

DETERMINATION OF HURRICANE SURGE WAVE FORCES ON BRIDGE  
SUPERSTRUCTURES AND DESIGN/RETROFIT OPTIONS  
TO MITIGATE OR SUSTAIN THESE FORCES

Except where reference is made to the work of others, the work described in this thesis is my own or was done in collaboration with my advisory committee. This thesis does not include proprietary or classified information.

---

Alvin Douglas Sawyer, III

Certificate of Approval:

---

Joel G. Melville  
Professor  
Civil Engineering

---

G. Ed Ramey  
Professor Emeritus  
Civil Engineering

---

Mary L. Hughes  
Assistant Professor  
Civil Engineering

---

Joe F. Pittman  
Interim Dean  
Graduate School

DETERMINATION OF HURRICANE SURGE WAVE FORCES ON BRIDGE  
SUPERSTRUCTURES AND DESIGN/RETROFIT OPTIONS  
TO MITIGATE OR SUSTAIN THESE FORCES

Alvin Douglas Sawyer, III

A Thesis

Submitted to

the Graduate Faculty

of Auburn University

in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the

Degree of

Masters of Science

Auburn, Alabama  
May 10, 2008

DETERMINATION OF HURRICANE SURGE WAVE FORCES ON BRIDGE  
SUPERSTRUCTURES AND DESIGN/RETROFIT OPTIONS  
TO MITIGATE OR SUSTAIN THESE FORCES

Alvin Douglas Sawyer, III

Permission is granted to Auburn University to make copies of this thesis at its discretion, upon requests of individuals or institutions and at their expense. The author reserves all publication rights.

---

Alvin Douglas Sawyer, III

---

Date of Graduation

THESIS ABSTRACT

DETERMINATION OF HURRICANE SURGE WAVE FORCES ON BRIDGE  
SUPERSTRUCTURES AND DESIGN/RETROFIT OPTIONS  
TO MITIGATE OR SUSTAIN THESE FORCES

Alvin Douglas Sawyer, III

Master of Science, May 10, 2008  
(B.S., University of South Alabama, 2005)

312 Typed Pages

Directed by G. Ed Ramey

An increasingly common occurrence when strong hurricanes come ashore along the Gulf of Mexico is that the hurricane surge/surface waves lift and push the superstructures of coastline bridges from their support bents into the water. It appears that the superstructures of many of these coastal bridges are not positively connected, or only minimally connected, to the supporting pile bent caps. This lack of adequate connection may be due to anticipation that the hurricane surge/surface wave forces will not reach the elevation of the superstructure, or it may be that the anticipated surge/surface wave forces are considered to be too great to economically design to resist.

However, based on the performances of some closely adjacent bridges across Lake Pontchartrain when Hurricane Katrina came ashore in August 2005, it appears that it should be very feasible to connect new bridge components, or to take retrofit action for existing bridges, in a manner to avoid having hurricane surge/surface waves dump the bridge superstructure into the water.

Determining what are the hurricane surge wave forces that coastal bridge superstructures and substructures need to be designed for, or retrofit for, to prevent them from being dumped in the water when hit by a hurricane; and to determine the behavior and performance of ALDOT's I-10 bridges across Mobile Bay if so retrofitted for these forces, were the objectives of this research. The investigation was limited to a review of the literature, discussions with state DOT bridge engineers, discussions with coastal engineering researchers, etc. to determine the state of the art procedures for determining the magnitudes of hurricane surge/surface wave forces on coastal bridges and appropriate design actions to mitigate and/or sustain these forces. Qualitative analyses were performed to identify the primary hurricane surge/surface wave forces acting on coastal bridge superstructures and these were followed by quantitative analyses to determine the magnitudes of the primary surge/surface wave forces. Analytical assessments of the adequacy of the as-is I-10 bridge across Mobile Bay as well as an appropriately retrofitted I-10 bridge for a projected major hurricane passing directly through the bridge were performed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared under cooperative agreement between the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and the Highway Research Center (HRC) at Auburn University. The author is grateful to the ALDOT and HRC for their sponsorship and support of the work.

The author is also grateful for the assistance of several ALDOT engineers in providing the as-built engineering drawings for the I-10 Bridge over Mobile Bay. Specifically, thanks are due to Ronnie Porioux, Lee Reach, and Robbie Chambless of the ALDOT. The author also thanks Wade A. Ross of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Mobile, AL for his, and his staff's, assistance in estimating maximum hurricane surge wave and surface wave heights at the north Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge site. I would also like to thank Dr. Ed Ramey for his guidance and support, as well as my wife Deidra, for her love and support during my tenure at Auburn University.

Style manual used: Chicago Manual of Style

Computer software used: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, AutoCAD, RISA2D

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES .....	xi
LIST OF FIGURES .....	xii
1. INTRODUCTION	
1.1. Statement of Problem .....	1
1.2. Research Objectives.....	3
1.3. Work Plan .....	3
1.4. Scope of Work .....	5
2. BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1. Background.....	6
2.2. Literature Review .....	16
2.2.1. Hurricanes .....	16
2.2.2. Hurricane Katrina Damage to Coastal Bridges.....	30
2.2.3. Hurricane Frederic Storm Surge Heights and Bridge Damage.....	41
2.2.4. Basic Definitions and Characteristics of Ocean Waves.....	50
3. HURRICANE SURGE/SURFACE WAVE FORCE PREDICTION EQUATIONS	
3.1. General.....	81
3.2. Corps of Engineers Unbroken Wave Forces .....	82
3.3. Corps of Engineers Broken Wave Forces.....	89
3.4. Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave Forces.....	100
3.5. FEMA Manual Wave Forces .....	109
3.6. McConnell et al. Equations for Wave Forces on Jetty Heads/Docks .....	114
3.7. Douglass et al. Equations for Wave Forces on Coastal Bridges.....	141
3.8. Modified Douglass et al. Wave Force Equations .....	147
3.9. AASHTO/FHWA Pooled Project Wave Force Equations .....	153
3.10. Comparison of Wave Force Prediction Equations.....	159
3.11. Case Study of CSX Biloxi Railroad Bridge.....	163
3.12. Closure .....	176



4. I-10 BRIDGE ACROSS MOBILE BAY	
4.1. General.....	177
4.2. Bridge Elevations, Dimensions, Weights, and Properties .....	178
4.3. Bridge Connections and Connection Details.....	184
4.4. Estimated “Design Hurricane” Sea State at Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge .....	186
4.5. Closure.....	197
5. HURRICANE SURGE/SURFACE WAVE FORCES ON I-10 MOBILE BAY BRIDGE AND RESPONSE OF BRIDGE TO THESE FORCES	
5.1. General.....	199
5.2. Assumed Retrofit Hurricane Sea State for Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge .....	201
5.3. Estimated Maximum Hurricane Surge/Surface Wave Forces on I-10 Bridge.....	203
5.4. Response of I-10 Bridge Superstructure to Hurricane Wave Plus Dead Loading .....	213
5.5. Response of I-10 Bridge Substructure to Hurricane Wave Plus Dead Loading.....	218
5.6. Closure.....	226
6. RETROFIT OPTIONS/ACTIONS FOR MOBILE BAY I-10 BRIDGE	
6.1. General.....	229
6.2. Typical Deck-Girder Coastal Bridge Design/Retrofit Options .....	230
6.3. Viable Retrofit Options for I-10 Twin Bridges Over Mobile Bay .....	244
6.4. Mount Pole and Bracket Supports for VSE Equipment for I-10 Ramp .....	251
6.5. Closure.....	254
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
7.1. General.....	256
7.2. Conclusions.....	257
7.3. Recommendations.....	264
REFERENCES .....	266
APPENDIX A - Bridge Underneath Entrapped Air Venting Equations and Calculations.....	268
APPENDIX B - OxBlue Construction Webcams.....	271
APPENDIX C - Hurricanes Having Largest Storm Surge at Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge During Past 60 Years.....	274
APPENDIX D - RISA 2D Substructure Response Analyses .....	275

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1:	Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale .....	18
Table 2.2:	Approximate Changes in L and c with Water Depth.....	65
Table 3.1:	Coefficients for calculation of upward vertical wave forces and shoreward horizontal forces using Equation 3.10 .....	125
Table 3.2:	Summary and comparison of resultant wave forces from Katrina on Example 52 ft Long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay .....	160
Table 4.1:	Elevations of US90 Bridge across Biloxi Bay .....	195
Table 5.1:	Estimates of Maximum Wave Height and Crest Elevations.....	203
Table B.1:	Pricing Summary for Integrated OxBlue System .....	271
Table B.2:	Feature Comparison of OxBlue User interface Versions .....	272

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1:	Looking east toward Biloxi from the east shore, many superstructure spans of US-90 Biloxi-Oceans Springs bridge were displaced north off their piers (photo credit: J.O'Connor, MCEER) .....2	2
Figure 1.2:	Looking west toward Biloxi, spans above the surge line near the navigation channel survived, but the superstructure in the foreground was dropped off the piers (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER).....2	2
Figure 2.1:	Major Bridges over Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana.....7	7
Figure 2.2:	Katrina Makes Landfall Near Slidell, LA – storm surge is 15 feet at the Lake Pontchartrain north shoreline.....7	7
Figure 2.3:	View Looking north from west abutment of I-10 twin span bridges over Lake Pontchartrain (photo credit: NIST).....10	10
Figure 2.4:	Cast-in-place concrete bridge carries the traffic of US-11 over Lake Pontchartrain (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER).....12	12
Figure 2.5:	The Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge over Lake Pontchartrain had its tracks stripped from the superstructure but otherwise remained intact (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER).....13	13
Figure 2.6:	Toll Causeway turnaround bridge ramp failures (photo credit: Ron T. Eguchi, ImageCat) .....15	15
Figure 2.7:	Misaligned spans of the Toll Causeway's turnaround ramp (photo credit: Ron T. Eguchi, ImageCat).....15	15
Figure 2.8:	Track and Wind System of a typical hurricane.....17	17
Figure 2.9:	Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale shown graphically .....18	18
Figure 2.10:	Approximate hurricane windfield and radiating waves and surge bubble in "eye" .....20	20
Figure 2.11:	Surface waves and wind tide generated by hurricane.....21	21

Figure 2.12:	Qualitative sketch of hurricane surge wave approaching and making landfall.....	22
Figure 2.13:	Partial inundation of bridge superstructure by storm surface wave due to rise in water surface by storm surge .....	25
Figure 2.14:	Estimated storm surge and wave heights at bridge as Katrina made landfall.....	25
Figure 2.15:	Storm surge contours for Mississippi, as mapped by FEMA (heights measured in feet) (Source: FEMA, enhanced by Ron T. Eguchi, ImageCat) .....	26
Figure 2.16:	Storm surge contours (heights measured in feet) for the New Orleans area of southeastern Louisiana, as mapped by FEMA (Source: FEMA, enhanced by Ron T. Eguchi, ImageCat) .....	26
Figure 2.17:	Katrina makes landfall near Slidell, LA – storm surge is 15 feet at the Lake Pontchartrain north shoreline.....	27
Figure 2.18:	Location map of coastal highway bridges damaged by Hurricane Katrina.....	27
Figure 2.19:	Preliminary storm surge hindcast results for Mississippi Gulf Coast for Hurricane Katrina using SLOSH (Source: NOAA).....	29
Figure 2.20:	Comparison of storm surge predictions using SLOSH with preliminary high water marks observed by FEMA in Mississippi and Louisiana .....	29
Figure 2.21:	Location map of coastal highway bridges damaged by Hurricane Katrina.....	30
Figure 2.22:	Hurricane surge/surface wave induced bridge superstructure failure near Pensacola, FL in Hurricane Katrina.....	31
Figure 2.23:	Looking east toward Biloxi from the east shore, many superstructure spans of US-90 Biloxi-Oceans Springs bridge were displaced north off their piers (photo credit: J.O'Connor, MCEER) .....	33
Figure 2.24:	Photo looking west toward Biloxi of Hurricane Katrina damage to U.S. 90 Bridge over Biloxi Bay.....	33
Figure 2.25:	US 90 Biloxi Bay Bridge under construction .....	34
Figure 2.26:	US 90 Bay St. Louis Bridge under construction.....	34

Figure 2.27:	Katrina damage to I-10 twin bridges on Lake Pontchartrain: view looking north from west abutment (photo credit: NIST) .....	36
Figure 2.28:	New twin I-10 bridges just beginning construction/pile driving adjacent to old twin I-10 bridges across Lake Pontchartrain .....	36
Figure 2.29:	Damage to I-10 on-ramp near Mobile, Alabama, caused by Hurricane Katrina.....	37
Figure 2.30:	Photo of northeast corner of span #11 of I-10 on-ramp near Mobile, AL.....	39
Figure 2.31:	Photo of typical slip angle connection of I-10 on-ramp near Mobile showing failure of concrete around bolts but without subsequent span displacement .....	39
Figure 2.32:	Photo of clip angle connection that did not fail on another part of I-10 on-ramp near Mobile.....	40
Figure 2.33:	Reduction in estimated wave loads on I-10 on-ramp near Mobile with elevation .....	40
Figure 2.34:	Damage Map of Hurricane Frederic .....	42
Figure 2.35:	Gulf Coastal Area Affected by Hurricane Frederic .....	43
Figure 2.36;	A Section of the Dauphin Island Bridge, South from the mainland at Cedar Point, was destroyed and the road washed away.....	47
Figure 2.37;	The midspan of the cut-off bridge near Cedar Point on AL Highway 163 was destroyed by a 13 foot storm surge.....	47
Figure 2.38:	Aerial view of Dauphin Island Bridge showing damage near lift span at intersection of Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Channel.....	48
Figure 2.39:	Spans of I-10 Eastbound entrance ramp at Highway US 90 were lifted and displaced over six feet on their support bents.....	49
Figure 2.40:	Primary surface wave properties.....	51
Figure 2.41:	Surface wave definition sketch .....	54
Figure 2.42:	Comparison of linear and nonlinear free-surface profiles .....	54

Figure 2.43:	Sketch of cnoidal wave .....	54
Figure 2.44:	Comparison of LWT, Stokes 5 <sup>th</sup> order, and 3 <sup>rd</sup> order cnoidal wave theories for H = 1m, T = 10sec, and h = 6.5m .....	55
Figure 2.45:	Periodic analytic wave theories providing the best fit to the dynamic free-surface boundary condition. (Adapted from <i>Evaluation and Development of Water Wave Theories for Engineering Application</i> by R.G. Dean, courtesy of US Corps of Engineers, Vols I and II, 1974) .....	55
Figure 2.46:	Measured and schematic of a free-water surface profile of ocean waves .....	57
Figure 2.47:	Deep water waves, pressure fields, and water particle movements .....	60
Figure 2.48:	Transition of surface profile and particle orbits in going from deep to shallow water .....	61
Figure 2.49:	Wave Properties in shallow water (after <i>Hydraulic Formulae</i> , JSCE, 1971) .....	68
Figure 2.50:	Variation of wave height due to water depth change where "hyperbolic wave" means an approximate expression of cnoidal waves obtained by Iwagaki (after Iwagaki, 1968) .....	68
Figure 2.51:	Classification of breaking wave patterns (Weigel, 1953) .....	70
Figure 2.52:	Common types of breaking waves .....	70
Figure 2.53:	Classification of breaking patterns (after <i>Hydraulic Formulae</i> , JSCE, 1971) .....	71
Figure 2.54:	Wave breaking depth (Goda, 1970) .....	72
Figure 2.55:	Wave breaking height (Goda, 1970) .....	72
Figure 2.56:	Photographs of two large breaking waves .....	74
Figure 2.57:	Intensity and Direction of Earth-Moon system tide-generating forces .....	76
Figure 2.58:	Relative distribution of tide-generating forces along a meridian section of the Earth .....	76
Figure 2.59:	Depiction of Spring Tide .....	78

Figure 2.60:	Depiction of Neap Tide.....	78
Figure 2.61:	Mean Sea Level and tidal levels near Mobile, AL in August 1 – October 31 Time Period .....	79
Figure 3.1:	Unbroken shallow-water wave passing through a coastal bridge.....	83
Figure 3.2:	Approximate hydrostatic pressure distribution from free water surface .....	83
Figure 3.3:	Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina.....	84
Figure 3.4:	Unbroken wave resultant forces for worst case loading conditions .....	88
Figure 3.5:	Wave pressures from broken waves .....	93
Figure 3.6:	Nonbreaking wave hitting wall and term definitions.....	93
Figure 3.7:	Approximate hydrostatic pressure distribution from freewater surface .....	94
Figure 3.8:	Broken wave horizontal load on coastal bridges .....	94
Figure 3.9:	Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina.....	97
Figure 3.10:	Definition of force parameters .....	101
Figure 3.11:	Idealized force development on platform deck.....	101
Figure 3.12:	Minikin breaking wave pressure diagram.....	103
Figure 3.13:	Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina.....	105
Figure 3.14:	Breaking wave force formula, pressure coefficient table and pressure distribution figure (from FEMA Coastal Construction Manual) .....	111
Figure 3.15:	Storm wave height vs. water depth relationship and dynamic wave force component vs. water depth relationship figure (from FEMA Coastal Construction Manual) .....	112

Figure 3.16:	Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina and assumed situation for applying FEMA equations for breaking wave loading .....	113
Figure 3.17:	Typical exposed jetty (McConnell et al).....	115
Figure 3.18:	Typical jetty head (McConnell et al) .....	115
Figure 3.19:	Underside of model deck showing measurement Elements (McConnell et al) .....	116
Figure 3.20:	Physical model in wave flume (McConnell et al).....	117
Figure 3.21:	Definition of force parameters (McConnell et al).....	117
Figure 3.22:	Definition of "basic wave forces" $F_v^*$ and $F_h^*$ (McConnell et al) .....	118
Figure 3.23:	Vertical (upward) forces on seaward elements (McConnell et al) .....	122
Figure 3.24:	Vertical (upward) forces on internal deck (McConnell et al).....	122
Figure 3.25:	Horizontal (shoreward) forces on seaward beams (McConnell et al).....	123
Figure 3.26:	Horizontal (shoreward) forces on internal beams (McConnell et al) .....	123
Figure 3.27:	Ratio of vertical impact forces to quasi-static forces (McConnell et al) .....	124
Figure 3.28:	Example bridge superstructure and storm wave geometry, vertical and horizontal storm wave forces on elements, and resultant storm wave forces.....	126
Figure 3.29:	Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina.....	132
Figure 3.30:	I-10 on ramp bridge superstructure and storm wave geometry, vertical and horizontal storm wave forces on elements, and resultant wave forces for Wave Position 1 .....	138
Figure 3.31:	Storm wave forces on elements and resultant forces for Wave Position 2 .....	140
Figure 3.32:	Definition sketch for $\Delta z_h$ , $\Delta z_v$ , and $\eta_{max}$ used in force prediction equations (Douglass et al).....	142



Figure 3.33:	Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina.....	144
Figure 3.34:	Modified Definition sketch for $\Delta z_h$ , $\Delta z_v$ , and $\eta_{max}$ used in force prediction equations (Douglass et al) .....	147
Figure 3.35:	Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina.....	155
Figure 3.36:	Bar graph showing $M_{max}$ , $F_v^{max}$ , $F_h^{max}$ forces acting on 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay as predicted by seven sets of wave force equations (forces not necessarily acting simultaneously).....	161
Figure 3.37:	Bar graph showing simultaneously acting $M$ , $F_v$ , $F_h$ forces acting on 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay as predicted by seven sets of wave force equations .....	162
Figure 3.38:	Bridges over bay and back bay of Biloxi, Mississippi (Copyright 2006 Garmin Ltd. or its subsidiaries. All rights reserved. Map data © 2002 NAVTEQ. All rights reserved. Enhancement by NIST) .....	163
Figure 3.39:	Looking east toward Biloxi from the east shore, many superstructure spans of US-90 Biloxi-Oceans Springs bridge were displaced north off their piers (photo credit: J.O'Connor, MCEER) .....	165
Figure 3.40:	(a) Looking west toward Biloxi, spans above the surge line near the navigation channel survived but the superstructure in the foreground was dropped off the piers (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER), (b) A typical bearing plate from the US-90 bridge with ½ in. thick shear keys (photo credit: NIST).....	165
Figure 3.41:	The CSX Railroad bridge survived with minor damage, most likely due to the presence of high shear blocks (photo credit: LA DOTD).....	166
Figure 3.42:	CSX Railroad bridge at Bay St. Louis, MS with remaining spans (top) and the supporting piers (bottom) (photo credit: NIST) .....	169
Figure 3.43:	Typical Mohr rupture diagram for concrete.....	174
Figure 4.1:	Portion of I-10 corridor near Mobile, AL .....	177
Figure 4.2:	Typical span cross section showing pertinent component elevations relating to MSL .....	178
Figure 4.3:	Plan and elevation/profile of I-10 Bridge across Mobile Bay .....	181

Figure 4.4:	Superstructure plan and section of I-10 Bridge .....	182
Figure 4.5:	Substructure plan and elevation of the I-10 Bridge .....	183
Figure 4.7:	Photo of typical clip angle connection.....	185
Figure 4.8:	Case – A Estimated maximum sea state elevations at I-10 Bridge during Hurricane Frederic.....	185
Figure 4.9:	Case – B Estimated maximum sea state elevations at I-10 Bridge during Hurricane Katrina .....	188
Figure 4.10:	Location map of Hurricane Katrina and US90/Biloxi Bay Bridge.....	189
Figure 4.11:	Photo looking west toward Biloxi of Hurricane Katrina damage To US90 Bridge over Biloxi Bay.....	191
Figure 4.12:	Photograph of the damage to the US90 Biloxi Bay Bridge caused by Hurricane Katrina. Photo was taken looking northeast from Biloxi 9/21/05 (Katrina hit 8/29/05) .....	192
Figure 4.13:	Photograph of US90 bridge over Biloxi Bay showing high spans which Were knocked off pile cap bents during Hurricane Katrina (This photo was taken 2/19/06 looking west from Ocean Springs) .....	193
Figure 4.14:	Photograph of US90 bridge over Biloxi Bay showing the westbound half-span #100 that is still on pile caps but rotated and displaced to the landward side. The eastbound half-span was knocked completely off. The spans at higher elevations, beginning with span #99, were not knocked off the pile caps by the storm. (This photo was taken 2/19/06 looking southwest from Ocean Springs towards Biloxi) .....	193
Figure 4.15:	Details of the typical span design on the US90 bridge across Biloxi Bay, Mississippi, that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. This sketch shows on-half of the total width of the bridge.....	194
Figure 4.16:	Estimated storm surge and wave heights at the US90 bridge across Biloxi Bay during landfall of Hurricane Katrina. These estimates are hindcast data at the location of the high-span of the bridge based on ADCIRC modeling of surge and SWAN modeling of waves .....	194

Figure 4.17:	Case – C Estimated maximum sea state elevations at I-10 Bridge during Mock-Hurricane Katrina .....	197
Figure 5.1:	Recommended retrofit sea state elevations at I-10 bridge for hurricane loadings .....	202
Figure 5.2:	Significant wave height during Hurricane Katrina near Biloxi Bay, MS (Douglass et al) .....	204
Figure 5.3:	Estimated maximum forces on a typical Mobile Bay I-10 span during Hurricane Frederic .....	208
Figure 5.4:	Estimated maximum forces on a typical Mobile Bay I-10 span during Hurricane Katrina.....	210
Figure 5.5:	Estimated maximum forces on a typical Mobile Bay I-10 span during a Mock-Hurricane Katrina.....	212
Figure 5.6:	Estimated "DL + Wave" forces on a typical Mobile Bay I-10 span during Hurricane Frederic .....	213
Figure 5.7:	Estimated "DL + Wave" forces on a typical Mobile Bay I-10 span during Hurricane Katrina.....	214
Figure 5.8:	Estimated "DL + Wave" forces on a typical Mobile Bay I-10 span during a Mock-Hurricane Katrina .....	215
Figure 5.9:	Total dead weight of Super+Substructure .....	218
Figure 5.10:	Substructure loading due to Hurricane Frederic .....	221
Figure 5.11:	Substructure loading due to Hurricane Katrina .....	222
Figure 5.12:	Substructure loading due to Mock-Hurricane Katrina.....	223
Figure 6.1:	Venting area required for escape of air of a given volume.....	235
Figure 6.2:	Retrofit actions to reduce buoyancy forces on superstructure – venting.....	237
Figure 6.3:	Retrofit actions to reduce wave forces on superstructure .....	238
Figure 6.4:	Retrofit actions to reduce forces on super-to-sub connections and on bents – tie SS spans together.....	239

Figure 6.5:	Retrofit actions to improve bridge span-to-bent connections via concrete shear blocks .....	240
Figure 6.6:	Retrofit actions to improve bridge span-to-bent connections via steel shear blocks and angles .....	241
Figure 6.7:	Retrofit actions to improve bridge span-to-bent connections via steel bars, cables, straps .....	242
Figure 6.8:	Retrofit actions to strengthen existing substructure via strengthening pile cap/top of pile/pile to cap connection .....	243
Figure 6.9:	Superstructure partial venting plan to reduce buoyant and slamming forces .....	246
Figure 6.10:	Detail showing jersey barrier rail connection to transmit vertical and transverse shear forces to adjacent spans .....	247
Figure 6.11:	Partial section showing connecting of spans at exterior girders and barrier rails to transmit vertical and transverse shear force to adjacent span.....	248
Figure 6.12:	Tie superstructure to substructure via straps or cables through diaphragms .....	249
Figure 6.13:	Stiffen angle iron connection to act as shear lugs via adding stiffeners .....	249
Figure 6.14:	Video Surveillance Webcam and Equipment (VSE) .....	253
Figure A.1:	Contracted Air Jet .....	268
Figure A.2:	Volume to be Vented, V .....	269
Figure A.3:	$V=1248 \text{ ft}^3$ and $V/t=3900 \text{ ft}^3/\text{sec}$ .....	270
Figure A.4:	$V=624\text{ft}^3$ and $V/t=1950 \text{ ft}^3/\text{sec}$ .....	270

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Statement of Problem

An increasingly common occurrence when strong hurricanes come ashore along the Gulf of Mexico is that the hurricane surge/surface waves lift and push the superstructures of coastline bridges from their support bents into the water as shown in Figs. 1.1 and 1.2. It appears that the superstructures of many of these coastal bridges are not positively connected, or only minimally connected, to the supporting pile bent caps. This lack of adequate connection may be due to probability based anticipation that the hurricane surge/surface waves will not reach the elevation of the superstructure, or it may be that the anticipated surge/surface wave forces are considered to be too great to economically design to resist. Some recent discussions seem to indicate that the latter may be the case. However, based on the performances of some closely adjacent bridges across Lake Pontchartrain when Hurricane Katrina came ashore in August 2005, it appears that it should be very feasible to connect new bridge components, or to take retrofit action for existing bridges in a manner to avoid having hurricane surge/surface waves dump the bridge superstructure into the water. Exploring these actions in greater detail was the impetus and purpose of this research.



**Figure 1.1. Looking west toward Biloxi from the east shore, many superstructure spans of US-90 Biloxi-Ocean Springs bridge were displaced north off their piers (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER) (NIST, 2006).**



**Figure 1.2. Looking west toward Biloxi, spans above the surge line near the navigation channel survived, but the superstructure in the foreground was dropped off the piers (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER) (NIST, 2006).**

## **1.2 Research Objectives**

Determining what are the hurricane surge wave forces that coastal bridge superstructures and substructures need to be designed for, or retrofit for, to prevent them from being dumped in the water when hit by a hurricane; and to determine the behavior and performance of ALDOT's I-10 bridges across Mobile Bay if so retrofitted are the objectives of this research. More specifically, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. Identify and quantify the primary hurricane surge/surface wave induced forces on coastal deck-girder bridge superstructures and substructures.
2. Identify appropriate bridge "venting" actions to take on retrofitting existing bridges to minimize hurricane induced surge/surface wave buoyant forces on bridge superstructures and substructures.
3. Identify and develop appropriate existing bridge retrofit systems to adequately connect bridge super-and sub-structures to resist hurricane surge/surface wave forces.
4. Determine the behavior and performances of coastal deck-girder bridge superstructures supported on single-row pile bent substructures, i.e., I-10 bridges, retrofitted as indicated in (3) above, as hurricane surge/surface waves pass through the bridges.

## **1.3 Work Plan**

A brief work plan to accomplish the research objectives is given below.

1. Locate and study video documentation of hurricane surge waves approaching, inundating, and displacing coastal bridge superstructures. Questions that such videos would help answer are:

- the approximate rate of water elevation rise on the bridges
  - the feasibility of venting bridge superstructures to avoid the enlarged buoyant force due to entrapped air between the girders and underside of the deck, and above the deck for bridges with solid guard rails.
  - the differences in performance of bridges with solid and open guard rails.
  - when does the superstructure begin to lift off of the bent caps.
  - the likelihood that hydrodynamic water forces are significant contributors to moving the bridge superstructure.
2. Study the literature on water wave forces on fixed and water surrounded structures and determine what wave actions and forces are applicable for cases of hurricane surge/surface waves passing through coastline bridges. Then, quantify these wave forces on the superstructures of deck-girder bridges for various surge/surface wave heights, surface wave breaking conditions, bridge heights, and depth of water conditions.
  3. Secure and analyze hurricane surge wave historical data from the National Hurricane Center and from ALDOT'S 9<sup>th</sup> Division to ascertain hurricane surge wave heights along the Alabama coast and anticipated worst case hurricane surge wave scenarios for Alabama.
  4. Secure and study superstructure drawings of I-10 and US-11 bridges over Lake Pontchartrain and the I-10 bridge ramp across Mobile Bay to better compare the designs, connection details, and performances of these bridges as Hurricane Katrina came ashore.
  5. Identify appropriate new bridge design connections between the bridge superstructure and pile bent/cap substructure.
  6. Identify appropriate retrofit actions to take to "vent" existing bridge superstructure decks and solid guard rails in order that the surge wave buoyant forces on the bridge superstructure would be minimized.
  7. Identify appropriate retrofit systems for existing coastal deck-girder bridges to adequately connect the bridge super-and substructures to resist the anticipated maximum hurricane surge wave forces.



8. Determine the behavior and performance of the I-10 deck-girder bridge across Mobile Bay retrofitted as indicated in (6) and (7) above, as a major hurricane surge/surface wave passes through the bridge.
9. Prepare research final report.

#### **1.4 Scope of Work**

This investigation was limited to a review of the literature, discussions with state DOT bridge engineers, discussions with coastal engineering researchers, etc. to determine the state of the art procedures for determining the magnitudes of hurricane surge/surface wave forces on coastal bridges and appropriate design actions to mitigate and/or sustain these forces. Qualitative analyses were performed to identify the primary hurricane surge/surface wave forces acting on coastal bridge superstructures and these were followed by quantitative analyses to determine the magnitudes of the primary surge/surface wave forces. Bridge superstructure venting to reduce the wave forces as well as bridge component connectivity to sustain the forces were investigated.

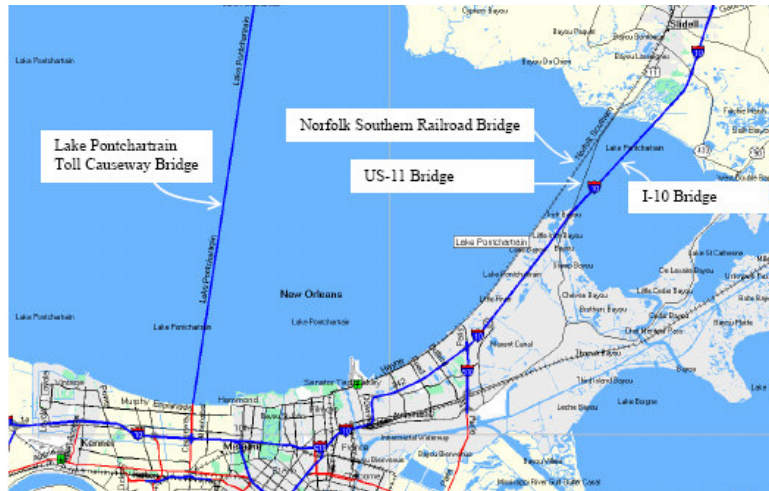
An analytical assessment of the adequacy of the as-is I-10 bridge across Mobile Bay as well as an appropriately retrofitted I-10 bridge for a projected major hurricane passing directly through the bridge was performed. No laboratory or field structural testing or wave basin testing were performed in the investigation to verify or refute the results of the analytical analyses.

## CHAPTER 2

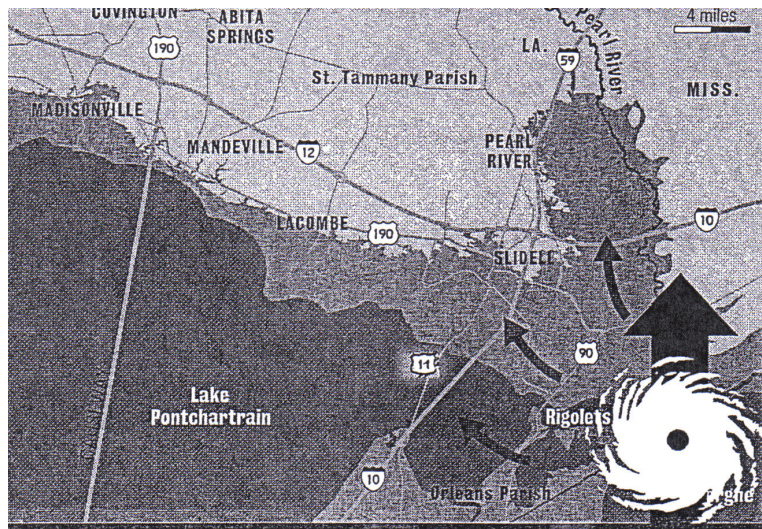
### BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Background

As indicated in Section 1.1, an increasing common problem as strong hurricanes come ashore along the Gulf of Mexico coastline is for the hurricane storm surge and surface waves to lift and push the superstructures of coastal bridges into the water. On many of these bridges a positive connection of the superstructure to the substructure is nonexistent or only minimal, and in many cases this is by design because it is felt that the wave induced forces are too great to resist. However, the performances of some closely adjacent bridges across Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana when Hurricane Katrina came ashore in August 2005 were documented in NIST, 2006 and this documentation seems to refute the idea that hurricane storm surge/surface wave forces are too large to resist. Figure 2.1 and 2.2 shows three closely positioned and aligned bridges (I-10 Twin Bridges, US-11 Bridge, Norfolk Southern Railroad Bridge) across the eastern end of Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans, LA.



**Fig. 2.1 Major bridges over Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana (NIST, 2006).**



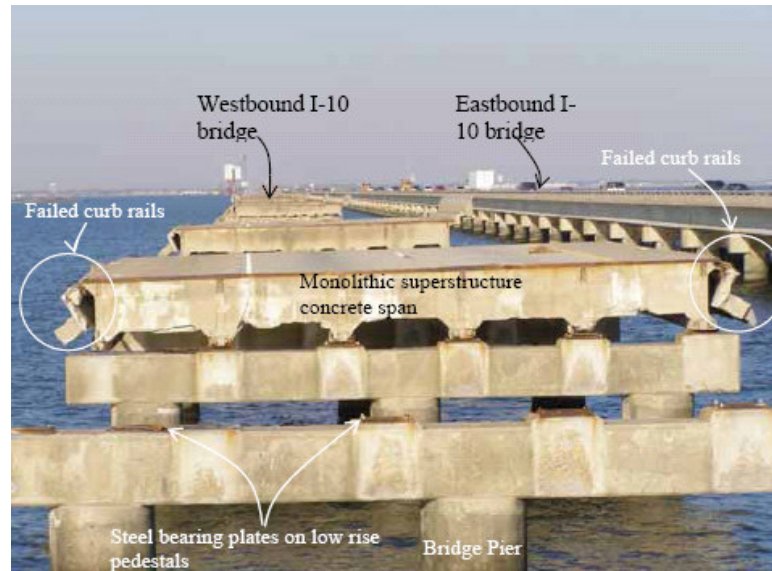
**Fig. 2.2 Katrina makes landfall near Slidell, LA – storm surge is 15 feet at the Lake Pontchartrain north shoreline (NIST, 2006).**

The following descriptions and performances of the bridges shown in Figures 2.1 and 2.2, as well as the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway bridge ramp during Hurricane Katrina were extracted from NIST, 2006.

**I-10 twin span bridges.** The I-10 twin span bridges (two separate bridges, nominally eastbound and westbound) over Lake Pontchartrain connect New Orleans and Slidell, Louisiana to the north. Each bridge is two lanes wide and 5.4 miles long. According to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD), the deck level stands at 14 feet above mean sea level. The bridges were built in the early 1960's using prefabricated construction. The superstructure is comprised of 65-foot-long prestressed concrete spans weighing approximately 285 tons each. Each superstructure span is a monolithically cast concrete system comprising a concrete deck, fascia section (safety walk curbs with vertical solid parapet), and six concrete girders with I-cross section. The span was cast at a factory offsite and transported by barge for erection on the piers. Each span was simply supported and seated on the piers through steel bearing plates that provide little restraint against lateral displacement. The steel bearing plates were bolted into the cap beam of the pier on top of low risers (or pedestals). This connection design facilitates easy replacement of the superstructure spans but provides no provision for restraint against uplift (aside from the span dead weight) or lateral displacement.

The I-10 twin span bridges sustained extensive damage, primarily due to high storm surges and associated surface wave forces caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Surge/surface wave forces (lateral and uplift forces), combined with the lack of restraint against uplift and lateral displacement of the superstructure spans, caused many spans of both the eastbound and westbound bridges to be uplifted and displaced laterally in a southerly direction. According to a damage summary by the LA DOTD, a total of 38 eastbound spans and 26 westbound spans were displaced and dropped completely into the water. In addition, 170 eastbound spans and 303 westbound spans were shifted out of alignment. In most cases, the misaligned superstructure spans displaced less than 5 feet in the transverse direction (one riser spacing) due to the fascia girder making contact with the adjacent riser. Wave forces also broke more than 14,000 ft of the concrete railings along the base of the curb line, leaving them dangling and connected to the bridge deck only by the reinforcing bars. Surge damage to the superstructures of the I-10 bridges established the surge height at this location to be at least 14 feet. Figure 2.3 shows a view looking north of the westbound I-10 bridge with missing spans and broken curb rails.



**Figure 2.3 View looking north from west abutment of I-10 twin span bridges over Lake Pontchartrain (NIST, 2006).**

**US-11 bridge.** The two-lane US-11 bridge is just to the west of the I-10 bridges (see Figure 2.1), and carries vehicular traffic of US-11 between Slidell and New Orleans over Lake Pontchartrain. Its superstructure is a series of reinforced concrete girders (three per span) with a concrete deck. The bridge deck, girders, and piers were cast in place and the connections between the girders and the bridge piers were monolithic, thus providing positive connection between the bridge superstructure and the supporting piers. According to the bridge tender, a new concrete deck was cast over the length of the bridge in 2001. This provides continuity between the individual spans and likely contributed to the good performance of the bridge. The deck level of this bridge stands at 11 feet above mean sea level.

Despite being 3 feet lower in elevation compared with the adjacent I-10 twin span bridges, and this likely subjected to the same surge and wave actions from Hurricane Katrina that affected the twin span bridges due to their close proximity, the US-11 bridge sustained very minor damage. The damage was nonstructural and was limited to a few sections of the concrete bridge rails and the approach guard rail from the west side shore being torn off by surge-induced wave forces, and the bascule lift span (drawbridge) was damaged by flooding and rendered inoperable. The extent of damage to the bridge rails of this bridge was also much more limited compared to damage to the bridge curb rails of the I-10 twin span bridge. This is likely due to the difference in the construction of the curb rails. The I-10 bridges have solid parapet curb rails which attracted more wave forces due to the larger surface, while the US-11 bridge has open-face curb rails and thus less surface area for application of wave force.

Unlike the twin span bridges, none of the superstructure spans of the US-11 bridge was lost or misaligned during Hurricane Katrina. This can likely be attributed to the fact that the superstructure is continuous and positively connected to the supporting piers through cast-in-place construction methods. Figure 2.4 shows a view looking north along the US-11 bridge.

**Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge.** The Norfolk Southern railroad bridge is a 5.8-mile long concrete bridge that is also in close proximity to the US-11 bridge and the I-10 twin span bridges (see Figure 2.1). Thus, it was likely subjected to the same surge and wave actions that affected the I-10 and US-11 bridges. The

bridge's superstructure consists of a concrete deck supported by pre-stressed concrete box girders. The superstructure is supported by concrete piers with shear block detailing at each end to provide restraint against lateral displacement (see Figure 2.5). This restraint probably contributed substantially to its successful performance during Hurricane Katrina. Surge-induced wave forces swept the railroad tracks and ties off the structure, but the bridge itself sustained no structural damage and was able to be returned to service just a few weeks after the storm.

Also extracted from NIST, 2006 and presented below is a report on the performance of the Lake Pontchartrain Toll Causeway Bridge (see Fig. 2.1) during Hurricane Katrina.



**Figure 2.4 Cast-in-place concrete bridge carries the traffic of US-11 over Lake Pontchartrain (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER) (NIST, 2006).**





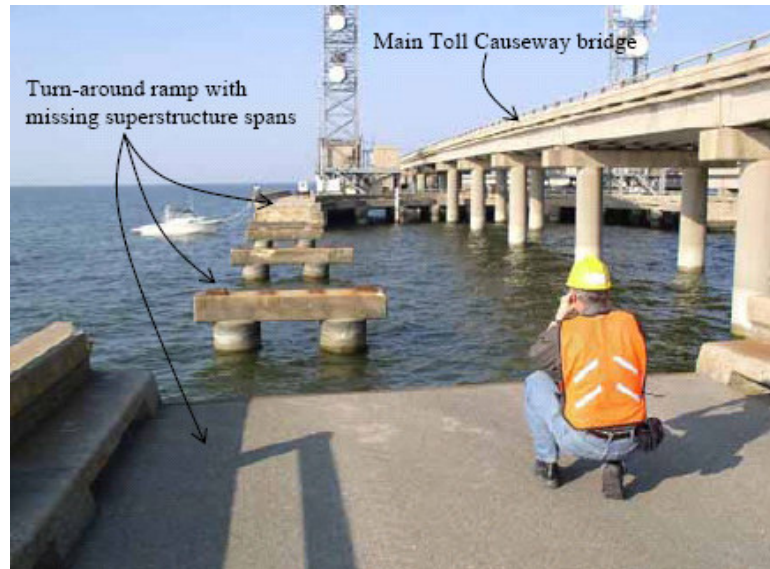
**Figure 2.5** The Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge over Lake Pontchartrain had its tracks stripped from the superstructure but otherwise remained intact (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER) (NIST, 2006).

**Lake Pontchartrain Toll Causeway.** The Toll Causeway is a 24-mile long concrete bridge that runs across the middle of Lake Pontchartrain in a north-south direction and carries vehicular traffic into the City of New Orleans from the areas north of the lake. Similar to the I-10 twin span bridges, the Toll Causeway is comprised of two separate bridges, each carrying one-way traffic. In addition, there are turn-around ramps, which are separate bridges (supported by a separate set of piers) that run between the two main bridges to allow traffic to change direction midway on the bridge. The deck surfaces of the main bridges stand at 20 feet above mean sea level, making them the tallest bridges over Lake Pontchartrain. The superstructures are comprised of simply supported concrete spans. Similar to the I-10 twin bridges, each span was monolithically cast in a factory offsite. Each is comprised of a concrete deck, fascia section, and I-section

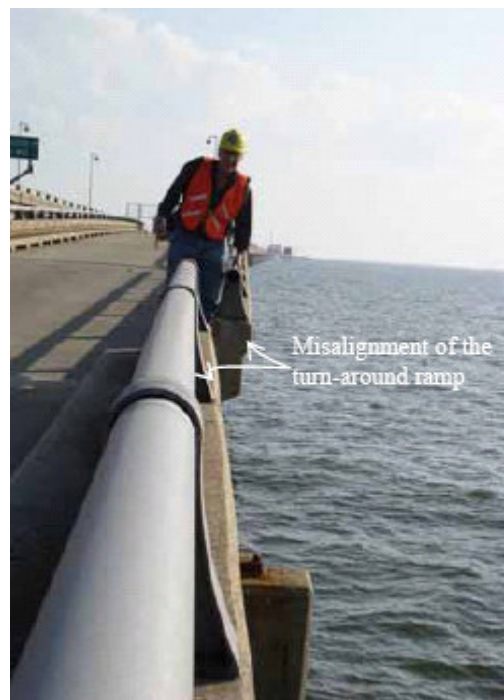
concrete girders. Each span was connected to the piers by steel bearing plates, which provide only restraint against displacement in the longitudinal direction, not lateral or vertical direction. The steel bearing plates were bolted into the concrete piers. The superstructure of the turn-around ramp was similarly constructed and supported, but has progressively lower elevation, with the lowest span being only a few feet above mean sea level.

Due to their high elevation (20 feet) and the observed surge height at their location (about 9 feet), the superstructures of the main Toll Causeway bridges were not subjected to surge-induced wave actions and sustained no damage. However, several superstructure spans of the turn-around ramps, being at lower elevation and not restrained against lateral and uplift displacements, were subjected to the lateral and uplift wave forces and were either dropped into the lake or misaligned. As in the cases of the other bridges over Lake Pontchartrain, the substructures of the Toll Causeway bridges sustained no damage. Figures 2.6 and 2.7 show the turn-around ramp with missing and misaligned superstructure spans.

In summary, the above discussions and figures/photographs document that the best solution to avoiding lost of coastal bridges from hurricane surge wave forces is to elevate them sufficiently to allow the surge/surface wave to pass under the bridge superstructure. However, if this is too costly and/or the bridge is already in existence, it appears that it should be very feasible to connect the bridge components in a manner, or to take retrofit action, to avoid having the hurricane surge/surface wave dump the superstructure into the water.



**Figure 2.6 Toll Causeway turnaround bridge ramp failures (photo credit: Ron T. Eguchi, ImageCat) (NIST, 2006).**



**Figure 2.7 Misaligned spans of the Toll Causeway's turn around ramp (photo credit: Ron T. Eguchi, ImageCat) (NIST, 2006).**

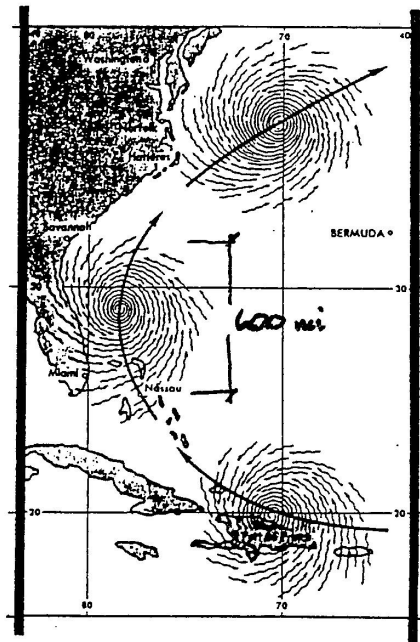
## 2.2 Literature Review

Since hurricanes are the source/cause of surge and surface wave damage to coastal bridges, it behooves us to examine the features and characteristics of these disastrous coastal storms. It should be noted that the hurricane storm surge causes a “wind tide” water build up which raises the water surface to a level where significant hydrostatic/buoyant water forces can act on a bridge; but more importantly, it raises the water surface to a level where large high wind generated surface waves can batter a bridge superstructure.

**2.2.1 Hurricanes.** A hurricane (or tropical cyclone) is a large weather system consisting of a system of spiraling winds rotating counterclockwise (in the northern hemisphere) and converging with increasing speed toward a low pressure center where they rise vertically around an area of relative calm (the eye). Spreading over an area between 50 and 600 miles in diameter, the hurricane travels over the ocean at speeds from 10 to 25 mph while tangential wind speed varies from 40 to 200 mph. The track and wind system of a typical hurricane as it moves in the Atlantic Ocean adjacent to the eastern coast of the U.S. is shown in Fig. 2.8. Hurricane damage is caused not just by high winds. Surges of the sea (storm surges) and the action of strong waves also pose severe threat to lives and properties in low areas along coastlines, as does flooding from torrential rains that come with a hurricane.

The National Hurricane Center defines storm surge as “*An abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm, and whose height is the difference between the observed level of the sea surface and the level that would have*

*occurred in the absence of the cyclone. Storm surge is usually estimated by subtracting the normal or astronomic high tide from the observed storm tide.”* On top of storm surge and astronomical tide, surface waves generated by powerful storm winds should be added. Hurricanes also bring torrential rain which often causes severe flooding problems. Therefore, design against hurricanes must consider not only high winds but also the hurricane-generated surge/surface waves and floods.



**Fig. 2.8 Track and wind system of a typical hurricane**

Hurricanes are rated in intensity and damage potential on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. This scale rates a hurricane at a given time in its life as a Category I, II, III, IV, or V, with each category having an associated range of central barometric pressure, windspeed, surge height, and damage potential as shown in Table 2.1 and Fig. 2.9.

Table 2.1 Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Category	Central Pressure		Windspeed (mph)		Surge (ft)	Damage Potential
	millibars	inches of Hg	1-min.	3-sec.		
I	>980	>28.9	74-95	94-121	4-5	Minimal
II	965-979	28.5-28.9	96-110	122-140	6-8	Moderate
III	945-964	27.9-28.5	111-130	141-165	9-12	Extensive
IV	920-944	27.2-27.9	131-155	166-197	13-18	Extreme
V	<920	<27.2	>155	>198	>18	Catastrophic

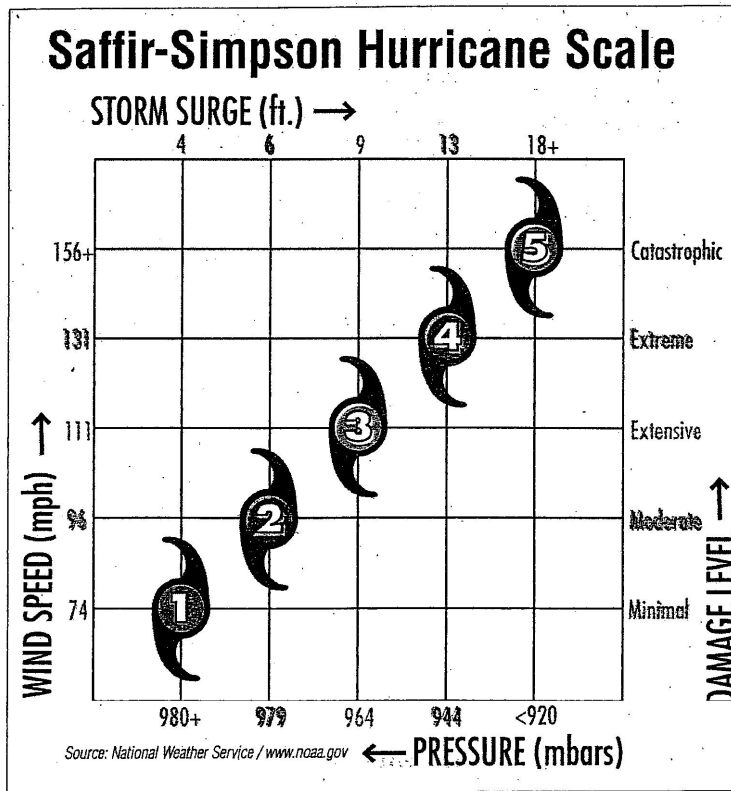
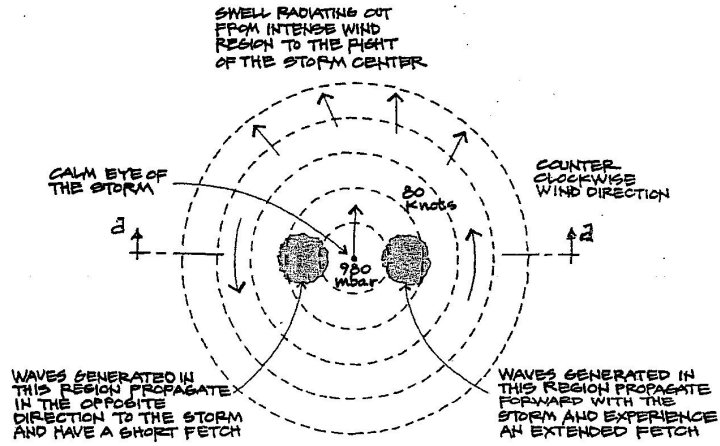


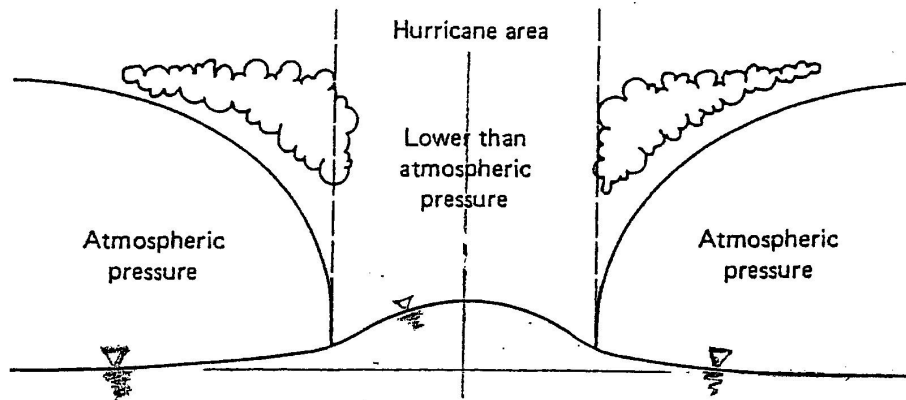
Fig. 2.9 Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale shown graphically

Figure 2.10 shows qualitative sketches of the windfield, wind generated waves and surge bubble in the eye of a hurricane. Figure 2.11 shows the storm surge build-up or setup prior to a hurricane making landfall and as the hurricane makes landfall. The setup or wind tide (also sometimes called the forerunner) is a characteristic rise in the water level near the coast, which precedes the actual arrival of the center of a hurricane. This can be explained by the fact that water is actually being transported and accumulated toward the shore. The forerunner extends for long distance along the shore, whereas the surge bubble covers only a small portion of the shoreline. The forerunner elevation is the greatest just to the right of the storm centerline where the rotational and the forward translational winds are parallel and additive. The surge bubble adds its action to that of the forerunner in further raising the water level.

Figure 2.12 shows a qualitative sketch of a hurricane surge wave approaching and making landfall. Note in the figure the much larger surge wave height and lateral extension on the right-hand side of the hurricane due to the hurricane tangential and translational winds being in the same direction. It should be noted that a fairly rapid rise in water surface elevation occurs near the center of the hurricane due to a barometric pressure drop in the eye and due to the radial component of the hurricane windfield as it spirals inward to the eye. The rise in water level due to the barometric pressure drop is only about 3 ft and its extension along the coastline is somewhat less than the diameter of the hurricane eye.



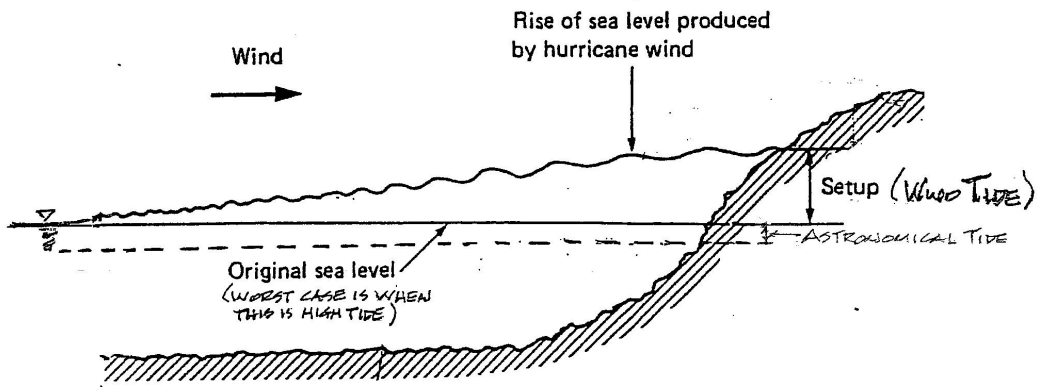
a. Plan view of windfield and resulting wind generated waves



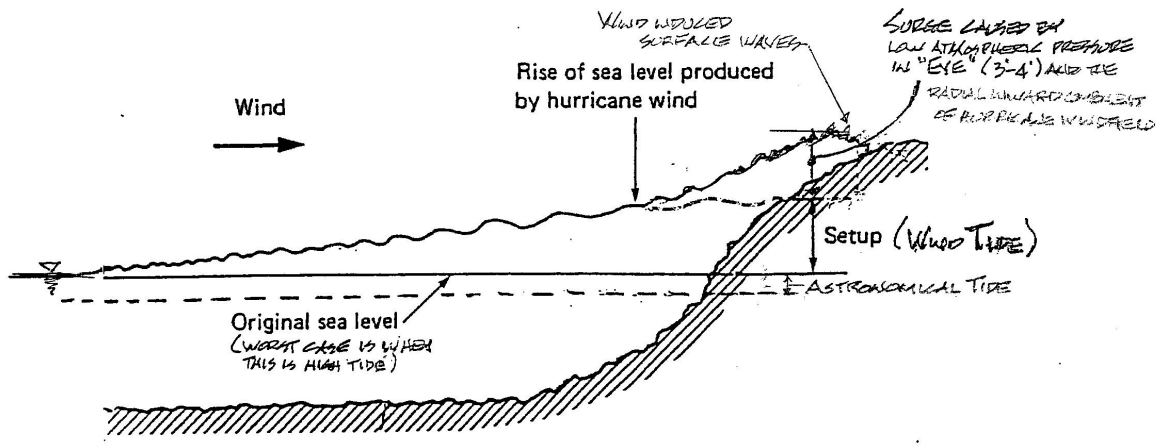
b. Elevation view along diameter a-a of surge bubble in "eye" due to reduced atmospheric pressure and radial inward component of hurricane windfield

**Fig. 2.10** Approximate hurricane windfield and radiating waves and surge bubble in "eye"



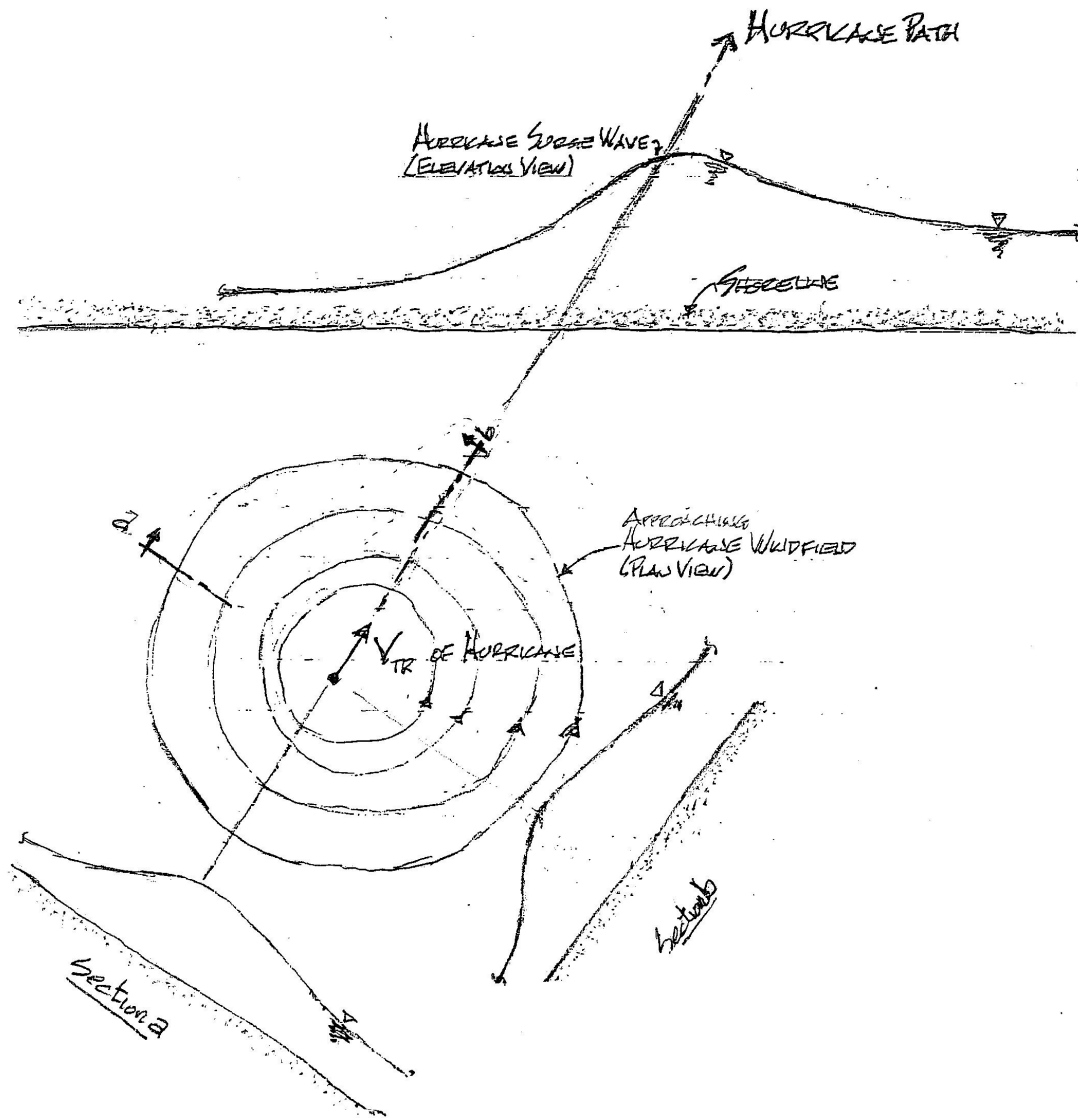


a. Prior to hurricane making landfall



b. As center of hurricane makes landfall

**Fig. 2.11 Surface waves and wind tide generated by hurricane**

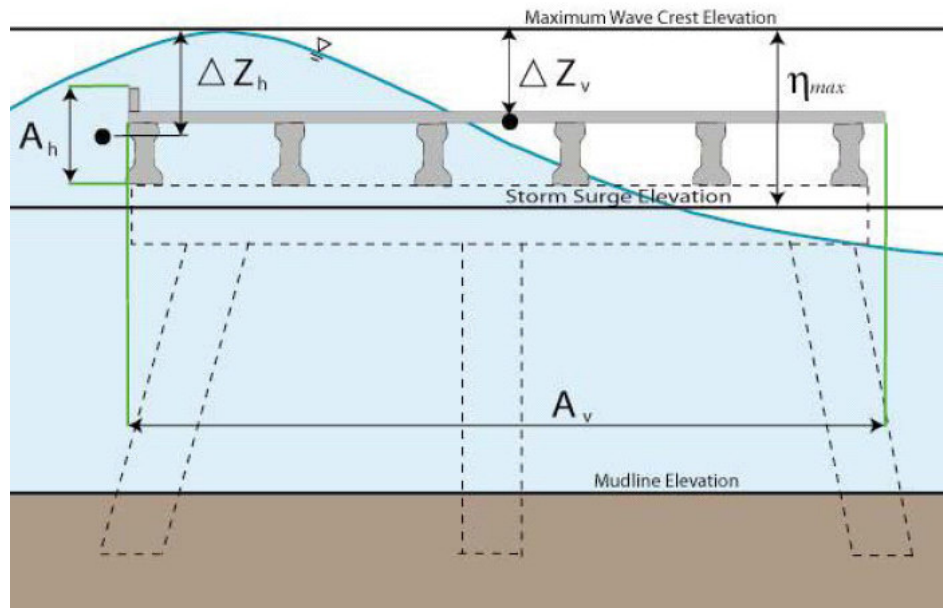


**Fig. 2.12 Qualitative sketch of hurricane surge wave approaching and making landfall**

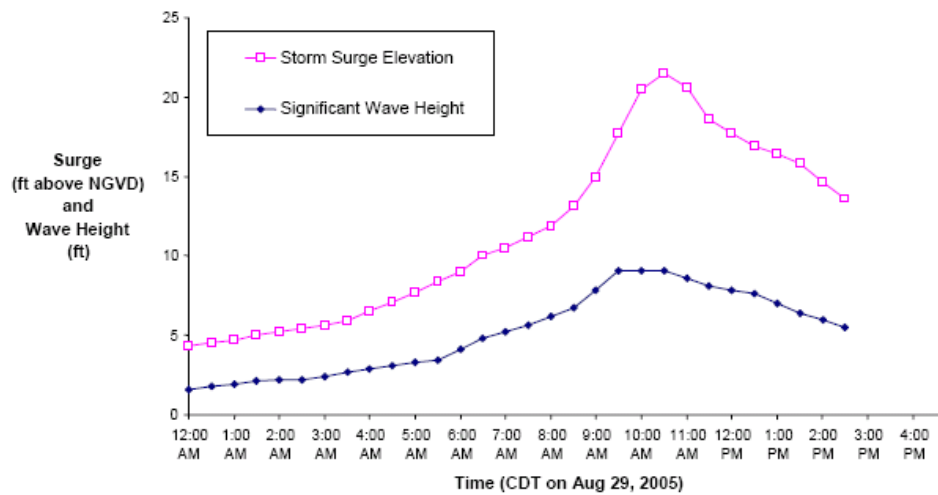
It should be noted in Fig. 2.11b that the setup or wind tide is superimposed on the ordinary (astronomical) tide, the hurricane eye bubble is superimposed on the setup, and the wind generated surface waves are superimposed on the setup and eye bubble. This combination of ordinary tide, wind tide, and eye bubble many times results in the water level at a bridge site being raised by the storm surge to a level where the 8-9 ft high surface waves inundate or partially inundate a bridge superstructure and create large buoyant forces as well as slam the superstructure with large horizontal and vertical pressures as implied in Fig. 2.13.

For coastal bridges, hurricane peak storm surge and surface wave heights at the location of the bridge are the primary storm parameters of interest in assessing the impact of a hurricane on a bridge. Ideally, one would like to have storm surge and surface wave information as shown in Fig. 2.14. However, having just the peak surge elevation and the significant wave height would suffice. Immediately after Hurricane Katrina, a post-storm survey by FEMA field teams allowed FEMA to map coastal surge heights in 1-foot intervals using documented coastal High Water Marks (HWMs) data caused by Katrina's storm surge. Field personnel deployed by FEMA collected detailed information about each HWM, including the physical basis of the mark, e.g., a mud line inside a building, a mud line on the outside of a building, or debris. Figure 2.15 shows these contours along the Mississippi coastline. A storm surge contour map was also created for the New Orleans area of southeastern Louisiana. Figure 2.16 depicts surge elevation contours calculated from post-Katrina HWMs collected along the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Borgne, and Lake Pontchartrain coastlines of Louisiana. Figures 2.17 and 2.18 show Katrina

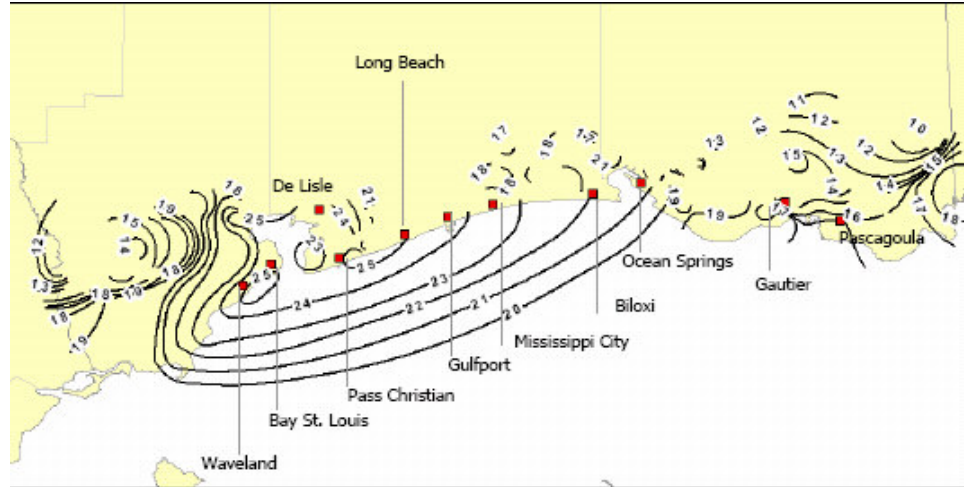
making landfall near Slidell, LA to allow correlations between the hurricane path and the mapped storm surge contours, and to provide a perspective of the lateral dimensions of the storm surge. It should be noted that at the I-10/Mobile Bay On-Ramp, the surge level was approximately 12 ft. Note in these figures the much larger height and lateral extension of the storm surge on the right-hand side of the hurricane (this was indicated qualitatively in Fig. 2.12).



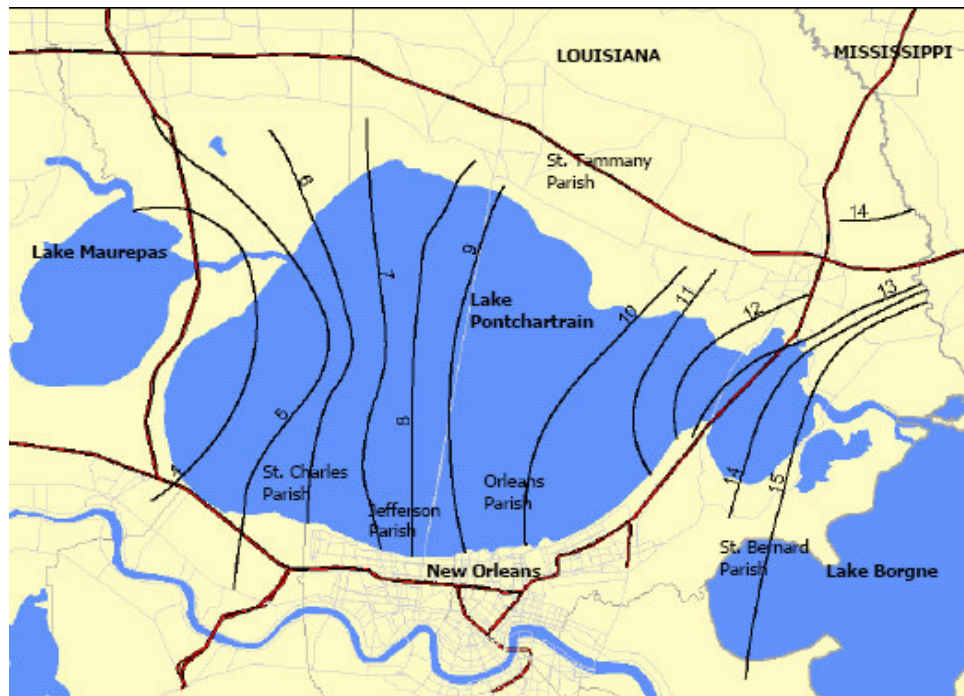
**Fig. 2.13** Partial inundation of bridge superstructure by storm surface wave due to rise in water surface by the storm surge (Douglass et al, 2006).



