

# 1 **Large-scale shoreline undulations and role of self-organization**

## 2 **processes**

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## 11 **ABSTRACT**

12 This study investigates the large scale spatial variation behavior of shoreline changes  
13 using the beach profile data along approximately 600 km shoreline around Hainan  
14 Island, China. It is found that there exists a power-law relationship between the mean  
15 shoreline change variance and the corresponding alongshore scale which holds up to  
16 30 km for the annual shoreline change and reduces to 15 km for seasonal shoreline  
17 change. The spatial and seasonal variations of shoreline azimuth, beach sediment size  
18 and wave conditions, and their connection with the shoreline change on different  
19 scales have been studied. The results suggest that the internal feedback mechanisms  
20 between various processes with different spatial scales may be responsible for the  
21 observed shoreline change patterns, i.e. the annual shoreline behavior on spatial scale  
22 5-30 km is likely to be the result of self-organization, while the seasonal waves

23 including tropical cyclones and storms exert dominant control of the morphological  
24 patterns at spatial scale of 10-25 km.

25

26 **ADDITIONAL INDEX WORDS:** beach; self-affinity; power-law; forcing; seasonal.

27

## 28 **Introduction**

29 Coastal evolution involves complicated interactions and often exhibits self-similar  
30 (self-affine, fractal) patterns, which can be characterized by power-law scalings. The  
31 forms of these patterns are numerous (*e.g.*, beach cusps<sup>1</sup>, sand-bars<sup>2,3</sup>, rip-channels<sup>4</sup>,  
32 and large scale shoreline patterns<sup>5</sup>) and vary in a wide range of spatiotemporal scale.

33 Self-organized processes whose outcomes exhibit power-law scaling, are often  
34 observed and applied for modeling<sup>1, 2, 6</sup> and can be easily explained if the spatial  
35 scales involved are relatively small. However, the power-law scaling that spans over  
36 wide range of scales is much harder to interpret due to the self-organized patterns at  
37 different scales may be controlled by different physical processes. This means an  
38 unifying explanation for the relationship between variances of coastal morphological  
39 changes, such as horizontal movement of shoreline<sup>7</sup> or change of shoreline curvature<sup>8</sup>  
40 is presently not available. Therefore, to establish the scale relationships of  
41 morphological changes on coasts and underlying mechanisms for these changes,  
42 investigations of coastal evolution in a wider range of scales is indispensable. In  
43 addition, a better understanding on the connection between power-law scaling and  
44 morphological self-organization on coast will be promoted accordingly.

45 While there exists a comparatively large amount of research on forced coastal

46 forms, the self-organized behavior of coastal morphology in a wide range of scales  
47 still needs further exploration and research<sup>9</sup>. Based on analysis of cross-shore profile  
48 changes in terms of their self-organizational properties, Southgate and Moller<sup>10</sup> found  
49 that when wave conditions were weak or moderate, self-organizational (internal)  
50 processes determined the dynamics of the beach profile. The work of Tebbens,  
51 Burroughs, and Nelson<sup>7</sup> focused on the shoreline change for tens of kilometers along  
52 of the northern North Carolina Outer Banks, United States. The log-log linear  
53 relationship between alongshore scale and the variance of horizontal shoreline  
54 position change in the cross-shore direction was found to hold for alongshore scales  
55 of approximately 100-1,000 m, and a follow-on study by Lazarus *et al.*<sup>8</sup> has extended  
56 the scale to up to 8 km. These findings are important as it means that cumulative  
57 shoreline evolution process over a period of a year or a few years may exhibit  
58 power-law scalings up to a length of 8 km although the underlying processes are  
59 unlikely to be scale free.

60 In this work, the power-law behavior of shoreline changes at large spatial scales is  
61 investigated, and possible mechanisms to explain this behavior are explored. The data  
62 of horizontal shoreline position change on beach profile used for this study are  
63 obtained from three beach profile surveys conducted in a 13-month period along the  
64 entire 600 km shoreline around Hainan Island, China. Wavelet analysis are applied to  
65 identify the power-law behavior of horizontal shoreline position change and  
66 distinguish the shoreline change characteristics at different spatial scale. The standard  
67 Empirical Orthogonal Function (EOF) analysis is applied on the elevation data of

68 beach profile to study the variation characteristics of beach morphology in cross-shore  
69 direction at various coastal sections, and the analysis results are discussed along with  
70 a set of hydrodynamic and geologic conditions in order to shed further light on the  
71 underlying mechanisms for the observed shoreline change patterns.

72

### 73 **Study area**

74 Hainan Island is located in the South China Sea, separated from Leizhou  
75 Peninsula to the north by Qiongzhou Strait (Figure 1). Due to engineering works and  
76 urban development at Hainan Island, water and sediment fluxes of rivers on the island  
77 decreased slowly in recent 50 years<sup>11</sup>. At present, sediments involved in the coastal  
78 evolution around Hainan Island mainly originate from the resuspension of deposited  
79 sediment and the erosion of backshore dunes<sup>12</sup>. Sandy coasts are the main shoreline  
80 types, and they are separated by bedrock headlands and estuaries (Figure 1 and Table  
81 1). From Hainanjiao to Laoyehai is the east coast with shoreline facing east, and from  
82 Laoyehai down to Yinggeju is the south coast.

83 The climate of Hainan Island and South China Sea is dominated by the East  
84 Asian monsoon, with northwest winds during October-March (winter), and south and  
85 southeast winds during April-September (summer)<sup>12, 13</sup>. The direction and energy of  
86 surface waves around the island are also closely correlated with the seasonal wind  
87 direction and forcing strength<sup>12</sup>. Prevailing waves are from northeast in winter and  
88 southeast and southwest in summer. In summer season, the Hainan Island is  
89 frequently visited by tropical cyclones (about 3 times per year<sup>14</sup>).

