

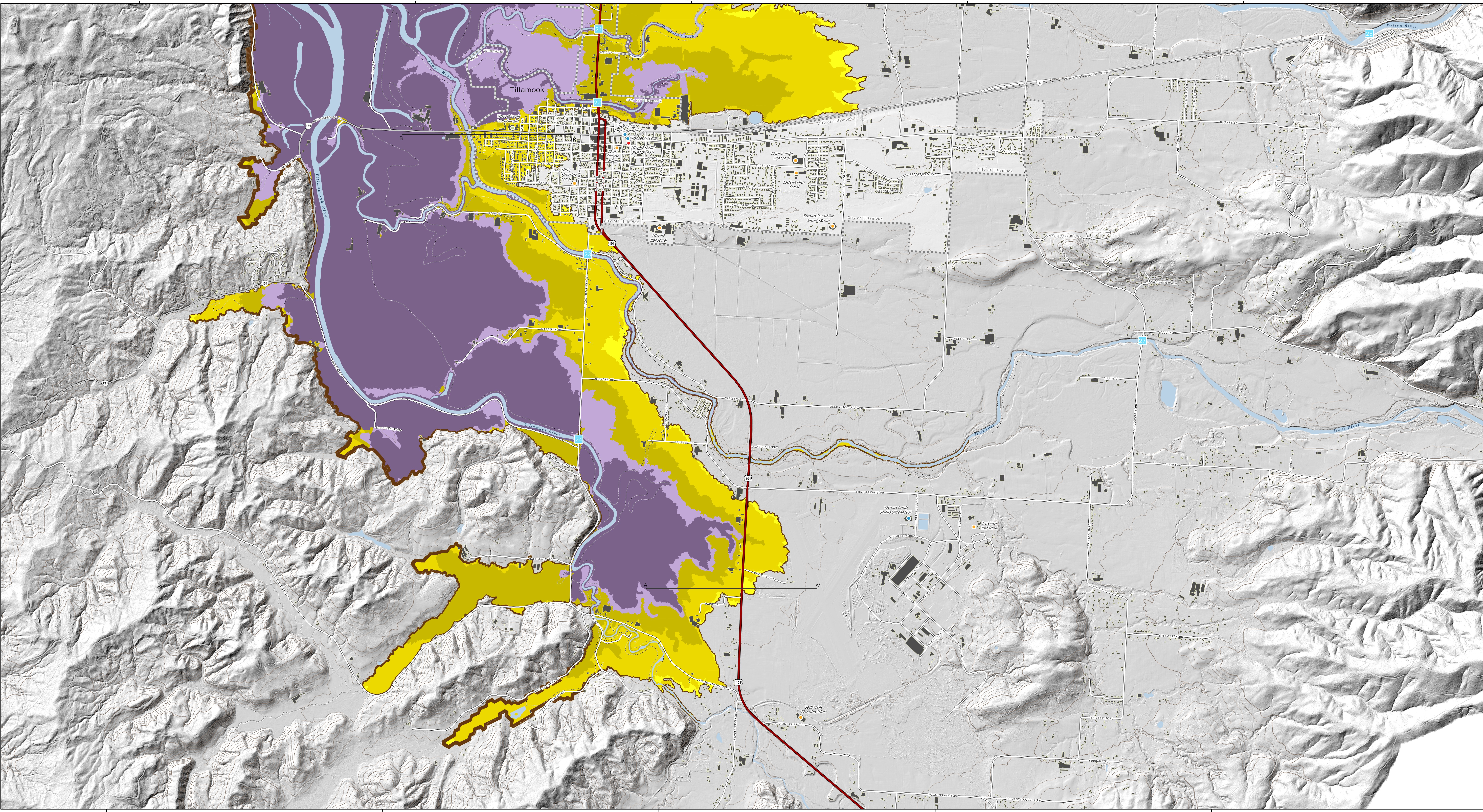
STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES
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Local Source (Cascadia Subduction Zone) Tsunami Inundation Map Tillamook South, Oregon

2012

Tsunami Inundation Map TIII-07
Tsunami Inundation Maps for Tillamook South,
Tillamook 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 stakeholders 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-length CSZ events were likely magnitude 8.9 to 9.2 earthquakes (Witter and others, 2011). The most recent CSZ event happened approximately 300 years ago on January 26, 1700. Sand deposits carried ashore and left by the 1700 event have been found 12 miles inland, older tsunami sand deposits have also been discovered in estuaries a 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 slips 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 seafloor displacement and increase tsunami tsunami size. Science geological profiles show that there may be a steep slope fault running nearly parallel to the CSZ but closer to the Oregon coastline (Figure 1). The effect of this steeply 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 (Pryor and others, 2009) and 42 (Witter and others, 2011).

