

Surf Tips on Reading the Dana Point Buoy  
(Print this and then surf to the following link)  
<http://facs.scripps.edu/surf/danapoint.html>

If the automated graphs do not work try this: In Internet Explorer click on Tools . Internet Options . Advanced . scroll down and uncheck “Sun Java ....” Known problem.

The following instructions assume you are looking at the web page:

There are four graphs in the square.  
(Note the Buoy Data has about a 90 minute lag time... see time stamp in lower left.)

**Starting with the bar chart (Band Periods) in the lower left corner:**

Taller bars on the left (blue) are best. These longer periods are from longer distances = real swells. The 23 second swells have long lulls between sets but when they come they are excellent shape. Trestles, Cottons and San Onofre are best. When the 18 to 10 seconds bars are tall it's a standard solid swell so there is going to be waves. 10 seconds and below are local wind swell and chop. Ideally these bars should be the smallest but strong bars in this range means “crossed up” beach break peaks; or no surf.

**The Compass** provides swell direction for all incoming waves. For San Clemente it varies between 170 to 280. Compare the colors with the bars below. If the columns are tall on the left then check their direction on the compass. Holding your mouse over the color will do the same thing. 170 to 220 means Lowers, Cottons and the summer beach break lefts are happening. If the main energy is from 220 to 270 the winter spots like Uppers, Middles, Church and the winter beach breaks are your best bet.

One of the most overlooked charts is the rectangle box called **Sig Wave Ht Trend**. It looks back over the last 14 hours. A rising line means increasing swell. Pause your mouse over any point and all the other charts update with that information.

Now check the San Clemente Weather Station on the Pier.

<http://web/sc/inf/Weather/Detail/>

This gives current tide, wind, water and air conditions.