



Tsunami Hazards, Risks, and Maritime Strategy Results

The Port of Port Angeles
Washington Emergency Management Division
Washington Geological Survey
The United States Coast Guard



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**
WASHINGTON
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Washington is Earthquake Country

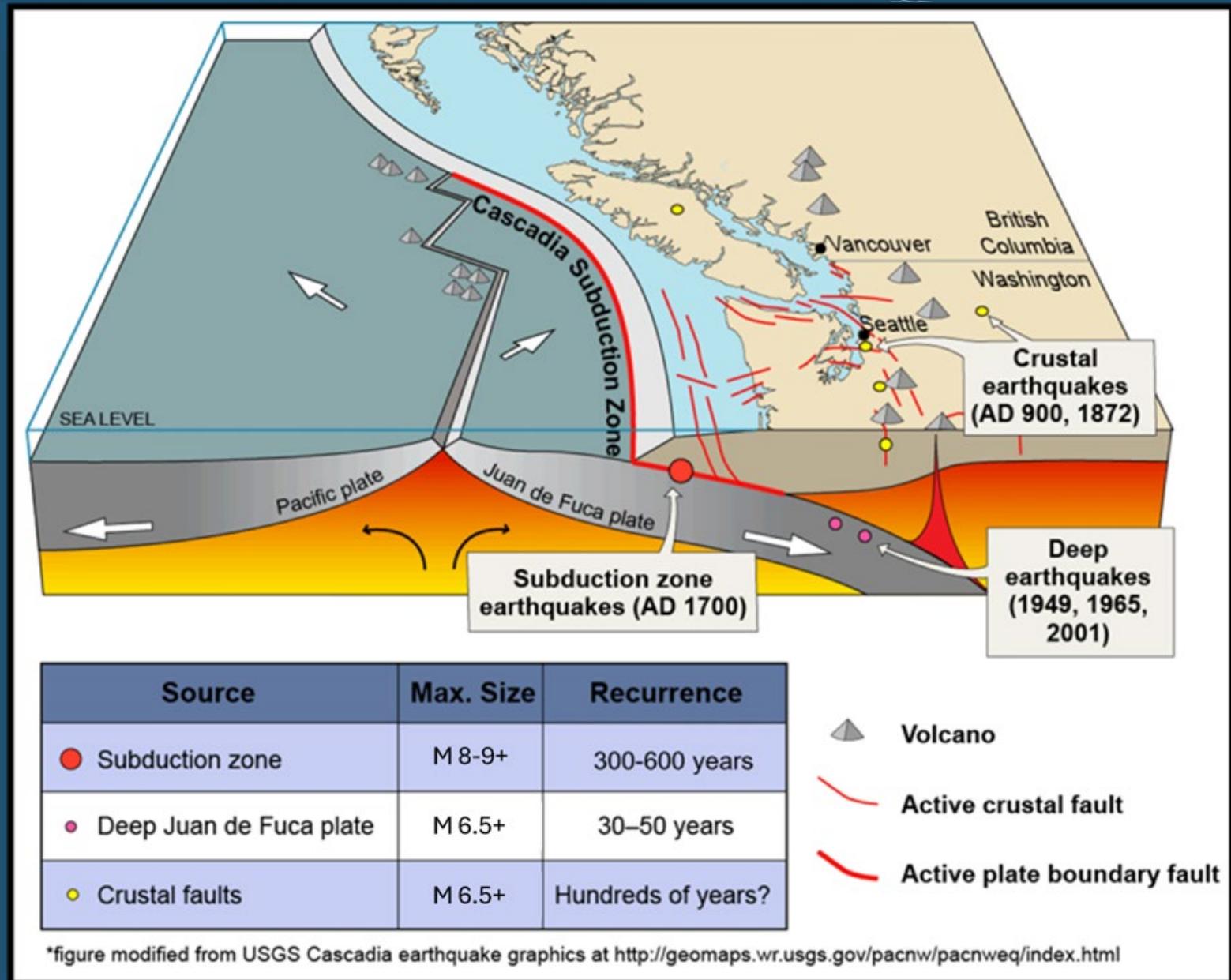
Washington has the
2nd highest earthquake risk
in the United States

It's not a matter of **IF...**
but **WHEN.**

“The Big One”

Nisqually, 2001

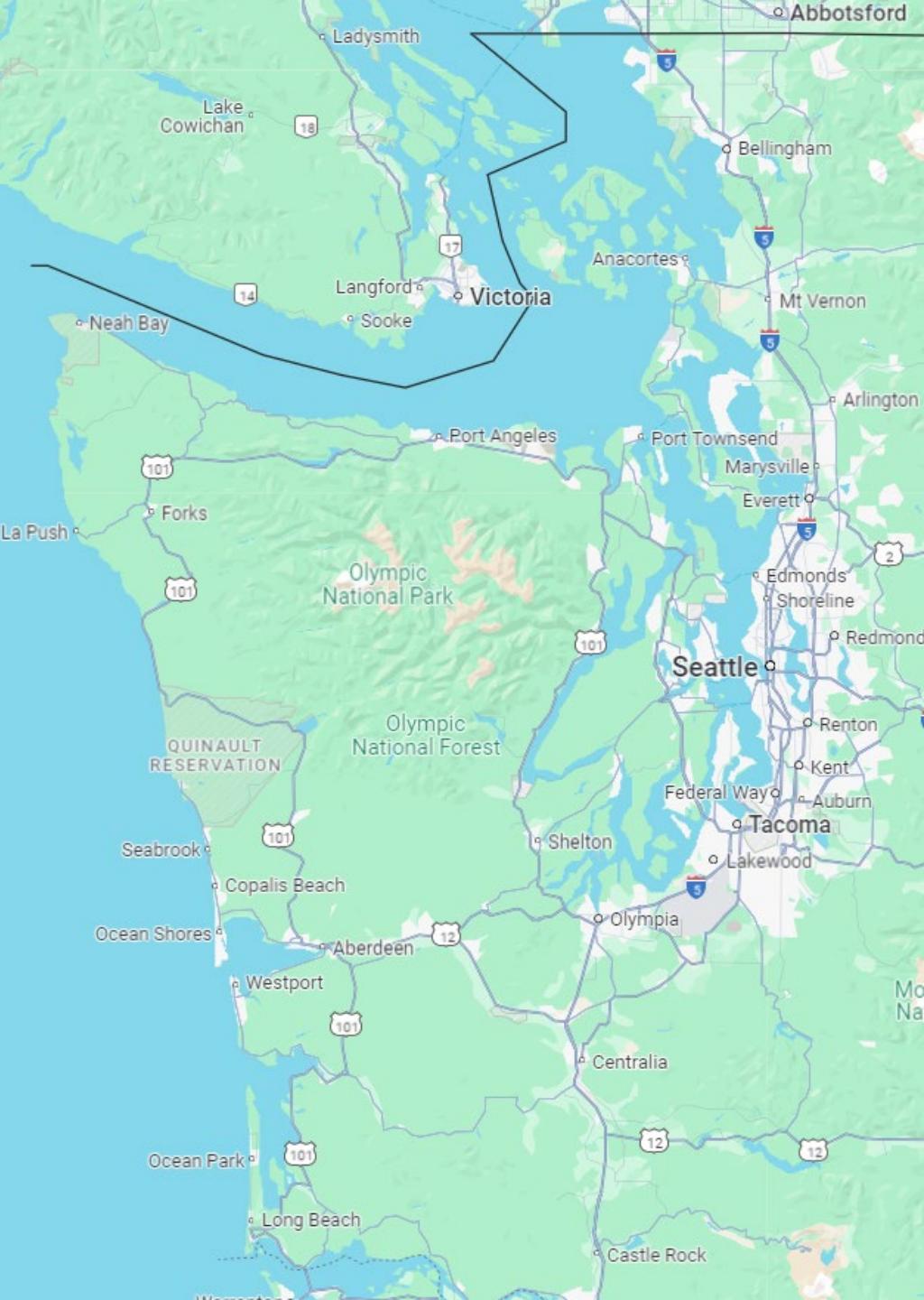
Seattle Fault, Chelan Fault, etc.