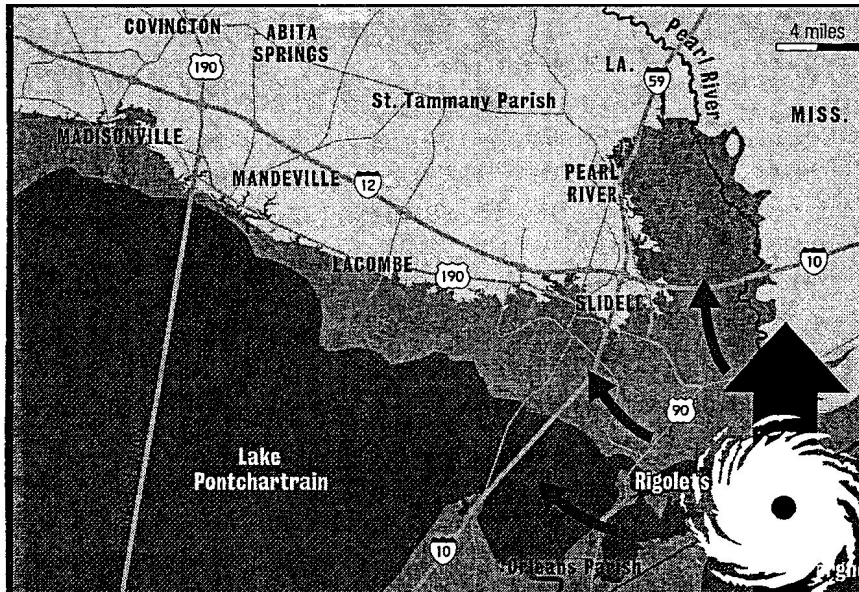
**Fig. 2.14** Estimated storm surge and wave heights at bridge as Katrina made landfall (Douglass et al, 2006).



**Fig. 2.15** Storm surge contours for Mississippi, as mapped by FEMA (heights measured in feet). (Source: FEMA, enhanced by Ron T. Eguchi, ImageCat) (NIST, 2006).



**Fig. 2.16** Storm surge contours (heights measured in feet) for the New Orleans area of southeastern Louisiana, as mapped by FEMA (Source: FEMA, enhanced by Ron T. Eguchi, ImageCat) (NIST, 2006).



**Fig. 2.17** Katrina makes landfall near Slidell, LA – storm surge is 15 feet at the Lake Pontchartrain north shoreline (NIST, 2006).

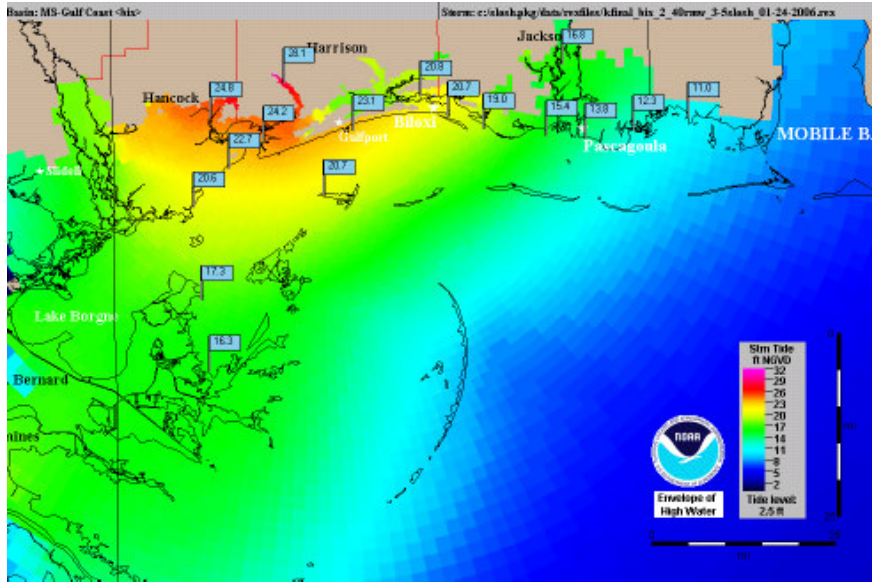


**Fig. 2.18** Location map of coastal highway bridges damaged by Hurricane Katrina (NIST, 2006).

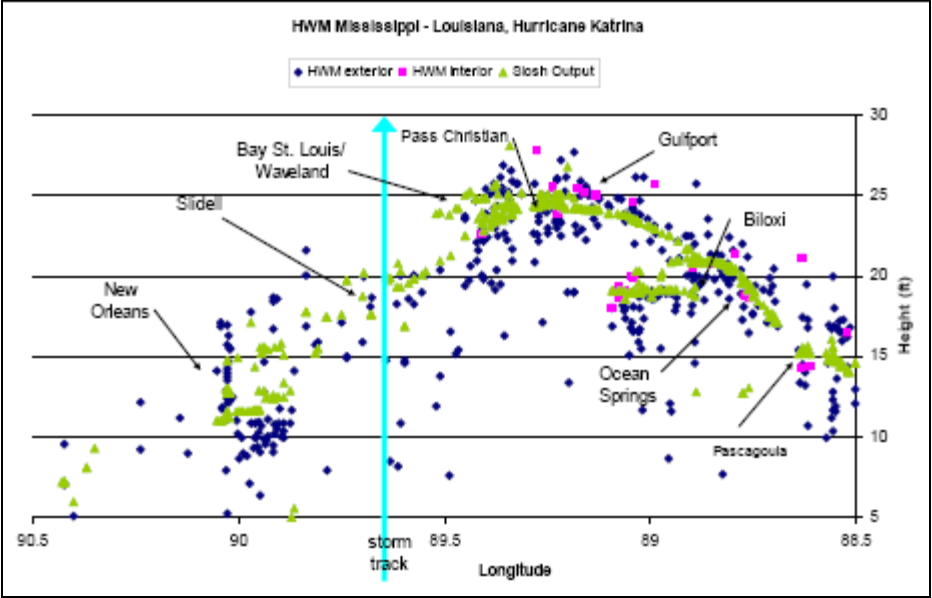
It should be noted that NOAA/FEMA conduct preliminary storm surge modeling when a weather system develops to the point of being a hurricane and gets close enough to the U.S. to estimate the vicinity of striking the U.S. (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico coast, Atlantic Ocean coast, etc). At that point they conduct real-time forecasts of potential storm surge for approaching hurricanes using the computer software SLOSH (Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes) and include these forecasts in periodic hurricane advisories. NOAA forecasts, evacuation plans and real-time decisions of the emergency management community for storm surge are based on SLOSH. In real-time, NOAA runs storm surge simulations and considers the associated output in its operational text and graphical products.

Results of a preliminary storm surge hindcast performed by NOAA using SLOSH for the Mississippi coast for Hurricane Katrina is shown in Fig. 2.19. A comparison of storm surge predictions using SLOSH with preliminary high water marks observed by FEMA in Mississippi and Louisiana is shown in Fig. 2.20, and indicates that the SLOSH program does a good job of predicting storm surge levels. This is important as it indicates that NOAA/FEMA can accurately predict maximum surge water levels at an existing or planned coastal bridge site. These water levels are needed if the bridge is to be designed with an “air gap” procedure, or to properly estimate surge/surface wave loadings on the bridge if the “air gap” procedure is not used.



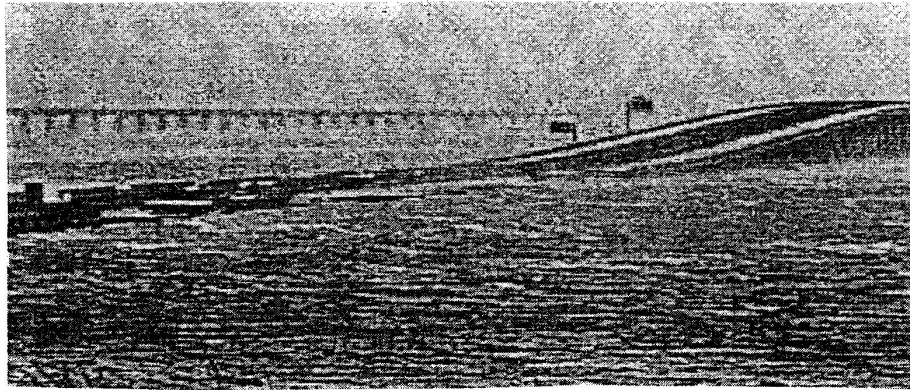


**Fig. 2.19 Preliminary storm surge hindcast results for Mississippi Gulf Coast for Hurricane Katrina using SLOSH (NIST, 2006).**

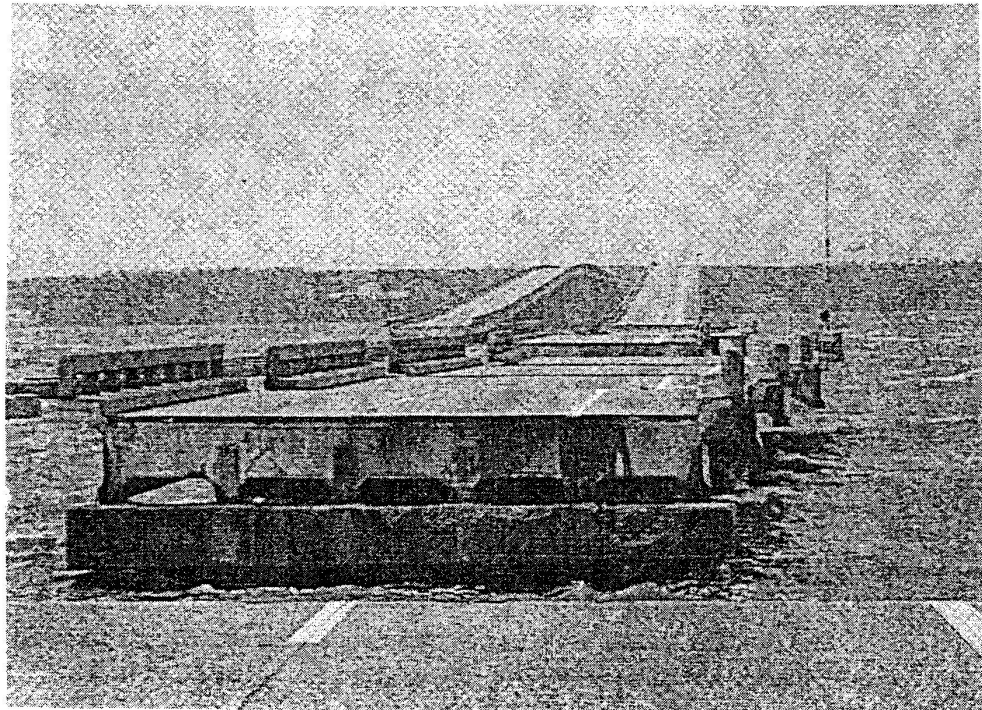


**Fig. 2.20 Comparison of storm surge predictions using SLOSH with preliminary high water marks observed by FEMA in Mississippi and Louisiana (NIST, 2006).**





a. Partially inundated bridge



b. Close-up of bridge superstructure failure

**Fig. 2.22 Hurricane surge/surface wave induced bridge superstructure failure near Pensacola, FL in Hurricane Katrina (NIST, 2006).**

Hurricane Katrina's storm surge/surface waves virtually destroyed the U.S. Hwy 90 Biloxi Bay Bridge, Biloxi, Mississippi, and the U.S. 90 Bay St. Louis Bridge, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Figures 2.23 and 2.24 show the state of the Biloxi Bay Bridge after Katrina. After Katrina, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MSDOT) contracted with the Parsons Corp. and URS Corp. for the Biloxi Bay Bridge, and with HNTB Corp. and URS Corp. for the Bay St. Louis Bridge, for the engineering design of the new replacement bridges. The MSDOT design changes on these two bridges to mitigate future hurricane storm surge/surface wave damage were as follows:

1. Used much higher vertical clearances. At the highest point the vertical clearance is 95ft on the Biloxi bridge and 85 ft on the Bay St. Louis Bridge. These clearances are controlled by navigation requirements. On both bridges at other locations the clearances are controlled by storm wave elevations and these clearances were increased substantially (to approximately 35ft).
2. Used longer and heavier spans to provide greater dead load resistance.
3. Used continuous spans to better distribute any wave loads.
4. Used shallower superstructure diaphragms to reduce entrapped air.
5. Used shear keys to lock the spans to the support bents.
6. Used seawalls around the abutments to prevent wave loading and scour at the abutments.

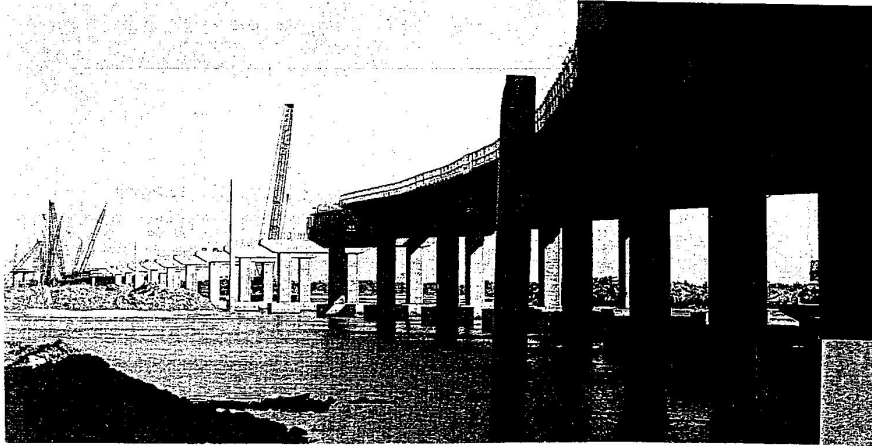


**Fig. 2.23** Looking west toward Biloxi from the east shore, many superstructure spans of US-90 Biloxi-Ocean Springs bridge were displaced north off their piers (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER) (NIST, 2006).

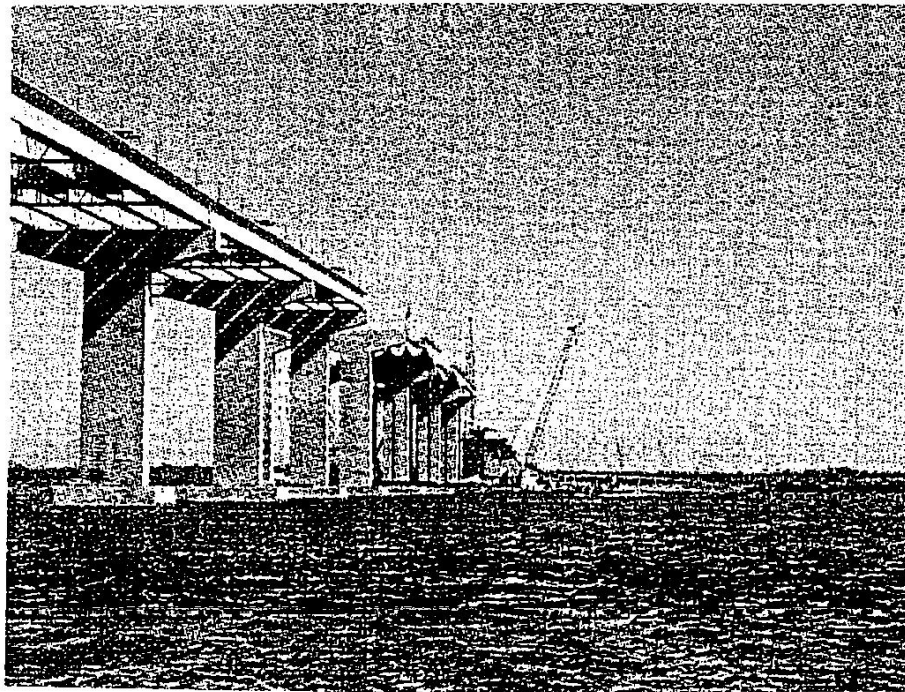


**Fig. 2.24** Photo looking west toward Biloxi of Hurricane Katrina damage to U.S. 90 Bridge over Biloxi Bay (Douglass et al, 2006).

Figure 2.25 shows the new Biloxi Bay Bridge under construction and scheduled for completion in April 2008. Figure 2.26 shows the new Bay St. Louis Bridge under construction and it is scheduled for completion in November 2007.



**Fig. 2.25 U.S. 90 Biloxi Bay Bridge under construction**



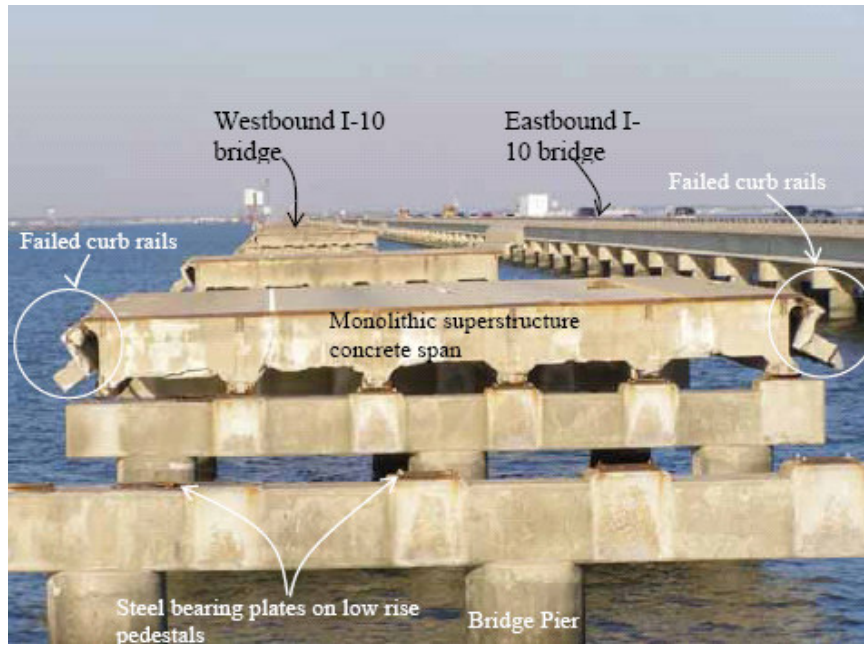
**Fig. 2.26 U.S. 90 Bay St. Louis Bridge under construction**

As discussed in Section 2.1, Hurricane Katrina's high storm surge/surface waves did tremendous damage to the twin I-10 bridges across the east end of Lake Pontchartrain near New Orleans, as evident in Fig. 2.27. The damage and probability of a future repeat were so great that the bridges are now being replaced by two new I-10 twin bridges which are scheduled to be completed in August 2011. Volkert Construction Services Inc. is performing the engineering and construction inspection for the twin bridges. Volkert's primary design changes from the original bridges include

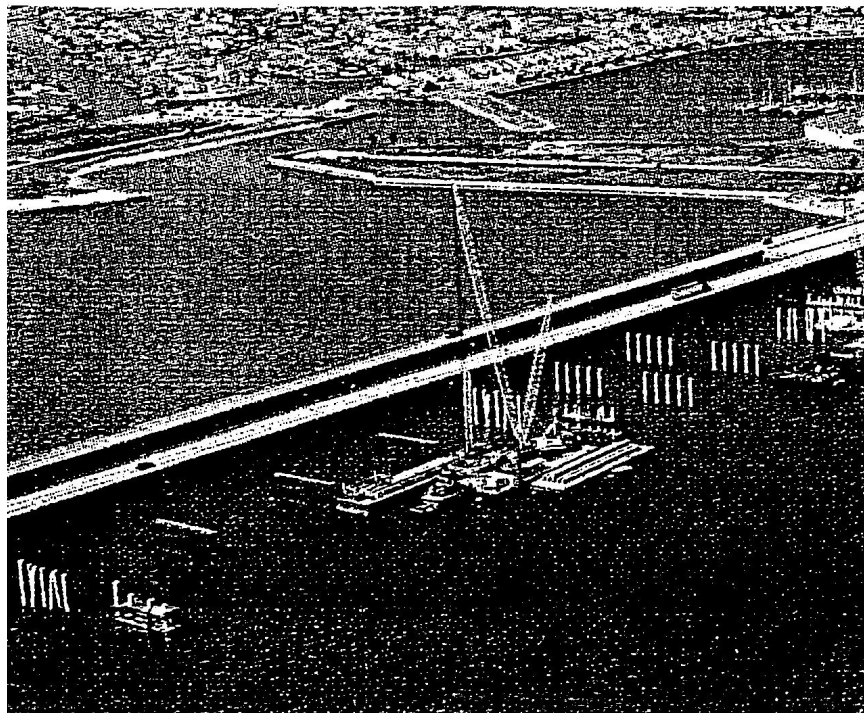
- an elevated bridge height (21 ft higher than the old bridge)
- greater weather resistant concrete
- reinforced attachments between the decks and girders and girders and substructure to prevent uplift and lateral movement from storm surge/surface waves.

Figure 2.28 shows the repaired old twin bridges with pile driving underway for the adjacent new bridges.

**Damage to I-10 Ramp in Mobile Bay.** Although Hurricane Katrina made landfall nearly 100 miles away (see Fig. 2.21), the storm surge and surface waves at the north end of Mobile Bay caused significant damage to an I-10 on-ramp at that location as reported by Douglass, et al, 2006. The peak storm surge at the I-10 on-ramp was estimated to be 12 ft based on high water data at the nearby USS Alabama Battleship Park, with a corresponding significant wave height of  $H_s = 5.6$  ft. The storm surge/waves caused movement to the north in the direction of wave propagation of the lowest five simply-supported ramp spans as can be seen in Fig. 2.29. It should be noted that some of the spans that moved would have probably continued to move and perhaps fallen from the support bents had they not been somewhat pie-shaped and



**Fig. 2.27 Katrina damage to I-10 twin bridges on Lake Pontchartrain – view looking north from west abutment (NIST, 2006).**



**Fig. 2.28 New twin I-10 bridges just beginning construction/pile driving adjacent to old twin I-10 bridges across Lake Pontchartrain**



wedged themselves in place. Also, it should be noted in Fig. 2.29 that the lower elevation spans which did not move were continuous spans with the superstructure cast monolithically with the piles and pile cap, and the higher elevation spans (going up the ramp) were sufficiently high to partially miss the large wave loadings.



**Fig. 2.29 Damage to I-10 on-ramp near Mobile, Alabama, caused by Hurricane Katrina (Douglass et al, 2006).**

Douglass et al. reported that the five moved spans had low-chord elevations at or below the peak of the storm surge. The sixth simply-supported span up the ramp (span #14), i.e., the first one not damaged, had an elevation with about 1.4 feet of clearance between the low-chord elevation and the surge elevation. Thus, it was being hit by waves at the peak of the storm. The elevations and dimensions of the on-ramp spans were obtained from the ALDOT from their engineering plans. The ramp slopes up as well as

on a horizontal curve to the left with a superelevation that sets the south side higher. The five ramp spans that moved had top-of-deck elevations of between 8.0 and 13.7 feet as measured at the center of the span. The corresponding “low-chord” elevations at the mid-point of the south side of the spans was typically about 3.7 feet lower than the top-of-deck elevation.

The connection of the simply-supported span superstructure to the pile bent substructure consisted of eight sets of bolts in each span - the inside and the outside of the girders in each corner of the span. Inspection indicated that the bolts did not shear but rather the bent cap or girder concrete failed as can be seen in Figs. 2.30-2.31. Figure 2.32 shows one of the connections on a higher elevation span that survived the storm. Based on estimated values of the concrete tensile strength and failure area, Douglass, et al. estimated the total resistance to movement of each span to be approximately  $200^k - 400^k$ .

Using the known dimensions of the ramp spans (from the ALDOT) and the equations and procedure for estimating wave loadings that they recommended, Douglass, et al., estimated the wave loading on the five on-ramp spans that moved (spans #9 - #13) and the next span up the ramp which did not move, i.e., span #14. The results of their analyses are shown graphically in Fig. 2.33. Douglass, et al. point out the good correlation between the estimated applied loads and the estimated span connection resistance ( $200^k - 400^k$ ), i.e., spans #9 - #13 had estimated applied loads larger than the estimated resistance and they broke their connections and moved, while span #14 had an estimated resistance that was adequate for the loading and did not move.



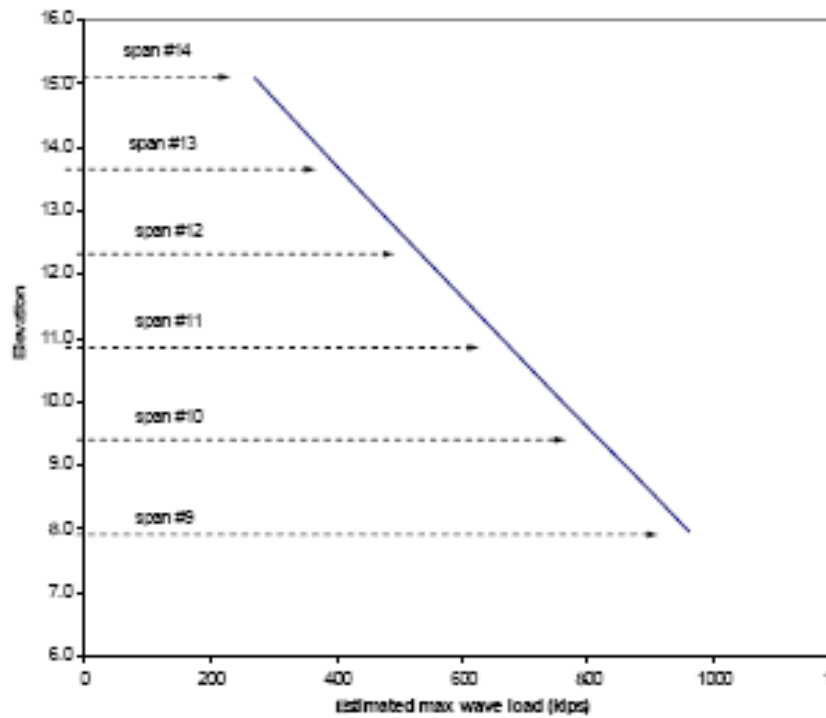
**Fig. 2.30** Photo of northeast corner of span #11 of I-10 on-ramp near Mobile, AL (Douglass et al, 2006).



**Fig. 2.31** Photo of typical slip angle connection of I-10 on-ramp near Mobile showing failure of concrete around bolts but without subsequent span displacement (Douglass et al, 2006).



**Fig. 2.32** Photo of clip angle connection that did not fail on another part of I-10 on-ramp near Mobile (Douglas et al, 2006).



**Fig.2.33** Reduction in estimated wave loads on I-10 on-ramp near Mobile with elevation (Douglass et al, 2006).

### **2.2.3 Hurricane Frederic Storm Surge Heights and Bridge Damages**

Hurricane Frederic (rated as a high category 3 hurricane) approached the Alabama Coast with a forward speed of about 15 mph. The eye of the storm measured 50 miles east to west, and 40 miles north to south. In the opinion of some weather forecasters Frederic had the largest storm center ever recorded. The storm center crossed over the western end of Dauphin Island at about 10 p.m. CDT on 12 September 1979. At Dauphin Island Bridge a 145 mph peak gust of wind was recorded. The hurricane continued on a course slightly west of due north with its center striking the mainland in Alabama near the Alabama-Mississippi border about an hour later (see Figs. 2.34 and 2.35).

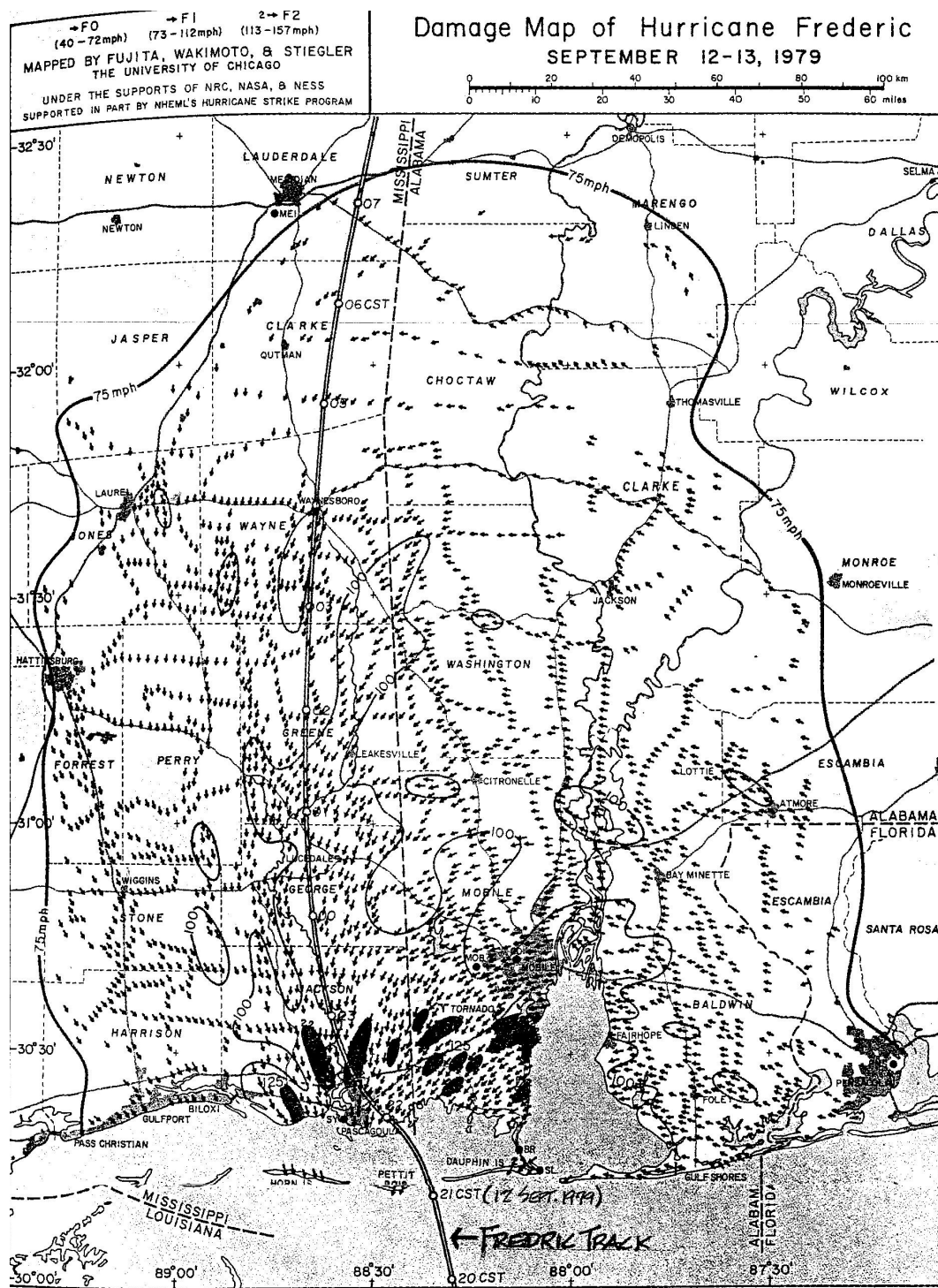


Fig. 2.34 Damage Map of Hurricane Frederic (US Army, 1981).

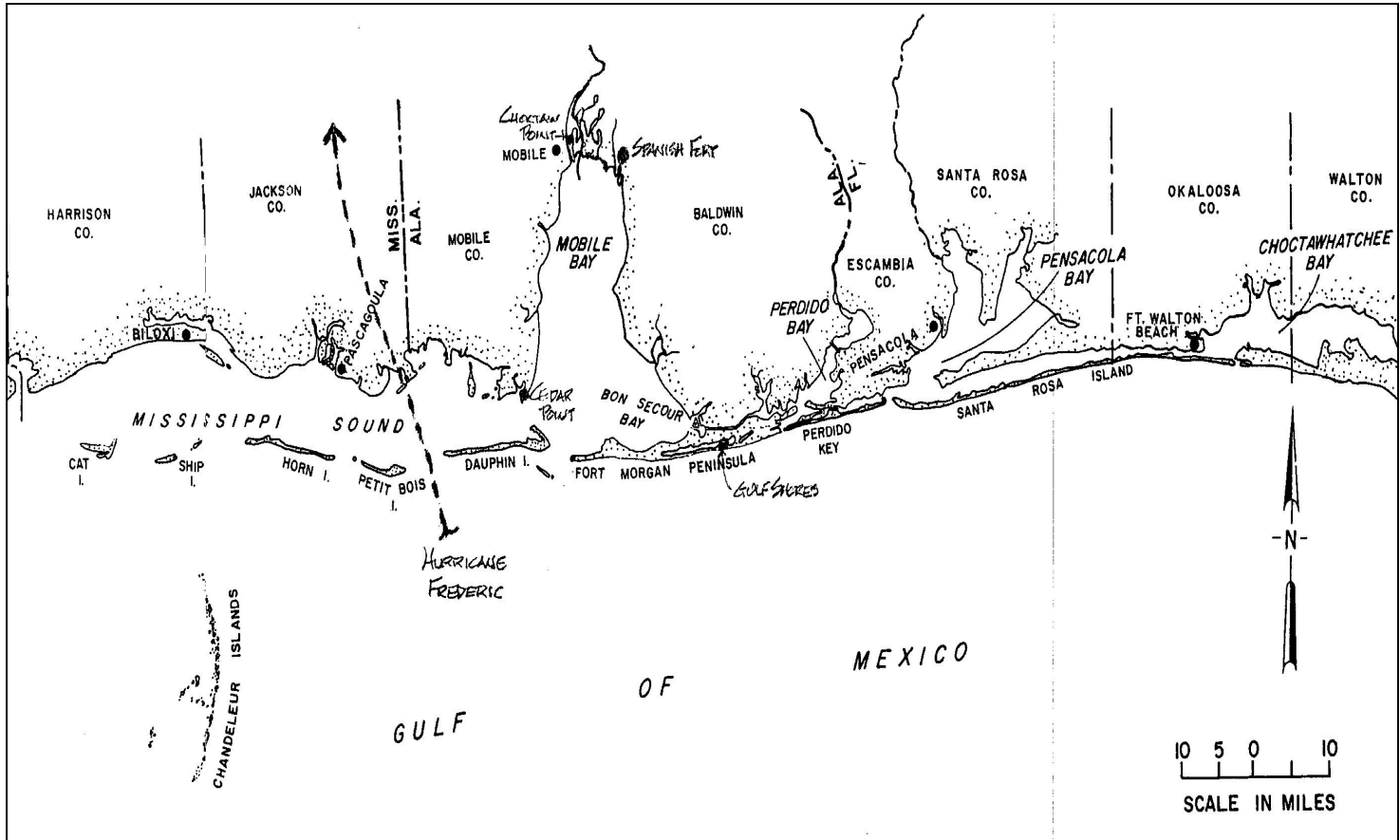


Figure 2.35 Gulf Coastal Area Affected by Hurricane Frederic (US Army, 1981).

**Storm Surge.** As the storm struck the coast, the storm surge was greatest in its north-eastern quadrant, which swept along the Alabama Gulf Coast near the Alabama-Florida State line. On Dauphin Island the astronomical low tide occurred at 1:05 p.m. on 12 September, and the high tide occurred at 1:53 a.m. on 13 September. The tide variation from low to high was about 1.1 feet. Some storm surge heights and damages the surge and associated surface waves caused are given below.

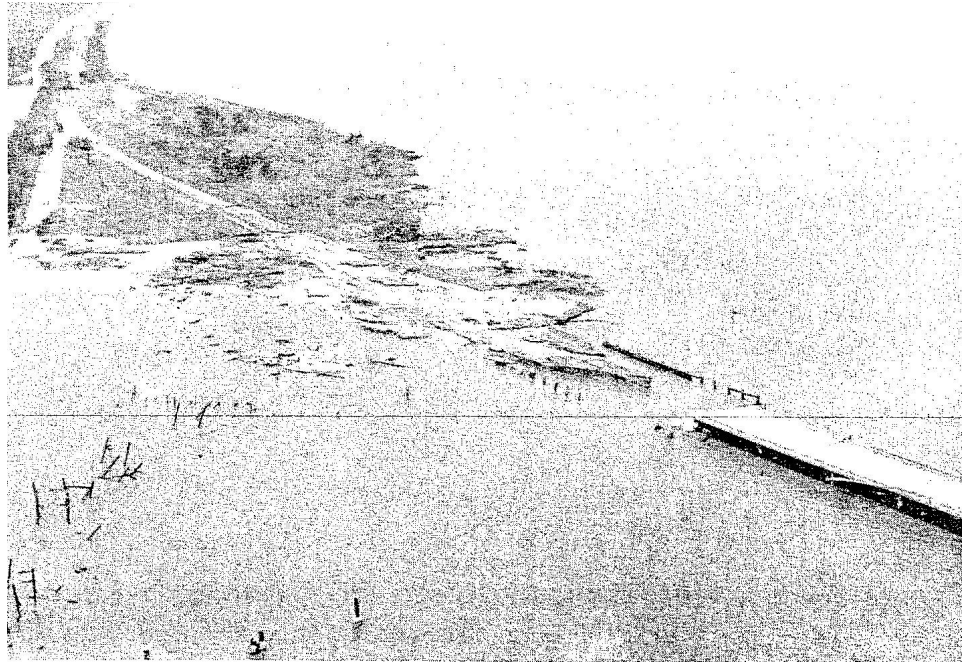
- On the Alabama beaches in Baldwin County, from Fort Morgan (at Mobile Bay) east to Alabama Point (at Perdido Pass), storm surge high water elevations ranged from 10 feet to more than 15 feet above the National Geodetic Vertical Datum, NGVD (formerly mean sea level). One of the higher water marks (HWM) was measured at 15.79 feet, along a driftline at the northwest corner of the main building at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores, Alabama (see Figs. 2.34 and 2.35 for site locations).
- A wave height was measured at elevation 16.93 feet NGVD, and its associated wave runup of 23.88 feet, on the coast about three miles west of Perdido Bay.
- High water elevations on the Gulf Coast of Perdido Key, Florida were about 11 to 15 feet.



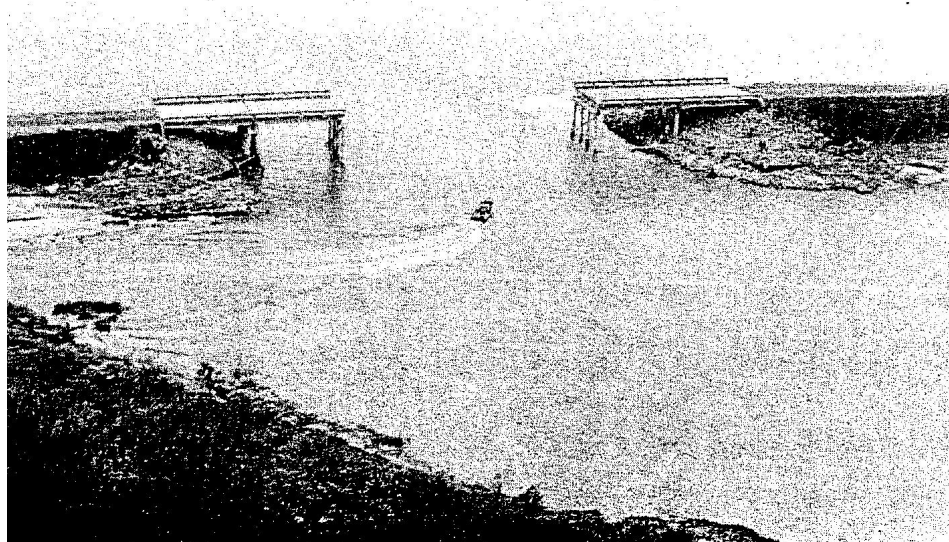
- On Dauphin Island, Alabama, high water elevations ranged from 9 feet on the eastern end near Fort Gaines, to over 13 feet NGVD on the Gulf (south) side, about midway of the island. The western end of the island, for a distance of about 11 miles, was over-topped by the storm surge and no high water elevations were available. On the north side, at the eastern end of the island, the high water elevations ranged from 6 to 8 feet in Dauphin Island Bay, between Dauphin Island and Little Dauphin Island.
- In Alabama, along the eastern shore of Mobile Bay from Bon Secour north to Spanish Fort, the high water elevations were 6 to 8 feet. The causeway, which crosses the delta at the northern end of Mobile Bay, had high water elevations of 8 to 10 feet and most of the buildings along that portion of Highway US 90, 98, and 31 were destroyed or severely damaged.
- The Alabama State Docks gage at Mobile, Alabama on the Mobile River, recorded a high water elevation of 8.05 feet NGVD. Choctaw Point, at the mouth of Mobile River had a high of 12.0 feet.
- The western shore of Mobile Bay had high water elevations ranging from 7 to 12 feet. Near Cedar Point, at the junction of Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound, a high water mark of 13.5 feet was recorded at the Cut-Off Bridge on Alabama Highway 163.

The high water elevations along the western Alabama coast near Bayou La Batre and Coden were 9 to 10 feet.

- On the extreme southern tip of mainland Mobile County, known as Cedar Point, State Highway 163 sustained considerable damage from erosion. A section of the road about 200 feet in length was washed away (see Fig. 2.36). The Heron Bay Cut-Off Bridge was destroyed (see Fig. 2.37).
- The Dauphin Island Bridge from Cedar Point south to the island was destroyed by the 145 mph wind and storm surge. The road on the causeway portion of bridge sustained major damage, and 135 spans of the bridge were forced into the water on the east side of the bridge. The remainder of the bridge was so severely damaged that it had to be demolished (see Fig. 2.38).
- At the north end of Mobile Bay, two spans of the I-10 eastbound entrance ramp at highway US 90 were lifted and moved on their support bents over six feet as shown in Fig. 2.39.
- Frederic's storm surge at the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge was approximately 11.7 ft which is the second largest (only Katrina's at 12.4 ft was higher) in recorded history.



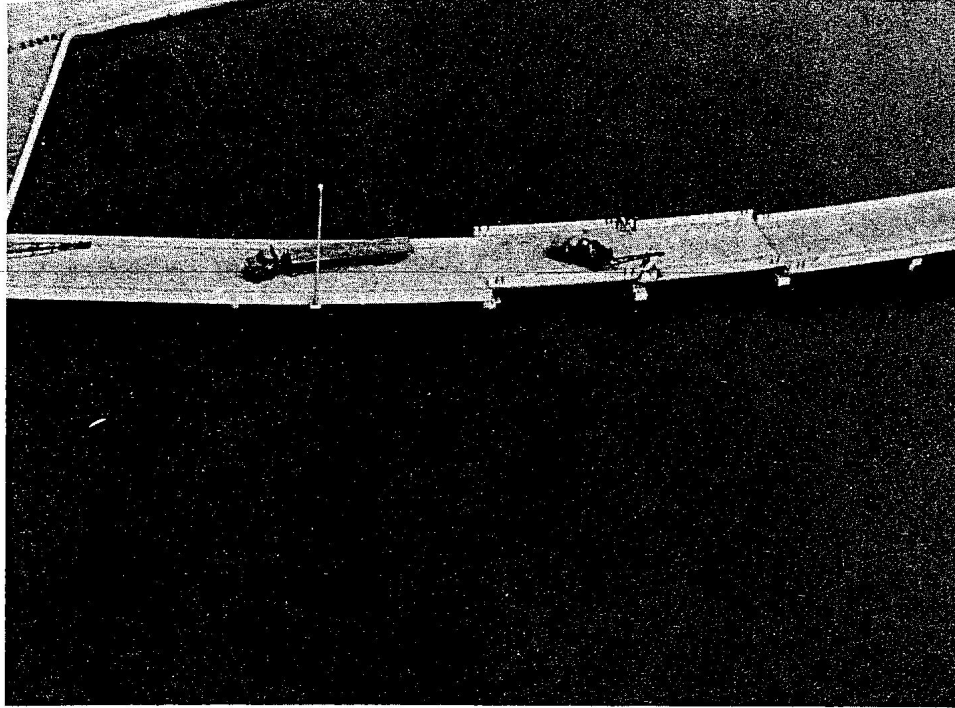
**Fig. 2.36 A Section of the Dauphin Island Bridge, South from the Mainland at Cedar Point, was Destroyed and the Road Washed Away (US Army, 1981).**



**Fig. 2.37 The Midspan of the Cut-Off Bridge Near Cedar Point on Ala. Hwy. 163 was Destroyed by a 13 Foot Storm Surge (US Army, 1981).**



**Fig. 2.38 Aerial View of Dauphin Island Bridge Showing Damage Near Lift Span at Intersection of Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Channel (US Army, 1981).**



**Fig. 2.39** Spans of I-10 Eastbound Entrance Ramp at Hwy. U.S. 90 were Lifted and Displaced over Six Feet on their Support Bents (US Army, 1981).

**2.2.4 Basic Definitions and Characteristics of Ocean Waves.** A full description of surface waves requires consideration of many physical aspects such as bottom conditions, surface conditions, and flow and fluid conditions. As a result, there is no single analytic solution that fully describes all wave conditions. Rather, there are a number of solutions that are applicable over certain ranges of conditions.

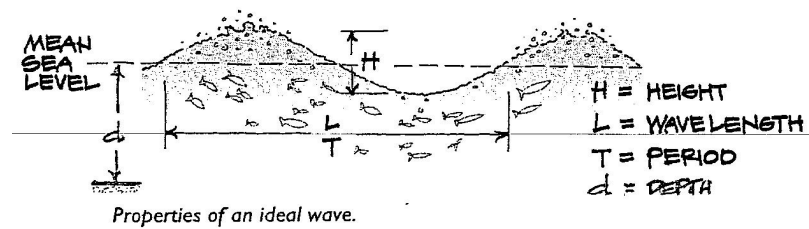
The primary variables used to describe waves are the wave height  $H$ , which is the crest to trough vertical distance; the wave period  $T$ , which is the time between the passage of successive wave crests; the wave length  $L$ , which is the horizontal distance between wave crests; and the still water depth  $h$ , which is the vertical distance from the bottom to the free surface if no waves are present. A dimensionless ratio commonly used to express wave profile characteristics is the wave steepness, defined as  $H/L$ . The speed at which the wave crest moves is the wave celerity  $c$ . A definition sketch of these primary surface wave parameters is presented in Fig. 2.40.

A more general and descriptive surface wave sketch is shown in Fig. 2.41. In this figure, the free surface profile  $\eta$  is the vertical distance measured from the still water level (SWL). The simplest and probably the most widely used wave analytic representation/theory for surface waves is linear wave theory (LWT). For LWT, the height of the crest  $a_c$  and the depth of the trough  $a_t$  in Fig. 2.41 are both equal to  $H/2$  and are centered on the SWL. In other wave theories and often in nature, this is not necessarily the case and the crest height is greater than the trough depth, and the average position of the free surface is not the same as the still water level.

In LWT, the wave free water surface is assumed to be a simple sinusoidal function as shown below.

$$\eta = \frac{H}{2} \cos(kx - \omega t)$$

- **Height, Length, Period:**



- **Speed of Propagation (Celerity, c):**

$$c = \frac{L}{T} \quad (\text{in deep water})$$

$$c = \sqrt{gd} \quad (\text{in shallow water})$$

- **Energy (E):**

$$E \propto H^2$$

For Wave Heights of

H = 5 ft

H = 10 ft

The 10 ft wave has 4 times the destructive potential of the 5 ft wave.

**Fig. 2.40 Primary surface wave properties**

Thus, the wave celerity is

$$c = \frac{L}{T} = \frac{\omega}{k}$$

where  $k$  is the wave number and is  $k = 2\pi/L$ .

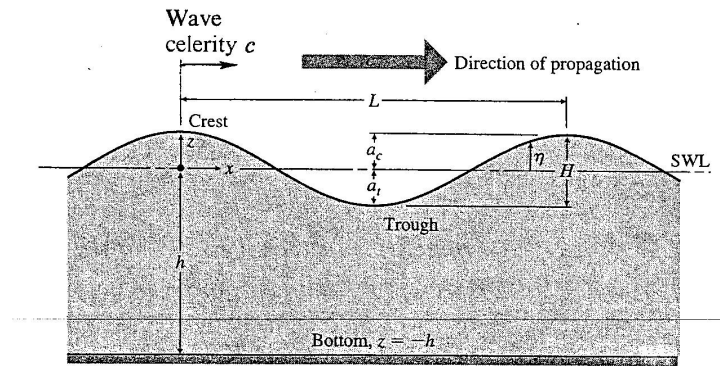
For LWT to be valid,  $H/L \ll 1$  or, in other words, the wave height must be nearly zero with respect to the wave length. This is a very severe assumption, but is invoked because it allows the development of a rather simple analytical description of the waves. It should be noted that the near shore sea state during hurricane conditions is such that LWT is not valid.

As waves become steeper, the crests become higher and more peaked and the troughs become shallower and longer as shown by the dashed line in Fig. 2.42. The amplitude of the crest may be much larger than the amplitude of the trough. As a result, the forces associated with the crest are much larger. Also, for extreme wind conditions with resulting extreme wave conditions (such as hurricane conditions), the wave  $H/L$  is no longer small since  $H$  gets larger and  $L$  gets smaller near the shore. For these conditions, more sophisticated (and more complicated) wave theories must be employed. The two most common nonlinear analytical wave theories are the Stokes and cnoidal theories.

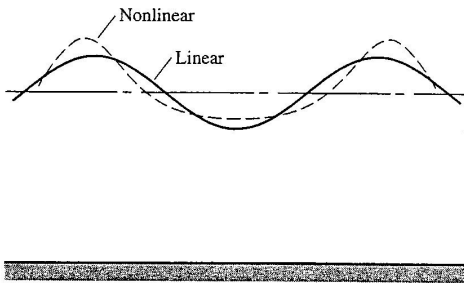
Coastal engineers and researchers have found that cnoidal wave theory to be most applicable for steep waves in shallow water. Figure 2.43 shows a sketch of cnoidal waves in shallow water and this basically fits the profile of waves at the beach in stormy



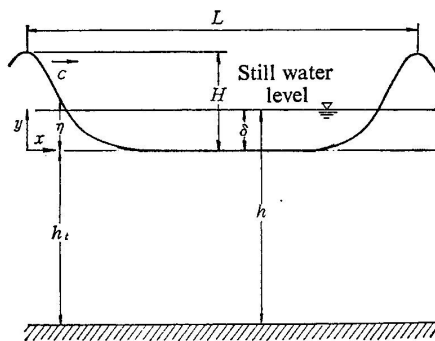
weather, and is the condition that exists at most of our coastal bridges during hurricane storm conditions. Figure 2.44 illustrates LWT, Stokes 5<sup>th</sup> order, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-order cnoidal wave theory free surface profiles for  $H = 1$  m,  $T = 10$  sec, and  $h = 6.5$  m. For shallow water, Stokes theory overpredicts the wave amplitude. In fact, in shallow water, LWT may yield more accurate estimates than Stokes. Figure 2.45 indicates the region in which these three analytical theories provide the best estimate, based on errors in the dynamic free surface boundary condition. This curve is for reasonably steep waves with  $H/H_B > 1/4$ , where  $H_B$  is the breaking wave height. For shallow conditions, cnoidal wave theory provides the best estimates, and for deep water Stokes 5<sup>th</sup> yields the more accurate results. Note, however, that over a range of intermediate water depth, LWT provides the best estimates.



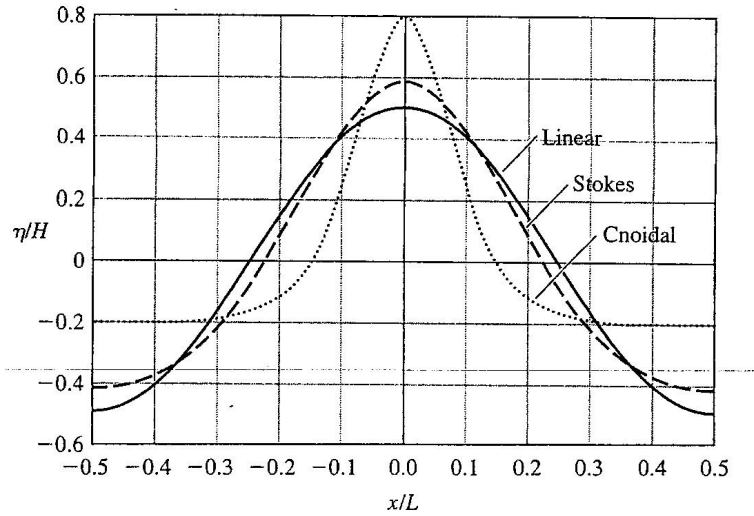
**Fig. 2.41** Surface wave definition sketch



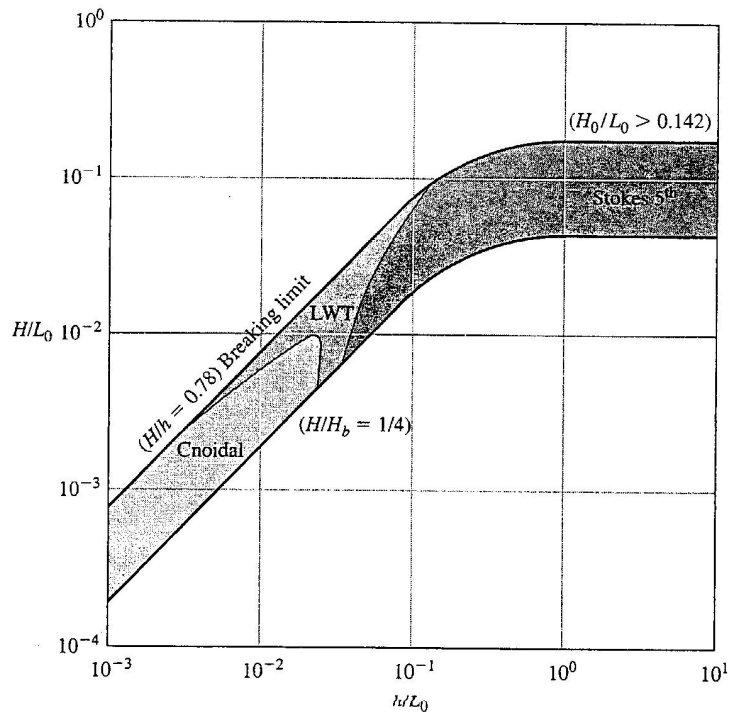
**Fig.2.42** Comparison of linear and nonlinear free-surface profiles



**Fig. 2.43** Sketch of cnoidal wave



**Fig. 2.44 Comparison of LWT, Stokes 5<sup>th</sup> order, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-order cnoidal wave theories for  $H = 1\text{ m}$ ,  $T = 10\text{ sec}$ , and  $h = 6.5\text{ m}$**



**Fig. 2.45 Periodic analytic wave theories providing the best fit to the dynamic free-surface boundary condition. Adapted from *Evaluation and Development of Water Wave Theories for Engineering Applications* by R.G. Dean, courtesy of U.S. Corps of Engineers, Vols. I and II, 1974.**

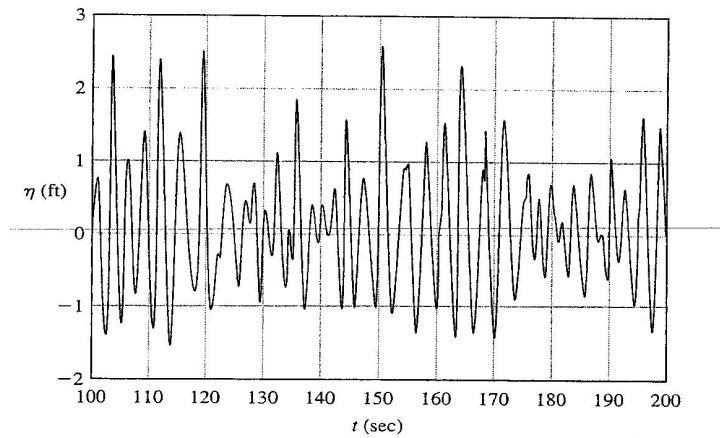
The free surface profile of wind-generated water waves is rarely, if ever, simple sinusoidal with constant amplitude/height and period as in LWT. Actual wave observations include many different wave heights, periods, and directions that are superimposed to yield the local wave conditions as shown in Fig. 2.46. However, for design some simplifying assumptions are required.

A common way of treating actual or irregular waves is to express them by representative wave characteristics in a statistical sense. To do this, it is necessary to define the wave height and period from a series of wave records such as those shown in Fig. 2.46. The zero-up crossing method is the one generally employed and this method uses the time when the surface wave profile crosses the zero (still water) level in the upward direction. An individual wave height is defined by the vertical difference between the maximum and minimum levels with adjacent zero-up cross points, and the corresponding wave period is defined by the interval of the two crossing points.

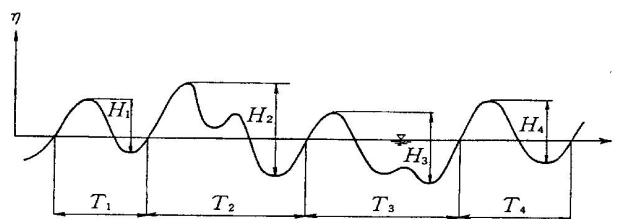
To determine the statistically representative wave by using the height and period data obtained by the above procedure, four methods are normally used to define the representative wave:

- 1) The maximum wave ( $H_{\max}$ ,  $T_{\max}$ ), which corresponds to the maximum height in a given wave group;
- 2) The one-tenth highest wave ( $H_{1/10}$ ,  $T_{1/10}$ ), which corresponds to the average of the heights and periods of the one-tenth highest waves of a given wave group;

- 3) The significant wave ( $H_{1/3}, T_{1/3}$ ), which corresponds to the average of the heights and periods of the one-third highest waves of a given wave group;
- 4) The mean wave ( $\bar{H}, \bar{T}$ ), which corresponds to the mean wave height and period of a given wave group.



a. Measured free-water surface profile



b. Definition sketch of surface profile

**Fig. 2.46 Measured and schematic of a free-water surface profile of ocean waves**

Among these statistically representative waves, the significant wave with wave height,  $H_s$ , is most frequently used in the coastal engineering field.

Assuming a Rayleigh wave height distribution,  $H_s$  may be further defined in approximation relation to other height parameters of the statistical wave height distribution in deep water as follows:

$$H_{10} \approx 1.27 H_s = \text{average of highest 10 percent of all waves}$$

$$H_5 \approx 1.37 H_s = \text{average of highest 5 percent of all waves}$$

$$H_1 \approx 1.67 H_s = \text{average of highest 1 percent of all waves}$$

The maximum wave height,  $H_{\max}$ , cannot be determined as a definite value, but a most probable value can be estimated. However, to directly design for this value would be compounding too many low probability events, e.g., the probability of a major hurricane hitting the bridge site, the waves moving perpendicular to the bridge, the height of wave being at  $H_{\max}$  over a full span length, etc. Also, the bridge if properly designed and/or retrofitted, will have inherent ductility and/or be able to move somewhat to withstand the super  $H_{\max}$  wave. Thus, for design, it is recommended that coastal bridges be designed/retrofitted for wave forces corresponding to

$$\tilde{H}_{\max} = 1.4 H_s$$

and incorporate ductility, small movement capability, and some venting in the design/retrofit to allow the bridge to withstand the superwaves and some wave impact loadings. In so doing, we are designing for approximately the average of the highest 4 to 5 percent of all of a hurricane's waves.

Regarding wave period, Horikawa (1978), indicates that observation data at Nagoya Harbor give the results  $T_{1/10} / T_{1/3} = 0.99 \pm 0.06$  and  $T_{1/3} / \bar{T} = 1.07 \pm 0.08$ . Thus, we can assume statistically that

$$T_{1/10} \approx T_{1/3} \text{ and } T_{1/3} \approx 1.1 \bar{T}$$

Or,

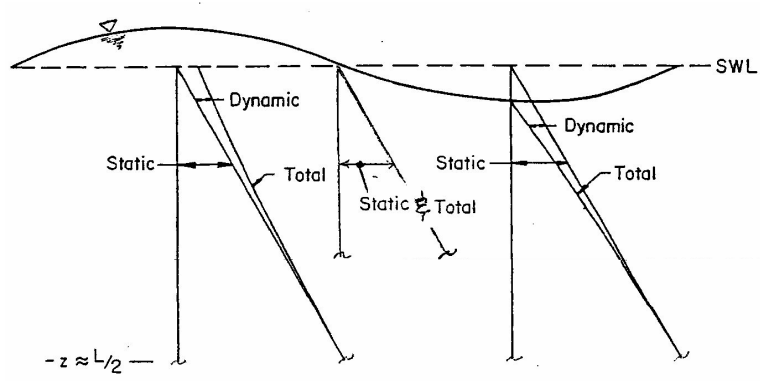
$$T \approx \text{constant.}$$

A cork in the path of an ocean wave moves forward with the crest of the wave, but then moves *backward* in the trough until it rises and moves forward with the next crest. Waves move water particles up and down in circular orbits (deep water) or elliptical orbits (shallow water) as the wave itself moves forward with a speed/celerity,  $c$ . Figure 2.41 shows the pressure fields and water particle movement in and with the passage of a deep water wave. Note in Fig. 2.47a that the pressure at a particular point and time is essentially hydrostatic, i.e.,

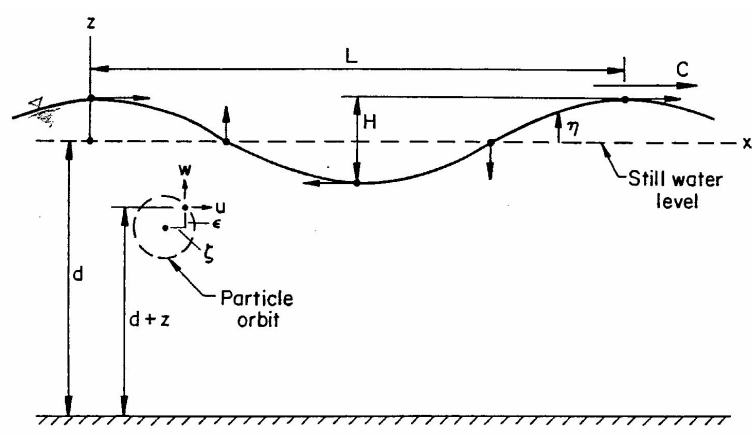
$$p_p = \gamma d_p$$

where  $d_p$  is the depth of the point from the free water surface at the particular time

The arrowed vectors on the free water surface in Fig. 2.47b show the direction of select surface particle movements at the time of the surface profile snapshot. Figure 2.48 shows the transition of the water surface profile and water particle orbits as a surface wave moves from deep to shallow water (shore).



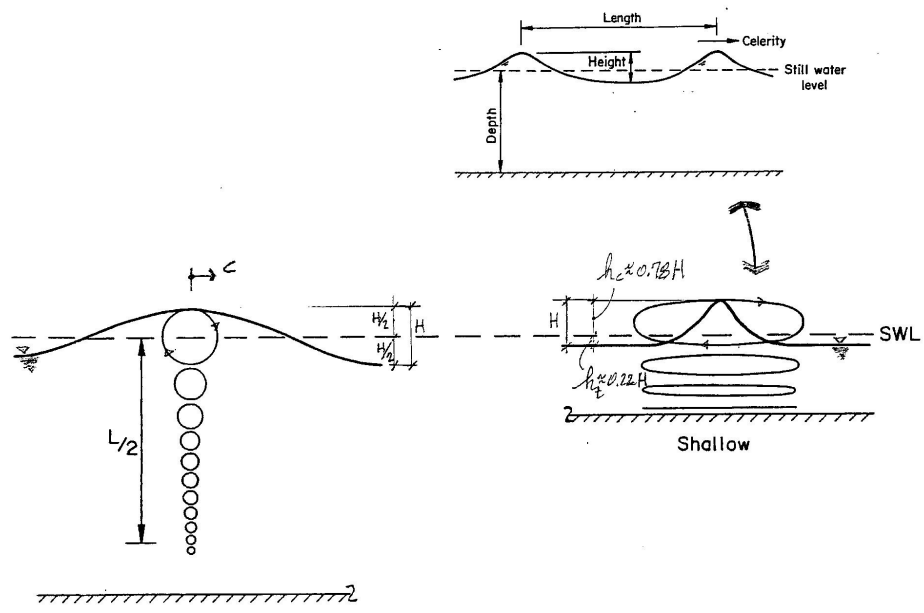
a. Pressure Fields



b. Definition of wave parameters and water particle movements

**Fig. 2.47 Deep water waves, pressure fields, and water particle movements**





**Fig. 2.48** Transition of surface profile and particle orbits in going from deep to shallow water

**Wave Transformation due to Water Depth Shoaling.** Important wave transformations and relationships as waves move into shallow water (where coastal bridges are typically located) are presented below. These equations and relationships were extracted from Horikawa, 1978. When a wave enters shallow water, it gets transformed, and its height, length, and celerity change. If we assume that the ocean bottom slope has a negligible effect on the wave characteristics, then the waves at any location on a sloping bottom can be described by small amplitude wave theory, (LWT), from which the wave length and celerity are

$$L = \frac{gT^2}{2\pi} \tanh \frac{2\pi h}{L} \quad (2.1a)$$

or for deep water,

$$L_0 = \frac{gT^2}{2\pi} \quad \Rightarrow \quad L_0 = 5.12T^2 \text{ (in ft.)} \quad (2.1b)$$

and,

$$c = \frac{L}{T} = \frac{gT}{2\pi} \tanh \frac{2\pi h}{L} \quad (2.1c)$$

or for deep water,

$$c_0 = \frac{gT}{\pi} \quad \Rightarrow \quad c_0 = 5.12T \text{ (in fps)} \quad (2.1d)$$

The subscript 0 in Eqns (2.1b) and (2.1d) indicates values in deep water. From Eqns. (2.1) we obtain

$$\frac{L}{L_0} = \frac{c}{c_0} = \tanh \frac{2\pi h}{L} \quad (2.2)$$

Equation (2.2) can be rewritten in the form

$$\frac{h}{L_0} = \frac{h}{L} \tanh \frac{2\pi h}{L} \quad (2.3)$$

from which the relative water depth with respect to the deep water wave length  $h/L_0$  is correlated with the relative water depth  $h/L$ . That is to say, the wave length  $L$  at the water depth  $h$  is determined from the water depth and deep water length, where the latter can be calculated from the wave period.

Equation (2.1a) above is called the dispersion equation and defines the relationship among the wave frequency, wave number, and water depth. It may be written using either the wave number  $k = 2\pi/L$  and wave frequency or the wave length and wave period, i.e.,

$$\omega^2 = gk \tanh(kh) \quad \text{or} \quad L \cong \frac{gT^2}{2\pi} \tanh\left(\frac{2\pi h}{L}\right) \quad (2.4)$$

If the argument of the tanh term in Eq. (2.4) is large (which corresponds to  $h/L$  being large), then  $\tanh \rightarrow 1$ . This is referred to as deep water (which is usually characterized by  $h/L > 0.5$ ) for which the wave length is given by Eqn (2.1b).

If the argument of the tanh term in Eqn (2.4) is small (which corresponds to  $h/L$  being small), then  $\tanh(x) \rightarrow x$ . For this case,

$$L \cong \frac{gT^2}{2\pi} \left( \frac{2\pi h}{L} \right) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad L^2 = ghT^2 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad L = \sqrt{gh} T \quad (2.5)$$

This is referred to as a shallow water wave which is usually characterized by  $h/L < 0.05$ .

Between the above extreme conditions, i.e.,  $0.05 < h/L < 0.5$ , the depth is considered to be intermediate and a trial-and-error solution must be performed on the transcendental equation (Eqn (2.1a)) to determine the wave length.

In the literature (Tedesco, 1999) a simple approximate analytical equation for  $L$  is given as

$$L = (2\pi h L_0)^{1/2} \left( 1 - \frac{\pi h}{3L_0} \right) \quad (2.6)$$

This equation has a relative error of less than 2% when  $h/L_0 < 0.3$  and this should always be the case for coastal bridge sites. (Tedesco, 1999)

It can be noted from the above equations that as a wave propagates into shallow water, its wave length and celerity decrease. For example, a wave with a period of 10 sec has the wave lengths and celerities ( $c = L/T$ ) shown in Table 2.2 as it propagates into shallow water.

**Table 2.2 Approximate Changes in  $L$  and  $c$  with Water Depth**

Water Depth (ft)	Wave Length (ft)	Celerity (fps)	$h/L$
256	512	51.2	0.50
100	451	45.1	0.22
50	360	36.0	0.14
20	243	24.3	0.082
10	176	17.6	0.057
5	125	12.5	0.04

Note in Table 2.2, that only the 5 ft water depth would be characterized as shallow water, i.e.,  $h/L < 0.05$ . It should be noted that in linear wave theory (and most other wave theories) the period is assumed to remain constant, which is consistent with observations. For hurricane storm conditions wave periods are usually in the range of  $3s < T < 10s$ .

Horikawa, 1978 gives the following empirical relationship for estimating shallow water wave periods:

$$T_{1/3} = 3.86\sqrt{H_{1/3}} \quad (\text{units in m and sec}) \quad (2.7)$$

where  $H_{1/3}$  and  $T_{1/3}$  are the significant wave height and period respectively.

Let's now determine the wave height at a given water depth. The average wave energy transported through a vertical section with unit crest width per unit time,  $\overline{\dot{W}}$ , is given by

$$\overline{\dot{W}} = \overline{E}c_g = \overline{E}cn \quad (2.8a)$$

where  $c_g$  is the speed at which a group of waves propagate and  $n = c_g/c$  and is less than 1.0.

