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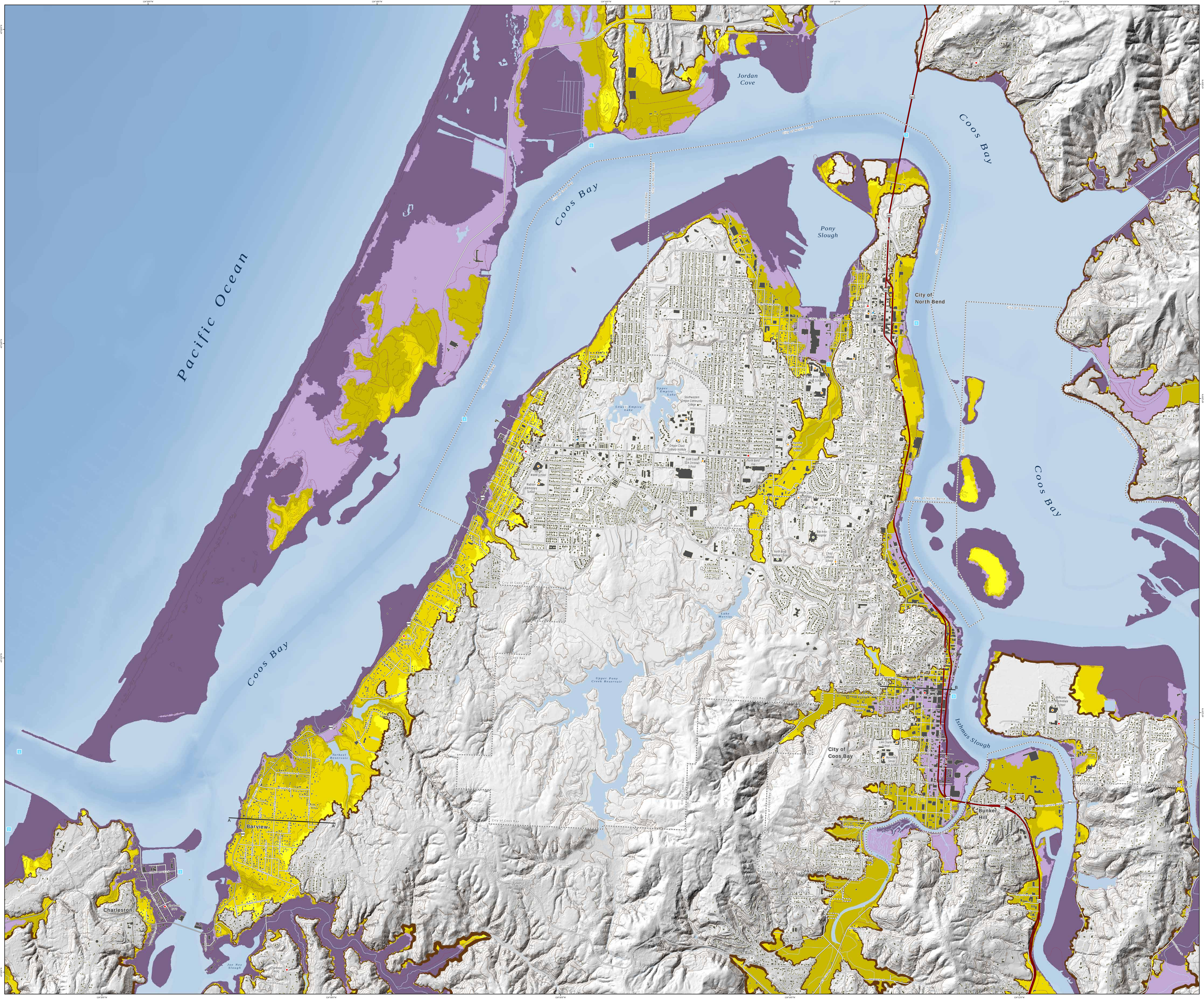
Local Source (Cascadia Subduction Zone) Tsunami Inundation Map
Coos Bay - North Bend, Oregon

2012

Tsunami Inundation Map Coos-05
Tsunami Inundation Maps for Coos Bay - North Bend, Coos County, Oregon
Plate 1



Introduction

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has been identifying and mapping the tsunami inundation hazard along the Oregon coast since 1994. In Oregon, DOGAMI manages the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, which has been administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) since 1995. DOGAMI's work is designed to help cities, counties, and other sites in coastal areas reduce the potential for disastrous tsunami-related consequences by understanding and mitigating this geologic hazard. Using federal funding awarded by NOAA, DOGAMI has developed a new generation of tsunami inundation maps to help residents and visitors along the entire Oregon coast prepare for the next Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake and tsunami.