Map Explanation

This tsunami inundation map displays the output of computer models representing the five selected tsunami scenarios, all of which include the earthquake-produced subsidence and the tsunami amplifying effects of the slip/fault. Each scenario assumes that tsunami occur within the 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 Garibaldi tide gauge. To make it easier to understand the 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 outline 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 five scenarios. Only the XXL Wet/Dry Zone is shown on this map.

This map also shows the regulatory tsunami inundation line (Oregon Revised Statutes 455.640 and 455.641), 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 residential and special occupancy structures in this tsunami inundation zone (Pryor, 1995).

Time-Series Depicts 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. 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 the tsunami waves as they arrive at a simulated gauge station. Figure 6 depicts the overall wave height and inundation extent for all five scenarios at the profile locations shown on this map.

Cascadia Subduction Zone Setting

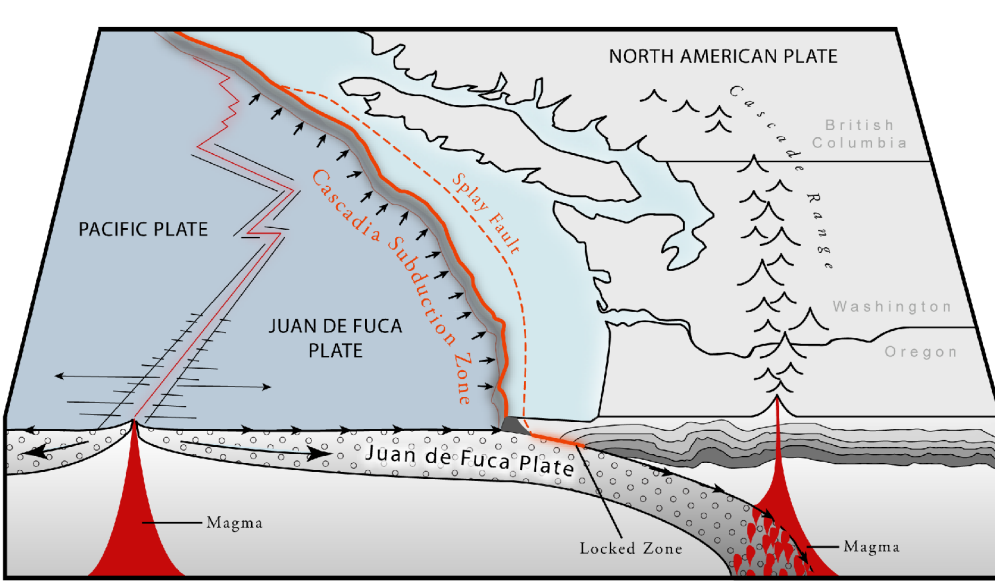


Figure 1. This block diagram depicts the tectonic setting of the region. See Figure 2 for the sequence of events that occur during a Cascadia Subduction Zone megathrust earthquake and tsunami.

