Measuring Waves with High Frequency Radar



Colin Evans^{1,2} (colin.evans@upr.edu) Miguel Canals^{1,2} (miguelf.canals@upr.edu, Patricia Chardón-Maldonado^{1,2} (patricia.chardon@upr.edu) ¹Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez ²UPRM Center for Applied Ocean Science Engineering, Department of Engineering Science and Materials



CODAR, or Coastal Ocean Dynamics Applications Radar, uses high-frequency radio waves to determine various ocean parameters such as surface currents and wave height, period, and direction. Although CODAR is particularly useful for current mapping, the ability of the radar to measure ocean wave parameters has potential to be utilized in real time operations.



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Mean wave direction for each of the 5 CODAR sites spanning September, 2016 - April, 2017 with associated significant wave heights. From left to right: FURA, CDDO, FARO, PYFC, MABO. Wave direction is averaged over several range cells configured in the SeaSonde software, which is dependent on frequency (13MHz -3.020km bin, 5 MHz – 5.85km bin).



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