



# NMBAQC

NE Atlantic Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control Scheme

## NMBAQC Scheme 2023/24

# PS91 Report

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**Client:** North East Atlantic Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control Scheme

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McIntyre-Brown, L. & Hall, D., 2024. National Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control Scheme. Particle Size Results: PS91 Report to the NMBAQC Scheme participants. Apem Report NMBAQCps91, 17pp, July 2024.

## Revision and Amendment Register

| Version Number | Date       | Section(s)     | Page(s) | Summary of Changes                              | Approved by |
|----------------|------------|----------------|---------|---|-------------|
| 1.0            | 22/05/2024 | All            | All     | Creation of Document                            | LMB         |
| 1.1            | 23/05/2024 | All            | All     | Review of Document                              | DH          |
| 1.2            | 06/06/2024 | 2 & appendices | 7 - 16  | Update PSA_3011 results following re-submission | LMB         |

At the time of issue no data had been received from participants PSA\_3009, PSA\_3013 and PSA\_30014.

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## Abbreviations

n/p – Not participating at the current time.

n/r – no response from participant/ no data submitted.

“-“ – no data submitted.

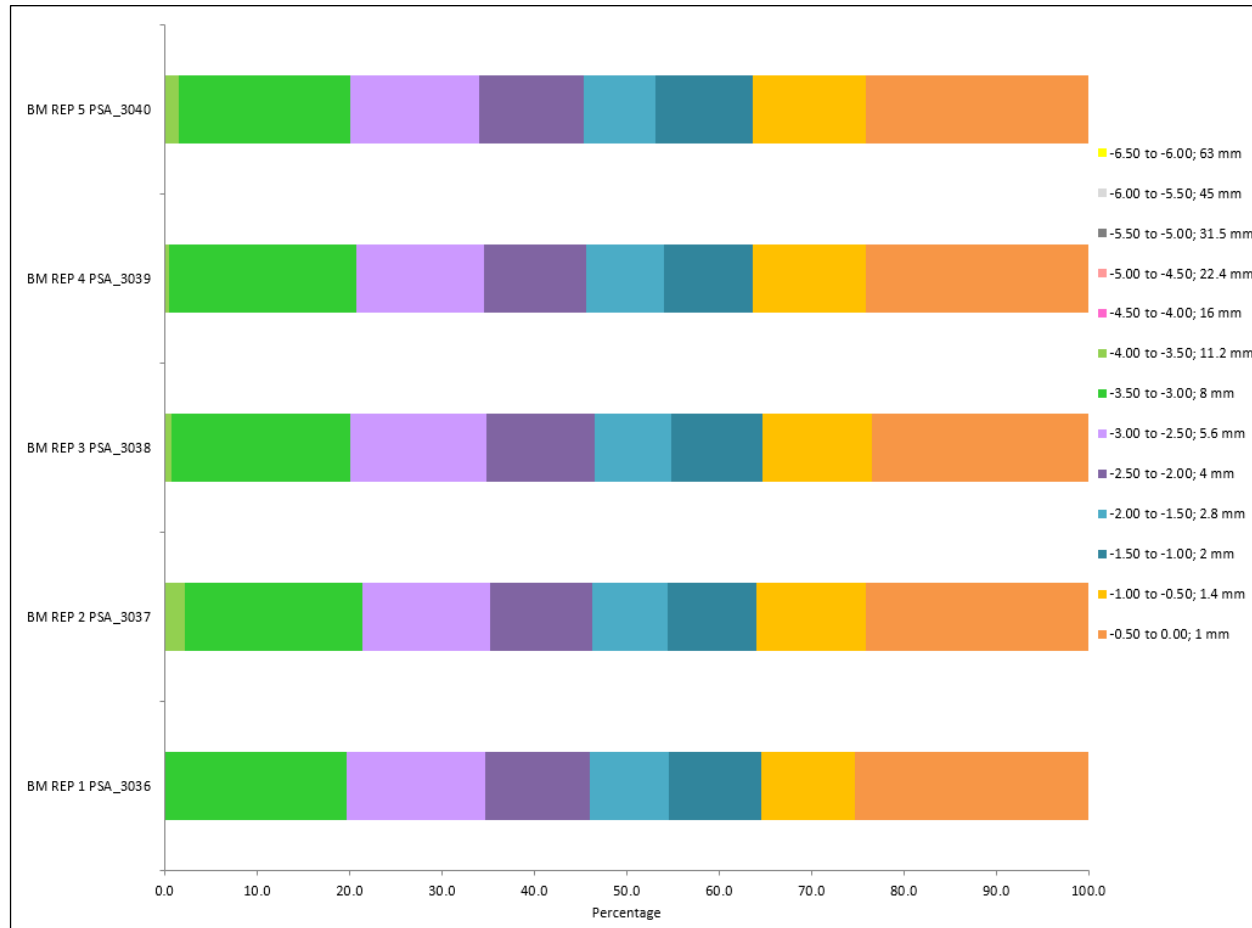
## 1. BENCHMARK DATA

**Table 1** Summary data for the Benchmark replicates distributed as PS91.

| Sample            | Method | % Gravel | % Sand | % Mud | Sediment Description |
|-------------------|--------|----------|--------|-------|----------------------|
| PSA_3036 BM REP 1 | NMBAQC | 43.32    | 51.48  | 5.20  | Sandy Gravel         |
| PSA_3037 BM REP2  | NMBAQC | 43.70    | 51.30  | 5.01  | Sandy Gravel         |
| PSA_3038 BM REP 3 | NMBAQC | 44.03    | 50.87  | 5.10  | Sandy Gravel         |
| PSA_3039 BM REP 4 | NMBAQC | 43.28    | 52.08  | 4.64  | Sandy Gravel         |
| PSA_3040 BM REP 5 | NMBAQC | 43.24    | 52.19  | 4.57  | Sandy Gravel         |
| BM Rep Average    | NMBAQC | 43.51    | 51.58  | 4.90  | Sandy Gravel         |

**Table 2** Summary of the sieve data the Benchmark replicates distributed as PS91.

| Phi Interval; microns   | PSA_3036<br>BM REP 1 | PSA_3037<br>BM REP 2 | PSA_3038<br>BM REP 3 | PSA_3039<br>BM REP 4 | PSA_3040<br>BM REP 5 | BM Rep<br>Average |        |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------|
| -6.50 to -6.00; 63 mm   | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00              |        |
| -6.00 to -5.50; 45 mm   | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00              |        |
| -5.50 to -5.00; 31.5 mm | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00              |        |
| -5.00 to -4.50; 22.4 mm | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00              |        |
| -4.50 to -4.00; 16 mm   | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00              |        |
| -4.00 to -3.50; 11.2 mm | 0.00                 | 13.35                | 4.82                 | 2.70                 | 9.52                 | 6.08              |        |
| -3.50 to -3.00; 8 mm    | 120.55               | 121.13               | 118.97               | 126.43               | 115.47               | 120.51            |        |
| -3.00 to -2.50; 5.6 mm  | 91.58                | 85.95                | 90.89                | 86.28                | 86.45                | 88.23             |        |
| -2.50 to -2.00; 4 mm    | 69.81                | 69.86                | 71.51                | 69.00                | 70.49                | 70.13             |        |
| -2.00 to -1.50; 2.8 mm  | 52.27                | 50.55                | 51.09                | 52.07                | 48.79                | 50.95             |        |
| -1.50 to -1.00; 2 mm    | 61.35                | 60.33                | 60.76                | 60.30                | 65.67                | 61.68             |        |
| -1.00 to -0.50; 1.4 mm  | 62.23                | 74.13                | 72.80                | 76.44                | 75.58                | 72.24             |        |
| -0.50 to 0.00; 1.0 mm   | 154.56               | 151.40               | 144.56               | 150.06               | 150.36               | 150.19            |        |
| >1.0mm                  | 612.35               | 626.70               | 615.40               | 623.28               | 622.33               | 620.01            |        |
| <1.0mm                  | Base Pan             | 81.26                | 45.13                | 69.42                | 50.76                | 63.73             | 62.06  |
|                         | Oven dried           | 219.51               | 246.26               | 219.23               | 242.74               | 230.59            | 231.67 |
|                         | Total                | 300.77               | 291.39               | 288.65               | 293.50               | 294.32            | 293.73 |
| Total Weight            | 913.12               | 918.09               | 904.05               | 916.78               | 916.65               | 913.74            |        |



**Figure 1** Particle size distribution curves resulting from final laser analysis of 5 replicate samples of sediment distributed as PS91 (Benchmark Data).