How Tsunamis Occur

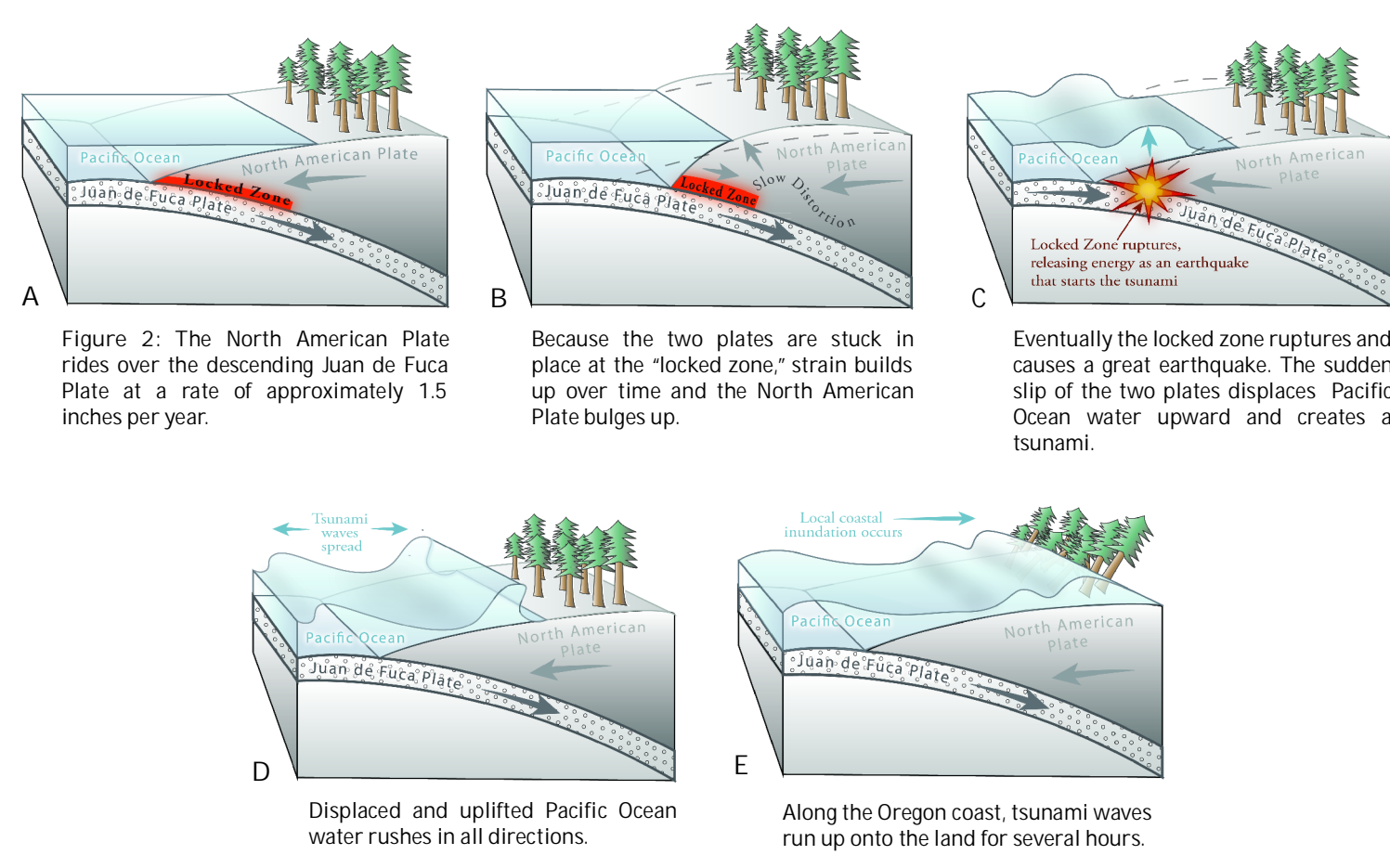


Figure 2. The North American Plate slips over the Juan de Fuca Plate during a CSZ event. DOGAMI has modeled a wide range of earthquake and tsunami sizes that take into account different fault geometries that could amplify the amount of seafloor displacement and increase tsunami tsunami size. Science geological profiles show that there may be a steep slope fault running nearly parallel to the CSZ but closer to the Oregon coastline (Figure 1). The effect of this steeply 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 (Pryor and others, 2009) and 42 (Witter and others, 2011).