90

## 91 **Methods**

### 92 **Field survey and data**

93 132 profiles perpendicular to local shoreline around Hainan Island are surveyed,  
94 and the distance between every two adjacent profiles is approximately 5 kilometers  
95 (Figure 1). Profile elevation measurements were taken with Trimble RTK-GPS 3  
96 times in May 2013 (from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2013), Dec 2013 (from 6<sup>th</sup> December  
97 to 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2013) and Jun 2014 (from 6<sup>th</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2014). The  
98 measuring error is less than 6 cm, which is much smaller than the magnitude of  
99 shoreline position variations involved. The latitude and longitude of each profile are  
100 recorded in the first survey, and then precisely located in the subsequent surveys.  
101 Mean sea level (MSL, 0-m contour) is taken as the representative shoreline position  
102 which can be easily and accurately determined by beach survey data<sup>15</sup>. The difference  
103 between the distances from the fixed measuring points at the backshore of the profiles  
104 to MSL of the two surveys is then taken as the shoreline change. Among the three sets  
105 of data for comparison, May2013-Jun2014 (difference of shoreline position between  
106 Jun 2014 and May 2013) represents the annual variation of shoreline while  
107 May2013-Dec2013 and Dec2013-Jun2014 are the seasonal changes of shoreline.

108 For each profile measured, five sediment samples were collected along the beach  
109 profile starting 2 cm from the top of the profile in the first survey. Sieve analysis is  
110 used to obtain particle size distributions of the samples, and the Friedman series  
111 formulas<sup>16</sup> are then employed to determine the median grain size ( $D_{50}$ ) of each

112 sediment sample.  $D_{50}$  values from the same profile are averaged to represent the  
113 sediment size for the profile.

#### 114 **Shoreline change analysis**

115 The changes in the MSL positions at 132 profiles constitute the shoreline change  
116 series around Hainan Island with missing data being filled by linear interpolation. The  
117 data is then reconstructed by wavelet transform, which provides information on both  
118 the spatial and frequency dependence of a data series. The wavelet analyses are  
119 performed using the Wavelet Toolbox in Matlab R2010a. A filter called the Mexican  
120 hat wavelet convolves with shoreline change signal, and values for the scale  
121 parameter,  $a$ , are within the range from 1 to 16. Since the profiles are distributed one  
122 after another around the Hainan Island, there is no beginning or ending of the  
123 shoreline change signal in the true sense. The profiles are named N001 to N132, and  
124 then the term N001 to N132 are repeated three times in sequence to form the signal  
125 used for wavelet transform, that is: N001, N002 ... N132, N001, N002 ... N132,  
126 N001, N002 ... N132. Only the middle part of coefficient series obtained is used, so  
127 that the results are not affected by the edge effect of wavelet transform. The  
128 power-spectral exponent,  $\beta$ , is the slope of log-log plot of the variance of wavelet  
129 transform coefficients,  $V$ , and the wavelet scale,  $a$ .

#### 130 **Beach profiles analysis**

131 The EOF analysis is applied to investigate beach profile features of different  
132 coastal sections in different time. Each profile is transformed into a set of elevation  
133 data with a spatial interval of 1.5 m, starting from MSL. For unifying the length of

134 different profiles, the landward blank elevation data are filled with the elevation of the  
135 farthest point measured, which usually is the highest point for those shorter profiles.  
136 Hence there are 100 elevation variables on each profile while the unified profile  
137 length is 150 meters. The 132 profiles, each with 100 elevation variables, constitute a  
138 multivariate matrix fed to the EOF analysis. For unified profile elevation data from  
139 the same survey, four beach topography data matrixes used for the EOF analysis are  
140 obtained: one matrix contains all the profiles around Hainan Island (N001~N132), and  
141 three matrixes for east coast (N010~N049), south coast (N049~N087) and the north &  
142 west coast (N088~N009) separately. In total 12 matrixes are generated for three  
143 surveys. The calculation procedures followed closely the work of Vincent *et al.*<sup>17</sup>.

#### 144 **Hydrodynamic and geological conditions**

145 Routes of tropical cyclones are accessed from Best Track Data by RSMC Tokyo -  
146 Typhoon Center ([www.jma.go.jp](http://www.jma.go.jp)). Significant wave height and wave direction around  
147 Hainan during the investigated period are accessed from hourly forecast data of  
148 WaveWatch III (WW3) Global Wave Model ([oos.soest.hawaii.edu/erddap](http://oos.soest.hawaii.edu/erddap)), which has  
149 taken account of the weather conditions including tropical cyclones. While the  
150 resolution of WW3 Global wave model is 0.5 degree of longitude/latitude, the  
151 modeling points of wave conditions are mostly located in deep water or far away from  
152 the shoreline. Therefore, in analyzing the wave effects on the shoreline change  
153 patterns, the seasonal significant wave heights along coast of Hainan predicted by  
154 Zhou *et al.*<sup>18</sup> is also used.

155 Since the surveyed beach profiles are perpendicular to local shoreline, the

156 azimuths of these investigated profiles can represent the orientation of the local  
157 shoreline around Hainan Island. Azimuths of investigated profiles are calculated from  
158 GPS data. To examine the spatial scale of shoreline orientation variation along the  
159 coast, wavelet transform is used to analyze the azimuth data series.

160

## 161 **Results**

### 162 **Rhythmic shoreline changes at different scales**

163 Shoreline change signals exhibit a rhythmic pattern of alternating seaward and  
164 shoreward movements alongshore (Figure 2(a)). At most survey positions, the  
165 shoreline moves in opposite directions in the two seasons (May2013-Dec2013 and  
166 Dec2013-Jun2014) considered. The contrast between the wavelet transformed results  
167 of two seasonal shoreline change signals is also clearly evident (Figure 2(b) and 2(c)):  
168 the coast which moved shoreward from summer to winter (May2013-Dec2013)  
169 usually changed to moving seaward from the winter to the following summer  
170 (Dec2013-Jun2014), and vice versa. The spatial periodic variations in the shoreline  
171 change series are clearly strong on different spatial scales.