**Table 3** Summary of the final laser data for the Benchmark replicates distributed as PS91.

| Phi Interval; microns      | PSA_3036<br>BM REP 1 | PSA_3037<br>BM REP2 | PSA_3038<br>BM REP 3 | PSA_3039<br>BM REP 4 | PSA_3040<br>BM REP 5 | BM Rep<br>Average |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 0.00 to 0.50; (707 μm)     | 40.47                | 39.73               | 40.74                | 41.86                | 42.76                | 41.11             |
| 0.50 to 1.00; (500 μm)     | 24.31                | 25.24               | 24.80                | 24.80                | 24.68                | 24.77             |
| 1.00 to 1.50; (353.6 μm)   | 8.03                 | 8.05                | 7.99                 | 7.89                 | 8.03                 | 8.00              |
| 1.50 to 2.00; (250 μm)     | 3.85                 | 3.77                | 3.73                 | 3.71                 | 3.47                 | 3.70              |
| 2.00 to 2.50; (176.8 μm)   | 2.83                 | 2.67                | 2.45                 | 2.68                 | 2.59                 | 2.64              |
| 2.50 to 3.00; (125 μm)     | 1.92                 | 1.95                | 1.57                 | 1.84                 | 1.61                 | 1.78              |
| 3.00 to 3.50; (88.39 μm)   | 1.69                 | 1.62                | 1.65                 | 1.60                 | 1.52                 | 1.61              |
| 3.50 to 4.00; (62.5 μm)    | 1.11                 | 1.19                | 1.10                 | 1.13                 | 1.12                 | 1.13              |
| 4.00 to 4.50; (44.19 μm)   | 1.18                 | 1.15                | 1.18                 | 1.11                 | 1.10                 | 1.14              |
| 4.50 to 5.00; (31.25 μm)   | 1.05                 | 1.05                | 1.09                 | 0.99                 | 0.95                 | 1.03              |
| 5.00 to 5.50; (22.097 μm)  | 1.33                 | 1.28                | 1.42                 | 1.17                 | 1.19                 | 1.28              |
| 5.50 to 6.00; (15.625 μm)  | 1.22                 | 1.12                | 1.26                 | 1.01                 | 0.95                 | 1.11              |
| 6.00 to 6.50; (11.049 μm)  | 1.86                 | 1.78                | 1.94                 | 1.58                 | 1.55                 | 1.74              |
| 6.50 to 7.00; (7.813 μm)   | 1.59                 | 1.52                | 1.63                 | 1.32                 | 1.24                 | 1.46              |
| 7.00 to 7.50; (5.524 μm)   | 1.68                 | 1.66                | 1.71                 | 1.47                 | 1.41                 | 1.58              |
| 7.50 to 8.00; (3.906 μm)   | 1.67                 | 1.73                | 1.70                 | 1.57                 | 1.56                 | 1.65              |
| 8.00 to 8.50; (2.762 μm)   | 0.99                 | 1.06                | 0.99                 | 0.99                 | 0.97                 | 1.00              |
| 8.50 to 9.00; (1.953 μm)   | 0.66                 | 0.71                | 0.66                 | 0.68                 | 0.69                 | 0.68              |
| 9.00 to 9.50; (1.381 μm)   | 0.63                 | 0.68                | 0.62                 | 0.65                 | 0.67                 | 0.65              |
| 9.50 to 10.00; (0.977 μm)  | 0.43                 | 0.45                | 0.40                 | 0.45                 | 0.43                 | 0.43              |
| 10.00 to 10.50; (0.691 μm) | 0.22                 | 0.22                | 0.21                 | 0.23                 | 0.22                 | 0.22              |
| 10.50 to 11.00; (0.488 μm) | 0.21                 | 0.21                | 0.20                 | 0.19                 | 0.20                 | 0.20              |
| 11.00 to 11.50; (0.345 μm) | 0.29                 | 0.31                | 0.27                 | 0.25                 | 0.28                 | 0.28              |
| 11.50 to 12.00; (0.244 μm) | 0.32                 | 0.34                | 0.29                 | 0.29                 | 0.31                 | 0.31              |
| 12.00 to 12.50; (0.173 μm) | 0.24                 | 0.25                | 0.22                 | 0.24                 | 0.24                 | 0.24              |
| 12.50 to 13.00; (0.122 μm) | 0.14                 | 0.15                | 0.13                 | 0.16                 | 0.15                 | 0.15              |
| 13.00 to 13.50; (0.086 μm) | 0.06                 | 0.06                | 0.06                 | 0.09                 | 0.07                 | 0.07              |
| 13.50 to 14.00; (0.061 μm) | 0.02                 | 0.02                | 0.02                 | 0.04                 | 0.02                 | 0.02              |
| 14.00 to 14.50; (0.043 μm) | 0.00                 | 0.00                | 0.00                 | 0.01                 | 0.00                 | 0.00              |
| >14.50; (0.01 μm)          | 0.00                 | 0.00                | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00              |
| Total                      | 100.00               | 100.00              | 100.00               | 100.00               | 100.00               | 100.00            |
| Mean                       | 330.01               | 329.25              | 324.22               | 375.66               | 386.39               | 350.12            |
| Sorting                    | 4.27                 | 4.30                | 4.32                 | 3.90                 | 3.84                 | 4.10              |
| Skewness                   | -0.78                | -0.78               | -0.79                | -0.77                | -0.78                | -0.78             |
| Kurtosis                   | 2.14                 | 2.21                | 2.26                 | 2.50                 | 2.68                 | 2.35              |
| Mode                       | Unimodal             | Unimodal            | Unimodal             | Unimodal             | Unimodal             | Unimodal          |
| Primary Mode               | 853.5                | 853.5               | 853.5                | 853.5                | 853.5                | 853.5             |





**Table 4** Summary of Coefficient of Variation for Benchmark laser replicates for PS91.

|                 |              | PSA_3036<br>BM REP 1 | PSA_3037<br>BM REP2 | PSA_3038<br>BM REP 3 | PSA_3039<br>BM REP 4 | PSA_3040<br>BM REP 5 |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| D <sub>10</sub> | Sub-sample 1 | 5.52                 | 2.32                | 1.02                 | 0.92                 | 4.97                 |
|                 | Sub-sample 2 | 2.54                 | 4.18                | 4.35                 | 3.27                 | 4.79                 |
|                 | Sub-sample 3 | 4.48                 | 3.38                | 2.87                 | 7.37                 | 0.50                 |
|                 |              |                      |                     |                      |                      |                      |
| D <sub>50</sub> | Sub-sample 1 | 0.57                 | 0.25                | 0.28                 | 0.54                 | 0.22                 |
|                 | Sub-sample 2 | 0.93                 | 0.17                | 0.50                 | 0.07                 | 0.60                 |
|                 | Sub-sample 3 | 0.39                 | 0.07                | 0.99                 | 0.69                 | 0.11                 |
|                 |              |                      |                     |                      |                      |                      |
| D <sub>90</sub> | Sub-sample 1 | 0.08                 | 0.05                | 0.03                 | 0.09                 | 0.04                 |
|                 | Sub-sample 2 | 0.17                 | 0.06                | 0.07                 | 0.02                 | 0.08                 |
|                 | Sub-sample 3 | 0.06                 | 0.03                | 0.19                 | 0.10                 | 0.02                 |