Washington is Tsunami Country

WA has 3,000 miles of shoreline with...

- One of the **highest tsunami risks in the U.S.**
- 31 ports and over 90 individual port-run shipping terminals, marinas, and harbors
- 7 Coast Guard stations and 4 Navy bases
- 700 fishing & seafood processing operations
- Largest ferry system in the US
- Millions of coastal tourists each year
- Highly vulnerable and aging coastal populations
- **175,000-300,000+ people living, working and recreating in tsunami hazard zones at any given time**



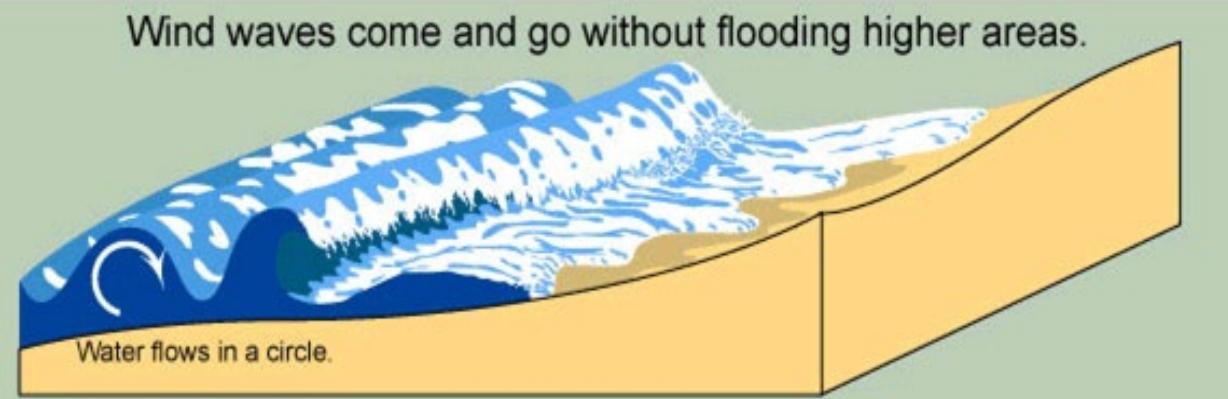
What is a tsunami?

- A series of long waves lasting 12-24+ hours
- Caused by earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and some weather phenomena
- Can travel far distances across the water in minutes or hours
- The first wave is often neither the highest nor most destructive wave
- Very fast and powerful; entire column of water moves, not just the top like with wind waves



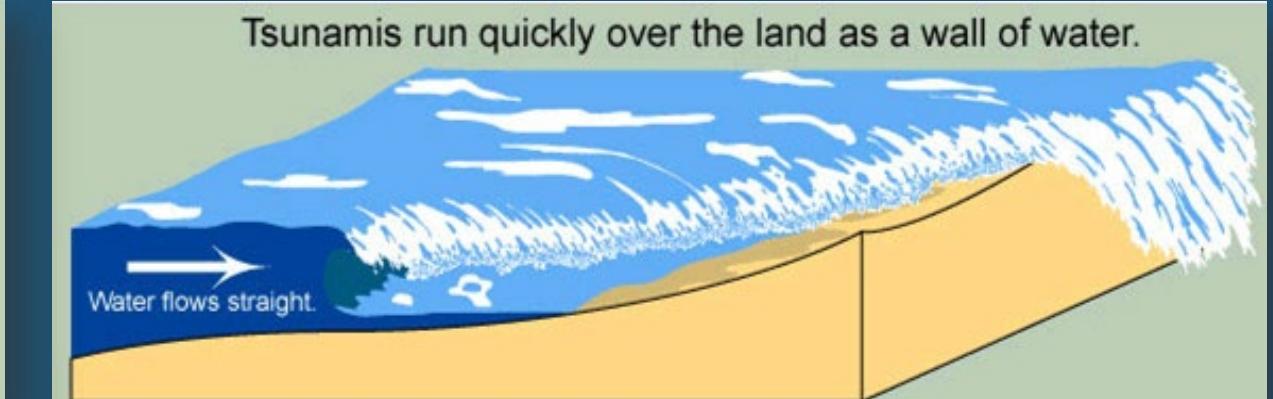
Wind waves come and go without flooding higher areas.

Water flows in a circle.



Tsunamis run quickly over the land as a wall of water.

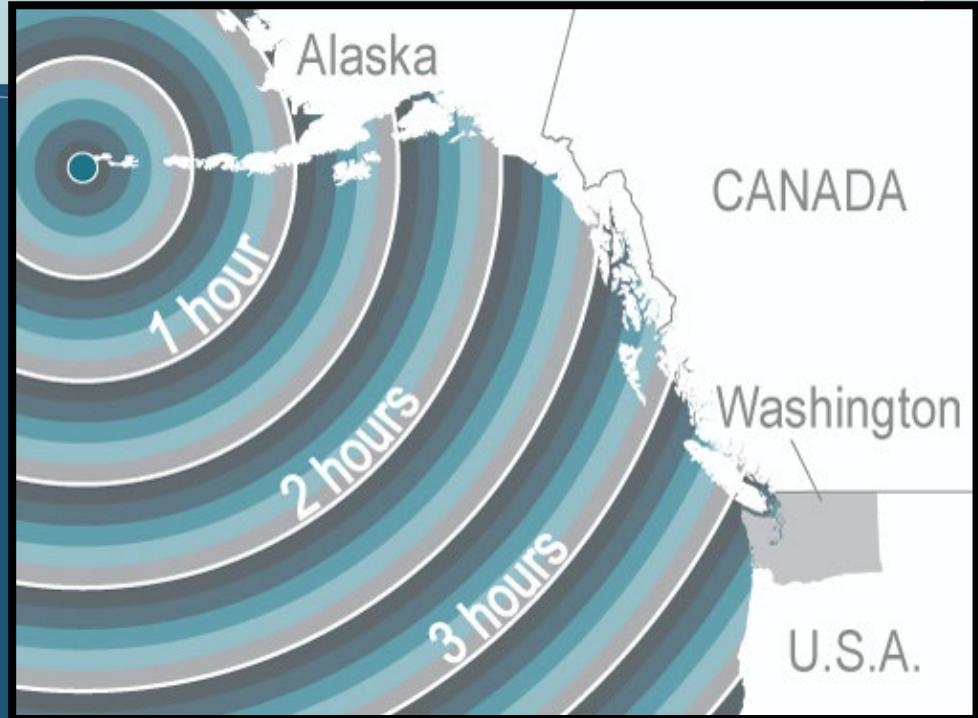
Water flows straight.