172 The variations of shoreline change signals at different sections around Hainan  
173 Island are quite different as shown in Figure 2. The shaded parts are the south & east  
174 coast, and the cyclic variation there is more pronounced than the rest. In other words,  
175 the shoreline at south & east coast is more unstable than north & west coast, except  
176 the three abnormal profiles (Figure 2(a)): N104, N118 and N123. Profiles N104 and  
177 N123 have underwater shoal and mangrove, which may cause large changes in the



178 local shoreline position. As to profile N118, it is affected by an artificial island located  
179 besides it, which was newly built after the first survey. Other profiles at north & west  
180 coast did not change much in shoreline position. Subsequent discussion will put  
181 particular emphasis on the south & east coast (profiles N010-N087).

### 182 **Relationships between wavelet coefficient variance and spatial scale of shoreline** 183 **changes**

184 The relationships between the wavelet transform coefficient variance and the  
185 spatial scale of shoreline change series at south & east coast are shown in Figure 3 by  
186 log-log plots. In the left graph, the wavelet coefficient variance of annual shoreline  
187 change, May2013-Jun2014, rises continually at alongshore scale from 5 km to 30 km,  
188 and increases again in the scale range of 60-80 km after dropping at 35-60 km. In  
189 contrast the rising trends of seasonal change series, May2013-Dec2013 and  
190 Dec2013-Jun2014, break off in the scale range of 10-25 km, and then increase again  
191 up to scale around 60 km. The power-spectral exponent,  $\beta$ , of annual shoreline change  
192 is steady over the scale range of 5-30 km. The power-law relationships of seasonal  
193 shoreline change are also strong with exponent  $\beta$  larger than 1 in the spatial scale up  
194 to 15 km.

### 195 **Cross-shore profile change characteristics**

196 The EOF analysis reveals that first and second eigenvectors can explain over 90%  
197 variation of profile elevation (Table 2). The first eigenvectors show the prevailing  
198 beach profile forms, and the second eigenvectors reflect the subsequent beach  
199 elevation changes along the profiles. In Figure 4(b) and 4(c), it can be clearly seen

200 that the shapes of eigenvectors of winter profiles (Dec2013) are quite different from  
201 that of summer profiles (May2013 and Jun2014) for all profiles, which implies  
202 seasonal morphological changes on Hainan coasts.

203 The large variation of eigenvector weighting also indicates significant changes of  
204 beach profile, *e.g.* the second eigenvector weightings of profiles from N40 to N70  
205 vary notably between surveys (Figure 4(a)). On the other hand, profiles alongshore  
206 with close eigenvector weightings suggest they have similar relationships with  
207 eigenvector. Therefore subsections of coast can be recognized by differences in the  
208 weightings on alongshore profiles, and the coastal sections divided on this basis  
209 corresponds well with the geological conditions (Table 1).

### 210 **Hydrodynamic conditions**

211 For the south & east coast of Hainan, the direction of incident wave in deep water  
212 is almost uniform alongshore with no discernable rhythmic patterns as it can be seen  
213 in Figure 1. Furthermore, the annual significant wave height distribution in the coastal  
214 area considered is also rather similar, varying within the range of 0.6-1.2 meter  
215 (Figure 5 (a)). As shown in Figure 1, along the east and south coast of Hainan, the  
216 prevailing wave direction is east-northeast in two seasons, while a proportion of  
217 waves coming from south in May2013-Dec2013 changes to east in Dec2013-Jun2014.

218 During the survey period, there were five tropical cyclones that passed Hainan  
219 Island (Figure 1 and Table 3). All these cyclones approached Hainan from the east and  
220 south coasts between surveys in May 2013 and Dec 2013, and the last cyclone passed  
221 east coast was 4 months before the survey in Dec 2013 while the last cyclone affected

222 south coast only 25 days before 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013. Among the five cyclones, HAIYAN is  
223 the strongest and largest one (Table 3), and all of them are strong enough to affect the  
224 hydrodynamic conditions at some parts of Hainan coast. The cyclones generated high  
225 waves over a wide area, which can be recognized from wave conditions on both  
226 southeast coast and west coast (Figure 5(b) and 5(c)). Based on the modelling wave  
227 conditions in 18.5°N, 110.5°E (*P1*) and 19°N, 108.5°E (*P2*), it can be concluded that  
228 the survey in Dec 2013 was affected by waves with relatively higher significant wave  
229 height induced by a series of storms, while the surveys in May 2013 and Jun 2014  
230 were taken after a prolonged period of low waves.

### 231 **Geological conditions**

232 As shown in Figure 1, most profiles in the survey are on sandy beaches, only a  
233 few of them are covered by very fine gravel. It can also be found that the sediments  
234 from each single bay are nearly of the same size, but differ significantly from that in  
235 the adjacent bays. The bays with alongshore length around 30-40 km are separated by  
236 protruding shoreline. As it can be seen in Figure 6, at the spatial scales under 20 km,  
237 the variation trends of shoreline change and azimuth are very different from one  
238 another (Figure 6(a)), and the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient  
239 between them is only 0.21, which means they are barely correlated. At scale of 40 km  
240 alongshore the correlation is more discernible but remains weak (Figure 6(b)) while at  
241 scale of 80 km alongshore (Figure 6(c)), the azimuth displays similar trends with  
242 shoreline change signal.

243

## 244 **Discussion**

245 The phenomena that shoreline changes driven by seemingly different processes  
246 can exhibit a consistent trend across a wider range of scales in a power spectrum is  
247 indeed both interesting and hard to explain. Compared with the previous studies<sup>7, 8, 19</sup>,  
248 the scale of the present study area is much larger. The power-law relationship for the  
249 annual data implies that the self-affine property of shoreline changes can exist over  
250 four orders of magnitude in alongshore scale, from 10 meters to  $3 \times 10^4$  meters. As  
251 this wide range of scales covers most spatial scales pertaining to the short and  
252 medium term coastal evolution, the results suggest that shoreline movements within  
253 these scales could be strongly affected by nonlinear shoreline change dynamics  
254 including some forms of self-organization.