$$COV = \left( \frac{StDev}{Mean} \right) * 100$$

ISO 133020 defines good reproducibility when: COV is <3% for D50

COV is <5% for D10 and D90

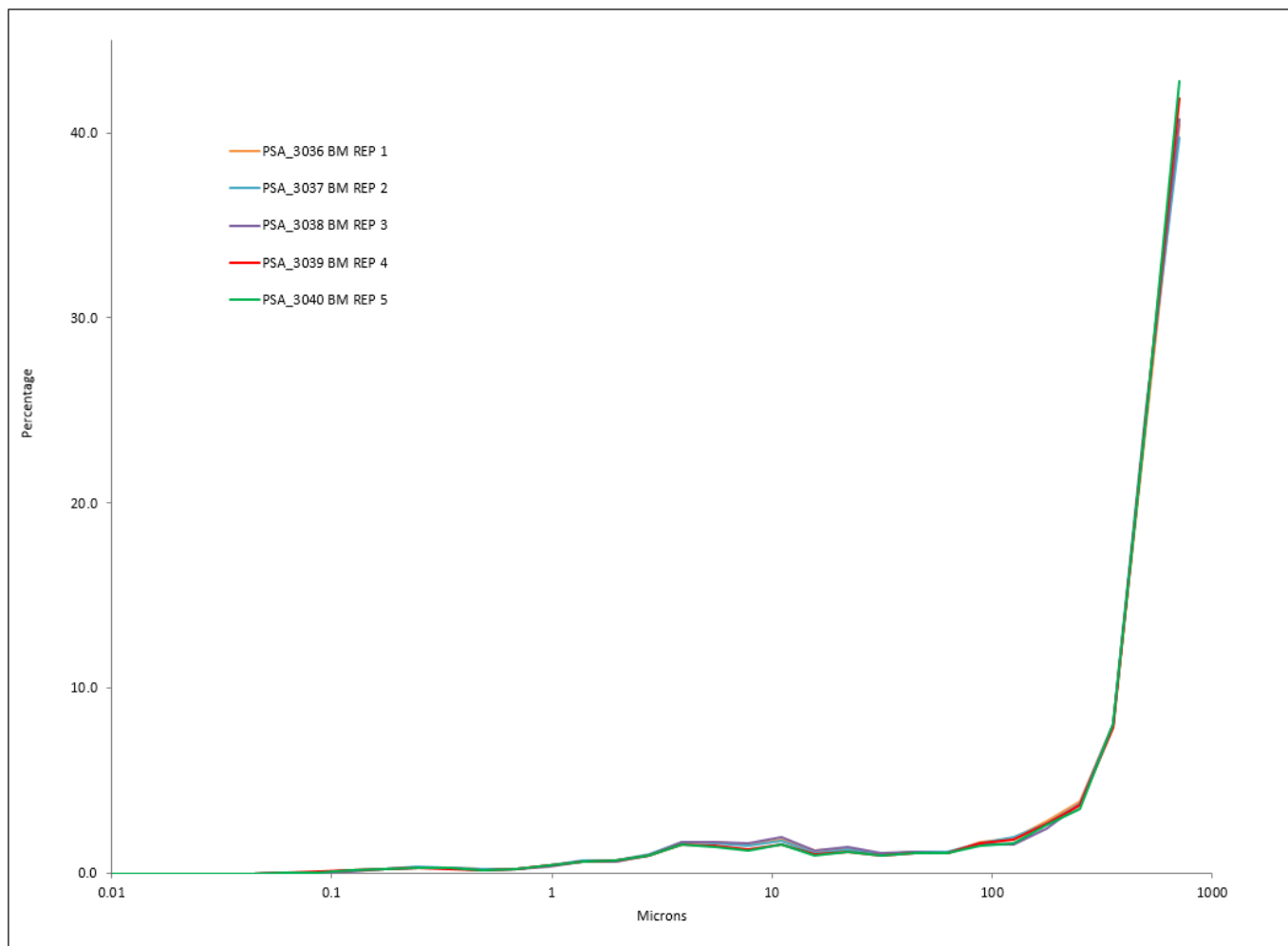
All limits double when the D50 is <10microns.

In reality 3% and 5% are low and greater variability is expected for natural sediment samples therefore a maximum of 20% (based on three replicates being measured) will be used as a guide.

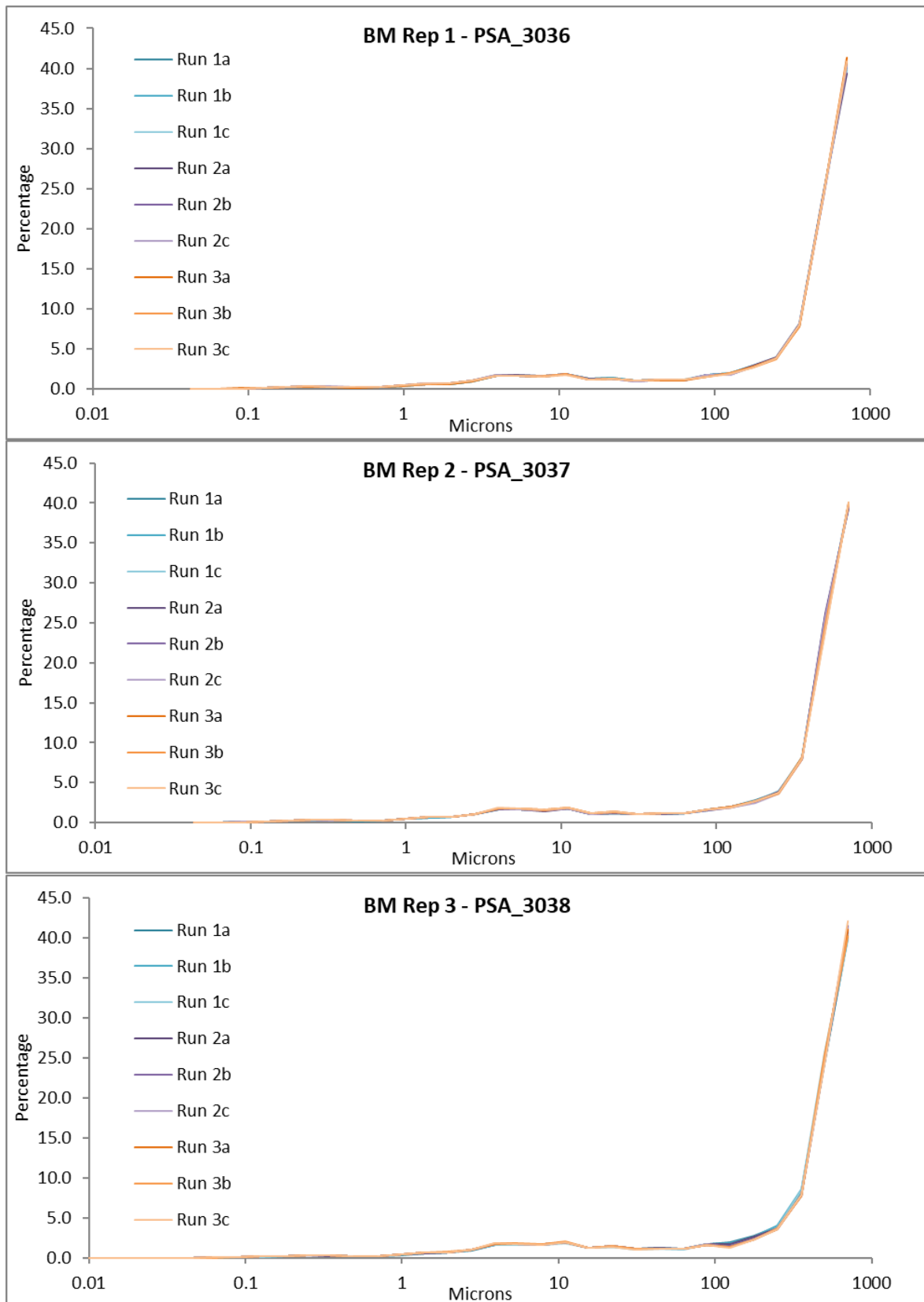
**The Benchmark replicates show good reproducibility.**

**Table 5** Laser Metadata for the Benchmark replicates for PS91.

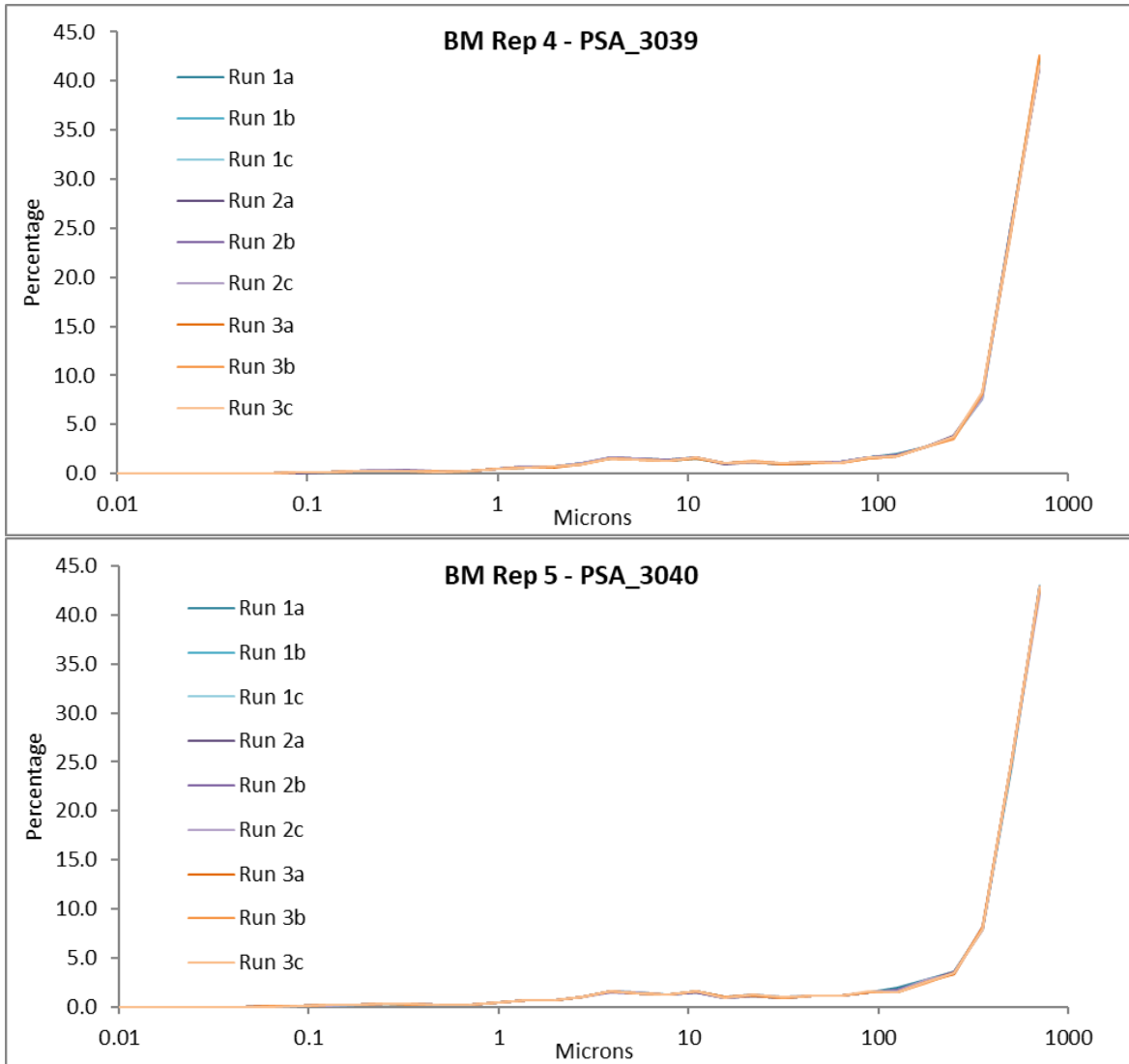
|                            | Benchmark Lab            |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Laser used:                | Beckman Coulter LS 13320 |
| Dispersion Unit:           | Universal Liquid Module  |
| Analysis model:            | Mie                      |
| Dispersion Used            | Water (RI – 1.33)        |
| Particle Refractive Index  | 1.55                     |
| Particle Absorption Index: | 0.1                      |
| Fines extension            | PIDS system              |
| Obscuration                | 10 - 12%                 |
| Pump Speed (% or rpm)      | 80%                      |
| Stirrer speed (% or rpm)   | n/a                      |
| Ultrasonic duration        | 20                       |
| Ultrasonic level           | 2                        |