Local

- You **will** feel the earthquake
- **Shaking** is primary warning
- **More inundation/severe currents**
- Greater impact to coast
- Biggest local threat: CSZ
- **Threat to inner and outer coasts**



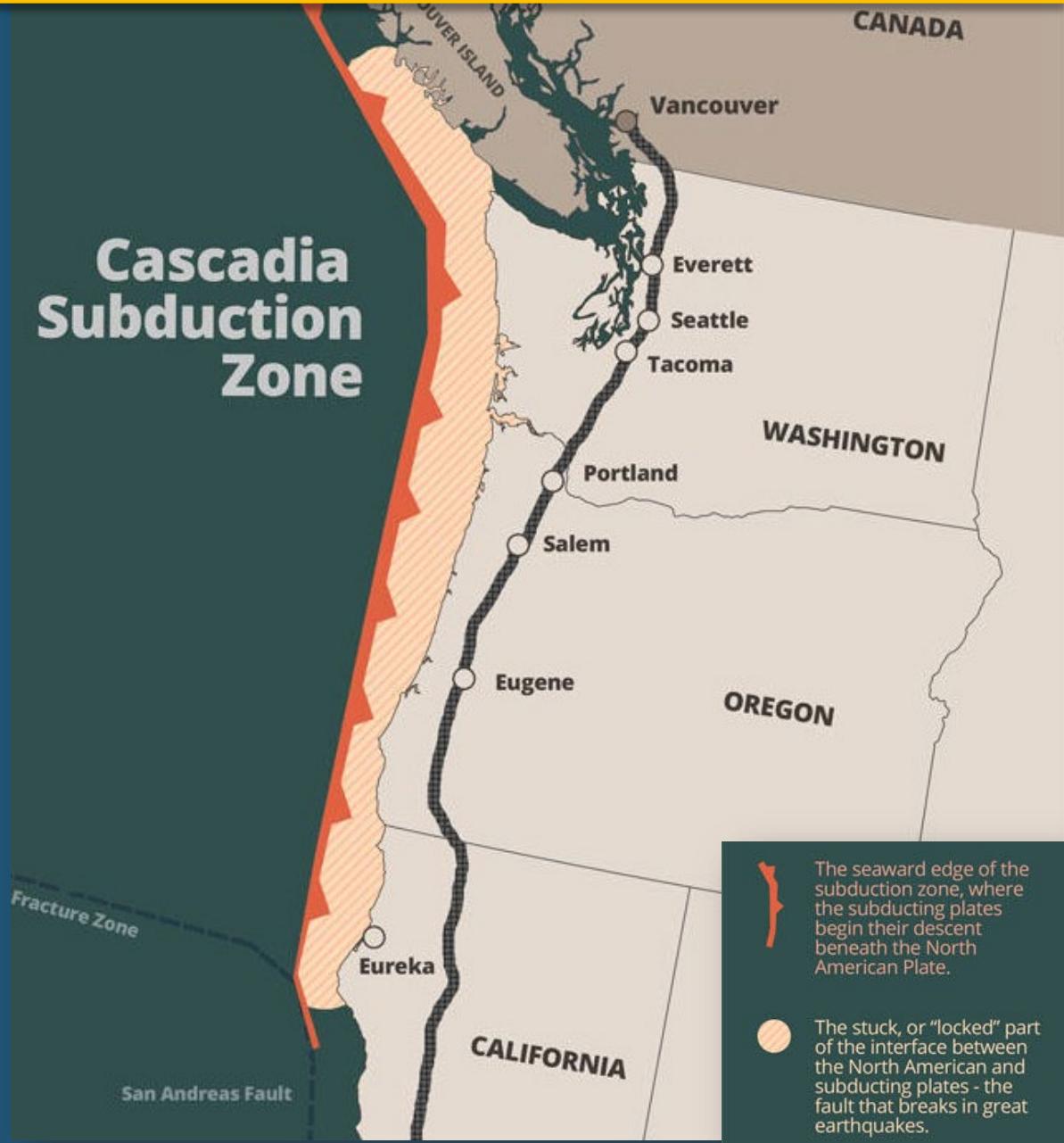
Distant

- You **will NOT** feel the earthquake
- **Alerts** are primary warning
- **Less inundation/currents**
- Less impact to coast
- Biggest distant threat: Alaska
- Smaller threat to inner coast



Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ)

- 700 miles long
- Breaks every 300 – 600 years
- Last great rupture in 1700
- 10-30% chance within next 50 years (this percent will continue to increase)
- Causes magnitude 8.0-9.0+ earthquakes
- Shaking felt for 3–6 minutes throughout state and west coast
- Followed by a major tsunami hitting WA's outer coast in 15-20 mins
- Many large aftershocks will follow main quake and thousands of smaller aftershocks for many years
- **50,000-65,000+ casualties** expected for WA due to the tsunami alone; hundreds of thousands of people displaced



General Earthquake Impacts

- Damage to underground pipes, pumps, and other systems, leading to power loss, water and fuel shortages, and potential hazmat situations
- Damage to unreinforced masonry buildings, soft-story buildings, brick chimneys, and other structures not built to modern (post-1970s) building codes
- Damage to bridges, overpasses, roadways, and other vulnerable transportation infrastructure
- Secondary hazards: liquefaction, landslides, fires, gas leaks



General Tsunami Impacts

- Damage to maritime infrastructure and goods, impacting shipping and supply chains
- Alteration of waterways through scour and deposition
- Generation, movement, and deposition of mixed and hazardous debris
- Injuries and fatalities in coastal communities lacking adequate high ground nearby
- Examples from Japan (2011):
 - 19,700+ deaths (majority from tsunami)
 - 400,000+ people displaced
 - 402,000+ buildings partially or totally collapsed
 - 28,000+ ships destroyed; 319 ports damaged

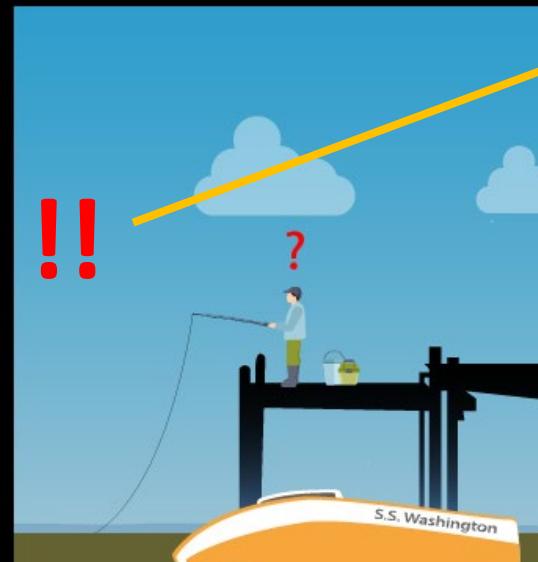
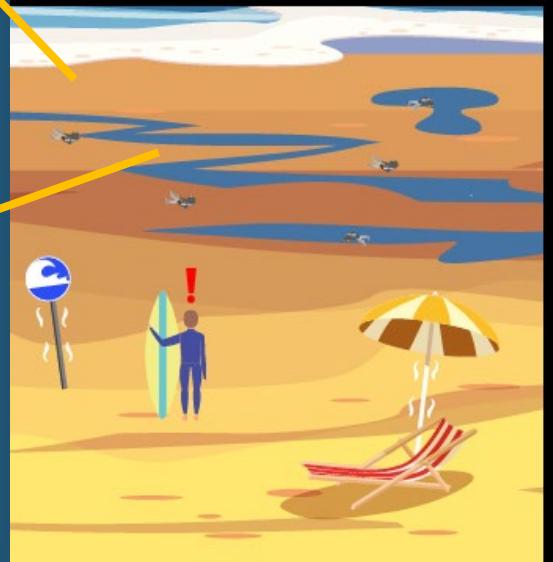




Natural Tsunami Warning Signs

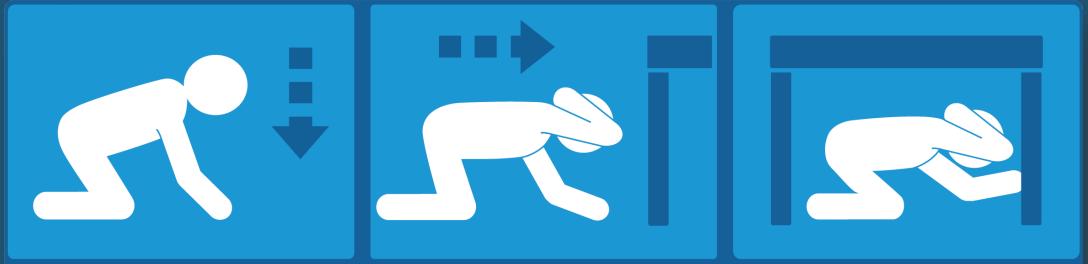
Ocean water bubbling, frothing, or otherwise acting abnormally