255 Since the concept of “self-organization” was introduced by Werner and Fink<sup>1</sup> in  
256 their study of beach cusps, models involving self-organization have largely focused  
257 on the explanation for the formation of rhythmic features at specific spatial scales,  
258 from meters to over 100 km under a prescribed background hydrodynamic  
259 conditions<sup>20</sup>. It remains unclear how the self-organization or a combined forced and  
260 self-organization mechanism may be used to explain the dynamical changes of  
261 shorelines that exhibit power-law scaling<sup>21</sup>. The shoreline change patterns around  
262 Hainan Island revealed in this study may provide useful information about spatial and  
263 temporal boundaries between self-organization and forcing processes.

### 264 **Self-organization behavior of coastal morphology**

265 For a complex system involving many processes with different scales which

266 interact on the overlapping spatial scales, the peaks of the shoreline-change power  
267 spectra occurring at specific scales may indicate a possible transition of dominant  
268 processes but this does not preclude the possibility of a well-organized system with  
269 different processes across different scales. For temporal scale one year and spatial  
270 scale up to 30 km (May2013-Jun2014), the shoreline change seems to be a result of  
271 well-organized system with smooth growth of spectra power along with scales, while  
272 the strong seasonal hydrodynamic conditions can cause this trend to break in temporal  
273 scale of half year and spatial scale 10-25 km. The evaluation of affecting  
274 factors/processes, weak or strong, relies on the temporal and spatial scales considered.

275       Within alongshore scale 5-30 km, none of azimuth, sediment or deep water wave  
276 shows strong correlations with shoreline change (Figure 1 and 6, east and south coast).  
277 This indicates that there does not exist a dominant process that is due to any of these  
278 factors in the system. The system evolves mainly through internal feedback  
279 mechanisms between processes with different spatial scales, *i.e.* through  
280 self-organization. And the peaks of spectrum around scale 30 km and beyond are  
281 more likely due to other controlling factors of the system.

#### 282 **Controlling role of seasonal hydrodynamic conditions at the scale of 10-25 km**

283       Based on the modelling wave data, tropical cyclones can generate high waves  
284 over a large sea surface area: distance between *P1* and *P2* is more than 200 km but  
285 high waves driven by cyclones can be easily identified in both positions. The  
286 shoreline change in May2013-Dec2013 shows little erosion on east coast, only a part  
287 of south coast is seriously eroded. This may be due to the time intervals between the

288 tropical cyclones and the survey, because the cyclones impacted east coast 4 months  
289 before the survey in December and their effects have diminished as the result of beach  
290 recovery during this period, but the last storm passed south coast in November which  
291 is expected to leave a much greater impact on shoreline measured in December.

292 As it can be expected, high waves induced by cyclones and winter storms can  
293 destroy shoreline patterns that had already formed through self-organization process  
294 prior to these events after which beach recovery and evolution will resume. This is  
295 especially the case for the shoreline changes in May2013-Dec2013 data. As through  
296 self-organization process spatial shoreline patterns tend to grow with time, larger  
297 scale pattern requires longer time to form than smaller ones<sup>20</sup>. Although there are 1-4  
298 months for shoreline to recovery from impacts of tropical cyclones by Dec 2013, only  
299 smaller (less than 10km) shoreline change patterns developed but larger patterns  
300 beyond 10km did not have sufficient time to form until Jun 2014.

### 301 **Geological control at the scales over 30 km**

302 Apart from self-organization and hydrodynamic forcing, the changes in the  
303 background coastal settings can also affect the evolution of shoreline, an effect which  
304 is often referred to as geological control<sup>22</sup>. Although the correlation is weak between  
305 data sets of shoreline change and azimuth, the variation patterns of them do show  
306 similar trends on large scales. Beyond the alongshore scale of 30 km, the coastline  
307 variation is resulted from the cumulative effects of interactions between  
308 hydrodynamic forcing and geological features. As it can be seen shoreline of Hainan  
309 Island is divided by various protruding headlands into beach sections of different

310 orientations (Figure 1). While the incoming wave direction from South China Sea is  
311 fairly uniform in space, the intersection angle of wave is related to the orientation of  
312 local shoreline. Consequently, the sections that have different orientations are affected  
313 differently by these hydrodynamic conditions. As a result, the coast sections in four  
314 different directions can be clearly identified from the wavelet transform results as  
315 shown in Figure 6(c).

316

## 317 **Conclusions**

318 Based on the shoreline change data collected at Hainan Island over a 13-month  
319 period the analysis reveals that the power-law relationships between the mean  
320 variance and the length scale of the annual shoreline changes can hold up to an  
321 alongshore scale of 30 km which is several times greater than that has been found in  
322 the previous studies<sup>8</sup>. While there is no spatial pattern within the wave direction or  
323 significant wave height along the studied coast, the hydrodynamic conditions show  
324 significant seasonal character. Five tropical cyclones showed strong impacts on east  
325 and south coasts of Hainan Island, and diminished the shoreline change patterns with  
326 alongshore scale of 10-25 km. Much of the effects on the shoreline evolution caused  
327 by the storm can get averaged out over a time scale of one year, as the long-term  
328 shoreline evolution is mostly a diffusive process with diminishing memory effects  
329 with time<sup>23</sup>. In the time period of one year, the shoreline change patterns develop into  
330 larger spatial scale than seasonal shoreline change patterns, but it is confined by  
331 relatively closed bays at scale around 30 km. Furthermore, the coastal orientation

332 changes are also found to be effective in alongshore scale from 40 km to 80 km, or  
333 even larger.