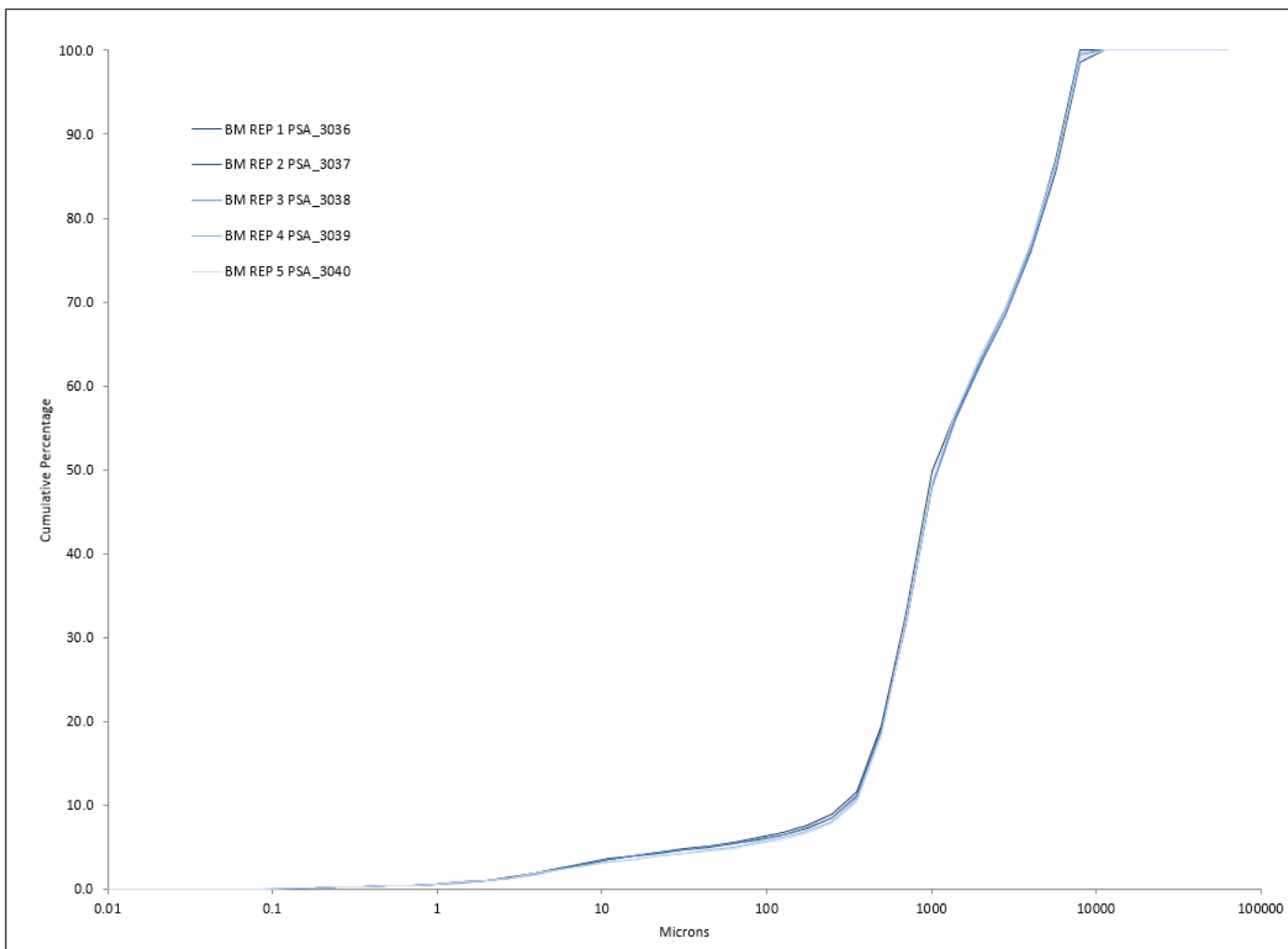
**Figure 2** Particle size distribution curves resulting from final laser analysis of 5 replicate samples of sediment distributed as PS91 (Benchmark Data).



**Figure 3** Particle size distribution curves resulting from laser analysis of five replicate samples of sediment distributed as PS91.



**Figure 3** Particle size distribution curves resulting from laser analysis of five replicate samples of sediment distributed as PS91.



**Figure 4** Particle size distribution curves resulting from analysis of 5 replicate samples of sediment distributed as PS91 (Benchmark Data).



## 2. PARTICIPANT DATA

**Table 6** Summary of equipment and methods used by participants and sample summary data provided by participants for sediment distributed as PS91.

| Lab        | Equipment Used |       | Method Used | Chemical Dispersant | Peroxide pre-treatment | Summary Data |        |       | Sediment Description |                          |
|------------|----------------|-------|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|-------|----------------------|--------------------------|
|            | Sieves         | Laser |             |                     |                        | % Gravel     | % Sand | % Mud | (post analysis)      | Gradistat Textural Group |
| BM Average | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.51        | 51.58  | 4.90  | Sandy Gravel         | Sandy Gravel             |
| PSA_3001_a | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.45        | 52.83  | 3.72  | Sandy Gravel         | Sandy Gravel             |
| PSA_3001_b | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.45        | 49.55  | 7.00  | Muddy Sandy Gravel   | Muddy Sandy Gravel       |
| PSA_3002   | Yes            | Yes   | OTHER       | No                  | No                     | 45.62        | 51.52  | 2.85  | Sandy Gravel         | Sandy Gravel             |
| PSA_3003   | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.60        | 52.58  | 3.82  | Sandy Gravel         | Sandy Gravel             |
| PSA_3004   | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.9         | 49.40  | 6.70  | Muddy Sandy Gravel   | Muddy Sandy Gravel       |
| PSA_3005   | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.50        | 49.50  | 7.00  | Muddy Sandy Gravel   | Muddy Sandy Gravel       |
| PSA_3006   | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 42.30        | 52.85  | 4.85  | Sandy Gravel         | Sandy Gravel             |
| PSA_3007   | Yes            | Yes   | OTHER       | No                  | No                     | 47.30        | 51.07  | 1.62  | Sandy Gravel         | Sandy Gravel             |
| PSA_3008   | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.83        | 50.79  | 5.38  | Sandy Gravel         | Sandy Gravel             |
| PSA_3009   | n/p            | n/p   | n/p         | n/p                 | n/p                    | n/p          | n/p    | n/p   | n/p                  | n/p                      |
| PSA_3010   | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 50.08        | 45.57  | 4.35  | Sandy Gravel         | Sandy Gravel             |
| PSA_3011   | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.11        | 50.85  | 6.04  | Muddy Sandy Gravel   | Muddy Sandy Gravel       |
| PSA_3012   | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.34        | 51.01  | 5.65  | Sandy Gravel         | Sandy Gravel             |
| PSA_3013   | n/r            | n/r   | n/r         | n/r                 | n/r                    | n/r          | n/r    | n/r   | n/r                  | n/r                      |
| PSA_3014   | n/p            | n/p   | n/p         | n/p                 | n/p                    | n/p          | n/p    | n/p   | n/p                  | n/p                      |
| PSA_3015   | Yes            | Yes   | NMBAQC      | No                  | No                     | 43.93        | 45.07  | 11.00 | Muddy Sandy Gravel   | Muddy Sandy Gravel       |