Sudden rise or fall of the ocean



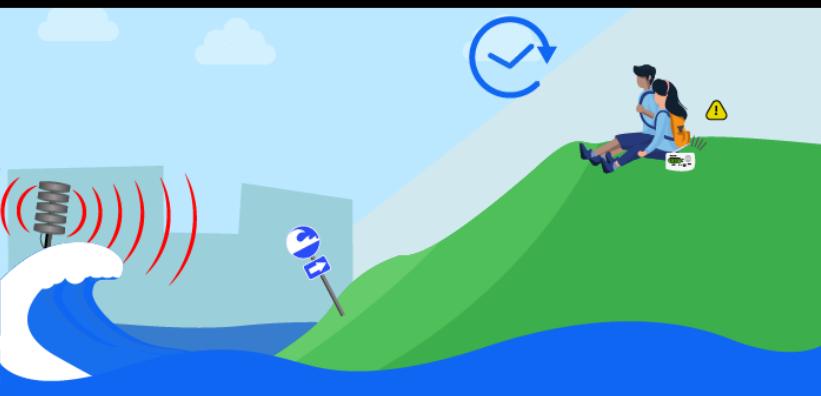
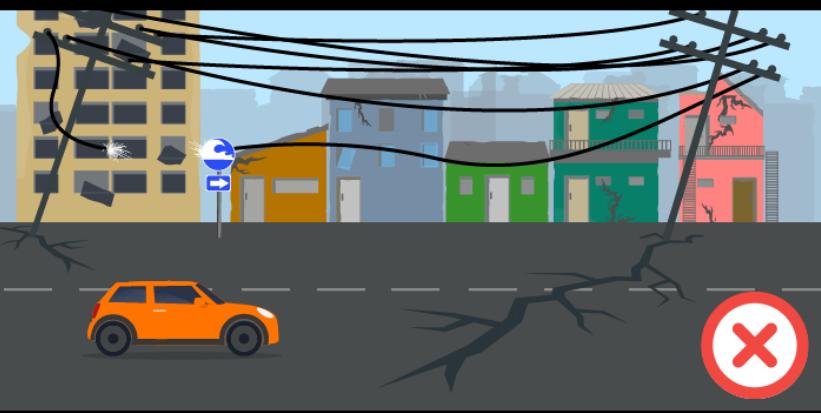
Long or strong ground shaking at the coast

