

# MDHTALK – Metal Detecting Hobby Talk

## The Ideal Beach



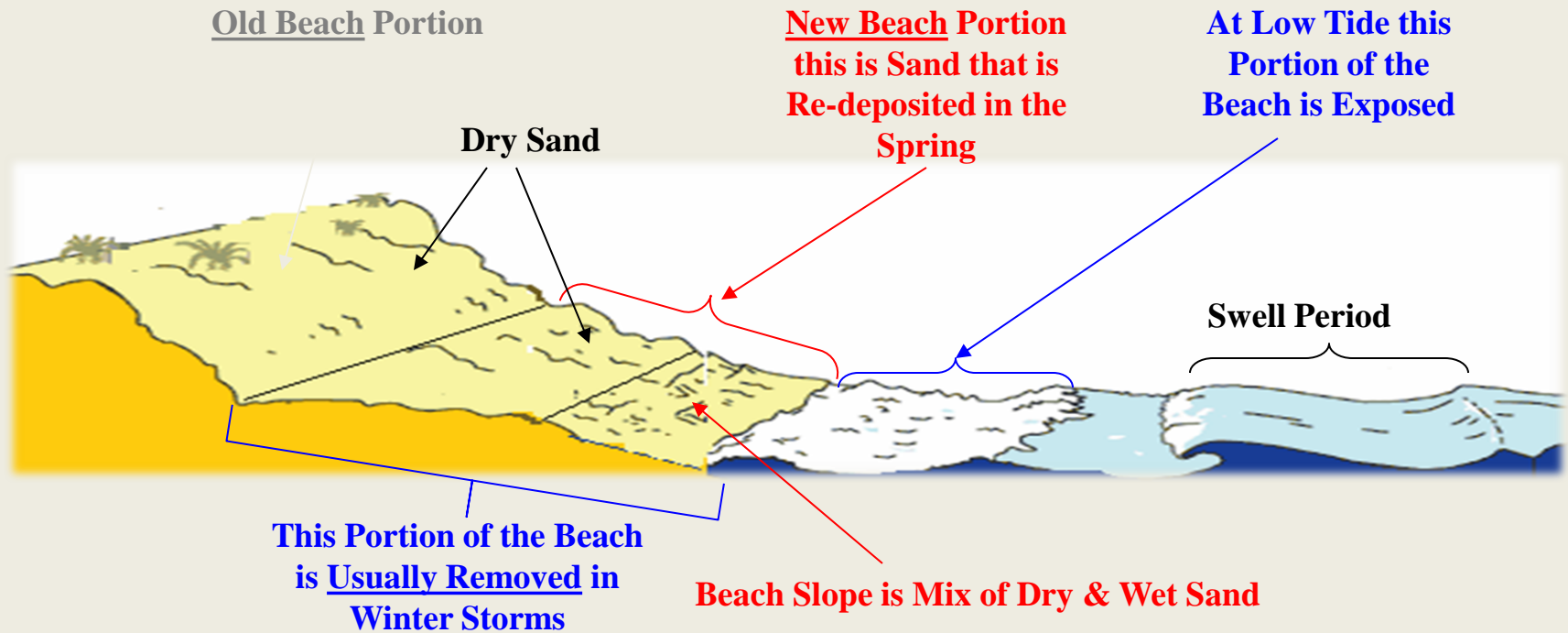
### Overview of Metal Detecting Saltwater Beaches