334 It should be pointed out that the shoreline change behavior described has limits as  
335 it is based on a coarsely sampled shoreline data from only three surveys over a 13  
336 month period. The results obtained may contain some degrees of uncertainty and are  
337 inevitably influenced by the particular morphological characteristics of Hainan Island.  
338 More sites with different coastal conditions and data resolutions (spatial and temporal)  
339 should be investigated to further establish the scale relationships of shoreline changes  
340 on wave-dominated sandy coasts and underlying mechanisms for these changes.

341

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402  
403

404 **Table 1** Major capes, rivers along coast of Hainan Island (\*based on Yang et al.,  
 405 2013).

Type	Water Discharge*	Sediment Discharge*	Name	Flank Profiles
River	5.673×10 <sup>9</sup> m <sup>3</sup> /y	3.877×10 <sup>5</sup> t/y	Nandu	N002, N003
Cape			Hainanjiao	N010, N011
Cape			Jingxin (Baohu)	N017, N018
Cape			Tonggu	N024, N025
River	4.780×10 <sup>9</sup> m <sup>3</sup> /y	4.533×10 <sup>5</sup> t/y	Wanquan	N039, N040
Cape			Dahua	N047, N048
Cape			Maliu (Niumiao)	N051, N052
Cape			Lingshui	N061, N062
Cape			Zhuwanxia	N068, N069
Cape			Luhuitou	N069, N070
Cape			Nanshan	N077, N078
Cape			Yinggeju	N088, N089
River	3.643×10 <sup>9</sup> m <sup>3</sup> /y	6.989×10 <sup>5</sup> t/y	Changhua	N105, N106
Cape			Lingao	N125, N126

406

407 **Table 2** Contributions of the first and second eigenvectors at different coast sections.

	Profiles	May2013	Dec2013	June2014
<b>Contribution of First Eigenvector (%)</b>	N001~N132	87	88	89
	N010~N049	82	82	86
	N049~N087	89	90	91
	N088~N009	86	89	85
<b>Contribution of First and Second Eigenvectors (%)</b>	N001~N132	95	96	96
	N010~N049	91	93	95
	N049~N087	96	98	97
	N088~N009	95	96	95

408

409 **Table 3** Parameters of tropical cyclones passed Hainan Island during investigated  
 410 period (based on Best Track Data by RSMC Tokyo – Typhoon Center).

Tropical Cyclone	Maximum sustained wind speed (knot)	Minimum central pressure (hPa)	The longest radius of 30kt winds or greater (nautical mile)	The shortest radius of 30kt winds or greater (nautical mile)
BEBINCA	40	990	150	120
RUMBIA	50	985	180	150
JEBI	50	985	250	150
MANGKHUT	40	992	120	120
HAIYAN	125	895	270	180

411

412 **Figure 1.** Location map of Hainan Island, wave direction contribution around Hainan and  
413 routes of tropical cyclones during the investigated period, particle size ( $D_{50}$ ) of intertidal  
414 sediment collected in May 2013 and profile positions. Profiles are numbered N001 to N132  
415 clockwise along the coastline.

416

417 **Figure 2.** Shoreline change around Hainan Island and the results of wavelet analysis. (a)  
418 Seasonal shoreline change of May2013-Dec2013 and Dec2013-Jun2014. The ordinate axis  
419 indicates shoreline change (negative values - erosion). (b) Wavelet transform results of seasonal  
420 shoreline change data with scale parameter  $a=1$ . (c) Wavelet transform results of seasonal and  
421 annual shoreline change data with scale parameters  $a=4$  and 16. The shaded parts are profiles  
422 from N010 to N087 (east and south coasts).

423

424 **Figure 3.** Log-log plots (left) and the corresponding power-spectral exponent  $\beta$  (right) relating  
425 wavelet coefficient mean variance of shoreline change to alongshore scale, for profiles N010 to  
426 N087. Wavelet width is multiplied by 5 kilometers (distance between every two profiles) to get  
427 the alongshore scaling.

428

429 **Figure 4.** EOF analysis of beach profiles around Hainan Island. (a) The weightings of the first  
430 and second eigenvectors on each profile in three surveys. (b) First eigenvector of beach profiles.  
431 (c) Second eigenvector of beach profiles.

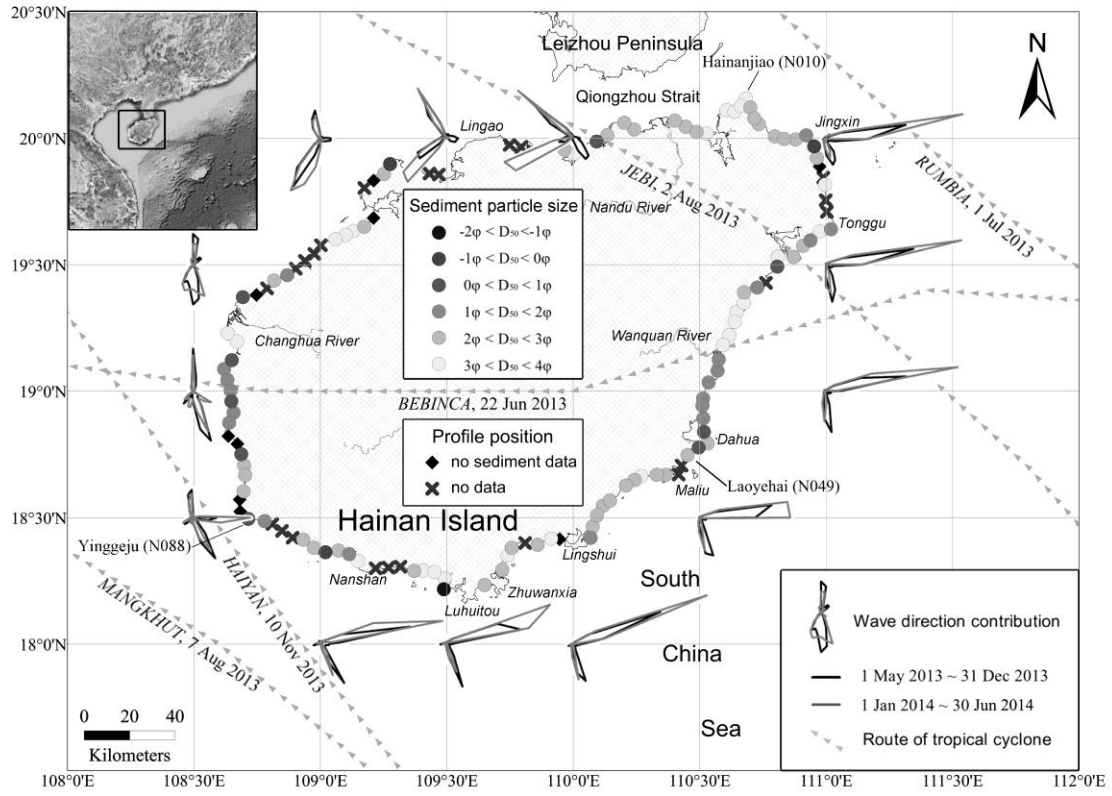
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433 **Figure 5.** Model results of wave conditions around Hainan. (a) Seasonal significant wave  
434 height distribution around Hainan Island, modeled by Zhou *et al.* (2014). (b) and (c) Wave  
435 direction and significant wave height at 18.5°N, 110.5 °E (southeast of Hainan) and at 19°N,  
436 108.5 °E (west of Hainan) during survey period, modeled by WaveWatch III (WW3) Global  
437 Wave Model.