Loud roaring sound coming from the ocean



DROP! **COVER!** **HOLD ON!**

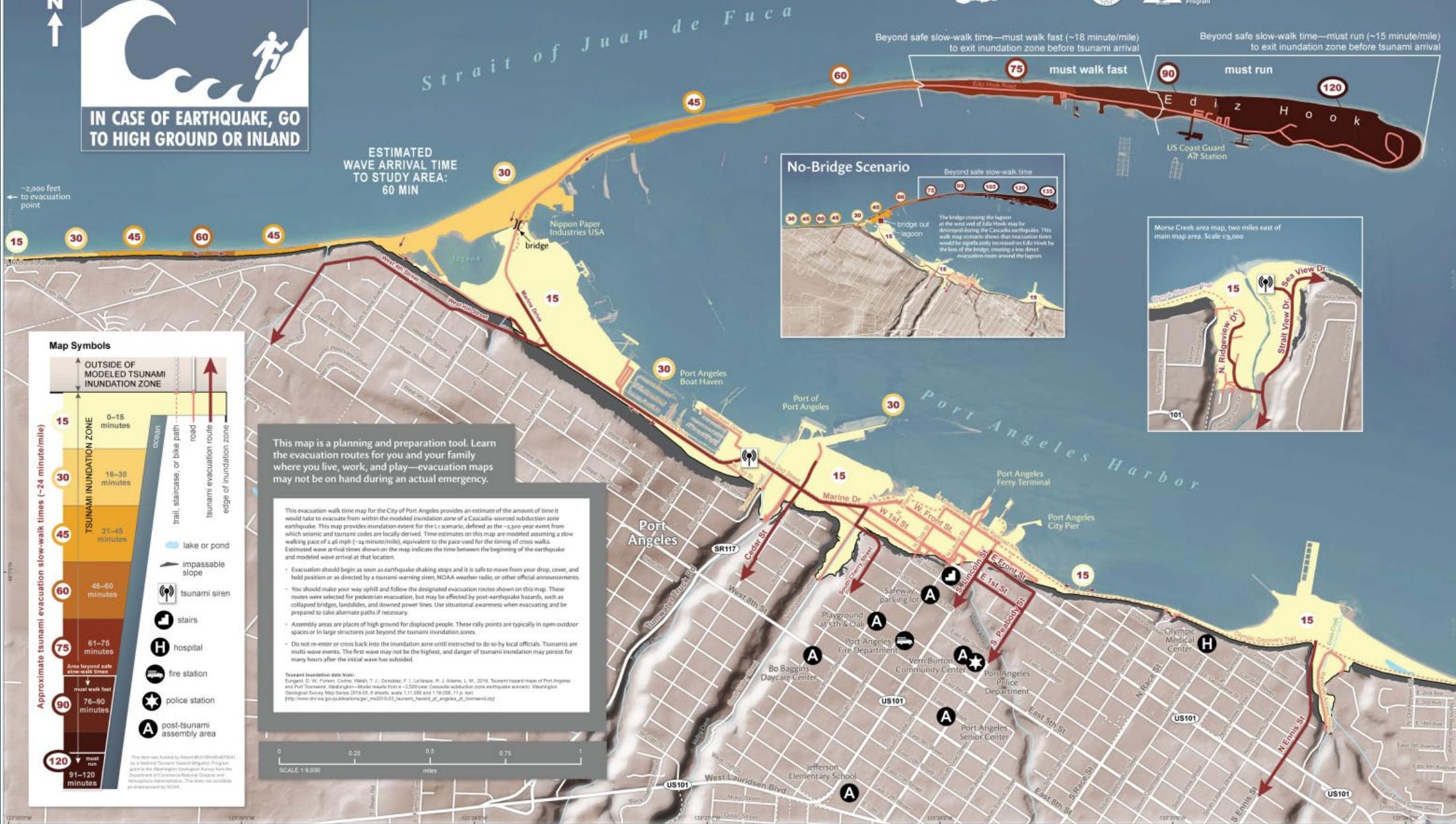
Protect Yourself During Earthquakes



Port Angeles Tsunami Evacuation Walk Times

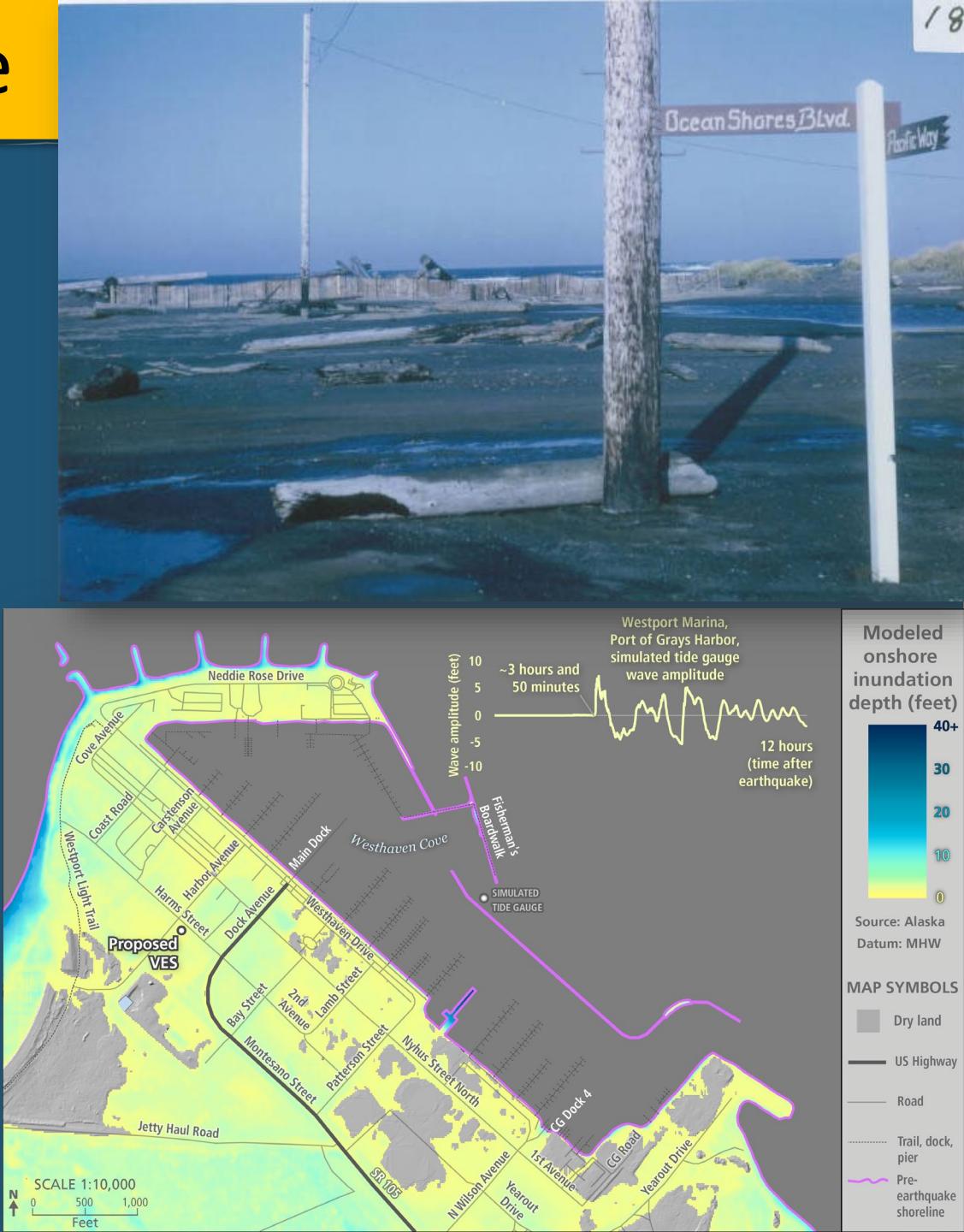


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Alaska Aleutian Subduction Zone

- Washington's greatest tsunami threat from outside the state
- Since 1900, Alaska has averaged an M8.0+ earthquake every ~13 years
- No shaking felt in Washington
- Official alerts are primary warning
- Mainly threat to outer coast
- M9.2 Alaskan Aleutian Subduction Zone Scenario
 - Similar to 1964 Alaska Good Friday earthquake and tsunami
 - Wave crest is leading (meaning no water drawdown to warn beachgoers)
 - Tsunami reaches WA outer coast in 3.5-4 hrs



Distant Tsunami Impacts on the West Coast

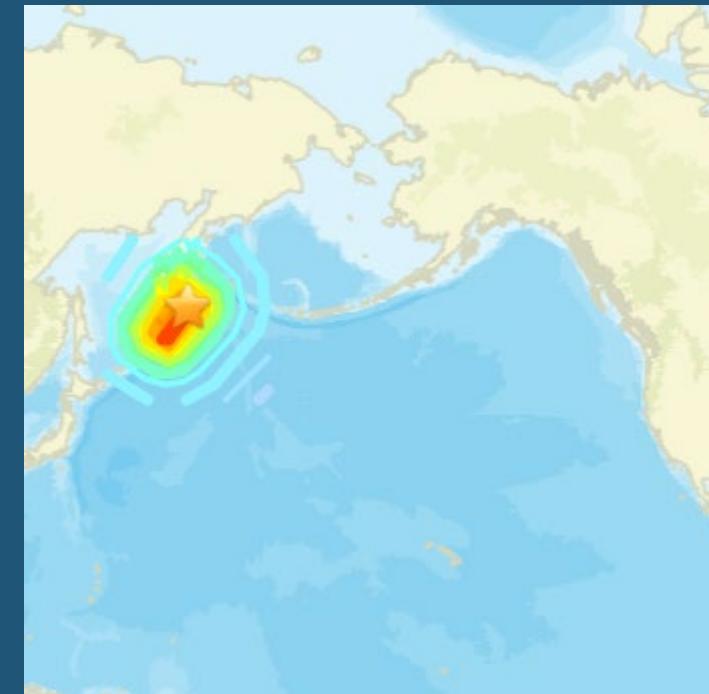


Tsunami Alerts

Alert Name	Actions	Potential Hazards
 WARNING	<p>Get to high ground or inland IMMEDIATELY</p> <p>Follow tsunami evacuation signage</p>	<p>DANGER! TSUNAMI IMMINENT!</p> <p>Flooding/powerful currents</p> <p>Wave heights > 3 ft. or unknown</p>
 ADVISORY	<p>Stay out of the water and away from the shore</p>	<p>STRONG CURRENTS AND DANGEROUS WAVES</p> <p>in or very near coastal water</p> <p>Wave heights of 1 - 3 ft.</p>
 WATCH	<p>Be prepared to take action</p> <p>Stay tuned to local radio/TV/ NOAA "alert" weather radios</p>	<p>TSUNAMI IS POSSIBLE</p> <p>Alert level <i>will</i> change once more information is known</p>
 INFORMATION STATEMENT	<p>No action needed</p>	<p>NO TSUNAMI IMPACT EXPECTED</p> <p>Alert level may change once more information is known</p>

M8.8 Kamchatka Tsunami Advisory Overview

- 07/29/2025 at 4:25 PM PT: M8.0 earthquake off the coast of Kamchatka, Russia.
- 07/29/2025 at 5:19 PM: Magnitude revised to M8.7 (eventually M8.8 – 7th largest EQ in recorded history) and Washington upgraded to a **Tsunami Watch**.
- 07/29/2025 at 6:27 PM: Washington further upgraded to a **Tsunami Advisory**.
- 07/30/2025 at 10:20 AM: **Tsunami Advisory cancelled** (18 hours after earthquake). Strong and unusual currents persist in WA for many more hours.
- Highest recorded wave height in WA was ~1.3 ft (La Push and Port Angeles). There were no casualties or damage reported for Washington state.



M8.8 Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky Tsunami : July 29-30, 2025

WASHINGTON COAST - LOCAL TIME

Preliminary Tsunami Measurements



NEAH BAY - JUL 30 10:10 p.m.

12cm / 0.4ft

LA PUSH - JUL 30 6:13 a.m.