by **Lee Wiese**  
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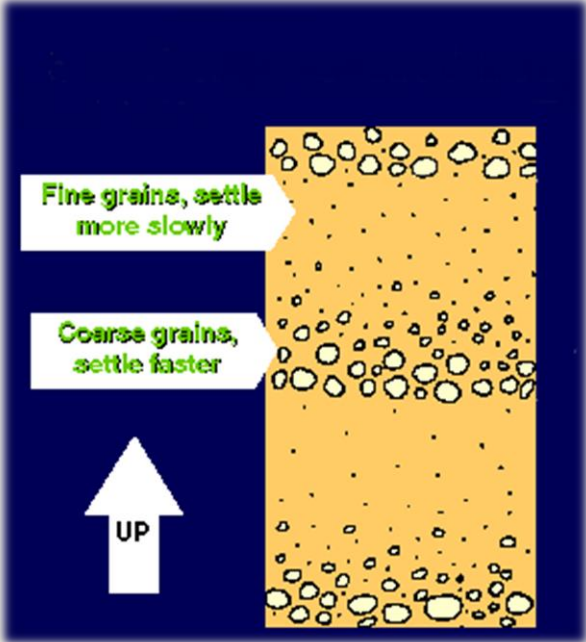
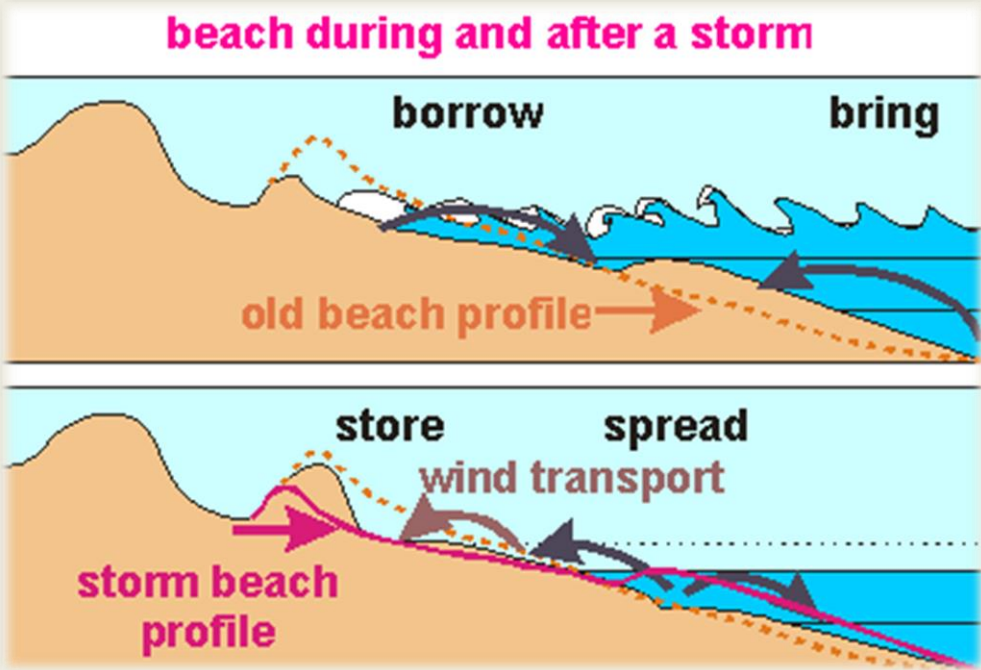
# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Beach Profile



**To Become a Serious Beach Hunter and have Consistent Results You Must Learn to READ the Beach**

# Metal Detecting Beaches Profile



# Metal Detecting Beaches

Metal Detecting  
Beaches

## Saltwater Beaches are Ever Changing

The Beach Shore Profile can be Different from **Day-to-Day** and can **Change Dramatically** from **Season-to-Season**.

### *The Causes for Beach Change or Erosion are:*

- **High and / or Low Tides**
- **High Surf / Swell Conditions (5-20 ft)**
- **Short or Long Swell Periods (7 to 15 sec between Swells)**
- **High Surf at High Tide can Effect Huge Change**
- **Swell Direction Southwest vs. West, Etc.**
- **On Shore vs. Off Shore Winds & Wind Direction**
- **Storms and Hurricanes Tide Surges**

### *Max Beach Erosion*

- ✓ **Storm Situation**
- ✓ **High Tide (+5 to 6 Ft+)**
- ✓ **Southwest Swells**
- ✓ **Swells (15 to 20 Ft)**
- ✓ **Swell Period (7-9 Secs)**
- ✓ **On Shore Winds**
- ✓ **Tide Surges**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Beach Detecting Locations



### ➤ Dry Sand

- Old Beach Dry Sand
- New Beach Dry Sand

### ➤ Blanket Line (25-65 Ft Back from Crest)

### ➤ Beach Crest

### ➤ Wet Sand

- Wet Sand Water Line
- Low Spots, Valleys, Surf Pocket

### ➤ Sand Scallops

- Scallop Left or Right Side
- Scallop Valley

### ➤ Bed Rock or Clay Bottom (Winter Only)

### ➤ Beach Cuts

### ➤ Beach Slope

- Upper Slope (Near Crest)
- Lower Slope (Near Water)