Assuming that  $\overline{\dot{W}}$  is conserved in the process of wave propagation, we take the reference section in deep water, and hence,  $\overline{\dot{W}} = \overline{\dot{W}}_0$ , that is,

$$\frac{1}{8} \rho g H^2 c n = \frac{1}{8} \rho g H_0^2 c_0 n_0 \quad (2.8b)$$

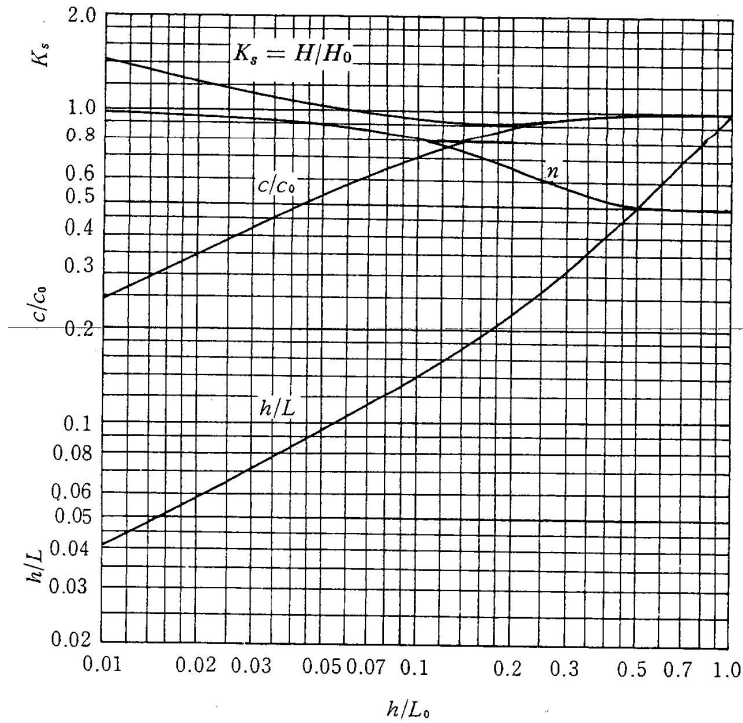
From Eq. (2.8b), the following important relations are obtained,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{H}{H_0} &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \frac{c_0}{c}} = K_s \\ n &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + \frac{4\pi h/L}{\sinh(4\pi h/L)} \right] \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2.9)$$

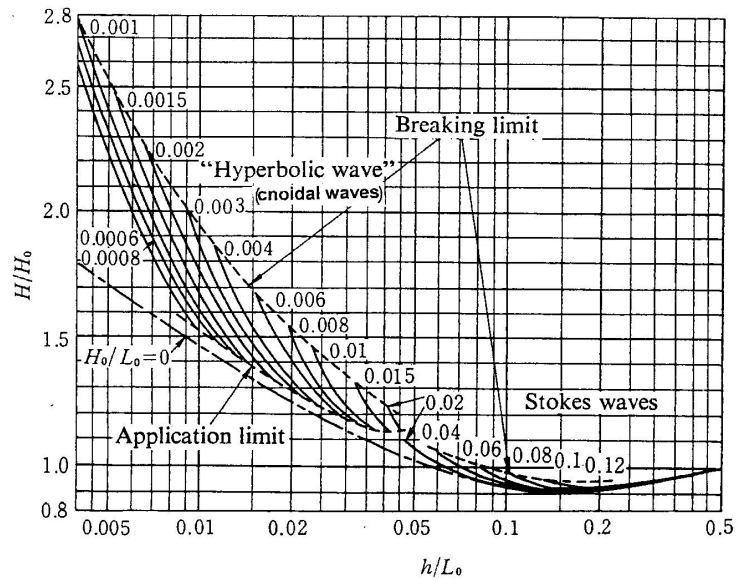
where  $K_s$  is called the shoaling coefficient. The parameters  $K_s$  and  $n$  are also functions of  $h/L$  hence  $h/L_0$ . Figure 2.49 shows the variations of  $L/L_0$ ,  $c/c_0$ ,  $K_s$ ,  $n$ , and  $h/L$  with change of  $h/L_0$ . In the range of  $h/L_0 < 0.01$ , the following approximations to the above equations and relationships can be used:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{H}{H_0} &\approx \left( 8\pi \frac{h}{L_0} \right)^{-1/4} \\
 n &\approx 1 \\
 \frac{c}{c_0} &\approx \left( 2\pi \frac{h}{L_0} \right)^{1/2} \\
 (2.10) \\
 \frac{h}{L} &\approx \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{h}{L_0} \right)^{1/2}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.10}$$

It should be noted that the above equations and relationships are based on small amplitude wave theory (LWT) and should not be directly applied to relatively steep waves which normally occur near the coastline in hurricane conditions. However, the equations can be used to obtain quick first estimates of the wave parameter values and for determining deep water values which are sometimes used in shallow water empirical equations. The variations of wave height with water depth in shallow water for cnoidal waves, which are the typical near shore wave types, were determined by Iwagaki and are shown in Fig. 2.50. The  $H_0/L_0 = 0$  wave in Fig. 2.44 corresponds to the relation given in Eqn (2.9).



**Fig. 2.49** Wave properties in shallow water (after *Hydraulic Formulae*, JSCE, 1971).

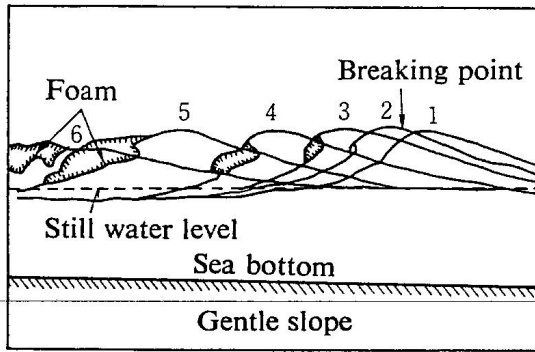


**Fig. 2.50** Variation of wave height due to water depth change, where “hyperbolic wave” means an approximate expression of cnoidal waves obtained by Iwagaki (after Iwagaki, 1968).

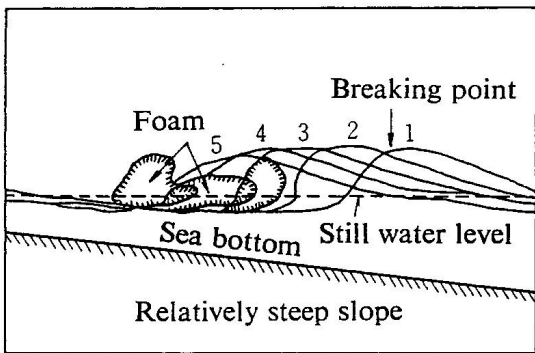


**Breaking Waves.** The literature and our experiences at coastal beaches tell us that breaking waves exert very large forces on objects in their path including coastal bridges. Thus, let us discuss and examine these waves in a little more detail. Waves proceeding from deep to shallow water gradually decrease in length, and increase in height, and therefore their steepness ( $H/L$ ) increases. At some point, primarily determined by their steepness and the sea bottom slope, they break at a certain water depth.

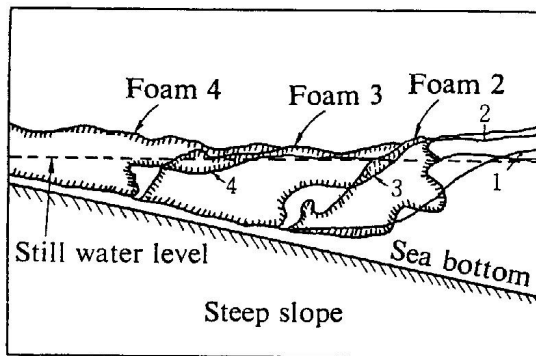
Breaking waves are classified into spilling breakers, plunging breakers, and surging breakers, as illustrated by two different authors in Figs. 2.51 and 2.52. The type of breaker is primarily determined by the wave steepness and the sea bottom slope as shown in Fig. 2.53. Figures 2.54 and 2.55 show diagrams developed by Goda (1985) from extensive field and laboratory data for estimating breaking water depth,  $h_b$ , and breaking wave height,  $H_b$ , respectively based on deep water wave steepness,  $H_0/L_0$ , and sea bottom slope.



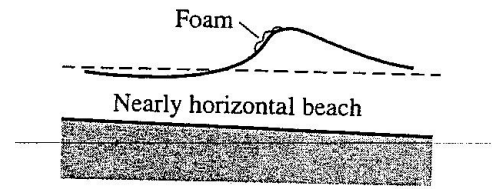
(a) Spilling breakers



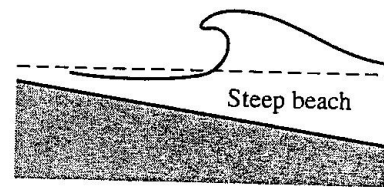
(b) Plunging breakers



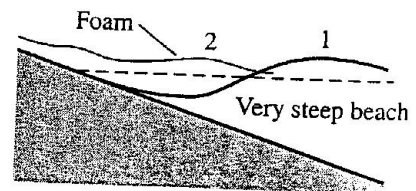
(c) Surging breakers



(a) spilling



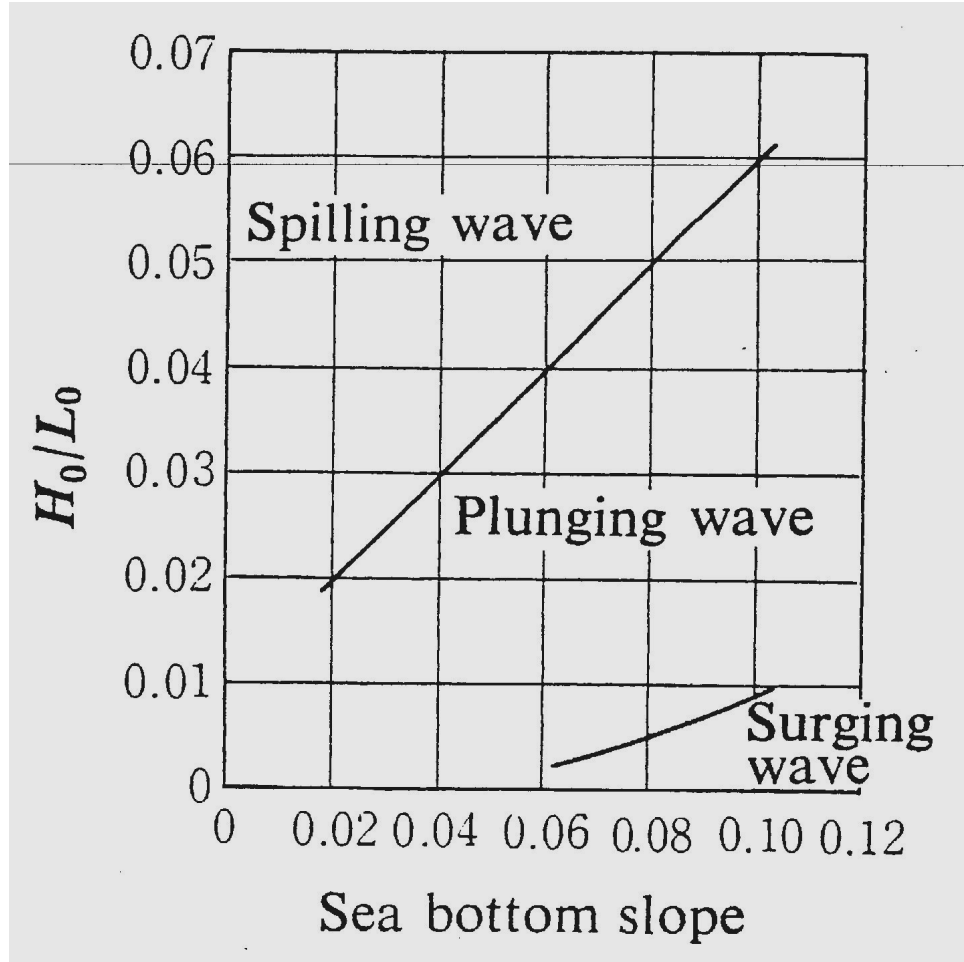
(b) plunging



(c) surging

**Fig. 2.51** Classification of breaking wave patterns (after Wiegel, 1953).

**Fig. 2.52** Common types of breaking waves (from Horikawa, 1978)



**Fig. 2.53** Classification of breaking patterns  
(after *Hydraulic Formulae*, JSCE, 1971).

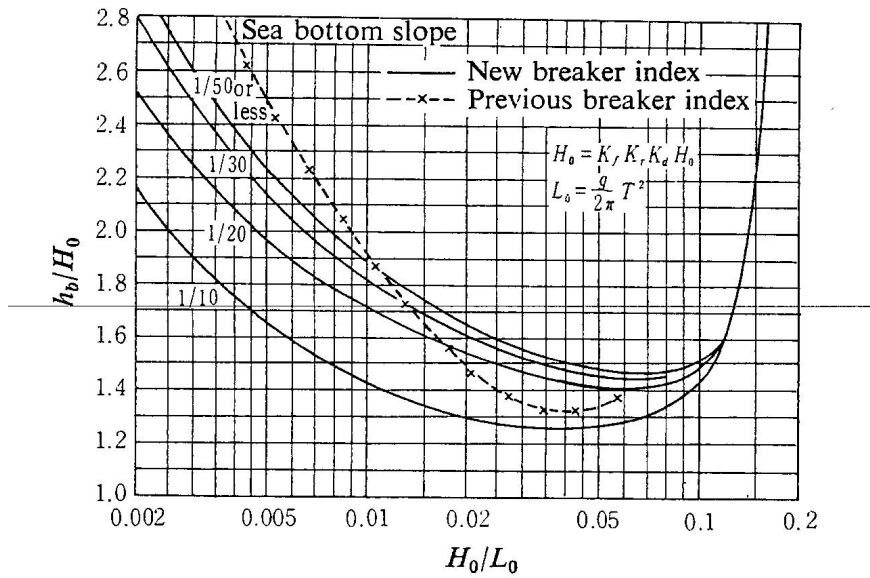


Fig. 2.54 Wave breaking depth (after Goda, 1970).

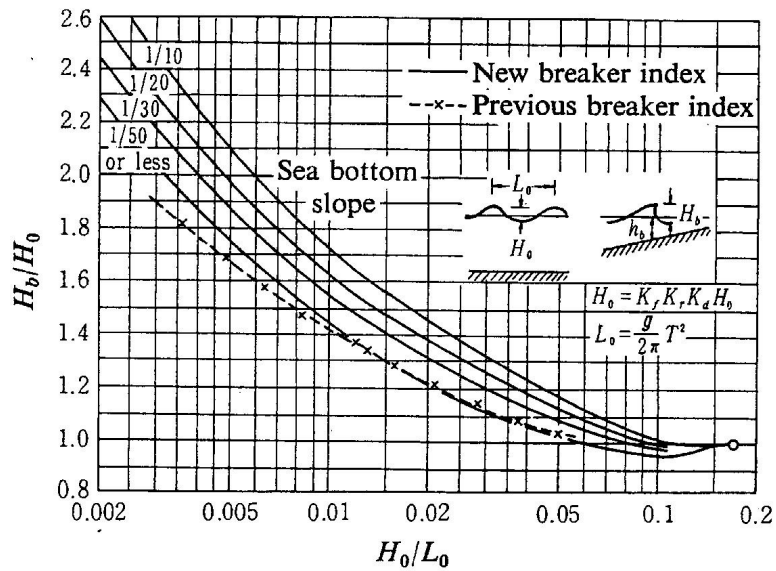


Fig. 2.55 Wave breaking height (after Goda, 1970).

Waves normally break when the water depth gets shallow enough to significantly slow the propagation speed and the trailing waves “over-run” those in front and/or high winds act on the back of the upper portion of the wave and topples it forward. However, waves can also break in water of intermediate depth and in deep water. This is important because a coastal bridge that was initially in shallow water will probably later be in intermediate depth water due to a hurricane’s storm surge.

In an analysis of wave forces on structures, a distinction is made between the action of *nonbreaking*, *breaking*, and *broken* waves.

- Nonbreaking waves are seaward of surf zone
- Breaking waves are in surf zone
- Broken waves are shoreward of surf zone
- Forces due to nonbreaking waves are primarily hydrostatic and can easily be assessed.
- Forces due to broken waves are hydrostatic plus forces due to dynamic pressure exerted by water particles now moving forward/shoreward (rather than in orbits) with the approximate velocity of the wave propagation as of when the wave broke.
- Forces due to breaking waves are primarily from dynamic pressures/inertia forces of a mass of water slamming into a structure and the hydrostatic forces may be negligible in comparison with these forces.

Figure 2.56 shows two breaking waves as they are breaking. Note in the figure that the wave doesn't break all along its length at the same time, the significant variation in wave height along the length of the wave, and the obvious sizable force that the waves could exert on a structure. Wave forces on structures and coastal bridges will be discussed more fully in later chapters of the report.



a. Large breaking wave at Dam Neck, Virginia

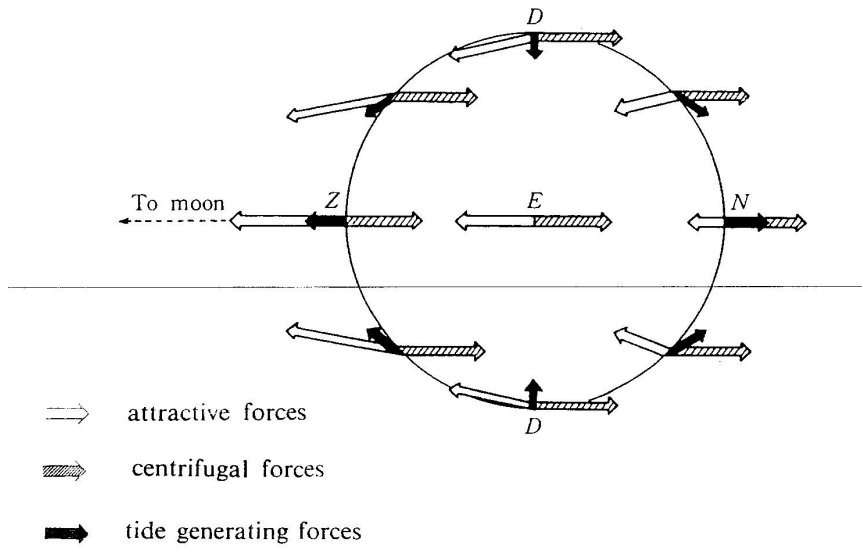


b. Large breaking wave at unknown coastline

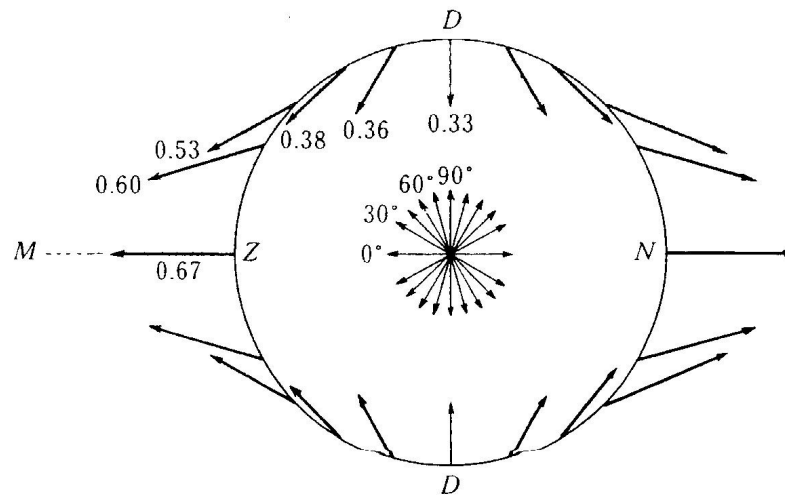
**Fig. 2.56 Photographs of two large breaking waves**

**Tidal Phenomena.** The sea surface rises and falls quite regularly once or twice a day. This phenomenon is called tidal motion and is caused by the continuous change in the position of the sun and the moon with respect to the earth. The sea level reaches its maximum height at high tide and its lowest height at low tide. The vertical distance between high and low tide sea levels is called the tidal range. The fact that the tide is generated by the motion of the earth-moon-sun system, and is completely independent of sea level changes induced by meteorological conditions, the tide is sometimes referred to as the astronomical tide. It should be noted that a hurricane's storm surge is caused by meteorological factors such as atmospheric pressure drops and high winds and can be referred to as a meteorological tide.

To understand the tide-generating mechanism, consider the earth-moon system shown in Fig. 2.57. In this figure, the magnitude and direction of the tide-generating forces are defined as the difference between the attractive and centrifugal forces at given points on the surface of the earth. The relative distribution of the tide-generating forces along a meridian is shown in Fig. 2.58. The semi-diurnal tidal effect of the sun is only about one-half as large as that of the moon (due to its far greater distance from the earth).



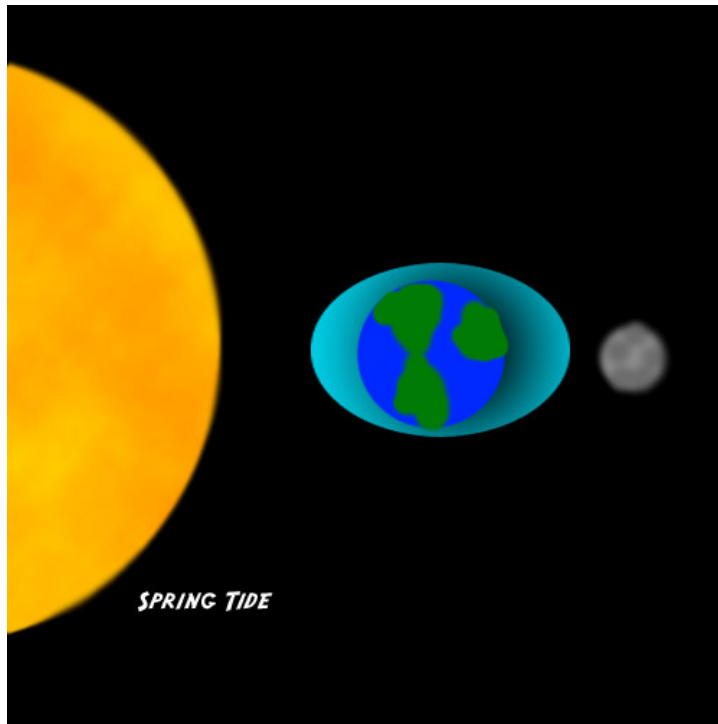
**Fig. 2.57 Intensity and Direction of Earth-Moon System Tide-Generating Forces (Horikawa, 1978).**



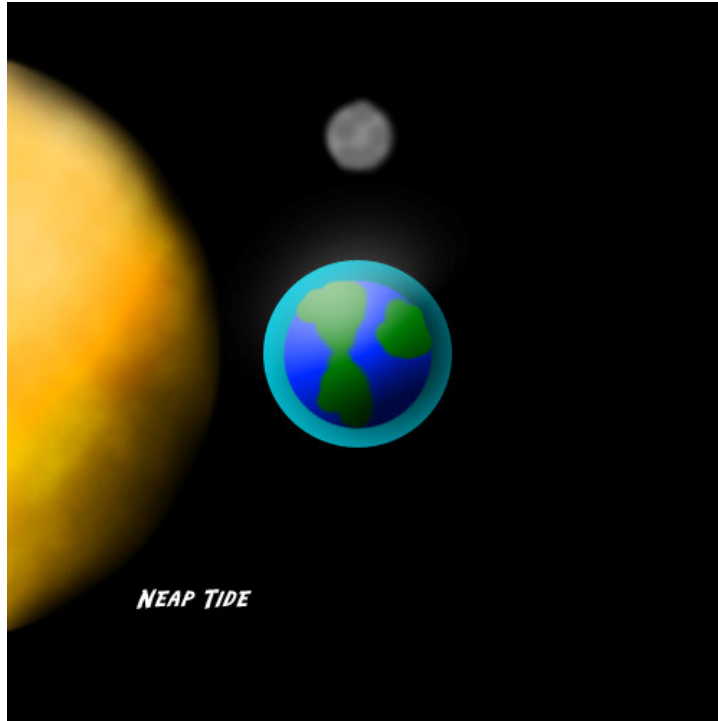
**Fig. 2.58 Relative Distribution of Tide-Generating Forces Along a Meridian Section of the Earth (Horikawa, 1978).**



Most tidal ranges around the world are considered semi-diurnal meaning there are two high and two low tides per tidal day. The tidal range for Mobile Bay is classified as diurnal, meaning there is only one high and one low tide in a tidal day. Diurnal tides are found only in certain parts of the world, one of which being along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Diurnal tides are known for producing higher tidal ranges than that of semi-diurnal tides. In addition to these higher than normal tidal ranges, spring and neap tides occur along with the normal tidal cycle. Spring tides are formed during the new and full moon phases (the earth, moon, and sun form a straight line with one another) therefore enhancing the tidal forces produced by each. This phenomenon produces a greater than average tidal range. Neap tides are formed during the first and third-quarter phases of the moon (the moon and sun are at right angles to the earth). The tidal forces of each are partially cancelling and therefore produce lower tidal ranges. Figures 2.59 and 2.60 show graphical representations of the occurrence of spring and neap tides respectively. A general spring and neap tide range for the location around the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge site are 1.5 ft. and 1.0 ft respectively relative to Mean Sea Level.



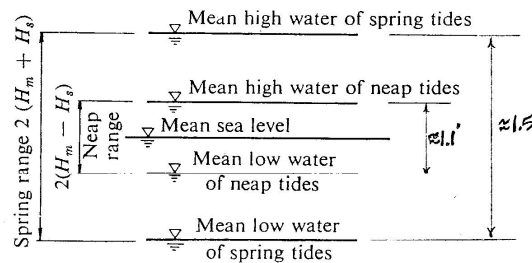
**Fig. 2.59** Depiction of Spring Tide



**Fig. 2.60** Depiction of Neap Tide

The mean sea level at a particular location along the coastline is determined by averaging the observed heights of the tide w.r.t. a certain datum. The observations should extend over a sufficient period of time to eliminate the effect of meteorological disturbances. In addition to varying with location on the earth's surface, the mean sea level varies with time of the year. Thus the mean sea level of interest in this study is that at Dauphin Island or Mobile, AL during the period of the year of August 1 - October 31. Figure 2.61 shows the mean sea level and tidal range near Mobile, AL during the time period August 1 - October 31.

The mean sea level and tidal range at a particular location and time of year are important in predicting hurricane storm surge/surface wave forces on coastal bridges. The mean sea level plus half of the tidal range plus the storm surge height establishes the temporary still water level (SWL) at a coastal bridge site. Superimposed on this SWL will be the hurricane wind induced surface waves. All of these affect the buoyancy force and/or venting requirements for a bridge superstructure, and the dynamic surface wave forces (vertical and horizontal) on the superstructure.



**Fig. 2.61 Mean Sea Level and Tidal Levels Near Mobile, AL in August 1 - October 31 Time Period (Modified from Horikawa, 1978).**

**Wave Forces on Coastal Structures.** A review of the literature found that there were no equations that are directly applicable to predicting surface wave forces (both horizontal and vertical forces) on coastal bridges. However, there are some equations that may be adaptable to predicting these forces as a first order estimate and/or as limiting values. The equations and procedures in the literature that appear to best fall into this category are the following:

1. Corps of Engineers Coastal Design Manual – Unbroken Wave Equation
2. Corps of Engineers Coastal Design Manual – Broken Wave Equation
3. Corps of Engineers Coastal Design Manual – Breaking Wave Equation
4. FEMA Coastal Construction Manual Breaking Wave Load Equations
5. McConnell, et al. equations from laboratory wave flume testing
6. Douglass, et al. bridge-specific simplification of McConnell’s Equations
7. Modified Douglass, et al. equations as per Ramey and Sawyer
8. AASHTO/FHWA Pooled Fund equations

These equations are presented and discussed in detail in the following chapter. Each equation is also applied to the same example bridge problem in Chapter 3.

## CHAPTER 3

### HURRICANE SURGE/SURFACE WAVE FORCE PREDICTION EQUATIONS

#### 3.1 General

The part that the hurricane storm surge plays in the damage to coastal bridges is simply that it raises the sea state water level, or still water level (SWL), to an elevation where firstly, vertical buoyant forces may act on the bridge superstructure. These forces may be due to the SWL being higher than parts of the superstructure, or may be from surface waves on top of the SWL being higher than all or part of the superstructure. Secondly, and more importantly, the storm surge raises the SWL to a height where storm surface waves begin to apply large periodic hydrodynamic and sometimes slamming forces to the superstructure. Thus in this chapter, we will focus on the forces applied to bridge superstructures by the storm surface waves.

From the literature review, the Corps of Engineers Coastal Design Manual equations for forces on vertical walls being hit by storm waves which are unbroken, breaking, or broken, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) breaking wave force equation, all adjusted as needed for coastal bridge structures, are reasonable candidate force prediction equations for application to coastal bridges. The McConnell, et al. equations which are based on wave tank experimental testing for jetty heads/docks facilities and the Douglass, et al. equations which are based on McConnell's equations adjusted for coastal highway bridge applications are also reasonable candidate force prediction equations. These equations and approaches are discussed and applied to the

same example application problem in the following sections and this is followed by a comparison of the analysis results.

### 3.2 Corps of Engineers Unbroken Wave Forces

When coastal bridges are loaded by unbroken waves in a hurricane sea state such as shown in Fig. 3.1, the pressure distribution on the bridge seaward vertical face will be approximately hydrostatic as indicated in Fig. 3.2. The local SWL at the bridge will probably be slightly elevated due to some wave reflection and thus slightly raise the top of the hydrostatic pressure distribution; however in our load evaluation we will assume the freewater surface elevation to be the top of the guard rail independent of the level of the SWL. Note in Fig. 3.1 that the maximum horizontal wave force will occur for wave position (2) and that hydrostatic pressure only acts on the vertical projection of the seaward face of the bridge. For this wave position, there will also be a significant upward vertical force on the seaward deck overhang and the seaward girder and a significant overturning moment from the vertical forces.

For wave position (1), the net resultant horizontal force is approximately zero as the horizontal pressures tend to cancel each other. However, for this wave position the vertical uplift force will be at a maximum and the overturning moment will be zero. It should be noted that if wave position (1) is “backed-up” a distance equal to the girder spacing,  $s_g$ , then the vertical uplift force will still be at a maximum value, but there will also be an overturning moment equal to  $F_v^{\max} \times s_g$ .

The values of the wave forces and moments for the above wave positions for the same I-10 ramp span considered earlier are shown in the following example.

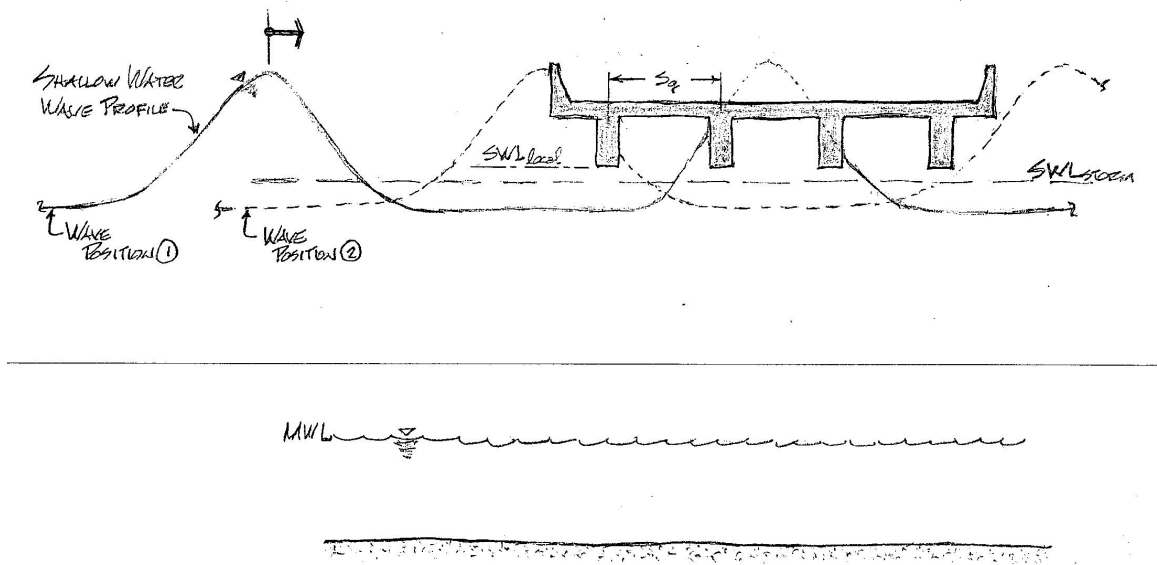


Fig. 3.1 Unbroken shallow-water wave passing through a coastal bridge

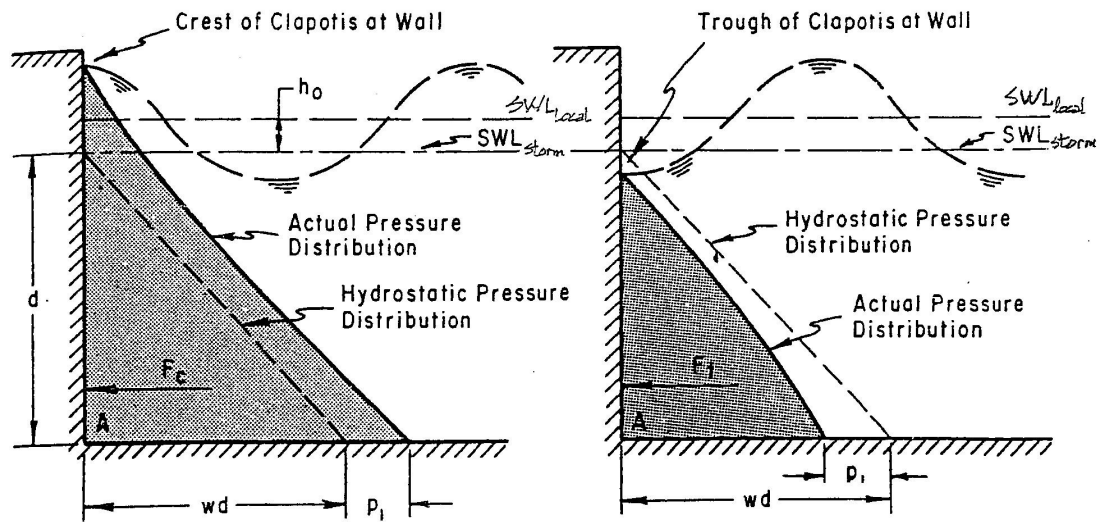
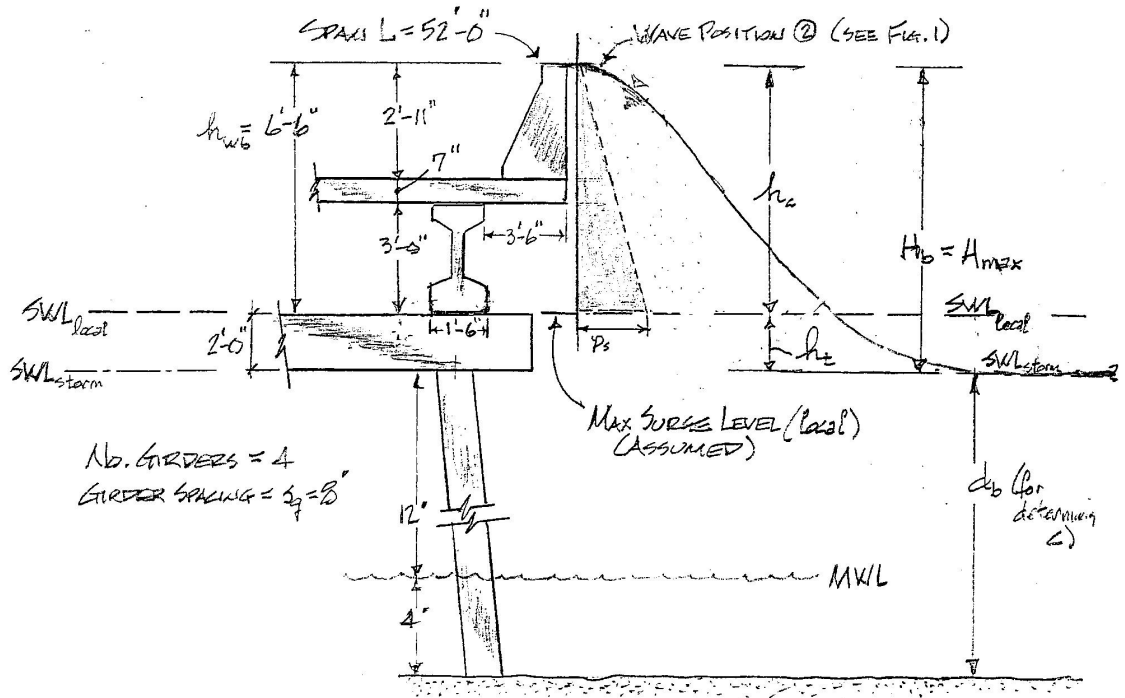


Fig. 3.2 Approximate hydrostatic pressure distribution from freewater surface (modified from US Army, 1984)

**Example Application** – Determine the maximum wave forces and moment from unbroken waves on a 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay when Hurricane Katrina hit.

A partial sketch of the ramp span geometry and elevations and the maximum sea state at the ramp when Katrina hit are shown in Fig. 3.3.



**Fig. 3.3** Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 ramp span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina



In performing the analysis the following pertinent parameter values were extracted from the storm data or were assumed:

$$SWL_{local} = \text{at top of bent cap} = SWL_{storm} + 2' \text{ (assumed for example)}$$

$$SWL_{storm} = \text{at bottom of bent cap}$$

$$h_c = 0.78H_b$$

$$h_t = 0.22H_b$$

$$\text{Significant Wave Ht.} = H_s = 6.1'$$

$$\text{Max Wave Ht.} = H_b = 1.4H_s = 8.5'$$

$$h_c = 0.78 \times 8.5' = 6.6' \implies \text{Use } 6.5' \text{ (top of rail)}$$

$$d_b = \text{Initial Depth} + \text{Max Storm Surge} = \text{Elev. Of Bottom of Bent Cap}$$

$$d_b = 4' + 12' = 16'$$

$$\text{Span Length} = 52'$$

$$\text{Elev Bay Bottom} = 0'$$

$$\text{Elev MWL} = 4'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Bent Cap} = 16'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Bent Cap} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Girders} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Guardrail} = 24.5'$$

$$\text{Girder Spacing} = s_g = 8.0'$$

**Analysis:**

Max Horizontal Force:  
(see wave position  
In Fig. 3.1)

②

$$p_s = wh_{vp} = 64 \times 6.5' = 416 \text{ psf}$$

$$R_s = \frac{1}{2} p_s h_{vp} = \frac{1}{2} \times 416 \times 6.5' = 1352 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$F_h^{\max} = R_s \times L = 1352 \times 52' = 70.3^k$$

Vertical Force and  
Moment acting with  
 $F_h^{\max}$  and Wave  
Position ②:  
(see Figs. 3.1 and 3.3)

$$p_{bd} = wh_{bd} = 64 \times 3.5' = 224 \text{ psf}$$

$$R_{dv} = p_{bd} \times w_{do} = 224 \times 3.5' = 784 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$R_{gv} = p_{bg} \times w_g = 64 \times 6.5' \times 1.5' = 624 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$F_v = (R_{dv} + R_{gv})L = (784 + 624)52' = 73.2^k$$

$$M_{cg} = (R_{dv} \times h_{dv} + R_{gv} \times h_{gv})L$$

$$\qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$\qquad \qquad \qquad (h_{gv} + 2.5')$$

$$M_{cg} = (784 \times 14.5' + 624 \times 12')52'$$

$$M_{cg} = (11.4^k + 7.5^k)52' = 983 \text{ ft-kips}$$

Max Vertical Force:  
(see Wave Position  
In Fig. 3.1)

①

$$p_{bg} = wh_{bg} = 64 \times 6.5' = 416 \text{ psf}$$

Assume entrapped air between girders

$$R_v = p_{bg} (w_g + \text{girder spacing})$$

$$= 416(1.5' + 8.0') = 3952 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$F_v^{\max} = R_v \times L = 3952 \times 52 = 206^k$$

Horizontal Force and  
Moment acting with  
 $F_v^{\max}$  and Wave  
Position ①:  
(see Figs. 3.1 and 3.3)

$$F_h \approx 0$$

$$M \approx 0$$

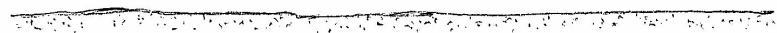
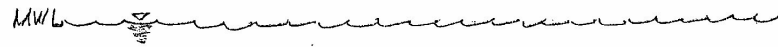
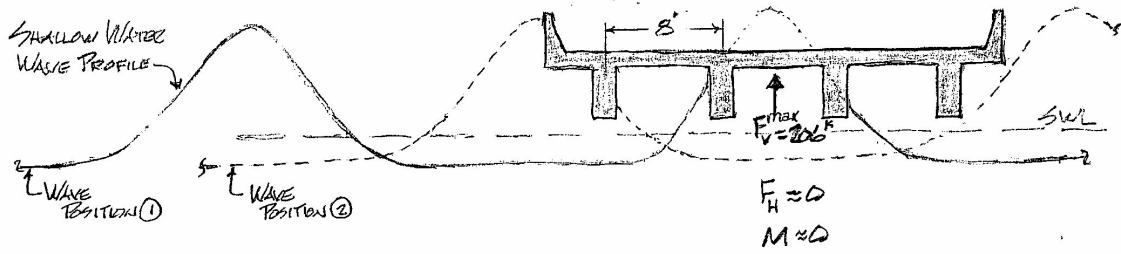
The above resulting maximum forces for the worst case unbroken wave loading conditions, i.e., wave positions ① and ② in Fig. 3.1, are shown in Fig. 3.4. It should be noted that a worst case condition for a combination of maximum  $F_v$  and  $M$  acting

simultaneously would be when a wave is positioned so that its crest is centered on the most seaward cell between girders as shown by wave position (3) in Fig. 3.4b. For this case,

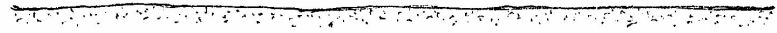
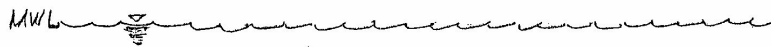
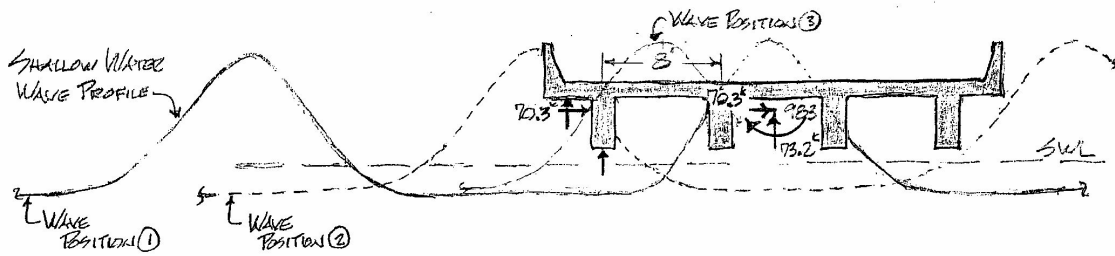
$$F_v^{\max} \approx 206^k$$

$$M^{\max} \approx 206^k \times s_g = 206^k \times 8.0' = 1648 \text{ ft-kips}$$

$$F_h \approx 0$$



a. Resultant wave forces on bridge for wave position ①



b. Wave forces on seaward faces and resultant wave forces for wave position ②

Fig. 3.4 Unbroken wave resultant forces for worst case loading conditions

### 3.3 Corps of Engineers Broken Wave Forces

Coastal bridges may be located so that even under severe storm and tide conditions surface waves will break before striking the bridge. Also, for bridges further out from shore, reflection waves from the bridge may result in the incoming waves being broken waves. It is assumed for broken waves that, immediately after breaking, the water mass in the wave moves forward with the velocity of wave propagation attained before breaking. That is, upon breaking, the water particle motion changes from oscillatory to translatory motion. For a conservative estimate of wave force (from broken waves), it is assumed that neither the wave height nor wave velocity decreases from the breaking point to the point where the wave strikes the coastal bridge or structure.

Model tests have shown that, for waves breaking at or near the shore, approximately 78 percent of the breaking wave height  $H_b$  is above the stillwater level (SWL) as indicated in Fig. 3.5. Walls or coastal bridges hit by broken waves are subjected to wave pressures that are partly dynamic and partly hydrostatic as indicated in Fig. 3.5. In Fig. 3.5 the SWL should be a local SWL (i.e.,  $SWL_{local}$ ) which will be somewhat higher than the storm SWL due to waves reflecting off the wall and raising the SWL as indicated in Fig. 3.6. This would also be the case for coastal bridges where the level of wave reflection and raising of the SWL will primarily depend on the shape/geometry of the seawall/bridge “vertical face”, the depth of openness on the underside of the bridge, and the angle of incidence of the approaching waves relative to the bridge. The wave reflection coefficient,  $x$ , in Fig. 3.6 is equal to 1.0 (complete reflection) when the wall is solid to the bottom, flat and smooth, and is perpendicular to the direction of wave propagation.

Since coastal bridges are open below the approximate 6'-6" girder-deck-guardrail vertical projection and the "vertical face" is quite irregular, the wave reflection coefficient,  $x$ , will be much less than 1.0. A reasonable estimate is probably  $x \approx 0.2$ .

To determine broken wave maximum pressures and forces on the seawall of Fig. 3.5 one would proceed as follows:

- Use the shallow water equation

$$c = \sqrt{gd_b}$$

where  $g$  = gravitational acceleration constant

$d_b$  = depth of water at breaking (use depth of  $SWL_{\text{storm}}$ )

$c$  = celerity or velocity of wave propagation

to determine the velocity of wave propagation.

- The maximum dynamic component of the pressure will be

$$p_m = \frac{wC^2}{2g} = \frac{wd_b}{2}$$

where  $w$  is the unit weight of water.

- Assume the dynamic pressure is uniformly distributed from the still-water level to a height  $h_c$  above SWL (as indicated in Fig. 3.5), where  $h_c$  is given as

$$h_c = 0.78H_b$$

and thus the dynamic component of the maximum wave force per unit length of wall is given as

$$R_m = p_m h_c = \frac{w d_b h_c}{2}$$

- The hydrostatic component of pressure will vary from zero at a height  $h_c$  above SWL to a maximum  $p_s$  at the wall base. This maximum will be given as,

$$p_s = w(d_s + h_c)$$

The hydrostatic pressure varies with time just as the dynamic pressure does. However, the variation with depth remains approximately hydrostatic as indicated in Fig. 3.7.

- The hydrostatic force component per unit length of wall will therefore be

$$R_s = \frac{w(d_s + h_c)^2}{2}$$

- The total force per unit length on the wall is the sum of the dynamic and hydrostatic components,

$$R_t = R_m + R_s$$

For coastal bridges, part (3) of the pressure distribution shown in Fig. 3.5, would not be present due to openness on the underside of the bridges. The hydrostatic part (1) should be included as the water level on the shore side of the bridge would probably be at an elevation between  $SWL_{local}$  and  $SWL_{storm}$  which would be below the elevation of the bottom of the girders. Also, for coastal bridges, the maximum value of  $h_c$  in Fig. 3.5 would be as indicated in Fig. 3.8 and the height of the hydrostatic and dynamic pressure distributions (1) and (2) respectively in Fig. 3.5 would be as shown in Fig. 3.8. For the sea state at the bridge location, assume the following:

$$\text{Height of Wave Crest} = H_b = H_{max} = 1.4H_s$$

(at breaking)

$$\text{Height of } H_{max} \text{ above } SWL_{local} = h_c = 0.78 H_{max} = 1.1H_s$$

$$SWL_{local} = SWL_{storm} + h_o$$

$$\text{where } h_o \approx 0.2H_{max} \implies \text{Assume } h_o = 2'$$

$$\therefore SWL_{local} \approx SWL_{storm} + 2'$$

$$\text{Wave Crest Elevation} = SWL_{storm} + h_o + h_c \approx SWL_{storm} + 2' + 1.1H_s$$

(at breaking)

$$h_{wb} = \text{Wave Crest Elevation} - \text{Elevation of Bottom of Girders (see Fig. 3.8)}$$

(at breaking)

$$\text{If Wave Crest Elevation} > \text{Elevation of Top of Bridge Guard Rail} \implies \text{Use Wave Load Case I in Fig. 3.8}$$

$$\text{If Wave Crest Elevation} < \text{Elevation of Top of Bridge Guard Rail} \implies \text{Use Wave Load Case II in Fig. 3.8}$$



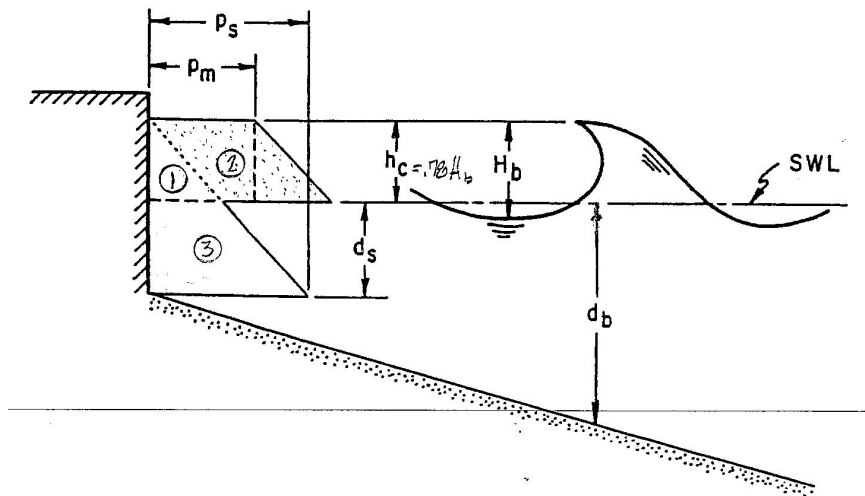
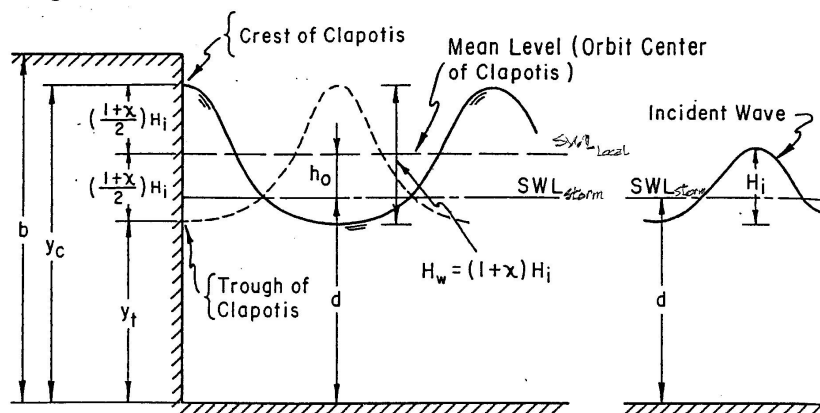
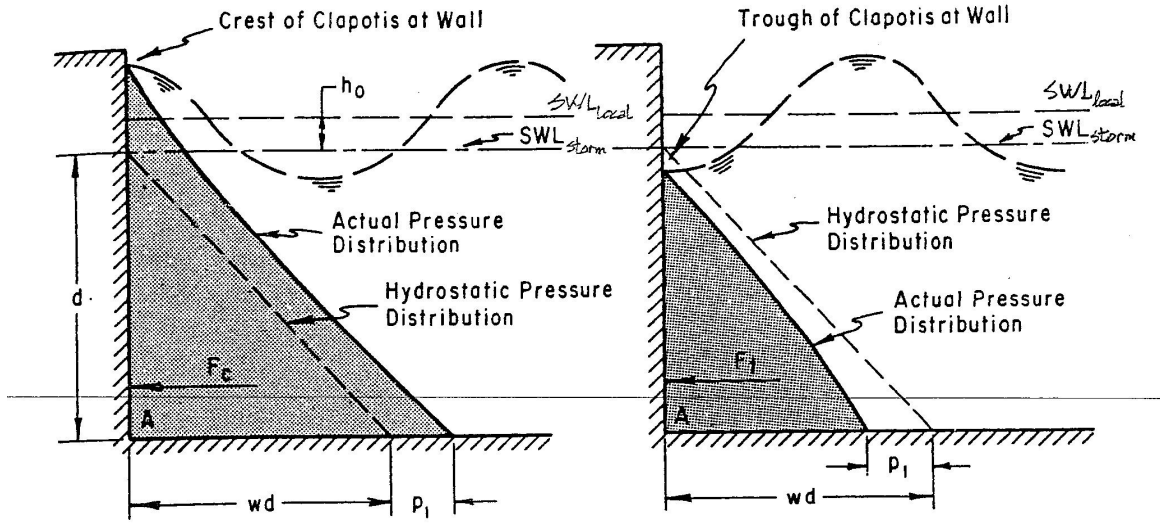


Fig 3.5 Wave Pressures from Broken Waves (modified from US Army, 1984)

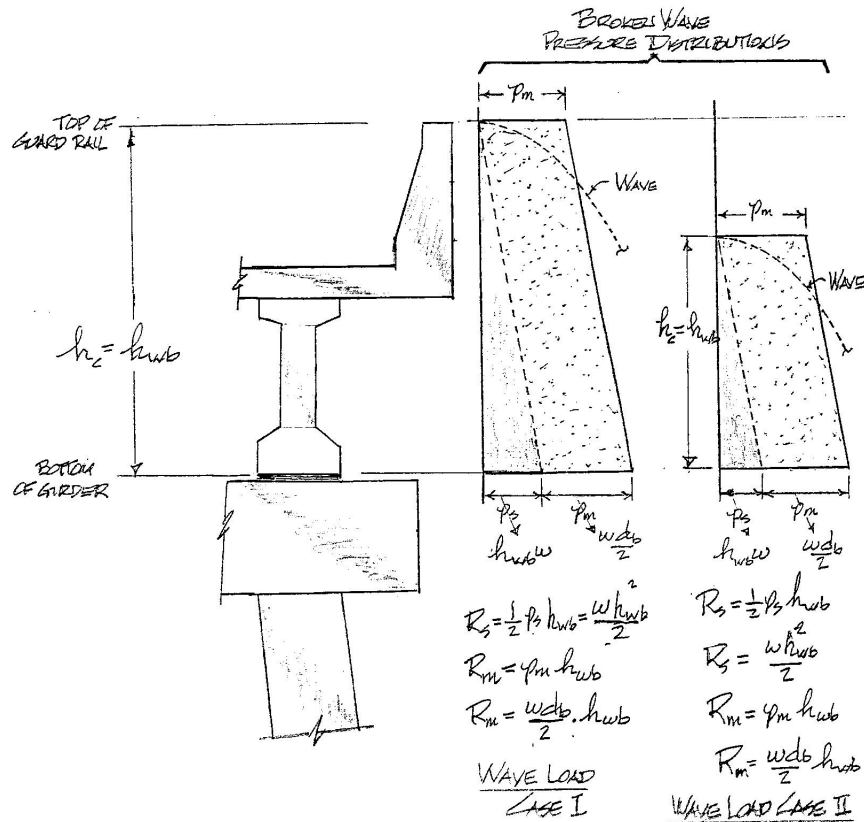


- $b$  = Height of Wall
- $d$  = Depth from Stillwater Level
- $H_i$  = Height of Original Free Wave ( In Water of Depth,  $d$  )
- $x$  = Wave Reflection Coefficient
- $h_0$  = Height of Clapotis Orbit Center ( Mean Water Level at Wall ) Above the Stillwater Level ( See Figures 7-90 and 7-93 )
- $y_c$  = Depth from Clapotis Crest =  $d + h_0 + \left( \frac{1+x}{2} \right) H_i$
- $y_t$  = Depth from Clapotis Trough =  $d + h_0 - \left( \frac{1+x}{2} \right) H_i$

Fig. 3.6 Nonbreaking Wave Hitting Wall and Term Definitions (modified from US Army, 1984).



**Fig. 3.7 Approximate Hydrostatic Pressure Distribution From Freewater Surface (modified from US Army, 1984).**



**Fig. 3.8 Broken Wave Horizontal Load on Coastal Bridges**

Thus, the procedure to determine broken wave maximum pressures and horizontal forces on the seaward face of a coastal bridge via modifying the equations for a seawall are as follows:

- Determine the shallow water velocity of wave propagation as before, i.e.,

$$c = \sqrt{gd_b}$$

- Determine the maximum dynamic component of the pressure as before, i.e.,

$$p_m \frac{wc^2}{2g} = \frac{wd_b}{2}$$

- Determine the elevation of the wave crest at breaking (EWC) from

$$EWC = SWL_{\text{storm}} + 2' + 1.1H_s$$

- Determine the elevations of the bottom of girders (EBG) and top of guardrail (ETR)
- Determine  $h_{wb}$  in Fig. 3.8 from  $h_{wb} = EWC - EBG$

- Determine if  $EWC \geq ETR \implies$  If it is, use Wave Load Case I in Fig. 3.8 with  $h_c = h_{wb} = 6.67\text{ft}$   
If it is not, use Wave Load Case II in Fig. 3.8 with  $h_{wb} = EWC - EBG$

- Determine the dynamic component of the maximum horizontal wave force per unit length of bridge from

$$R_m = p_m h_{wb} \text{ for Load Cases I and II}$$

where  $h_{wb}$  is defined for each Load Case in Fig. 3.8

- Determine the hydrostatic component of the maximum horizontal wave force per unit length of bridge from

$$R_s = \frac{wh_{wb}^2}{2} \text{ for Load Cases I and II}$$

where  $h_{wb}$  is defined for each Load Case in Fig. 3.8

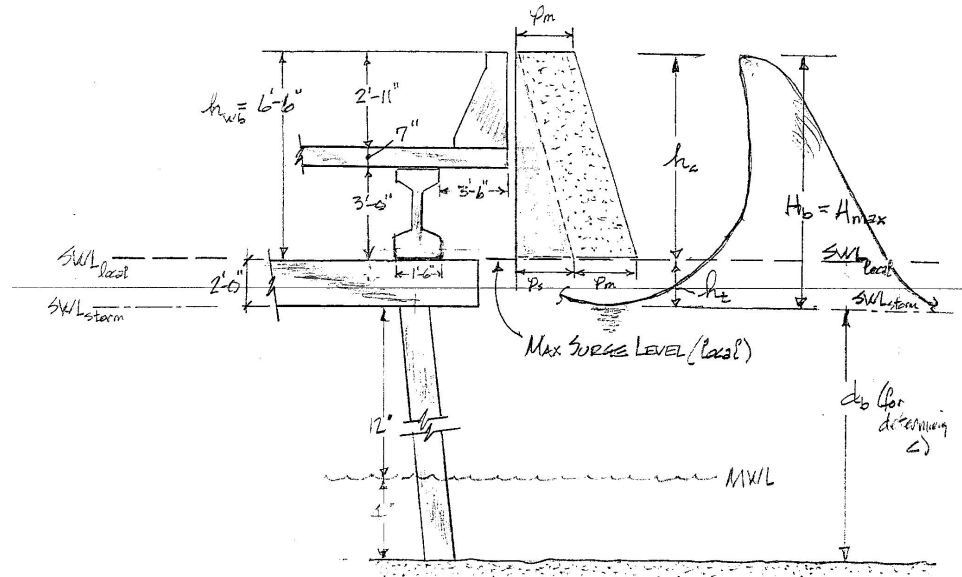
- Determine the maximum total horizontal wave force per unit length of bridge from

$$R_t = R_m + R_s$$

Application of the above procedure to a 52ft long ramp span on the I-10 bridge over Mobile Bay is presented in an example below to illustrate the wave load analysis procedure.

**Example Application** - Determine the horizontal wave loading from broken waves on the seaward face of an I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay when Hurricane Katrina hit.

A partial sketch of the ramp span geometry and elevations and the maximum sea state at the ramp when Katrina hit are shown in Fig. 3.9.



**Fig. 3.9 Partial Sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 Ramp Span Geometry and Sea State During Hurricane Katrina**

In performing the analysis the following pertinent parameter values were extracted from the storm data or were assumed:

$$SWL_{local} = \text{at top of bent cap} = SWL_{storm} + 2' \text{ (assumed for Example)}$$

$$SWL_{storm} = \text{at bottom of bent cap}$$

$$h_c = 0.78H_b$$

$$h_t = 0.22H_b$$

$$\text{Significant Wave Ht.} = H_s = 6.1'$$

$$\text{Max Wave Ht.} = H_b = 1.4H_s = 8.5'$$

$$h_c = 0.78 \times 8.5' = 6.6' \quad \Rightarrow \text{Use } 6.5' \text{ (top of rail)}$$

$$d_b = \text{Initial Depth} + \text{Max Storm Surge} = \text{Elev. Of Bottom of Bent Cap}$$

$$d_b = 4' + 12' = 16'$$

$$\text{Span Length} = 52'$$

$$\text{Elev Bay Bottom} = 0'$$

$$\text{Elev MWL} = 4'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Bent Cap} = 16'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Bent Cap} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Girders} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Guardrail} = 24.5'$$

$$\text{Girder Spacing} = s_g = 8'$$

### Analysis:

$$c = \sqrt{gd_b} = \sqrt{32.2 \text{ ft/s}^2 \times 16'} = 22.7 \text{ fps} = 15.5 \text{ mph}$$

$$p_m = \frac{wc^2}{2g} = \frac{wg d_b}{2g} = \frac{w d_b}{2} = \frac{64 \times 16}{2} = 512 \text{ psf}$$

$$\text{Elev. of Wave Crest (EWC)} = \text{SWL}_{\text{local}} + 1.1H_s = 18' + 1.1(6.1') = 24.7 \text{ ft} \\ \text{(at breaking)}$$

$$\text{EWC} \geq \text{ETR} \quad \Rightarrow 24.7' > 24.5' \quad \Rightarrow \text{Use Wave Load Case I}$$

For Load Case I (see Fig. 3.8),

$$R_m = \frac{w d_b}{2} \times h_{wb} = p_m \times h_c = 512 \text{ psf} \times 6.5' = 3328 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$p_s = wh_{wb} = 64 \times 6.5' = 416 \text{ psf}$$

$$R_s = \frac{1}{2} p_s h_{wb} = \frac{1}{2} \times 416 \times 6.5' = 1352 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$\text{Total Horiz Force} = R_t = R_m + R_s = 3328 + 1352 = 4680 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$\text{For 1-span } \Rightarrow F_{\max}^{\text{horiz}} = R_t \times L = 4680 \times 52' = 243^k$$

Note that the above value of  $F_{\max}^{\text{horiz}}$  is the force on the seaward face of the bridge span. This will be a lower bound load on the span as no wave impact was considered and no additional load from dynamic pressure drag on other span girders were considered. An increase in  $F_{\max}^{\text{horiz}}$  should be made for these contributions as the increase could be as large as 100%.

Simultaneous Vertical Upward Force on Deck Overhang:

$$p_m = 512 \text{ psf}$$

$$p_s^{\text{bd}} = wh_{\text{bd}} = 64 \times 3.5' = 224 \text{ psf}$$

$$p_t = p_m + p_s^{\text{bd}} = 512 + 224 = 736 \text{ psf}$$

$$R_v = p_t \times w_{\text{do}} = 736 \times 3.5 = 2576 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$F_v^{\text{max}} = R_v \times L = 2576 \times 52 = 134^k$$

Simultaneous Overturning Moment From  $F_v^{\text{max}}$  :

$$M^{\text{max}} = F_v^{\text{max}} \times h_{\text{do}} = 134^k \times 14.5' = 1943 \text{ ft-kips}$$

### 3.4 Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave Forces

Waves breaking directly against vertical-face structures exert high, short duration, dynamic pressures that act near the region where the wave crests hit the structure. These impact or shock pressures have been observed and reported by several researchers as indicated by the impact force,  $F_{\max}$ , shown in Fig. 3.10 and by  $F_{\text{slamming}}$  shown in Fig. 3.11. Fortunately these high impact/slamming pressures are of short duration (approximately  $0.03 < t_{\text{duration}} < 0.1\text{s}$ ). They have been studied in the laboratory to some extent, and wave tank experiments by Bagnold led to the following explanation of breaking wave impact/slamming loadings:

- The impact pressures occur at the instant that the vertical front face of a breaking wave hits a wall and only when a plunging wave entraps a cushion of air against a wall.
- Because of their critical dependence/sensitivity to wave geometry, high impact pressures are infrequent against coastal structures. However, the possibility of high impact pressures should be recognized and possibly considered in design.
- Since the high impact pressures are short in duration (on the order of hundredths of a second), their importance in the design of coastal bridge super and substructures is questionable; however, lower dynamic forces of longer durations are important.



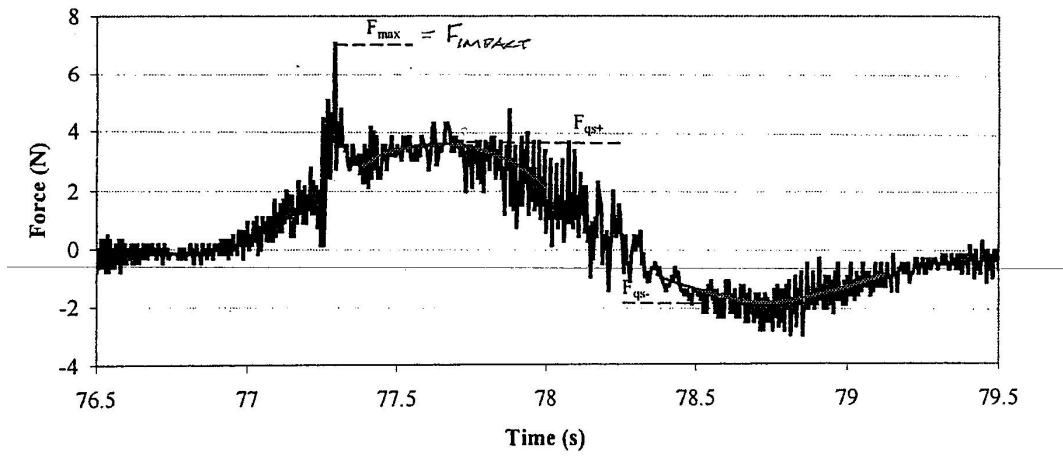


Fig. 3.10 Definition of force parameters (model units)

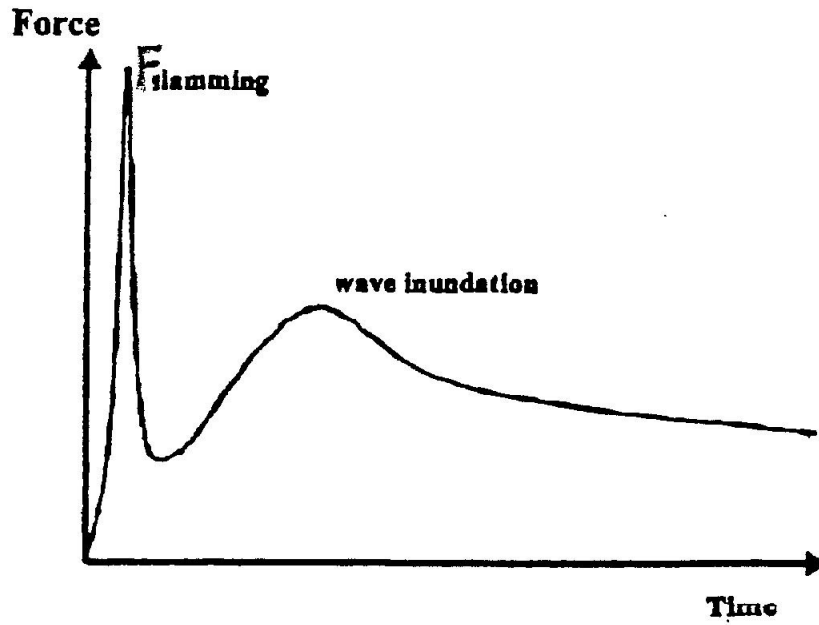


Fig. 3.11 Idealized force development on platform deck

Based on Bagnold's results and observations of full-scale breakwaters, Minikin recommended the following equation for maximum impact pressure from breaking waves

$$p_m = 101w \frac{H_b}{L_D} \frac{d_s}{D} (D + d_s) \quad (3.1)$$

where,

$p_m$  = the maximum dynamic pressure

$H_b$  = the breaker height

$d_s$  = the depth at the toe of the wall

$D$  = the depth one wavelength in front of the wall

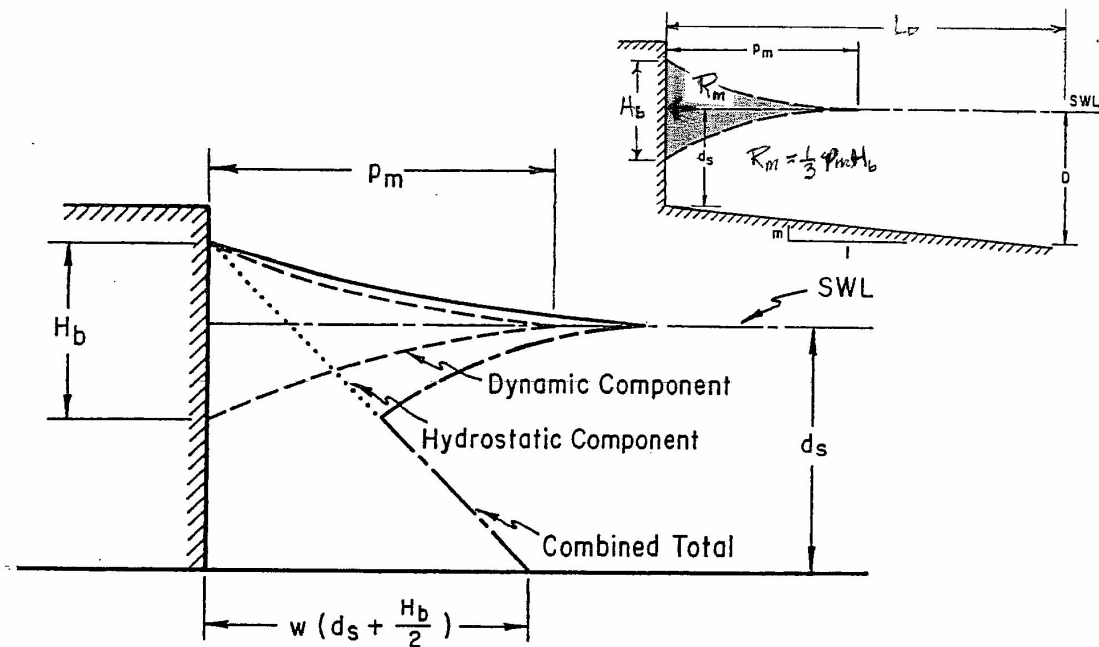
$L_D$  = the wavelength in water of depth  $D$

The distribution of dynamic pressure is assumed to be symmetric about the SWL as shown in Fig. 3.12. The pressure decreases parabolically from  $p_m$  at the SWL to zero at a distance of  $H_b/2$  above and below the SWL.

The final design forces recommended by Minikin are as follows:

- The resultant dynamic force per unit length of wall is represented by the area under the dynamic pressure distribution curve in Fig. 3.12 and is

$$R_m = \frac{p_m H_b}{3} \quad (3.2)$$



**Fig. 3.12 Minikin breaking wave pressure diagram**

- The hydrostatic contribution to the force must be added to the dynamic component,  $R_m$ , to determine total force. Thus, the total breaking wave force on a wall per unit wall length is

$$R_t = R_m + R_s = R_m + \frac{w \left( d_s + \frac{H_b}{2} \right)^2}{2} \quad (3.3)$$

It should be noted that Minikin's method can give wave forces that are extremely high, as much as 15 to 18 times those calculated for nonbreaking waves. Because the dynamic pressure,  $p_m$ , and dynamic force,  $R_m$ , presented above are impact loadings of very short duration ( $\approx 0.03s < t < 0.1s$ ), and because of their infrequent application due to their

extreme sensitivity to wave and wall geometry, and because wave height and breaking status vary considerably along the length of a wave the assumption that the maximum  $p_m$  and  $R_m$  values occur, and that they occur simultaneously along the length of a bridge span is felt to be too conservative. Thus, it is recommended that Minikin's recommended  $p_m$  equation, when used for design of a bridge span, be reduced by a factor of 10, i.e., recommend using

$$p'_m = \frac{1}{10} p_m^{\text{Minikin}} = \frac{101}{10} w \frac{H_b}{L_D} \frac{d_s}{D} (D + d_s) \quad (3.4a)$$

$$\tilde{R}_m = \frac{\tilde{p}_m H_b}{3} \quad (3.4b)$$

An example problem determining breaking wave forces on a bridge deck is given below using this  $p'_m$  equation and later compared with results using an unbroken wave loading and a broken wave loading.