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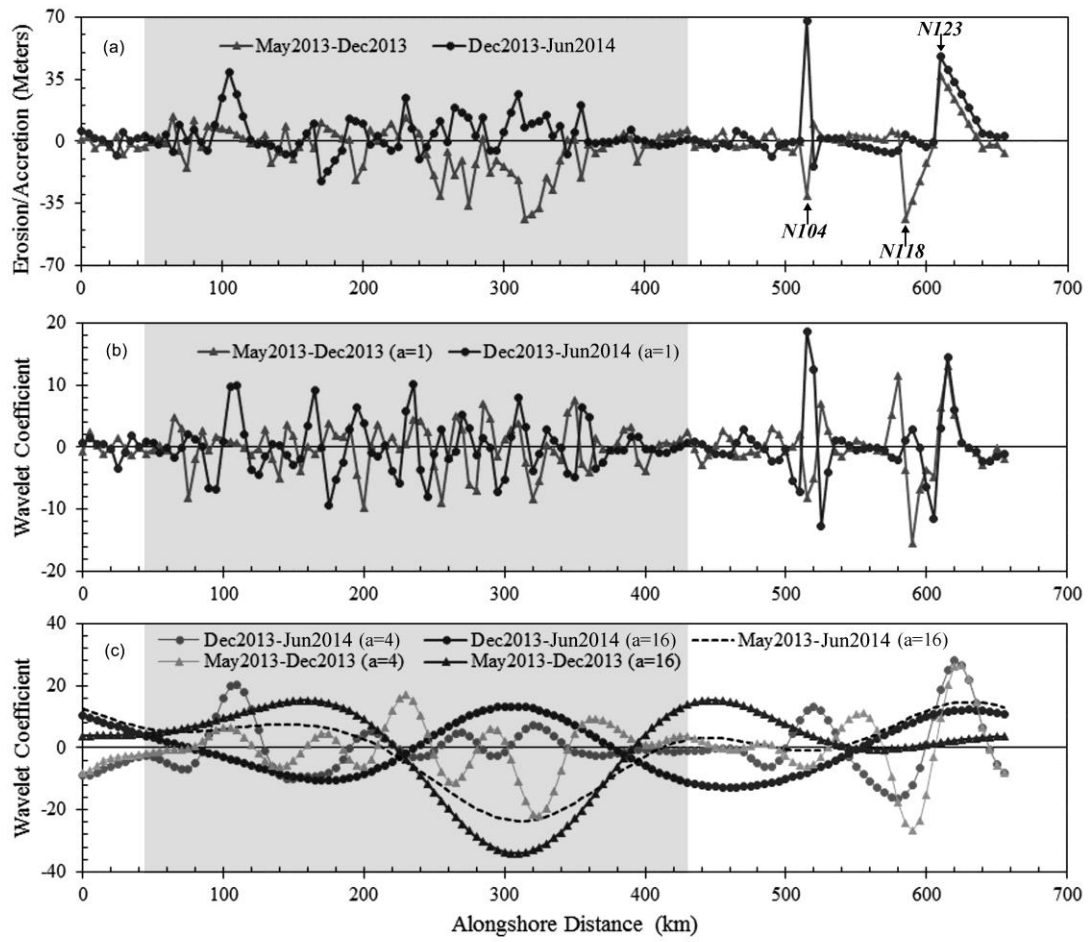
439 **Figure 6.** Wavelet analysis of annual shoreline change, azimuth and submerged slope of  
440 alongshore profiles. Wavelet coefficients of azimuth are divided by three for plotting in figures.  
441 Submerged slope is calculated between elevations 0 and -5 m at each profile.