### ➤ Flatten Beaches (Usually Winter Only)

### ➤ Water

- Low Tide Trough

### *Other Beach Locations*

- ✓ Beach Events
- ✓ Play Ground Areas
- ✓ Volley Ball Courts
- ✓ Along Wall Areas
- ✓ Beaches in Front of Hotels
- ✓ Beach Chair & Lounge Areas
- ✓ Beach Walk Ways (Entrances)
- ✓ Concessions Areas
- ✓ Picnic Table Areas (**Check First**)

**NEVER Metal Detect the Beach Grass or Grass Dune Areas**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Blanket Lines



**Line #2**

**Line #1**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Beach Scenes



**Lounge Area**



**Blanket Lines**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Cut with Some Fill, Crest, Blanket Line



**Blanket Line**

**Crest**

**Cut**

***Fill this is an  
18 Hour Old  
Cut***



# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Cut into the Beach Slope



**Great Cut that goes into the Sand Dune Area**



**Cut into the Slope**

# Metal Detecting Beaches Cut into the Beach



**Great Cut that goes into  
the Beach Area**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Cut into the Beach



**Great Cut that goes into the Beach Area**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Cut into the Beach Slope & Dune



**Great Cut that goes into the Old Beach Slope**



**Great Cut into Sand Dune**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

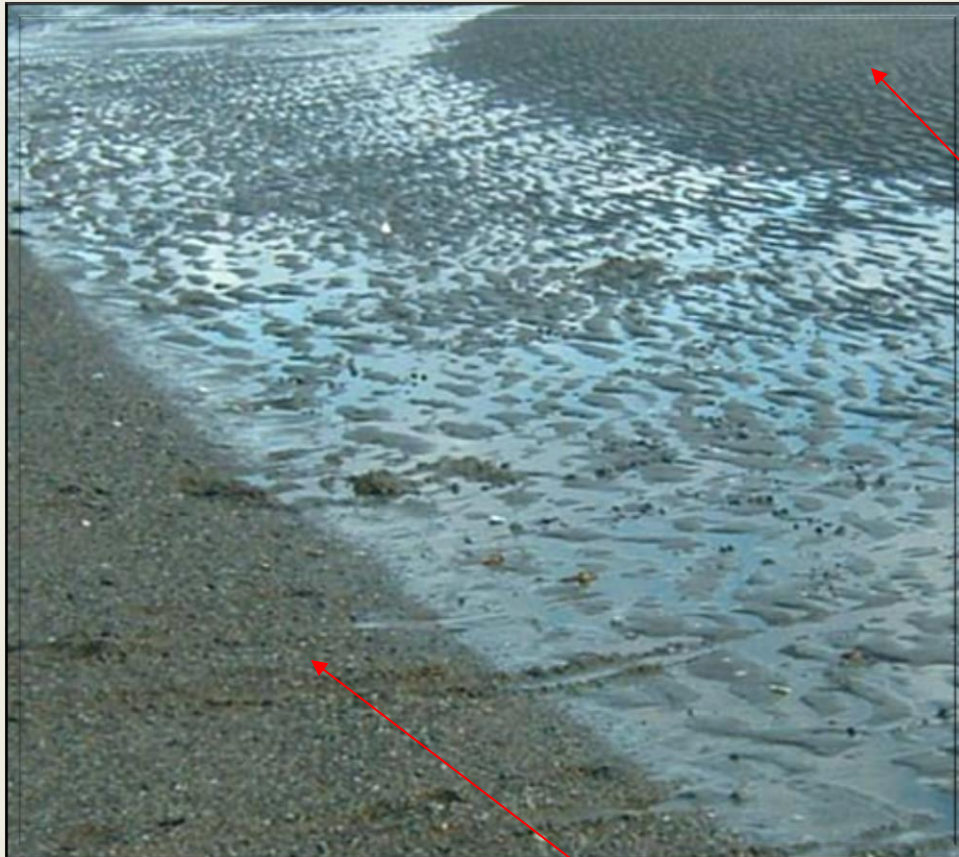
## Rock on the Beach



## Detect Rock Concentrations

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Ripple Surf Action



**Slope**

**Small Rock Exposure  
Small Rock Exposure**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

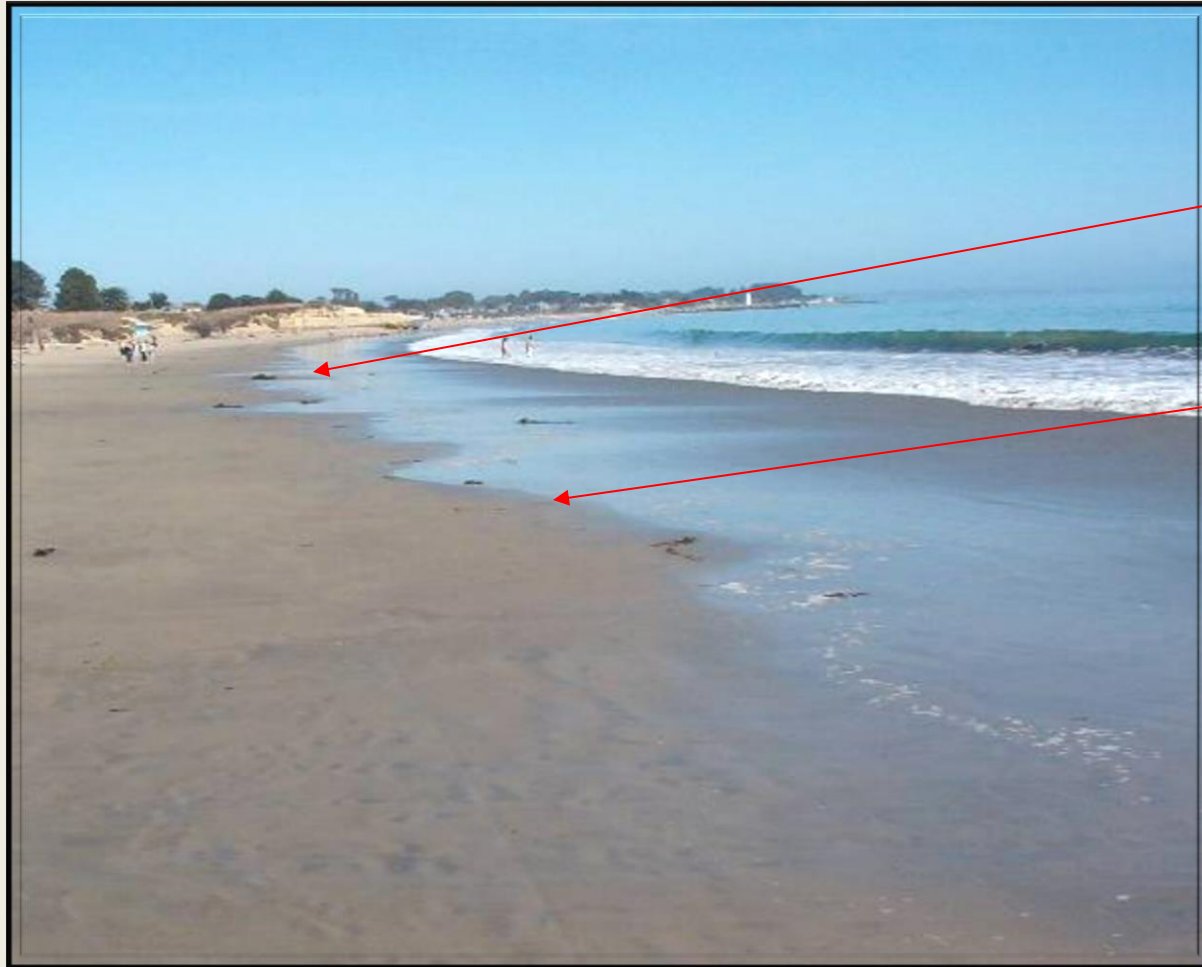
## Wet Sand High to Low Tide Region



**Low Tide Mark**  
**High Tide Mark**  
**Wet Sand**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Wet Sand Water Line (High Tide Surf)