The CSZ is the tectonic plate boundary between the North American Plate and the Juan de Fuca Plate (Figure 1). These plates are converging at a rate of about 1.5 inches per year, but the movement is not smooth and continuous. Rather, the plates lock in place, and unreleased energy builds over time. At intervals, this accumulated energy is violently released in the form of a megathrust earthquake rupture, where the North American Plate suddenly slips westward over the Juan de Fuca Plate. This rupture causes a vertical displacement of water that creates a tsunami (Figure 2). Similar rupture processes and tsunamis have occurred elsewhere on the planet where subduction zones exist: for example, offshore Chile in 1960 and 2010, offshore Alaska in 1964, near Sumatra in 2004, and offshore Japan in March 2011.

CSZ Frequency: Comprehensive research of the offshore geologic record indicates that at least 19 major ruptures of the full length of the CSZ have occurred off the Oregon coast over the past 10,000 years (Figure 3). All 19 of these full-rupture CSZ events were likely magnitude 8.9 to 9.2 earthquakes (Witter and others, 2011). The most recent CSZ event happened 312 years ago on January 26, 1700. Sand deposits carried onshore and left by the 1700 event have been found 1.2 miles inland; older tsunami sand deposits have also been discovered in estuaries 6 miles inland. As shown in Figure 3, the range in time between these 19 events varies from 110 to 1,150 years, with a median time interval of 490 years. In 2008 the United States Geological Survey (USGS) released the results of a study announcing that the probability of a magnitude 8-9 CSZ earthquake occurring over the next 30 years is 10% and that such earthquakes occur about every 500 years (WGCEP, 2008).

CSZ Model Specifications: The sizes of the earthquake and its resultant tsunami are primarily driven by the amount and geometry of the slip that takes place when the North American Plate snaps westward over the Juan de Fuca Plate during a CSZ event. DOGAMI has modeled a wide range of earthquake and tsunami sizes that take into account different fault geometries that could amplify the amount of seawater displacement and increase tsunami inundation. Seismic geophysical profiles show that there may be a steep splay fault running nearly parallel to the CSZ but closer to the Oregon coastline (Figure 1). The effect of this splay fault moving during a full-rupture CSZ event would be an increase in the amount of vertical displacement of the Pacific Ocean, resulting in an increase of the tsunami inundation onshore in Oregon. DOGAMI has also incorporated physical evidence that suggests that portions of the coast may drop 4 to 10 feet during the earthquake; this effect is known as subsidence. Detailed information on fault geometries, subsidence, computer models, and the methodology used to create the tsunami scenarios presented on this map can be found in DOGAMI Special Papers 41 (Priest and others, 2009) and 43 (Witter and others, 2011).

Map Explanation

This tsunami inundation map displays the output of computer models representing five selected tsunami scenarios, all of which include the earthquake-produced subsidence and the tsunami-amplifying effects of the splay fault. Each scenario assumes that a tsunami occurs at Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) tide; MHHW is defined as the average height of the higher high tides observed over an 18-year period at the Port Orford tide gauge. To make it easier to understand this scientific material and to enhance the educational aspects of hazard mitigation and response, the five scenarios are labeled as "T-shirt sizes" ranging from Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large, to Extra Extra Large (S, M, L, XL, XXL). The map legend depicts the respective amounts of slip, the frequency of occurrence, and the earthquake magnitude for these five scenarios. Figure 4 shows the cumulative number of buildings inundated within the map area.

The computer simulation model output is provided to DOGAMI as millions of points with values that indicate whether the location of each point is wet or dry. These points are converted to wet and dry contour lines that form the extent of inundation. The transition area between the wet and dry contour lines is termed the Wet/Dry Zone, which equates to the amount of error in the model when determining the maximum inundation for the each scenario. Only the XXL Wet/Dry Zone is shown on this map.