Occurrence and Relative Size of Cascadia Subduction Zone Megathrust Earthquakes

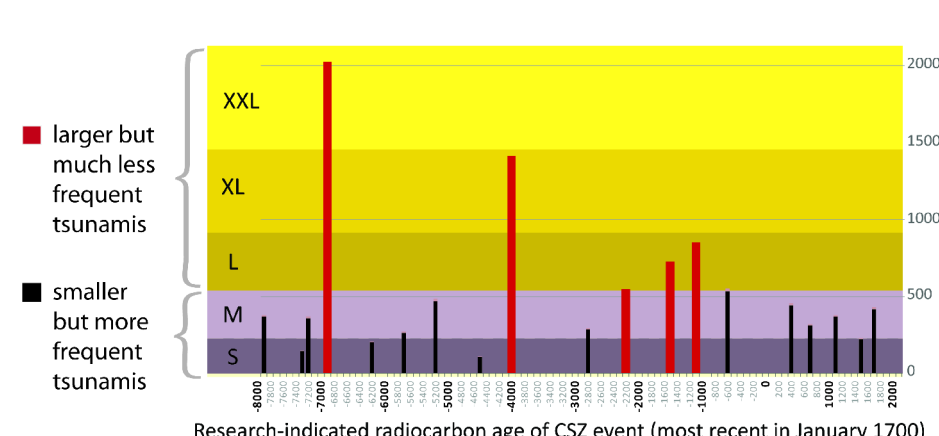
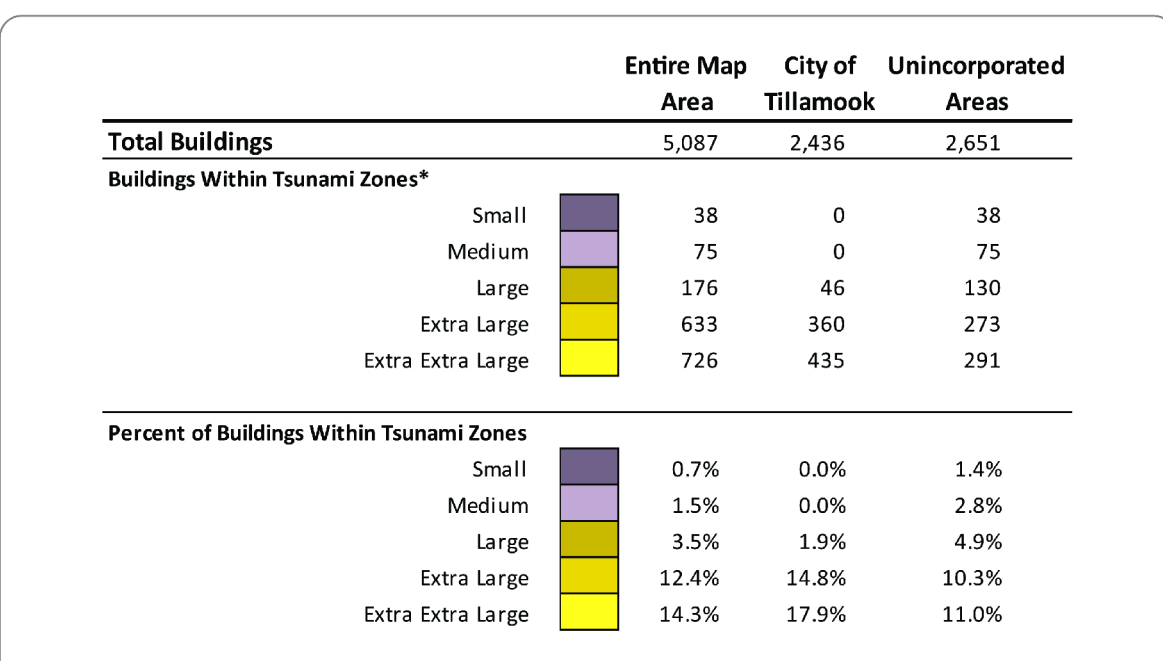


Figure 3. This chart depicts the timing, frequency, and magnitude of the last 19 great Cascadia Subduction Zone events over the past 10,000 years. The most recent CSZ event occurred on January 26, 1700. The 1700 event is considered to be a "medium" sized event. To create this chart came from research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

Buildings within Tsunami Inundation Zones



*Building counts shown are based on polygon centroids and are cumulative within the map area.