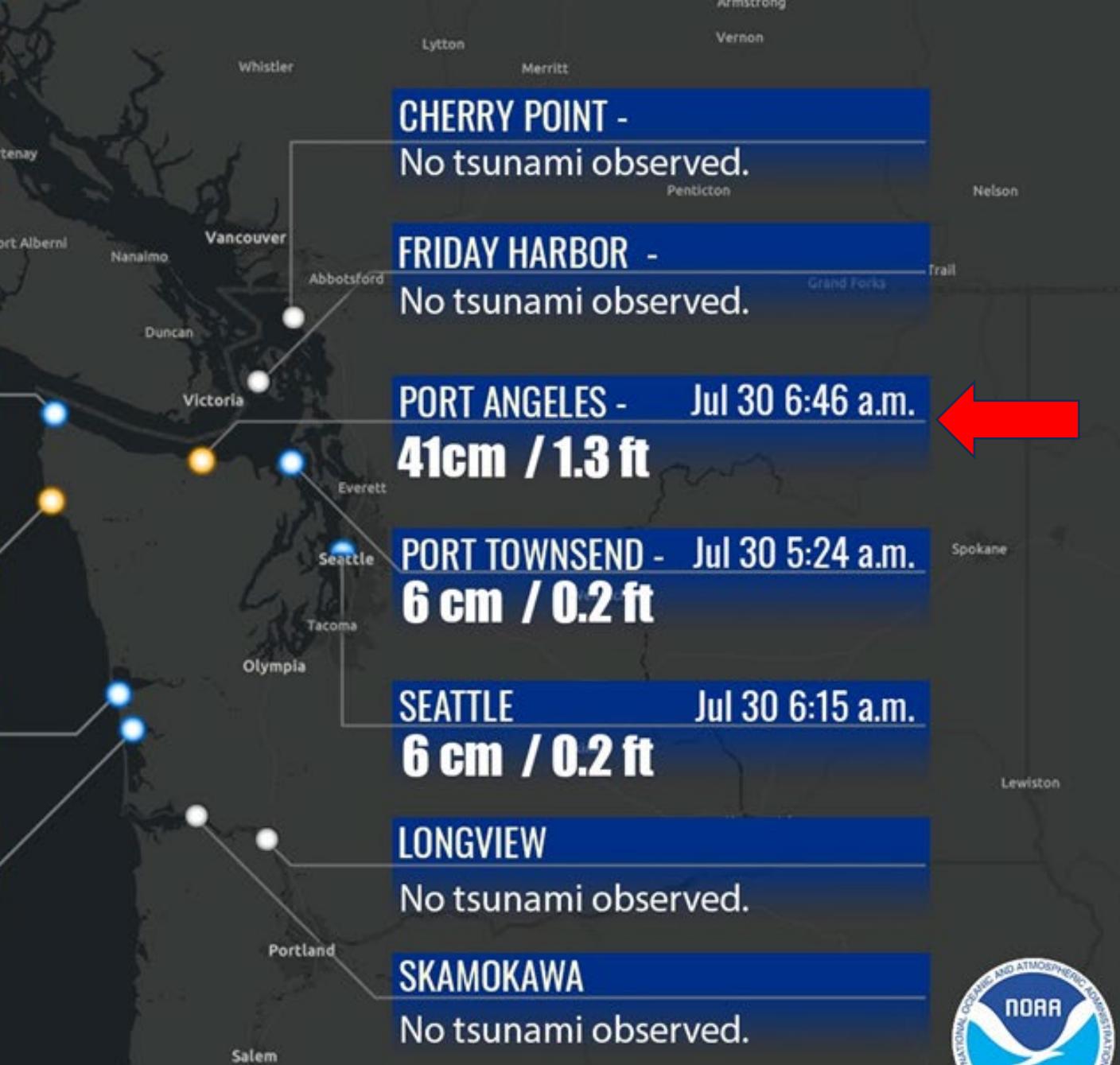
43cm / 1.4 ft

WESTPORT - JUL 30 12:43 a.m.

15cm / 0.5 ft

TOKE POINT - JUL 30 1:39 p.m.

18cm / 0.6 ft





Washington State Parks & Recreation
Commission

4h

A tsunami advisory has been issued for Washington's outer coast. Ocean beaches are closed and people are advised to stay ... See more

TSUNAMI ADVISORY

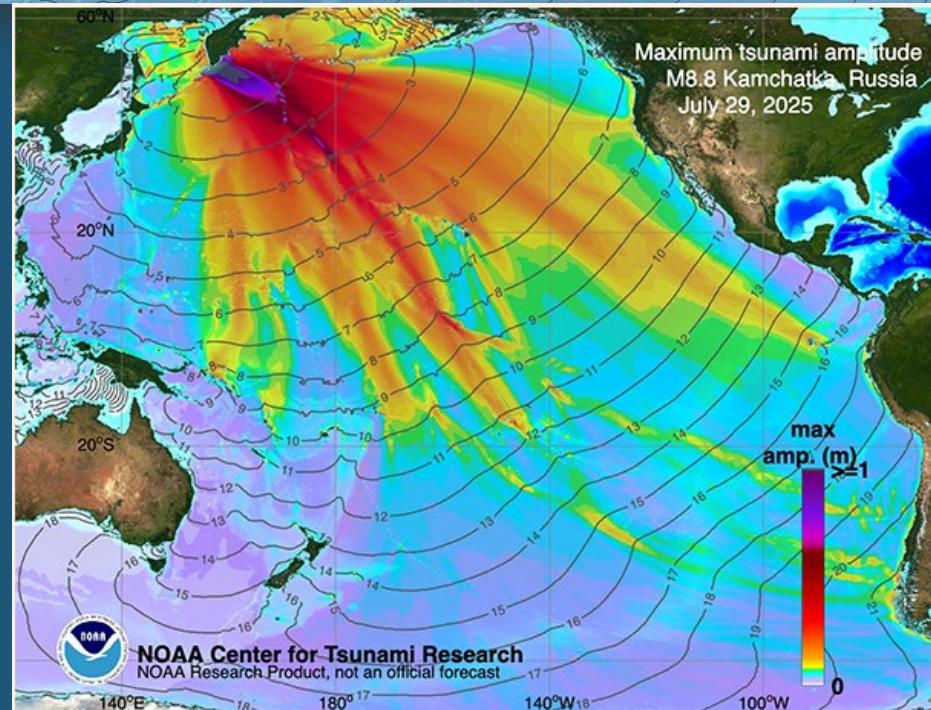
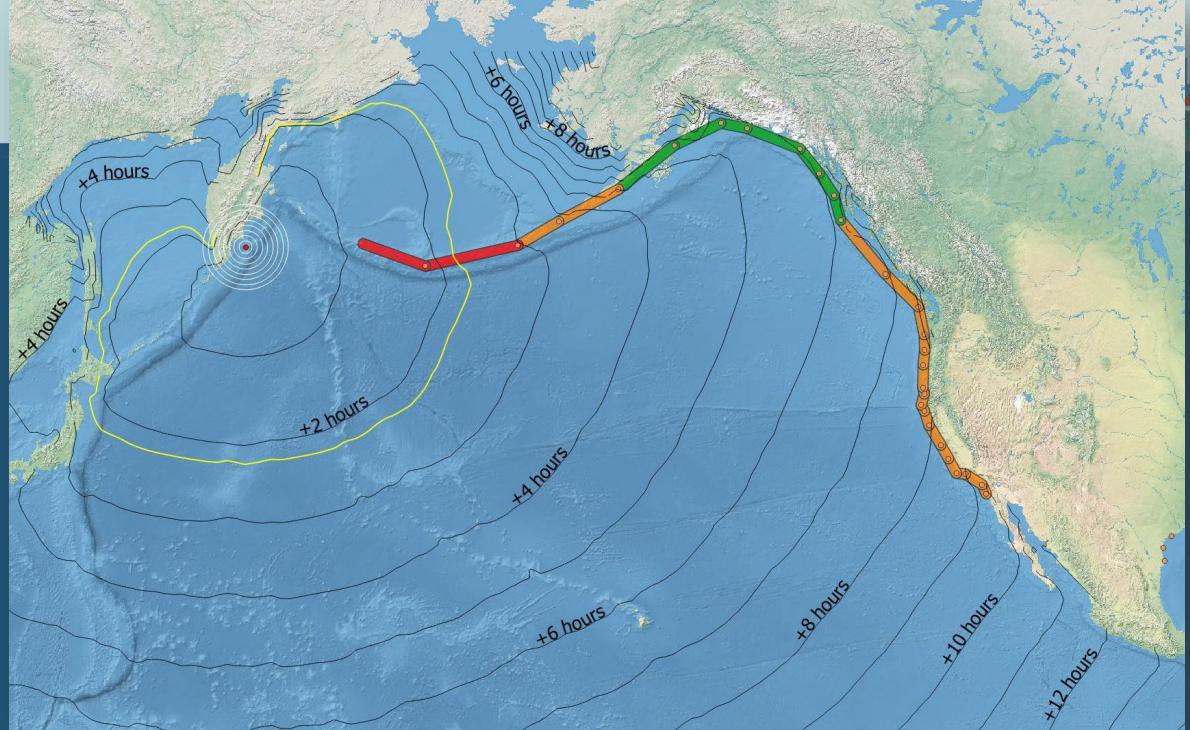
BEACH CLOSED

Stay **OUT OF WATER** and **AWAY FROM SHORE**,
including harbors and marinas!