This map also shows the regulatory tsunami inundation line (Oregon Revised Statutes 455.446 and 455.447), commonly known as the Senate Bill 379 line. Senate Bill 379 (1995) instructed DOGAMI to establish the area of expected tsunami inundation based on scientific evidence and tsunami modeling in order to prohibit the construction of new essential and special occupancy structures in this tsunami inundation zone (Priest, 1995).

Time Series Graphs and Wave Elevation Profiles: In addition to the tsunami scenarios, the computer model produces time series data for "gauge" locations in the area. These points are simulated gauge stations that record the time in seconds of the tsunami wave arrival and the wave height observed for each time interval. It is especially noteworthy that the greatest wave height and velocity observed are not necessarily associated with the first tsunami wave to arrive onshore. Therefore evacuees should not assume that the tsunami event is over until the proper authorities have sounded the all-clear signal at the end of the evacuation. Figure 5 depicts time series data for the map plate area. Figure 6 (profiles A-A' and B-B') depicts the overall wave height and inundation extent for all five scenarios at selected profiles on this map.

Occurrence and Relative Size of Cascadia Subduction Zone Megathrust Earthquakes

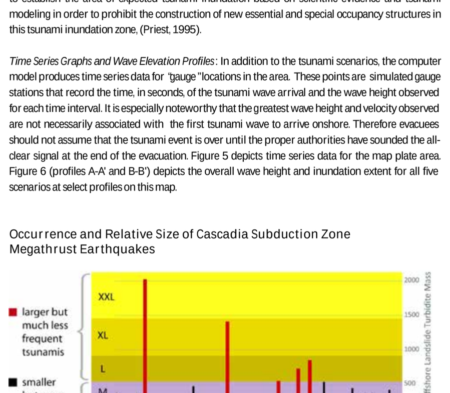


Figure 3: This chart depicts the timing, frequency, and magnitude of the last 19 great Cascadia Subduction Zone events over the past 10,000 years. The most recent event occurred on January 26, 1700. The 1700 event is considered to be a "medium sized" event. The data used to create this chart came from research that examined the many submarine landslides, known as "turbidites," that are triggered only by these great earthquakes (Witter and others, 2011). The loose correlation is "the bigger the turbidite, the bigger the earthquake."

Coos Bay Area Buildings within Tsunami Inundation Zones

	Entire Map Area	City of Coos Bay	City of North Bend	Unincorporated Areas
Total Buildings Inside Map Extent	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Buildings Inside Tsunami Zones				
Small	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Medium	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Large	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Extra Large	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Extra Extra Large	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Percent of Buildings Inside Tsunami Zones				
Small	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Medium	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Large	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Extra Large	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Extra Extra Large	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

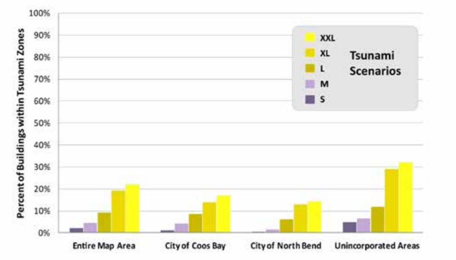
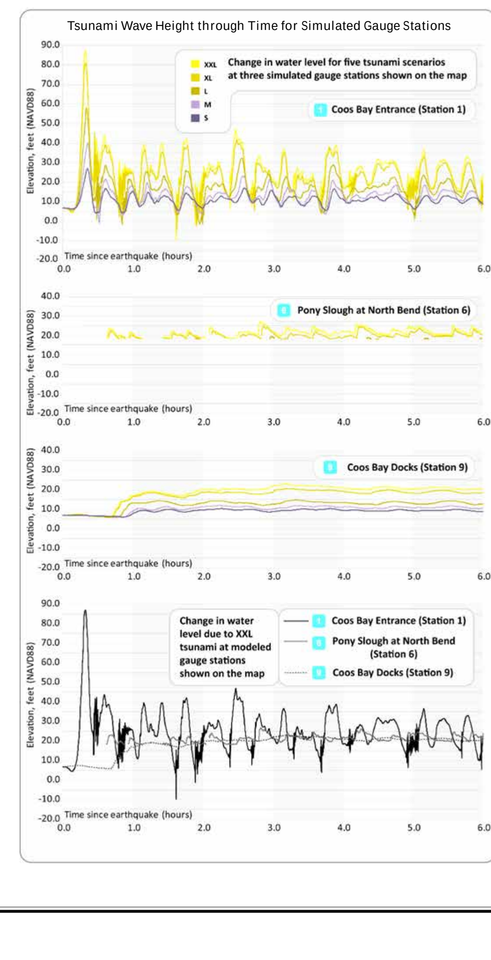