Estimated Tsunami Wave Height through Time for Simulated Gauge Station

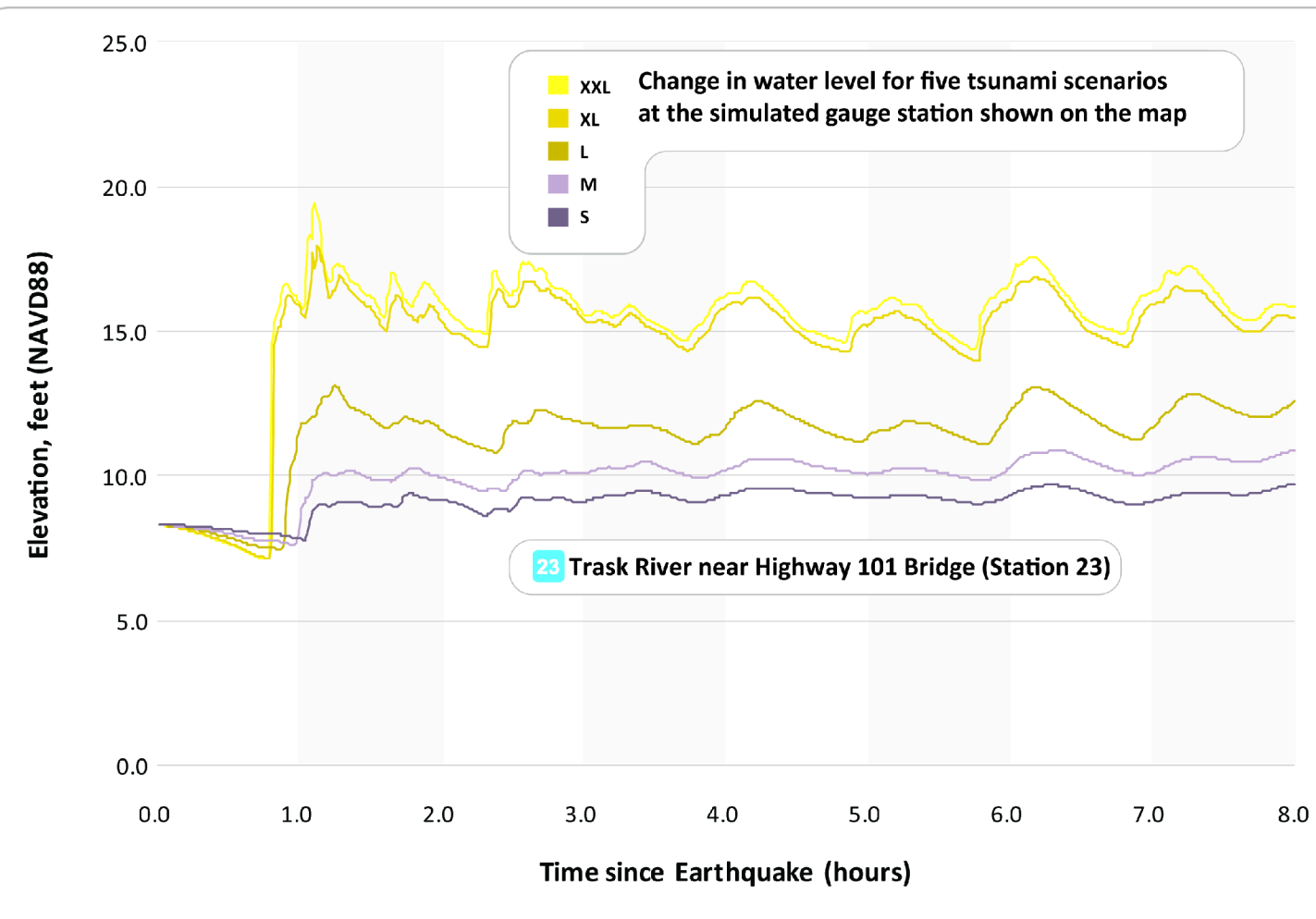


Figure 4. The table and chart show the number of buildings inundated for each "tsunami T-shirt scenario" for cities and unincorporated portions of the map.