**Low Spot**

**Wet Sand Water Line**

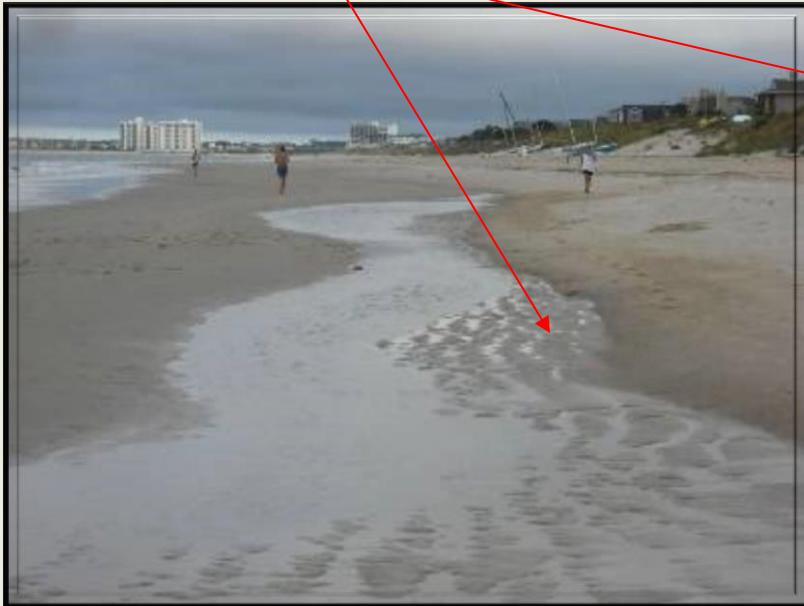


# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Beach Trough & Flat Spots



**Trough or Ripple Cut**



**Flat Spot or Pockets**

**May be a Very Small Washout**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Beach Trough, Ripple Cut, Flat Spot

Metal Detecting  
Beaches



# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Scallops



**Scallop Valley**

**Scallop**

**Scallop Side**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Scallops



**More Scallops**

**Air View of Scallops & Slope**



**Old Beach Dry Sand Area**

**New Beach Dry Sand Area**

**Dotted Line is Winter Shore Line**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Slope



**Upper Slope**

**Lower Slope is  
under Water**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Other Places at the Beach to Metal Detect



**Events**



**Play Areas**



**Wall Areas**



**Beaches In Front of Large Hotels**



# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Other Places at the Beach to Metal Detect



**Beach Chair / Lounge Areas & Walk Ways**



**Concessions**



**Table Areas-Check with Ranger First**



**Volley Ball Areas**



# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Detecting Locations & Seasonal Conditions



	<i>Winter</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer / Fall</i>	<i>Storms</i>
<b>Dry Sand</b>	XX	XXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
-Old Beach Dry sand	Some Erosion	XX	XXXXXXXXXX	Some Erosion
-New Beach Sand	Complete Erosion	Beach Re-building	XXXXXXXXXX	Complete Erosion
<b>Blanket Line (25-65 Ft Back from Crest)</b>			XXXXXXXXXX	
<b>Beach Crest</b>			XXXXXXXXXX	
<b>Wet Sand</b>	XXXXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXX
-Wet Sand Water Line	XXXXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXX
-Low Spots, Valleys, Surf Pocket	XXXXXXXXXX			XXXXXXXXXX
<b>Sand Scallops</b>	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
-Scallop Left or Right Side	XXXX		XXXX	
-Scallop Valley	XXXXXX		XXXXXX	
<b>Bed Rock or Clay Bottom (Winter Only)</b>	Requires Storms			XXXXXXXXXX
<b>Beach Cuts</b>	Requires High Surf		If Available	XXXXXXXXXX
<b>Beach Slope</b>	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
-Upper Slope (Near Crest)	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	If Available
-Lower Slop (Near Water)	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	If Available
<b>Flatten Beach (Winter Only)</b>	Not Good Detecting			Can be OK
<b>Water</b>	Dangerous		XXXXXXXXXX	Extremely Dangerous
-Low Tide Trough	Dangerous		XXXXXXXXXX	Extremely Dangerous
<b>Low Tide</b>	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	Extremely Dangerous
<b>High Tide</b>				Dangerous
<b>Surf / Swell Condition</b>	All Conditions	4-8 Ft	Low Surf & Swells	15 Ft + Short Period

XXXXXXXXXX = Best Area, XXXXXX= Good Area, XXXX= Certain Conditions



# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Beach Detecting Ethics



➤ **I will** check Federal, State, County and Local Laws before searching. It is my responsibility to “KNOW THE LAW”.

