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Breaker Index Formulas

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List of 16 Breaker Index Formulas

Breaker Index

1) Breaker Depth Index


$$fx \quad \gamma_b = \frac{H_b}{d_b}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 0.327273 = \frac{18m}{55m}$$

2) Breaker Depth Index given Wave Period

$$fx \quad \gamma_b = b - a \cdot \left(\frac{H_b}{[g] \cdot T_b^2} \right)$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 0.303837 = 1.56 - 43.8 \cdot \left(\frac{18m}{[g] \cdot (8s)^2} \right)$$

3) Breaker Height Index

$$fx \quad \Omega_b = \frac{H_b}{\lambda_o}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 2.571429 = \frac{18m}{7m}$$



4) Deepwater Wave Height given Breaker Height Index

$$\text{fx } \lambda_o = \frac{H_b}{\Omega_b}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(cbe80b694ebd74fcfe136a095b608235_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{ex } 7.058824\text{m} = \frac{18\text{m}}{2.55}$$

5) Deepwater Wavelength given Breaker Height Index from Linear Wave Theory

$$\text{fx } \lambda_o = \frac{H'_o}{\left(\frac{\Omega_b}{0.56}\right)^{-5}}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(3e2231b1ad3ca8da8658228c00dd08e0_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{ex } 7.126268\text{m} = \frac{0.00364\text{m}}{\left(\frac{2.55}{0.56}\right)^{-5}}$$

6) Equivalent Unrefracted Deepwater Wave Height given Breaker Height Index from Linear Wave Theory

$$\text{fx } H'_o = \lambda_o \cdot \left(\frac{\Omega_b}{0.56}\right)^{-5}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(0d5ec72f61334709c3fc9450209b754f_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{ex } 0.003576\text{m} = 7\text{m} \cdot \left(\frac{2.55}{0.56}\right)^{-5}$$



7) Local Depth given Root Mean Square Wave Height 

$$\text{fx } d_1 = \frac{H_{\text{rms}}}{0.42}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(e78f798d4ea5c530c9db49e7d26e6b95_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{ex } 20\text{m} = \frac{8.4\text{m}}{0.42}$$

8) Local Depth given Zero Moment Wave Height 

$$\text{fx } d_1 = \frac{H_{\text{m0,b}}}{0.6}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(05be7c7a8995decd503647c99211f7c2_img.jpg\)](#)


$$\text{ex } 20\text{m} = \frac{12.00\text{m}}{0.6}$$

9) Root Mean Square Wave Height at Breaking 

$$\text{fx } H_{\text{rms}} = 0.42 \cdot d_1$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(fe3aebe81acea8d45108cd2768939da7_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{ex } 8.4\text{m} = 0.42 \cdot 20.0\text{m}$$


10) Semi-Empirical Relationship for Breaker Height Index from Linear Wave Theory 

$$\text{fx } \Omega_b = 0.56 \cdot \left(\frac{H'_o}{\lambda_o} \right)^{-\frac{1}{5}}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(899d8b7697d64725bf017d3296cfcf1b_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{ex } 2.540899 = 0.56 \cdot \left(\frac{0.00364\text{m}}{7\text{m}} \right)^{-\frac{1}{5}}$$



11) Water Depth at Breaking given Breaker Depth Index 

$$fx \quad d_b = \left(\frac{H_b}{\gamma_b} \right)$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 56.25m = \left(\frac{18m}{0.32} \right)$$

12) Wave Height at Incipient Breaking given Breaker Depth Index 

$$fx \quad H_b = \gamma_b \cdot d_b$$

Open Calculator 


$$ex \quad 17.6m = 0.32 \cdot 55m$$

13) Wave Height at Incipient Breaking given Breaker Height Index 

$$fx \quad H_b = \Omega_b \cdot \lambda_o$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 17.85m = 2.55 \cdot 7m$$


14) Wave Height at Incipient Breaking using Beach Slope 

$$fx \quad H_b = [g] \cdot T_b^2 \cdot \frac{b - \gamma_b}{a}$$

Open Calculator 


$$ex \quad 17.7684m = [g] \cdot (8s)^2 \cdot \frac{1.56 - 0.32}{43.8}$$



15) Wave Period given Breaker Depth Index [Open Calculator](#) 

$$\text{fx } T_b = \sqrt{\frac{a \cdot H_b}{[g] \cdot (b - \gamma_b)}}$$

$$\text{ex } 8.05197\text{s} = \sqrt{\frac{43.8 \cdot 18\text{m}}{[g] \cdot (1.56 - 0.32)}}$$

16) Zero-Moment Wave Height at Breaking [Open Calculator](#) 

$$\text{fx } H_{m0,b} = 0.6 \cdot d_l$$

$$\text{ex } 12\text{m} = 0.6 \cdot 20.0\text{m}$$





Variables Used

- **a** Functions of Beach Slope A
- **b** Functions of Beach Slope B
- **d_b** Water Depth at Breaking (*Meter*)
- **d_l** Local Depth (*Meter*)
- **H_b** Wave Height at Incipient Breaking (*Meter*)
- **$H_{m0,b}$** Zero-Moment Wave Height (*Meter*)
- **H'_o** Equivalent Unrefracted Deepwater Wave Height (*Meter*)
- **H_{rms}** Root Mean Square Wave Height (*Meter*)
- **T_b** Wave Period for Breaker Index (*Second*)
- **Y_b** Breaker Depth Index
- **λ_o** Deep-Water Wavelength (*Meter*)
- **Ω_b** Breaker Height Index



Constants, Functions, Measurements used

- **Constant:** **[g]**, 9.80665
Gravitational acceleration on Earth
- **Function:** **sqrt**, sqrt(Number)
A square root function is a function that takes a non-negative number as an input and returns the square root of the given input number.
- **Measurement:** **Length** in Meter (m)
Length Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement:** **Time** in Second (s)
Time Unit Conversion 



Check other formula lists

- [Breaker Index Formulas](#) 
- [Energy Flux Method Formulas](#) 
- [Irregular Waves Formulas](#) 

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