Significant Wave Ht. =  $H_s = 6.1'$

Max Wave Ht. =  $H_b = 1.4H_s = 8.5'$

$h_c = 0.78 \times 8.5' = 6.6' \implies$  Use 6.5' (top of rail)

$d_b =$  Initial Depth + Max Storm Surge = Elev. Of Bottom of Bent Cap

$d_b = 4' + 12' = 16'$

Span Length = 52'

Elev Bay Bottom = 0'

Elev MWL = 4'

Elev. Bottom of Bent Cap = 16'

Elev. Top of Bent Cap = 18'

Elev. Bottom of Girders = 18'

Elev. Top of Guardrail = 24.5'

Girder Spacing =  $s_g = 8'$

**Analysis:**

$$\tilde{p}_m = 10.1w \frac{H_b d_s}{L_D D} (D + d_s)$$

$$\text{where } L_D = (2\pi h L_0)^{1/2} \left( 1 - \frac{\pi h}{3L_0} \right)$$

$$L_0 \approx 5.12T^2 \text{ (in ft.)}$$

$$\text{Assume } T = 7\text{sec} \implies L_0 = 5.12(7)^2 = 250'$$

$$L_D = (2\pi \times 16' \times 250')^{1/2} \left( 1 - \frac{\pi \times 16'}{3 \times 250'} \right)$$

$$L_D = (158.5)(0.933) = 148 \text{ ft}$$



$$\tilde{p}_m^{bd} = \left( \frac{3.5}{6.5} \right)^2 \tilde{p}_m = 0.29 \tilde{p}_m = 0.29 \times 2442 = 708 \text{ psf}$$

$$p_s^{bd} = wh_{bd} = 64 \times 3.5 = 224 \text{ psf}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{R}_v^{bd} &= \tilde{R}_{mv}^{bd} + R_{sv}^{bd} \\ &= 708 \times 3.5' + 224 \times 3.5' \\ &= 2478 + 784 = 3262 \text{ lb/ft} \end{aligned}$$

$$F_v^{bd} = \tilde{R}_v^{bd} \times L$$

$$F_v^{bd} = 3262 \times 52' = 170^k$$

Simultaneous Overturning Moment From  $F_v^{bd}$  :

$$M^{\max} = F_v^{bd} \times 14.5'$$

$$M^{\max} = 170^k \times 14.5' = 2465 \text{ ft-kips}$$



### 3.5 FEMA Manual Wave Forces

The FEMA Coastal Construction Manual recommends for structures subjected to coastal flood and storm events and located below the storm wave crest elevation that they be designed for breaking wave loads as determined by FEMA Manual Formula 11.6 which is shown in Fig. 3.14. It should be noted in using Formula 11.6 that Case 2 would be the applicable case for coastal bridges, and that the  $f_{brkw}$  formula gives breaking wave load per unit length of wall. The FEMA Manual provides values of the dynamic pressure coefficient in their Table 11.1 and the location of the resultant force in their Figure 11-7 (both of these are also shown in Fig. 3.14). Also, for Case 2, the FEMA manual provides a graphical solution for the dynamic force component in Formula 11.6 (the first term in the formula) as well as a relationship between still water depth and wave height in their Fig. 11-8 which is reproduced in Fig. 3.15. Note in Fig. 3.15 that the dynamic force component is very large; however, the duration of this component is quite brief (i.e., a fraction of a second).

**Example Application:** Determine the maximum horizontal force on I-10 Ramp Span seaward face using – FEMA Formula 11.6 Breaking Wave Force on Vertical Walls.

Note in Fig. 3.14 from the FEMA Coastal Construction Manual, that FEMA Formula 11.6 is for a vertical wall which extends from the top of a breaking wave down to the ocean bottom and thus would not be applicable to our coastal bridge situation. However, to gain an estimation of what the FEMA wave load equations might yield we will assume a vertical wall the height of the vertical plane projection of our bridge superstructure as shown in Fig. 3.16. In this modified

case, we will assume the SWL to be at the bottom of the bridge deck/top of girders and the ocean bottom to be at the bottom of the vertical plane projection, i.e., at the bottom of the bridge girders as shown in Fig. 3.16. Note for this case that the  $d_s$  and  $1.2d_s$  vertical dimensions shown in Fig. 3.16 will be about those shown in Fig. 3.14. From Fig. 3.14, the applicable FEMA force prediction equation is

$$F_{brkw} = f_{brkw} \times L$$

$$\text{where } f_{brkw} = 1.1C_p \gamma d_s^2 + 1.91 \gamma d_s^2$$

$$\text{where } C_p \text{ will be taken as } C_p = 2.4$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} f_{brkw} &= 1.1 \times 2.4 \times 64 \times 3.0^2 + 1.91 \times 64 \times 3.0^2 \\ &= 1520 \text{ lb/ft} + 1100 \text{ lb/ft} \end{aligned}$$

$$F_{brkw} = 2620 \text{ lb/ft}$$

and,

$$F_{brkw} = 2620 \times 52 = 136^k$$

**Formula**  
 Breaking Wave Load  
 on Vertical Walls

**Formula 11.6 Breaking Wave Load on Vertical Walls**

Case 1 (enclosed dry space behind wall):  
 $f_{brkw} = 1.1C_p\gamma d_s^2 + 2.41\gamma d_s^2$

FOR COASTAL BRIDGES → Case 2 (equal stillwater level on both sides of wall):  
 $f_{brkw} = 1.1C_p\gamma d_s^2 + 1.91\gamma d_s^2$

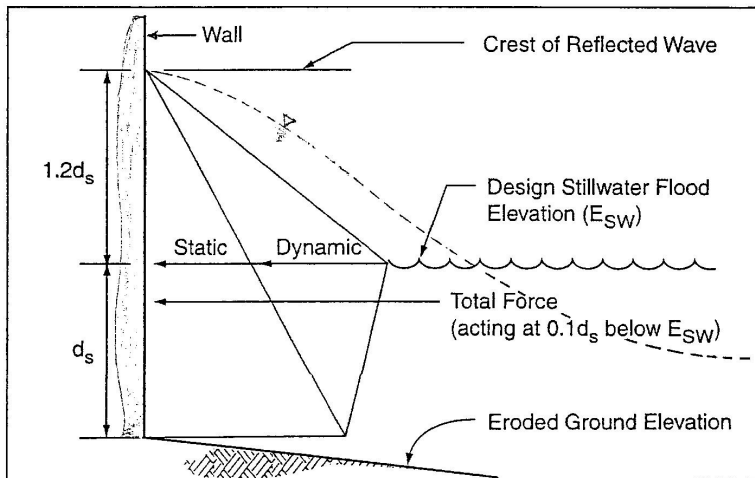
where:  $f_{brkw}$  = total breaking wave load per unit length of wall (lb/ft) acting at the stillwater level  
 $F_{brkw}$  = total breaking wave load (lb) acting at the stillwater level =  $f_{brkw} w$ , where  $w$  = width of wall in feet  
 $C_p$  = dynamic pressure coefficient from Table 11.1  
 $\gamma$  = specific weight of water (62.4 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> for fresh water and 64.0 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> for saltwater)  
 $d_s$  = design stillwater flood depth in feet

Note: Formula 11.6 includes the hydrostatic component calculated by Formula 11.3. If Formula 11.6 is used, do not add a lateral hydrostatic force from Formula 11.3.

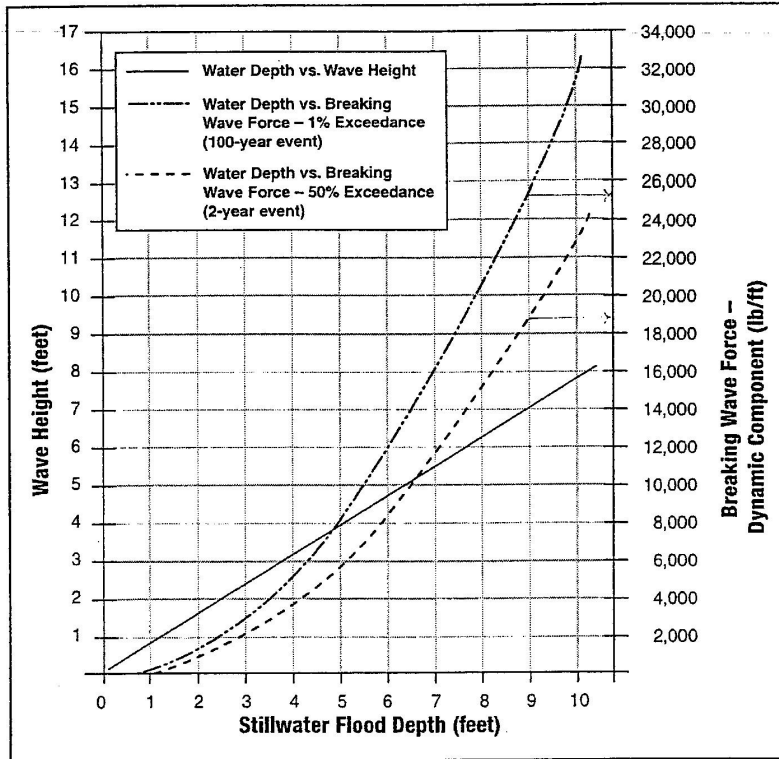
**Table 11.1**  
 Value of Dynamic Pressure Coefficient,  $C_p$ , as a Function of Probability of Exceedance (from Walton, et al. 1989)

$C_p$	Building Type	Probability of Exceedance
1.6	accessory structure, low hazard to human life or property in the event of failure	0.5
2.8	coastal residential building	0.01
3.2	high-occupancy building or critical facility	0.001

**Figure 11-7**  
 Dynamic, static, and total pressure distributions against a vertical wall.



**Fig. 3.14 Breaking Wave Force Formula, Pressure Coefficient Table, and Pressure Distribution Figure (FEMA 55, 2005).**



**Figure 11-8** Water depth vs. wave height, and water depth vs. breaking wave force against a vertical wall (for Case 2, with stillwater behind the wall) for the 1-percent and 50-percent exceedance interval events.

**Fig. 3.15 Storm Wave Height vs. Water Depth Relationship and Dynamic Wave Force Component vs. Water Depth Relationship Figure (FEMA 55, 2005).**



### **3.6 McConnell et al. Equations for Wave Forces on Jetty Heads/Docks**

Trade activities of many coastal countries make use of jetties for berthing of ocean vessels for the loading and discharge of cargo. Liquid natural and petroleum gas producers commonly make use of such industrial terminals for loading and unloading their cargo. Figures 3.17 and 3.18 show a typical approach trestle and jetty head for an industrial gas terminal. A concern at these locations is the risk of occurrence of wave forces on the jetty superstructure and the magnitude of such forces should they occur.

Existing guidance on such loadings are mainly derives from the offshore gas/oil industry, and in this industry an approach termed the ‘air gap’ approach is normally adopted for the platform design. In this approach, the maximum wave crest elevation is predicted for the design condition and the deck (or soffit) level is located at an allowance or ‘air gap’ above this elevation to ensure a low probability of occurrence of wave forces on the superstructure. The ‘air gap’ approach is often adopted in the design of shore connected trestles and jetties as well. However, for some of these terminals, elevation constraints may prevent adoption of the air gap approach, and in these cases there may be a risk of wave loads on the structure.

Because of limited information and guidance on the magnitude of such potential wave loadings, the UK government funded an experimental wave flume research project in the early 2000’s to develop more quantitative guidance on the appropriate design forces for these facilities. Figures 3.19 and 3.20 show a jetty head deck model out-of and in the wave flume respectively. The primary force parameters monitored/measured in the wave flume testing are identified and defined below and in Fig. 3.21.

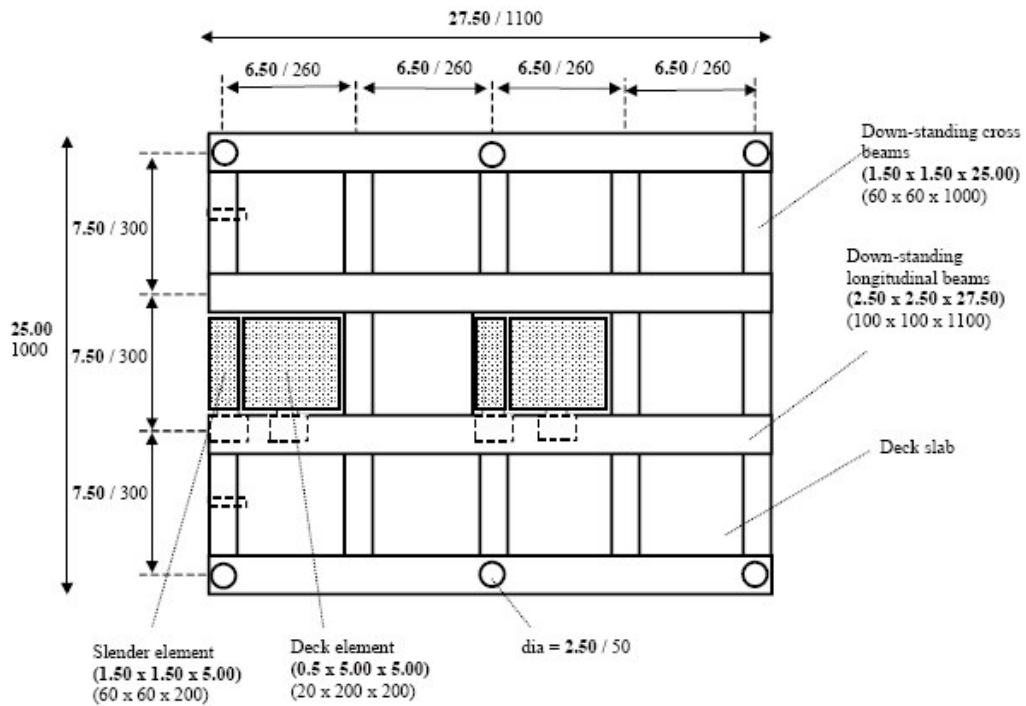
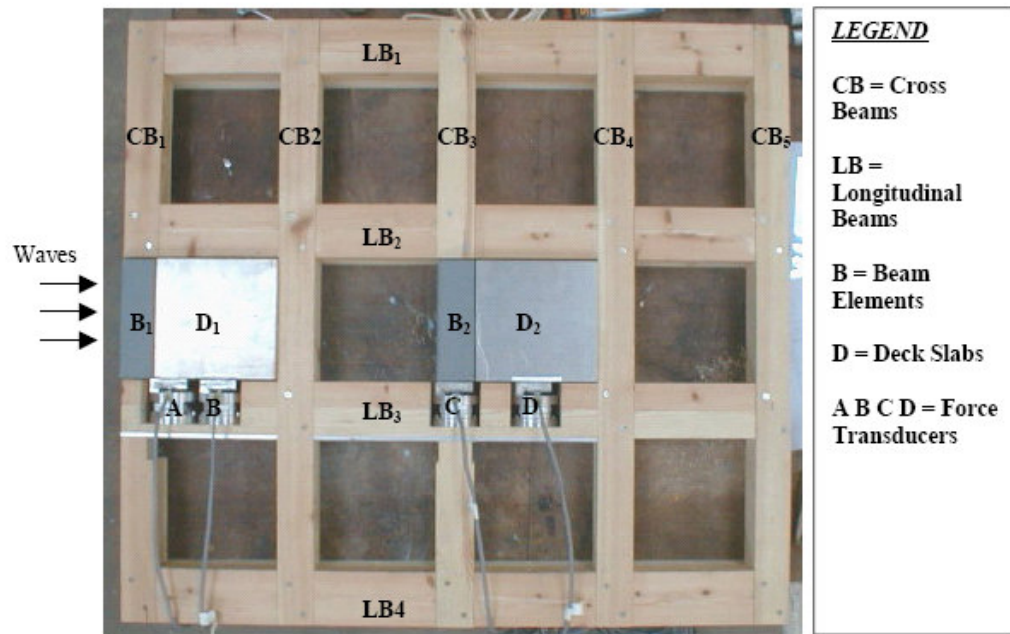
- $F_{\max}$  Impact force (short duration, high magnitude)
- $F_{\text{qs+}, \text{v or h}}$  Maximum positive (upward or landward) quasi-static (pulsating) force
- $F_{\text{qs-}, \text{v or h}}$  Maximum negative (downward or seaward) quasi-static (pulsating) force



**Figure 3.17 Typical exposed jetty (McConnell et al., 2004)**



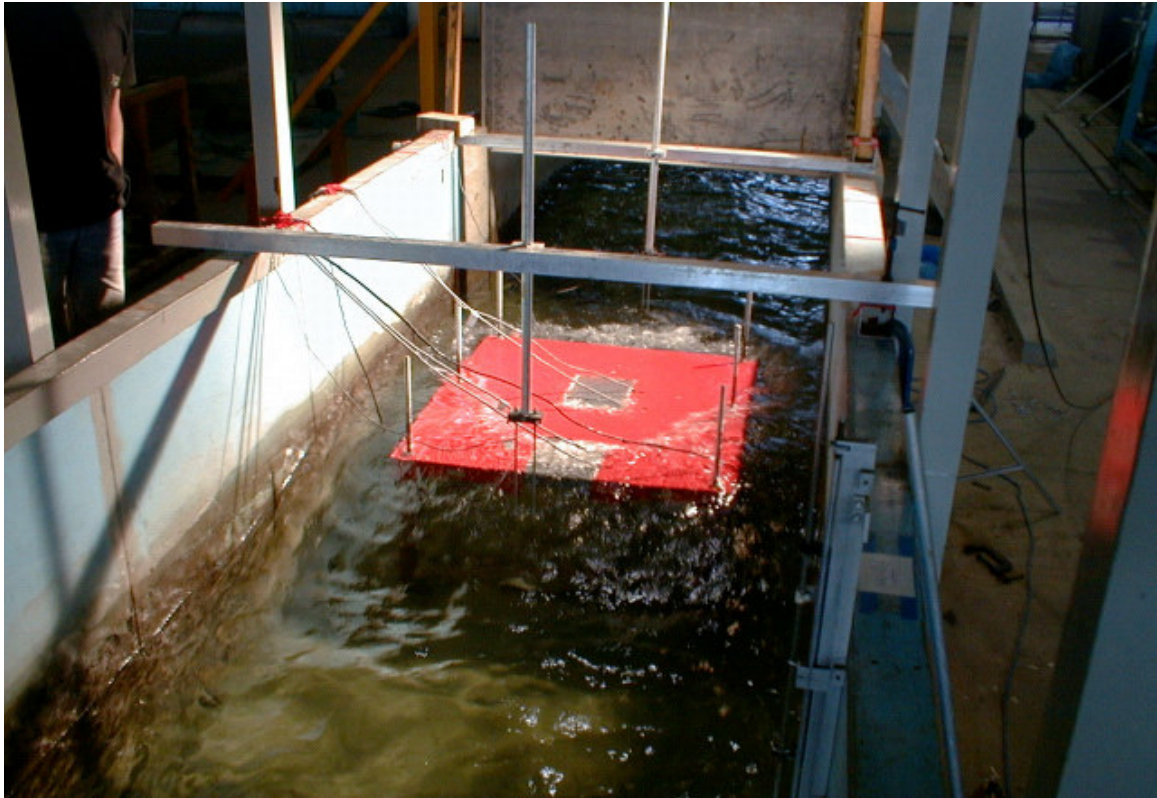
**Figure 3.18 Typical jetty head (courtesy Kier) (McConnell et al., 2004)**



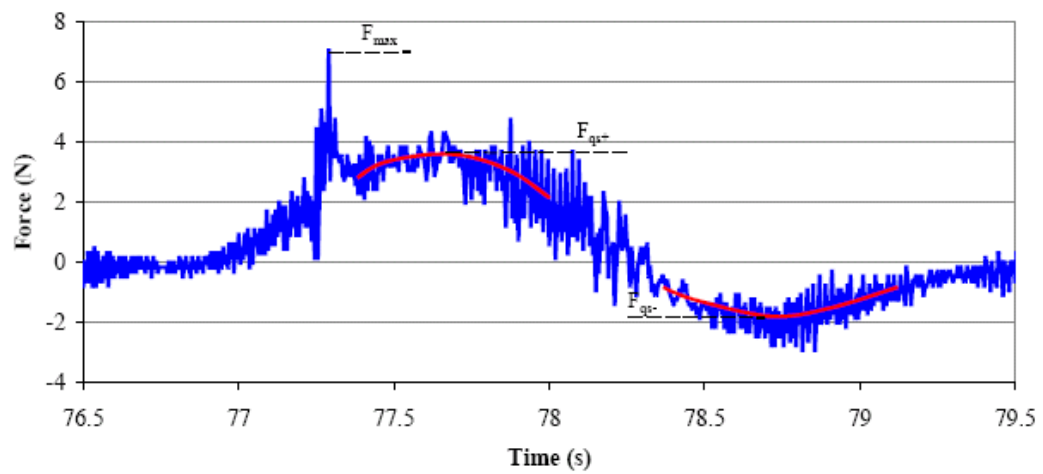
**Figure 3.19 Underside of model deck showing measurement elements**

Note: dimensions given as prototype (model)  
(McConnell et al., 2004).



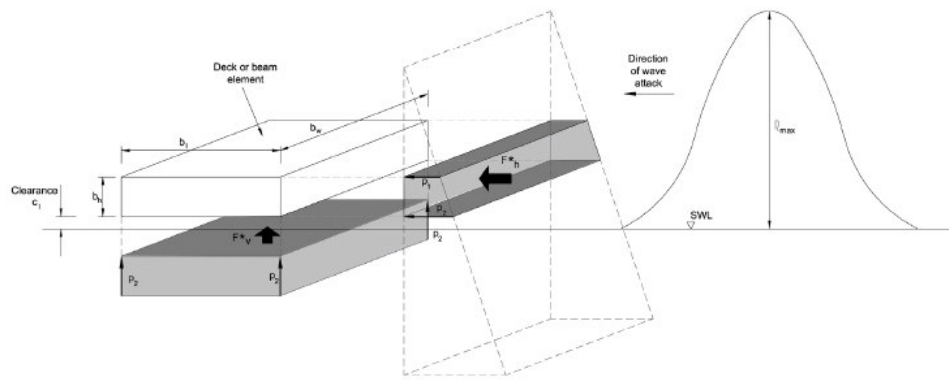


**Figure 3.20** Physical model in wave flume (McConnell et al., 2004)



**Figure 3.21** Definition of force parameters (model units) (McConnell et al., 2004)

A subset of the most pertinent (for our case of coastal bridges) of McConnell, et al. results are presented and discussed below. To render the results more general in application, the results were presented in a dimensionless format. To do this, two basic wave forces,  $F_v^*$  and  $F_h^*$ , were first defined as shown in Fig. 3.22. In each case it is assumed that there is no water/pressure on the reverse side of the element, and a predicted maximum wave crest elevation,  $\eta_{max}$ , is required in both cases.



**Figure 3.22 Definition of ‘basic wave forces’  $F_v^*$  and  $F_h^*$  (McConnell et al., 2004)**

As indicated in Fig. 3.22,  $F_h^*$  is defined by a simplified pressure distribution using hydrostatic pressures,  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ , at the top and bottom of the particular element being considered, and  $F_v^*$  is calculated assuming a uniform pressure  $p_2$  over the base of the element.  $F_v^*$  and  $F_h^*$  can be calculated as follows:

$$F_v^* = \int_{b_w} \int_{b_l} p_2 \cdot dA \cong b_w \cdot b_l \cdot p_2 \quad (3.5)$$

$$F_h^* = \int_{b_w} \int_{c_l}^{\eta_{max}} p_{hyd} \cdot dA = b_w \cdot (\eta_{max} - c_l) \cdot \frac{p_2}{2} \quad \text{for } \eta_{max} \leq c_l + b_h \quad (3.6)$$

$$F_h^* = \int_{b_w} \int_{c_1}^{c_1+b_h} p_{hyd} \cdot dA = b_w \cdot b_h \cdot \frac{(p_1 + p_2)}{2} \quad \text{for } \eta_{max} > c_1 + b_h \quad (3.7)$$

where

$$p_1 = [\eta_{max} - (b_h + c_1)] \cdot \rho g \quad (3.8)$$

$$p_2 = (\eta_{max} - c_1) \cdot \rho g \quad (3.9)$$

and

$p_1, p_2$	pressures at top and bottom of the element
$b_w$	element width (perpendicular to direction of wave attack)
$b_h$	element depth
$b_l$	element length (in direction of wave attack)
$c_1$	clearance (distance between soffit level and still water level, SWL)
$\eta_{max}$	maximum wave crest elevation (relative to SWL).

Note in the above equations that in order to estimate the maximum wave crest elevation,

$\eta_{max}$ , the maximum wave height,  $H_{max}$ , must be estimated. Methods of doing this are

given by Goda (1985) for a range of conditions and by Battjes & Groenendijk (2000) for

shallow foreshores. The maximum wave crest elevation,  $\eta_{max}$ , can then be estimated

from  $H_{max}$  using various non-linear wave theories, e.g.,  $\eta_{max} = 0.78H_{max}$  for shallow water

conditions.

In presenting the wave flume testing results, McConnell et. al. present plots of the dimensionless forces  $F_{qs}/F^*$ , plotted against the dimensionless parameter  $(\eta_{\max} - c_l)/H_s$ , which describes the incident wave conditions and geometry. When written as  $(\eta_{\max}/H_s) - (c_l/H_s)$  this parameter describes the relative elevation of the wave crest  $(\eta_{\max}/H_s)$ , often between 1.0 and 1.3, minus the relative excess of the wave over the clearance  $(c_l/H_s)$ . The following subset of McConnell's results/forces are presented and discussed below.

- vertical upward acting force,  $F_{vqs+}$  caused by slam on the underside of the deck or beam
- horizontal landward force,  $F_{hqs+}$  caused by the wave hitting the front of the beam

It should be noted that McConnell's paper concentrates on the slowly-varying or quasi-static forces ( $F_{qs}$ ). Shorter duration impact forces,  $F_{\max}$ , as defined in Figure 3.21, were also processed and are briefly discussed in the paper.

Vertical quasi-static forces on the seaward beam elements and deck elements were found to be relatively unaffected by the configuration of the test structure, and were similar in magnitude for both element types. These were therefore considered together, see Figure 3.23 for upward acting forces. It is worth noting that the smooth deck tended to give lower element loads than the deck with downstanding beams. Conditions for the internal elements are more complex, with the deck and beam elements showing different trends. The results for upward loads on the internal deck element are shown in Figure

3.24. Upward loads were not obviously influenced by 3-d effects. The following general observations can be made for vertical forces for all of the test elements:

- For  $(\eta_{\max} - c_l)/H_s > 0.8$ ,  $F_v^*$  seems to give a safe estimation of  $F_{vqs+}$
- For  $(\eta_{\max} - c_l)/H_s < 1$ ,  $F_{vqs+}$  forces increase relative to  $F_v^*$  as  $(\eta_{\max} - c_l)/H_s$  decreases
- For  $(\eta_{\max} - c_l)/H_s < 1$ , relative forces show significant scatter.

The horizontal quasi-static forces on beams, seaward and internal beam elements, are considered separately as the loads on internal beams are influenced by the deck structure, while loads on the seaward beam are unaffected by the structure configuration. Positive forces, acting in the direction of wave attack, i.e., landward,  $F_{hqs+}$  are presented in Figures 3.25 and 3.26 for seaward and internal beams respectively plotted against  $(\eta_{\max} - c_l)/H_s$ . The scatter for these data is much less than for vertical loads for almost all of the data, with scatter increasing for smaller values of  $(\eta_{\max} - c_l)/H_s$ .

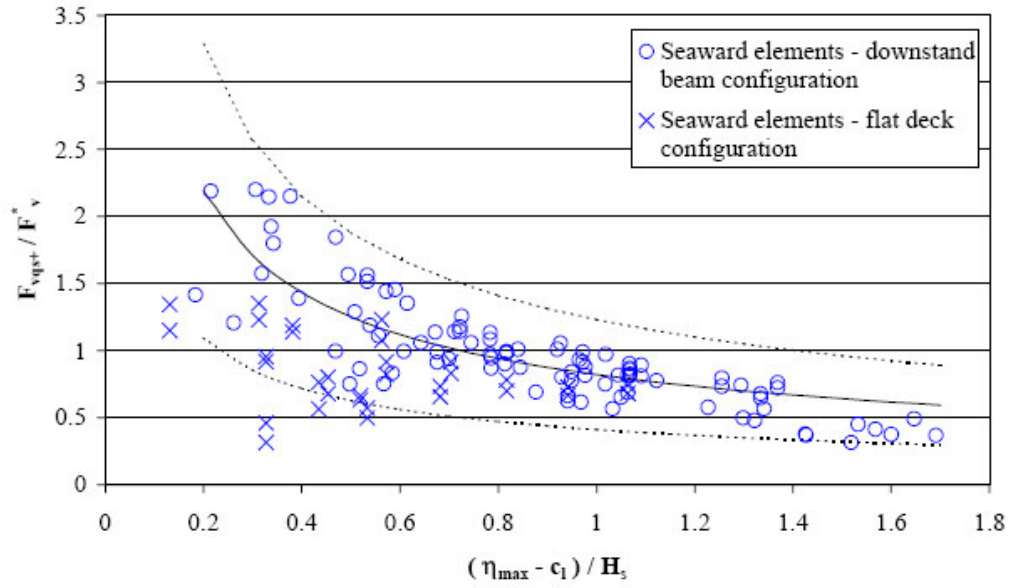


Figure 3.23 Vertical (upward) forces on seaward elements (McConnell et al., 2004)

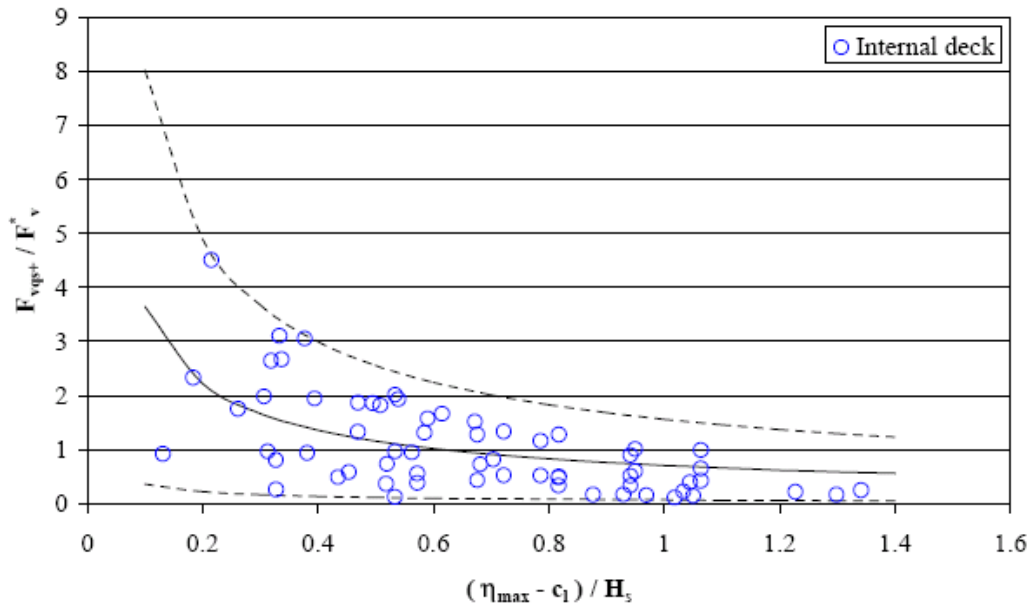
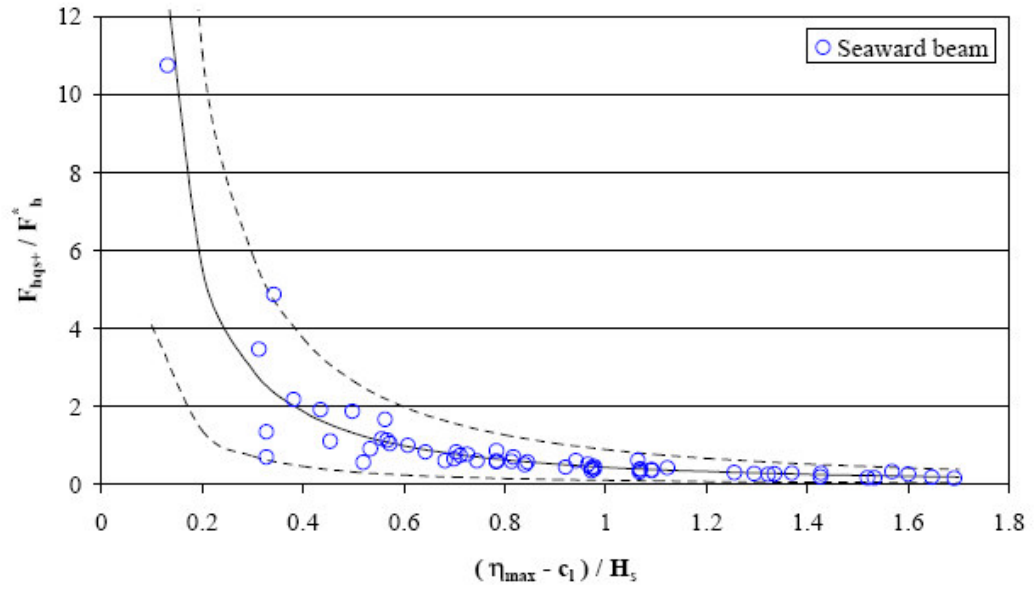
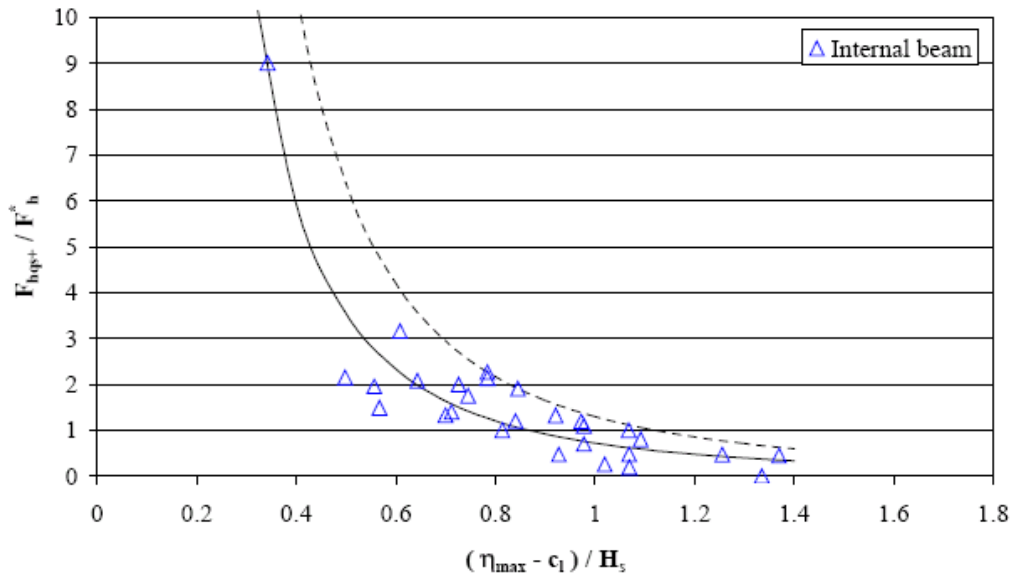


Figure 3.24 Vertical (upward) forces on internal deck (McConnell et al., 2004)

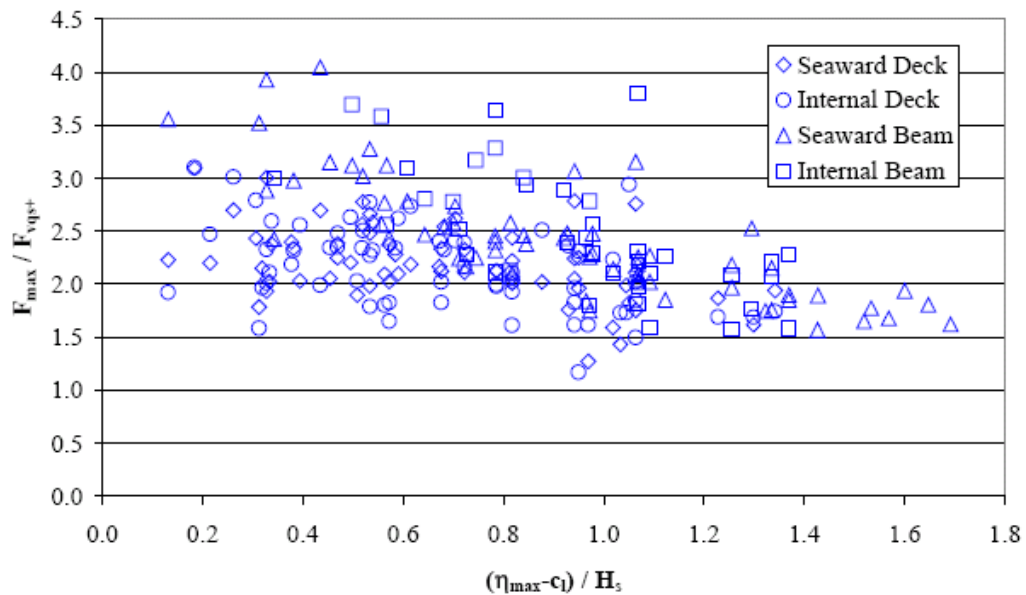


**Figure 3.25 Horizontal (shoreward) forces on seaward beams (McConnell et al., 2004)**



**Figure 3.26 Horizontal (shoreward) forces on internal beams (McConnell et al., 2004)**

Short duration wave impact forces on beam and deck elements were also measured in the tests. In order to fully assess the importance of impact forces, information is necessary on their duration and also the dynamic response characteristics for the structure in question. Wave impact forces were not examined and discussed in detail, however, a comparison is given of vertical impact forces and quasi-static impact forces for each test, where  $F_{\max}$  is the largest impact force recorded in a test and  $F_{\text{vqs+}}$  is the associated quasi-static force. The results are presented in Figure 3.27 where it can be seen that none of the impact forces measured exceed their quasi-static components by more than 4 times.



**Figure 3.27 Ratio of vertical impact forces to quasi-static forces (McConnell et al., 2004)**

The select data sets from the wave flume model tests are presented in graphical form in Figures 3.23 to 3.26 for both vertical and horizontal quasi-static forces. Best fit



regression lines fitted to each data set are shown by a solid line on the graphs (the dotted lines show upper and lower bound envelopes). The general form of the regression line is:

$$\frac{F_{qs}}{F^*} = \frac{a}{\left[ \frac{(\eta_{max} - c_l)}{H_s} \right]^b} \quad (3.10)$$

where

- $F_{qs}$  quasi-static force of interest ( $F_{vqs+}$  or  $F_{hqs+}$ )
- $F^*$  'basic wave force', either  $F_v^*$  or  $F_h^*$  defined in Equations (3.5) to (3.7)
- $c_l$  clearance (distance between soffit level and still water level, SWL)
- $\eta_{max}$  maximum wave crest elevation (relative to SWL)
- $a, b$  coefficients

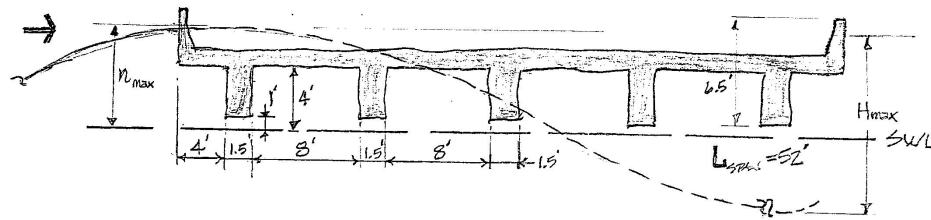
Coefficients a and b for the various configurations are given below in Table 3.1 for upward vertical forces and for shoreward horizontal forces.

**Table 3.1 Coefficients for calculation of upward vertical wave forces and shoreward horizontal forces using Equation 3.10**

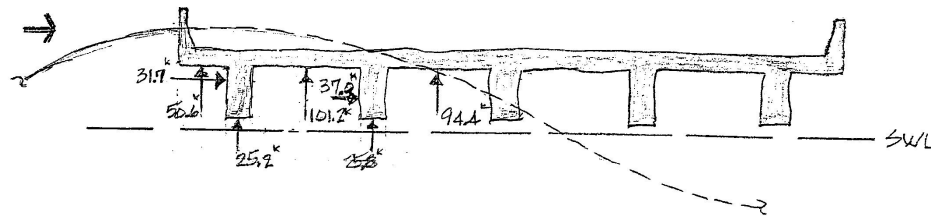
Wave load and configuration	EQN (3.10) Coefficients	
	a	b
Upward vertical forces (seaward beam & deck)	0.82	0.61
Upward vertical forces (internal beam only)	0.84	0.66
Upward vertical forces (internal deck, 2 and 3-d)	0.71	0.71
Shoreward horizontal forces, $F_{hqs+}$ (seaward beam)	0.45	1.56
Shoreward horizontal forces, $F_{hqs+}$ (internal beam)	0.72	2.30

**Example Application.** An example application of McConnell et al. Eqn (3.10) to an assumed deck-girder bridge as shown in Fig. 3.28a is presented below. An assumed storm sea state is as shown in Fig. 3.28a where

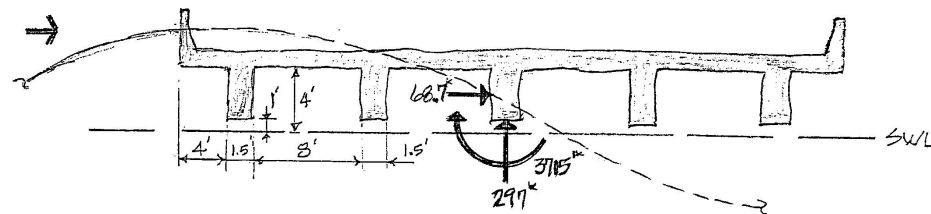
$$C_1 = 4.0 \text{ ft (on deck)} \text{ and } c_1 = 1.0 \text{ ft (on girders)}$$



a. Assumed Bridge and Storm Wave Geometry



b. Vertical and Horizontal Storm Wave Element Forces



c. Resultant Storm Wave Forces

**Figure 3.28 Example Bridge Superstructure and Storm Wave Geometry, Vertical and Horizontal Storm Wave Forces on Elements, and Resultant Storm Wave Forces**

and assuming,

$$H_s = 6.3 \text{ ft}$$

$$H_{\max} = 1.4H_s = 1.4 \times 6.3' = 8.8 \text{ ft}$$

$$\eta_{\max} = 0.78H_{\max} = 0.78 \times 8.8' = 6.86 \text{ ft}$$

Vertical Force on Seaward Elements:

$$\frac{F_{vqs+}}{F_V^*} = \frac{a}{\left[ \frac{(\eta_{\max} - c_l)}{H_s} \right]^b}$$

$$F_{vqs+} = F_V^* \frac{a}{\left[ \frac{(\eta_{\max} - c_l)}{H_s} \right]^b} \quad \text{where from Table 3.1,}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} a = 0.82 \\ b = 0.61 \end{array} \right\} \text{for Deck and Girder}$$

For Deck:

$$F_{vqs+} = F_{VD}^* \frac{0.82}{\left[ \frac{(6.86 - 4.0)}{6.3} \right]^{0.61}} = 1.33 F_{VD}^* \quad (\text{See also Fig. 3.23})$$

$$\text{where } F_{VD}^* = b_w \cdot b_l \cdot p_2$$

$$p_2 = (\eta_{\max} - c_l) \gamma = (6.86 - 4.0)64 = 183 \text{ psf}$$

Assuming a bridge superstructure as shown in Fig. 3.28a,

On overhang deck portion,  $b_w = 4.0'$  and  $b_l = 52'$

$$F_{VD}^* = 183 \text{ psf} \times 4' \times 52' = 38.06^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 1.33 \times 38.06^k = 50.6^k$$

On deck inward from exterior girder,  $b_w = 8.0'$  and  $b_l = 52'$

$$F_{VD}^* = 183 \text{ psf} \times 8' \times 52' = 76.12^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 1.33 \times 76.12^k = 101.2^k$$

For Girder:

$$F_{vqs+} = F_{VG}^* \cdot \frac{0.82}{\left[ \frac{6.86 - 1.0}{6.3} \right]^{0.61}} = 0.86 F_{VG}^*$$

where  $F_{VG}^* = b_w \cdot b_l \cdot p_2$

$$p_2 = (\eta_{\max} - c_l) \gamma = (6.86 - 1.0)64 = 375 \text{ psf}$$

$$F_{VG}^* = 1.5' \times 52' \times 375 \text{ psf} = 29.25^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 0.86 \times 29.25^k = 25.2^k$$

Vertical Force on Internal Elements:

$$F_{vqs+} = \frac{a}{\left( \frac{\eta_{\max} - c_l}{H_s} \right)^b}$$

where from Table 3.1,

$a = 0.71$ ,  $b = 0.71$  for Deck

$a = 0.84$ ,  $b = 0.66$  for Girder

For Deck:

$$F_{vqs+} = F_{VD} * \frac{0.71}{\left[ \frac{6.86 - 4.0}{6.3} \right]^{0.71}} = 1.24 F_{VD}^* \quad (\text{See also Fig. 3.24})$$

$$\text{where } F_{VD}^* = b_w \cdot b_l \cdot p_2$$

$$p_2 = (\eta_{\max} - c_1) \gamma = (6.86 - 4.0)64 = 183 \text{ psf}$$

$$F_{VD}^* = 8' \times 52' \times 183 \text{ psf} = 76.12^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 1.24 \times 76.12^k = 94.4^k$$

For Girder:

$$F_{vqs+} = F_{VG} * \frac{0.84}{\left[ \frac{6.86 - 1.0}{6.3} \right]^{0.66}} = 0.88 F_{VG}^*$$

$$\text{where } F_{VG} = b_w \cdot b_l \cdot p_2$$

$$p_2 = (\eta_{\max} - c_1) \gamma = (6.86 - 1.0)64 = 375 \text{ psf}$$

$$F_{VG}^* = 1.5' \times 52' \times 375 = 29.25^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 0.88 \times 29.25^k = 25.8^k$$

Thus, the estimated vertical storm wave forces on the example bridge superstructure elements would be as shown in Fig. 3.28b and the resultant

vertical force and overturning moment would be as shown in Fig. 3.28c.

Note in Figure 3.28, that the maximum wave forces do not act on all elements of the deck and all of the girders simultaneously.

Horizontal Force on Seaward Beams/Girders:

$$\frac{F_{hqs+}}{F_h^*} = \frac{a}{\left(\frac{\eta_{\max} - c_1}{H_s}\right)^b} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{from Table 3.1,} \quad \begin{array}{l} a = 0.45 \\ b = 1.56 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \eta_{\max} = 6.86' \\ c_1 = 1.0 \text{ (on girder)} \\ H_s = 6.3' \end{array}$$

$$\therefore F_{hqs+} = \frac{0.45 F_h^*}{\left(\frac{6.86 - 1.0}{6.3}\right)^{1.56}} = 0.50 F_h^*$$

$$\text{where } F_h^* = b_w \times b_h \times \left(\frac{p_1 + p_2}{2}\right)$$

$$p_1 = [\eta_{\max} - (b_h + c_1)] \gamma = [6.86 - (6.50 + 1.0)]64$$

$$\text{Take } p_1 = 0$$

$$p_2 = [\eta_{\max} - c_1] \gamma = [6.86 - 1.0]64 = 375 \text{ psf}$$

$$F_h^* = 52' \times 6.50' \times \left(\frac{0 + 375}{2}\right) = 63.4^k$$

$$F_{hqs+} = 0.50 \times 63.4 = 31.7^k$$

Horizontal Force on Interior Beam/Girder:

$$\frac{F_{hqs+}}{F_h^*} = \frac{a}{\left(\frac{\eta_{\max} - c_1}{H_s}\right)^b} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{from Table 3.1,} \quad \begin{array}{l} a = 0.72 \\ b = 2.30 \end{array}$$

$$F_{hqs+} = \frac{0.72 F_h^*}{\left(\frac{6.86 - 1.0}{6.3}\right)^{2.30}} = 0.85 F_h^*$$

$$\text{where } F_h^* = b_w \times b_h \times \left(\frac{p_1 + p_2}{2}\right)$$

$$p_1 = [\eta_{\max} - (b_h + c_i)] \gamma$$

$$p_1 = [6.86 - (3.0 + 1.0)]64 = 183 \text{ psf}$$

$$p_2 = [\eta_{\max} - c_i] \gamma$$

$$p_2 = [6.86 - 1.0]64 = 375 \text{ psf}$$

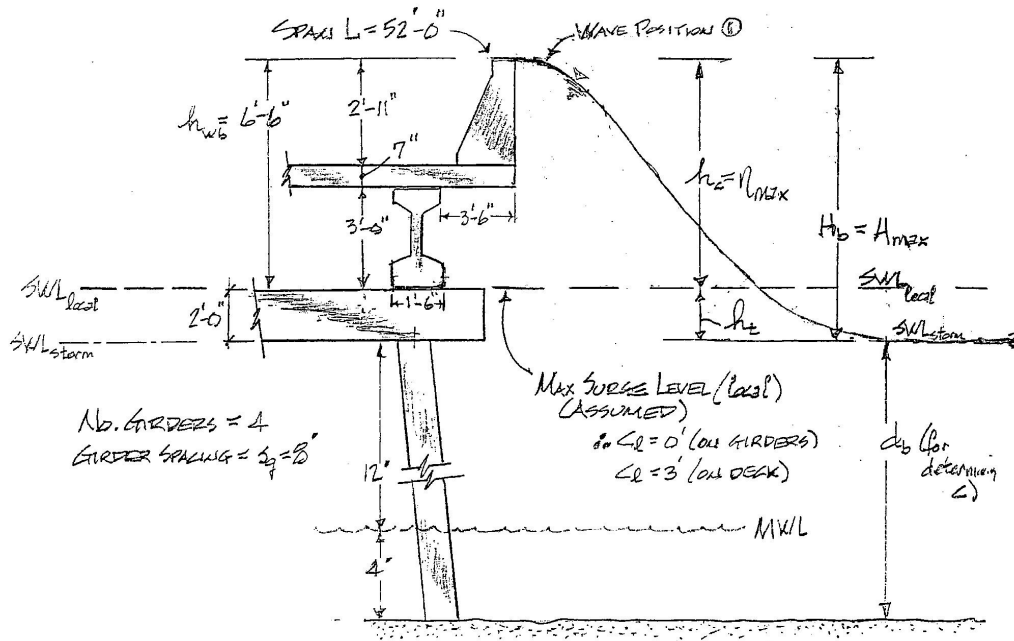
$$F_h^* = 52' \times 3' \times \left(\frac{183 + 375}{2}\right) = 43.5^k$$

$$F_{hqs+} = 0.85 \times 43.5 = 37.0^k$$

The above estimate horizontal forces are shown acting on the seaward girder and first interior girder in Fig. 3.28b. The resultant of these two horizontal forces are shown in Fig. 3.28c, where in that figure the resultant moment of 3715 kip-ft is assumed to come only from the vertical wave force components.

**Example Application** – Determine the maximum wave forces and moment on a 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay when Hurricane Katrina hit, using McConnell, et al. equations.

A partial sketch of the ramp span geometry and elevations and the maximum sea state at the ramp when Katrina hit are shown in Fig. 3.29.



**Fig. 3.29** Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 ramp span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina

In performing the analysis the following pertinent parameter values were extracted from the storm data or were assumed:

$$SWL_{local} = \text{at top of bent cap} = SWL_{storm} + 2' \text{ (assumed)}$$

$$SWL_{storm} = \text{at bottom of bent cap}$$

$$h_c = 0.78H_b$$



$$h_t = 0.22H_b$$

$$\text{Significant Wave Ht.} = H_s = 6.1'$$

$$\text{Max Wave Ht.} = H_b = 1.4H_s = 8.5'$$

$$h_c = \eta_{\max} = 0.78 \times 8.5' = 6.6' \implies \text{Use } 6.5' \text{ (top of rail)}$$

$$d_b = \text{Initial Depth} + \text{Max Storm Surge} = \text{Elev. Of Bottom of Bent Cap}$$

$$d_b = 4' + 12' = 16'$$

$$\text{Span Length} = 52'$$

$$\text{Elev Bay Bottom} = 0'$$

$$\text{Elev MWL} = 4'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Bent Cap} = 16'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Bent Cap} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Girders} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Guardrail} = 24.5'$$

$$\text{Girder Spacing} = s_g = 8.0'$$

$$\text{Clearance} = c_1 = 0' \text{ (on girders); } c_1 = 3' \text{ (on deck)}$$

**Analysis:**

Use McConnell's Eqns with  $H_s = 6.1'$   $c_1 = 0$  (on girders)

$\eta_{\max} = 6.5'$   $c_1 = 3'$  (on deck)

Vertical Force: 
$$\frac{F_{vqs+}}{F_V^*} = \frac{a}{\left[\frac{(\eta_{\max} - c_1)}{H_s}\right]^b} \Rightarrow F_{vqs+} = F_V^* \frac{a}{\left[\frac{(\eta_{\max} - c_1)}{H_s}\right]^b}$$

For Seaward Elements:  $\Rightarrow$  From McConnell's Table,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} a = 0.82 \\ b = 0.61 \end{array} \right\} \text{For deck and girder}$$

For Deck:

$$F_{vqs+} = F_{VD}^* \frac{0.82}{\left[\frac{(6.5 - 3.0)}{6.1}\right]^{0.61}} = 1.15 F_{VD}^*$$

where  $F_{VD}^* = b_w \cdot b_l \cdot p_2$

$$p_2 = (\eta_{\max} - c_1) \gamma = (6.5 - 3.0)64 = 224 \text{ psf}$$

Assuming a bridge superstructure as shown in Fig. 3.29,

On overhang deck portion,  $b_w = 3.5'$  and  $b_l = 52'$

$$F_{VD}^* = 224 \text{ psf} \times 3.5' \times 52' = 40.77^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 1.15 \times 40.77^k = 46.9^k$$

On deck inward from exterior girder,  $b_w = 6.5'$  and  $b_l = 52'$

$$F_{VD}^* = 224 \text{ psf} \times 6.5' \times 52' = 75.71^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 1.15 \times 75.71^k = 87.1^k$$

For Girder:

$$F_{vqs+} = F_{VG}^* \cdot \frac{0.82}{\left[ \frac{6.5 - 0}{6.1} \right]^{0.61}} = 0.79 F_{VG}^*$$

$$\text{where } F_{VG}^* = b_w \cdot b_l \cdot p_2$$

$$p_2 = (\eta_{\max} - c_l) \gamma = (6.5 - 0)64 = 416 \text{ psf}$$

$$F_{VG}^* = 1.5' \times 52' \times 416 \text{ psf} = 32.45^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 0.79 \times 32.45^k = 25.6^k$$

For Internal Elements:

$$F_{vqs+} = \frac{a}{\left( \frac{\eta_{\max} - c_l}{H_s} \right)^b}$$

From McConnell's Table,

a = 0.71, b = 0.71 for Deck

a = 0.84, b = 0.66 for Girder

For Deck:

$$F_{vqs+} = F_{VD}^* \frac{0.71}{\left[ \frac{6.5 - 3.0}{6.1} \right]^{0.71}} = 1.05 F_{VD}^*$$

$$\text{where } F_{VD}^* = b_w \cdot b_l \cdot p_2$$

$$p_2 = (\eta_{\max} - c_1) \gamma = (6.5 - 3.0)64 = 224 \text{ psf}$$

$$F_{VD}^* = 6.5' \times 52' \times 224 \text{ psf} = 75.71^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 1.05 \times 75.71^k = 79.5^k$$

For Girder:

$$F_{vqs+} = F_{VG}^* \frac{0.84}{\left[ \frac{6.5 - 0}{6.1} \right]^{0.66}} = 0.81 F_{VG}^*$$

$$\text{where } F_{VG}^* = b_w \cdot b_l \cdot p_2$$

$$p_2 = (\eta_{\max} - c_1) \gamma = (6.5 - 0)64 = 416 \text{ psf}$$

$$F_{VG}^* = 1.5' \times 52' \times 416 = 32.45^k$$

$$F_{vqs+} = 0.81 \times 32.45^k = 26.3^k$$

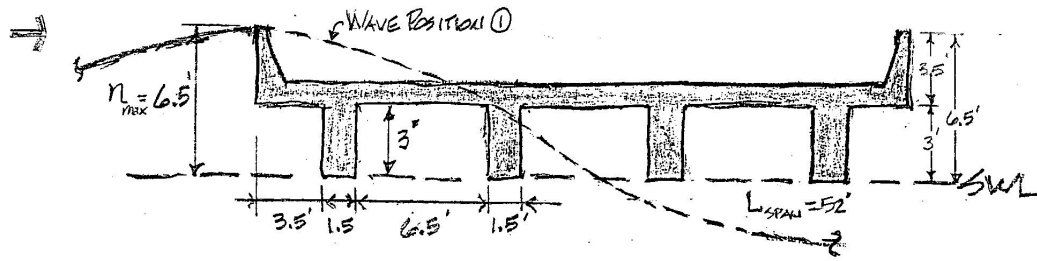
Thus, the estimated vertical storm wave forces on the example bridge superstructure elements would be as shown in Fig. 3.30b and the resultant vertical force and overturning moment would be as shown in Fig. 3.30c.

Note in Figure 3.30, that the maximum wave forces do not act on all elements of the deck and all of the girders simultaneously.

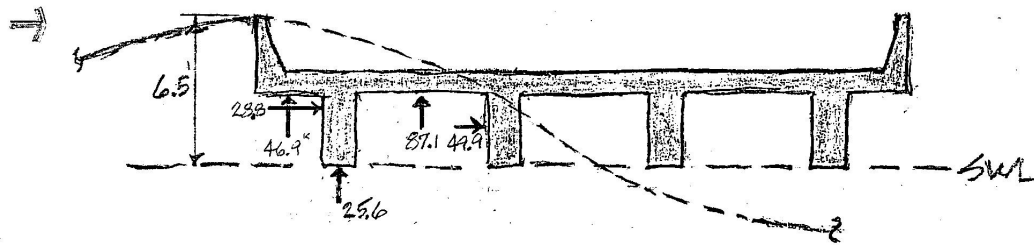
Horizontal Force:

$$\frac{F_{hqs+}}{F_h^*} = \frac{a}{\left(\frac{\eta_{\max} - c_l}{H_s}\right)^b} \quad \Rightarrow \quad F_{hqs+} = F_h^* \frac{a}{\left[\frac{\eta_{\max} - c_l}{H_s}\right]^b}$$

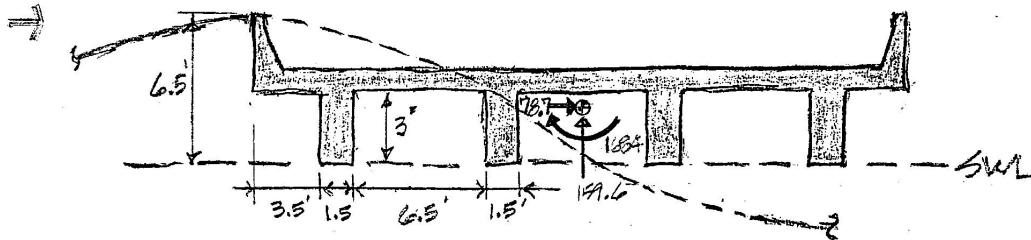
Seaward Beams/Girders:  $\Rightarrow$  From McConnell's Table,  
 $a = 0.45$   
 $b = 1.56$



a. Assumed Bridge and Storm Wave Geometry



b. Vertical and Horizontal Storm Wave Element Forces



c. Resultant Storm Wave Forces

Figure 3.30 I-10 On-Ramp Bridge Superstructure and Storm Wave Geometry, Vertical and Horizontal Storm Wave Forces on Elements, and Resultant Storm Wave Forces For Wave Position ①

$$\therefore F_{hqs+} = \frac{0.45 F_h^*}{\left(\frac{6.5-0}{6.1}\right)^{1.56}} = 0.41 F_h^*$$

$$\text{where } F_h^* = b_w \times b_h \times \left(\frac{p_1 + p_2}{2}\right)$$

$$p_1 = [\eta_{\max} - (b_h + c_1)] \gamma = [6.5 - (6.50 + 0)]64$$

$$p_1 = 0$$

$$p_2 = [\eta_{\max} - c_1] \gamma = [6.5 - 0]64 = 416 \text{ psf}$$

$$F_h^* = 52' \times 6.50' \times \left(\frac{0 + 416}{2}\right) = 70.3^k$$

$$F_{hqs+} = 0.41 \times 70.3 = 28.8^k$$

Interior Beam/Girder:

$$\frac{F_{hqs+}}{F_h^*} = \frac{a}{\left(\frac{\eta_{\max} - c_1}{H_s}\right)^b} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{from McConnell's Table} \\ a = 0.72 \\ b = 2.30 \end{array}$$

$$F_{hqs+} = \frac{0.72 F_h^*}{\left(\frac{6.5-0}{6.1}\right)^{2.30}} = 0.62 F_h^*$$

$$\text{where } F_h^* = b_w \times b_h \times \left(\frac{p_1 + p_2}{2}\right)$$

$$p_1 = [\eta_{\max} - (b_h + c_1)] \gamma$$

$$p_1 = [6.5 - (3.0 + 0)]64 = 224 \text{ psf}$$

$$p_2 = [\eta_{\max} - c_1] \gamma$$

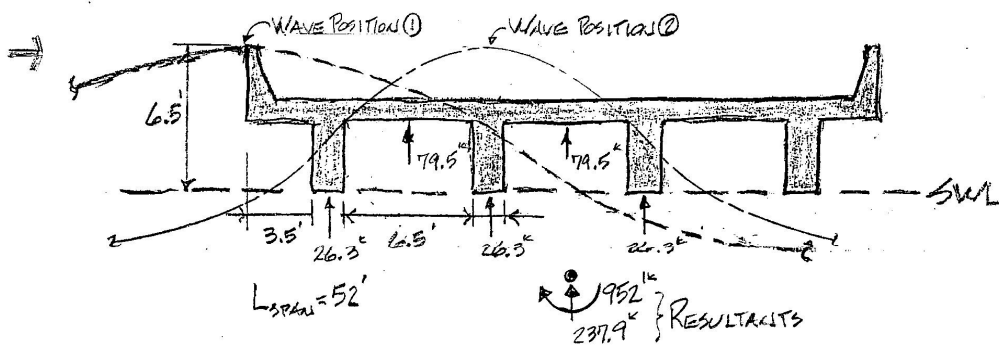
$$p_2 = [6.5 \ -0]64 = 416 \text{ psf}$$

$$F_h^* = 52' \times 3' \times \left( \frac{224 + 416}{2} \right) = 49.9^k$$

$$F_{hqs+} = 0.62 \times 49.9 = 31.0^k$$

The above estimate horizontal forces are shown acting on the seaward girder and first interior girder in Fig. 3.30b. The resultant of these two horizontal forces are shown in Fig. 3.30c, where in that figure the resultant moment of 3715 kip-ft is assumed to come only from the vertical wave force components.

It should be noted from the large vertical forces on the deck element that the wave position causing the maximum uplift force on the bridge span would probably be wave position ② shown in Fig. 3.31. Also shown on this figure are the element and resultant forces on a bridge span for wave position ②.



**Fig. 3.31 Storm wave forces on elements and resultant forces for wave position ②**



### 3.7 Douglass, et al. Equations for Wave Forces on Coastal Bridges

Douglass, et al. bridge-specific simplification of McConnell’s equations for estimating ocean wave loads on elevated jetty heads/docks is given below. Their equations were developed to specifically estimate the vertical and horizontal wave load components on elevated deck-girder coastal bridge superstructures, and are as follows:

$$F_v = c_{v\text{-}va} F_v^* \quad (3.11)$$

and

$$F_h = [1+c_r(N-1)]c_{h\text{-}va} F_h^* \quad (3.12)$$

where:

- $F_v$  = the estimated, vertical, wave-induced load component
- $F_h$  = the estimated, horizontal, wave-induced load component
- $F_v^*$  = a “reference” vertical load defined by Eq (3.13)
- $F_h^*$  = a “reference” horizontal load defined by Eq (3.14)
- $c_{v\text{-}va}$  = an empirical coefficient for the vertical “varying” load
- $c_{h\text{-}va}$  = an empirical coefficient for the horizontal “varying” load
- $c_r$  = a reduction coefficient for reduced horizontal load on the internal (i.e. not the wave ward-most) girders  
(recommended value is  $c_r = 0.4$ )
- $N$  = the number of girders supporting the bridge span deck

$$F_v^* = \gamma(\Delta z_v)A_v \quad (3.13)$$

where:

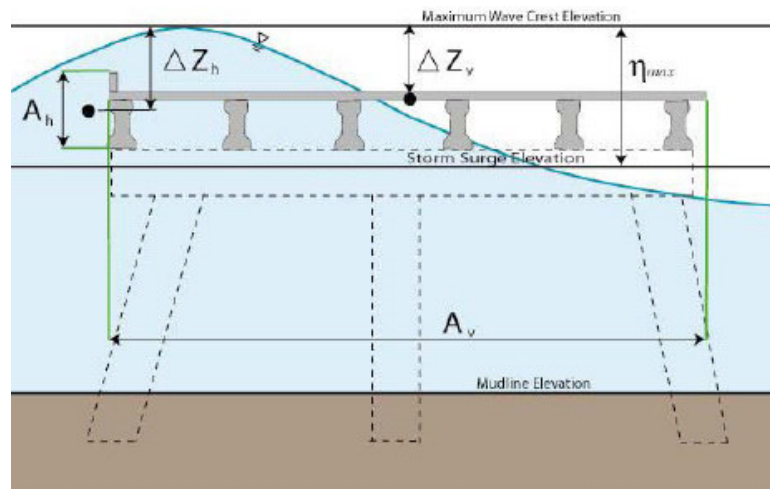
- $A_v$  = the area the bridge contributing to vertical uplift, i.e. the projection of the bridge deck onto the horizontal plane
- $\Delta z_v$  = difference between the elevation of the crest of the maximum wave and the elevation of the underside of the bridge deck) see Figure 3.32 for definition sketch)
- $\gamma$  = unit weight of water (64 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> for saltwater)

$$F_h^* = \gamma(\Delta z_h)A_h \quad (3.14)$$

where:

- $A_h$  = the area of the projection of the bridge deck onto the vertical plane
- $\Delta z_h$  = difference between the elevation of the crest of the maximum wave and the elevation of the centroid of  $A_h$  (see Figure 3.32 for definition sketch)
- $\gamma$  = unit weight of water (64 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> for saltwater)

When the wave crest elevation does not exceed the top of the bridge, a reduced area and lowered centroid corresponding to the area below the wave crest elevation can be used in Equation (3.14). The wave crest elevation used in  $\Delta z_v$  and  $\Delta z_h$  should be that corresponding to a very large wave height estimated in the design sea state  $\eta_{max}$ .



**Fig. 3.32 Definition sketch for  $\Delta z_h$ ,  $\Delta z_v$ ,  $A_h$ , and  $\eta_{max}$  used in force prediction equations (Douglass et al., 2006)**

Given a design sea state with a significant wave height ( $H_s$ ), this elevation can be estimated as:

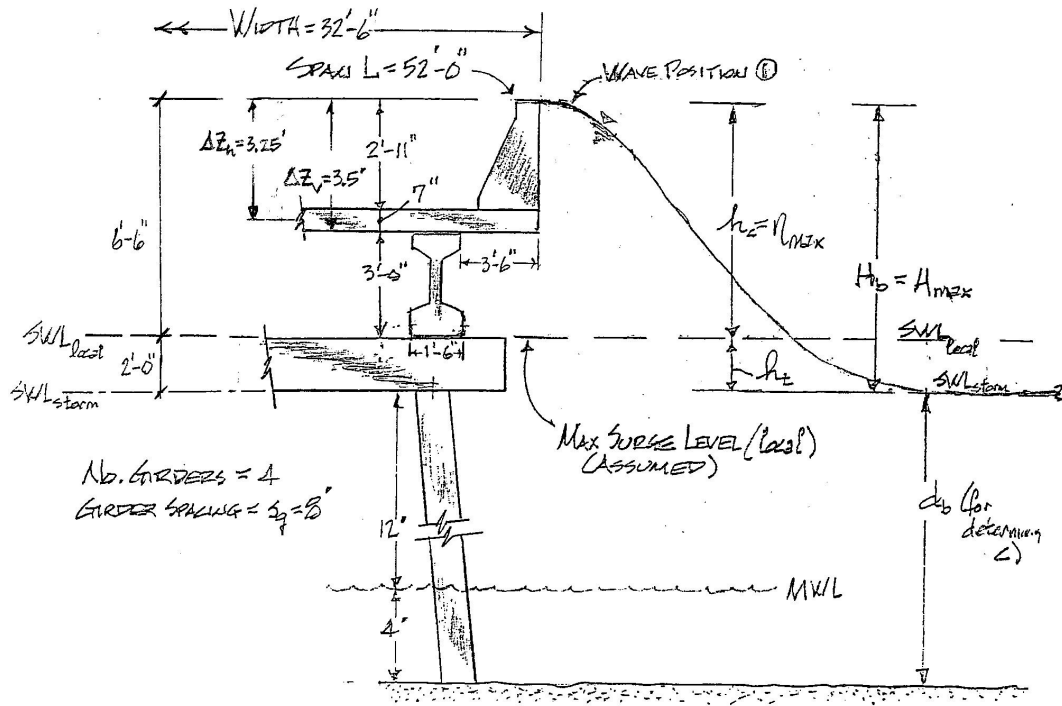
$$\eta_{max} \approx (0.8)(1.67) H_s = 1.3 H_s \quad (3.15)$$

as measured from the design storm surge elevation (see Figure 3.32).

The recommended value of each of the empirical coefficients  $c_{v-wa}$  and  $c_{h-wa}$  is given here as 1. Given the uncertainties involved in application of the above equations for estimating wave loads on bridges, Douglass, et al. recommend doubling these loads (i.e. use a factor-of-safety = 2). It is assumed that the two components (horizontal and vertical) of the wave-induced loads given above act in phase. Thus, a maximum resultant load can be resolved as usual from the two components. This resultant load can be assumed to be acting through the centroid of the cross-section.

**Example Application** – Determine the maximum wave forces and moment on a 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay when Hurricane Katrina hit, using Douglass, et al. equations.

