

Answer to question 3:

Comparison of acoustics and optics in water:

Wavelengths:

Acoustics from 1Mhz to 1hz, wavelength=sound speed/frequency  $\rightarrow$  0.0015 to 1500m.

Optics visible:400 to 700nm.

Speed:

Sound in water  $\sim$  1500m/s, light $\sim$ 225,000,000m/s

Polarization:

Within the water light (a vector wave) can be polarized, sound (a scalar wave) is not.

Within solids (e.g. sediments), sound can be polarized.

Background intensity:

Light: solar constant (light from sun arriving to the top of the atmosphere) $\sim$ 1.4  $10^3$  W m<sup>-2</sup> m<sup>-1</sup>

Sound:  $P_{\text{ref}}=10^{-6}$  Pa  $\rightarrow$   $i=|P_{\text{ref}}|_{\text{rms}}^2/\rho/c=3.2 \cdot 10^{-19}$  W m<sup>-2</sup> m<sup>-1</sup>

Explains why sound has not been used to harness its energy...

Attenuation:

Visible light  $\sim$ 1m<sup>-1</sup> in much of the water column.

Sound  $\sim$ 0.001dB/km at 100Hz to 200db/Km at 1mHz  $\sim$   $10^{-7}$  m<sup>-1</sup> at 100Hz to 0.02 m<sup>-1</sup> at 1mHz.