**Table 7** Summary of the sieve data provided by participants for sediment distributed as PS91.

| Phi interval (explicit);<br>Sieve mesh (mm) | Benchmark<br>Average | PSA_3001_a | PSA_3002 | PSA_3003 | PSA_3004 | PSA_3005 | PSA_3006 | PSA_3007 |   |
|---|----------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| Sieves Used                                 | Yes                  | Yes        | Yes      | Yes      | Yes      | Yes      | Yes      | Yes      |   |
| -6.50 to -6.00; 63 mm                       | 0.00                 | 0.00       | 0.00     |          |          | 0.00     | 0.00     |          |   |
| -6.00 to -5.50; 45 mm                       | 0.00                 | 0.00       | 0.00     |          |          | 0.00     | 0.00     |          |   |
| -5.50 to -5.00; 31.5 mm                     | 0.00                 | 0.00       | 0.00     |          |          | 0.00     | 0.00     |          |   |
| -5.00 to -4.50; 22.4 mm                     | 0.00                 | 0.00       | 0.00     | 0.00     |          | 0.00     | 0.00     |          |   |
| -4.50 to -4.00; 16 mm                       | 0.00                 | 0.00       | 0.00     | 0.00     |          | 0.00     | 0.00     |          |   |
| -4.00 to -3.50; 11.2 mm                     | 6.08                 | 9.24       | 12.73    | 7.75     | 12.84    | 0.00     | 2.61     |          |   |
| -3.50 to -3.00; 8 mm                        | 120.51               | 93.95      | 112.97   | 99.99    | 103.82   | 136.00   | 120.06   |          |   |
| -3.00 to -2.50; 5.6 mm                      | 88.23                | 99.87      | 115.60   | 93.00    | 100.72   | 96.52    | 85.53    |          |   |
| -2.50 to -2.00; 4 mm                        | 70.13                | 59.72      | 62.17    | 60.43    | 62.81    | 68.34    | 69.77    |          |   |
| -2.00 to -1.50; 2.8 mm                      | 50.95                | 56.62      | 62.47    | 50.88    | 52.06    | 56.20    | 54.49    |          |   |
| -1.50 to -1.00; 2 mm                        | 61.68                | 63.23      | 67.70    | 58.20    | 75.60    | 65.97    | 58.70    | 459.17   |   |
| -1.00 to -0.50; 1.4 mm                      | 72.24                | 71.08      | 84.23    | 63.15    | 70.56    | 62.30    | 67.51    |          |   |
| -0.50 to 0.00; 1 mm                         | 150.19               | 142.70     | 160.60   | 133.33   | 161.21   | 157.76   | 160.87   | 236.33   |   |
| Total                                       | 620.01               | 596.42     | 678.46   | 566.73   | 639.62   | 643.10   | 619.54   | 695.50   |   |
| <b>Summary Data</b>                         |                      |            |          |          |          |          |          |          |   |
| >1 mm                                       | 612.35               | 596.42     | 678.46   | 566.73   | 639.89   | 643.10   | 619.54   | 695.50   |   |
| <1 mm                                       | Base pan             | 81.26      | 97.11    | -        | 58.20    | 126.89   | 0.60     | 52.92    | - |
|   | Oven dried           | 219.51     | 187.15   | 271.97   | 224.21   | 162.94   | 328.11   | 252.17   | - |
|   | Total                | 300.77     | 284.26   | 271.97   | 282.41   | 289.83   | 328.70   | 305.09   | - |
| Total Sample Weight                         | 913.12               | 880.68     | 950.43   | 849.14   | 929.45   | 971.80   | 924.63   | 695.50   |   |



**Table 7** Summary of the sieve data provided by participants for sediment distributed as PS91.

| Phi interval (explicit);<br>Sieve mesh (mm) | Benchmark<br>Average | PSA_3008 | PSA_3009 | PSA_3010 | PSA_3011 | PSA_3012 | PSA_3013 | PSA_3014 | PSA_3015 |        |
|---|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Sieves Used                                 | Yes                  | Yes      | n/p      | Yes      | Yes      | Yes      | n/r      | n/p      | Yes      |        |
| -6.50 to -6.00; 63 mm                       | 0.00                 | 0.00     | n/p      | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | n/r      | n/p      | 0.00     |        |
| -6.00 to -5.50; 45 mm                       | 0.00                 | 0.00     | n/p      | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | n/r      | n/p      | 0.00     |        |
| -5.50 to -5.00; 31.5 mm                     | 0.00                 | 0.00     | n/p      | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | n/r      | n/p      | 0.00     |        |
| -5.00 to -4.50; 22.4 mm                     | 0.00                 | 0.00     | n/p      | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | n/r      | n/p      | 0.00     |        |
| -4.50 to -4.00; 16 mm                       | 0.00                 | 9.52     | n/p      | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | n/r      | n/p      | 0.00     |        |
| -4.00 to -3.50; 11.2 mm                     | 6.08                 | 3.13     | n/p      | 17.90    | 21.05    | 8.02     | n/r      | n/p      | 3.99     |        |
| -3.50 to -3.00; 8 mm                        | 120.51               | 90.30    | n/p      | 113.76   | 100.63   | 102.57   | n/r      | n/p      | 129.76   |        |
| -3.00 to -2.50; 5.6 mm                      | 88.23                | 81.51    | n/p      | 114.49   | 103.49   | 90.73    | n/r      | n/p      | 102.74   |        |
| -2.50 to -2.00; 4 mm                        | 70.13                | 61.30    | n/p      | 72.32    | 63.13    | 55.04    | n/r      | n/p      | 65.01    |        |
| -2.00 to -1.50; 2.8 mm                      | 50.95                | 46.52    | n/p      | 85.30    | 55.50    | 50.74    | n/r      | n/p      | 60.62    |        |
| -1.50 to -1.00; 2 mm                        | 61.68                | 56.36    | n/p      | 93.18    | 63.73    | 61.86    | n/r      | n/p      | 69.16    |        |
| -1.00 to -0.50; 1.4 mm                      | 72.24                | 57.52    | n/p      | 96.82    | 70.23    | 63.84    | n/r      | n/p      | 144.50   |        |
| -0.50 to 0.00; 1 mm                         | 150.19               | 139.66   | n/p      | 158.14   | 153.82   | 172.63   | n/r      | n/p      | 185.80   |        |
| Total                                       | 620.01               | 545.82   | n/p      | 751.91   | 631.58   | 605.43   | n/r      | n/p      | 761.58   |        |
| <b>Summary Data</b>                         |                      |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |        |
| >1 mm                                       | 612.35               | 545.82   | n/p      | 751.91   | 631.58   | 605.43   | n/r      | n/p      | 761.58   |        |
| <1 mm                                       | Base pan             | 81.26    | 80.17    | n/p      | 0.00     | 122.55   | 128.53   | n/r      | n/p      | 0.00   |
|   | Oven dried           | 219.51   | 169.40   | n/p      | 240.48   | 191.10   | 117.43   | n/r      | n/p      | 220.21 |
|   | Total                | 300.77   | 249.57   | n/p      | 240.48   | 313.65   | 245.96   | n/r      | n/p      | 220.21 |
| Total Sample Weight                         | 913.12               | 795.39   | n/p      | 992.39   | 945.23   | 851.39   | n/r      | n/p      | 981.79   |        |