A partial sketch of the ramp span geometry and elevations and the maximum sea state at the ramp when Katrina hit are shown in Fig. 3.33.



**Fig. 3.33 Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 ramp span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina**

In performing the analysis the following pertinent parameter values were extracted from the storm data or were assumed:

$$SWL_{local} = \text{at top of bent cap} = SWL_{storm} + 2' \text{ (assumed for Example)}$$

$$SWL_{storm} = \text{at bottom of bent cap}$$

$$h_c = 0.78H_b$$

$$h_t = 0.22H_b$$

$$\text{Significant Wave Ht.} = H_s = 6.1'$$

$$\text{Max Wave Ht.} = H_b = 1.4H_s = 8.5'$$

$$h_c = \eta_{max} = 0.78 \times 8.5' = 6.6' \implies \text{Use } 6.5' \text{ (top of rail)}$$

$$d_b = \text{Initial Depth} + \text{Max Storm Surge} = \text{Elev. Of Bottom of Bent Cap}$$

$$d_b = 4' + 12' = 16'$$

$$\text{Span Length} = 52'$$

$$\text{Elev Bay Bottom} = 0'$$

$$\text{Elev MWL} = 4'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Bent Cap} = 16'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Bent Cap} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Girders} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Guardrail} = 24.5'$$

$$\text{Girder Spacing} = s_g = 8.0'$$

$$\Delta z_v = 3.5' \text{ (see Fig. 3.33)}$$

$$\Delta z_h = 3.25' \text{ (see Fig. 3.33)}$$

**Analysis:**

Use Douglass Eqns with

$$H_s = 6.1'$$

$$\eta_{\max} = 6.5'$$

$$\Delta z_v = 3.5'$$

$$\Delta z_h = 3.25'$$

Vertical Force:

$$F_v = c_{v-va} F_v^*$$

where  $c_{v-va} = 1.0$

$$F_v^* = \gamma (\Delta z_v) A_v \rightarrow \text{Horizontal Projection of Bridge Deck}$$

Deck

$$F_v^* = 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times 3.5' \times 32.5' \times 52'$$

$$F_v^* = 379^k$$

$$\therefore F_v = 1.0 \times 379^k = 379^k$$

Horizontal Force:

$$F_h = [1+c_r (N-1)]c_{h-va} F_h^*$$

where  $c_r = 0.4$

$$N = 4$$

$$c_{h-va} = 1.0$$

$$F_h^* = \gamma (\Delta z_h) A_h \rightarrow \text{Vertical Projection of Bridge Superstructure}$$

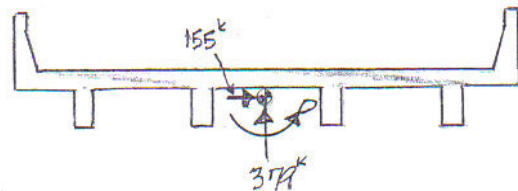
$$F_h^* = 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times 3.25' \times 6.5' \times 52'$$

$$F_h^* = 70.3^k$$

$$\therefore F_h = [1+0.4(4-1)]1.0 \times 70.3 = 154.7^k$$

$$F_h = 155^k$$

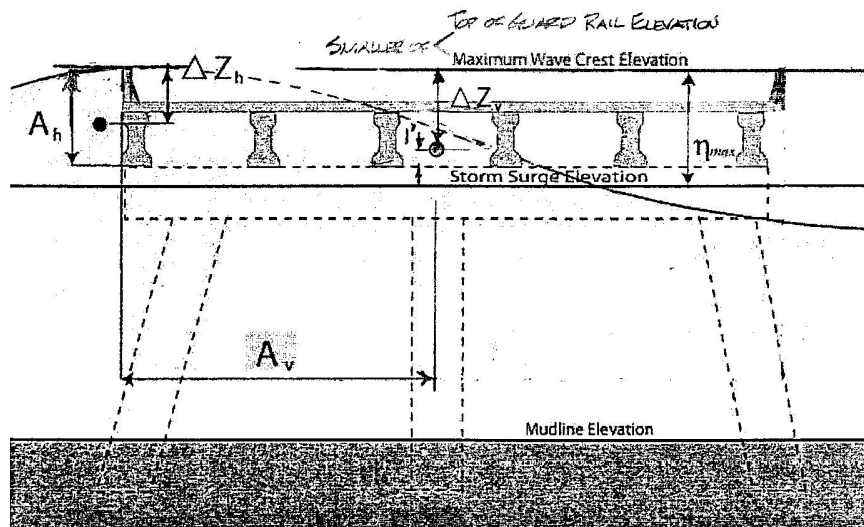
Resultant Max Wave Loading:



### 3.8 Modified Douglass, et al. Wave Force Equations

In reviewing the Douglass, et al. force prediction equations, it appears that the equations are based on the best theoretical thinking and wave flume experimental work in the literature. However, it also appears that some of the equation parameter values adopted by Douglass, et al. are overly conservative while others may be under conservative. For example, in defining  $\Delta z_v$  to the bottom of the deck, they are not allowing for entrapped air in the girder-deck-girder cells and this is probably in error and underestimates the vertical force, while defining  $A_v$  as the horizontal projection of the total bridge deck that the upward water pressure acts on is probably in error (see Fig. 3.32) and this overestimates the vertical force.

Keeping the same simplified approach, the author has modified the Douglass, et al. equations, and the modified equations are presented below. A definition sketch of parameters used in the modified force equations is shown in Fig. 3.34.



**Fig. 3.34 Modified definition sketch for  $\Delta z_h$ ,  $\Delta z_v$ ,  $A_h$ ,  $A_v$  and  $\eta_{max}$  used in the modified force equations**

Vertical Wave Force:

$$F_v = c_v^{mc} F_v^* \quad (3.16a)$$

where,  $c_v^{mc}$  = an empirical coefficient from McConnell's work

$$c_v^{mc} \approx 1.0$$

$$F_v^* = \gamma(\Delta z_v)A_v \quad (3.16b)$$

where  $\Delta z_v =$  difference between the elevation of the crest of the maximum wave and the elevation of the bottom of the end diaphragms (to be taken as 1 ft. higher than the bottom of the girders)

or,

the difference between the elevation of the top of the solid portion of the guard rail and the bottom of the end diaphragms (to be taken as 1 ft. higher than the bottom of the girders)

whichever is smaller.

$$\eta_{\max} = 0.78H_{\max} = 0.78 \times 1.4 \times H_s = 1.1H_s$$

$$A_v = \text{bridge span length} \times \frac{\text{bridge width}}{2} \quad (\text{for widths} > 20 \text{ ft})$$

$$A_v = \text{bridge span length} \times \text{bridge width} \quad (\text{for widths} \leq 20 \text{ ft})$$



Horizontal Wave Force:

$$F_h = \left[ 1 + c_r \frac{(N-1)}{2} \right] c_h^{mc} F_h^* \quad (3.17a)$$

where,  $c_r$  = a reduction coefficient for reduced horizontal load on half of the girders beyond the seaward girder.

$$c_r \approx 0.33$$

$N$  = the number of span girders

$c_h^{mc}$  = an empirical coefficient from McConnell's work

$$F_h^* = \gamma(\Delta z_h) A_h \quad (3.17b)$$

where  $\Delta z_h$  = the difference between the elevation of the crest of the maximum wave and the elevation of the centroid of  $A_h$ .

or,

the difference between the elevation of the top of the solid portion of the guard rail and the elevation of the centroid of  $A_h$ .

whichever is smaller

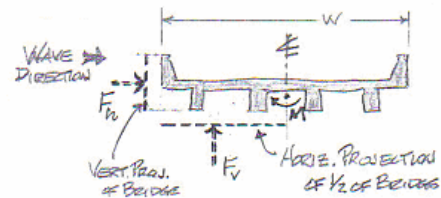
$$\eta_{max} = 0.78H_{max} = 0.78 \times 1.4 \times H_s = 1.1H_s$$

$A_h$  = the bridge span length  $\times$  the vertical projection of the superstructure from the girder bottoms up to the top of the solid portion of the guard rail

### Moment from Wave:

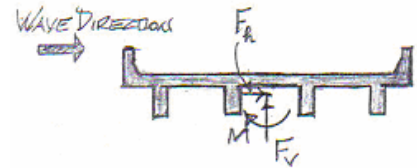
We will neglect any contribution to moment from the horizontal wave force component and consider only the vertical component.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= F_v \times \frac{w}{2} \\ M &= F_v \times \frac{w}{4} \\ M &= 0 \text{ (for } w \leq 20 \text{ ft)} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ (for } w > 20 \text{ ft)}$$



### Resultant Wave Forces:

The resultant of the above wave forces are shown on the figure at the right, where



$$F_v = c_v^{mc} \times \gamma \times \Delta z_v \times A_v$$

$$F_h = \left[ 1 + c_r \left( \frac{N-1}{2} \right) c_h^{mc} \times \gamma \times \Delta z_h \times A_h \right]$$

$$M = F_v \times \frac{\text{Bridge Width}}{4}$$

**Example Application -** Determine the maximum wave forces and moment on a 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay when Hurricane Katrina hit using the Modified Douglass, et al. equations.

This is the same example application as was used for the Douglass, et al. equations in the previous section. See Fig. 3.33 in the previous section for a partial sketch of the ramp span geometry and elevations and the maximum sea state at the ramp when Katrina hit.

**Analysis:**

Use the Modified Douglass, et al. Eqns with:  $H_s = 6.1'$

$$\eta_{\max} = 6.5'$$

(top of guard rail)

$$\Delta z_v = 5.5'$$

$$\Delta z_h = 3.25'$$

$$W = 32.5'$$

Vertical Force:

$$F_v = c_v^{mc} F_v^*$$

where  $c_v^{mc} = 1.0$  (Use 1.0 to allow better comparison with Douglass' results)

$$F_v^* = \gamma(\Delta z_v)A_v$$

Horizontal Projection of Half of Bridge Deck (for  $W > 20$  ft, or projection of full deck for  $W \leq 20$  ft)

$$F_v^* = 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times 5.5' \times \frac{32.5'}{2} \times 52' = 297.4^k$$

$$F_v^* = 298^k$$

$$\therefore F_v = 1.0 \times 298^k = 298^k$$

Horizontal Force:

$$F_h = \left[ 1 + c_r \frac{(N-1)}{2} \right] c_h^{mc} F_h^*$$

where  $c_r = 0.33$

$N = 4$

$c_h^{mc} = 1.0$  (Use 1.0 to allow better comparison with Douglass' results)

$F_h^* = \gamma(\Delta z_h) A_h$  ↘ Vertical Projection of Bridge Superstructure

$F_h^* = 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times 3.25' \times 6.5' \times 52'$

$F_h^* = 70.3^k$

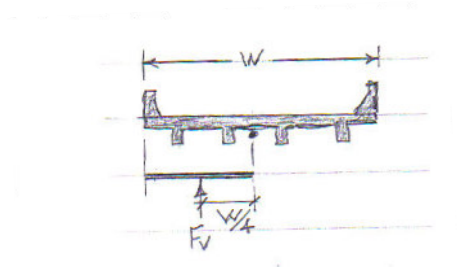
$\therefore F_h = \left[ 1 + 0.33 \left( \frac{4-1}{2} \right) \right] 1.0 \times 70,300 = 105,100 \text{ lb}$

$F_h = 105^k$

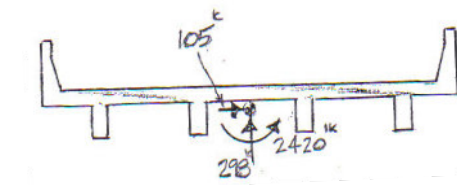
Moment:

$$M = F_v \times \frac{\text{Bridge Width}}{4}$$

$$= 298^k \times \frac{32.5}{4} = 2420^k\text{-ft}$$



Resultant Max Wave Loading:



### 3.9 AASHTO/FHWA Pooled Project Wave Force Equations

The AASHTO/FHWA have established a Bridge Wave Task Force and they in conjunction with ten coastal states are currently funding a research project, “Development of Guide Specifications for Bridges Vulnerable to Coastal Storms and Handbook of Retrofit Options for Bridges Vulnerable to Coastal Storms.” The 17-month project is about halfway done and the investigators have tentatively identified the following equations for ocean wave hydrostatic and hydrodynamic vertical forces on coastal bridges.

Quasi-Static Vertical Force:

$$\frac{F_z}{F^*} = a \left( \frac{W}{\lambda} \right)^b \quad (3.18a)$$

in which:

$$a = c_{z1} \left( \frac{z_c}{\eta} \right) + c_{z2} \quad (3.18b)$$

$$b = \begin{cases} c_{z3} \left( \frac{z_c}{\eta} \right) + c_{z4} & \text{for } \left( \frac{z_c}{\eta} \right) \geq 0 \\ c_{z6} \left( \frac{z_c}{\eta} \right) + c_{z4} & \text{for } \left( \frac{z_c}{\eta} \right) < 0 \end{cases} \quad (3.18c)$$

$$F^* = \gamma_w W \beta \quad (3.18d)$$

$$\beta = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } (\eta - z_c) \leq 0 \\ (\eta - z_c) & \text{for } 0 < (\eta - z_c) \leq t \\ t & \text{for } (\eta - z_c) > t \end{cases} \quad (3.18e)$$

where:

$F_z$  = vertical quasi-static hydrostatic and hydrodynamic force per unit length of the span

$t$  = girder height + deck thickness (ft)

$\lambda$  = wave length (ft)

$c_{z1}$ - $c_{z6}$  = coefficients for vertical wave forces specified in tables (partially developed)

$W$  = bridge width (ft)

$z_c$  = vertical distance from bottom of cross-section to the storm water level, positive if storm water level is below the bottom of the cross-section (ft)

$\eta$  = distance from the storm water level to design wave crest (ft)

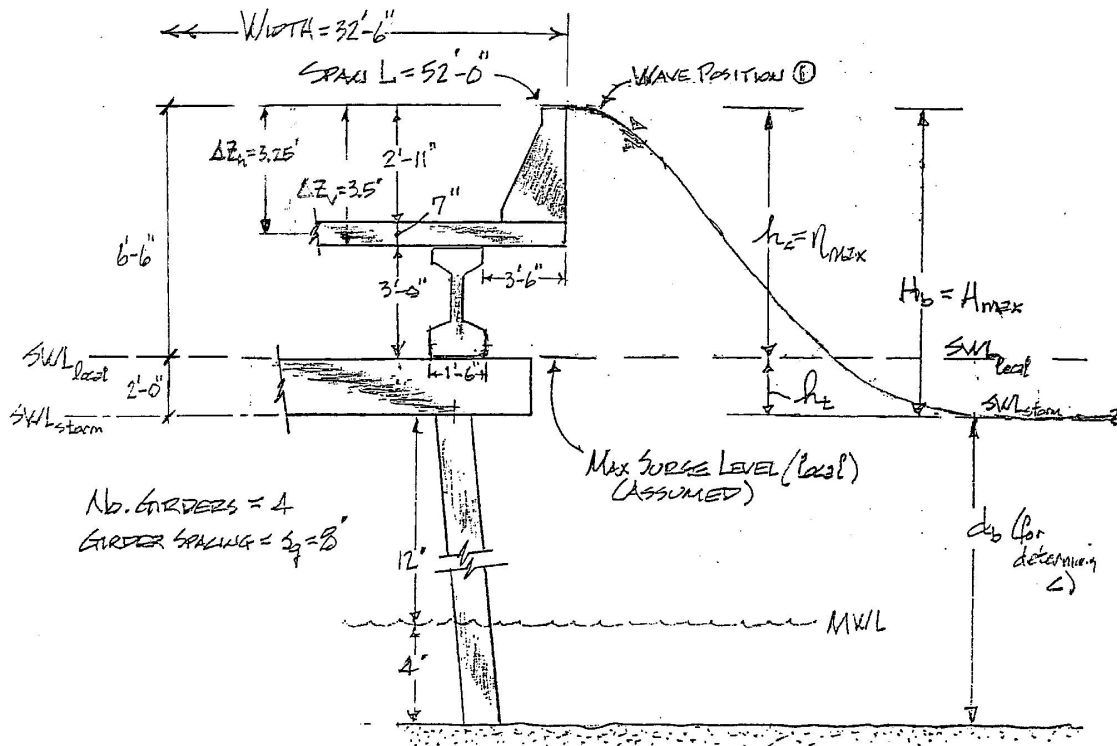
$\gamma_w$  = unit weight water taken as 0.064 (k/ft<sup>3</sup>)

The author plans to include an equation to estimate a vertical slamming force and add this to the above value of  $F_z$  to obtain the total design/retrofit vertical force. The author also plans to include equations for an associated horizontal force and moment that act simultaneously with the total vertical force. Equations for these forces are under development. It appears that the equations will use a 2% highest wave crest, i.e.,  $\eta_{0.02}$  in their design force equations.

Below is an application of their vertical combined hydrostatic/hydrodynamic vertical force equation to the Example I-10 Ramp Span considered in the other prediction equations in this chapter.

**Example Application -** Determine the maximum vertical wave force (excluding the slamming force) on a 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay when Hurricane Katrina hit, using the AASHTO/FHWA Pooled Project equations.

A partial sketch of the ramp span geometry and elevations and the maximum sea state at the ramp when Katrina hit are shown in Fig. 3.35.



**Fig. 3.35** Partial sketch of Mobile, AL I-10 ramp span geometry and sea state during Hurricane Katrina

In performing the analysis the following pertinent parameter values were extracted from the storm data or were assumed:

$$SWL_{local} = \text{at top of bent cap} = SWL_{storm} + 2' \text{ (assumed for Example)}$$

$$SWL_{storm} = \text{at bottom of bent cap}$$

$$h_c = 0.78H_b$$

$$h_t = 0.22H_b$$

$$\text{Significant Wave Ht.} = H_s = 6.1'$$

$$\text{Max Wave Ht.} = H_b = 1.4 H_s = 8.5'$$

$$h_c = \eta_{max} = 0.78 \times 8.5' = 6.6' \implies \text{Use } 6.5' \text{ (top of rail)}$$

$$d_b = \text{Initial Depth} + \text{Max Storm Surge} = \text{Elev. Of Bottom of Bent Cap}$$

$$d_b = 4' + 12' = 16'$$

$$\text{Span Length} = 52'$$

$$\text{Elev Bay Bottom} = 0'$$

$$\text{Elev MWL} = 4'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Bent Cap} = 16'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Bent Cap} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Bottom of Girders} = 18'$$

$$\text{Elev. Top of Guardrail} = 24.5'$$

$$\text{Girder Spacing} = s_g = 8.0'$$

$$\text{Wave Length} \approx 60\text{-}70 \text{ ft}$$



**Analysis:**

Use AASHTO/FHWA Eqns with

$$H_s = 6.1'$$
$$\eta_{\max} = 6.5'$$
$$\lambda = 70'$$

Vertical Hydrostatic/Hydrodynamic Wave Force:

$$\frac{F_z}{F^*} = a \left( \frac{W}{\lambda} \right)^b \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad F_z = F^* \times a \times \left( \frac{W}{\lambda} \right)^b$$

where,

$$F^* = \gamma_w W \beta$$

where, parameters a, b, W,  $\lambda$ ,  $\gamma_w$ , and  $\beta$  are identified in Eqns

(3.18) and where,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} c_{z1} = -0.306 \\ c_{z2} = 0.406 \\ c_{z3} = 0.228 \\ c_{z4} = -0.963 \\ c_{z6} = -0.271 \end{array} \right\} \text{from partially developed Tables in} \\ \text{AASHTO/FHWA Progress Report}$$

Thus,

$$\left( \frac{z_c}{\eta} \right) = \frac{0}{6.5} = 0$$

$$a = c_{z1} \left( \frac{z_c}{\eta} \right) + c_{z2} = -0.306(0) + 0.406 = 0.406$$

$$b = c_{z3} \left( \frac{z_c}{\eta} \right) + c_{z4} = 0.228(0) + (-0.963) = -0.963$$

$$W = 32.5'$$

$\lambda \approx 60' < \lambda < 70' \Rightarrow \lambda = 70'$  yields larger  $F_t$   
 $\therefore$  Use  $\lambda = 70'$

$$F_z = F^* \times 0.406 \times \left( \frac{32.5}{70} \right)^{-0.963} = 0.850 F^*$$

where,

$$F^* = \gamma_w \times W \times \beta$$

$$\beta = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } (\eta - z_c) \leq 0 \\ (\eta - z_c) & \text{for } 0 < (\eta - z_c) \leq t \\ t & \text{for } (\eta - z_c) > t \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore \beta = t = 3.5 \text{ ft}$$

$$F^* = 0.064 \text{ k/ft}^3 \times 32.5' \times 3.5' = 7.28 \text{ k/ft}$$

$$\therefore F_z = 0.850 \times 7.28 \text{ k/ft} = 6.18 \text{ k/ft}$$

$$F_z^{\text{span}} = F_z \times 52' = 322^{\text{k}}$$

It should be noted that a vertical slamming force will be added to this value of  $F_z$  in the final version of the AASHTO/FHWA equations.

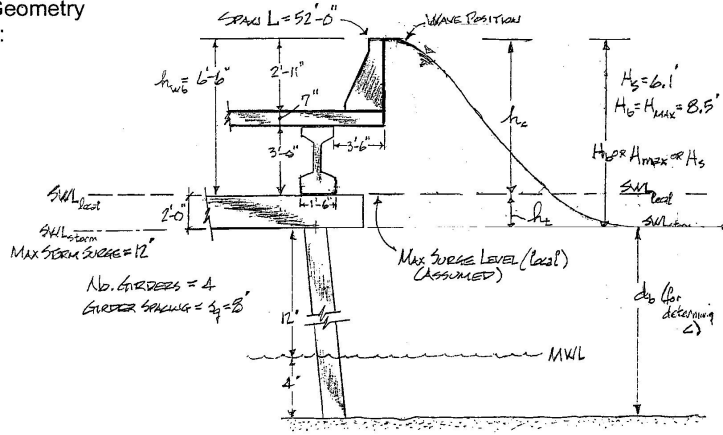
### 3.10 Comparison of Wave Force Predictions

A summary of resultant  $F_h^{\max}$ ,  $F_v^{\max}$ , and  $M^{\max}$  forces on the Example 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay when Katrina hit for various assumed wave types and modellings is presented in Table 3.2. These same resultant forces are shown in graphical form for convenience of comparison in Figs. 3.36 and 3.37. All of the forces for the AASHTO/FHWA equations under development are not included in Table 3.2 and Figs. 3.36 and 3.37 as these equations are not yet fully developed. However, it should be noted in Fig. 3.36 that the maximum vertical hydrostatic/hydrodynamic force predicted by this equation is close to that predicted by the McConnell, et al., Douglass, et al., and the Modified Douglass equations. Also note in that figure that the Douglass, et al. equation predicts the largest  $F_v^{\max}$ , and the  $F_v^{\max}$  predicted by the Modified Douglass, et al. and the AASHTO/FHWA Pooled Project equations are quite close to each other and are the second largest  $F_v^{\max}$ . Figures 3.36 and 3.37 also show that the Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave equation gives the largest horizontal force,  $F_h$ , by far, and the Corps of Engineers Broken Wave equation gives the second largest  $F_h$  force by far. Thus, if one were quite conservative and wanted to design for a worst case scenario, he/she would use the Douglass, et al. equation to calculate  $F_v^{\max}$  and the Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave equation to calculate  $F_h^{\max}$  and assume that these forces act simultaneously on the bridge superstructure.

**Table 3.2 Summary and Comparison of Resultant Wave Forces From Katrina on Example 52 ft Long I-10 Ramp Span in Mobile Bay**

Assumed Wave Type/Modelling	$F_h^{\max}$ (kips)	$F_v^{\max}$ (kips)	$M^{\max}$ (kip-ft)	Max Simultaneous Acting $F_h, F_v, M$ (kips and kip-ft)		
				$F_h$	or	$F_h = 0$
Corps of Engineers Unbroken Wave Forces	<b>70.3</b>	206	1648	$F_h = 70.3$ $F_v = 73.2$ $M = 983$	or	$F_h = 0$ $F_v = 206$ $M = 1648$
Corps of Engineers Broken Wave Forces	243	134	1943	$F_h = 243$ $F_v = 134$ $M = 1943$		
Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave Forces	345	170	2465	$F_h = 345$ $F_v = 170$ $M = 2465$		
FEMA Equation	136	-	-	$F_h = 136$		
McConnell et al. Equations	79	238	1684	$F_h = 79$ $F_v = 160$ $M = 1684$		
Douglass et al. Equations	155	379	0	$F_h = 155$ $F_v = 379$ $M = 0$		
Modified Douglass et al. Equations	105	298	2420	$F_h = 105$ $F_v = 298$ $M = 2420$		
AASHTO/FHWA Pooled Project Equations	-	322	-	$F_h = -$ $F_v = 298$ $M = -$		

Recorded or Assumed Bridge Span Geometry and Sea State:



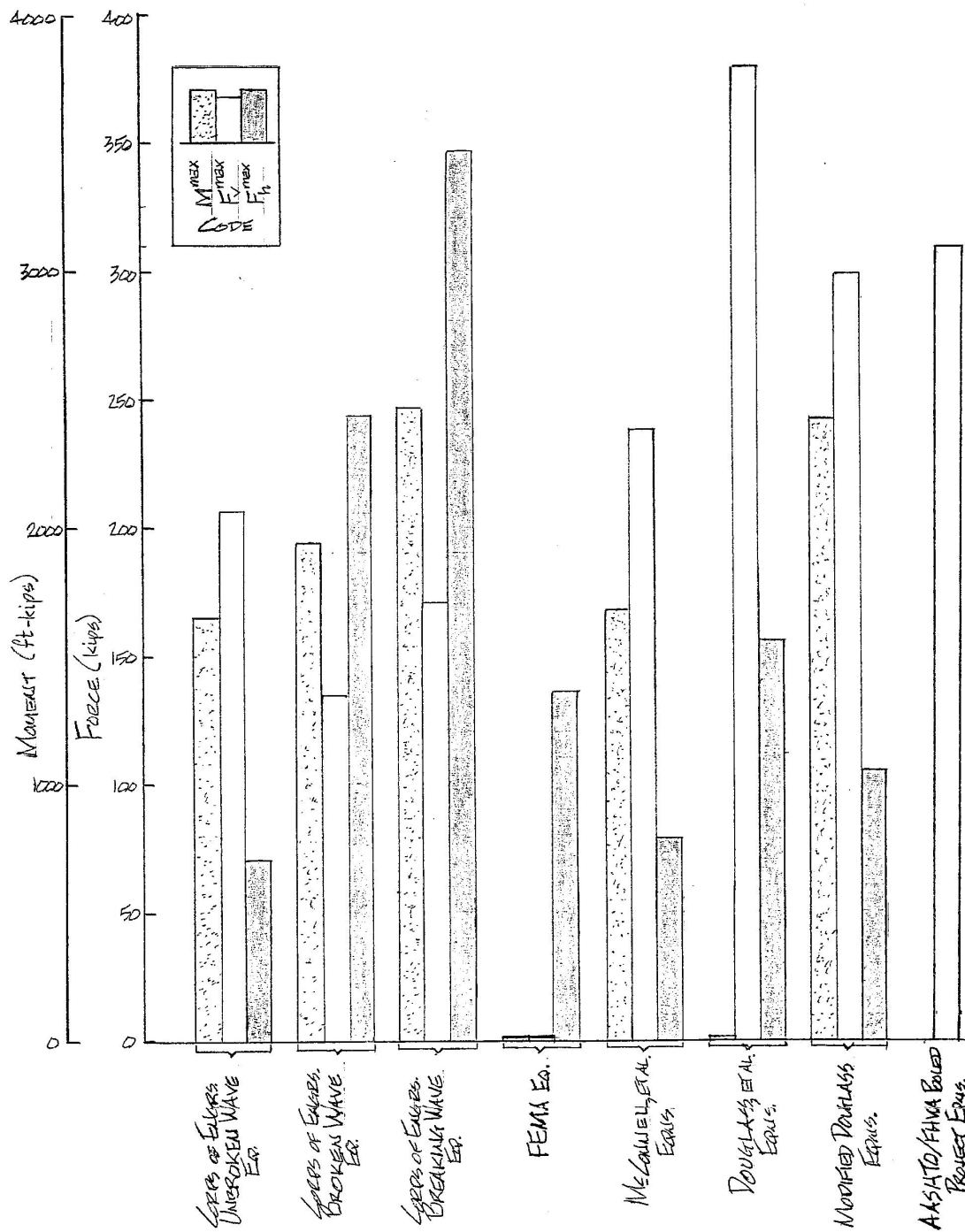


Fig. 3.36 Bar graph showing  $M^{max}$ ,  $F_v^{max}$ ,  $F_h^{max}$  forces acting on 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay as predicted by eight sets of wave force equations (forces not necessarily acting simultaneously).

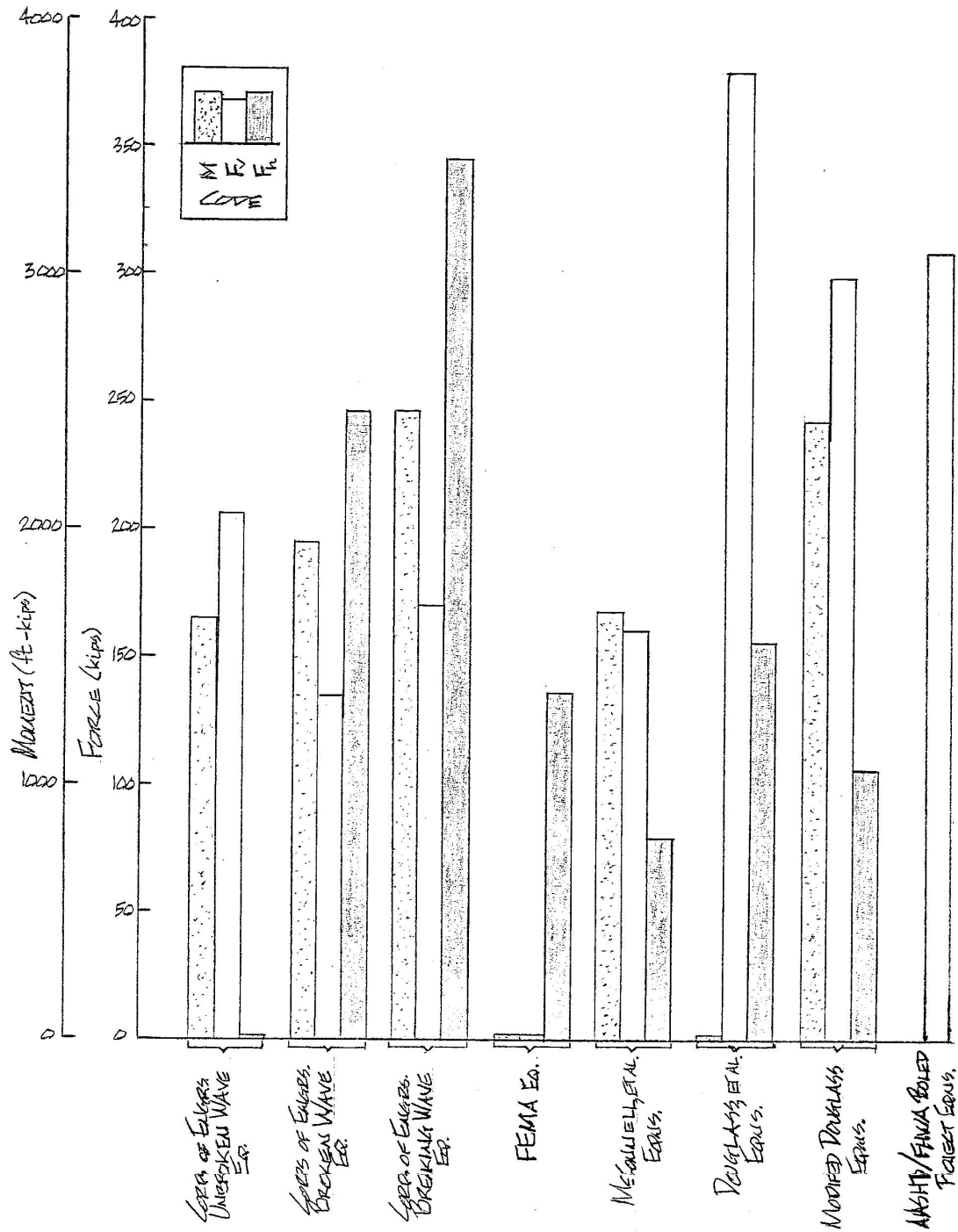


Fig. 3.37 Bar graph showing simultaneously acting  $M$ ,  $F_v$ ,  $F_h$  forces on 52 ft long I-10 ramp span in Mobile Bay as predicted by eight sets of wave force equations.

### 3.11 Case Study of CSX Biloxi Railroad Bridge

As indicated in Chapter 2, a number of coastal highway and railroad bridges were badly damaged when Hurricane Katrina came ashore in August 2005. At the Bay of Biloxi and Back Bay of Biloxi (see Fig. 3.38) there are five concrete bridge crossings and Hurricane Katrina's surge wave height at this location was measured to be approximately 22 feet.



**Fig. 3.38 Bridges over Bay and Back Bay of Biloxi, Mississippi (© Copyright 2006 Garmin Ltd. or its subsidiaries. All rights reserved. Map data © 2002 NAVTEQ. All rights reserved. Enhancement by NIST)**

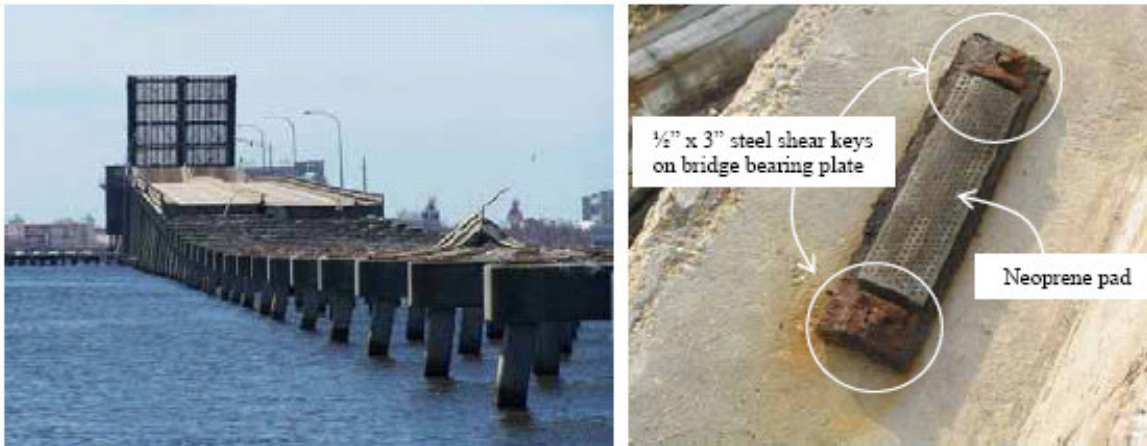
The US-90 bridge between Biloxi and Ocean Springs is a 1.6 mile long, four lane, concrete bridge. Most of the bridge has low elevation except for the segment toward the middle of Biloxi Bay at the navigation channel where the superstructure was gradually raised higher to allow passage of boat traffic. The superstructure is comprised of simply supported spans with 42 foot long pre-stressed concrete I-girders, and the substructure consists of multiple bents (concrete piers and cap beams). Each superstructure span was supported on the pier through steel bearing plates, which were bolted on top of the cap beam of the pier and cast into the bottom of the bridge girder. The steel bearing plate on top of the pier has low-rise steel shear keys ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick) at each end to provide restraint against lateral displacement (see Fig. 3.40 (b)). There is no provision for restraint against vertical displacement except for gravity.

The superstructure of the US-90 Biloxi-Ocean Springs bridge was subjected to direct surge and wave actions and sustained significant structural damage. The lack of positive connection between the superstructure and the supporting piers allowed many individual superstructure spans to be lifted up and displaced transversely northward (in the direction of the waves) and either partially or completely dropped into the water (see Fig. 3.39). The  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch low-rise steel shear keys on the bearing plates were clearly unable to provide restraint against the combined uplift and lateral wave forces. The superstructure spans that were constructed at a higher elevation near the navigation channel, i.e., spans above an elevation of approximately 22 feet, were apparently high enough to avoid direct surge and wave actions and survived intact (see Fig. 3.40 (a)).





**Fig. 3.39** Looking west toward Biloxi from the east shore, many superstructure spans of US-90 Biloxi-Ocean Springs bridge were displaced north off their piers (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER) (NIST, 2006).

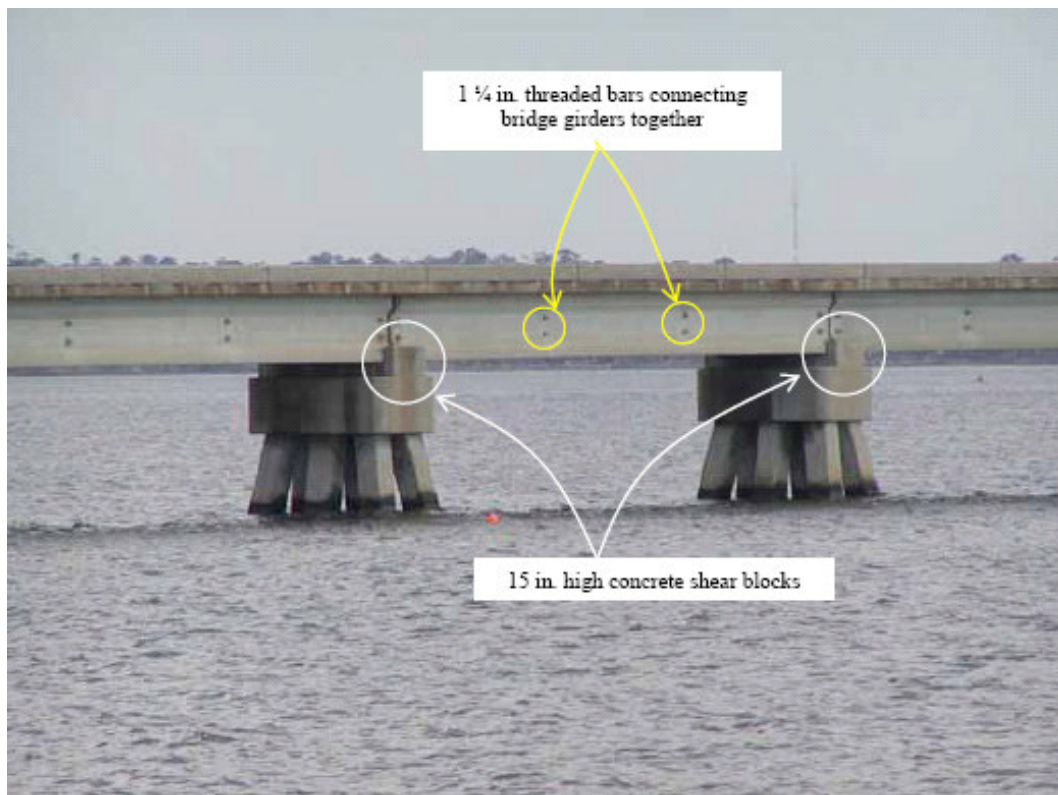


(a)

(b)

**Fig. 3.40** (a) Looking west toward Biloxi, spans above the surge line near the navigation channel survived but the superstructure in the foreground was dropped off the piers (photo credit: J. O'Connor, MCEER), (b) A typical bearing plate from the US-90 bridge with  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick shear keys (photo credit: NIST). (NIST, 2006)

The CSX Biloxi-Ocean Springs railroad bridge (see Fig. 3.41) successfully survived Hurricane Katrina's surge and wave actions with only minor structural damage despite being a low-water crossing and subjected to the same forces that destroyed the US-90 bridge slightly to its south. Its superstructure is comprised of simply supported spans, each consisting of a 9 in. thick, 17 foot wide concrete bridge deck cast on top of four 4 ft-10 in. deep pre-stressed concrete girders with I-section. The four girders are further tied together to perform as a unit using 1¼ in. diameter threaded bars (see Fig. 3.41).



**Fig. 3.41** The CSX railroad bridge survived with minor damage, most likely due to the presence of high shear blocks (photo credit: LA DOTD) (NIST, 2006).

Each CSX bridge superstructure span rests on the cap beam of the bridge piers, with vertical uplift resisted only by gravity. On both ends of the cap beam there are two 15 in. high concrete shear blocks to provide restraint against lateral displacement of the superstructure spans which are estimated to be 32.5 ft long. The Biloxi CSX bridge had its railroad tracks and ties completely washed off by wave forces, but the superstructure remained largely intact and connected to the supporting bridge piers. The successful performance of the Biloxi CSX bridge is in stark contrast with the adjacent US-90 bridge which was almost completely destroyed.

Approximately 30 miles west of the Biloxi CSX bridge is a CSX railroad bridge over St. Louis Bay (near Bay St. Louis, MS). This is a concrete box girder bridge. Each span is a monolithically cast unit comprising of a 17 ft.-6 in. wide concrete deck and a 10 ft-2 in. wide rectangular concrete box girder. Each individual superstructure span is simply supported, with one end resting on one concrete pier by gravity, while the other resting on the adjacent pier also by gravity is further restrained against longitudinal and transverse displacements by capping over three reinforcing bars protruding about 8 in. from the piers and acting as dowels. Further restraint against transverse lateral displacement of the superstructure span is provided by 4 in. high concrete shear keys on the cap beam.

Despite the restraint against lateral displacements provided by the 4 in. concrete shear keys and the 8 in. dowel bars, many of the superstructure spans of the CSX railroad bridge were displaced and dropped into the Bay due to surge-induced wave actions (see Fig. 3.42). This suggests that the uplift wave forces were able to overcome any restraint against vertical displacement and lift the spans high enough (over 8 in.) for them to move

off the piers and drop into the water. Most of the bridge piers appeared to have sustained no damage from wave actions, with a few piers sustaining minor damage probably due to impact by the displaced superstructure spans. Fig. 3.42 shows the piers of the CSX railroad bridge with missing superstructure spans.

The successful performance of the CSX Biloxi bridge, in contrast with the CSX Bay St. Louis and US-90 Biloxi bridges, was attributed in the literature to be largely due to the presence of the high (15 in.) concrete shear blocks at the ends of the bent caps on the CSX Biloxi bridge. The fact that some of these shear blocks sustained damage indicate that they indeed were providing some horizontal restraint to the bridge superstructure. However, the author believes that the major cause of differences in performance of the bridges were that the CSX Biloxi bridge did not appear to have any end or intermediate diaphragms between the span girders and thus no significant hydrostatic uplift or buoyant forces acted on the spans. In contrast, the US-90 Biloxi bridge appeared to have end (and probably intermediate) diaphragms and the CSX Bay St. Louis bridge was a fairly deep box girder bridge and consequently both of these bridges probably had quite large hydrostatic uplift/buoyant forces acting.

Known information about the size and geometry of the CSX Biloxi bridge and about the surge water level at that location, allow us to estimate the probable maximum surge/surface wave horizontal and vertical forces on this bridge using some of the wave force prediction equations presented earlier. This in turn can provide a partial test of the validity of the prediction equations. This analysis/testing is given below.



**Fig. 3.42 CSX railroad bridge at Bay St. Louis, MS with remaining spans (top) and the supporting piers (bottom) (NIST, 2006).**

**Estimates of Applied and Resisting Forces on CSX Biloxi Bridge:**

Span DL: Estimated span length = 32.5 ft

Girders - Four 4'-10" deep prestressed concrete I-girders

Deck - Concrete 9" thick x 17' wide x 32.5' long

AASHTO Highway I-girders  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 4'-6'' \text{ Type IV} \rightarrow w = 822 \text{ lb/ft} \\ 5'-3'' \text{ Type V} \rightarrow w = 1055 \text{ lb/ft} \end{array} \right.$

Estimate CSX girders  $w \approx 930 \text{ lb/ft}$

$$\text{I-Girder Wt.} = 0.930 \frac{\text{k}}{\text{ft}} \times 32.5' \times 4 = 120.9^{\text{k}}$$

$$\text{Deck Wt.} = \frac{9'}{12} \times 17' \times 32.5' \times 0.150 \frac{\text{k}}{\text{ft}^3} = 62.1^{\text{k}}$$

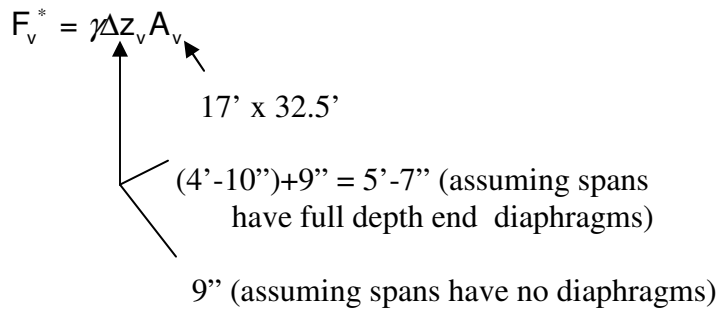
$$\text{Total Wt.} = 183.0^{\text{k}}$$

Surge/Surface Wave Forces:

Using Douglass, et al. Eqns:

Vertical Wave Force:  $F_v = c_v^{mc} F_v^*$

where  $c_v^{mc} \approx 1.0$



$$F_v = 1.0 \times 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times 5.58' \times 17' \times 32.5' = 197.3^{\text{k}} \uparrow$$

(assuming diaphragms)

$$F_v = 1.0 \times 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times 0.75' \times 17' \times 32.5' = 26.5^{\text{k}} \uparrow$$

(assuming no diaphragms)

Horizontal Wave Force:

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_h &= [1+c_r (N-1)] c_{h-va} F_h^* \quad \gamma(\Delta z_h) A_h \\
 &= \underbrace{[1+0.4(4-1)]}_{2.2} 1.0 \times 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times \frac{5.58'}{2} \times 32.5' \times 5.58' \\
 &= 71,240 \text{ lb} = 71.2^k \rightarrow
 \end{aligned}$$

Using Modified Douglass, et al. Eqns:

$$\text{Vertical Wave Force: } F_v = c_v^{mc} F_v^*$$

where  $c_v^{mc} \approx 1.0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_v^* &= \gamma \Delta z_v A_v \\
 &\quad \text{Bridge Width} \leq 20 \text{ ft} \\
 &\quad A_v = 17' \times 32.5' \\
 &\quad (4' - 10'') + 9'' - 1' = 4' - 7'' \\
 &\quad \text{(assuming spans have diaphragms)} \\
 &\quad 9'' \text{ (assuming spans have no diaphragms)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$F_v = 1.0 \times 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times 4.58' \times 17 \times 32.5' = 162^k \text{ (assuming diaphragms)}$$

$$F_v = 1.0 \times 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times 0.75' \times 17 \times 32.5' = 26.5^k \text{ (assuming no diaphragms)}$$

Horizontal Wave Force:

$$F_h = \left[ 1 + c_r \frac{(N-1)}{2} \right] c_h^{mc} F_h^*$$

where,  $c_r \approx 0.33$

$N$  = number of girders = 4

$c_h^{mc} \approx 1.0$

$$F_h^* = \gamma \Delta z_h A_h$$

2.22 ft

$(4'-10'' + 9'') \times 32.5'$   
 $5.58' \times 32.5' = 181.4 \text{ ft}^2$

$$F_h = \left[ 1 + 0.33 \frac{(4-1)}{2} \right] 1.0 \times 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times 2.22' \times 181.4 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$= 38.5^k \rightarrow$$

Moment:  $M \approx 0$  since bridge width  $< 20$  ft



Using Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave Eqn:

Alternatively, for a probable upper bound horizontal force estimate, use the Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave Force Eqns, ie,

$$\tilde{p}_m = 10.1w \frac{H_b}{L_D} \cdot \frac{d_s}{D} (D+d_s)$$

where  $H_b \approx 7.5'$   
 $d_s \approx 15.0'$   
 $L_D \approx 75'$   
 $D \approx 15'$  } Estimated Values

$$\tilde{p}_m = 10.1 \times 64 \text{ lb/ft}^3 \times \frac{7.5'}{75'} \times \frac{15'}{15'} \times (15' + 15')$$

$\swarrow$  0.1      $\swarrow$  1      $\underbrace{\hspace{2cm}}_{30'}$

$$= 1940 \text{ lb/ft}$$

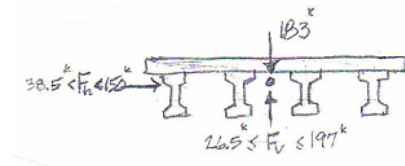
$$\tilde{R}_m = \frac{\tilde{p}_m \times \Delta z_v}{3} = \frac{1940 \times 5.58'}{3} = 3608 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$R_s = \frac{w(\Delta z_v)^2}{2} = \frac{64 \times 5.58^2}{2} = 996 \text{ lb/ft}$$

$$R_t = \tilde{R}_m + R_s = 3608 + 996 = 4604 \text{ lb/ft}$$

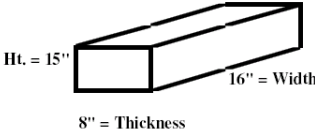
$$F_h = R_t \times 32.5 = 4604 \text{ lb/ft} \times 32.5' = 149.6^k$$

Therefore, the maximum applied forces were approximately as shown below.

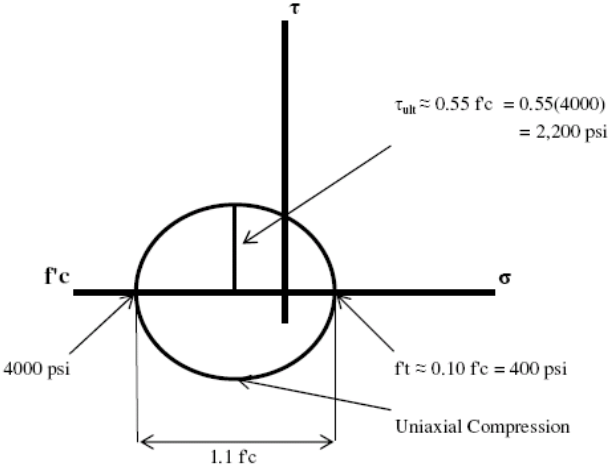


**Bridge Bent Shear Block Capacity:**

Estimated Shear Block Dimensions:



Assume Block  $f'_c = 4000$  psi



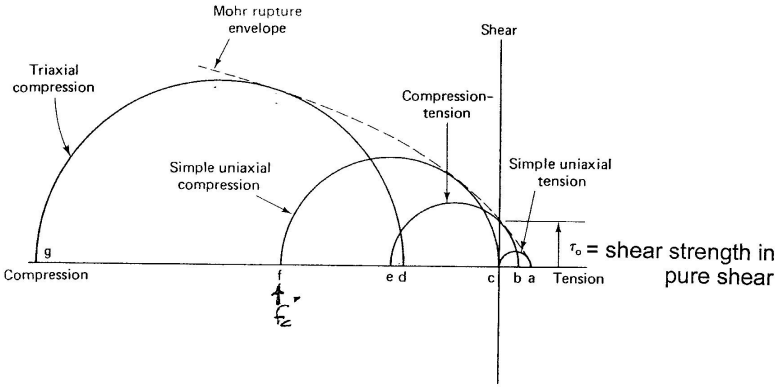
It is difficult to measure concrete strength in pure shear.

According to Mohr Failure Theory,

$\tau_o =$  shear strength in pure shear

= where Mohr rupture envelope crosses the  $\tau$ -axis  
( $\sigma =$  zero), as indicated in Fig. 3.43

$\approx 0.20 f'_c \approx 0.20(4000) = 800$  psi



**Fig. 3.43 Typical Mohr rupture diagram for concrete**

$$F_v^{\text{failure}} \approx \tau_o A_{\text{shear}} = 800 \text{ psi} \times 16" \times 8" = 102.4^k$$

Note from Fig. 3.41 that a half shear block at each end of a span resists the horizontal wave force on the span.

Based on the above horizontal forces/capacity, i.e.,

$$38.5^k < F_h^{\text{max applied}} < 150^k \quad \text{vs} \quad F_h^{\text{capacity}} \approx 102^k$$

it appears that the  $F_h^{\text{max applied}} < 102^k$ .

Also, based on the above analysis, it appears that

$$26.5^k \leq F_v^{\text{applied by waves}} \leq 197^k$$

depending on the span diaphragming.

Note that the upper limit of  $197^k$  is for full-depth end diaphragms and is larger than  $F_v^{\text{weight}}$ . If this is indeed the diaphragm situation, then the spans were being lifted vertically as surface waves moved through the bridge but not high enough to be lifted over the blocks.

Also note in Fig. 3.42 (the CSX bridge with the short 4" high blocks) it appears that the 4" concrete blocks are in place, and thus the bridge spans were probably lifted over the blocks by the vertical force and then laterally by the horizontal force. Some spans appear to have moved longitudinally once adjacent spans were out of the way.

### 3.12 Closure

It was indicated earlier that limiting or conservative hurricane surge/surface wave design forces would be to use the Douglass, et al. equation to determine the force  $F_v^{\max}$  and to use the Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave equation to determine the force,  $F_h^{\max}$ , and then to assume that these forces act simultaneously on the bridge superstructure. However, both of these equations appear to provide overly conservative forces. The Douglass, et al. equation because it assumes maximum vertical wave pressures act on the full-width of the bridge, and the Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave equation because it assumes a maximum height wave breaks against the side of the bridge as if it were a seawall with no where for the breaking water to flow/escape which is certainly not the case for a coastal bridge in a 20-30 ft deep (due to the storm surge) sea. Also, these forces would not act simultaneously.

The modification made in the Douglass, et al. equations to arrive at the Modified Douglass, et al. equations are based on rational physics-hydraulics-statics considerations and are felt to be reasonable and realistic modifications. Because of the basic science and ocean engineering background included in the original equations, and the further sound and realistic modifications made, it is recommended that the Modified Douglass, et al equations be used to estimate maximum hurricane surge/surface wave forces on coastal deck-girder type bridges. In using these equations, the local storm surge elevation at the bridge site should be increased 1 ft above the maximum storm surge elevation to allow for interference of the bridge with surface wave propagations on the south face of the bridge.

## CHAPTER 4

### I-10 BRIDGE ACROSS MOBILE BAY

#### 4.1 General

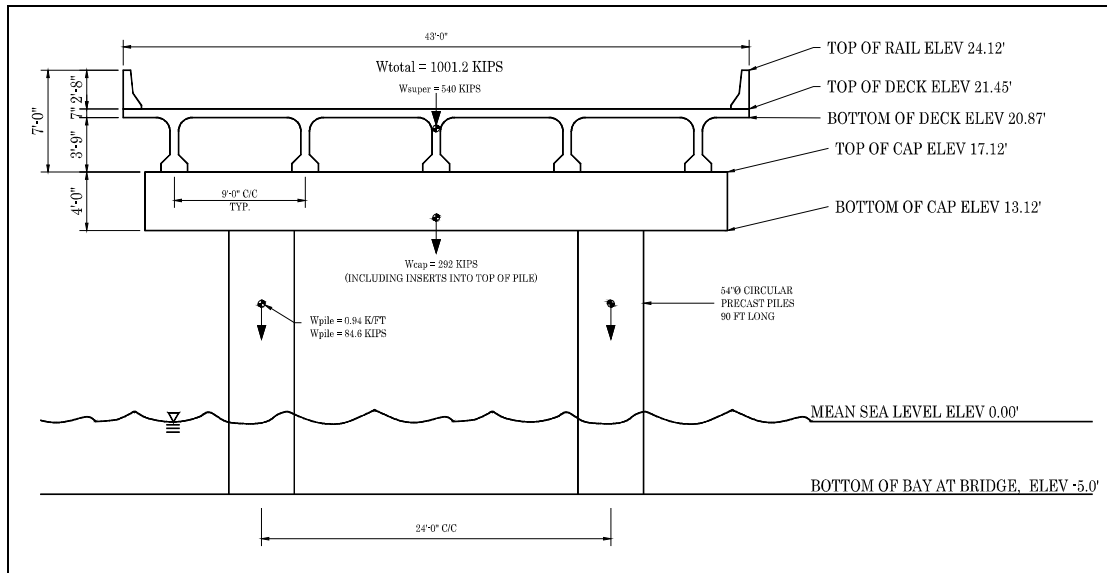
The U.S. Interstate 10 (I-10) bridge across the north end of Mobile Bay is a part of the southernmost major east-west corridor across the U.S. A portion of this corridor is shown in Fig. 4.1, and obviously includes many coastal bridges that may be subjected to hurricane loadings. The I-10 Mobile Bay twin bridges are in this group, and were built in the mid 1970's using prefabricated prestressed girder-deck superstructure construction. Each bridge is two lanes wide and consists of 65 foot long prefabricated simple spans that were barged to the site and set in place via crane on on-site constructed pile support bents. The top of deck level stands at 21.45 feet above mean sea level. Pertinent bridge elevations, dimensions, properties, connection details, and estimated maximum hurricane surge and surface wave elevations at the I-10 Mobile Bay bridge site are given in the following sections.



**Fig. 4.1. Portion of I-10 Corridor Near Mobile, AL**

## 4.2 Bridge Elevations, Dimensions, Weights, and Properties

As stated previously, each span is constructed of prefabricated prestressed concrete girder-deck superstructure. Each span was poured monolithically to enhance strength and durability and to reduce on-site construction time. The superstructure cross-section was designed to mimic the construction of AASHTO Type III girders with a 7" deck cast-in-place as can be shown in Fig. 4.2. Original Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) plans show the intent to build the superstructure with open-style guard rails, but a change in legislation/FHWA requirements resulted in the design being changed to using Alabama Standard Safety Rails or "Jersey Barriers". This design changed the original open-style to a safer (for the traveling public) closed-style rail.



**Fig. 4.2. Typical Span Cross-Section Showing Pertinent Component Elevations Relating to MSL**

Bridge span elevations were taken from ALDOT plans and are measured from Mean Sea Level (MSL). A representative cross-section of a typical span is shown in Fig. 4.2 and denotes all critical elevations. As shown in Fig. 4.2, during normal sea state, the elevation to the top of the deck is 21.45' above MSL. Top of Guard Rail elevation is 24.12', Bottom of Deck/Top of Girders elevation is 20.87', Top of Cap/Bottom of Girders elevation is 17.12', and Bottom of Cap elevation is 13.12' using the assumed 4'-0" minimum thickness given in the plans. Plan and elevation/profile views of the I-10 bridge are shown in Fig. 4.3. This figure shows the fixed and expansion bearings at each end of the 65 ft simple spans, the horizontal and vertical clearances of the bridge, the approximate mean water depths and other pertinent dimensions and elevations.

The bridge superstructure consists of five girders evenly spaced 9'-0" apart, a 7" deck on top, and typical 32" high "Jersey" type barrier rails all monolithically precast. These girders share similar cross-sectional geometry, section properties, and weight with standard AASHTO Type III Prestressed Girders (unit weight = 583 lbs/ft). Each span is 65'-0" in length with a section width of 42'-11", a total height of the span superstructure including the guard rail, deck, and girders is 7'-0", and has a weight of approximately 270 tons. The transverse slope for each span varies but an assumed value of 0.015625'/ft. will be considered typical for these applications. Figure 4.4 shows a plan view and typical section view of an I-10 span. Note in these views the originally planned open-style guard rails are shown. However, Detail A in Fig. 4.4 shows the revised guard rail as well as 4" diameter scupper drains at 5 ft on center on the low gutter side of the deck. These drains were designed to provide rain water drainage for the deck; however, they also act to provide some air venting to help avoid excessive surface wave slamming

pressures in the event of a hurricane. Nonslamming wave air pressures will be mostly vented longitudinally along the bridge for the regions outboard of the exterior girders where the gutter drains are located. Figure 4.4 also shows that each span has four diaphragms (two end and two intermediate diaphragms) with the bottom elevation of these diaphragms being approximately 1 ft higher than the bottom of girder elevations.

Each span of the I-10 bridge rests on a substructure consisting of a pile cap and two cylindrical piles as shown in Fig. 4.5. Each pile cap has a length of 40'-0", a minimum thickness of 4'-0" up to about 4'-6" to account for the superelevation of the span, and a width of 5'-0" at the bottom tapering to 4'-0" at the top. This cap is positively connected to two 54" diameter hollow cylindrical precast prestressed concrete piles of length approximately 90' and transversely spaced 24' apart via 5' deep poured-in-place concrete plugs at the top of the piles as indicated in Fig. 4.5. Photos of typical I-10 spans and support bents over Mobile Bay are shown in Figures 4.6 and 4.7.



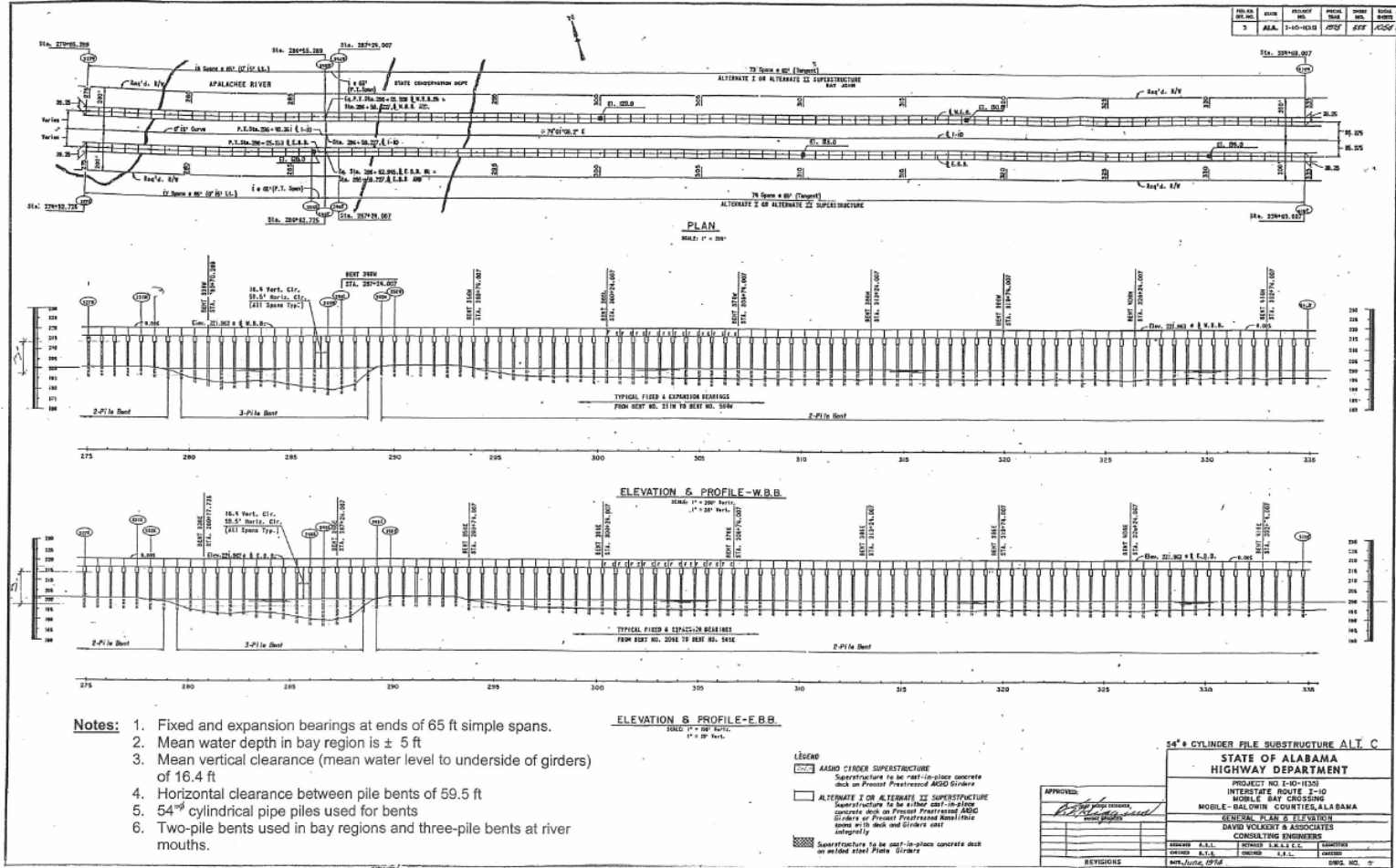


Figure 4.3 Plan and Elevation/Profile of I-10 Bridge Across Mobile Bay

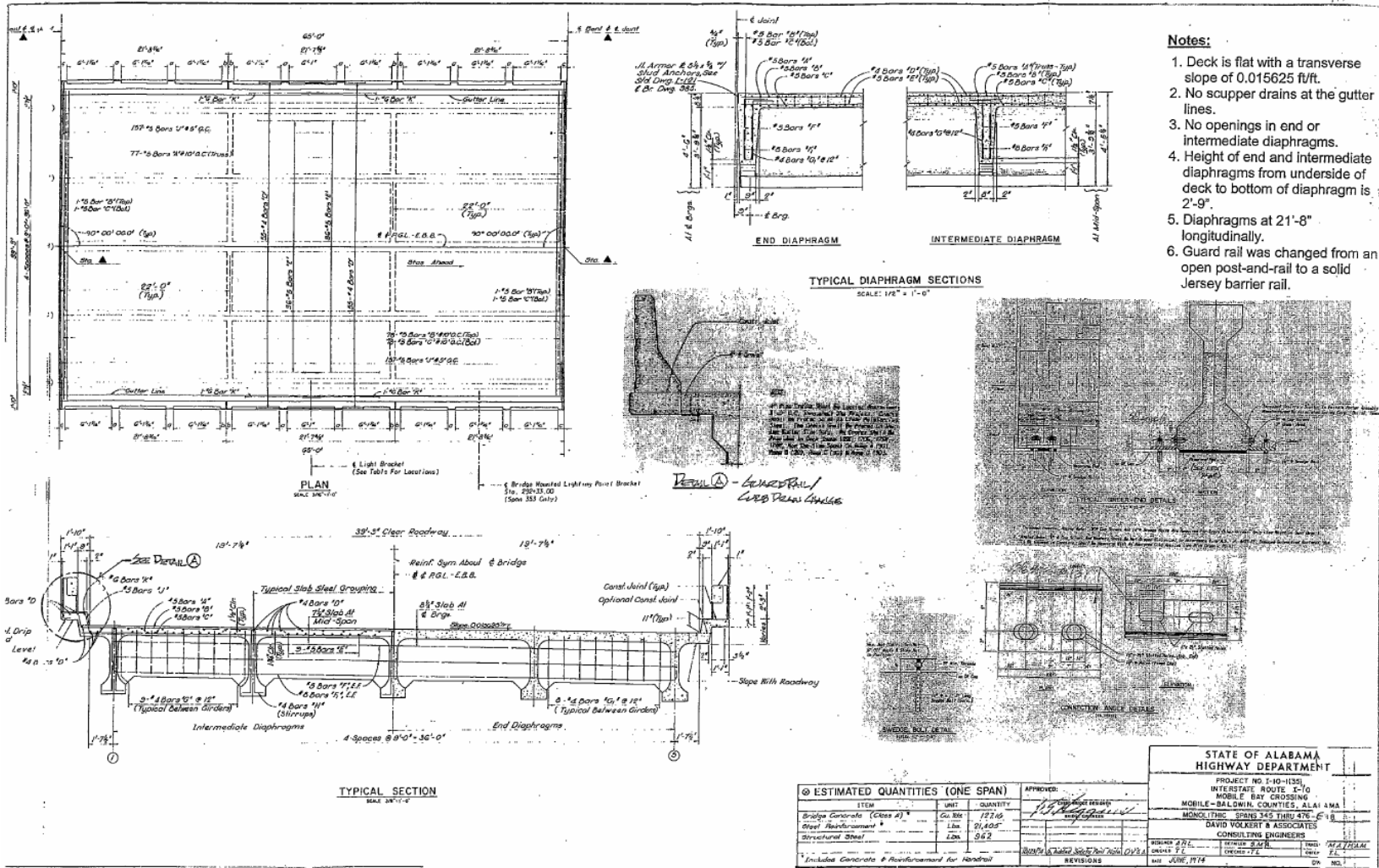


Figure 4.4 Superstructure Plan and Section of I-10 Bridge

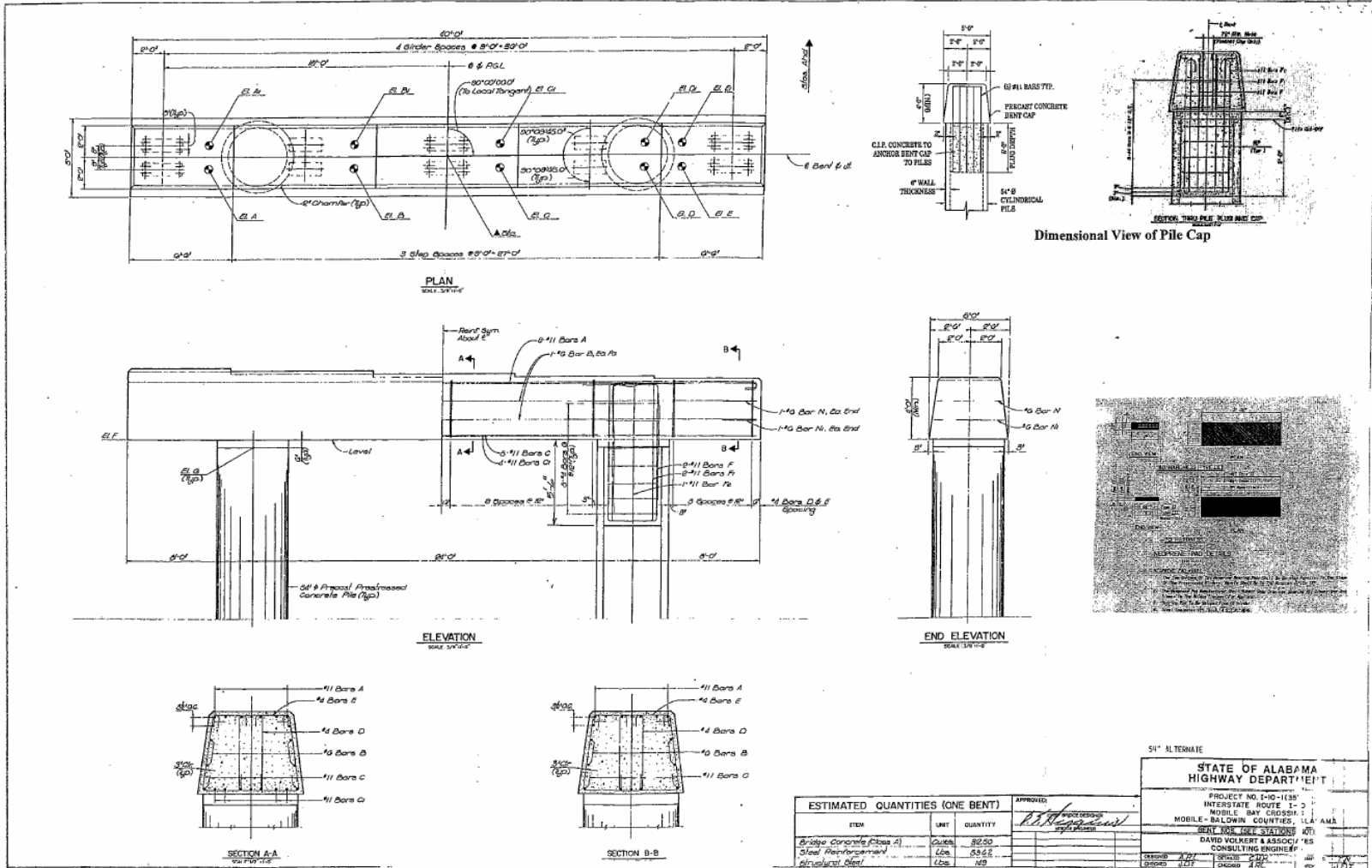


Figure 4.5 Substructure Plan and Elevation of I-10 Bridge

### **4.3 Bridge Connections and Connection Details**

Each bridge superstructure is positively connected to the bent caps by clip angles as shown in the photo of Fig. 4.7. This connection consists of two clip angles at each end of the two exterior girders as well as the middle girder, in this case, girders 1, 3, and 5. Each clip angle setup is comprised of an L8x6x1" bolted to the bottom flange of the girder by two 7/8" dia. X 3" galvanized cap screws into threaded inserts. The girder is attached to the bent cap by two 1¼" dia. x 1'-3" galvanized swedge bolts embedded into the concrete 11". Details of this connection can be seen in Fig. 4.4. The load path travels through these clip angles into the precast bent cap which in-turn is positively connected to the piles by a reinforced concrete "plug". This plug is cast 5' into the pile and connects the pile cap to the piles by a series of #11 bars as shown in Fig. 4.5



**Fig. 4.6. Typical I-10 Spans Over Mobile Bay**



**Fig. 4.7. Photo of Typical Clip Angle Connection**

#### **4.4 Estimated “Design Hurricane” Sea State at Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge**

The worst-case storm surge/surface wave sea state at Mobile, AL in the last 75 years appears to have been due to Hurricane Frederic in 1979 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Thus, for purposes of this research in determining the maximum surge wave forces on the Mobile Bay I-10 bridge superstructure and substructure, we will consider the following three cases.