Figure 4: The table and chart show the number of buildings inundated for each "tsunami T-shirt scenario" for cities and unincorporated portions of the map.

Tsunami Wave Height through Time for Simulated Gauge Stations



Maximum Wave Elevation Profile A-A': Barview

Maximum Wave Elevation Profile B-B': City of Coos Bay

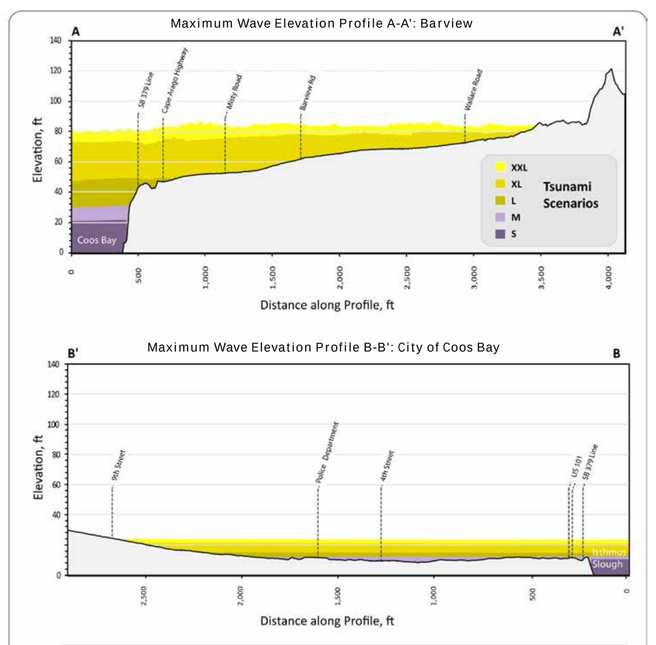


Figure 6: These profiles depict the expected maximum tsunami wave elevation for the five "tsunami t-shirts scenarios" along line A-A' in Barview and B-B' in downtown Coos Bay. The tsunami scenarios are modeled to occur at high tide and to account for local subsidence of the ground surface.

Tsunami Wave Height over Time for Simulated Gauge Stations

Figure 5: Top three charts depict the tsunami waves as they arrive at the selected reference points (simulated gauge stations). It shows the change in wave heights for all five tsunami scenarios over an 6-hour period. The model predicts the first tsunami wave will arrive at the entrance to Coos Bay in approximately 20 minutes. The starting water elevation (0.0 hour) takes into account the local land subsidence or uplift caused by the earthquake. Wave heights vary through time, and the first wave will not necessarily be the largest as waves interfere and reflect off local topography and bathymetry.

Bottom chart depicts the change in wave height for the XXL tsunami scenario only. Modeled wave heights, arrival times, and wave durations can help emergency response personnel plan for a tsunami. (Chart revised 07/15/2012.)

Cascadia Subduction Zone Setting

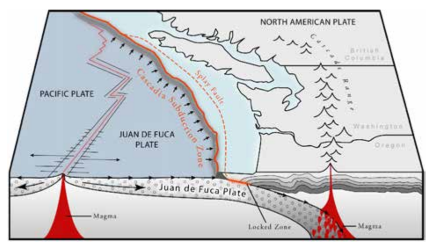


Figure 1: This block diagram depicts the tectonic setting of the region. See Figure 2 for the sequence of events that occur during a Cascadia Subduction Zone megathrust earthquake and tsunami.