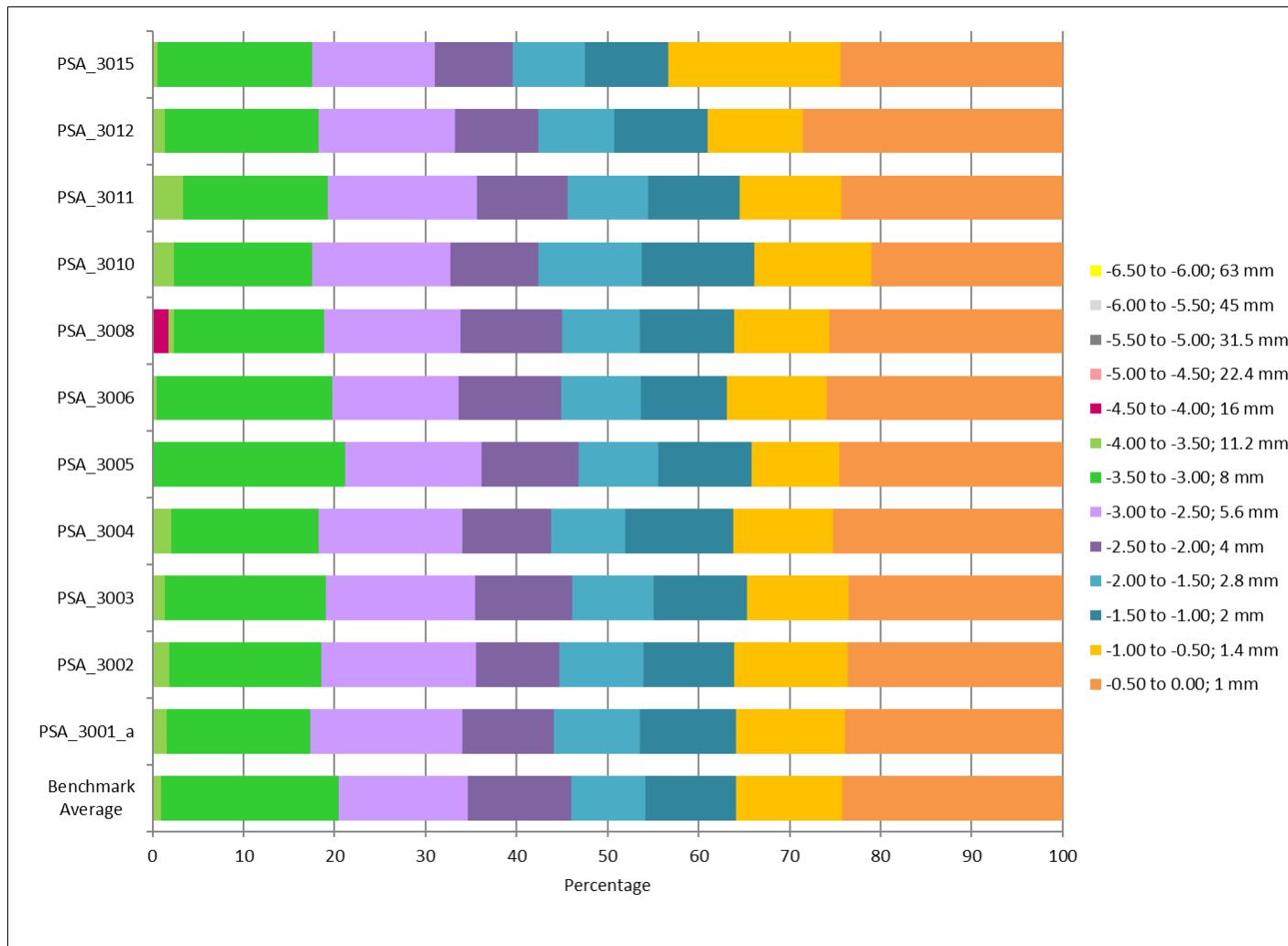


Figure 5 Final sieve data (in percentages) provided by each participant for sediment distributed as PS91.

**Table 8** Summary of final laser data for the participants for sediment distributed as PS91 with Gradistat output.

| Microns      | Benchmark Average | PSA_3001_a    | PSA_3001_b    | PSA_3002      | PSA_3003      | PSA_3004      |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 707          | 41.11             | 35.01         | 29.41         | 39.53         | 50.14         | 28.74         |
| 500          | 24.77             | 28.81         | 22.24         | 27.19         | 23.74         | 22.79         |
| 353.6        | 8.00              | 14.32         | 10.50         | 10.95         | 7.01          | 11.06         |
| 250          | 3.70              | 3.83          | 3.92          | 2.59          | 2.70          | 4.13          |
| 176.8        | 2.64              | 1.09          | 3.33          | 2.14          | 1.79          | 3.28          |
| 125          | 1.78              | 1.85          | 3.77          | 3.10          | 1.19          | 3.70          |
| 88.39        | 1.61              | 2.12          | 3.08          | 2.71          | 1.07          | 3.02          |
| 62.5         | 1.13              | 1.45          | 2.07          | 1.82          | 0.86          | 2.01          |
| 44.19        | 1.14              | 0.88          | 1.65          | 1.41          | 0.89          | 1.54          |
| 31.25        | 1.03              | 0.80          | 1.67          | 1.36          | 0.59          | 1.55          |
| 22.097       | 1.28              | 0.96          | 1.79          | 1.27          | 1.13          | 1.74          |
| 15.625       | 1.11              | 1.09          | 1.93          | 1.11          | 0.68          | 1.87          |
| 11.049       | 1.74              | 1.16          | 2.16          | 1.00          | 0.93          | 1.98          |
| 7.813        | 1.46              | 1.23          | 2.42          | 0.96          | 1.25          | 2.31          |
| 5.524        | 1.58              | 1.29          | 2.53          | 0.91          | 1.28          | 2.46          |
| 3.906        | 1.65              | 1.27          | 2.35          | 0.80          | 1.16          | 2.36          |
| 2.762        | 1.00              | 1.10          | 1.97          | 0.64          | 0.89          | 2.12          |
| 1.953        | 0.68              | 0.81          | 1.37          | 0.44          | 0.68          | 1.34          |
| 1.381        | 0.65              | 0.51          | 0.76          | 0.08          | 0.50          | 0.78          |
| 0.977        | 0.43              | 0.31          | 0.49          | 0.00          | 0.33          | 0.55          |
| 0.691        | 0.22              | 0.11          | 0.49          | 0.00          | 0.24          | 0.56          |
| 0.488        | 0.20              | 0.00          | 0.10          | 0.00          | 0.20          | 0.13          |
| 0.345        | 0.28              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.19          | 0.00          |
| 0.244        | 0.31              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.17          | 0.00          |
| 0.173        | 0.24              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.14          | 0.00          |
| 0.122        | 0.15              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.11          | 0.00          |
| 0.086        | 0.07              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.07          | 0.00          |
| 0.061        | 0.02              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.03          | 0.00          |
| 0.043        | 0.00              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.01          | 0.00          |
| 0.01         | 0.00              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100.00</b>     | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> |

**Gradistat Outputs**

|              |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| MEAN:        | 350.12   | 421.13   | 203.84   | 429.84   | 527.22   | 204.74   |
| SORTING:     | 4.10     | 3.26     | 5.86     | 2.88     | 3.03     | 5.86     |
| SKEWNESS:    | -0.78    | -0.69    | -0.76    | -0.70    | -0.77    | -0.76    |
| KURTOSIS:    | 2.35     | 2.81     | 1.14     | 2.26     | 3.62     | 1.18     |
| MODE:        | Unimodal | Unimodal | Unimodal | Unimodal | Unimodal | Unimodal |
| Primary Mode | 853.50   | 853.50   | 853.50   | 853.50   | 853.50   | 853.50   |