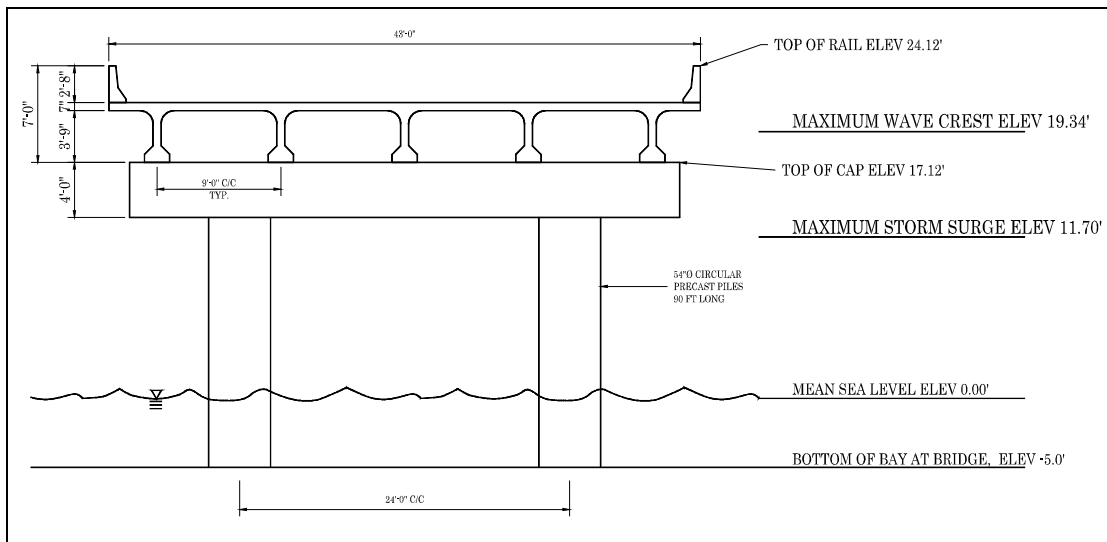
**Case A.** Hurricane Frederic (1979) - A Category 3 Hurricane that made landfall near Pascagoula, MS ( $\approx$  35 miles west of Mobile, AL) that produced wind gusts of 145 mph resulting in a storm surge of 9 - 15 feet above MSL. At the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge the maximum storm surge appeared to have been 11.7 feet.

**Case B.** Hurricane Katrina (2005) - A Category 3 Hurricane that made landfall near Slidell, LA ( $\approx$  105 miles west of Mobile, AL) that produced wind gusts of 155 mph resulting in a maximum storm surge of 25 - 28 feet above MSL. At the north end of Mobile Bay, the maximum storm surge was approximately 12.0 - 12.4 feet above MSL, and we will use 12.4 feet.

**Case C.** Mock-Hurricane Katrina - A Category 3 Hurricane at time of a theoretical landfall near Biloxi, MS ( $\approx$  35 miles west of Mobile, AL) that would produce wind gusts of 155 mph resulting in a maximum storm surge of 25 - 28 feet above MSL. At the U.S. 90 Biloxi Bay Bridge the maximum storm surge was estimated to be 21.5 feet above MSL, and this coupled with the anticipated decrease in surge elevation going to the north end of Mobile Bay, we will use a maximum storm surge of 21.5 feet at the I-10 Bridge for **Case C.**

**Case C** represents the estimated maximum surge/surface wave heights if Hurricane Katrina's track had been shifted approximately 70 miles to the east (or 35 miles west of Mobile) of where it hit. It should be noted that this would place it approximately along the track of Hurricane Frederic. To estimate the maximum sea state condition for **Case C**, the best available data appears to be the maximum sea state at Biloxi Bay when Katrina hit in August 2005. This maximum condition was assumed to also be possible in the future at Mobile Bay. Thus this sea state condition was considered along with **Cases A** and **B** in estimating an appropriate design sea state at the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge site. Estimated maximum sea state conditions, i.e., surge and surface wave heights, for these three hurricanes at the north end of Mobile Bay I-10 bridge site are discussed and summarized below.

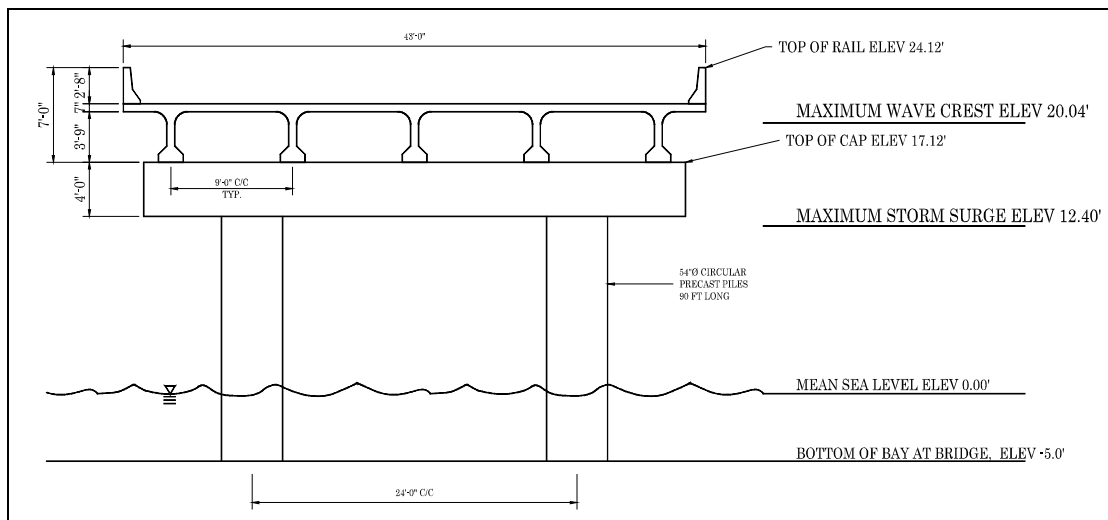
**Case A.** Based on maximum storm surge/surface wave elevations found in the literature (see Section 2.2.3) and adjusting for the 35 mile northerly position of the I-10 bridge from the Gulf of Mexico coastline, the estimated maximum sea state condition for Hurricane Frederic at the north end of Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge site is shown in Fig. 4.8.



**Fig. 4.8. Case A - Estimated Maximum Sea State Elevations at I-10 Bridge During Hurricane Frederic**



**Case B.** Based primarily on Douglass, et al work on damage to the I-10 Ramp in Mobile Bay during Hurricane Katrina (see Section 2.2.2 - Damage to I-10 Ramp in Mobile Bay) the estimated maximum sea state condition during Hurricane Katrina at the north end of Mobile Bay I-10 bridge site is shown in Fig. 4.9.



**Fig. 4.9. Case B - Estimated Maximum Sea State Elevations at I-10 Bridge During Hurricane Katrina**

**Case C.** Maximum sea state conditions at the Mobile Bay I-10 bridge site for a mock Hurricane Katrina hitting just west of Mobile, i.e., approximately along the path of Hurricane Frederic, were estimated based on the maximum sea state occurring at the U.S. 90 Biloxi Bay Bridge during Hurricane Katrina.

When Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005 (see Fig. 4.10), a number of locations experienced storm surge heights greater than 20 feet. NOAA's NHC estimated a storm surge of up to 27 feet. NOAA, in their advisories prior to landfall of Hurricane Katrina, predicted "coastal storm surge flooding of 18 to 22 ft above normal tide levels...locally as high as 28 ft along with large and dangerous battering waves... can be expected near and to the east of where the center makes landfall". An estimated surge height of 27 feet was reported by the Hancock, Mississippi Emergency Operation Center. Observations by a post storm NIST reconnaissance team also suggested that in some locations between Biloxi and Long Beach, Mississippi, the surge reached as high as 28 feet. It was reported that Hurricane Katrina's large horizontal size likely contributed to its exceptionally high storm surge.



**Fig. 4.10 Location map of Hurricane Katrina and US90/Biloxi Bay Bridge**

The water depth across the mouth of Biloxi Bay is very shallow being around 2 to 3 feet for most of the bridge with a typical tide range of about 1.75 feet (-0.55 ft (NGVD) to +1.20 ft (NGVD)). Figures 4.11 - 4.14 show Katrina damages to the U.S. 90 Biloxi Bay Bridge and Fig. 4.15 show a typical bridge span. Figure 4.16 shows estimated peak storm surge and surface wave heights at the bridge, and Table 4.1 gives the top of bent/bottom of girder elevations along the bridge as well as identifying the bridge spans that were and were not removed by Katrina.



**Fig. 4.11. Photo looking west toward Biloxi of Hurricane Katrina damage to U.S. 90 Bridge over Biloxi Bay (from Douglass et al., 2006).**



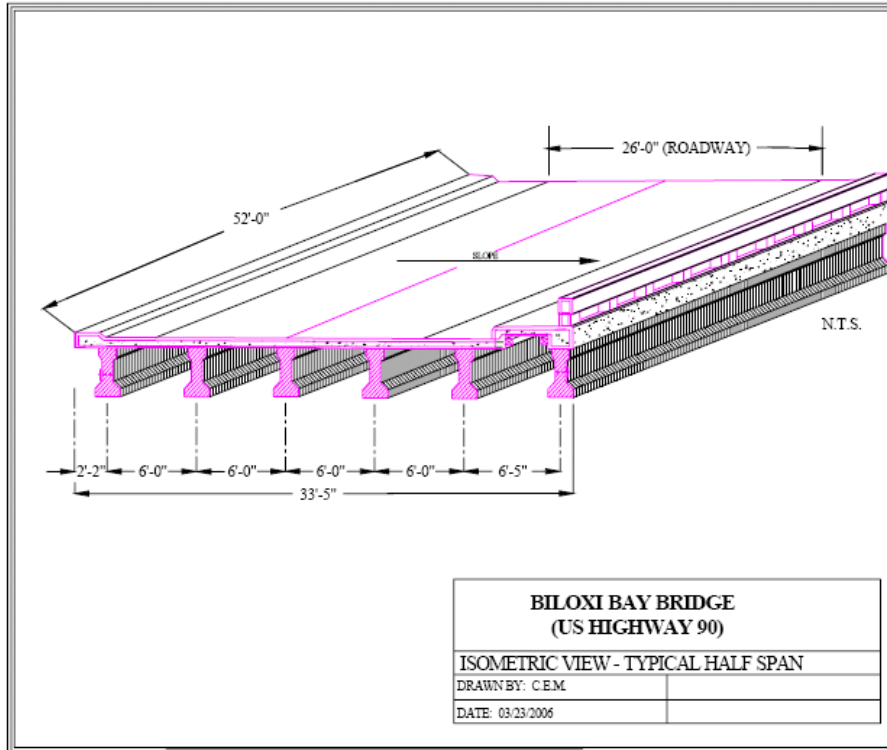
**Fig. 4.12. Photograph of the damage to the U.S. 90 Biloxi Bay bridge caused by Hurricane Katrina. Photo was taken looking northeast from Biloxi 9/21/05 (Katrina Hit 8/29/05).**



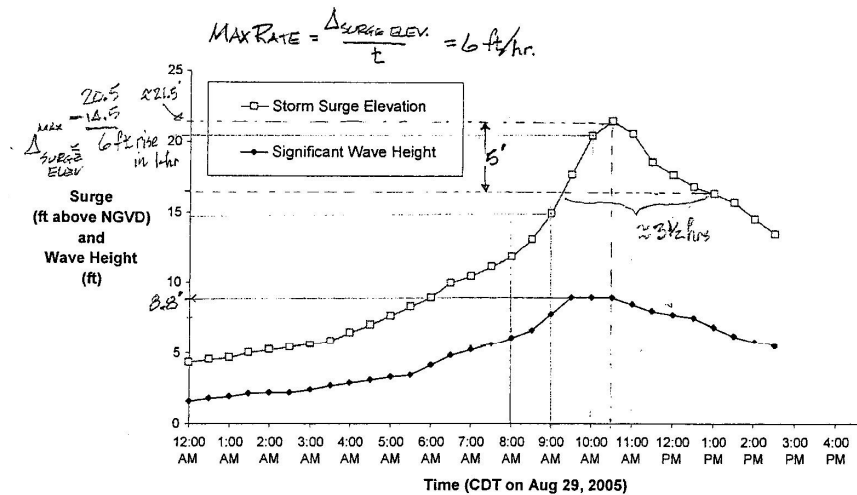
**Fig. 4.13. Photograph of U.S. 90 bridge over Biloxi Bay showing high spans which were not knocked off pile cap bents during Hurricane Katrina (This photo was taken 2/19/06 looking west from Ocean Springs.)**



**Fig. 4.14. Photograph of U.S. 90 bridge over Biloxi Bay showing the westbound half-span #100 that is still on pile caps but rotated and displaced to the landward side. The eastbound half-span was knocked completely off. The spans at higher elevations, beginning with span #99, were not knocked off the pile caps by the storm. (This photo was taken 2/19/06 looking southwest from Ocean Springs towards Biloxi.)**



**Fig. 4.15.** Details of the typical span design on the U.S. 90 bridge across Biloxi Bay, Mississippi, that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. This sketch shows one-half the total width of the bridge.



**Fig. 4.16.** Estimated storm surge and wave heights at the U.S. 90 bridge across Biloxi Bay during landfall of Hurricane Katrina. These estimates are hindcast data at the location of the high-span of the bridge based on ADCIRC modeling of surge and SWAN modeling of waves.

**Table 4.1. Elevations of U.S. 90 Bridge Across Biloxi Bay**

Bent Number	Low-Chord Elevation at Bent (ft)	Bent Number	Low-Chord Elevation at Bent (ft)	Bent Number	Low-Chord Elevation at Bent (ft)	Bent Number	Low-Chord Elevation at Bent (ft)
1	10.1	32	11.4	63	14.6	94	33.1*
2	10.1	33	11.5	64	14.7	95	31.5
3	10.1	34	11.6	65	14.8	96	29.9
4	10.1	35	11.7	66	14.9	97	28.4
5	10.1	36	11.8	67	15.0	98	26.8
6	10.1	37	11.9	68	15.1	99	25.3
7	10.1	38	12.0	69	15.2	100	23.7
8	10.1	39	12.1	70	15.3	101	22.1
9	10.1	40	12.2	71	15.4	102	20.6
10	10.1	41	12.3	72	15.5	103	19.0
11	10.1	42	12.4	73	15.6	104	17.5
12	10.1	43	12.5	74	15.7	105	16.2
13	10.1	44	12.6	75	15.8	106	15.0
14	10.1	45	12.7	76	15.9	107	13.9
15	10.1	46	12.8	77	16.0	108	13.0
16	10.1	47	12.9	78	16.2	109	12.2
17	10.1	48	13.0	79	16.6	110	11.5
18	10.1	49	13.1	80	17.0	111	10.9
19	10.2	50	13.2	81	17.6	112	10.5
20	10.2	51	13.3	82	18.3	113	10.3
21	10.3	52	13.4	83	19.2	114	10.2
22	10.3	53	13.5	84	20.1	115	10.1
23	10.4	54	13.6	85	21.2	116	10.1
24	10.5	55	13.8	86	22.4	117	10.1
25	10.6	56	13.9	87	23.8	118	10.1
26	10.7	57	14.0	88	25.3	119	10.1
27	10.8	58	14.1	89	26.8	120	10.1
28	10.9	59	14.2	90	28.4	121	10.1
29	11.0	60	14.3	91	29.9	122	10.1
30	11.2	61	14.4	92	31.5	123	10.1
31	11.3	62	14.5	93	33.1*	124	10.1
						125	10.1

\*Elevations are estimates of the low-chord (bottom of girders) elevations (NGVD). Bent Piles with pile caps, are numbered from west to east. The highest, those near the drawbridge, are between bents #93 and #94, are designated by a different lettering nomenclature, and are not included in this table. (adapted Ref[1] from design plans provided by Mississippi D.O.T.)

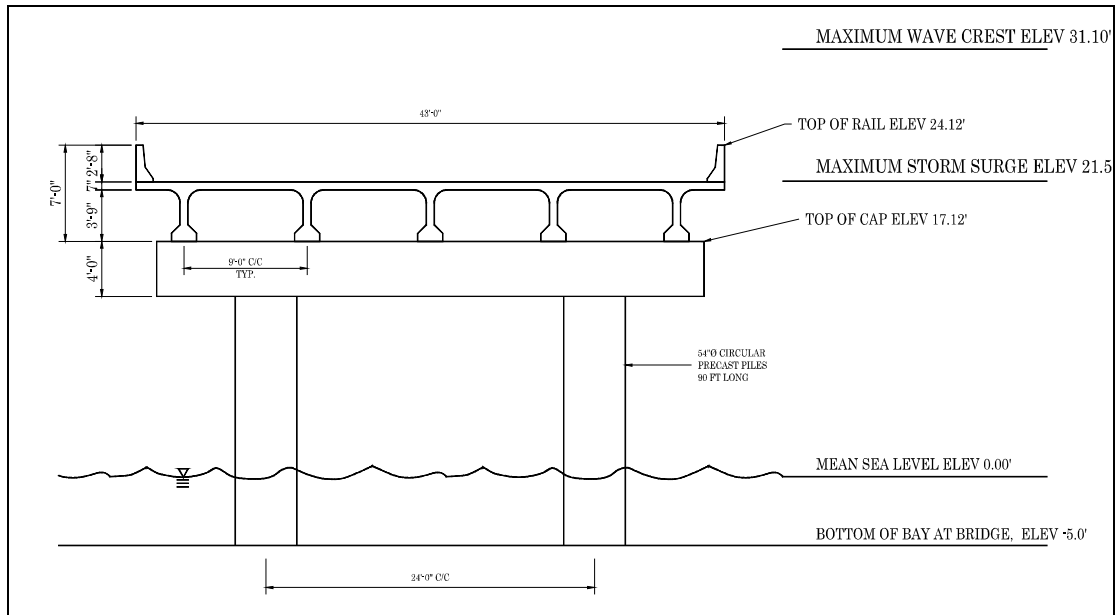
\*Highest bents. Spans in shaded region were not removed.

Looking at Figs. 4.11 - 4.14, it appears that about half way up the rise in elevation from the flat spans to the top spans (i.e., the draw spans), is where the transition between spans being removed and spans staying in place occurs. This is in agreement with Table 4.1 where bent elevations go from 10.1' to 33.1' with  $(10.1 + 33.1)/2 = 21.6'$  being the average and this is the approximate bent elevation where the spans remained in place. This approximate elevation is consistent with the estimated peak storm surge elevation at the bridge shown in Fig. 4.16. Based on this, it appears that when the hurricane peak storm surge elevation reached the level of the bottom of the bridge span girders, the buoyant and hydrodynamic forces from the hurricane surface waves superimposed on top of the peak storm surge were sufficient to lift and push the bridge spans from their positions on the bridge bents.

Hence, at the U.S. 90/Biloxi Bay Bridge, it is estimated that the peak storm surge height was approximately 21.5 ft above NGVD with a significant wave height of approximately 8.8 ft. This sea state condition is shown in Fig. 4.17 in conjunction with the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge elevations. Since Katrina was such a large hurricane, it seems rational to use these surge and wave heights as the “design hurricane” for the design of new coastal bridges along the southern Gulf of Mexico coastline.



However, for older existing coastal bridges such as the I-10 bridge across the north end of Mobile Bay, it seems rational to retrofit the bridges for less severe hurricane surge/surface waves and associated forces. This is discussed further in a later section.



**Fig. 4.17. Case C - Estimated Maximum Sea State Elevations at I-10 Bridge During Mock-Hurricane Katrina**

#### 4.5 Closure

Considering mean sea level at the Mobile Bay I-10 bridge site to be elevation 0 ft, the bottom of the bay at the bridge is approximately at elevation - 5.0 ft at the site, and the I-10 bridge components are approximately at elevations,

Bottom of bent cap = 13.1 ft

Top of bent cap/  
bottom of girders = 17.1 ft

Top of deck = 21.4 ft

Top of guard rail = 24.1 ft

Continuing to use mean sea level at the site as elevation 0 ft, any hurricane with a maximum storm surge greater than 17 ft would move the existing I-10 bridge superstructure and cause significant bridge damage. Due to a somewhat higher surge height at the bridge due to interference of the bridge to surface wave propagations, the effective surge height at the bridge may be 0.5 - 1.0 ft higher than the storm surge height. Thus, any hurricane with a maximum storm surge greater than 16 ft may move the bridge superstructure and cause bridge damage.

The maximum storm surge elevations at the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge shown in Figs. 4.8 and 4.9 for Hurricane's Frederic and Katrina respectively did not exceed the above critical values, and these hurricanes did not damage the Mobile Bay Bridge. However, had Hurricane Katrina's track been located approximately 70 miles to the east, the maximum storm surge elevation shown in Fig. 4.16 would probably have occurred, and this would have probably destroyed the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge superstructure. Hurricane surge/surface wave forces that could in the future act on the Mobile Bay Bridge, and retrofit actions recommended for this bridge are presented in the ensuing chapters.

## CHAPTER 5

### HURRICANE SURGE/SURFACE WAVE FORCES ON I-10 MOBILE BAY BRIDGES AND RESPONSE OF THE BRIDGES TO THESE FORCES

#### 5.1 General

As indicated in Chapter 3, the hurricane storm surge simply raises the sea state still water level (SWL) to an elevation where

- vertical buoyant forces resulting from the SWL may act on the bridge superstructure
- vertical buoyant forces from the storm surface waves that are superimposed on the storm SWL will act on part of the superstructure
- the storm surface waves can apply large periodic hydrodynamic horizontal and vertical forces to the superstructure

All of the above forces can be large and are important, and their magnitudes, directions, and time and duration of application should be considered.

Chapter 3 presented commonly used surface wave force prediction equations and proposed modifications to the equations by Douglass, et al. by the author. Comparisons of the resulting forces from application of these equations to a common bridge span were

made and discussed in Chapter 3. The “best” of these equations appears to be the Modified Douglass, et al. equations, and these are the equations that will be used in predicting hurricane surge/surface wave forces on the I-10 Mobile Bay Bridge.

From the above, and from the discussions in Chapter 3, a hurricane’s peak surge height and significant surface wave height relative to the height of a coastal bridge’s superstructure are the dominant parameters of importance in assessing hurricane wave induced forces on a coastal bridge. These critical parameters were estimated for the I-10 Bridge across the north end of Mobile Bay in Chapter 4. The critical elevation estimates at the I-10 Bridge location along with the known geometry of the I-10 Bridge along with the surface wave force prediction equations given in Chapter 3 allow us to make a reasonable estimate of the maximum anticipated hurricane surge/surface water forces to act on a typical span of the I-10 Bridge over Mobile Bay. These forces along with the bridge DL allows us to estimate the response of the I-10 bridge superstructure and substructure as a hurricane moves through the bridge. This is the purpose of this chapter and is presented in the sections below.

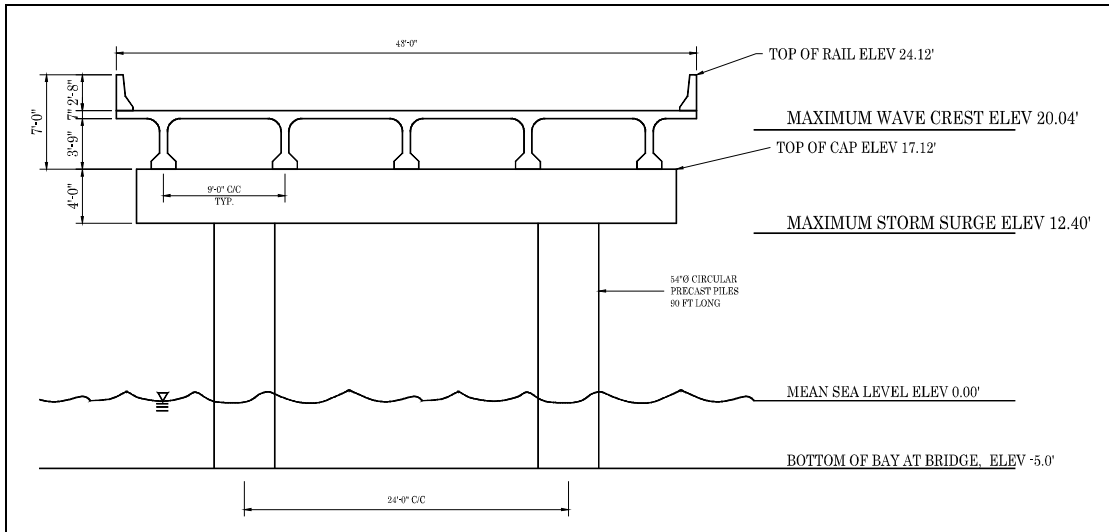
## **5.2 Assumed Retrofit Hurricane Sea State for Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge**

Based on the facts that the I-10 Bridge across the north end of Mobile Bay

1. are approximately 33 years old and probably only have a remaining service life of approximately 17 years,
2. have never experienced hurricane surge/surface wave water elevations and forces to the level needed to produce catastrophic bridge damage in their 43-year lifetime (excluding the lower elevation ramps),
3. are at a site that has never (as best as can be determined) experienced water elevations to the level to cause catastrophic bridge damage (excluding the lower elevation ramps), and
4. the winds (Category 5 just prior to landfall) and storm surge elevations of Hurricane Katrina are probably those associated with a 100-year hurricane,

it is not recommended that the Case C (Mock-Hurricane Katrina) sea state discussed in Chapter 4 and shown in Fig. 4.10 be used as the basis for possible retrofit actions on the I-10 Bridge. The Case C sea state would be appropriate for the design of any future new bridges that may be constructed at the north end of Mobile Bay site.

For the existing I-10 Bridge over Mobile Bay, it seems appropriate to retrofit the bridge as needed for a sea state associated with a direct hit of a hurricane smaller than Hurricane Katrina, such as Hurricane Frederic, i.e., for Case A in Chapter 4, or for a near miss for a large hurricane such as Hurricane Katrina, i.e., for Case B in Chapter 4. Since Case B gives the more severe loading condition, we recommend that the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge be retrofitted to sustain the hurricane forces associated with Case B hurricane sea-state. This sea-state is repeated below in Fig. 5.1 for convenience and completeness.



**Fig. 5.1. Recommended Retrofit Sea State Elevations at I-10 Bridge for Hurricane Loadings**

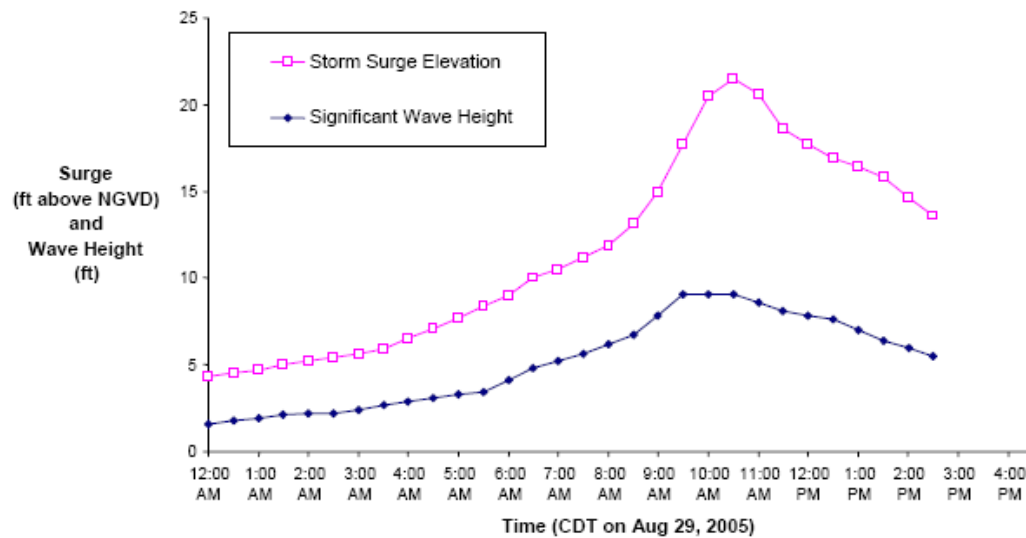
### 5.3 Estimated Maximum Hurricane Surge/Surface Wave Forces on I-10 Bridge

In order to quantify the forces due to surge/surface waves at the I-10 Bridge site, the Modified Douglass et al equations will be used to calculate the vertical and horizontal forces due to the three hurricane cases stated previously, i.e. Frederic, Katrina, and Mock-Katrina. All three cases were considered initially to gain an appreciation of the range of wave forces that may act on the I-10 bridge in the future. Necessary bridge parameters for calculating these wave forces include the bridge elevations and geometry as well as storm parameters such as surge height and significant wave height. The bridge elevations and geometry were taken from construction plans provided by ALDOT, and the storm surge elevations were obtained from storm data near the site during Hurricanes Frederic and Katrina given in Chapter 2, and from assumptions made for the Mock-Katrina hurricane, i.e. to use storm data at Biloxi, MS during Hurricane Katrina. Some other estimates of maximum surge elevations, significant wave heights, and wave crest elevations from the literature are shown in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1. Estimates of Maximum Wave Height and Crest Elevations (OEA, 2005).**

Hydraulic/Wave Parameter	Simulation		
	Hurricane Ivan	100-year Design Storm	500-year Design Storm
Maximum Surge Water Surface Elevation ( $WSE_{max}$ , m-NAVD88)	+3.27 (+10.72 ft)	+2.87 (+9.4 ft)	+3.77 (+12.36 ft)
Significant Wave Height (m)	1.98 (6.51 ft)	1.83 (5.99 ft)	2.17 (7.12 ft)
Associated Wave Peak Period (sec)	3.19	3.09	3.31
Associated Wave Mean Direction (degrees from North)	345	345	344
Maximum Wave Height ( $H_{max}$ , m)	3.97 (13.01 ft)	3.65 (11.98 ft)	4.34 (14.25 ft)
Maximum Crest Elevation (m-NAVD88) ( $WSE_{max} + 0.8 * H_{max}$ )	+6.44 (+21.13 ft)	+5.79 (+18.98 ft)	+7.24 (+23.76 ft)

An assumed significant wave height of 7.0' will be assumed for the Cases I and II (Hurricanes Frederic and Katrina storm data). For Case III, the Mock-Katrina hurricane, a value of 8.8' will be used for the significant wave height and 21.5' for the storm surge based on Fig. 5.2.



**Fig. 5.2. Significant Wave Height During Hurricane Katrina Near Biloxi Bay, MS (Douglass et al., 2006).**

The Modified Douglass et al equations used to estimate the vertical and horizontal wave load components are as follows:

Vertical Force

$$F_v = c_v^{mc} F_v^*$$



## Horizontal Force

$$F_h = \left[ 1 + c_r \frac{(N-1)}{2} \right] c_h^{mc} F_h^*$$

where:

- $F_v$  = estimated vertical wave force
- $F_h$  = estimated horizontal wave force
- $F_v^*$  = a “reference” vertical load
- $F_h^*$  = a “reference” horizontal load
- $c_v^{mc}$  = an empirical coefficient from McConnell’s work (to be taken as 1.0)
- $c_h^{mc}$  = an empirical coefficient from McConnell’s work (to be taken as 1.0)
- $c_r$  = a reduction coefficient for reduced horizontal load on the internal (i.e. not the wave ward-most) girders (to be taken as 0.33)
- $N$  = the number of girders supporting the bridge span deck

The “reference” loads can be determined by the following equations:

$$F_v^* = \gamma(\Delta z_v) A_v$$

$$F_h^* = \gamma(\Delta z_h) A_h$$

where:

- $\Delta z_v$  = difference between the elevation of the crest of the maximum wave and the elevation of the bottom of the end diaphragms (to be taken as 1 ft. higher than the bottom of the girders)

or

the difference between the elevation of the top of the solid portion of the guard rail and the bottom of the end diaphragms to be taken as 1 ft. higher than the bottom of the girders)

whichever is smaller

- $\Delta z_h$  = difference between the elevation of the crest of the maximum wave and the elevation of the centroid of  $A_h$ .

or

the difference between the elevation of the top of the solid portion of the guard rail and the elevation of the centroid of  $A_h$ .

whichever is smaller

$$\begin{aligned} A_v &= \text{bridge span length} \times \frac{1}{2} \text{ bridge width} && \text{(for widths} > 20 \text{ ft)} \\ &= \text{bridge span length} \times \text{bridge width} && \text{(for widths} < 20 \text{ ft)} \end{aligned}$$

$$A_h = \text{the bridge span length} \times \text{the vertical projection of the superstructure from the girder bottoms up to the top of the solid portion of the guard rail}$$

$$\gamma = \text{unit weight of water (64 pcf for saltwater)}$$

The above equations were used to estimate the maximum surge/surface wave forces on a typical I-10 bridge span during Hurricanes Frederic, Katrina, and Mock-Katrina.

Calculations of the resultant wave forces are presented below along with figures showing the combined wave and DL forces acting on a typical bridge span.

- **Estimated Wave Forces on I-10 Bridge During Hurricane Frederic**

Assumptions:

- MSL = 0.00'
- Mudline = -5.00'
- 11.70' Storm Surge
- 7.00' Significant Wave Height
- Elevation of Centroid of Deck = 20.62' (3.5' Above Top of Cap)

Calculations:

$$\eta_{\max} = 0.78 * (1.4 * 7.00') = 7.64'$$

$$\text{Maximum Wave Crest Elevation} = 11.70' + 7.64' = 19.34'$$

$$A_h = 65' \times 7' = 455 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$A_v = 65' \times (43'/2) = 1397.5 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$\Delta z_v = \text{smaller of } \quad 19.34' - 18.12' = 1.22'$$

or

$$24.12' - 18.12' = 6.00'$$

$$\Delta z_v = 1.22'$$

$$\Delta z_h = \text{smaller of } \quad 19.34' - 20.62' = 0.00'$$

or

$$24.12' - 20.62' = 3.50'$$

$$\Delta z_h = 0.00'$$

Vertical Force:

$$F_v^* = (64 \text{ pcf})(1.22')(1397.5 \text{ ft}^2) = 109.1 \text{ kips}$$

$$F_v = (1.0)(109.1 \text{ kips}) = \mathbf{109.1 \text{ kips}}$$

Horizontal Force:

$$F_h^* = (64 \text{ pcf})(0.00')(455 \text{ ft}^2) = 0 \text{ kips}$$

$$F_h = [1 + (0.33)((5-1)/2)](1.0)(0.00 \text{ kips}) = \mathbf{0 \text{ kips}}$$

Overturning Moment:

\*Assume Vertical Force Acts at a Location of 1/4 Span Width

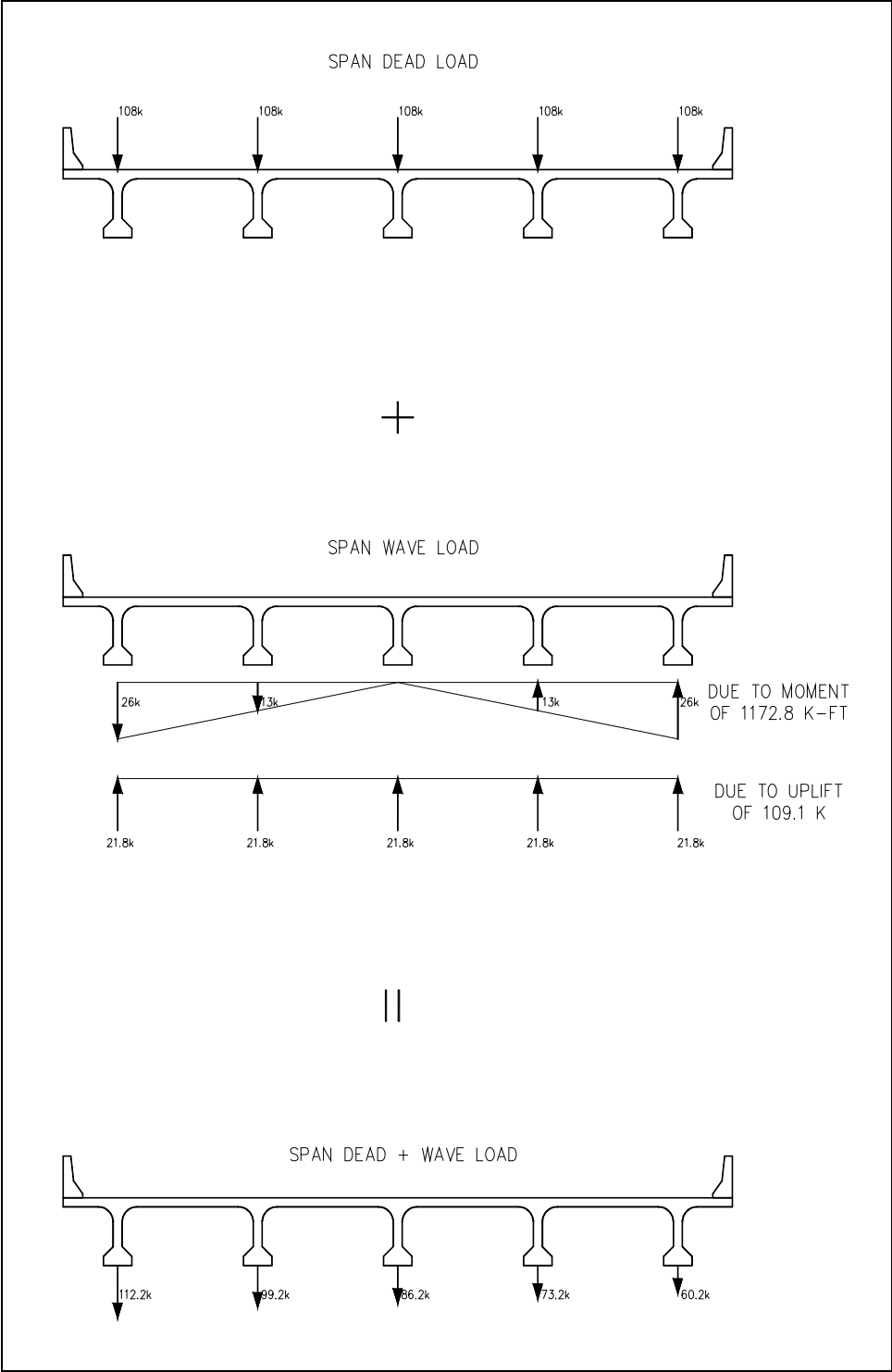
$$M = F_v * 1/4 \text{ Span Width}$$

$$M = (109.1 \text{ kips})(43'/4) = \mathbf{1172.8 \text{ kip-ft}}$$

<b>F<sub>v</sub></b>	=	<b>109.1 kips</b>
<b>F<sub>h</sub></b>	=	<b>0.0 kips</b>
<b>M</b>	=	<b>1172.8 kip-ft</b>

These resultant wave forces along with the span DL forces and the combined

DL plus wave forces are shown in Figure 5.3.



**Fig. 5.3. Estimated Maximum Forces on a Typical Mobile Bay I-10 Span During Hurricane Frederic**

- **Estimated Wave Forces on I-10 Bridge During Hurricane Katrina**

Assumptions:

- MSL = 0.00'
- Mudline = -5.00'
- 12.40' Storm Surge
- 7.00' Significant Wave Height
- Elevation of Centroid of Deck = 20.62' (3.5' Above Top of Cap)

Calculations:

$$\eta_{\max} = 0.78 * (1.4 * 7.00') = 7.64'$$

$$\text{Maximum Wave Crest Elevation} = 12.40' + 7.64' = 20.04'$$

$$A_h = 65' \times 7' = 455 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$A_v = 65' \times (43'/2) = 1397.5 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$\Delta z_v = \text{smaller of } \quad 20.04' - 18.12' = 1.92'$$

or

$$24.12' - 18.12' = 6.00'$$

$$\Delta z_v = 1.92'$$

$$\Delta z_h = \text{smaller of } \quad 20.04' - 20.62' = 0.00'$$

or

$$24.12' - 20.62' = 3.50'$$

$$\Delta z_h = 0.00'$$

Vertical Force:

$$F_v^* = (64 \text{ pcf})(1.92')(1397.5 \text{ ft}^2) = 171.7 \text{ kips}$$

$$F_v = (1.0)(171.7 \text{ kips}) = \mathbf{171.7 \text{ kips}}$$

Horizontal Force:

$$F_h^* = (64 \text{ pcf})(0.00)(455 \text{ ft}^2) = 0.00 \text{ kips}$$

$$F_h = [1 + (0.33)((5-1)/2)](1.0)(0.00 \text{ kips}) = \mathbf{0.00 \text{ kips}}$$

Overturning Moment:

\*Assume Vertical Force Acts at a Location of 1/4 Span Width

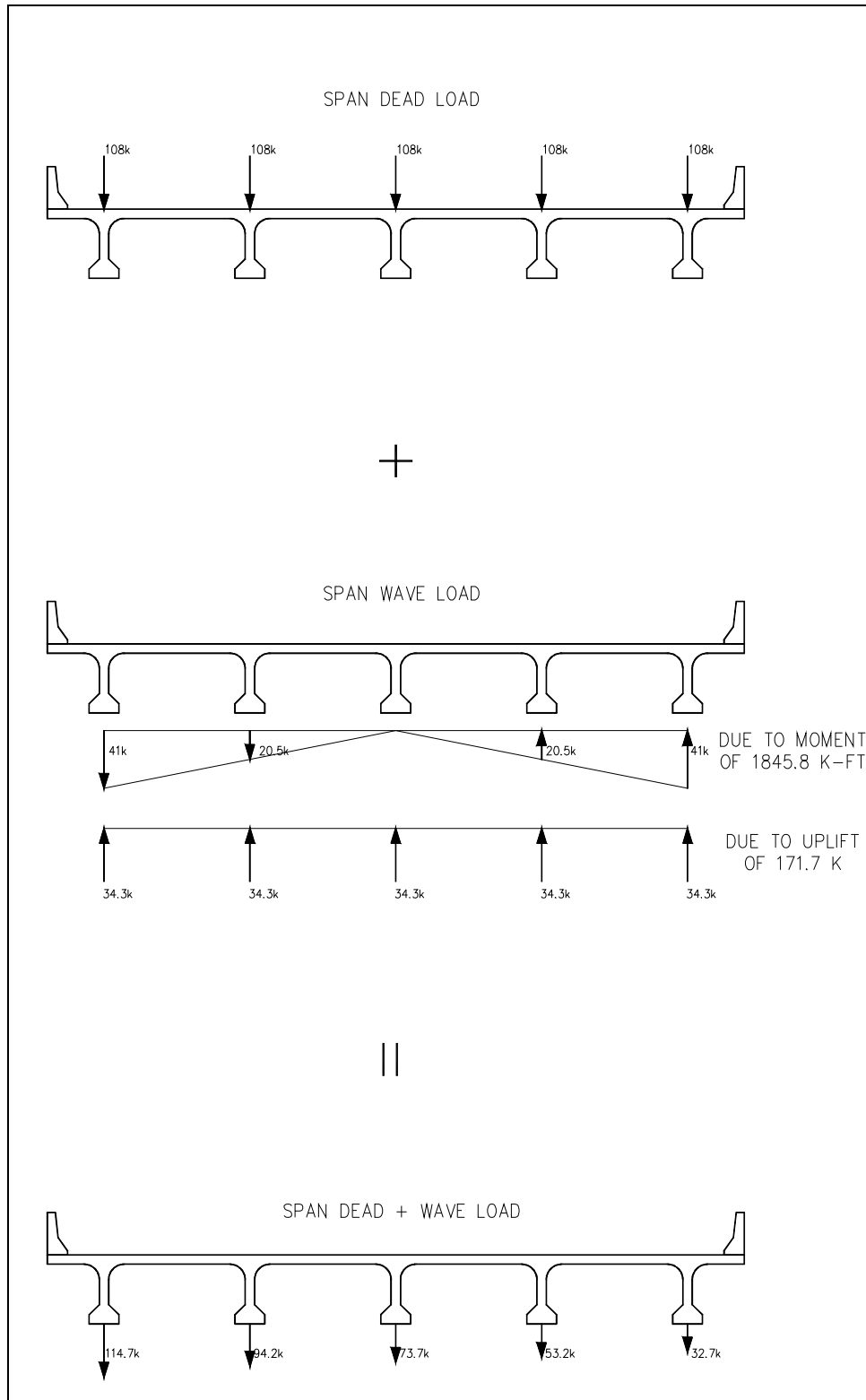
$$M = F_v * \frac{1}{4} \text{ Span Width}$$

$$M = (171.7 \text{ kips})(43'/4) = \mathbf{1845.8 \text{ kip-ft}}$$

<b>F<sub>v</sub></b>	<b>=</b>	<b>171.7 kips</b>
<b>F<sub>h</sub></b>	<b>=</b>	<b>0.0 kips</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>1845.8 kip-ft</b>

These resultant wave forces along with the span DL forces and the combined

DL plus wave forces are shown in Figure 5.4.



**Fig. 5.4 Estimated Maximum Forces on a Typical Mobile Bay I-10 Span During Hurricane Katrina**

- **Estimated Wave Forces on I-10 Bridge During Mock Hurricane Katrina**

Assumptions:

- MSL = 0.00'
- Mudline = -5.00'
- 21.50' Storm Surge
- 8.80' Significant Wave Height
- Elevation of Centroid of Deck = 20.62' (3.5' Above Top of Cap)

Calculations:

$$\eta_{\max} = 0.78 * (1.4 * 8.80') = 9.61'$$

$$\text{Maximum Wave Crest Elevation} = 21.50' + 9.61' = 31.10'$$

$$A_h = 65' \times 7' = 455 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$A_v = 65' \times (43'/2) = 1397.5 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$\Delta z_v = \text{smaller of } \quad 31.10' - 18.12' = 12.98'$$

or

$$24.12' - 18.12' = 6.00'$$

$$\Delta z_v = 6.00'$$

$$\Delta z_h = \text{smaller of } \quad 31.10' - 20.62' = 10.48'$$

or

$$24.12' - 20.62' = 3.50'$$

$$\Delta z_h = 3.50'$$

Vertical Force:

$$F_v^* = (64 \text{ pcf})(6.00')(1397.5 \text{ ft}^2) = 536.6 \text{ kips}$$

$$F_v = (1.0)(536.6 \text{ kips}) = \mathbf{536.6 \text{ kips}}$$

Horizontal Force:

$$F_h^* = (64 \text{ pcf})(3.50')(455 \text{ ft}^2) = 101.9 \text{ kips}$$

$$F_h = [1 + (0.33)((5-1)/2)](1.0)(101.9 \text{ kips}) = \mathbf{169.2 \text{ kips}}$$

Overturning Moment:

\*Assume Vertical Force Acts at a Location of 1/4 Span Width

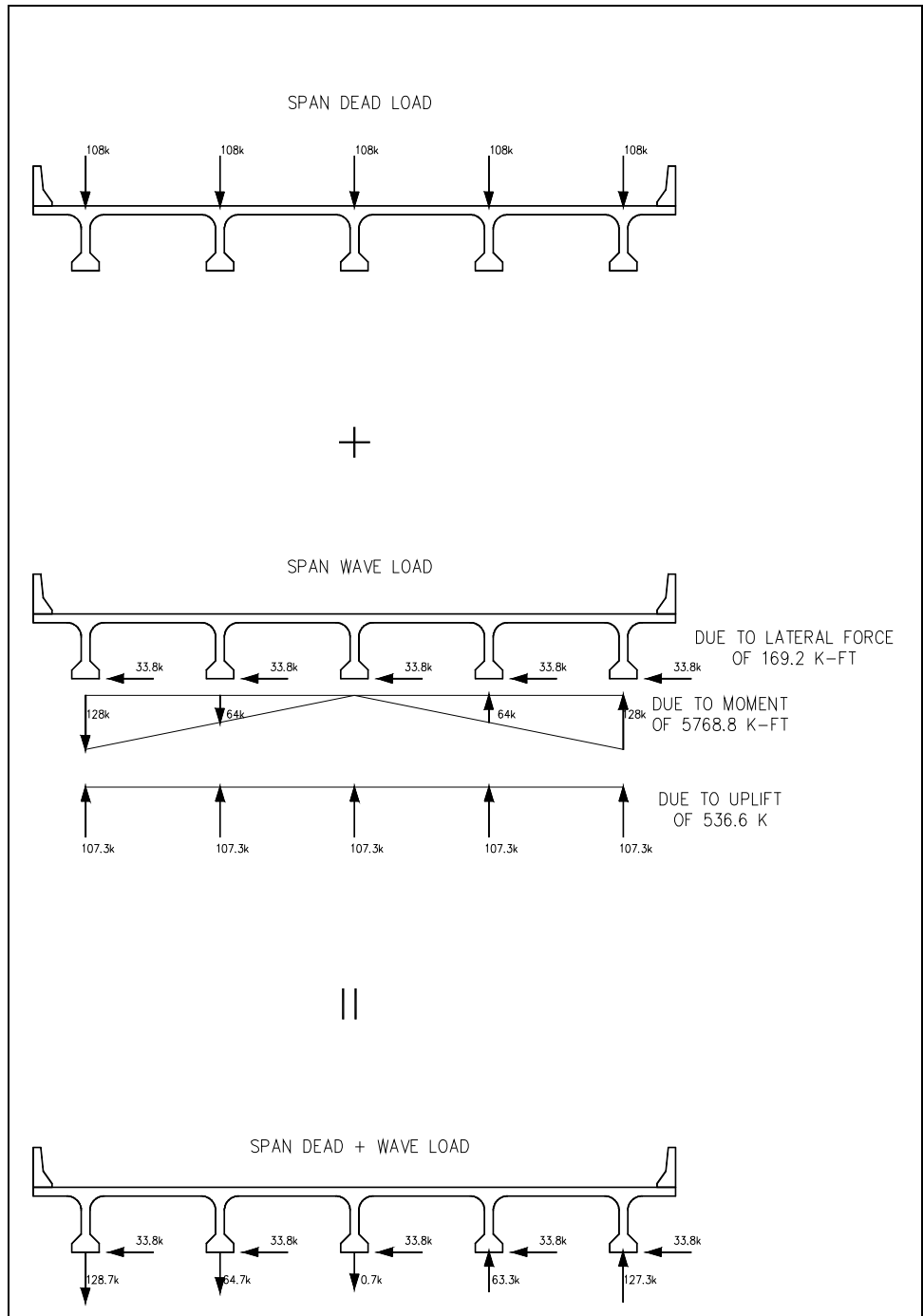
$$M = F_v * \frac{1}{4} \text{ Span Width}$$

$$M = (536.6 \text{ kips})(43'/4) = \mathbf{5768.9 \text{ kip-ft}}$$

<b>F<sub>v</sub></b>	=	<b>536.6 kips</b>
<b>F<sub>h</sub></b>	=	<b>169.2 kips</b>
<b>M</b>	=	<b>5768.9 kip-ft</b>

These resultant wave forces along with the span DL forces and the combined

DL plus wave forces are shown in Figure 5.5.



**Fig. 5.5. Estimated Maximum Forces on a Typical Mobile Bay I-10 Span During a Mock-Hurricane Katrina**

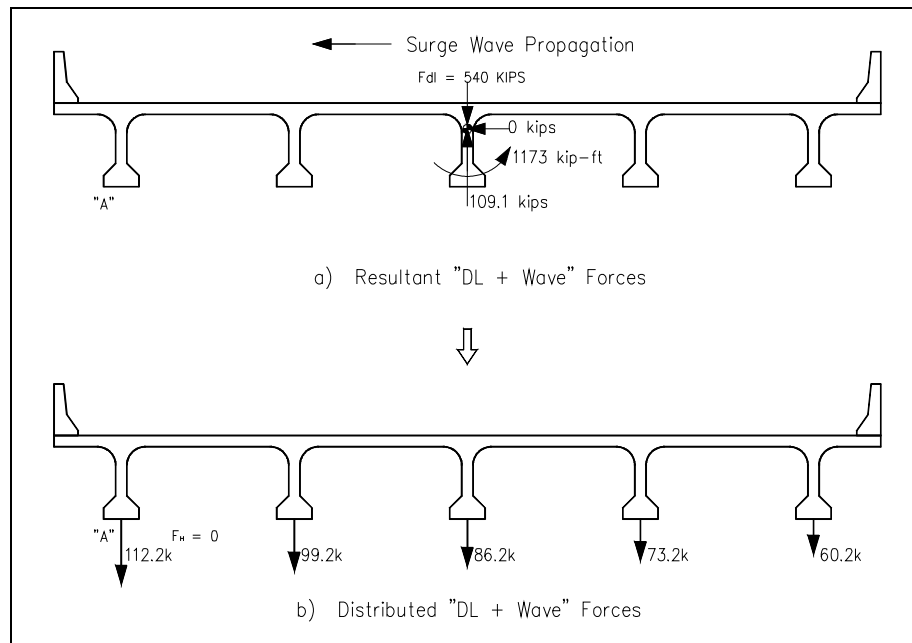


## 5.4 Response of I-10 Bridge Superstructure to Hurricane Wave Plus Dead Loadings

Upon calculating the wave forces associated with each of the three hurricane cases stated earlier, we then determined the response of the I-10 bridge superstructure and substructure to the vertical and horizontal forces as well as the moment of each hurricane to gain an appreciation of the range of possible responses of the I-10 Bridge in future hurricanes. This section will focus on the response of the bridge superstructure to the estimated wave plus dead loadings presented in Section 5.3.

### Response to Hurricane Frederic Loading:

Estimated Hurricane Frederic plus DL forces for a typical I-10 span are given in Fig. 5.3 and are summarized in Fig. 5.6 below.

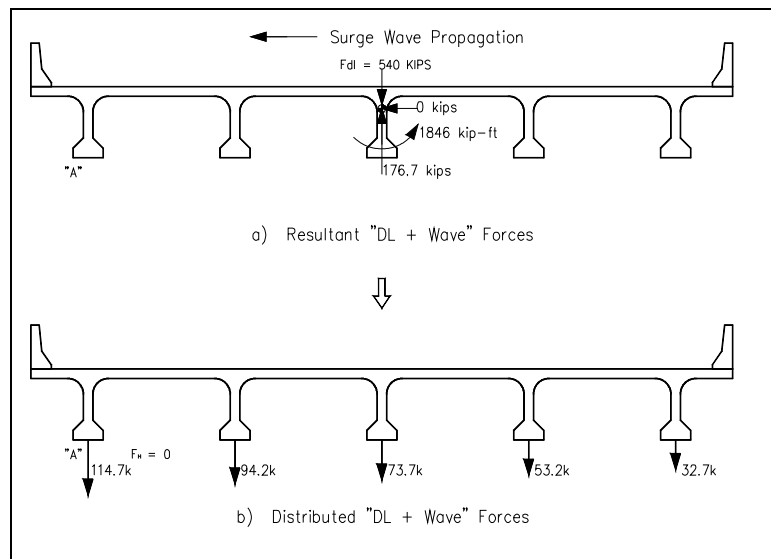


**Fig. 5.6. Estimated 'DL + Wave' Forces on a Typical Mobile Bay I-10 Span During Hurricane Frederic**

Note in Fig. 5.6 that the net horizontal force is zero so the span will not slide off of its support bents, the net vertical force is 431 kips down so the span will not be lifted, and there is no net counterclockwise moment about point "A" trying to tip/rotate the span counterclockwise about point "A". Thus, for Hurricane Frederic wave forces, the I-10 span is stable and will not try to have rigid body motion even if the span was not attached to the bent caps. It should be noted that the above estimated forces and the superstructure response to these forces are consistent with the apparent response of the spans as no spans (excluding the ramp spans) were moved or connections damaged during Hurricane Frederic.

### Response to Hurricane Katrina Loading:

Estimated Hurricane Katrina plus DL forces for a typical I-10 span are given in Fig. 5.4 and are summarized in Fig. 5.7 below.

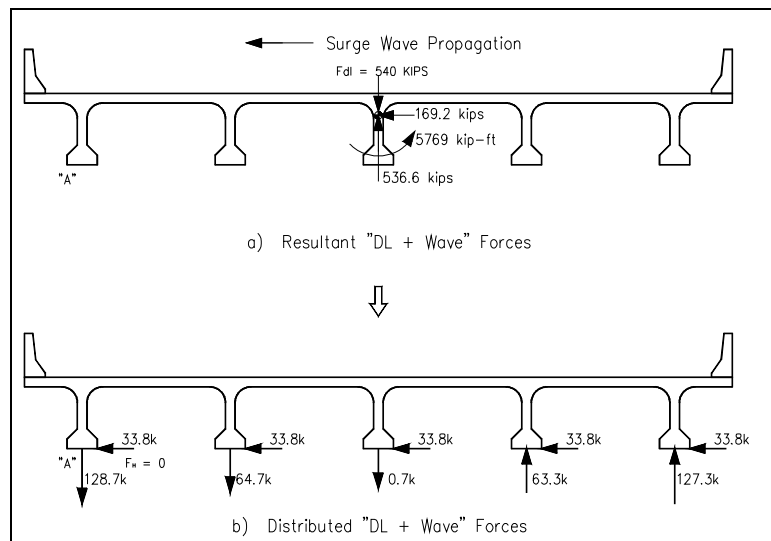


**Fig. 5.7. Estimated 'DL + Wave' Forces on a Typical Mobile Bay I-10 Span During Hurricane Katrina**

Note that in Fig. 5.7 that the net horizontal force is zero and thus the span does not try to slide off its support bents, the net vertical force is 368 kips down and thus the span will not be lifted, and there is no net counterclockwise moment about point "A" trying to tip/rotate the span counterclockwise at point "A". Therefore, for Hurricane Katrina (making landfall 130 miles west of Mobile Bay) wave forces, the I-10 span is stable and will not try to have rigid body motion even if the span was not attached to the bent caps. It should be noted that the above estimated forces and the superstructure response to these forces are consistent with the apparent response of the spans since no spans (excluding the ramp spans) were moved or connections damaged during Hurricane Katrina.

**Response to a Mock-Katrina Hurricane:**

Estimated Mock-Hurricane Katrina plus DL forces for a typical I-10 span are given in Fig. 5.5 and are summarized in Fig. 5.8 below.



**Fig. 5.8. Estimated 'DL + Wave' Forces on a Typical Mobile Bay I-10 Span During Hurricane Katrina**

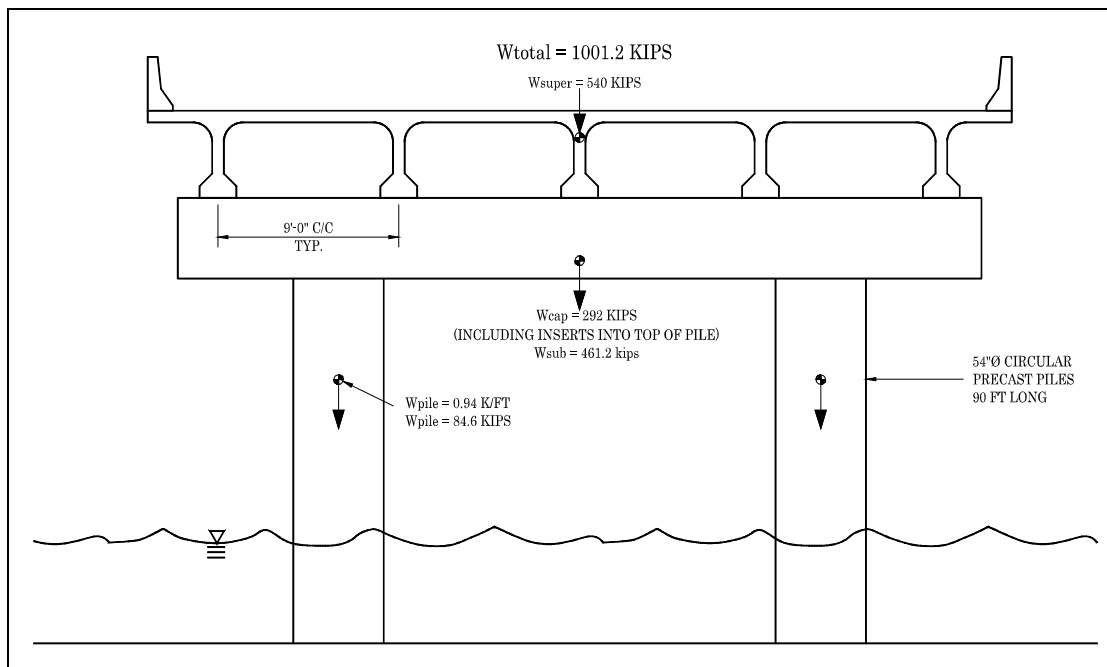
Note in Fig. 5.8 that there is significant net horizontal force of 169 kips acting on the span, and thus the span needs to be positively connected to the bent substructure with sufficient capacity to resist this horizontal shearing or sliding force. Note further in Fig 5.8b that the three girders on the ocean side of the span have zero friction resistance capacity due to the vertical forces at those locations being upward or zero. The two landside girders can resist some horizontal forces via friction; however not to a level of 169 kips. Thus shear lugs or shear bolts or equivalent will be needed at the superstructure girder-to-bent cap connection to safely transmit the 169 kip horizontal wave loading to the bridge substructure.

Note in Fig. 5.8a that the net vertical force on the span is almost zero and thus the span is very close to being lifted. Thus hold-down anchor bolts should be used but their size would be limited to prevent rigid body uplift. However, in looking at Fig. 5.8a we see that there is a net counterclockwise tipping moment about point "A" of approximately 5770 kip-ft that must be designed for to prevent rigid body rotation of the span about point "A". Looking at Fig. 5.8b, one can see that the most severe super-to-substructure connection will be at the ocean most girder where an uplift anchor force of 127.3 kips must be designed for as well as all of the 33.8 kip shear force (none will be resisted by friction at this location). As can be seen in Fig 5.8b, the girder-to-cap connection of the next most seaward girder will require an uplift anchorage of 63.3 kips and a bolt shear capacity of 33.8 kips. However, as stated in Chapter 4, only the two outer girders and the centerline girder are bolted to the bridge bent cap, and consequently, the second most seaward girder has no uplift or shear anchorage. Thus there is nothing to resist the 63.3 kip uplift and 33.8 kips shear forces shown in Figs. 5.5c and 5.8b on the second most

seaward girder. It should be noted that the forces on the second most landward girder can probably be resisted by direct bearing and friction even though it is not positively connected to the bent cap. Because of the missing girder-to-cap connection on the second most seaward girder, the forces on the most seaward girder-to-cap connection in Figs. 5.5c and 5.8b will be increased to approximately 143 kips vertically and 42.3 kips horizontally and the forces on the second most seaward girder connection will be zero. The connection at the most seaward girder location can probably resist the 42.3 kip horizontal shearing force; however, the 143 kip vertical force would probably fail the four horizontal 7/8" diameter cap screws (or the adjacent concrete) at that location (See Fig. 4.4). The four 1-1/4" diameter swedge bolts used to connect the most seaward girder to the bent cap would probably be adequate to resist the 143 kip vertical force. Also, the applied horizontal loading of 169.2 kips will be resisted by the total number of 1-1/4" diameter swedge bolts connecting the superstructure to the substructure, in this case, twelve bolts. These bolts have a shear capacity of  $\approx 43$  kips each as per AISC, giving a total shear resistance of 516 kips. This should be more than adequate to resist the horizontal wave induced loading. However, Figs. 2.30 and 2.31 in Chapter 2, which are for lower elevation ramp spans, speak to the inadequacy of the span girder-to-cap connections.

## 5.5 Response of I-10 Bridge Substructure to Hurricane Wave Plus Dead Loadings

Assuming that the superstructure is adequately connected to the substructure, the total loads sustained by the superstructure will be transferred to the substructure. For each bridge span, the vertical loads will be resisted by the total dead weight of the superstructure, one pile cap, and two piles. This is due to the bridge deck essentially being supported by half of a pile cap at each end since there are two span ends connected to each pile cap. The same effect is accounted for in the number of piles. Therefore, the total dead weight of the super and substructure to resist uplift is 1001.2 kips. This can be seen in Figure 5.9.



**Figure 5.9 Total Dead Weight of Super+Substructure Per Span**

The loadings on the substructure for each of the three cases of hurricanes were modeled in RISA 2-D using two different pile length models corresponding to the length above the mud-line plus 5 feet and 10 feet respectively below the mud-line to create a “fixed connection” for the piles. Substructure member forces were extracted from the RISA 2-D analyses and a general analysis of the pile cap and the piles was conducted to evaluate their performance during each hurricane. The RISA 2-D model results can be seen in Appendix D.

A general moment capacity of the pile cap was calculated in order to compare the results of the RISA model. This moment capacity was calculated as follows:

$$M_n = A_s f_y \left( d - \frac{a}{2} \right)$$

The reinforcing pattern and geometry for the pile caps is shown in Figure 4.5 and consists of nine (9) #11 reinforcing bars top and bottom. This corresponds to an  $A_s$  of 14.04 in<sup>2</sup>. Given a height of cap of 48”, a value of  $d$  is determined to be 44.3” based on an assumption of 3” cover as shown in the plans. The height of the compression block,  $a$ , was calculated using the following formula:

$$a = \frac{A_s f_y}{0.85 f'_c b}$$

Using a value of  $b$  equal to 48” to be conservative and a value of the compressive strength of the concrete,  $f'_c$ , to be 5000 psi, the height of the compression block is calculated to be 4.13”. Plugging these values into the moment equation above, the unfactored moment capacity of the pile cap is determined to be 2668.4 kip-feet.

The pile capacity for each scenario was checked by comparing stresses on the prestressed piles for cracking as well as the ultimate moment capacity of the section. ALDOT plans specify that each pile was prestressed with sixteen strands composed of 12-(0.192" diameter) wires prestressed to 140 ksi correlating to a compressive stress on the cross section of each pile of 862 psi. The moments taken from the model were then equated to bending stresses based on the equation  $My/I$ , with  $y$  being 27" and  $I$  being the gross moment of inertia of the cylindrical pile, 264648 in<sup>4</sup>. The moment capacity of the piles for each scenario was also checked by calculating the moment capacity for the prestressed piles by the same methods for the pile cap as above. The moment capacity for the piles was calculated to be 2263.8 kip-ft. Calculations can be seen in Appendix D. For each case, the maximum moments occurred in the piles when using a bent modeling length of pile of 10 feet below the mud-line, i.e., a pile length of 28'. The response of the substructure for each case is given below.