Dangerous waves and currents expected.



15 comments 495 shares



Official Tsunami Alerting Methods

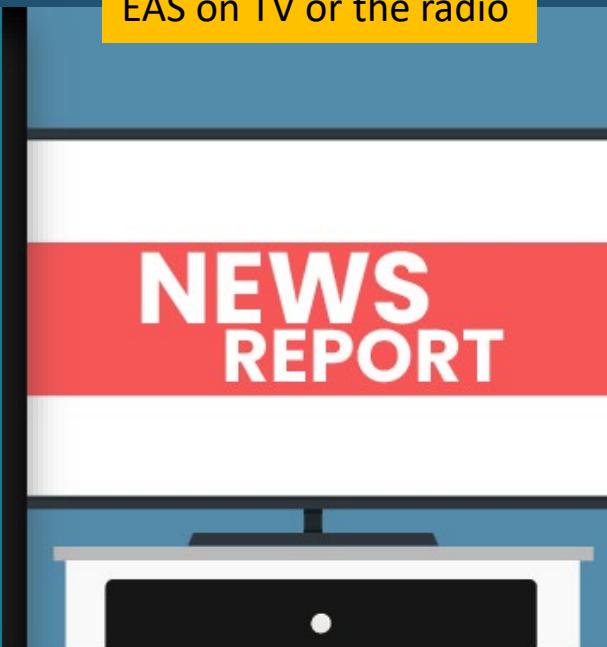
Smartphone: WEA, local alerts, Twitter, other apps



NOAA Weather Radio



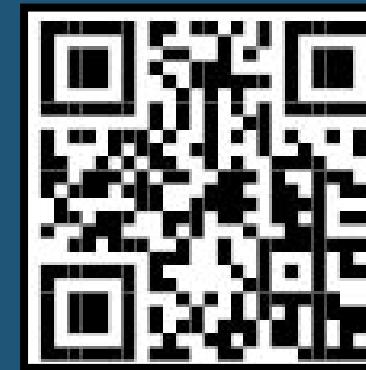
EAS on TV or the radio



Tsunami sirens



**Sign up for tsunami alerts
at mil.wa.gov/alerts**



- **3rd party apps**
 - iNWS (National Weather Service)
 - NVS Tsunami Evacuation App
 - Local alert options (CodeRed, Everbridge, etc)
- **Other**
 - NOAA Weather Radio
 - tsunami.gov

Alert Methods – Local Alerts

Third Party Systems

- Systems that have permission to retrieve alerts and deliver alerts to their customer base.
- Customizable and often specific to a geographic area or organization, so provide more detail than state or federal level alerts.
- Often require users to opt-in.

Sign up here!



Clallam County uses Everbridge – sign up today!

Clallam Co.
Alert System



Powered By  everbridge

Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategies

- **Site-specific** – strategies focus on the tsunami threat to the maritime community in a specific port/harbor/marina along WA's coast
- **Study includes**
 - An overview of tsunami hazards and risk including maps and models
 - Evaluation of feasibility for 31 total response and mitigation actions for port consideration
 - Available mitigation funding options
 - Recommended next steps to improve tsunami resilience
- **Comprehensive** – 20 agencies or organizations participated in the strategy
- **Completed strategies** – Port of Bellingham, Westport Marina (Port of Grays Harbor), Port of Anacortes, Port of Neah Bay, Eagle Harbor (Bainbridge Island); find them all at mil.wa.gov/tsunami

Tsunami Maritime Modeling

Study areas:

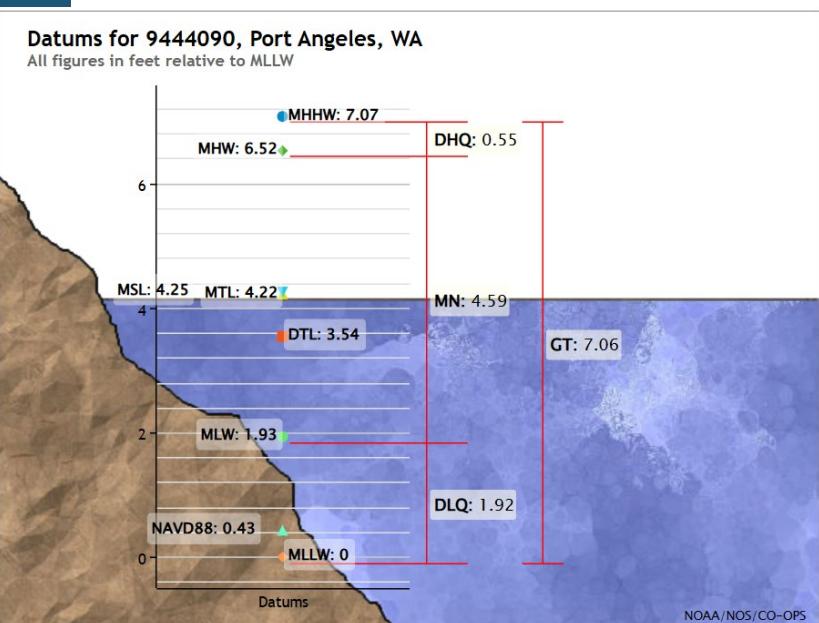
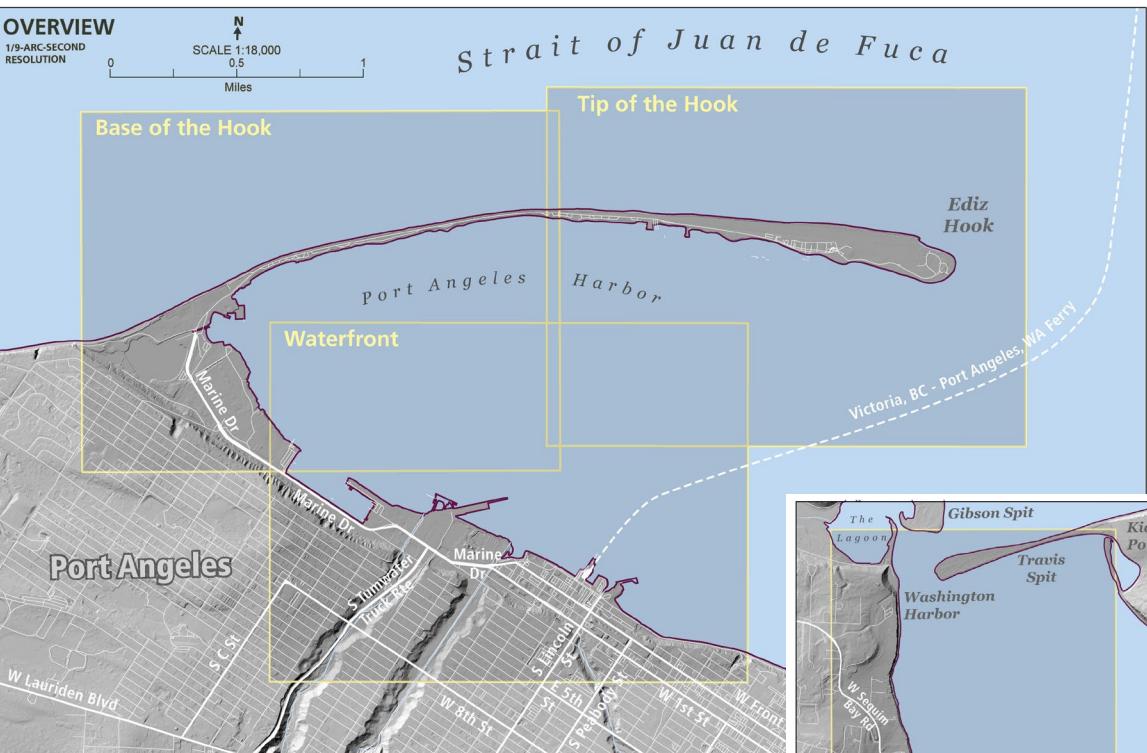
- Port Angeles Harbor
 - Base of the hook
 - Tip of the hook
 - Waterfront
- Sequim Bay
 - John Wayne Marina