➤ **I will** as an ambassador for the hobby, be thoughtful, considerate and courtesies at all times to others & their property. (Stay away from beach goers by 15-20 feet)

➤ **I will not** detect near, between or among groups of beach goers.

➤ **I will** remove and dispose of any and all trash and litter that I detect on the beach.

➤ **I will** take care to refill all holes in the beach sand before moving on.

➤ **I will** shake sand scoops low to the beach so that the sand will not be sprayed on beach goers.

➤ **I will** return all lost items to beach goers that ask for help in locating their lost item.

➤ **I will** approach and educate those who do not follow good metal detecting ethics on the beach.

**Very Important on the Beach**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Detecting Methods

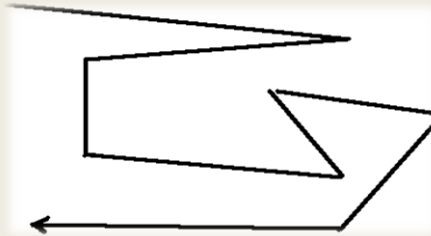


### Search Patterns



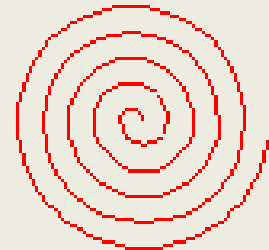
#### Overlapping Pattern

This pattern can be used for any type of metal detecting the benefits are that each pass overlap on the previous pass. Leaving no undetected beach.



#### Random Pattern

This search pattern is very common but as you can see there are many areas of the beach left undetected.



#### Spiral Pattern

This search pattern is used once a target has been detected and recovery from the sand. Do a Spiral Search around the target for additional targets that may have been lost at the same time.

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Recommended Detecting Method



### Dry Sand Detecting

Select a spot where there is high Beach Traffic and do a Pattern Search perpendicular to the shore line. Swing the coil slow, low, level and scrub the sand with the coil. Listen for LOW signals this usually indicates small or deep targets. Use a Sand Scoop to retrieve Targets.

### Wet Sand Detecting

Select a section of the beach where swimmers enter the water. Do an Overlap Search Pattern perpendicular to the waters edge up the beach slope to the Beach Crest. Listen for Low signals this usually indicates small or deep targets. Use a sand or water scoop to retrieve targets. After retrieving a few targets look back to see if there is target pattern (*Drop Zone*), if there is a pattern search this portion of the wet sand going forward.