**Hurricane Frederic**

Fv = 109.1 kips  
 Fh = 0.0 kips  
 M = 1172.8 kip-ft

**Hurricane Katrina**

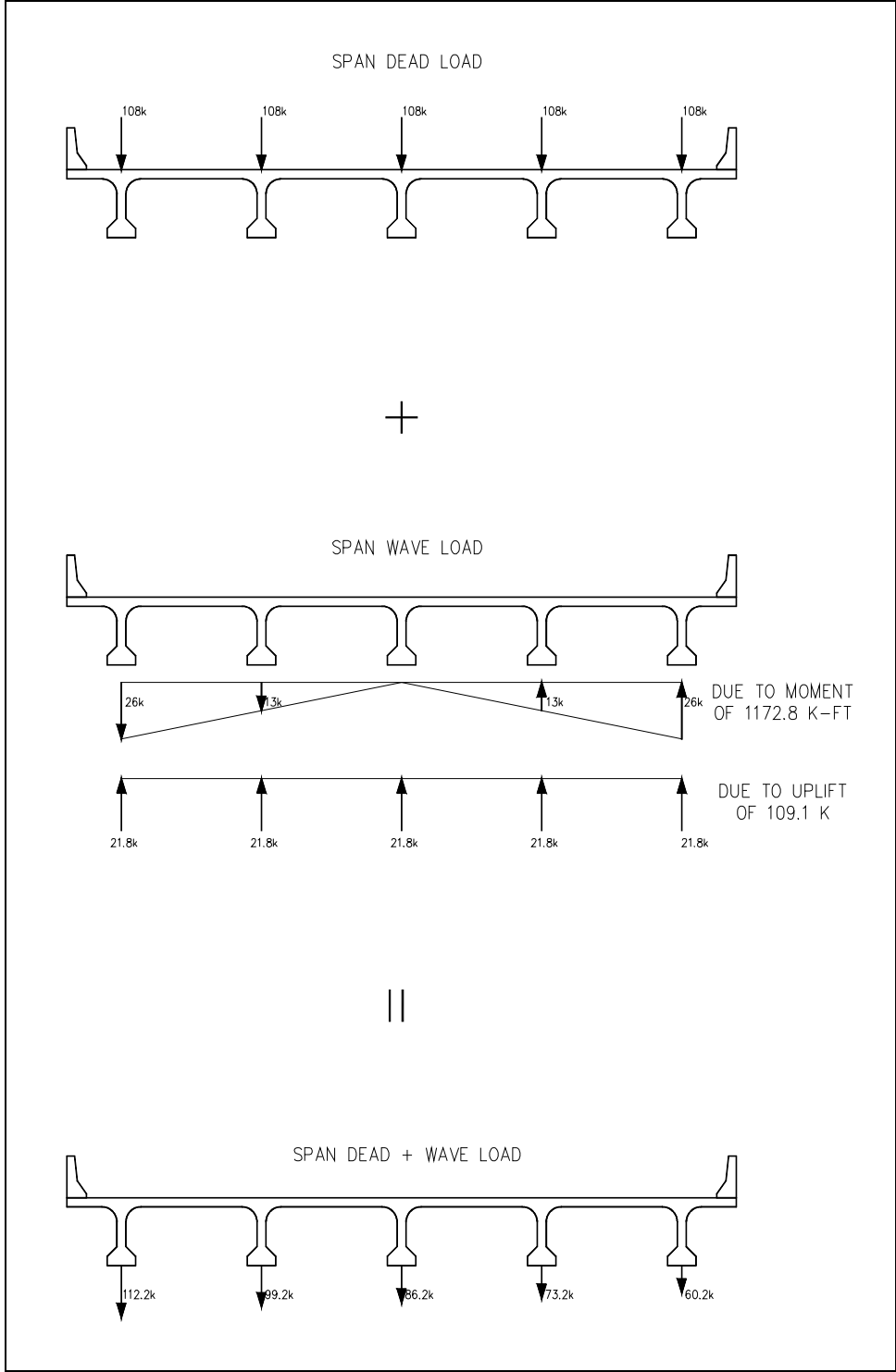
Fv = 171.7 kips  
 Fh = 0.0 kips  
 M = 1845.8 kip-ft

**Mock-Hurricane Katrina**

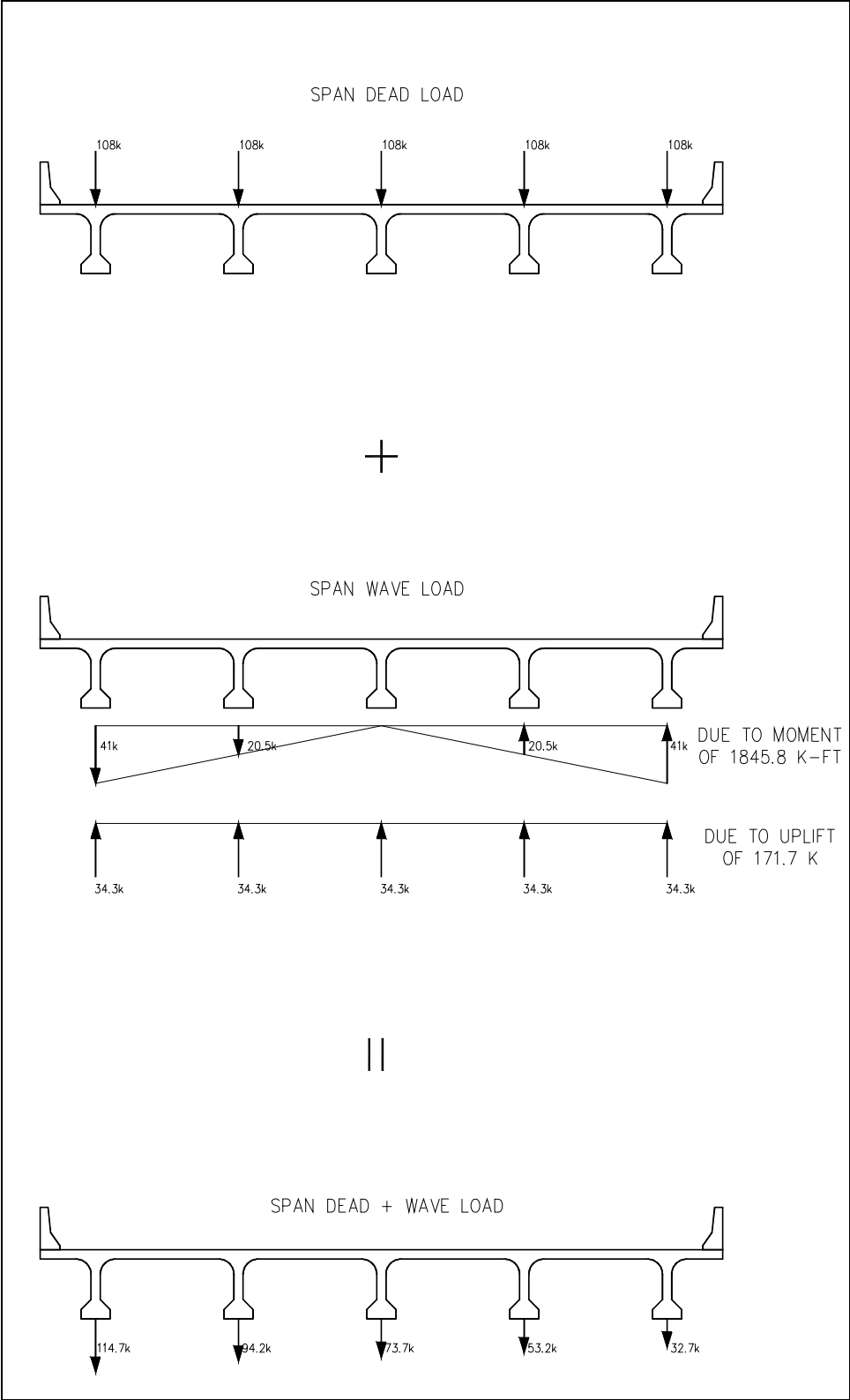
Fv = 536.6 kips  
 Fh = 169.2 kips  
 M = 5768.8 kip-ft

These loads are then imparted onto the substructure as repeated in Figures 5.10, 5.11, and 5.12 respectively.

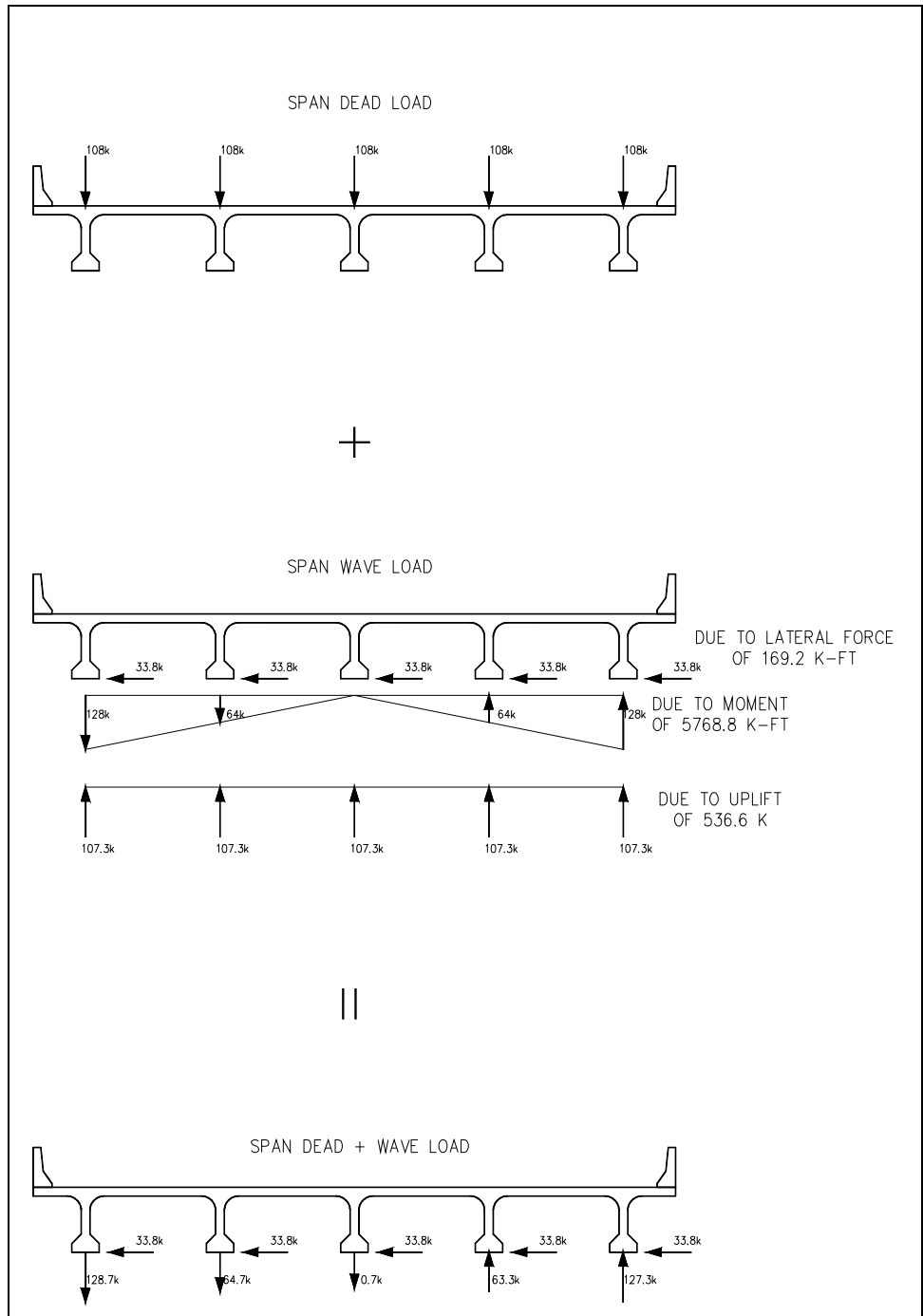




**Figure 5.10 Substructure Loading Due to Hurricane Frederic**



**Figure 5.11 Substructure Loading Due to Hurricane Katrina**



**Figure 5.12 Substructure Loading Due to Mock-Hurricane Katrina**

The maximum unfactored moment in the pile cap for the Hurricane Frederic case was determined to be 759.6 kip-feet. This value is much less than the moment capacity of 2668.4 kip-feet; therefore there will be no moment failure of the pile cap. The maximum unfactored moment and minimum axial force acting on the piles was calculated to be 42.4 kip-feet and 224 kips respectively. This corresponds to a maximum bending stress of 52 psi and compressive stress of 247 psi. Summing these values with their respective signs to the compressive stress of 862 psi yields compressive stresses of  $\approx 1161$  psi on the compressive face and  $\approx 1057$  psi on what would be the tensile face but this face would remain in compression throughout the storm event. The ultimate moment capacity of the piles, calculated to be 2263.8 kip-ft, far exceeds the demand of 42.4 kip-ft. These effects can be proven by the fact that there was no damage to the I-10 Bridge during Hurricane Frederic.

The maximum unfactored moment in the pile cap for the Hurricane Katrina case was determined to be 774.6 kip-feet. This value is much less than the moment capacity of 2668.4 kip-feet; therefore there will be no moment failure of the pile cap. The maximum unfactored moment and minimum axial force acting on the piles was calculated to be 65.6 kip-feet and 165.9 kips respectively. This corresponds to a maximum bending stress of 80 psi and compressive stress of 183 psi. Summing these values with their respective signs to the compressive stress of 862 psi yields compressive stresses of  $\approx 1126$  psi on the compressive face and  $\approx 966$  psi on what would be the tensile face but this face would remain in compression throughout the storm event. The ultimate moment capacity of the piles, calculated to be 2263.8 kip-ft, far exceeds the demand of

65.6 kip-ft. Again, these effects are consistent with the fact that there was no damage to the I-10 Bridge during Hurricane Katrina.

For the Mock-Katrina scenario, the maximum unfactored moment in the pile cap was determined to be 1642.2 kip-feet. This value is also less than the moment capacity of 2668.4 kip-feet; therefore there would be no moment failure of the pile cap. The maximum unfactored moment and minimum axial force acting on the piles was calculated to be 1629.8 kip-feet and 246.9 kips uplift respectively. This corresponds to a maximum bending stress of 1994 psi and tensile stress of 273 psi. Summing these values with their respective signs to the compressive stress of 862 psi yields compressive stresses of  $\approx 2583$  psi on the compressive face and  $\approx 1405$  psi on the tensile face. This tensile stress far exceeds the upper limit of  $12\sqrt{f'_c}$  (849 psi) for Class C prestressed concrete in ACI 318-05 Section 18.3.3. However, the ultimate moment capacity of the piles, calculated to be 2263.8 kip-ft, exceeds the moment demand of 1629.8 kip-ft. In this case the pile would be cracked but would not fail structurally. The cracking would allow saltwater to reach the strands but this one-time exposure should not create a corrosion problem.

## 5.6 Closure

When using the storm surge and wave height elevations given in Chapter 4, the Modified Douglass Equations were used to calculate the anticipated hurricane surge/surface wave forces on the I-10 Mobile Bay Bridge. The surge elevations were taken from post-hurricane records and the significant wave height was estimated based on a study done by OEA based on Hurricane Ivan's landfall near Pensacola, FL. It was decided to use 7.0' as this wave height for Case A and Case B based on the similarities between the Pensacola Bay Bridge site and the I-10 Mobile Bay Bridge site and the intensities of both hurricanes at landfall. The significant wave height for Case C was taken as 8.8' using the surge/wave height analysis performed by Douglass et al for the Biloxi Bay Bridge site during Hurricane Katrina on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005. These criteria were used in the Modified Douglass Equations and the following vertical, horizontal, and moment loadings were calculated for each of the three cases:

### Case A – Hurricane Frederic

$$\begin{aligned}F_v &= 109 \text{ kips} \\F_h &= 0 \text{ kips} \\M &= 1173 \text{ kip-ft}\end{aligned}$$

### Case B – Hurricane Katrina

$$\begin{aligned}F_v &= 172 \text{ kips} \\F_h &= 0 \text{ kips} \\M &= 1846 \text{ kip-ft}\end{aligned}$$

### Case C – Mock-Hurricane Katrina

$$\begin{aligned}F_v &= 537 \text{ kips} \\F_h &= 169 \text{ kips} \\M &= 5769 \text{ kip-ft}\end{aligned}$$

These loadings were then used to evaluate the response of the superstructure alone as well as the response of the superstructure/substructure acting monolithically to these applied uplift, lateral, and moment forces. The net loads acting on the structure were analyzed using RISA-2D modeling and these results were compared to the flexural analysis of the capacity of both the pile cap and the piles. The results were as follows:

**Hurricane Frederic:**

Pile Cap Flexural Capacity –	2668 kip-ft.
Pile Flexural Capacity –	2264 kip-ft.
Maximum Flexural Demand on Pile Cap –	760 kip-ft.
Maximum Flexural Demand on Pile –	42 kip-ft.
Maximum Stress on Pile –	1161 psi (Compression) 1057 psi (Compression)
Pile Bent Post-Storm Status -	Good
Superstructure Adequacy -	Good
Super-to-Substructure Connections -	Good

**Hurricane Katrina:**

Pile Cap Flexural Capacity –	2668 kip-ft.
Pile Flexural Capacity –	2264 kip-ft.
Maximum Flexural Demand on Pile Cap –	775 kip-ft.
Maximum Flexural Demand on Pile –	66 kip-ft.
Maximum Stress on Pile –	1126 psi (Compression) 966 psi (Compression)
Pile Bent Post-Storm Status -	Good
Superstructure Adequacy -	Good
Super-to-Substructure Connections -	Good

**Mock-Hurricane Katrina:**

Pile Cap Flexural Capacity –	2668 kip-ft.
Pile Flexural Capacity –	2264 kip-ft.
Maximum Flexural Demand on Pile Cap –	1642 kip-ft.
Maximum Flexural Demand on Pile –	1630 kip-ft.
Maximum Stress on Pile –	2583 psi (Compression) 1405 psi (Tension)
Pile Bent Status -	Piles crack during storm but are capable of supporting loads and cracks are closed by prestressing forces after the storm event.
Superstructure Adequacy -	Good
Super-to-Substructure Connections -	Not Adequate. Connections need to be improved.



## CHAPTER 6

### RETROFIT OPTIONS/ACTIONS FOR MOBILE BAY I-10 BRIDGE

#### 6.1 General

Since retrofitting is simply modifying an original design to enhance its performance, original and retrofit design philosophies, priorities and actions are very closely related. For coastal bridges, appropriate and recently recognized and widely being accepted design and/or retrofit priorities are as follows:

1. Do not allow bridge substructure components to fail or to be significantly damaged, i.e., damaged to a level of requiring after-the-storm strengthening or replacement.
2. Do not allow bridge superstructure to become disconnected from the substructure. Note, the superstructure may have some limited movement relative to the substructure.
3. Minimize the number of bridge superstructure spans requiring significant after-the-storm repairs and thus minimize after-the-storm lane closure time.

When retrofitting an existing coastal bridge to improve its performance during major hurricane events, an effective philosophy appears to be to retrofit to simultaneously achieve the following:

1. a reduced level of surge/surface wave forces on a span and/or on a support bent.
2. distribution of some of the reduced surge/surface wave forces on a span to adjacent bridge spans and bents.
3. superstructure-to-substructure connections which can yield/move/sustain damage, but not fail and thus not allow the bridge superstructure to slip-off, or be dumped into the bay/ocean.

Specific design and retrofit action to meet the above priorities and design philosophies for coastal bridges are presented in the following sections.

## **6.2 Typical Deck-Girder Coastal Bridge Design/Retrofit Options**

Design actions to render new coastal bridges adequate or safe for the high storm surge/surface waves associated with strong hurricanes (Category 4 and 5 hurricanes) should be as follows:

1. Elevate the superstructure so that storm peak surge level and surface waves do not impinge on the superstructure.
2. Near bridge ends, if highway grade elevations do not allow (1) above, have bridge end span cross-section geometry be such that air can not get

entrapped on the underside and the “aerodynamics” of the end span cross-section geometry be such that minimal uplift and horizontal forces will be developed from the storm surge/surface waves.

3. If (1) cannot be accomplished, then design all of the superstructure in the manner of (2) above.
4. If (1) cannot be accomplished, then make the bridge superstructure continuous for horizontal and vertical (downward and upward) loads in the regions where storm peak surge/surface waves do impinge on the superstructure.
5. If (1) cannot be accomplished, then make the bridge barrier rails be open rails, or be open in the regions where waves can impinge on the superstructure.
6. If (1) and/or (2) and (3) cannot be accomplished, then design adequate venting in all regions of the superstructure where air could possibly get entrapped.
7. If (1) cannot be accomplished, then design the superstructure to substructure connections to safely transmit the storm surge/surface wave forces.

8. If (1) cannot be accomplished, then design the bridge substructure to safely transmit the forces coming from the superstructure down to the supporting soil.

Design actions to retrofit existing coastal bridges, such as the I-10 Twin Bridges over Mobile Bay, to make them more resistant to the surge/surface waves of major hurricanes coming ashore should be as follows:

1. Vent the superstructure wherever air can get entrapped on the underside. Especially vent the region under the deck overhang on the seaward side via additional grated scupper openings, and the region in the most seaward girder-deck-girder cell.
2. Make the superstructure continuous for horizontal and vertical upward surge/surface wave forces via installation of 3” diameter shear pins in the span end diaphragms.
3. Connect superstructure to substructure in a positive manner via a combination of shear blocks, shear pins and strapping/cable tie-downs that will allow very limited superstructure movement and good connection ductility and energy absorption capacity. The positive connection needs to have adequate force capacity to transmit the calculated “sustained wave forces”, where sustained means 1 - 2

seconds or greater duration. The connection needs to also be able to transmit short duration (0.1 – 0.5 secs) forces or slamming forces at a diminished level via allowing some small relative movements between the super and substructures. This movement will allow energy dissipation, but it should not be a progressive movement.

4. Verify that the force capacity of the coastal bridge substructure can safely withstand the maximum “sustained wave forces” coming from the bridge superstructure. Slamming forces applied to the superstructure do not need to be considered in checking the substructure as they are of very short duration, and energy dissipation in the superstructure, the super-to-substructure connection, and in the substructure will be sufficient to render these forces harmless to the substructure. If the substructure does not have adequate force capacity, then modify the superstructure to reduce the maximum forces going to the substructure or strengthen the substructure.

Some interesting observations made when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in August 2005 regarding some of the above actions were made in NIST, 2006 and are presented below.

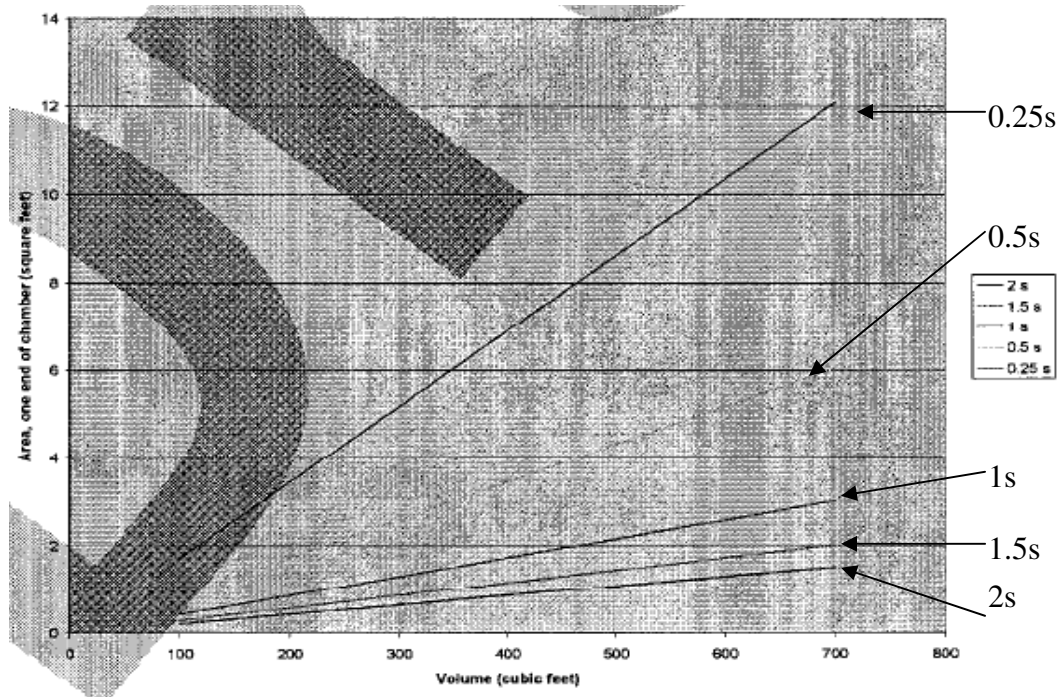
- At Lake Pontchartrain Bridge in Louisiana, 14,000 feet of parapet were broken off. This suggests that the use of a sacrificial parapet that would respond inward in a sacrificial manner while still providing the

proper traffic barrier resistance outward could reduce the amount of area exposed to the waves. This could also promote inundation which reduces the total wave force to be resisted.

- Calculated estimates on the effect of entrapped air on the vertical wave forces on the Lake Pontchartrain I-10 Bridge and the Escambia Bay I-10 Bridge in Florida have shown that the vertical force can be substantially reduced if the amount of air entrapped between the beams can be reduced. Calculations based on venting the cavities formed by beams and diaphragms on selected spans from those two bridges indicated that it was not practical to drill deck holes to vent air entrapped by waves. The use of large holes in concrete diaphragms, framed cross-frames and end diaphragms, or concrete partial depth diaphragms can create large openings which can be effective in venting entrapped air and allowing the exchange of trapped air between spans. Figure 6.1 shows the area of opening necessary to permit evacuation of a volume of air in one second, a time period short enough to represent wave attack. It should be noted that air venting equations and figures developed by the author for use in determining underneath bridge venting requirements are given in Appendix A.
- Continuous superstructures appear to have benefits due to the three-dimensionality of the waves because storm waves have finite crest lengths and the chance of multiple spans being struck by design waves

at the same time is small. Thus, the ability of the structure to resist vertical and horizontal forces are increased through continuous spans.

- The use of slab bridges may be especially appropriate for those spans that cannot be raised sufficiently to avoid wave forces such as those near the ends of bridges which have grade constraints.



**Fig. 6.1 Venting Area Required for Escape of Air of a Given Volume (Modjeski et al, 2007).**

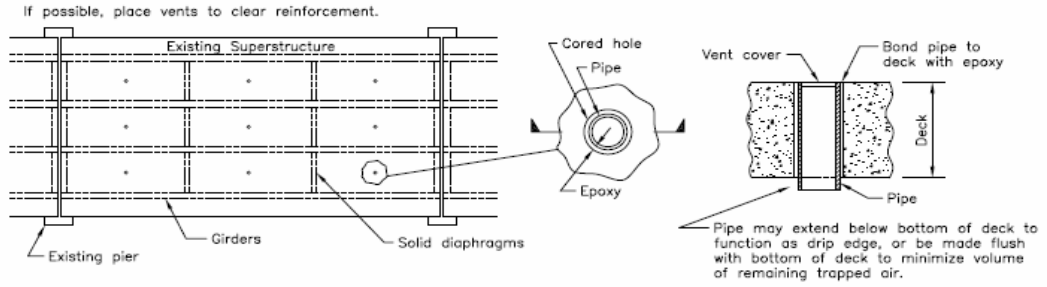
The AASHTO/FHWA and ten coastal state DOT's have an ongoing Pooled Fund Research Project underway entitled "Development of Guide Specifications for Bridges Vulnerable to Coastal Storms and Handbook of Retrofit Options for Bridges Vulnerable to Coastal Storms". The project contractor is Modjeski and Masters, Inc., and at this time

it appears that they have identified 30 – 40 retrofit options for coastal bridges. Some of the options would not be applicable to the I-10 Bridges over Mobile Bay and some, while applicable, are not too attractive. The most viable and attractive options for the I-10 Mobile Bay Bridges are actions to

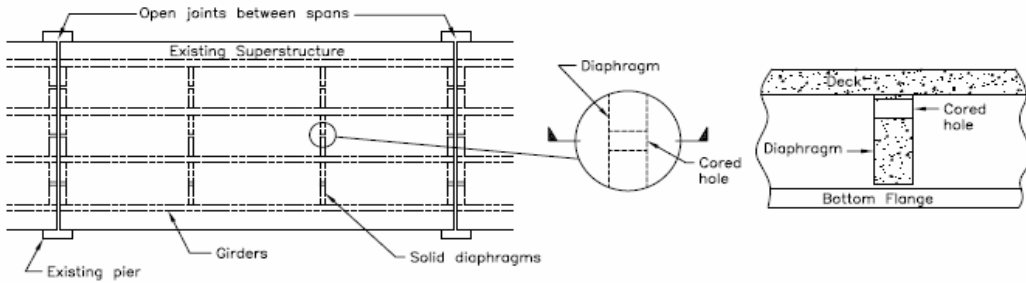
1. reduce buoyancy forces resulting from high peak storm surge elevations being higher than the bottom of span girder elevations, and from storm surface waves impinging on the bridge superstructure.
2. reduce surface wave hydrodynamic forces on the bridge superstructure.
3. reduce forces on bridge super-to-substructure connections and on the bridge substructure components via connection of simply supported spans to adjacent spans.
4. increase the vertical holdown and lateral force capacity of super-to-substructure connections
5. increase the ductility, control the limits of relative movement, and maintain the connectivity of bridge super-to-substructure connections.

These options are briefly summarized in Figs. 6.2 – 6.8 below:

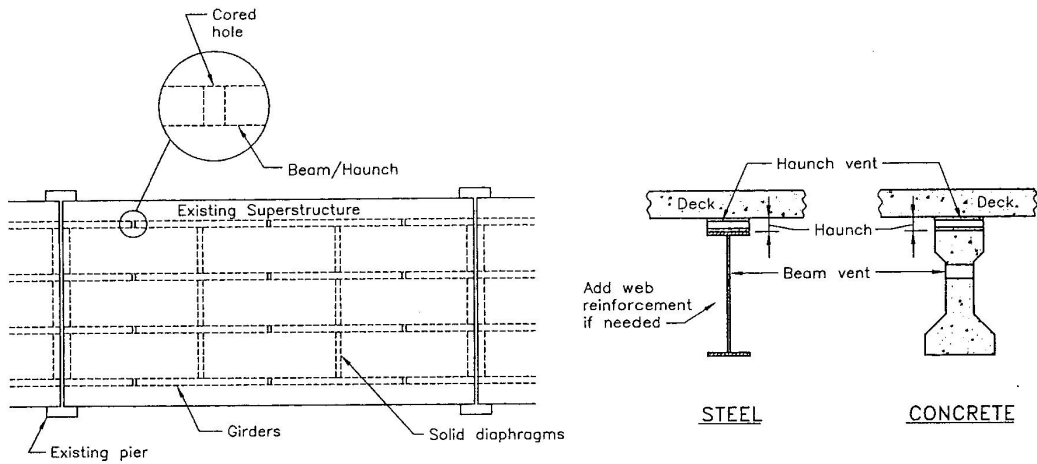




a. Cored Deck Vents

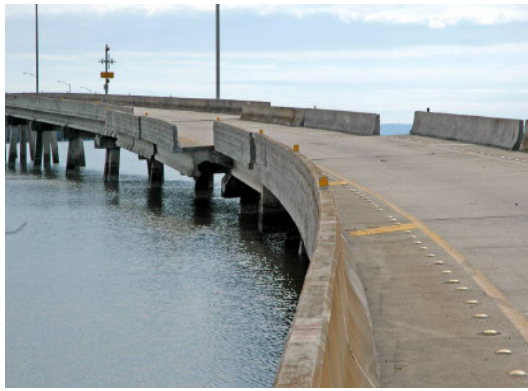


b. Diaphragm Vents

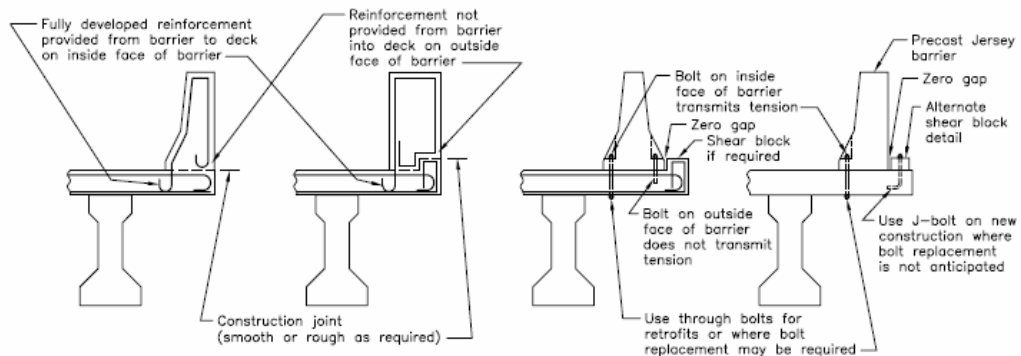


c. Girder/Haunch Vents

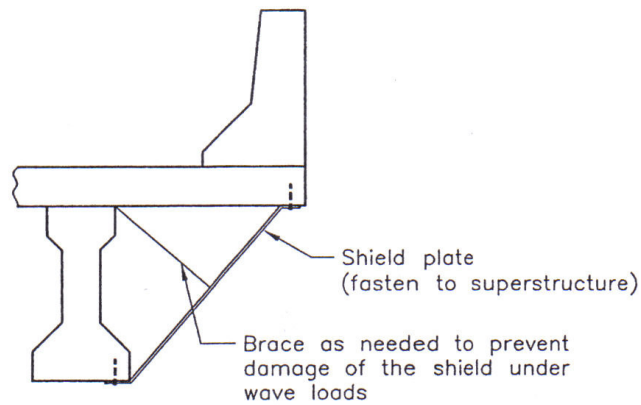
**Fig. 6.2 Retrofit Actions to Reduce Buoyancy Forces on Superstructure-Venting**



a. Replace Solid Barrier with Open Barrier (Photos not in Modjeski and Masters Report)

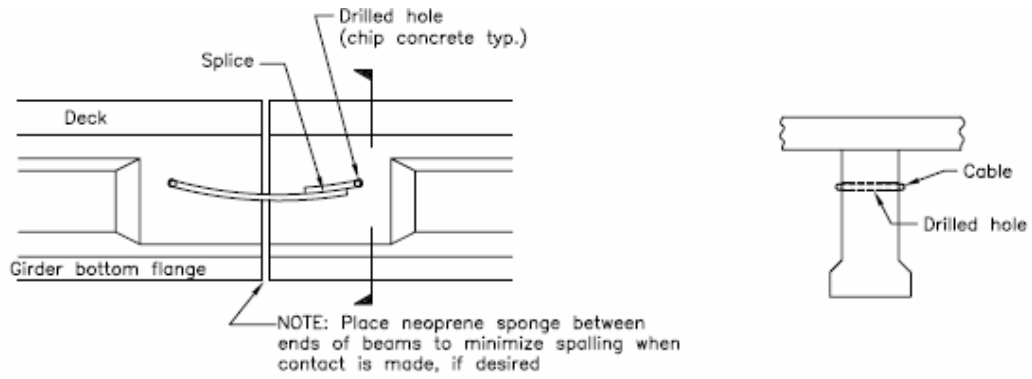


b. Break-Away Barrier

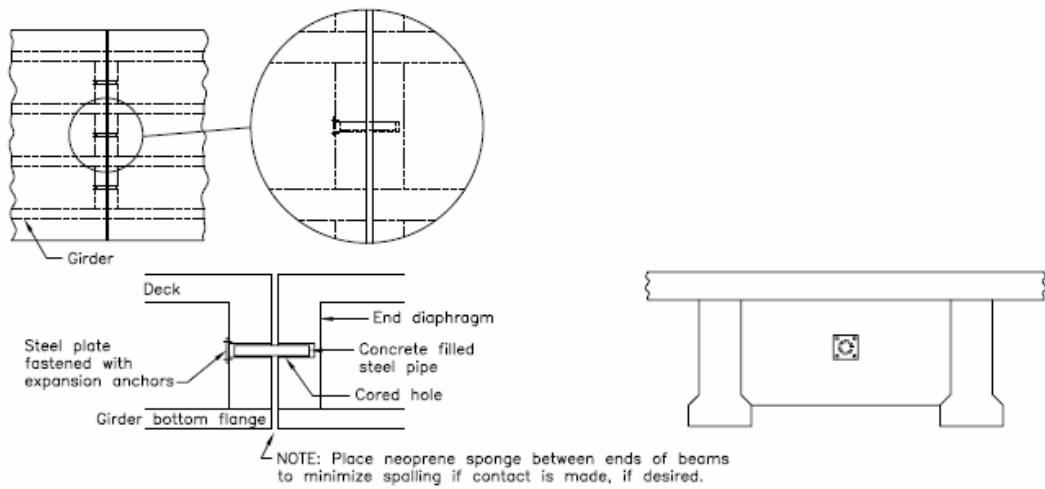


c. Overhang Shield

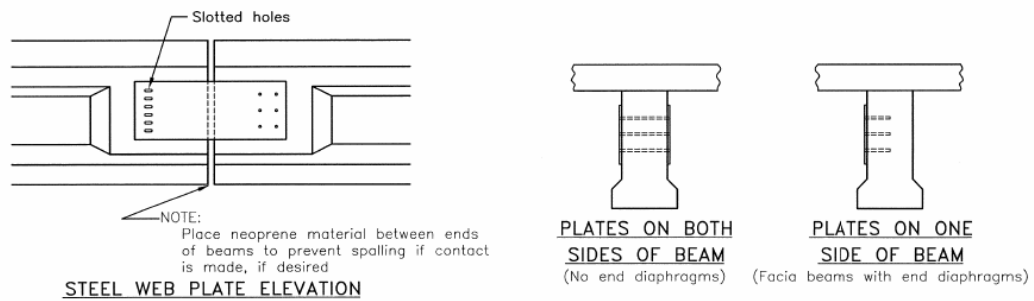
**Fig. 6.3 Retrofit Actions to Reduce Wave Forces on Superstructure**



a. Girder to Girder Cable Ties

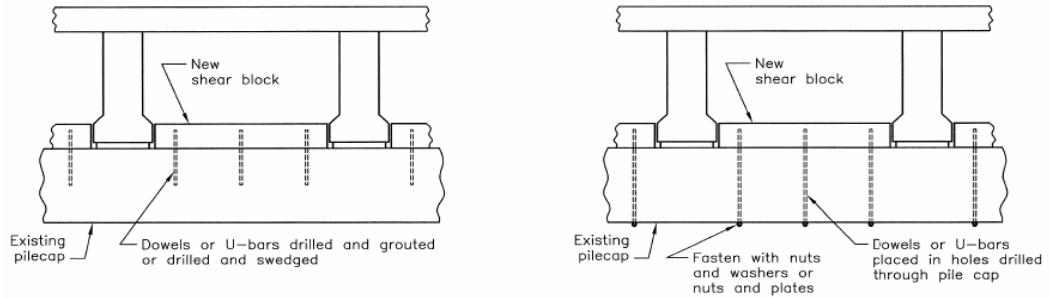


b. End Diaphragm Shear Pins

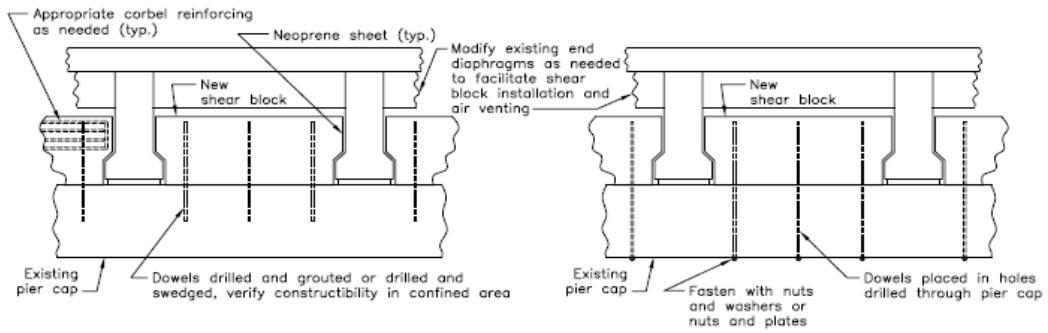


c. Girder Steel Web Plates

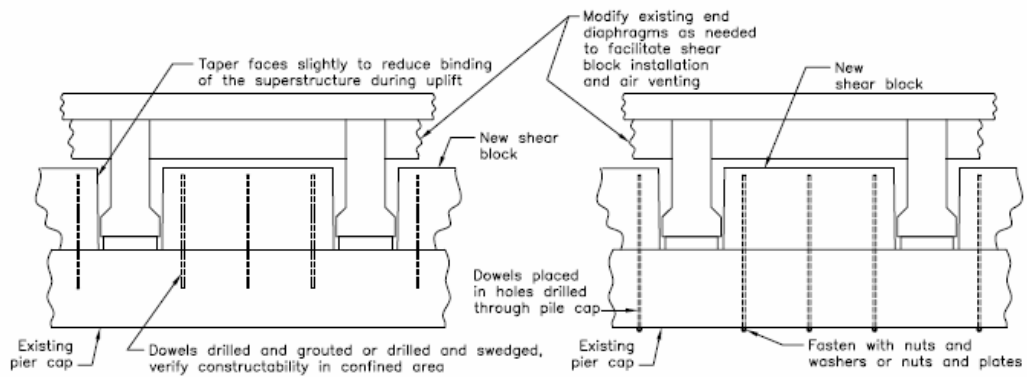
**Fig. 6.4 Retrofit Actions to Reduce Forces on Super-to-Sub Connections and on Bents – Tie SS Spans Together**



a. Low-Shear Blocks

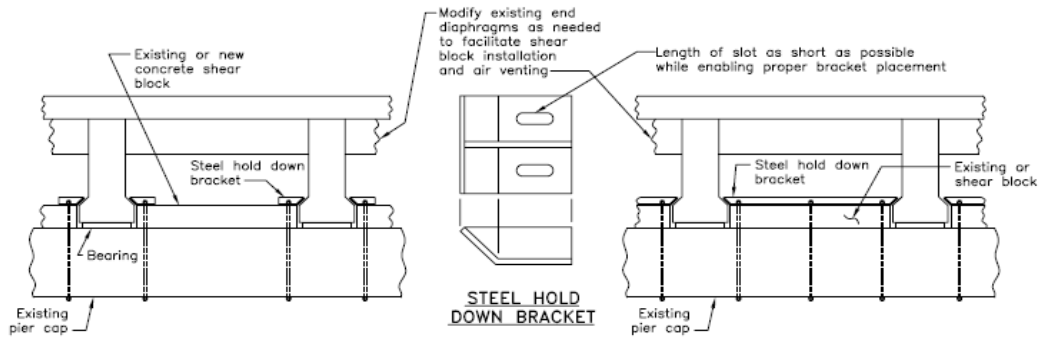


b. High Shear Blocks with Protrusions

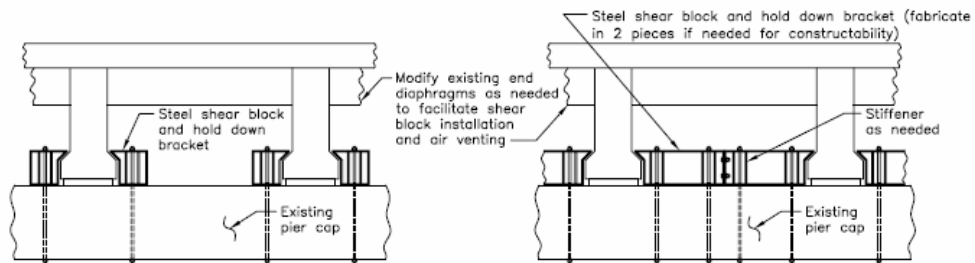
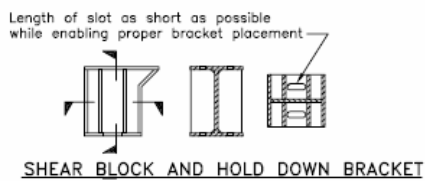


c. High Shear Blocks without Protrusions

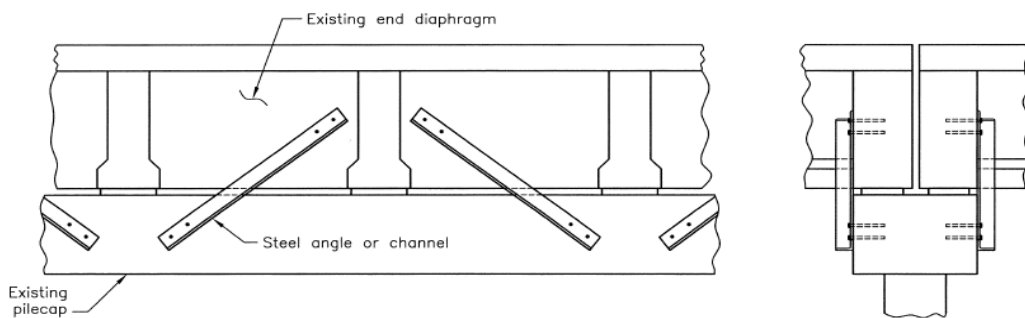
**Fig. 6.5 Retrofit Actions to Improve Bridge Span-to-Bent Connections Via Concrete Shear Blocks**



a. Concrete Shear Blocks with Steel Hold-Downs

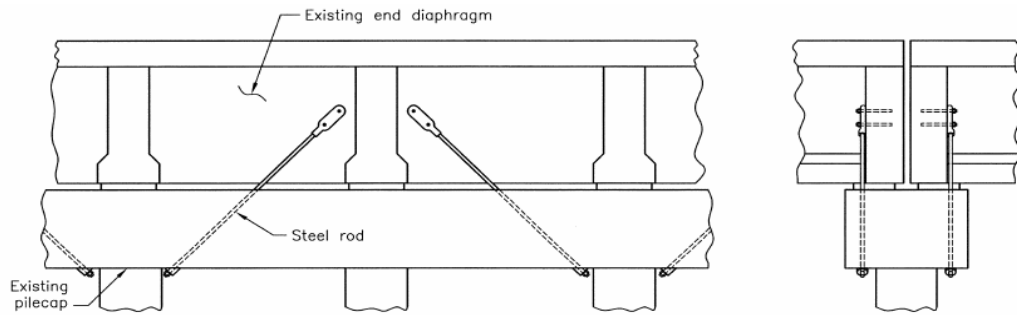


b. Steel Shear Blocks and Hold-Downs

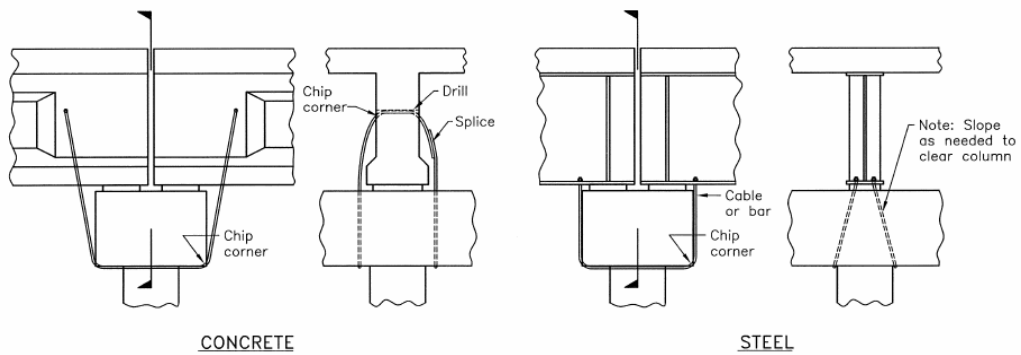


c. Steel Angles/Channels

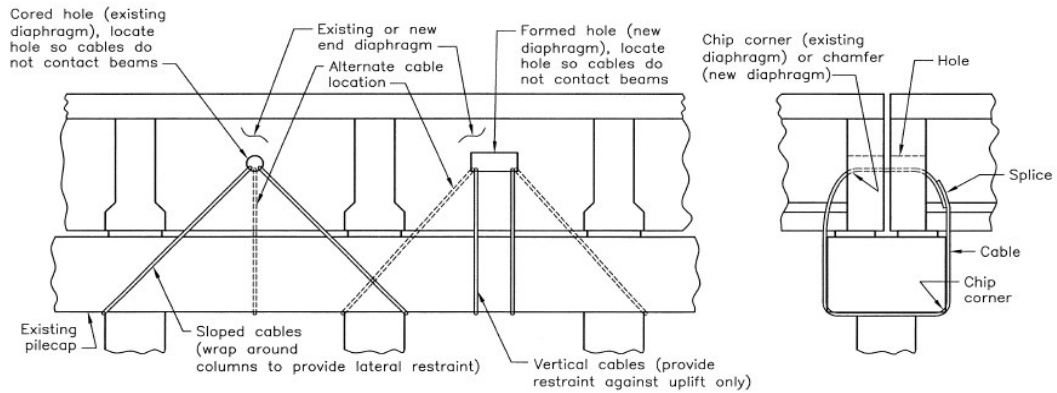
**Fig. 6.6 Retrofit Actions to Improve Bridge Span-to-Bent Connections Via Steel Shear Blocks and Angles**



a. Steel Bars

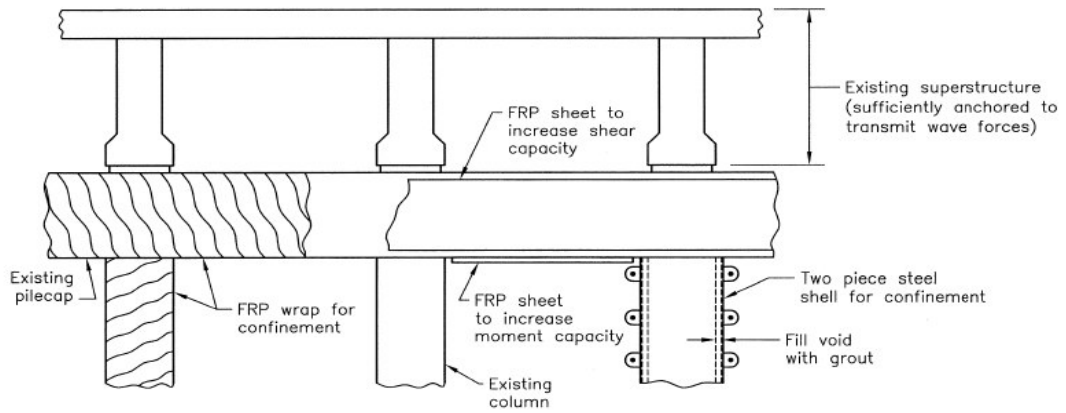


b. Straps or Cables Through Girders

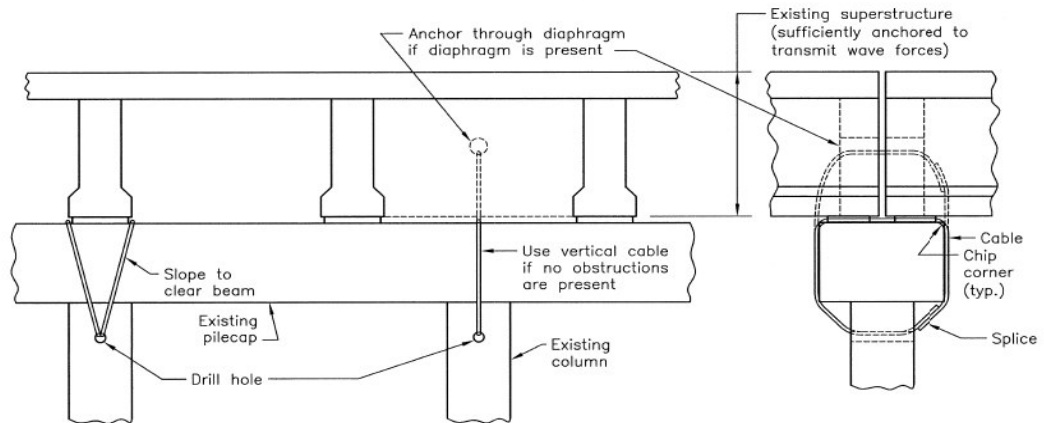


c. Straps or Cables Through Diaphragms

**Fig. 6.7 Retrofit Actions to Improve Bridge Span-to-Bent Connections Via Steel Bars, Cables, Straps**



a. Strengthen Pile Bent Components



b. Strengthen Cap-to-Pile Connection or Anchor Superstructure Directly to Piles

**Fig. 6.8 Retrofit Actions to Strengthen Existing Substructure Via Strengthening Pile Cap/Top of Pile/Pile-to-Cap Connection**

### **6.3 Viable Retrofit Options for I-10 Twin Bridges Over Mobile Bay**

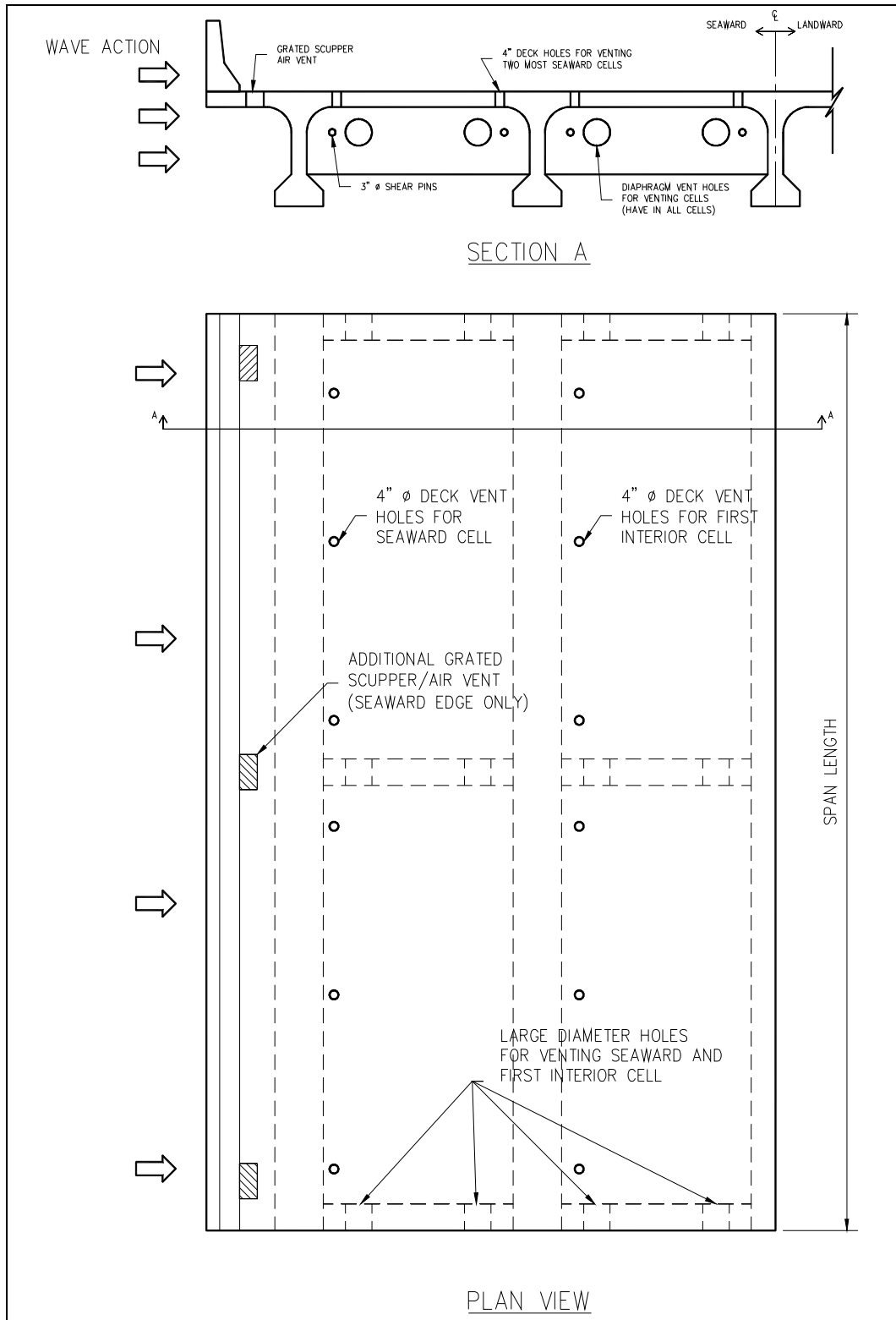
Listed below are retrofit options that the author feels are the most viable, practical, and effective for initial consideration for use for the I-10 twin bridges over Mobile Bay. These are the options that the author initially identified as the most viable and that should be examined more closely to estimate their bridge performance benefits, ease/difficulty in implementing, and costs, if it was later determined that major retrofitting of the I-10 Twin Bridges was needed. The final recommended retrofit actions for the I-10 Bridges are presented in Chapter 7.

Retrofit options:

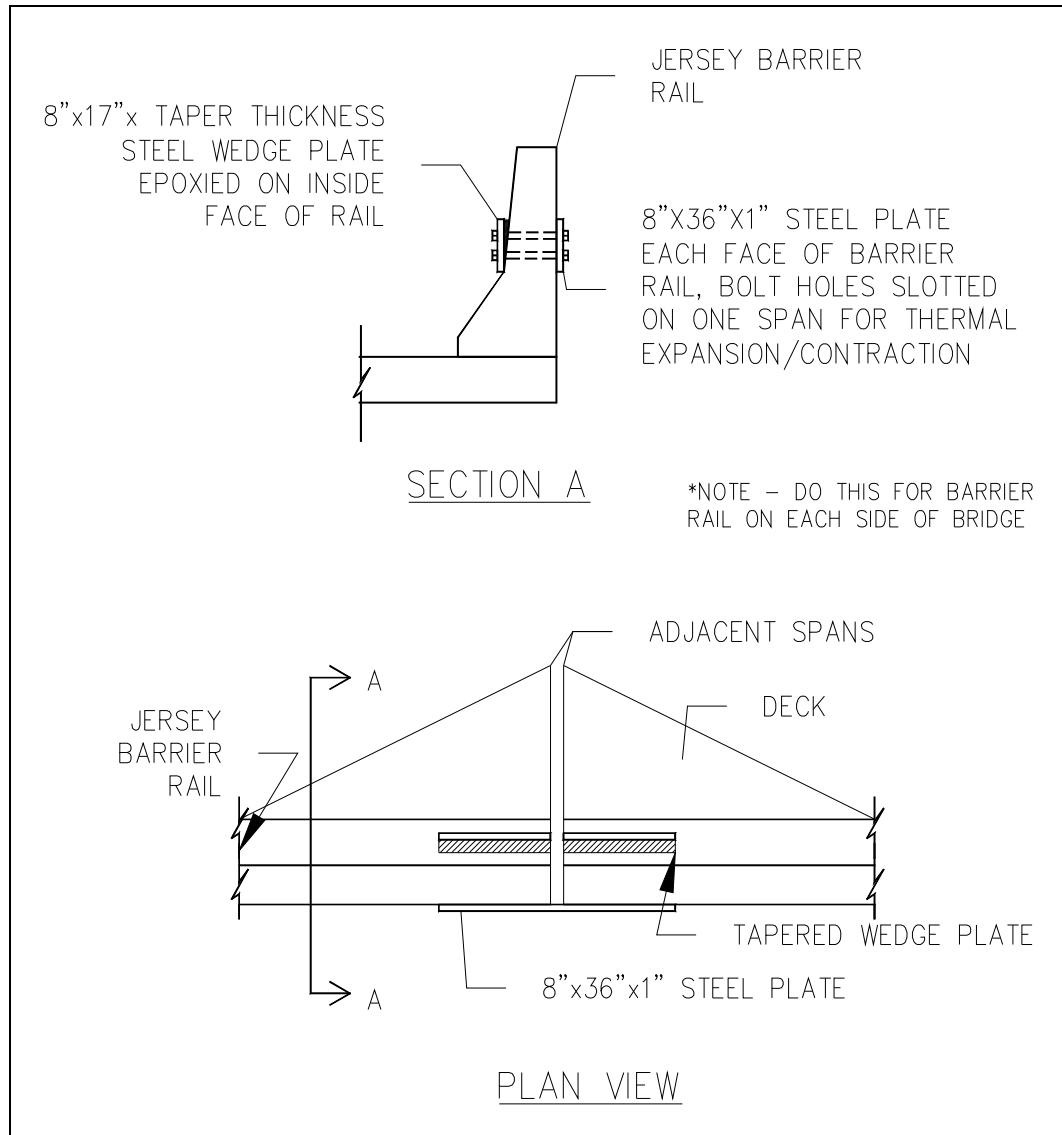
- Selective weakening of Jersey barriers on seaward side to have them fail inward under high wave loadings. This will reduce vertical projection of the bridge and thus the horizontal forces, and it will allow water to spill onto the deck and reduce the vertical buoyant forces.
- Improve venting of underneath regions of bridge superstructure to reduce buoyant forces. Do this via selective deck coring and the creation of large holes in span end diaphragms to allow exchange of trapped air between spans (see Fig. 6.9).



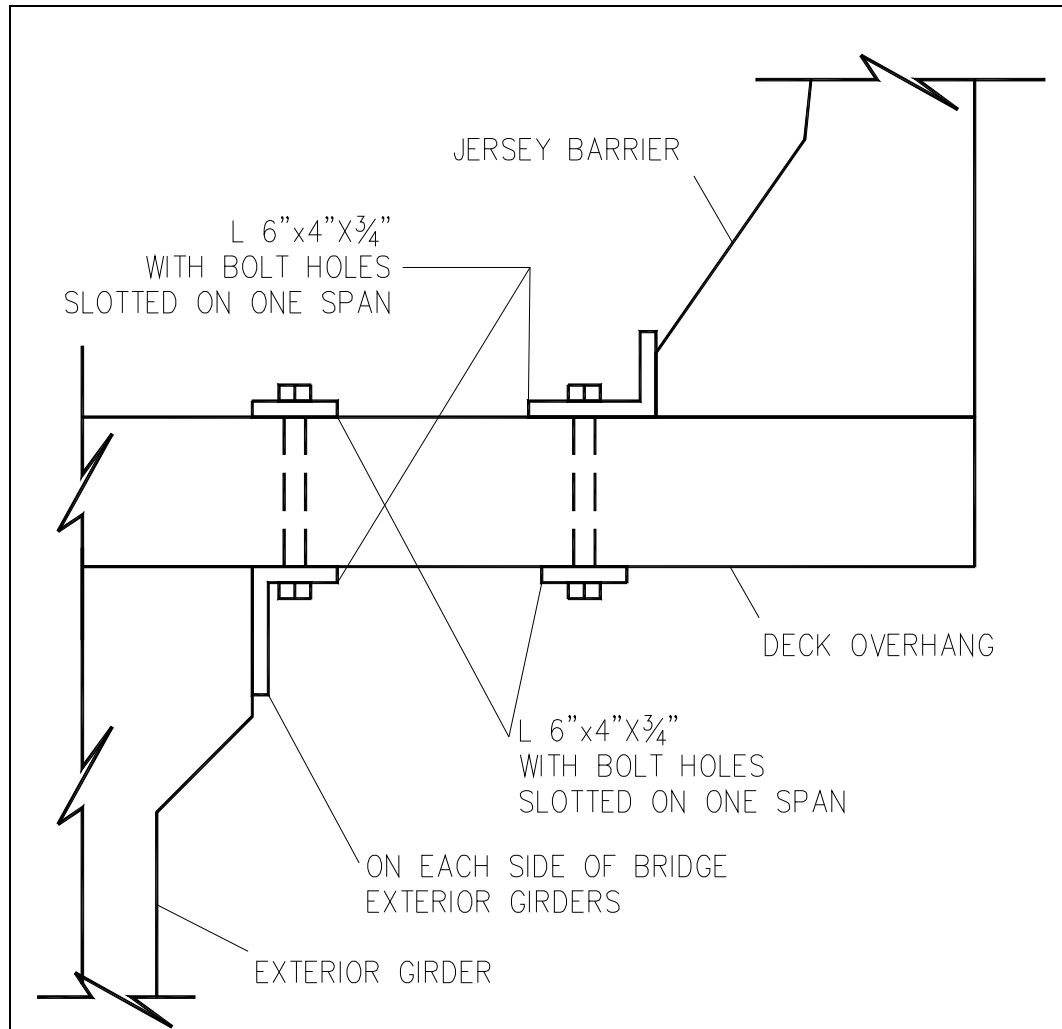
- Use large grated deck edge (even if water drainage is on the other edge of deck) to allow enhanced venting of deck overhang portion of bridge (see Fig. 6.9). Note that this region is almost self venting in the longitudinal direction.
- Install two solid shear pins in span end diaphragms (probably two 3” diameter pins per diaphragm) to render the bridge continuous for wave uplift and lateral forces to increase the reactive force capacity of individual spans (see Fig. 6.9 – Section A).
- Install span connection plates and/or angle irons as shown in Figs. 6.10 and 6.11 to render the bridge continuous for wave uplift and lateral forces and thereby increase the reactive force capacity of individual spans and reduce the maximum forces on span to bent cap connections and on a given bridge bent.
- Install cable ties as indicated in Figure 6.12 tying span ends to the bent cap as a belt-and-suspenders philosophy along with the shear pins to provide greater ductility and energy absorption capacity to the span-to-bent connection.



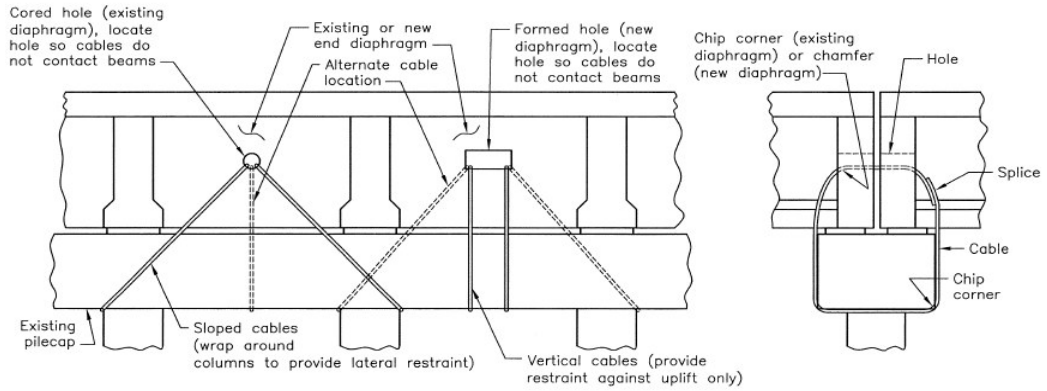
**Fig. 6.9 Superstructure Partial Venting Plan to Reduce Buoyant and Slamming Forces**



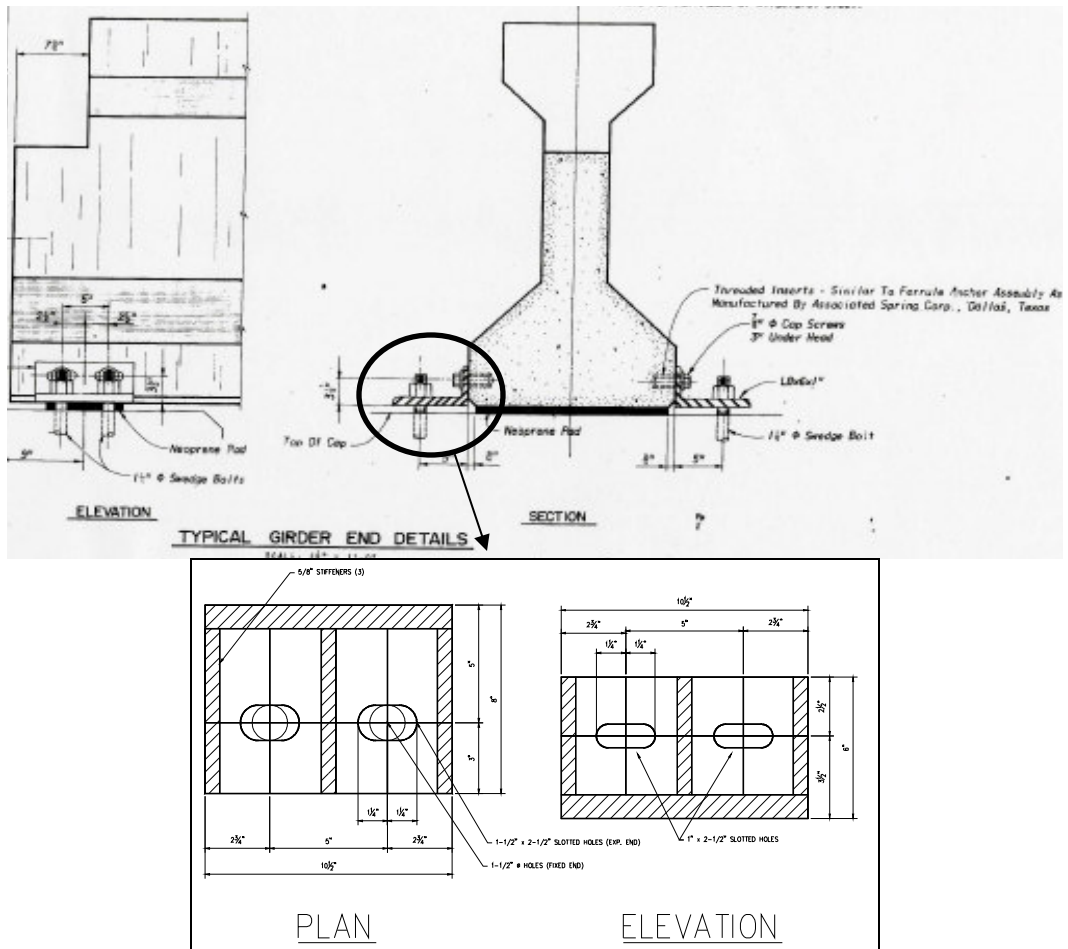
**Fig. 6.10 Detail Showing Jersey Barrier Rail Connection to Transmit Vertical and Transverse Shear Forces to Adjacent Spans**



**Fig. 6.11 Partial Section Showing Connecting of Spans at Exterior Girders and Barrier Rails to Transmit Vertical and Transverse Shear Forces to Adjacent Span**



**Fig. 6.12 Tie Superstructure to Substructure Via Straps or Cables Through Diaphragms**



**Fig. 6.13 Stiffen Angle Iron Connection to Act as Shear Lugs Via Adding Stiffeners**

It should be noted that if ALDOT desires to retrofit the I-10 bridge to resist a Mock-Katrina Hurricane loading, one only needs to study the photos of Figs. 2.30 and 2.31, which are of a lower elevation Mobile Bay I-10 ramp span after Hurricane Katrina, to see the inadequacy of the current I-10 span connections if Katrina had directly hit the bridge spans. Note in these photos the failure of the girder concrete below the horizontal cap screws and the bending over of the swedge bolts and connection angle iron. Thus, for the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge to survive a direct hit by a Katrina size hurricane, the superstructure-to-substructure connection should be strengthened via

- a. The addition of stiffened angle iron connections to the second most seaward girder to the bent cap in the same manner as the present three girder connections (it may be good to also add connections to the second most landward girder but this is not essential),
- b. Stiffen the angle iron connections by adding stiffeners as indicated in Fig. 6.13 so that they will act as horizontal shear lugs in resisting horizontal loading and movement,
- c. Add two cable ties tying the superstructure end diaphragms to the bent cap at each end of each span as indicated in Fig. 6.12.

#### **6.4 Mount Pole and Bracket Supports for VSE Equipment on I-10 Ramp**

Mount video surveillance camera and equipment (VSE) at two select locations on the I-10 bridge ramp at the north end of Mobile Bay to capture hurricane surge/surface waves approaching, inundating (or partially inundating), and moving/displacing spans of the ramp superstructure (see Fig. 6.14). Prior to hurricane season, identify the two select locations for mounting of the VSE and construct a pole/shelf/bracket for later mounting the VSE's. Later, when the NWS declares that there is a high probability of a significant size hurricane (Category 3, 4, or 5) making landfall near Mobile, ALDOT should contact the VSE provider (such as OxBlue ARM Systems) to come and install two of their wireless construction webcams (see Appendix A) at the two prepared stations. This contact should be made 1-2 days prior to the hurricane making landfall. The webcam system provides high resolution images taken every 1 or 2 minutes from the site, and these are uploaded onto an OxBlue server that can be accessed by personnel for review. The OxBlue Construction Webcam System includes all hardware, software, and services.