**Table 8** Summary of final laser data for the participants for sediment distributed as PS91 with Gradistat output.

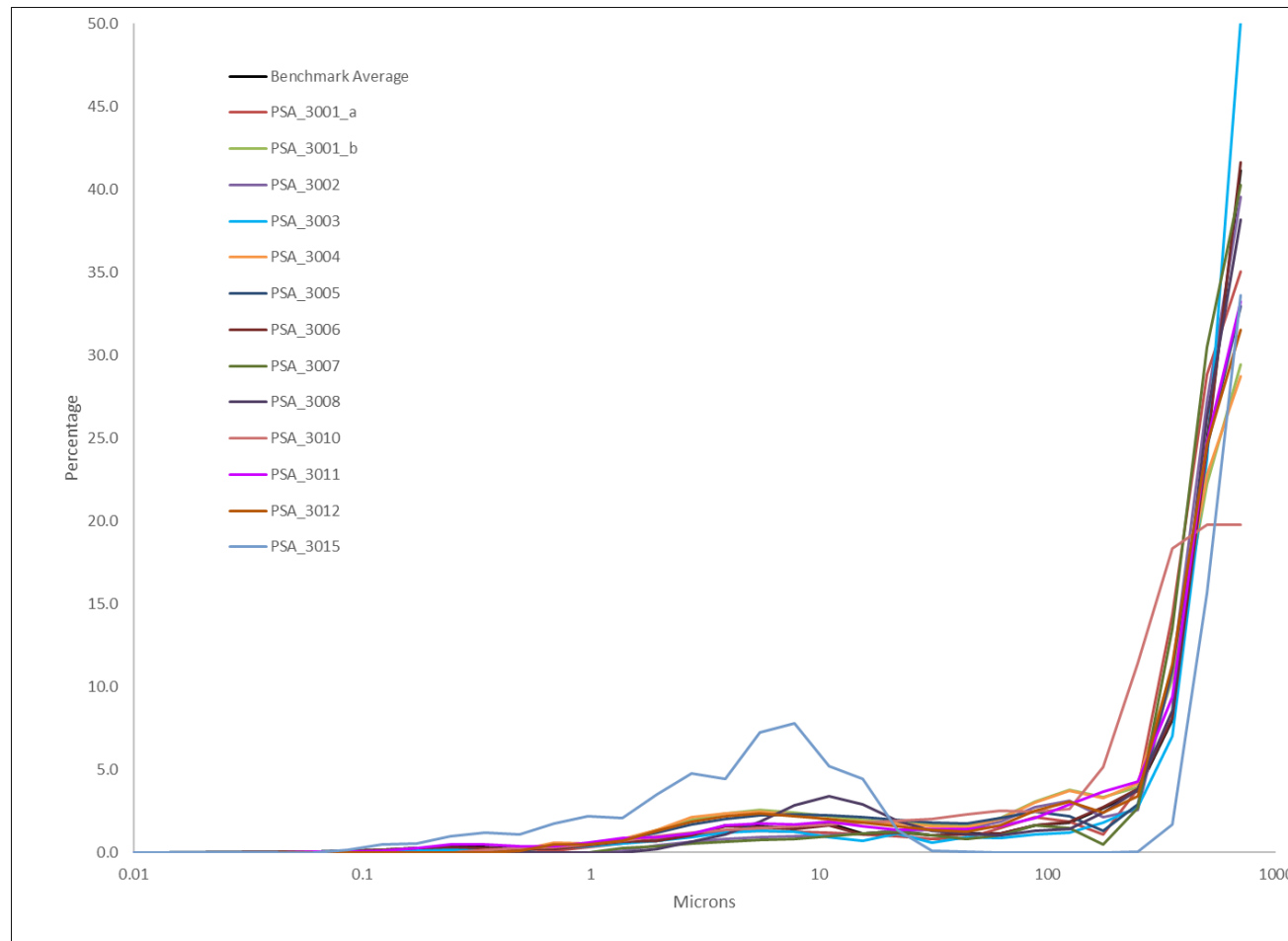
| Microns      | Benchmark Average | PSA_3005      | PSA_3006      | PSA_3007      | PSA_3008      | PSA_3009   | PSA_3010      |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 707          | 41.11             | 32.95         | 41.63         | 40.29         | 38.19         | n/p        | 19.79         |
| 500          | 24.77             | 24.46         | 24.39         | 30.46         | 26.22         | n/p        | 19.76         |
| 353.6        | 8.00              | 11.07         | 8.11          | 13.51         | 8.56          | n/p        | 18.35         |
| 250          | 3.70              | 2.87          | 3.85          | 2.65          | 3.78          | n/p        | 11.41         |
| 176.8        | 2.64              | 1.30          | 2.71          | 0.46          | 2.39          | n/p        | 5.15          |
| 125          | 1.78              | 2.16          | 1.85          | 1.45          | 1.41          | n/p        | 2.64          |
| 88.39        | 1.61              | 2.45          | 1.63          | 1.62          | 1.30          | n/p        | 2.45          |
| 62.5         | 1.13              | 2.07          | 1.15          | 1.04          | 1.01          | n/p        | 2.50          |
| 44.19        | 1.14              | 1.76          | 1.07          | 0.81          | 1.12          | n/p        | 2.31          |
| 31.25        | 1.03              | 1.77          | 1.04          | 1.03          | 1.29          | n/p        | 2.04          |
| 22.097       | 1.28              | 1.94          | 1.17          | 1.21          | 1.91          | n/p        | 1.87          |
| 15.625       | 1.11              | 2.11          | 1.06          | 1.14          | 2.86          | n/p        | 1.77          |
| 11.049       | 1.74              | 2.24          | 1.63          | 0.95          | 3.36          | n/p        | 1.66          |
| 7.813        | 1.46              | 2.28          | 1.39          | 0.81          | 2.84          | n/p        | 1.57          |
| 5.524        | 1.58              | 2.21          | 1.52          | 0.73          | 1.84          | n/p        | 1.48          |
| 3.906        | 1.65              | 2.01          | 1.60          | 0.65          | 1.05          | n/p        | 1.35          |
| 2.762        | 1.00              | 1.67          | 0.99          | 0.53          | 0.63          | n/p        | 1.16          |
| 1.953        | 0.68              | 1.20          | 0.68          | 0.39          | 0.22          | n/p        | 0.95          |
| 1.381        | 0.65              | 0.73          | 0.64          | 0.25          | 0.00          | n/p        | 0.68          |
| 0.977        | 0.43              | 0.41          | 0.43          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        | 0.44          |
| 0.691        | 0.22              | 0.28          | 0.22          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        | 0.29          |
| 0.488        | 0.20              | 0.08          | 0.19          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        | 0.24          |
| 0.345        | 0.28              | 0.00          | 0.27          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        | 0.14          |
| 0.244        | 0.31              | 0.00          | 0.31          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        | 0.00          |
| 0.173        | 0.24              | 0.00          | 0.24          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        | 0.00          |
| 0.122        | 0.15              | 0.00          | 0.15          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        | 0.00          |
| 0.086        | 0.07              | 0.00          | 0.07          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        |               |
| 0.061        | 0.02              | 0.00          | 0.02          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        |               |
| 0.043        | 0.00              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        |               |
| 0.01         | 0.00              | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/p        |               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100.00</b>     | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>n/p</b> | <b>100.00</b> |

**Gradistat Outputs**

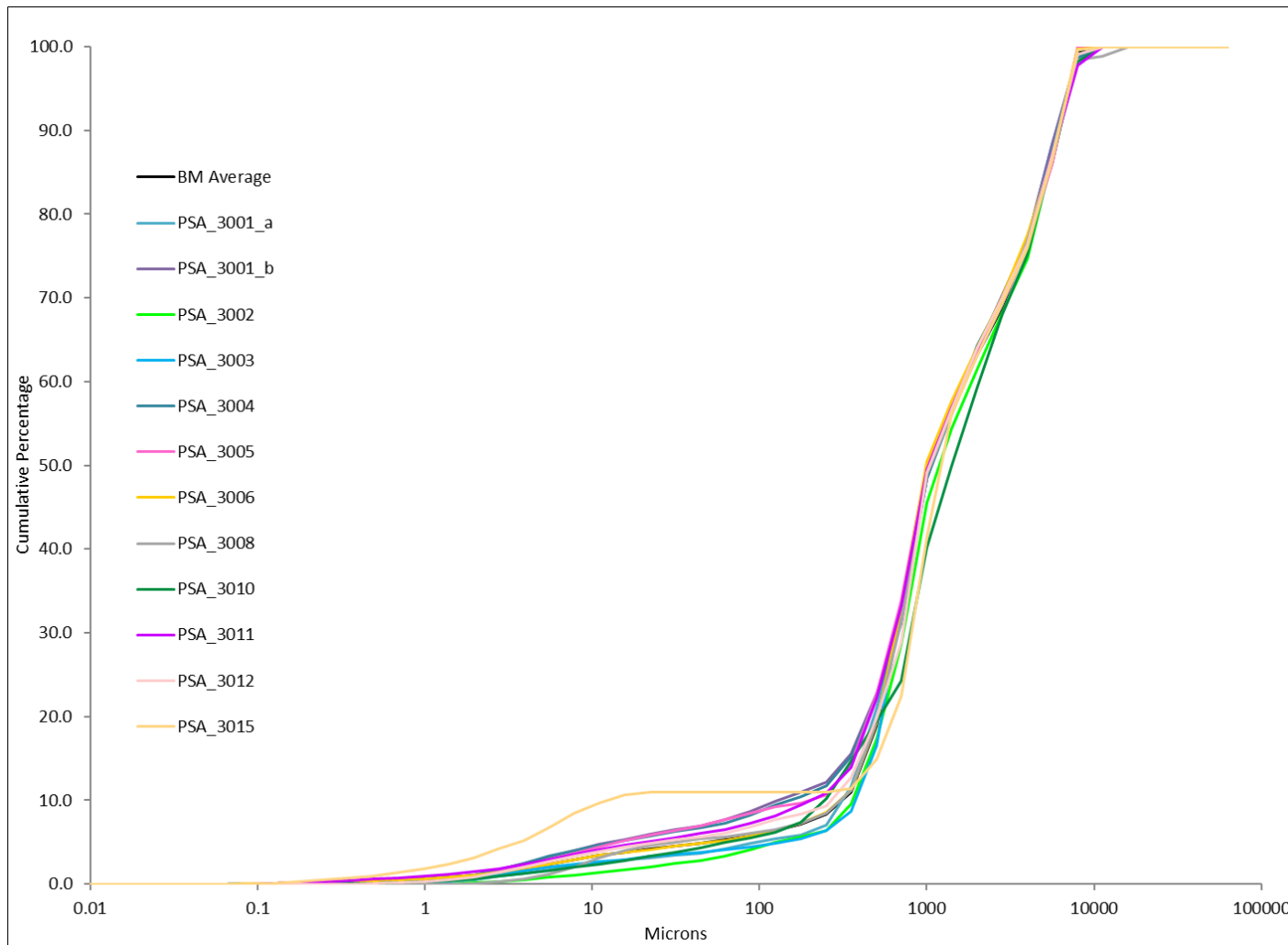
|              |          |          |          |          |          |     |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----|----------|
| MEAN:        | 350.12   | 228.44   | 368.90   | 581.24   | 284.36   | n/p | 243.61   |
| SORTING:     | 4.10     | 5.43     | 3.95     | 2.26     | 4.26     | n/p | 4.40     |
| SKEWNESS:    | -0.78    | -0.78    | -0.77    | -0.54    | -0.78    | n/p | -0.63    |
| KURTOSIS:    | 2.35     | 1.20     | 2.40     | 2.73     | 1.91     | n/p | 1.55     |
| MODE:        | Unimodal | Unimodal | Unimodal | Unimodal | Unimodal | n/p | Unimodal |
| Primary Mode | 853.50   | 853.5    | 853.5    | 853.5    | 853.5    | n/p | 853.5    |