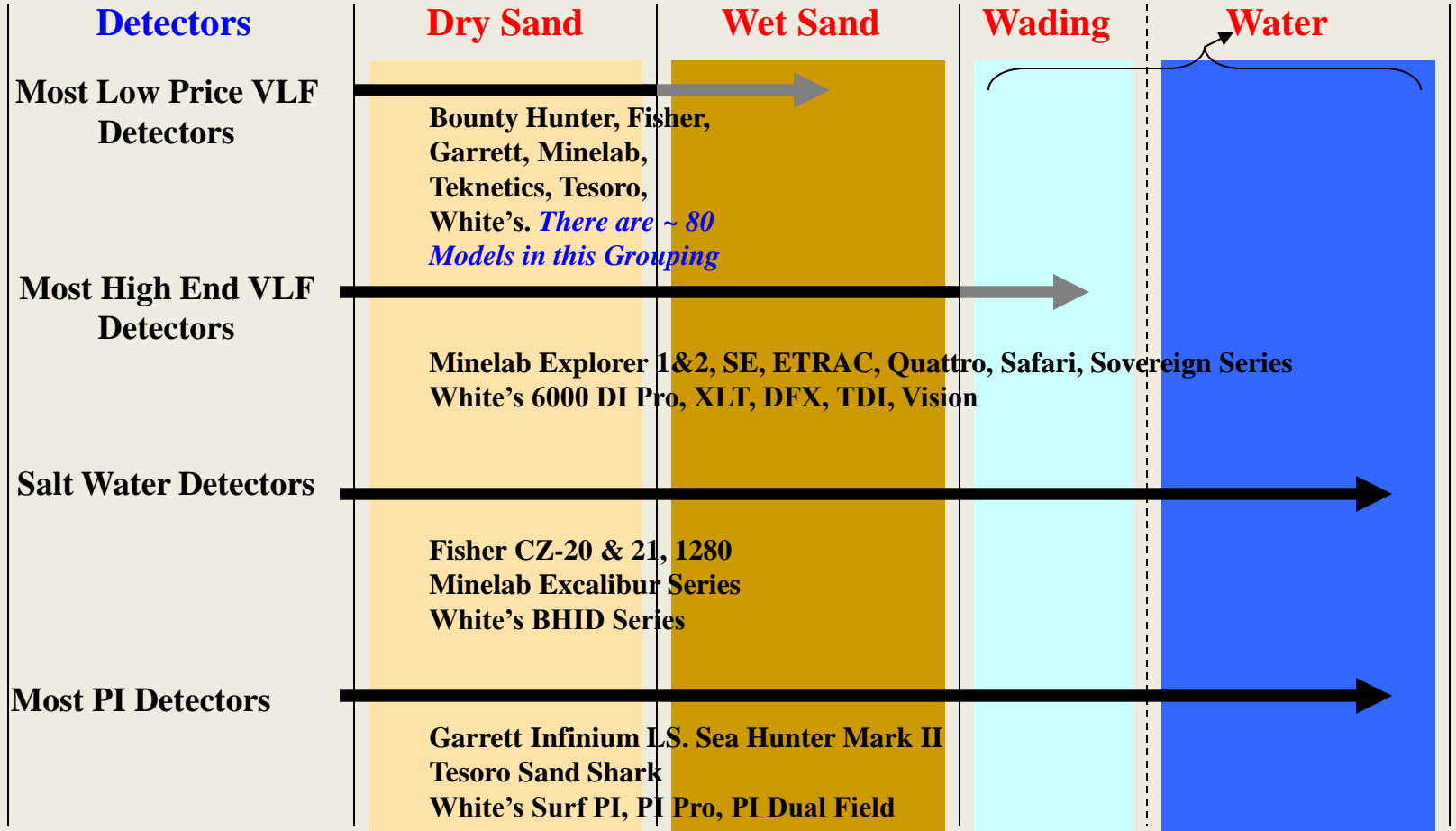
### Water Detecting

Select an area of water that appears to get many swimmers during the day. Start an overlap search pattern in the water perpendicular to the shore line moving deeper into the water. Continue this pattern back and forth looking for a potential target zone in the water. Also look for troughs that may run parallel to the shore line. Troughs collect targets and can be very productive. Use a water scoop to retrieve targets.

**Drop Zone:** This can be found on a wet sand slope. This is caused by the surf's action during high tide and as the tide recedes, a zone of targets may be left behind. This can occur anytime there has been some noticeable beach erosion.

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Salt Water Beach Detectors



# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Beach Detecting Tools



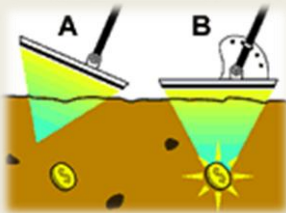
**Sand Scoop**



**Water Scoop**



**Rain Cover**



**Loop Support**

(Optional)



**Larger Coil**

(Coil Cover Optional)



**Knee Pads**

(Optional)



