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GENERAL

Not untypically for this area, the predominant influence on both the survey progress and the overall data quality was the weather and sea conditions. Weather downtime accounted for approximately one quarter of the total survey time. Working economically into and out of the weather downtime periods also meant that some data was recorded with relatively consistent swell noise interference on the data. However to negate this interference would have led to an exponential increase in weather downtime. The frequency and severity of swell noise was of course emphasized on the near groups which were less immune to noise because of their shorter length. However the majority of data was recorded in reasonable weather conditions and the fold coverage is expected to more than compensate for swell noise in most cases.

Historically the decisions regarding interrupting the survey for bad weather has been base on the personal experience of the on board client's representative. As costs and weather downtime penalties increase however it becomes more and more critical that such decisions should be made in some other method than by observing the streamer on an oscilloscope. There are a number of commercially available processing systems which by their ability to stack data in the field, give a much more positive indication of the effect of swell noise interference. The same systems are equally useful in judging the effects of seismic interference and ship noise.

FIGURE 4.1.1