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Figure 1



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Figure 2

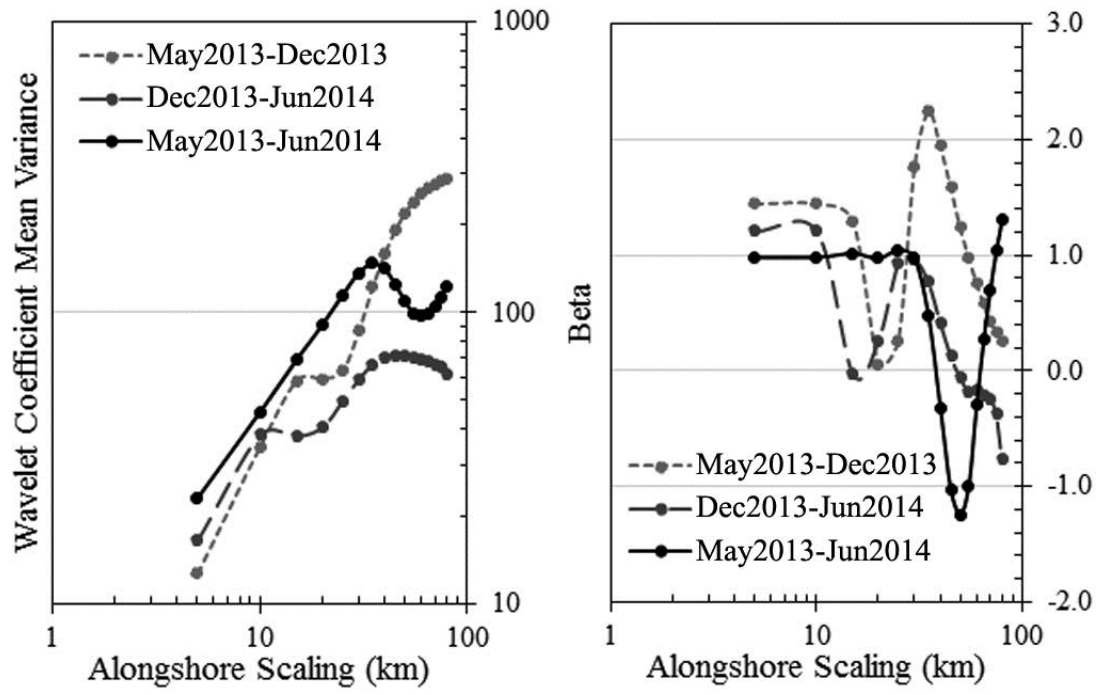


Figure 3

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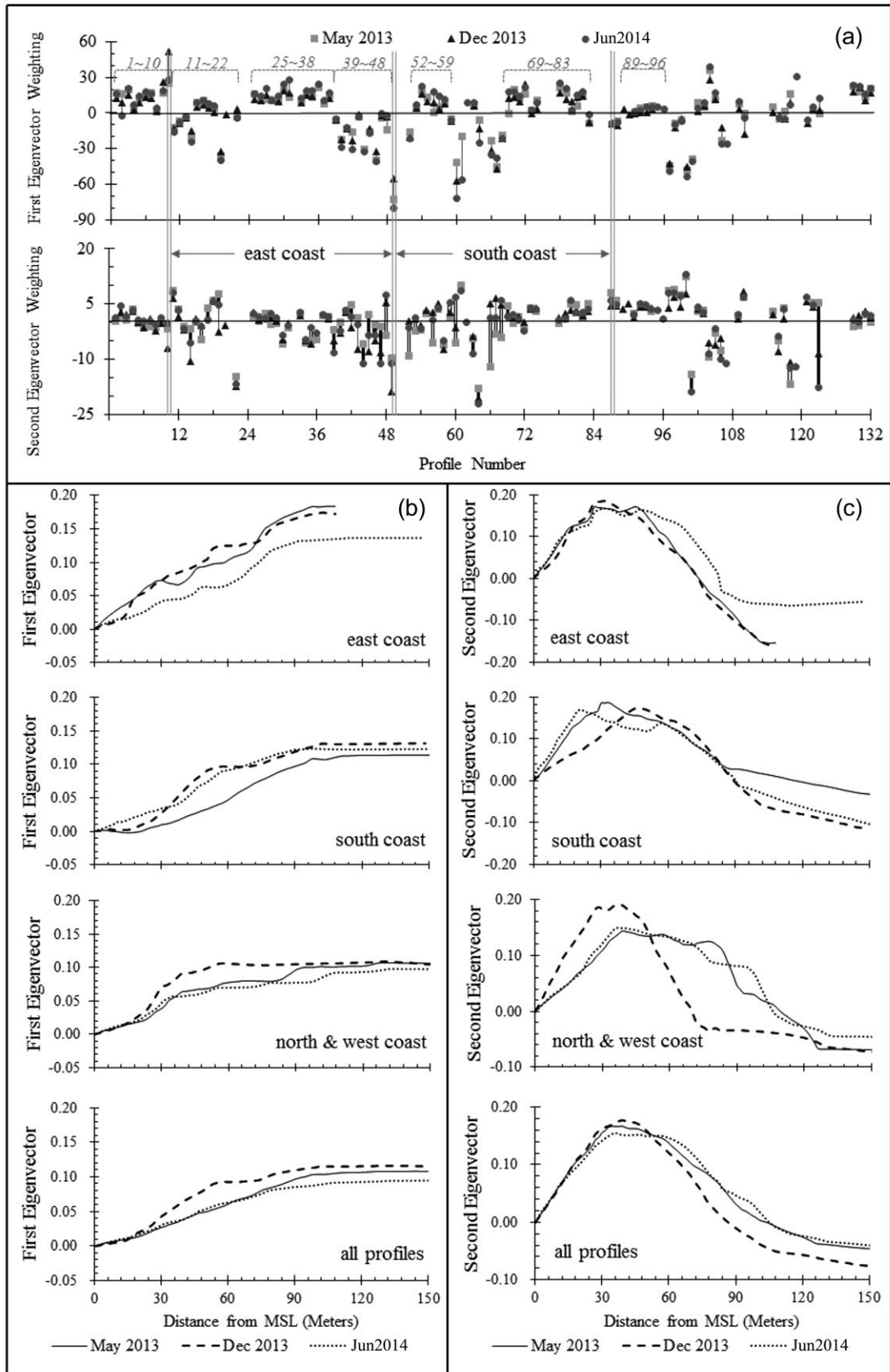
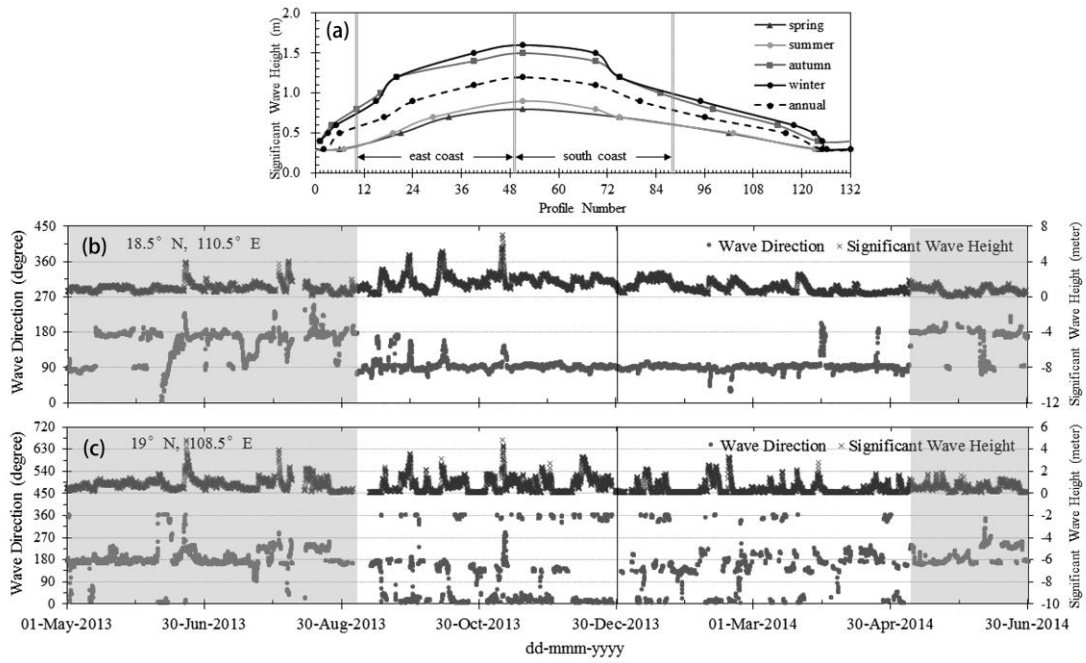