The webcam system images can provide design information related to,

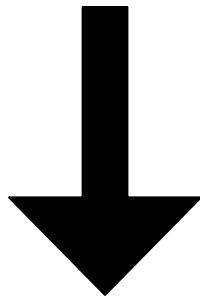
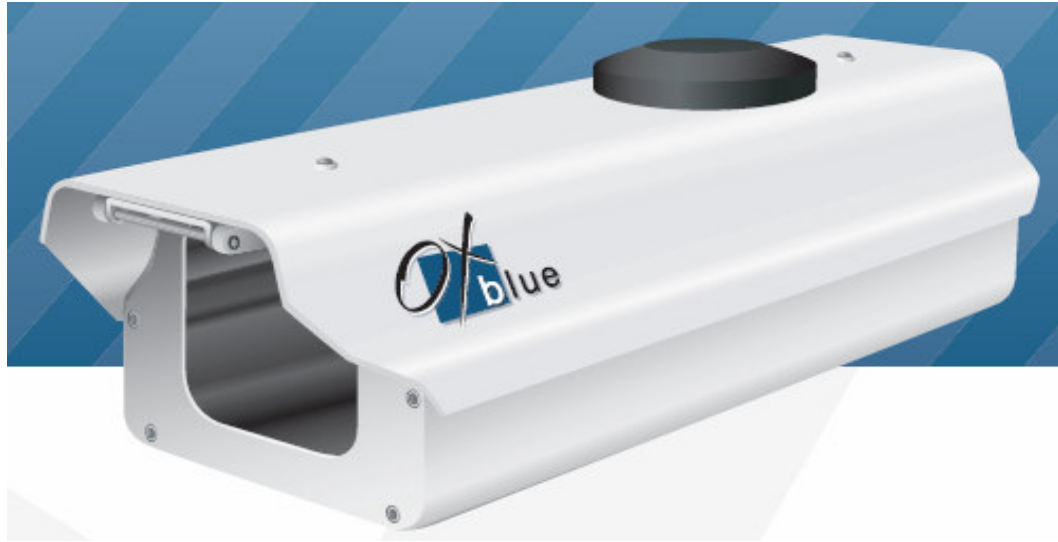
- the hurricane surge/surface wave forces (magnitudes and locations)
- the rate of surge wave height build-up
- the significant wave height of surface waves
- the wave length of significant surface waves relative to that of the bridge superstructure width

- the feasibility of venting or partially venting the underside of the bridge superstructure
- the wave height relative to that of the bridge superstructure when the superstructure begins to move/displace
- the wave height (relative to the span height) when spans actually fail or are lifted/pushed from their support bents
- the time and wave height sequence of failure of bridge ramp spans

The above information can in turn be used to design a retrofit underside venting system and a superstructure tie-down (to substructure) system to help prevent the loss/significant damage to coastal bridges in future hurricanes.

The wireless construction webcams should be removed from their bridge site stations after the hurricane and stored for the next major hurricane event. After recording the landfalling of several major hurricanes at the site, ALDOT may choose to dispense with such recordings for future hurricanes.





**Fig. 6.14 Video Surveillance Webcam and Equipment (OxBlue, 2007).**

## 6.5 Closure

As indicated in Chapter 5, based on the facts that the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridges are 33 years old, have never experienced hurricane surge/surface wave elevations to the level of the bridge superstructure, and are at a site that has never experienced water elevations to the level of the bridge superstructure, it is recommended that only minimal retrofit actions be taken at this time for these bridges. These actions include:

1. Tying adjacent spans together longitudinally to allow spans to better distribute wave loads to adjacent spans and bents. Ties should have good ductility.
2. Tying spans to the bent caps and/or piles to better transmit vertical and horizontal surge/surface wave forces. Ties should be ductile.
3. Performing select superstructure coring on the south side of each bridge to allow greater venting and reduce uplift hydrostatic/buoyant forces and possible slamming forces.
4. Making all ramp spans continuous for uplift and transverse horizontal forces and tied together for longitudinal forces. The ties should allow for thermal expansion/contraction in the longitudinal direction and should have good ductility.
5. Venting ramp spans (longitudinally and vertically through the deck on the south overhang and southernmost cavity) to reduce hydrostatic/buoyant forces and possible slamming forces on these spans.

6. Install two video surveillance cameras (VSEs) at two select locations on the I-10 bridge ramp to capture actual hurricane surge/surface wave sea states and the responses of I-10 spans to these sea states. In turn, this will allow for the design of better future bridge retrofit systems, better future replacement, and new coastal bridges.

## CHAPTER 7

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 7.1 General

Determining what is the appropriate design hurricane sea state at the I-10 bridges across the north end of Mobile Bay and the surge/surface wave forces that this sea state would apply to the bridge superstructure and substructure was the purpose of this research. To assist in doing this, we attempted to locate some video footage of past hurricane surge/surface waves approaching, inundating, and displacing one or more coastal bridges. Unfortunately this attempt was in vain. Thus, the investigation was limited to a review of the literature, discussions with state DOT bridge engineers, discussions with coastal engineering researchers, etc. to determine the mode and sequence of failure of coastal bridges as hurricane surge/surface waves pass through these bridges. Using these same sources of information, a design hurricane sea state and its associated design storm surge/surface wave forces were estimated for the I-10 bridges. An analytical assessment of the adequacy of the as-is I-10 Mobile Bay Bridge as well as an appropriately retrofitted I-10 bridge for the estimated design hurricane passing directly through the bridge was performed. Conclusions and recommendations resulting from the investigation are presented below.

## 7.2 Conclusions

Over the past few years, it has become apparent that there is a need to design/retrofit coastal bridges for possible loadings from hurricane storm/surge waves. Unfortunately, there are no well defined procedures or equations for calculating these forces. Of the many design options for new coastal bridges, the most obvious option is to elevate the superstructure to an elevation higher than the estimated maximum sea state associated with a design hurricane. But for the many existing bridges along the nation's coast, there is a need for quantifying hurricane storm/surge wave forces that may eventually act on the bridge super/substructures.

Through this research, eight different methods/equations for quantifying wave loadings on various structures were identified and analyzed in order to evaluate their applicability to coastal bridges. These methods/equations included:

- Corps of Engineers Coastal Design Manual – Unbroken Wave Equation
- Corps of Engineers Coastal Design Manual – Broken Wave Equation
- Corps of Engineers Coastal Design Manual – Breaking Wave Equation
- FEMA Coastal Construction Manual Breaking Wave Load Equations
- McConnell et al. Equations from Laboratory Wave Flume Testing
- Douglass et al. Bridge-Specific Simplification of McConnell's Equations
- Modified Douglass et al. Equations as per Ramey and Sawyer
- AASHTO/FHWA Pooled Fund Equations

and were applied to an example bridge problem in the body of this paper. It was found that an upper limit could be placed on wave loadings by using the most conservative approach for loadings in each direction, vertical and horizontal. In this case, the

Douglass et al. Equations yielded the maximum vertical loading on a bridge superstructure, whereas the Corps of Engineers-Breaking Wave Equations yielded the maximum horizontal loading on a bridge superstructure. It was then recommended that these forces be considered to act simultaneously in order to insure an upper limit. However, both of the above equations appeared to be overly conservative. The Douglass et al vertical force equation was felt to be too conservative based on the fact that it assumes the vertical wave pressures act on the full width of the bridge, and the Corps of Engineers Breaking Wave horizontal force equation based on the fact that it assumes a maximum height wave breaks against the side of the bridge as if it were a seawall with no place for the breaking water to escape, which would not be the case for a coastal bridge elevated above the mud-line. Also, these forces are not going to act simultaneously.

The Douglass et al. equations were felt to be the most applicable to coastal bridges, but were still felt to be overly conservative. This led to the development of the Modified Douglass et al. equations as per Ramey and Sawyer. This set of equations reduced the amount of load that the bridge would feel by applying a scenario that would be more likely of wave action passing through the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge. The vertical wave pressures are assumed to only act on half of the bridge width for bridges over 20 feet wide and the total bridge width for bridges with widths of 20 feet and less. This reflects more realistically what would happen when a wave passes through a coastal bridge. The horizontal pressures were reduced by cutting off the height of the wave at the top of the guardrail. Any wave higher than the guardrail would overtop the guardrail and apply a stabilizing additional downward load on the superstructure. The Modified Douglass et al. Equations are as follows:

Vertical Wave Force:

$$F_v = c_v^{mc} F_v^*$$

where,  $c_v^{mc}$  = an empirical coefficient from McConnell's work

$$c_v^{mc} \approx 1.0$$

$$F_v^* = \gamma(\Delta z_v)A_v$$

where  $\Delta z_v$  = difference between the elevation of the crest of the maximum wave and the elevation of the bottom of the end diaphragms (to be taken as 1 ft. higher than the bottom of the girders)

or,

the difference between the elevation of the top of the solid portion of the guardrail and the bottom of the end diaphragms (to be taken as 1 ft. higher than the bottom of the girders)

whichever is smaller.

$$\eta_{\max} = 0.78H_{\max} = 0.78 \times 1.4 \times H_s = 1.1H_s$$

$$A_v = \text{bridge span length} \times \frac{\text{bridge width}}{2} \quad (\text{for widths} > 20 \text{ ft})$$

$$A_v = \text{bridge span length} \times \text{bridge width} \quad (\text{for widths} \leq 20 \text{ ft})$$

Horizontal Wave Force:

$$F_h = \left[ 1 + c_r \frac{(N-1)}{2} \right] c_h^{mc} F_h^*$$

where,  $c_r$  = a reduction coefficient for reduced horizontal load on half of the girders beyond the seaward girder.

$$c_r \approx 0.33$$

$N$  = the number of span girders

$c_h^{mc}$  = an empirical coefficient from McConnell's work

$$F_h^* = \gamma(\Delta z_h) A_h$$

where  $\Delta z_h$  = the difference between the elevation of the crest of the maximum wave and the elevation of the centroid of  $A_h$ .

or,

the difference between the elevation of the top of the solid portion of the guard rail and the elevation of the centroid of  $A_h$ .

whichever is smaller

$$\eta_{\max} = 0.78H_{\max} = 0.78 \times 1.4 \times H_s = 1.1H_s$$

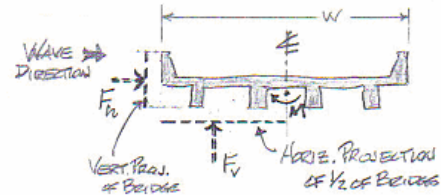
$A_h$  = the bridge span length  $\times$  the vertical projection of the superstructure from the girder bottoms up to the top of the solid portion of the guard rail



Moment from Wave:

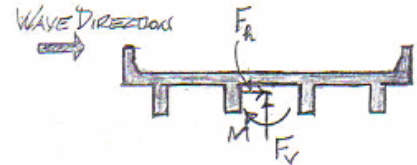
We will neglect any contribution to moment from the horizontal wave force component and consider only the vertical component.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= F_v \times \frac{w/2}{2} \\ M &= F_v \times \frac{w}{4} \\ M &= 0 \text{ (for } w \leq 20 \text{ ft)} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ (for } w > 20 \text{ ft)}$$



Resultant Wave Forces:

The resultant of the above wave forces are shown on the figure at the right, where



$$F_v = c_v^{mc} \times \gamma \times \Delta z_v \times A_v$$

$$F_h = \left[ 1 + c_r \left( \frac{N-1}{2} \right) c_h^{mc} \times \gamma \times \Delta z_h \times A_h \right]$$

$$M = F_v \times \frac{\text{Bridge Width}}{4}$$

It was decided to employ these equations for determining the design hurricane surface/surge wave forces on the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge.

The design sea state for determining these forces was developed by comparing the known sea states from hurricanes that had directly affected Mobile Bay in the past, namely Hurricanes Frederic and Katrina. A Mock-Hurricane Katrina was considered as well for design criteria for new bridges being designed. This mock hurricane was considered as the scenario if the eye Hurricane Katrina had made landfall near Biloxi,

Mississippi, placing Mobile Bay in the northeastern quadrant of the storm therefore pushing more of the storm surge into the bay.

The main criteria for determining the forces on the bridge decks are as follows:

- Bridge Deck Elevation
- Top of Guard Rail Elevation
- Top of Cap/Bottom of Girder Elevation
- Storm Surge Height
- Significant Wave Height

In the case of the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge, the pertinent elevations referenced from Mean Sea Level are as follows:

- Bridge Deck Elevation: 21.45'
- Top of Guard Rail Elevation: 24.12'
- Top of Cap/Bottom of Girder Elevation: 17.12'

For the Hurricane Frederic scenario, the Modified Douglass Equations were used to calculate the vertical and horizontal forces on the deck using a storm surge elevation of 11.70' and a significant wave height of 7.00'. This led to calculated forces of magnitude:

$$F_v = 109.1 \text{ kips}$$

$$F_h = 0 \text{ kips}$$

$$M = 1172.8 \text{ kip-ft}$$

These forces proved to be less than the resistance of the dead load of the structure and its connections to the pile cap, therefore there was no damage to the I-10 Bridge as was noted after the storm.

For the Hurricane Katrina scenario, the Modified Douglass Equations were used to calculate the vertical and horizontal forces on the deck using a storm surge elevation of 12.40' and a significant wave height of 7.00'. This led to calculated forces of magnitude:

$$F_v = 171.1 \text{ kips}$$

$$F_h = 0 \text{ kips}$$

$$M = 1845.8 \text{ kip-ft}$$

These forces proved to be less than the resistance of the dead load of the structure and its connections to the pile cap, therefore there was no damage to the I-10 Bridge as was noted after the storm. It should be noted that there was damage that occurred to the on ramp structure for the east bound lanes at the US90/I-10 interchange. These ramps can be used to show the reference elevation where no damage occurred, providing a check for the Modified Douglass Equations.

For the Mock-Hurricane Katrina scenario, the Modified Douglass Equations were used to calculate the vertical and horizontal forces on the deck using a storm surge elevation of 21.50' and a significant wave height of 8.80'. It should be noted that these elevations are the elevations that occurred near the Biloxi Bay Bridge during the storm event. This led to calculated forces of magnitude:

$$F_v = 536.6 \text{ kips}$$

$$F_h = 169.2 \text{ kips}$$

$$M = 5768.9 \text{ kip-ft}$$

These forces would be too large for the existing super-to-substructure connections and a Mock-Katrina hurricane would dump the I-10 bridge into Mobile Bay. This is

indicated by analytical analysis and is also evident from the performances of the I-10 ramp connections in past hurricanes.

### **7.3 Recommendations**

Upon reviewing the hurricane surge/surface wave and bridge dead load forces, it was determined that the existing bridge proved to be adequate for storms of magnitude similar to that of Hurricane Frederic or an indirect impact from Hurricane Katrina. This is in the range of strong Category Three hurricanes and below. The existing connections between the girders and the pile cap would prove to be inadequate during a storm of magnitude similar to that of a direct hit from Hurricane Katrina. Necessary retrofitting would need to be taken to decrease the risk of catastrophic failure of the bridge during this event.

Viable options for retrofitting the Mobile Bay I-10 Bridge for future storms include:

- Selective weakening of the "Jersey" barrier rails on the seaward side of the bridge
- Improved venting to reduce buoyant forces
- Use large grated scupper opening on the seaward deck edge to improve venting
- Install shear pins in the end diaphragms to render the bridge continuous
- Install span connection plates and/or angle irons to render the bridge continuous
- Install cable ties tying span ends to the bent cap
- Install two video surveillance cameras (VSEs) at two select locations on the I-10 bridge ramp to capture actual hurricane surge/surface wave sea states and the responses of I-10 spans to these sea states. In turn, this will allow the design of better future bridge retrofit systems, better future replacement, and new coastal bridges

These options are more specifically explained in Sections 6.3 and 6.4, along with other options for retrofitting coastal bridges against hurricane surge/surface wave forces.

Along with retrofitting the existing bridge, a more detailed analysis of the existing connections should be performed to obtain a more accurate resistance that could be compared to the forces calculated using the above equations.

## REFERENCES

- Battjes, J. A., and Groenendijk, H. A. (2000). “Wave height distributions on shallow foreshores.” *Coastal Eng.*
- Douglass, S.L., Chen, Q., Olsen, J.M., Edge, B.L., and Brown, D.A., 2006. “Wave Forces on Bridge Decks,” Draft Report, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Bridge Technology, Washington, D.C.
- FEMA 550, 2006. “Recommended Residential Construction for the Gulf Coast”.
- FEMA 55, 2006. “Coastal Construction Manual,” Edition 3.
- FEMA 499, 2006. “Home Builder’s Guide to Coastal Construction,”.
- Goda, Y., 1985. “Random Seas and Design of Maritime Structures,” 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., World Scientific Press, New Jersey.
- McConnell, K.J., Allsop, W., Cuomo, G., and Cruickshank, I.C., 2003. New Guidance for Wave Forces on Jetties in Exposed Locations. *Proceedings of the Sixth Conference on Coastal and Port Engineering Developing Countries (COPEDEC VI)*, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 20 pp.
- McConnell, K., Allsop, W., and Cruickshank, I., 2004. Piers, jetties, and related structures exposed to waves: Guidelines for hydraulic loadings. Thomas Telford Press, London. 148 pp.
- National Weather Service, 2005. Extremely Powerful Hurricane Katrina leaves a Historic Mark on the Northern Gulf Coast, report on website [www.srh.noaa.gov/mob](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mob) posted by the Mobile Forecast office.
- NIST Technical Note 1476, 2006. “Performance of Physical Structures in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita: A Reconnaissance Report,” National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD.

Ocean Engineering Associates, 2005. Hurricane Impact Analysis and Development of Design Criteria for the I-10 Bridges over Escambia Bay Escambia County, Florida, report to Florida Department of Transportation Drainage Design Office, January, 77 pp.

OxBlue, 2007. [www.oxblue.com](http://www.oxblue.com)

US Army *Shore Protection Manual*, 1984. Coastal Engineering Research Center, US Army Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, 2 volumes, US Government Printing Office.

US Army Engineer District, Mobile, 1981. Hurricane Frederic Post Disaster Report: 30 August - 14 September 1979.

Horikawa, Kiyoshi, 1978. *Coastal Engineering - An Introduction to Ocean Engineering*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 402 pp.

Modjeski and Masters, Inc., 2007. "Development of Guide Specifications for Bridges Vulnerable to Coastal Storms and Handbook of Retrofit Options for Bridges Vulnerable to Coastal Storms", Transportation Pooled Fund Program - Federal Highway Administration Contract No. DTFH61-06-T-70006.

Tedesco, J.W., McDougal, W.G., and Ross C.A., 1999. *Structural Dynamics Theory and Applications*, Addison-Wesley, Menlo Park, California.

**APPENDIX A**

**UNDERNEATH BRIDGE ENTRAPPED AIR VENTING**

**EQUATIONS AND CALCULATIONS**

Analysis Assumptions:

- T = 80°F
- $\rho = 0.00228$  slugs/ft<sup>3</sup>
- $\gamma = 0.0735$  lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>
- $V_s = 1139$  ft/sec (speed of sound)
- $P_{atm} = 2117$  psf = 14.7 psi
- $\nu = 1.69 \times 10^{-4}$  ft<sup>2</sup>/sec = kinematic viscosity of air

So long as the air flow velocity, V, does not exceed ~0.3  $V_s$ , Bernoulli's equation can be applied under the assumption of steady state incompressible flow.

$$p_o = p_{atm} + \frac{\rho V_j^2}{2}$$

$$\Delta p = p_o - p_{atm}$$

$$V_j = \sqrt{\frac{2\Delta p}{\rho}}$$

Then defining the area contraction coefficient  $A_j = C_c A$  (where  $A = \pi D^2/4$  and  $A_j = \pi D_j^2/4$ ) the average velocity through the orifice is

$$V = C_c \sqrt{\frac{2\Delta p}{\rho}}$$

and the volumetric flow rate is

$$Q = \frac{\pi D^2}{4} C_c \sqrt{\frac{2\Delta p}{\rho}}$$

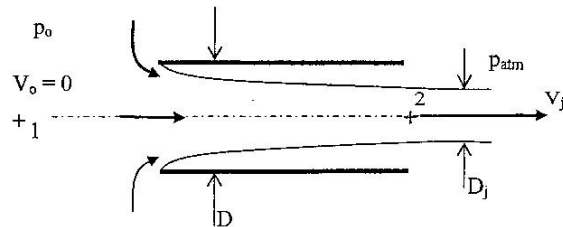


Figure A1. Contracted Air Jet



For an example calculation, using  $C_c = 0.72$  which is experimentally determined for the orifice geometry defined in Figure A1,

$$D = 3 \text{ in} = \frac{1}{4} \text{ ft}$$

$$\Delta p = 1/10 p_{\text{atm}} = 211.7 \text{ psf} = 1.47 \text{ psi}$$

then

$$V = C_c \sqrt{\frac{2\Delta p}{\rho}}$$

$$V = 310 \text{ ft/sec}$$

and

$$Q = 15.2 \text{ ft}^3/\text{sec} = \text{volumetric flow rate through a single vent.}$$

This value for the velocity is at approximately the upper limit necessary for the incompressible flow assumption and gives a relatively large Reynolds number,  $R_e = VD/\nu = 4.59 \times 10^5$ .

Now consider  $V = L \times W \times d = \text{volume of air to be vented}$ . If all of this  $V$  is to be vented in the time required for the wave to traverse the width,  $W$ , then the time required for venting is

$$t = \frac{W}{c}$$

Where  $c = 25 \text{ ft/sec} = \text{the approximate wave propagation velocity}$

The average rate of the vented volume is then  $\frac{V}{t}$ .

For the volume shown in Figure A2,

$$\frac{V}{t} = \frac{L \times W \times d}{t}$$

$$3900 \text{ ft}^3/\text{sec} = \text{average vent rate}$$

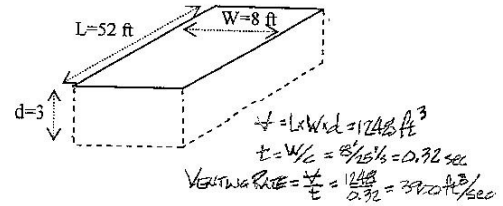


Figure A2. Volume to be Vented,  $V$

Then if  $N = \text{the number of vents}$ , then  $NQ = V/t$ . For example, for  $D = 3 \text{ in} = \frac{1}{4} \text{ ft}$  and  $Q = 15.2 \text{ ft}^3/\text{sec}$ ,  $N = 256$  is the number of 3" diameter vents required.

The number of vents for fixed  $V$  and a range of values for  $\Delta p = p_{\text{atm}}/50$  to  $\Delta p = p_{\text{atm}}/10$  are plotted in Figures A3 and A4 respectively. If one assumes the full cell/cavity shown in Figure A2 needs to be vented, then the curves of Figure A3 are applicable. However, if one assumes that half of the cavity air gets vented under the adjacent girders and end diaphragms as the water surface rises, or if we assume we can accept partial (half) venting, then the curves of Fig. A4 would be applicable.

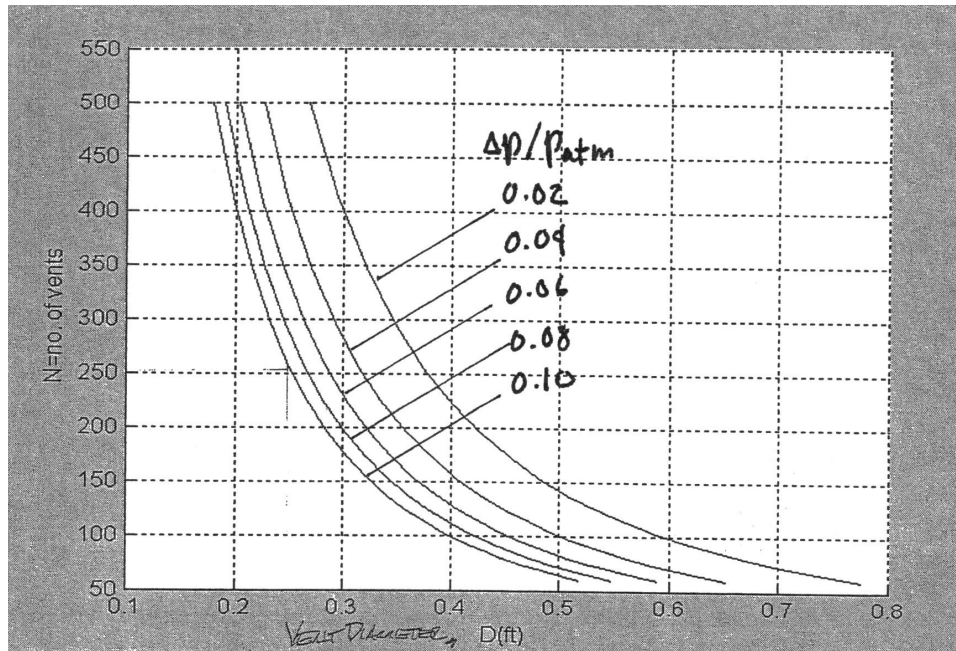


Figure A3.  $V=1248 \text{ ft}^3$  and  $V/t=3900 \text{ ft}^3/\text{sec}$

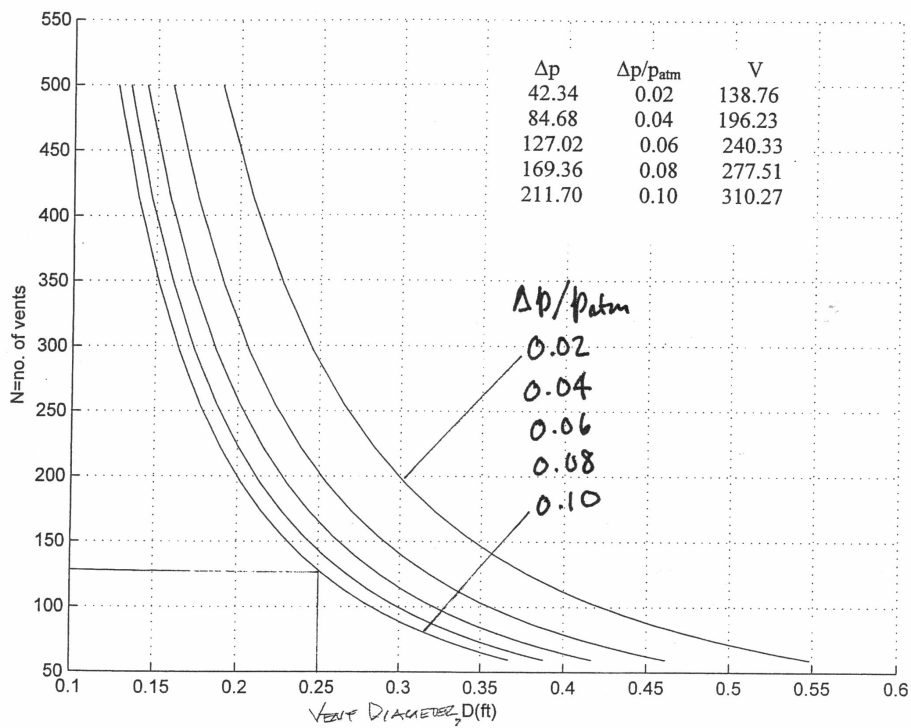


Figure A4.  $V=624 \text{ ft}^3$  and  $V/t=1950 \text{ ft}^3/\text{sec}$

## APPENDIX B

### OXBLUE CONSTRUCTION WEBCAMS

OxBlue Construction Webcams can provide video documentation of hurricane surge/surface waves approaching, inundating (or partially inundating), and displacing coastal bridge superstructures. OxBlue Construction Webcams offer standardized turnkey systems that include all hardware/software/services that can provide high resolution images taken every 2, 5, 10, 20, 30 (or whatever) minutes from a coastal bridge site which are uploaded onto an OxBlue server which can be accessed by personnel for review. This would allow ALDOT to visually observe the performance of one of its coastal bridges as a hurricane approached and moved through the bridge.

Table B1 below provides a pricing summary of multiple configurations of the Integrated OxBlue systems available.

**Table B1. Pricing Summary for Integrated OxBlue System  
(Hardware and Recurring Monthly Service Fee)**

<b>Interated OxBlue System</b>	<b>1 Unit Price</b>	<b>2 to 5 Unit Price</b>	<b>6 to 10 Unit Price</b>
3 Megapixel Hardware Service	\$3,850 system \$495/month	\$3,650 system \$475/month	\$3,465 system \$445/month
6 Megapixel Hardware Service	\$4,750 system \$650/month	\$4,500 system \$615/month	\$4,250 system \$585/month
OxBlue Pro®	\$95/month	\$70/month	\$40/month

OxBlue Construction Webcams provide two versions of the user interface: (1) OxBlue Standard, and (2) OxBlue Pro. OxBlue Standard is the interface that can be used for "general monitoring and light project management" (OxBlue, 2007). OxBlue Pro provides a more comprehensive interface allowing for in depth analyses for "intensive project management controls, productivity improvements, claims/dispute resolution, and warranty management" (OxBlue, 2007). Table B2 below provides a summary of key features each version of the software contains.

**Table B2. Feature Comparison of OxBlue User Interface Versions**

<b>Features</b>	<b>OxBlue Standard</b>	<b>OxBlue Pro</b>
<b>Calendar Based Navigation</b>	•	•
<b>Image Select by Time of Day</b>	•	•
<b>Zoom In/Out</b>	•	•
<b>Image E-mailing</b>	•	•
<b>Visual Calendar</b>	•	•
<b>Time-Lapse Playback</b>	•	•
<b>Interactive Slideshow Mode</b>	•	•
<b>Project Dashboard for Viewing All Projects from One Location</b>	•	•
<b>Image Overlay Mode</b>		•
<b>Split Screen Mode</b>		•
<b>Quad View by Day, Week, or Month for Detailed Project Analysis</b>		•



# Technical Specifications

## High Definition Wireless Construction Webcams



OxBlue ARM Systems are powerful, highly reliable systems tested, optimized and built to run 24/7, indoors or outdoors, in the harshest conditions. The ARM System is a turnkey solution that runs on the OxBlue network independently of any additional hardware or software.

OXBLUE ARM SYSTEM			
Camera Resolution	2048 x 1536 (3 megapixel) 2816 x 2112 (6 megapixel)	Surge Supression	140v RMS clamping/ 600 joules/ 48,000 amps
Memory	Unlimited Remote Storage	Operating Environment	0.0 ns surge response time w/ continuous power
Data Connection	Wireless (Cellular GPRS) Ethernet (Cat5 Network Cable) Dialup (RJ11 Analog Phone Line)	Focus System	-10 to 120 degrees F -23 to 49 degrees C
Power Connection	120 / 240 VAC, 75 watts max	White Balance System	Dual autofocus; contrast and phase difference detection systems
Controller	Proprietary OxBlue System Embedded Industrial Computer	Meter Modes	IESP2 Auto
Dimensions	21" L (53.34 cm) 5.5" W (13.97 cm) 4.25" H (10.795 cm)	Optics	Digital ESP, spot, and center- weighted metering systems
Weight	17.5 lb (4.42 kg) installed	Field of View	Aspherical glass 4x zoom lens 6.3 mm - 63 mm (38 - 380 mm equivalent in 35mm photography) 0.66x wide angle lens, standard option
Construction	Die-cast aluminum - extruded and sheet; gray polyester powder coat		78 degrees standard remotely adjustable
Mounting	Fixed to pole or wall Hardware Included		

SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Have A Question?

TOLL FREE:  
888-849-BLUE

ON THE WEB:  
[www.oxblue.com](http://www.oxblue.com)

EMAIL:  
[info@oxblue.com](mailto:info@oxblue.com)

## APPENDIX C

### HURRICANES HAVING LARGEST STORM SURGE AT MOBILE BAY

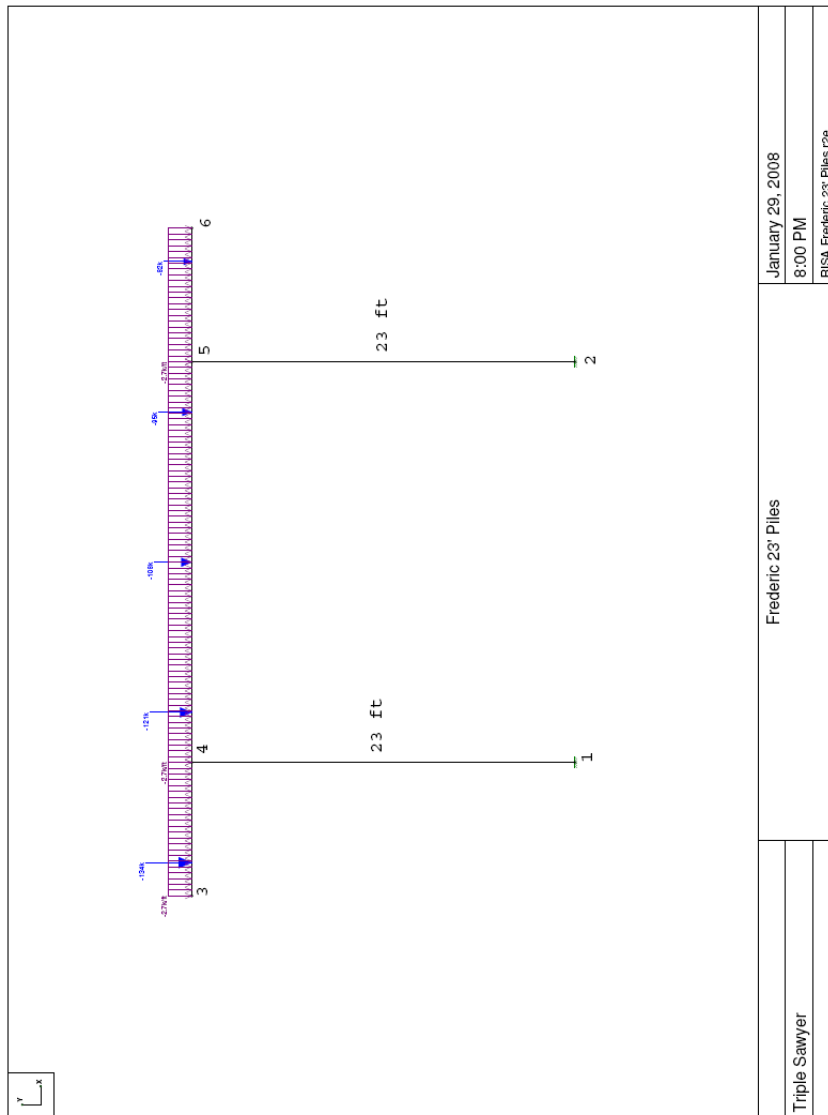
#### I-10 BRIDGE DURING PAST 60 YEARS

<b>Hurricane</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Landfall</b>	<b>Maximum Storm Surge* (ft)</b>
<b>Katrina</b>	2005	3-5	East New Orleans, LA	12.4
<b>Frederic</b>	1979	3	Dauphin Island, AL / MS Border	11.7
<b>Georges</b>	1998	3	Biloxi, MS	9.4
<b>Camille</b>	1969	5	Bay St. Louis, MS	7.4
<b>Ivan</b>	2004	3	Gulf Shores, AL	4.9

\*Near I-10 Tunnel/Bridge

**APPENDIX D**

**BRIDGE PILE BENT SUBSTRUCTURE FOR 23' AND 28' PILE LENGTH  
MODELLINGS FOR HURRICANE FREDERIC, KATRINA, AND MOCK-  
KATRINA LOADING FOR RISA-2D ANALYSIS AND ANALYSIS RESULTS**



**Global**

Display Sections for Member Calcs | 5

**Joint Coordinates**

Joint Label	X Coordinate (ft)	Y Coordinate (ft)
N1	8	0
N2	32	0
N3	0	23
N4	8	23
N5	32	23
N6	40	23

**Boundary Conditions**

Joint Label	X Translation (k/in)	Y Translation (k/in)	Rotation (k-ft/rad)
N1	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction
N2	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction

**Member Data**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Area in <sup>2</sup>	Moment of Inertia in <sup>4</sup>	Elastic Modulus ksi	End Releases I-End	J-End	Length ft
PILE1	N4	N1	904.78	264648	4030			23
PILE2	N5	N2	904.78	264648	4030			23
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	2592	138263	4030			8
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	2592	138263	4030			24
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	2592	138263	4030			8

**Member Point Loads**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Direction	Magnitude (k, k-ft)	Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	Y	-134	2
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-121	3
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-108	12
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-95	21
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	Y	-82	6

**Member Distributed Loads**

Member Label	Direction	Start Magnitude (k/ft, F)	End Magnitude (k/ft, F)	Start Location (ft or %)	End Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP2	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP3	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0

**Joint Displacements**

Joint Label	X Translation (in)	Y Translation (in)	Rotation (radians)
N1	0	0	0
N2	0	0	0
N3	-.016	-.088	8.003e-4
N4	-.016	-.028	1.174e-4
N5	-.016	-.021	1.208e-4
N6	-.016	-.041	-3.202e-4

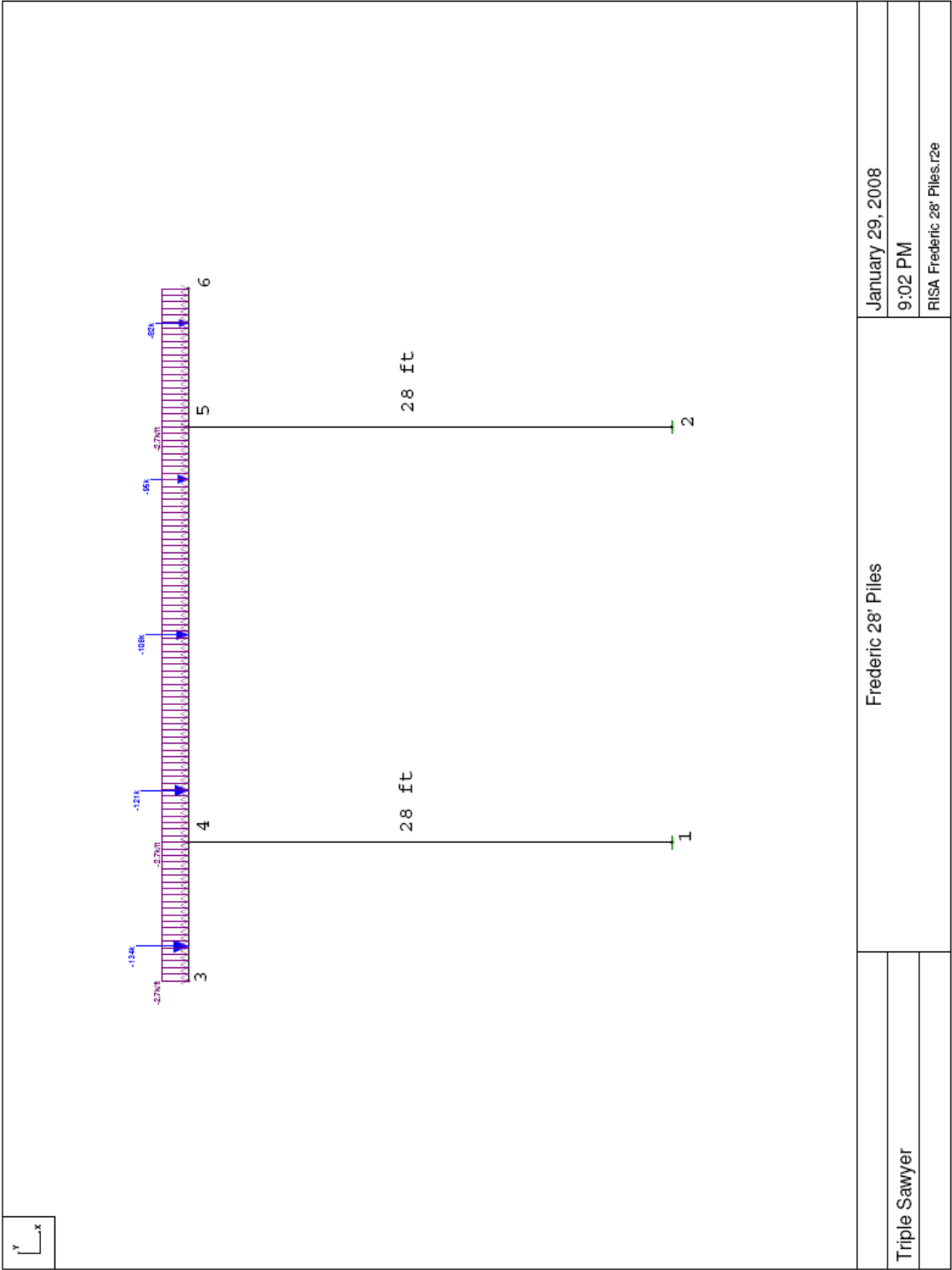


**Reactions**

Joint Label	X Force (k)	Y Force (k)	Moment (k-ft)
N1	.14	369.554	-39.425
N2	-.14	278.446	-37.282
Totals:	0	648	

**Member Section Forces**

Member Label	Section	Axial (k)	Shear (k)	Moment (k-ft)
PILE1	1	369.554	-.14	-36.197
	2	369.554	-.14	-37.004
	3	369.554	-.14	-37.811
	4	369.554	-.14	-38.618
	5	369.554	-.14	-39.425
PILE2	1	278.446	.14	-40.511
	2	278.446	.14	-39.704
	3	278.446	.14	-38.896
	4	278.446	.14	-38.089
	5	278.446	.14	-37.282
BENTCAP1	1	0	0	0
	2	0	-139.4	-5.4
	3	0	-144.8	-289.6
	4	0	-150.2	-584.6
	5	0	-155.6	-890.4
BENTCAP2	1	.14	213.954	-854.203
	2	.14	76.754	17.92
	3	.14	-47.446	429.843
	4	.14	-63.646	96.566
	5	.14	-174.846	-618.911
BENTCAP3	1	0	103.6	-578.4
	2	0	98.2	-376.6
	3	0	92.8	-185.6
	4	0	5.4	-5.4
	5	0	0	0



January 29, 2008  
 9:02 PM  
 RISA Frederic 28' Piles.r2e

Frederic 28' Piles

Triple Sawyer

**Global**

Display Sections for Member Calcs 5

**Joint Coordinates**

Joint Label	X Coordinate (ft)	Y Coordinate (ft)
N1	8	0
N2	32	0
N3	0	28
N4	8	28
N5	32	28
N6	40	28

**Boundary Conditions**

Joint Label	X Translation (k/in)	Y Translation (k/in)	Rotation (k-ft/rad)
N1	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction
N2	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction

**Member Data**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Area in <sup>2</sup>	Moment of Inertia in <sup>4</sup>	Elastic Modulus ksi	End Releases I-End	J-End	Length ft
PILE1	N4	N1	904.78	264648	4030			28
PILE2	N5	N2	904.78	264648	4030			28
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	2592	138263	4030			8
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	2592	138263	4030			24
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	2592	138263	4030			8

**Member Point Loads**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Direction	Magnitude (k, k-ft)	Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	Y	-134	2
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-121	3
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-108	12
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-95	21
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	Y	-82	6

**Member Distributed Loads**

Member Label	Direction	Start Magnitude (k/ft, F)	End Magnitude (k/ft, F)	Start Location (ft or %)	End Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP2	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP3	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0

**Joint Displacements**

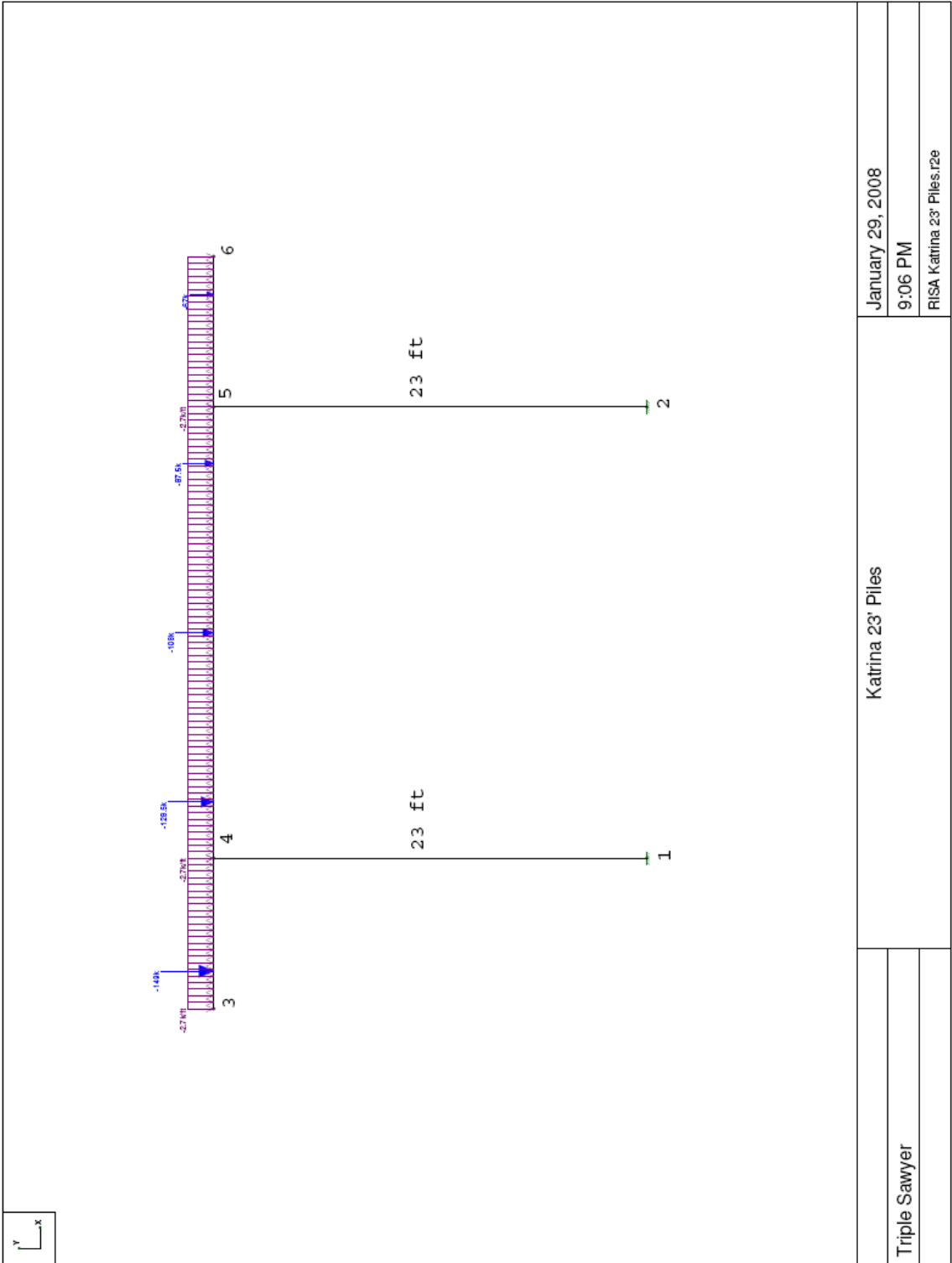
Joint Label	X Translation (in)	Y Translation (in)	Rotation (radians)
N1	0	0	0
N2	0	0	0
N3	-.022	-.095	8.099e-4
N4	-.022	-.034	1.27e-4
N5	-.022	-.026	1.309e-4
N6	-.022	-.045	-3.101e-4

**Reactions**

Joint Label	X Force (k)	Y Force (k)	Moment (k-ft)
N1	.111	369.908	-35.134
N2	-.111	278.092	-33.074
Totals:	0	648	

**Member Section Forces**

Member Label	Section	Axial (k)	Shear (k)	Moment (k-ft)
PILE1	1	369.908	-.111	-32.036
	2	369.908	-.111	-32.811
	3	369.908	-.111	-33.585
	4	369.908	-.111	-34.36
	5	369.908	-.111	-35.134
PILE2	1	278.092	.111	-36.172
	2	278.092	.111	-35.397
	3	278.092	.111	-34.623
	4	278.092	.111	-33.848
	5	278.092	.111	-33.074
BENTCAP1	1	0	0	0
	2	0	-139.4	-5.4
	3	0	-144.8	-289.6
	4	0	-150.2	-584.6
	5	0	-155.6	-890.4
BENTCAP2	1	.111	214.308	-858.364
	2	.111	77.108	15.884
	3	.111	-47.092	429.932
	4	.111	-63.292	96.78
	5	.111	-174.492	-614.572
BENTCAP3	1	0	103.6	-578.4
	2	0	98.2	-376.6
	3	0	92.8	-185.6
	4	0	5.4	-5.4
	5	0	0	0



**Global**

Display Sections for Member Calcs	5
-----------------------------------	---

**Joint Coordinates**

Joint Label	X Coordinate (ft)	Y Coordinate (ft)
N1	8	0
N2	32	0
N3	0	23
N4	8	23
N5	32	23
N6	40	23

**Boundary Conditions**

Joint Label	X Translation (k/in)	Y Translation (k/in)	Rotation (k-ft/rad)
N1	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction
N2	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction

**Member Data**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Area in <sup>2</sup>	Moment of Inertia in <sup>4</sup>	Elastic Modulus ksi	End Releases I-End	J-End	Length ft
PILE1	N4	N1	904.78	264648	4030			23
PILE2	N5	N2	904.78	264648	4030			23
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	2592	138263	4030			8
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	2592	138263	4030			24
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	2592	138263	4030			8

**Member Point Loads**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Direction	Magnitude (k, k-ft)	Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	Y	-149	2
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-128.5	3
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-108	12
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-87.5	21
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	Y	-67	6

**Member Distributed Loads**

Member Label	Direction	Start Magnitude (k/ft, F)	End Magnitude (k/ft, F)	Start Location (ft or %)	End Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP2	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP3	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0

**Joint Displacements**

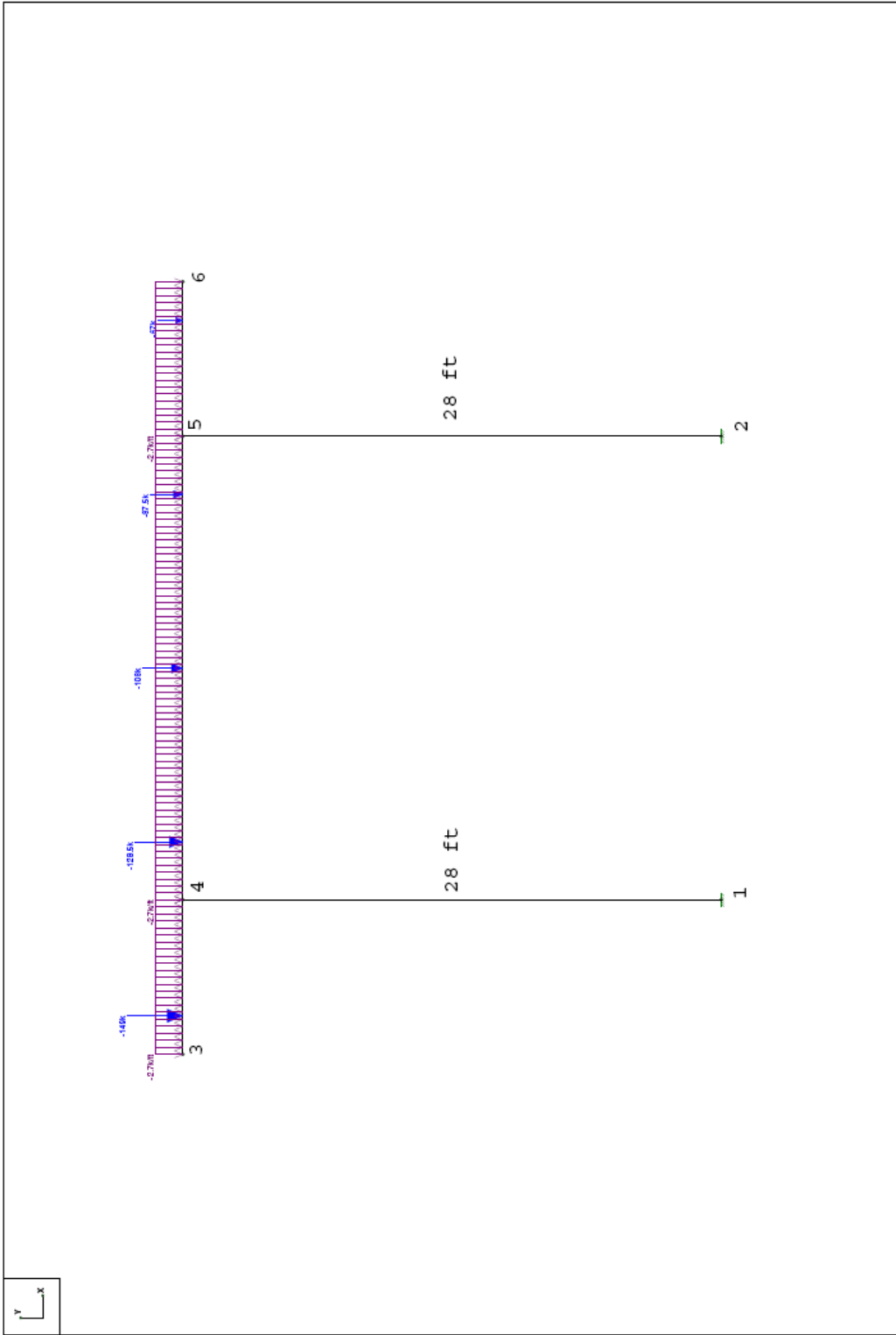
Joint Label	X Translation (in)	Y Translation (in)	Rotation (radians)
N1	0	0	0
N2	0	0	0
N3	-.026	-.102	9.388e-4
N4	-.026	-.03	1.861e-4
N5	-.026	-.019	1.895e-4
N6	-.026	-.028	-1.817e-4

**Reactions**

Joint Label	X Force (k)	Y Force (k)	Moment (k-ft)
N1	.14	395.835	-61.553
N2	-.14	252.165	-59.41
Totals:	0	648	

**Member Section Forces**

Member Label	Section	Axial (k)	Shear (k)	Moment (k-ft)
PILE1	1	395.835	-.14	-58.324
	2	395.835	-.14	-59.131
	3	395.835	-.14	-59.939
	4	395.835	-.14	-60.746
	5	395.835	-.14	-61.553
PILE2	1	252.165	.14	-62.638
	2	252.165	.14	-61.831
	3	252.165	.14	-61.024
	4	252.165	.14	-60.217
	5	252.165	.14	-59.41
BENTCAP1	1	0	0	0
	2	0	-154.4	-5.4
	3	0	-159.8	-319.6
	4	0	-165.2	-644.6
	5	0	-170.6	-980.4
BENTCAP2	1	.14	225.235	-922.076
	2	.14	80.535	-4.766
	3	.14	-43.665	429.843
	4	.14	-59.865	119.253
	5	.14	-163.565	-551.038
BENTCAP3	1	0	88.6	-488.4
	2	0	83.2	-316.6
	3	0	77.8	-155.6
	4	0	5.4	-5.4
	5	0	0	0



Triple Sawyer	Katrina 28' Piles		January 29, 2008
			9:06 PM
		RISA Katrina 28' Piles.r2e	



**Global**

Display Sections for Member Calcs	5
-----------------------------------	---

**Joint Coordinates**

Joint Label	X Coordinate (ft)	Y Coordinate (ft)
N1	8	0
N2	32	0
N3	0	28
N4	8	28
N5	32	28
N6	40	28

**Boundary Conditions**

Joint Label	X Translation (k/in)	Y Translation (k/in)	Rotation (k-ft/rad)
N1	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction
N2	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction

**Member Data**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Area in <sup>2</sup>	Moment of Inertia in <sup>4</sup>	Elastic Modulus ksi	End Releases		Length ft
						I-End	J-End	
PILE1	N4	N1	904.78	264648	4030			28
PILE2	N5	N2	904.78	264648	4030			28
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	2592	138263	4030			8
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	2592	138263	4030			24
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	2592	138263	4030			8

**Member Point Loads**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Direction	Magnitude (k, k-ft)	Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	Y	-149	2
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-128.5	3
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-108	12
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-87.5	21
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	Y	-67	6

**Member Distributed Loads**

Member Label	Direction	Start Magnitude (k/ft, F)	End Magnitude (k/ft, F)	Start Location (ft or %)	End Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP2	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP3	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0

**Joint Displacements**

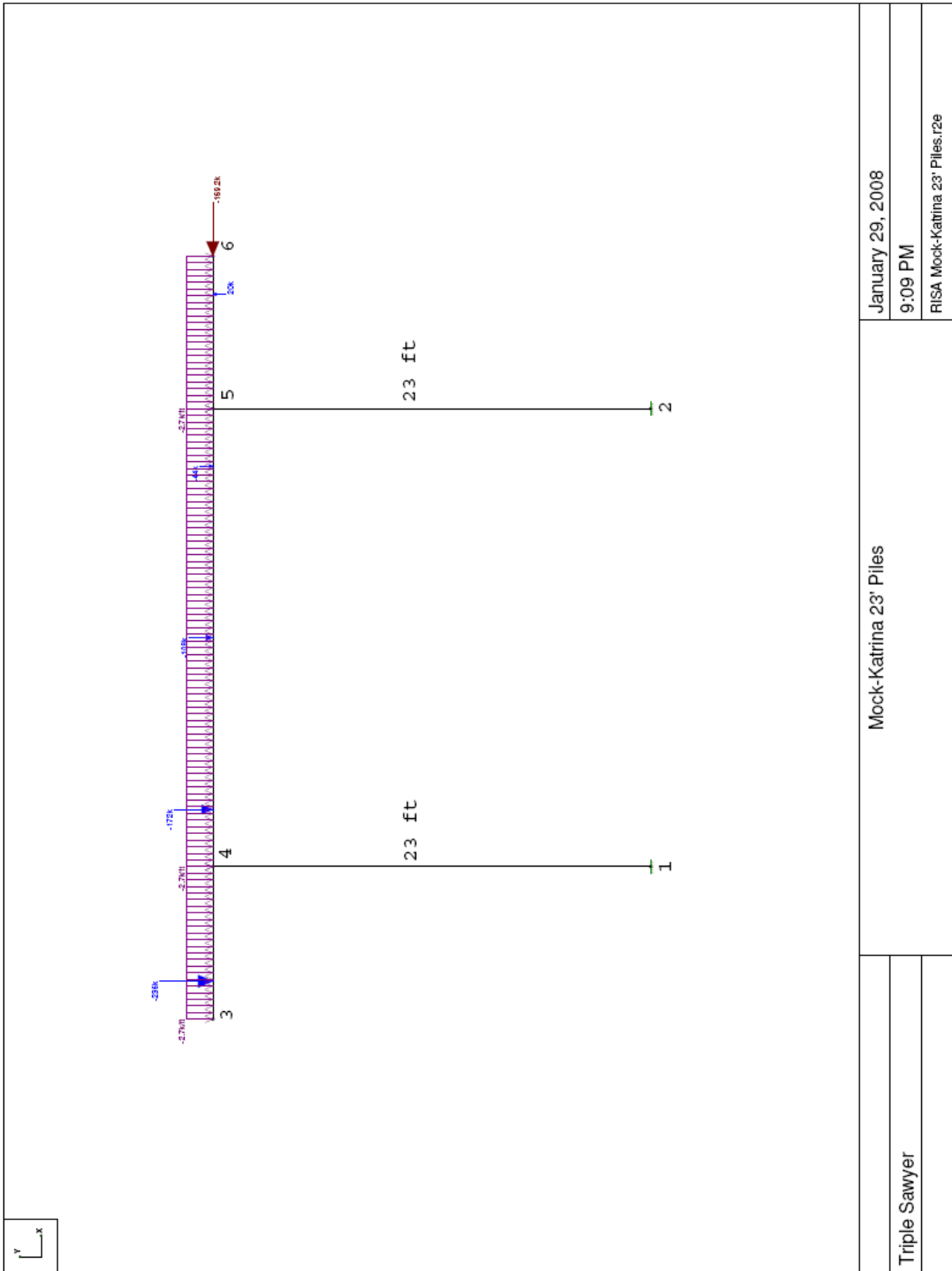
Joint Label	X Translation (in)	Y Translation (in)	Rotation (radians)
N1	0	0	0
N2	0	0	0
N3	-.034	-.11	9.54e-4
N4	-.034	-.037	2.014e-4
N5	-.034	-.023	2.053e-4
N6	-.034	-.03	-1.659e-4

**Reactions**

Joint Label	X Force (k)	Y Force (k)	Moment (k-ft)
N1	.111	396.393	-54.81
N2	-.111	251.607	-52.749
Totals:	0	648	

**Member Section Forces**

Member Label	Section	Axial (k)	Shear (k)	Moment (k-ft)
PILE1	1	396.393	-.111	-51.712
	2	396.393	-.111	-52.486
	3	396.393	-.111	-53.261
	4	396.393	-.111	-54.035
	5	396.393	-.111	-54.81
PILE2	1	251.607	.111	-55.847
	2	251.607	.111	-55.073
	3	251.607	.111	-54.298
	4	251.607	.111	-53.524
	5	251.607	.111	-52.749
BENTCAP1	1	0	0	0
	2	0	-154.4	-5.4
	3	0	-159.8	-319.6
	4	0	-165.2	-644.6
	5	0	-170.6	-980.4
BENTCAP2	1	.111	225.793	-928.688
	2	.111	81.093	-8.028
	3	.111	-43.107	429.932
	4	.111	-59.307	122.693
	5	.111	-163.007	-544.247
BENTCAP3	1	0	88.6	-488.4
	2	0	83.2	-316.6
	3	0	77.8	-155.6
	4	0	5.4	-5.4
	5	0	0	0



January 29, 2008  
 9:09 PM  
 RISA Mock-Katrina 23' Piles.r2e

Mock-Katrina 23' Piles

Triple Sawyer

**Global**

Display Sections for Member Calcs

**Joint Coordinates**

Joint Label	X Coordinate (ft)	Y Coordinate (ft)
N1	8	0
N2	32	0
N3	0	23
N4	8	23
N5	32	23
N6	40	23

**Boundary Conditions**

Joint Label	X Translation (k/in)	Y Translation (k/in)	Rotation (k-ft/rad)
N1	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction
N2	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction

**Member Data**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Area in <sup>2</sup>	Moment of Inertia in <sup>4</sup>	Elastic Modulus ksi	End Releases I-End	J-End	Length ft
PILE1	N4	N1	904.78	264648	4030			23
PILE2	N5	N2	904.78	264648	4030			23
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	2592	138263	4030			8
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	2592	138263	4030			24
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	2592	138263	4030			8

**Joint Loads/Enforced Displacements**

Joint Label	[L]oad or [D]isplacement	Direction	Magnitude (k, k-ft, in, rad)
N6	L	X	-169.2

**Member Point Loads**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Direction	Magnitude (k, k-ft)	Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	Y	-236	2
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-172	3
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-108	12
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-44	21
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	Y	20	6

**Member Distributed Loads**

Member Label	Direction	Start Magnitude (k/ft, F)	End Magnitude (k/ft, F)	Start Location (ft or %)	End Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP2	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP3	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0

**Joint Displacements**

Joint Label	X Translation (in)	Y Translation (in)	Rotation (radians)
N1	0	0	0
N2	0	0	0
N3	-.326	-.26	2.515e-3
N4	-.326	-.046	1.358e-3
N5	-.328	-.003	1.371e-3

**Joint Displacements**

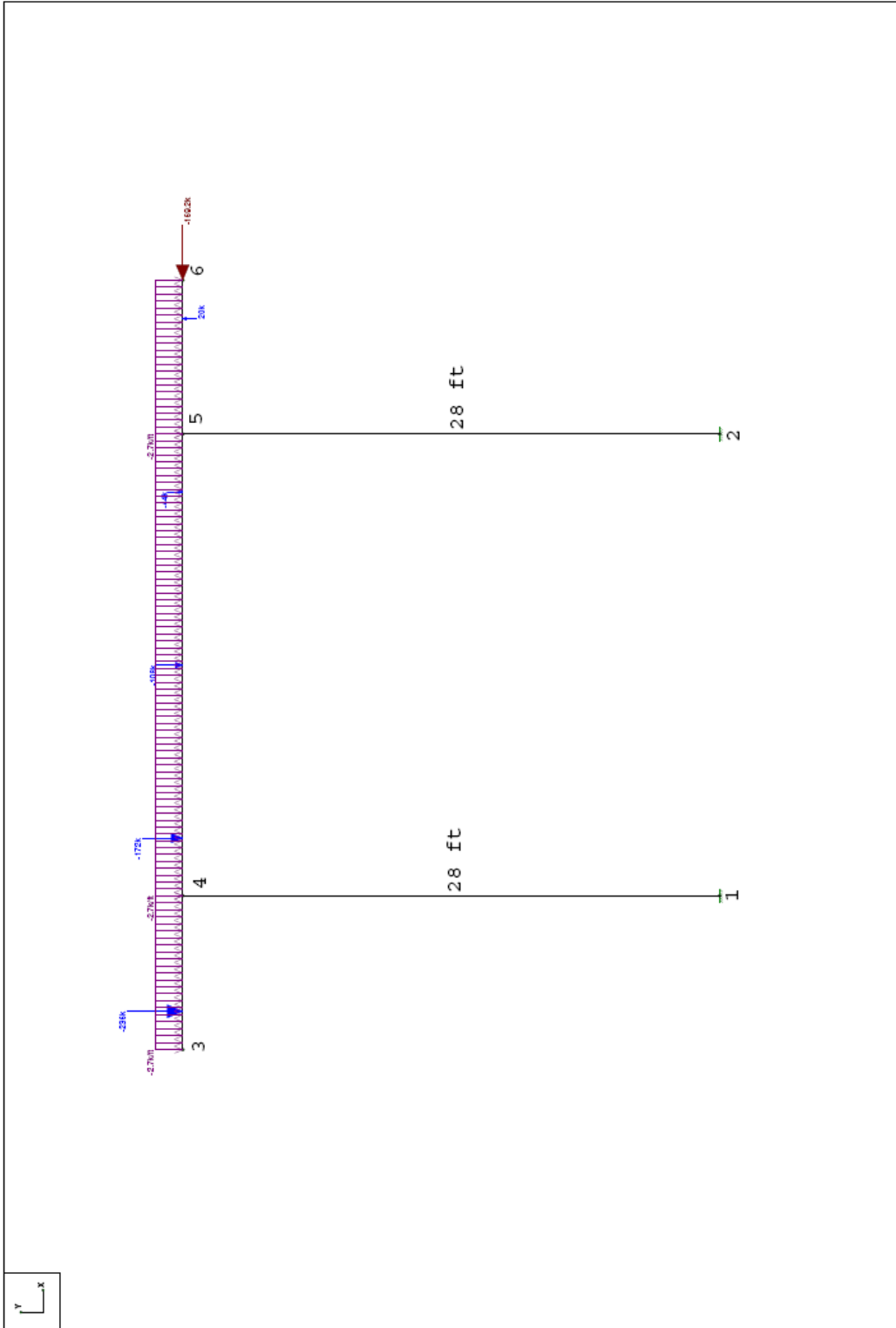
Joint Label	X Translation (in)	Y Translation (in)	Rotation (radians)
N6	-.33	.131	1.405e-3

**Reactions**

Joint Label	X Force (k)	Y Force (k)	Moment (k-ft)
N1	84.457	608.455	-1408.531
N2	84.743	39.545	-1416.154
Totals:	169.2	648	

**Member Section Forces**

Member Label	Section	Axial (k)	Shear (k)	Moment (k-ft)
PILE1	1	608.455	-84.457	533.985
	2	608.455	-84.457	48.356
	3	608.455	-84.457	-437.273
	4	608.455	-84.457	-922.902
	5	608.455	-84.457	-1408.531
PILE2	1	39.545	-84.743	532.93
	2	39.545	-84.743	45.659
	3	39.545	-84.743	-441.612
	4	39.545	-84.743	-928.883
	5	39.545	-84.743	-1416.154
BENTCAP1	1	0	0	0
	2	0	-241.4	-5.4
	3	0	-246.8	-493.6
	4	0	-252.2	-992.6
	5	0	-257.6	-1502.4
BENTCAP2	1	84.457	350.855	-2036.385
	2	84.457	162.655	-495.856
	3	84.457	38.455	431.472
	4	84.457	22.255	613.601
	5	84.457	-37.945	566.53
BENTCAP3	1	169.2	1.6	33.6
	2	169.2	-3.8	31.4
	3	169.2	-9.2	18.4
	4	169.2	5.4	-5.4
	5	169.2	0	0



January 29, 2008	Mock-Katrina 28' Piles	Triple Sawyer
9:11 PM		
RISA Mock-Katrina 28' Piles.r2e		

**Global**

Display Sections for Member Calcs	5
-----------------------------------	---

**Joint Coordinates**

Joint Label	X Coordinate (ft)	Y Coordinate (ft)
N1	8	0
N2	32	0
N3	0	28
N4	8	28
N5	32	28
N6	40	28

**Boundary Conditions**

Joint Label	X Translation (k/in)	Y Translation (k/in)	Rotation (k-ft/rad)
N1	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction
N2	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction

**Member Data**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Area (in <sup>2</sup> )	Moment of Inertia (in <sup>4</sup> )	Elastic Modulus (ksi)	End Releases I-End	J-End	Length (ft)
PILE1	N4	N1	904.78	264648	4030			28
PILE2	N5	N2	904.78	264648	4030			28
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	2592	138263	4030			8
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	2592	138263	4030			24
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	2592	138263	4030			8

**Joint Loads/Enforced Displacements**

Joint Label	[L]oad or [D]isplacement	Direction	Magnitude (k, k-ft, in, rad)
N6	L	X	-169.2

**Member Point Loads**

Member Label	I Joint	J Joint	Direction	Magnitude (k, k-ft)	Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	N3	N4	Y	-236	2
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-172	3
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-108	12
BENTCAP2	N4	N5	Y	-44	21
BENTCAP3	N5	N6	Y	20	6

**Member Distributed Loads**

Member Label	Direction	Start Magnitude (k/ft, F)	End Magnitude (k/ft, F)	Start Location (ft or %)	End Location (ft or %)
BENTCAP1	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP2	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0
BENTCAP3	Y	-2.7	-2.7	0	0

**Joint Displacements**

Joint Label	X Translation (in)	Y Translation (in)	Rotation (radians)
N1	0	0	0
N2	0	0	0
N3	-.524	-.297	2.786e-3
N4	-.524	-.058	1.629e-3
N5	-.527	-.002	1.641e-3

**Joint Displacements**

Joint Label	X Translation (in)	Y Translation (in)	Rotation (radians)
N6	-0.528	0.158	1.674e-3

**Reactions**

Joint Label	X Force (k)	Y Force (k)	Moment (k-ft)
N1	84.544	626.666	-1614.448
N2	84.656	21.334	-1619.169
Totals:	169.2	648	

**Member Section Forces**

Member Label	Section	Axial (k)	Shear (k)	Moment (k-ft)
PILE1	1	626.666	-84.544	752.775
	2	626.666	-84.544	160.97
	3	626.666	-84.544	-430.836
	4	626.666	-84.544	-1022.642
	5	626.666	-84.544	-1614.448
PILE2	1	21.334	-84.656	751.208
	2	21.334	-84.656	158.614
	3	21.334	-84.656	-433.98
	4	21.334	-84.656	-1026.575
	5	21.334	-84.656	-1619.169
BENTCAP1	1	0	0	0
	2	0	-241.4	-5.4
	3	0	-246.8	-493.6
	4	0	-252.2	-992.6
	5	0	-257.6	-1502.4
BENTCAP2	1	84.544	369.066	-2255.175
	2	84.544	180.866	-605.379
	3	84.544	56.666	431.217
	4	84.544	40.466	722.612
	5	84.544	-19.734	784.808
BENTCAP3	1	169.2	1.6	33.6
	2	169.2	-3.8	31.4
	3	169.2	-9.2	18.4
	4	169.2	5.4	-5.4
	5	169.2	0	0