Maximum Wave Elevation Profiles

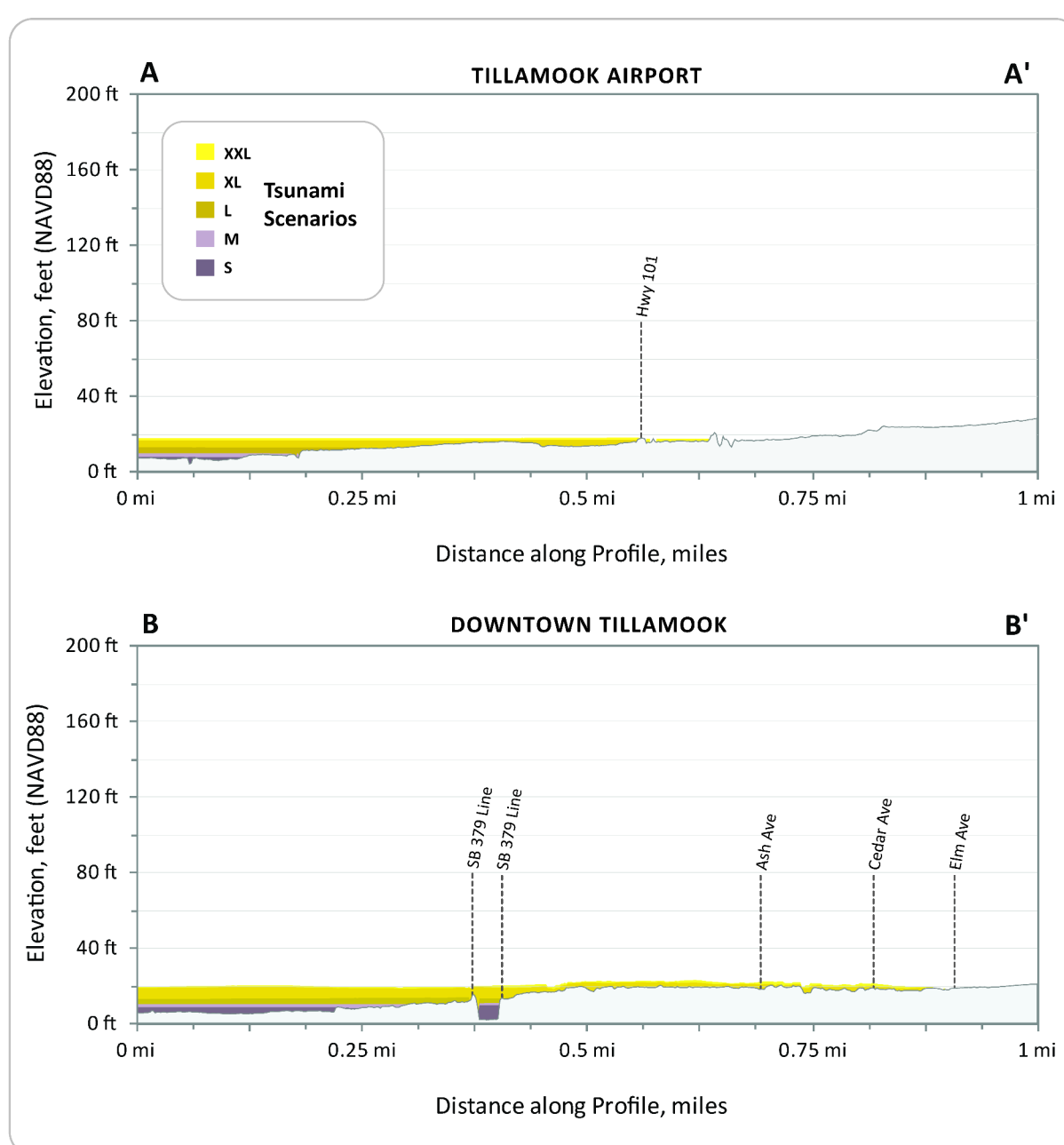