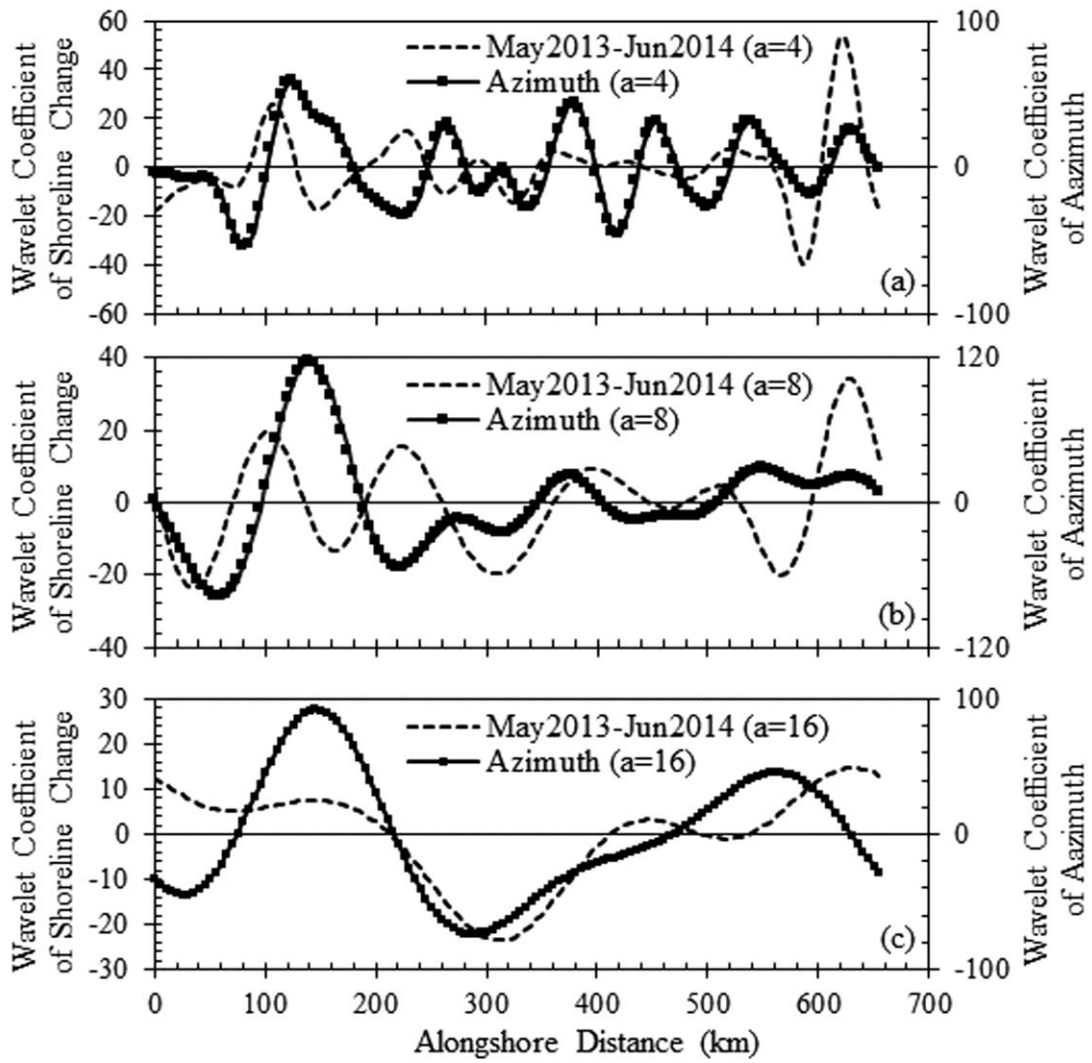
Figure 4

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Figure 5



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Figure 6