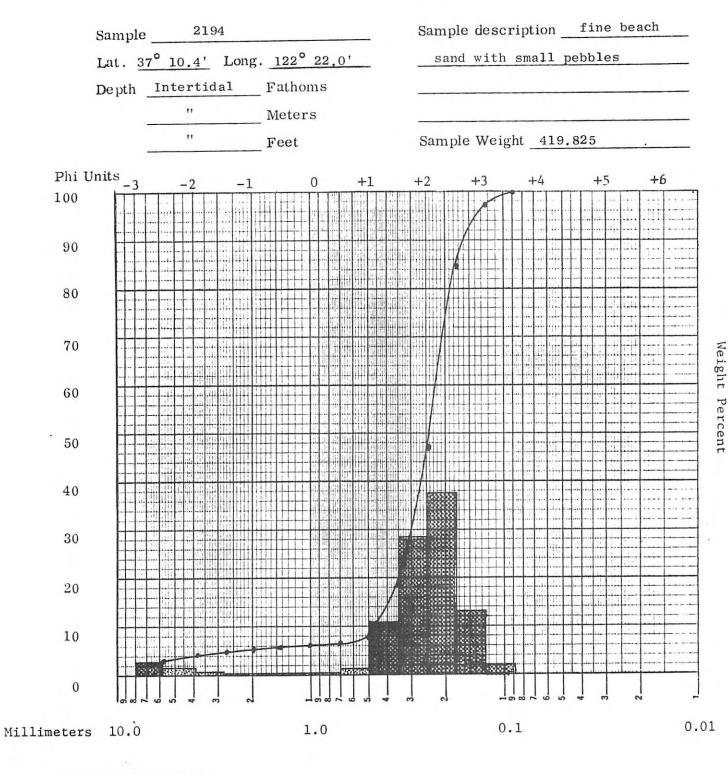
 3rd Mode
 2.83 - 4.00 mm
 Q_{75} .200 mm
 Kurtosis
 .070

Weight Percent



SIZE PARAMETERS

1st Mode	.177246 mm	Q ₂₅ 225 mm	Sorting Coef.	1.168
2nd Mode	.351495 mm	Median:Q50 .192 mm	Skewness	1.007
3rd Mode _		Q75 .165 mm	Kurtosis	.229



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1st Mode177246 mm	Q_25315 mm Sorting Coef.	1.271
2nd Mode 5.80 - 8.00 mm	Median:Q ₅₀ 241 mm Skewness	1.058
3rd Mode	Q ₇₅ 195 mm Kurtosis	.214

