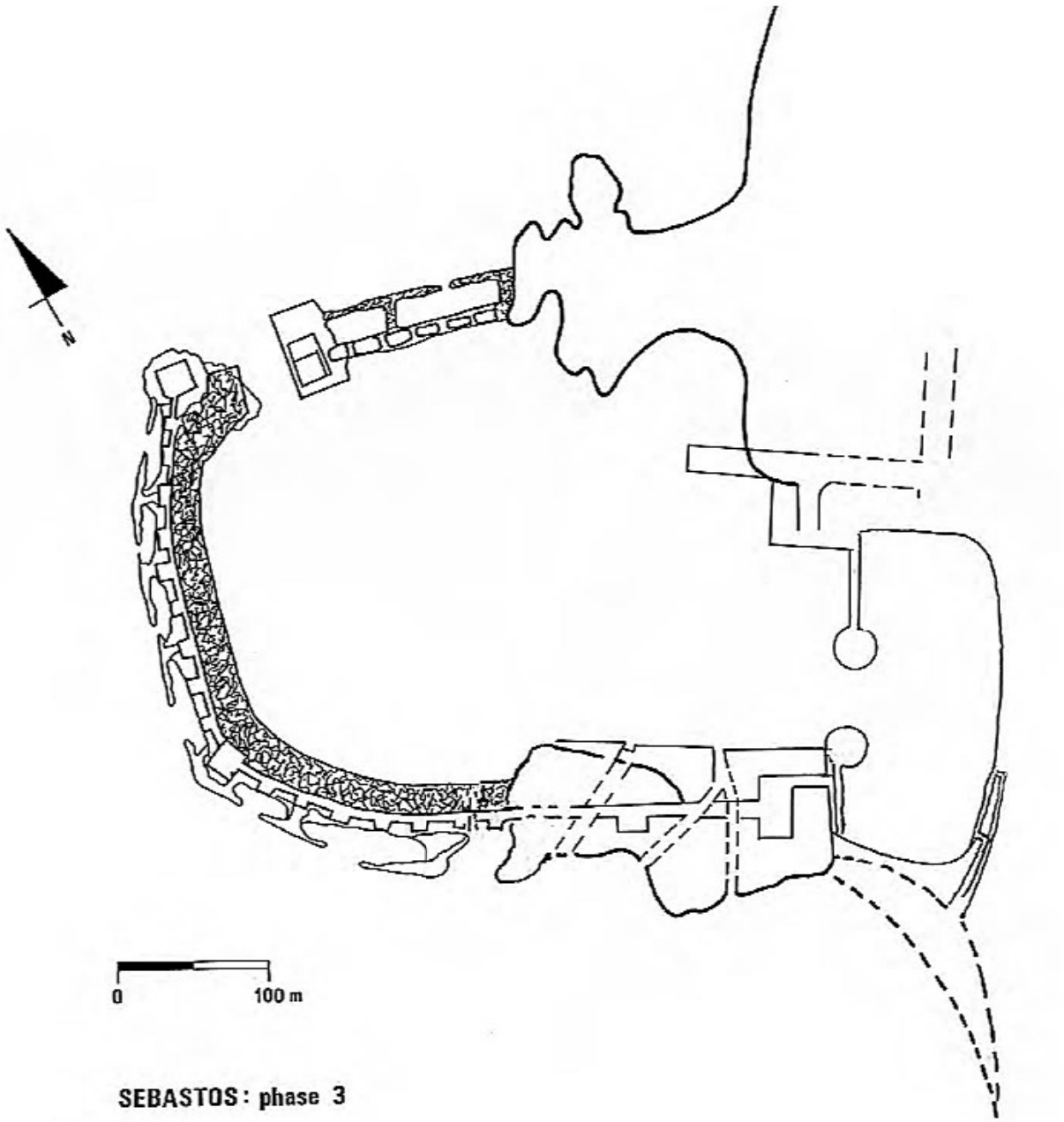

Figure 5.49. Schematic plan of Sebastos under construction, at the end of Phase 3 (A. Raban, Caesarea Project)

course of this subsidiary breakwater allowed openings for rip currents, which carried out the overflow of the wave-driven seawater and some of its load of sand particles back to the open sea. Thus, the area between the *prokamia* and the main mole was an inundated hollow, never fully silted and properly functioning as a settling area for the wave energy (Figs. 5.48, 5.49).

When viewing the present day seawall at the fishermen wharf during rather typical mid-summer weather (Fig. 5.50), the necessity of such a subsidiary breakwater is obvious. It was a relatively cheap measure for preventing piling-up of wave-carried masses of seawater against the mole itself. Splashing of excessive quantities of water over the spinal wall would have made it impossible to operate the vaults within it as safe and dry storage for goods, or a boarding place for the sailors, as indicated by Josephus (BJ 1: 413; AJ 15: 337).

One might argue also that such a subsidiary breakwater would reduce much of the under-trenching flow of currents at the external base of the main mole, preventing its potential subsidence due to scouring. Being rather poorly built and flimsy, the *prokomia* of Sebastos had to be constantly maintained and renovated on an almost annual basis. But such an effort would have been by far cheaper and simpler than the maintenance of the well-built complex of the main mole with all its upper structures.

Figure 5.50. The fisherman's wharf at Caesarea in typical mid-summer moderate sea conditions (Photograph: A. Raban)

2. The "Towers"

Remains of large chunks of concreted units were traced along the mid-section of the main mole at intervals of about 25 m. These were clearly visible in aerial photographs (Fig. 5.7) and in underwater surveys (Raban 1989: 228–230). Small scale probes yielded preliminary data pointing to at least some of these units being made of formed blocks of hydraulic concrete that were built over with cut stones of *kurkar* (Raban and Stieglitz 1988: 273). These units were not thoroughly studied, but it is possible that they can be associated with the towers mentioned by Josephus: *"... towers (pyrgois) set in intervals along a wall that encircled the harbour basin"* (AJ 15: 338; BJ 1: 412).

3. The Inner Edge of Southern Breakwater

Unlike the central portion of the southern breakwater, which had many courses of blocks along its inner part, the southern section had no remnants of either horizontal paving or a vertical wall that might once have faced its inner edge. Additionally, no later renovations were shown for the southern breakwater, and the data from the casual surveys indicated that concrete blocks with formwork impressions, considered as the original construction, appear over all the upper portion of the sunken structure.

A special feature on the inner edge of the breakwater was a 50 m wide rectangular projection that extended 30–35 m into the basin (Fig. 5.7) and was easily distinguished in aerial photographs. Its surface was an elevated platform of debris somewhat less prominent and of different components than the breakwater itself. Our working hypothesis was that this submerged feature might be the remains of an inner platform, or a landing stage that was added to the southern breakwater in order to increase its docking capacity (Oleson *et al.* 1984: 289–90).

a. *Area N*

In 1983 efforts were made to recover more information about the rectangular feature described above. The first trench (Area N1) was placed 12 m along the southeastern edge of that rectangular feature, toward the edge of the breakwater itself and for an additional few meters to the west, along its inner facade (Fig. 5.51). The platform consisted of two sections; the one closer to the breakwater was about 1 m higher than the other and composed of larger pieces of rubble. The portion extending into the basin of the harbour was raised about 0.8 m above the surrounding sand and was composed of a spill of *kurkar* rubble (0.3-0.9 m; 6.3 m below MSL). The surface of the