

Figure 3: Wave and swell climatology along the eclipse track. Wave heights refer to sea waves generated by the local wind at and before the observation time. Swells are generated by winds at a distance from the local observation point. Wave + swell height refers to the average of the larger of the wave or swell at the time of observation if both are present, otherwise one or the other is used. This latter measurement is probably most representative of average conditions for the eclipse. Note that the largest waves and swell are found in the Caribbean where trade winds blow more strongly and persistently than in Pacific waters. Data from U.S. Naval Weather Service Command, 1978.