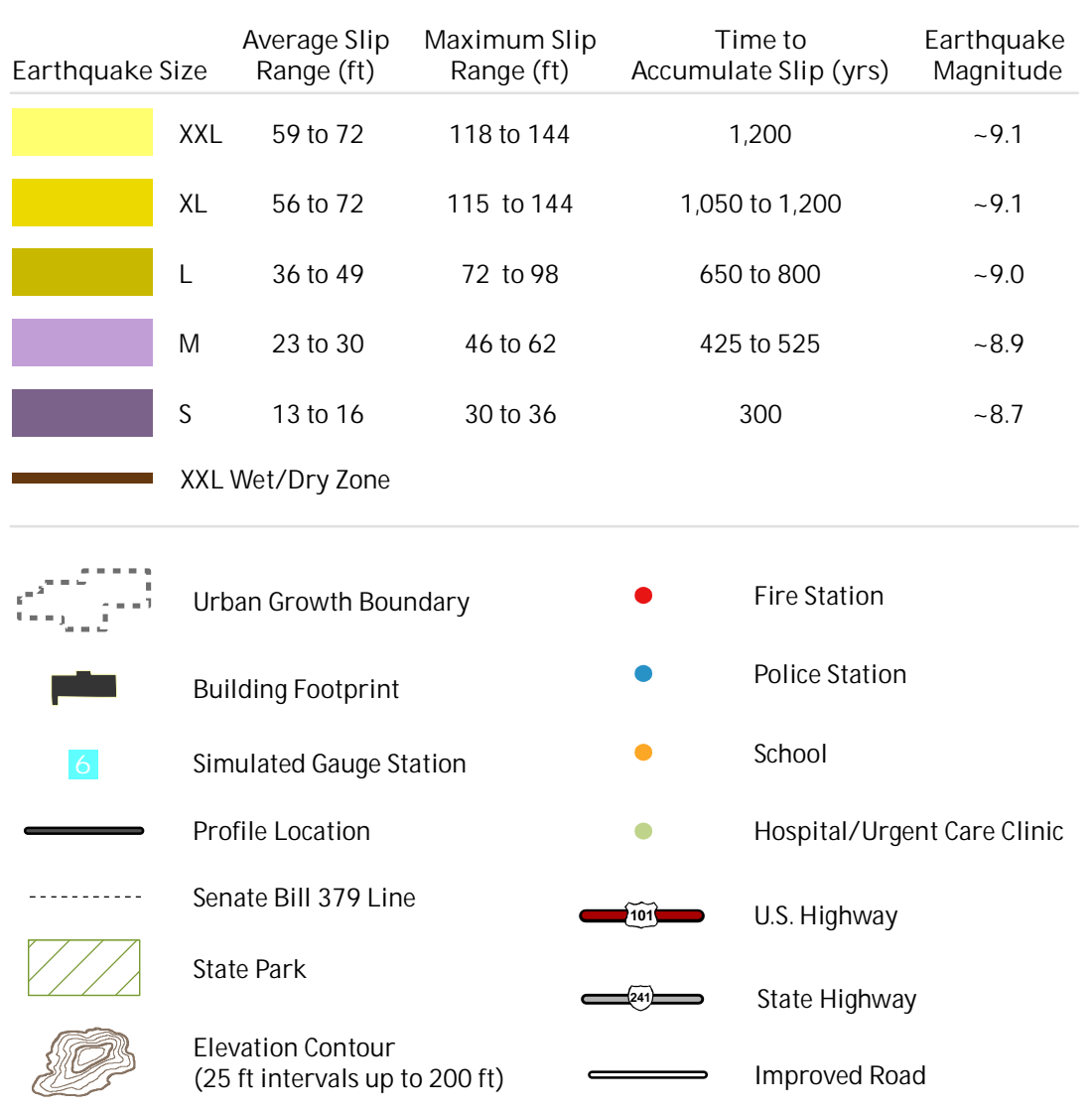