**Finds / Trash Pouch**



**Web Belt**



**Headphones**

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Beach Detecting Clothes



### Water Detecting

Wet / Dry Suit



Scuba Boots

### Strom Gear

Rain Jacket & Waders



Web Belt  
for Safety



Safety Concerns

### Sand Detecting

✓ Normal Street or Beach Clothing

✓ A good Hat and Sunblock Lotion

✓ May want to Consider Gloves

✓ Good Shoes with High Sides Best for the Sand

Or

✓ Scuba Boots

# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Tide Table Example



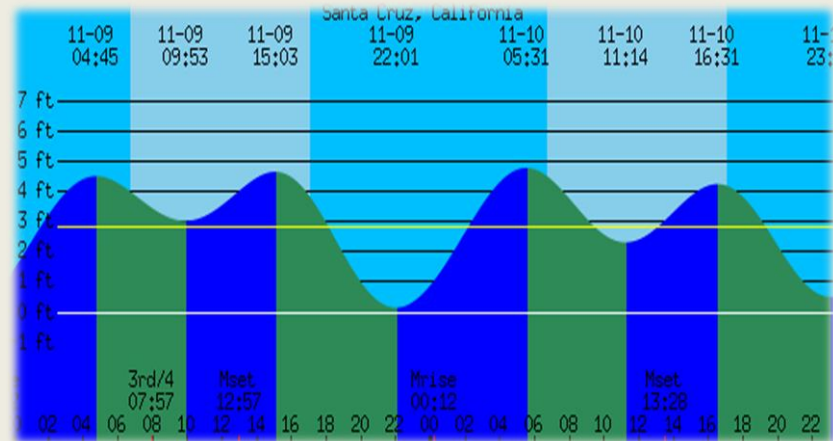
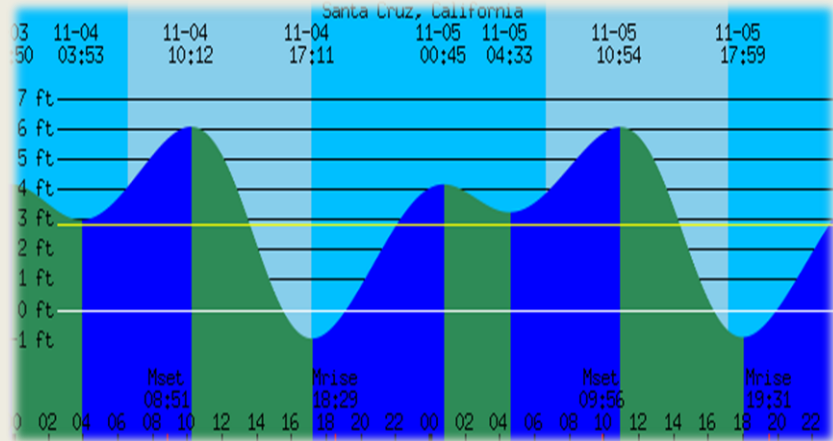
### Santa Cruz, California

19 September 2009 - 20 September 2009

36.9667° N, 122.0167° W

- ✓2009-09-19 04:54 PDT 0.46 feet Low Tide
- ✓2009-09-19 06:53 PDT Sunrise
- ✓2009-09-19 07:59 PDT Moonrise
- ✓2009-09-19 11:27 PDT 5.43 feet High Tide
- ✓2009-09-19 17:30 PDT 0.07 feet Low Tide
- ✓2009-09-19 19:09 PDT Sunset
- ✓2009-09-19 19:25 PDT Moonset

- ✓2009-09-20 00:01 PDT 4.77 feet High Tide
- ✓2009-09-20 05:32 PDT 1.07 feet Low Tide
- ✓2009-09-20 06:54 PDT Sunrise
- ✓2009-09-20 09:08 PDT Moonrise
- ✓2009-09-20 11:59 PDT 5.53 feet High Tide
- ✓2009-09-20 18:16 PDT -0.07 feet Low Tide
- ✓2009-09-20 19:07 PDT Sunset
- ✓2009-09-20 19:57 PDT Moonset



# Metal Detecting Beaches

## Some Web URLs



### Beach Forums

**Findmall:** <https://www.findmall.com/forums/beach-and-water-scuba-dive-detecting-forum.15/>

**Treasure Net:** <http://forum.treasurenet.com/index.php/board,10.0.html>

**Treasure Quest:** <http://www.treasurequestxlt.com/community/index.php?forums/beach-water-underwater-metal-detecting.29/>

**Friendly Metal Detecting Forum:** <http://metaldetectingforum.com/forumdisplay.php?f=14>

### Tide Tables

**Tide Predictor:** <http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/>

**Region Predictions:** <http://www.saltwatertides.com/pickpred.html>

### Wave Predictor

**Northern California:** <http://magicseaweed.com/Moss-Landing-Surf-Report/259/detailedLongRange/uk/>

### Santa Cruz

**Beach Cam:** <https://www.digsantacruz.com/main-beach-live-cam/>

**Tide Table:** <http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/tideshow.cgi?site=Santa+Cruz%2C+California>