I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. G.S. Sharma, Professor and Director of School of Marine Sciences, University of Cochin, for suggesting the problem, the valuable guidance, the constant encouragement and critical scrutiny of the manuscript.

I am thankful to the University of Cochin for providing the necessary facilities during the period of work.

The financial support of the University Grants Commission during my tenure as a J.R.F. in the University of Cochin is gratefully acknowledged.

I am also thankful to India Meteorological Department, Survey of India, Naval Hydrographic Office and Permanent Service to Mean Sea Level (Institute of Oceanographic Sciences), Bidston, U.K., for providing me the data.

Shri M.V. Lakshmana Rao has been a source of encouragement since I joined the Berhampur University and helped me in the preparation of the thesis.

I also express my appreciation to all my friends who helped me in one way or the other.
I am also thankful to Professor P.K. Misra, Head of the Department of Marine Sciences, Berhamour University for kindly extending his cooperation.