How Tsunamis Occur

A. Figure 2: The North American Plate rides over the descending Juan de Fuca Plate at a rate of approximately 1.5 inches per year.

B. Because the two plates are stuck in place at the "locked zone," strain builds up over time and the North American Plate bulges up.

C. Eventually the locked zone ruptures and causes a great earthquake. The sudden slip of the two plates displaces Pacific Ocean water upward and creates a tsunami.

D. Displaced and uplifted Pacific Ocean water rushes in all directions.

E. Along the Oregon coast, tsunami waves run up onto the land for several hours.

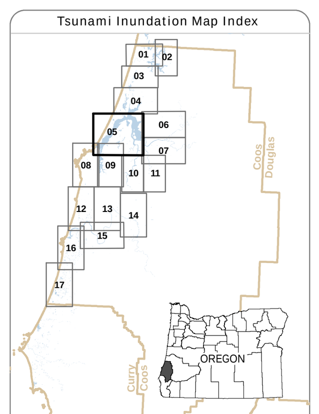
Legend

Earthquake Size		Average Slip Range (ft)	Maximum Slip Range (ft)	Time to Accumulate Slip (years)	Earthquake Magnitude
	XXL	59 to 72	118 to 144	1,200	~9.1
	XL	56 to 72	115 to 144	1,050 to 1,200	~9.1
	L	36 to 49	72 to 98	650 to 800	~9.0
	M	23 to 30	46 to 62	425 to 525	~8.9
	SM	13 to 16	30 to 36	275 to 300	~8.7

XXL Wet/Dry Zone

Urban Growth Boundary
Building Footprint
Simulated Gauge Station
Cross Section Profile Location
Senate Bill 379 Line
Elevation Contour (25 ft intervals up to 200 ft)
Fire Station
Police Station
School
Hospital
U.S. Highway
State Highway
Improved Road

Tsunami Inundation Map Index



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Kilometer
0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Mile

Approximate mean magnetic declination January 1, 2012: 16°
True North / Magnetic North

Scale 1:12,000

Data References

Source data:
This map is based on hydrodynamic tsunami modeling by Joseph Zhang, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon. Model data input were created by John T. English and George R. Priest, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), Portland, Oregon.

Bathymetry data are from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Technical Memorandum NESDIS NGDC-21 Digital Elevation Model of Port Orford, Oregon (2009).

Hydrology data, contours, critical facilities, and building footprints were created by DOGAMI from 2009 to 2011. Senate Bill 379 line data were redigitized by Rachel R. Lyles Smith and Sean G. Pickner, DOGAMI, in 2011 (GIS file set, in press, 2012).

Urban growth boundaries (2010) were provided by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD).

Transportation data (2008) were provided by Coos County.

Lidar data are from DOGAMI Lidar Data Quadrangles LDQ-2009-43124-C3-Charleston, LDQ-2009-43124-C2-CoosBay, LDQ-2009-43124-D2-NorthBend, and LDQ-2009-43124-D3-Empire.

Coordinate System: Oregon Statewide Lambert Conformal Conic, Unit: International Feet, Datum: North American Datum 1983 HARN. Graticule shown with geographic coordinates (latitude/longitude).

References:
2007 Working Group on California Earthquake Probabilities (WGCEP), 2008, The Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast, Version 2 (UCERF 2): U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2007-1437 and California Geological Survey Special Report 203 [http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1437/].

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Priest, G.R., Goldfinger, C., Wang, K., Witter, R.C., Zhang, Y., and Baptista, A.M., 2009, Tsunami hazard assessment of the northern Oregon coast: a multi-deterministic approach tested at Cannon Beach, Clatsop County, Oregon: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Special Paper 41, 87 p.

Witter, R.C., Zhang, Y., Wang, K., Priest, G.R., Goldfinger, C., Stimely, L.L., English, J.T., and Ferro, P.A., 2011, Simulating tsunami inundation at Bandon, Coos County, Oregon, using hypothetical Cascadia and Alaska earthquake scenarios: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Special Paper 43, 57 p.

Software: Esri ArcGIS® 10.0

Funding: This map was funded under award #NA09NW54670014 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program.

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Publication: Deborah A. Schueller
Map Date: 07/15/2012

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