Figure 5. These profiles depict the expected maximum tsunami wave elevation for the five "tsunami T-shirt scenarios" along lines A-A' and B-B'. The tsunami scenarios are modeled to occur at high tide and to account for local subsidence or uplift of the ground surface.

Legend



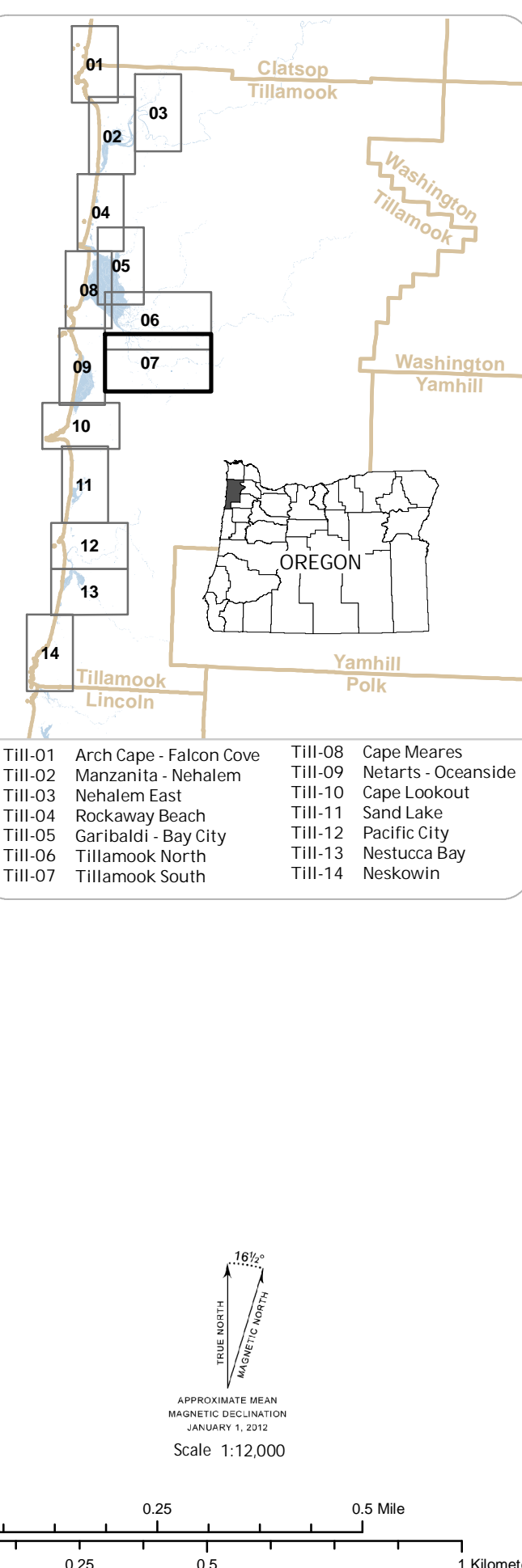
Data References

Source Data:
This map is based on hydrodynamic tsunami modeling by Joseph Zhang, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon. Model data that were collected along the Oregon coast by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), Portland, Oregon.
Hydrology data centers, critical facilities, and building footprints were collected by DOGAMI. Senate Bill 379 data were collected by Rachel R. Lytle Smith and Ian P. Madsen, DOGAMI, in 2011 (DOGAMI, in press, 2012).
Urban growth boundaries (UGB) were provided by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DOLCD).
Transportation data (2011) were provided by Tillamook County. Data were collected by DOGAMI to improve the spatial accuracy of the features or to add newly constructed roads not present in the original data.
Lidar data are from DOGAMI Lidar Data Quaterly (DOGAMI, 2012) and from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in 2011 (NOAA, 2011).
Topographic data (2011) were provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in 2011 (NOAA, 2011).
Coordinate System: Oregon Statewide Lambert Conformal Zone, Unit: International Feet, Horizontal Datum: NAD 1983, Vertical Datum: NAVD 1988, Contour Interval: 25 feet, Contour Lines: 25 feet.

References:
2007 Working Group on California Earthquake Probabilities (WGCEP, 2008). The Uniform California Earthquake Repeater Project, Version 2.0 (UCERF 2). U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2008-1031 and California Geological Survey Special Report 200 (http://web.crk.org/2008-1031/2008-1031-01/).
Pryor, C. B., 1995. Evaluation of mapping methods and use of the tsunami hazard maps of the Oregon coast. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Open-File Report 41, 47 p.
Witter, R. C., Zhang, Y., Wang, X., Pryor, C. B., Goffberger, C., Smith, L. L., Lytle, R. J., and others, 2011. Simulating tsunamis inundation and damage along the Oregon coast using hydrodynamic models and Alaska computer simulations. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Special Paper 43, 57 p.

Software: Esri ArcGIS 10.0, Microsoft® Excel®, and Adobe® Illustrator®.
Funding: This map was funded under award #H00000001 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program.
Map Data Creation/Development: Approved/Developed/Reviewed: George B. Pryor, Laura L. Smith, David E. Cox, Paul A. Farris, Sean G. Pryor, Rachel R. Lytle Smith, and Ian P. Madsen, DOGAMI, Portland, Oregon.
Map Production: Rachel R. Lytle Smith, DOGAMI, Portland, Oregon.
Map Distribution: Rachel R. Lytle Smith, DOGAMI, Portland, Oregon.
Map Date: 07/12/2012

Tsunami Inundation Map Index



Scale: 1:12,000
0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile
0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometer

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