**Table 8** Summary of final laser data for the participants for sediment distributed as PS91 with Gradistat output.

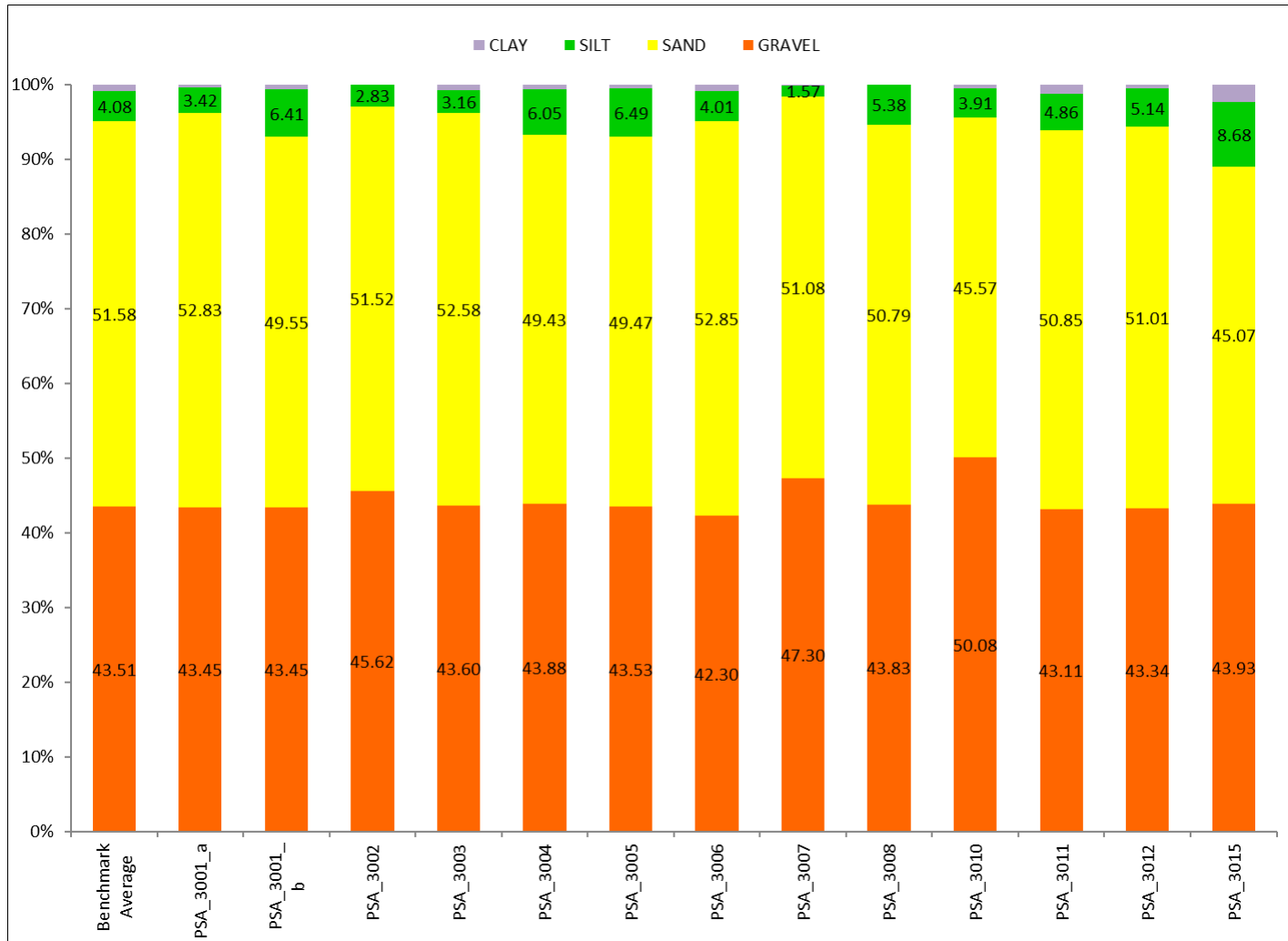
| Microns                  | Benchmark Average | PSA_3011      | PSA_3012      | PSA_3013   | PSA_3014   | PSA_3015      |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| 707                      | 41.11             | 33.22         | 31.50         | n/r        | n/p        | 33.61         |
| 500                      | 24.77             | 24.79         | 24.60         | n/r        | n/p        | 15.65         |
| 353.6                    | 8.00              | 9.38          | 11.37         | n/r        | n/p        | 1.67          |
| 250                      | 3.70              | 4.26          | 3.39          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.03          |
| 176.8                    | 2.64              | 3.67          | 2.40          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.00          |
| 125                      | 1.78              | 2.88          | 3.04          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.00          |
| 88.39                    | 1.61              | 2.06          | 2.53          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.00          |
| 62.5                     | 1.13              | 1.55          | 1.61          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.00          |
| 44.19                    | 1.14              | 1.43          | 1.26          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.01          |
| 31.25                    | 1.03              | 1.41          | 1.38          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.08          |
| 22.097                   | 1.28              | 1.34          | 1.59          | n/r        | n/p        | 1.33          |
| 15.625                   | 1.11              | 1.56          | 1.77          | n/r        | n/p        | 4.41          |
| 11.049                   | 1.74              | 1.86          | 2.00          | n/r        | n/p        | 5.20          |
| 7.813                    | 1.46              | 1.68          | 2.19          | n/r        | n/p        | 7.78          |
| 5.524                    | 1.58              | 1.71          | 2.32          | n/r        | n/p        | 7.21          |
| 3.906                    | 1.65              | 1.63          | 2.17          | n/r        | n/p        | 4.43          |
| 2.762                    | 1.00              | 1.14          | 1.83          | n/r        | n/p        | 4.77          |
| 1.953                    | 0.68              | 0.89          | 1.28          | n/r        | n/p        | 3.50          |
| 1.381                    | 0.65              | 0.83          | 0.72          | n/r        | n/p        | 2.05          |
| 0.977                    | 0.43              | 0.59          | 0.48          | n/r        | n/p        | 2.17          |
| 0.691                    | 0.22              | 0.37          | 0.48          | n/r        | n/p        | 1.71          |
| 0.488                    | 0.20              | 0.38          | 0.10          | n/r        | n/p        | 1.08          |
| 0.345                    | 0.28              | 0.48          | 0.00          | n/r        | n/p        | 1.21          |
| 0.244                    | 0.31              | 0.45          | 0.00          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.97          |
| 0.173                    | 0.24              | 0.26          | 0.00          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.54          |
| 0.122                    | 0.15              | 0.11          | 0.00          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.45          |
| 0.086                    | 0.07              | 0.05          | 0.00          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.14          |
| 0.061                    | 0.02              | 0.02          | 0.00          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.00          |
| 0.043                    | 0.00              | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.00          |
| 0.01                     | 0.00              | 0.00          | 0.00          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.00          |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>100.00</b>     | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>n/r</b> | <b>n/p</b> | <b>100.00</b> |
| <b>Gradistat Outputs</b> |                   |               |               |            |            |               |
| MEAN:                    | 350.12            | 258.9         | 226.95        | n/r        | n/p        | 105.60        |
| SORTING:                 | 4.10              | 5.171         | 5.48          | n/r        | n/p        | 11.80         |
| SKEWNESS:                | -0.78             | -0.775        | -0.78         | n/r        | n/p        | -0.77         |
| KURTOSIS:                | 2.35              | 1.611         | 1.35          | n/r        | n/p        | 0.60          |
| MODE:                    | Unimodal          | Unimodal      | Unimodal      | n/r        | n/p        | Bimodal       |
| Primary Mode             | 853.50            | 854.5         | 853.5         | n/r        | n/p        | 853.5         |
| Secondary Mode           | -                 | -             | -             | n/r        | n/p        | 9.4           |



**Figure 6** Final laser data (in percentages) provided by each participant and the Benchmark average for sediment distributed as PS91.



**Figure 7** Particle size distribution curves from all participating laboratories and the Benchmark average for sediment distributed as PS91.



**Figure 8** Bar charts showing the percentage gravel, sand, silt and clay recorded by each participating laboratory and the Benchmark average for PS91.

**All appendices are MS Excel files embedded within this PDF Report.**

**Appendix 1 – Benchmark and Participant laser replicate data for sediment distributed as PS91.**

**Appendix 2 - Gradistat output of size categories based on final merged data provided by each participant and the Benchmark Average for sediment distributed as PS91.**

**Appendix 3 – Benchmark Lab and Participant Final Merged Data for sediment distributed as PS91.**

**Appendix 4 – Individual comparison of participant and Benchmark sieve data for sediment distributed as PS91.**