Sea level scenarios:

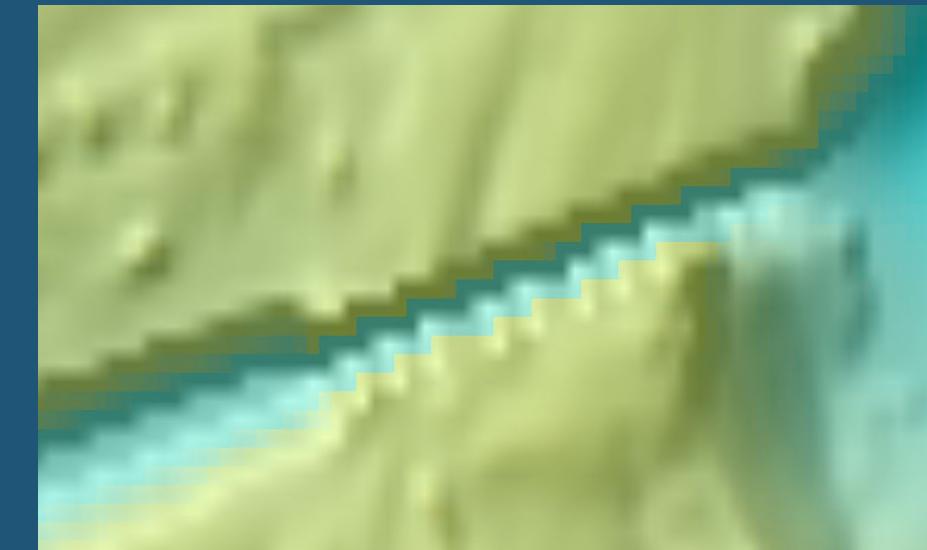
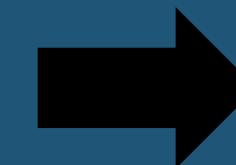
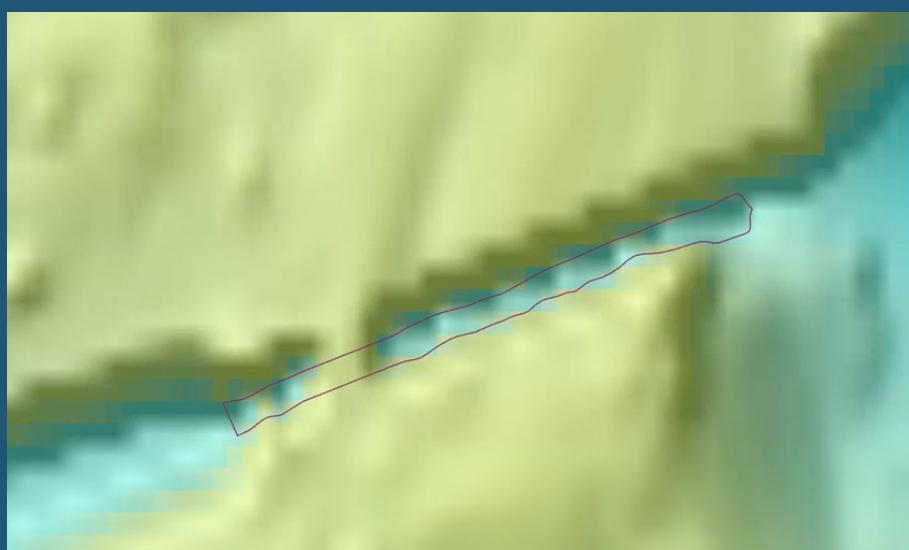
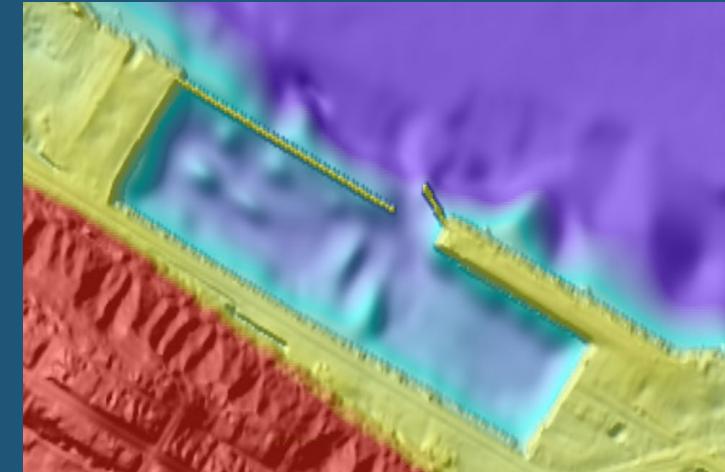
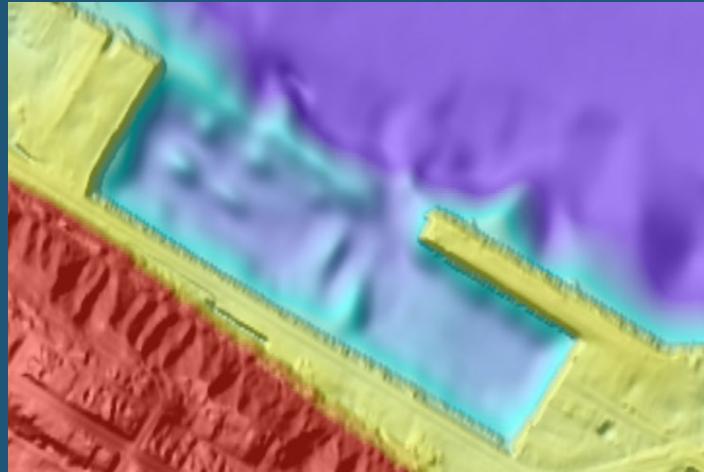
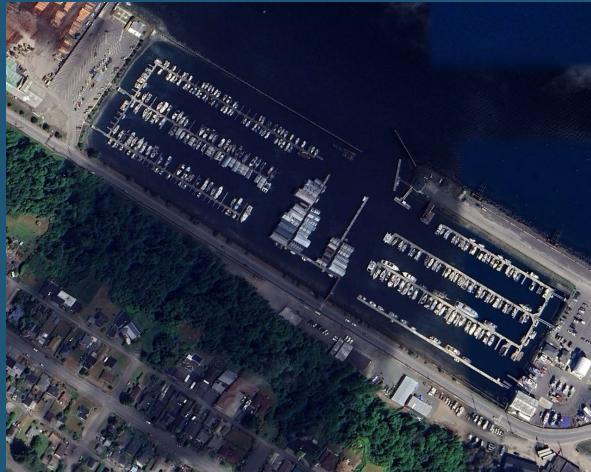
- Mean high water (MHW)
- Mean low water (MLW)

Model resolution:

- 3-meters (1/9th arc-second)
 - 9x improvement over published regional modeling (2022)

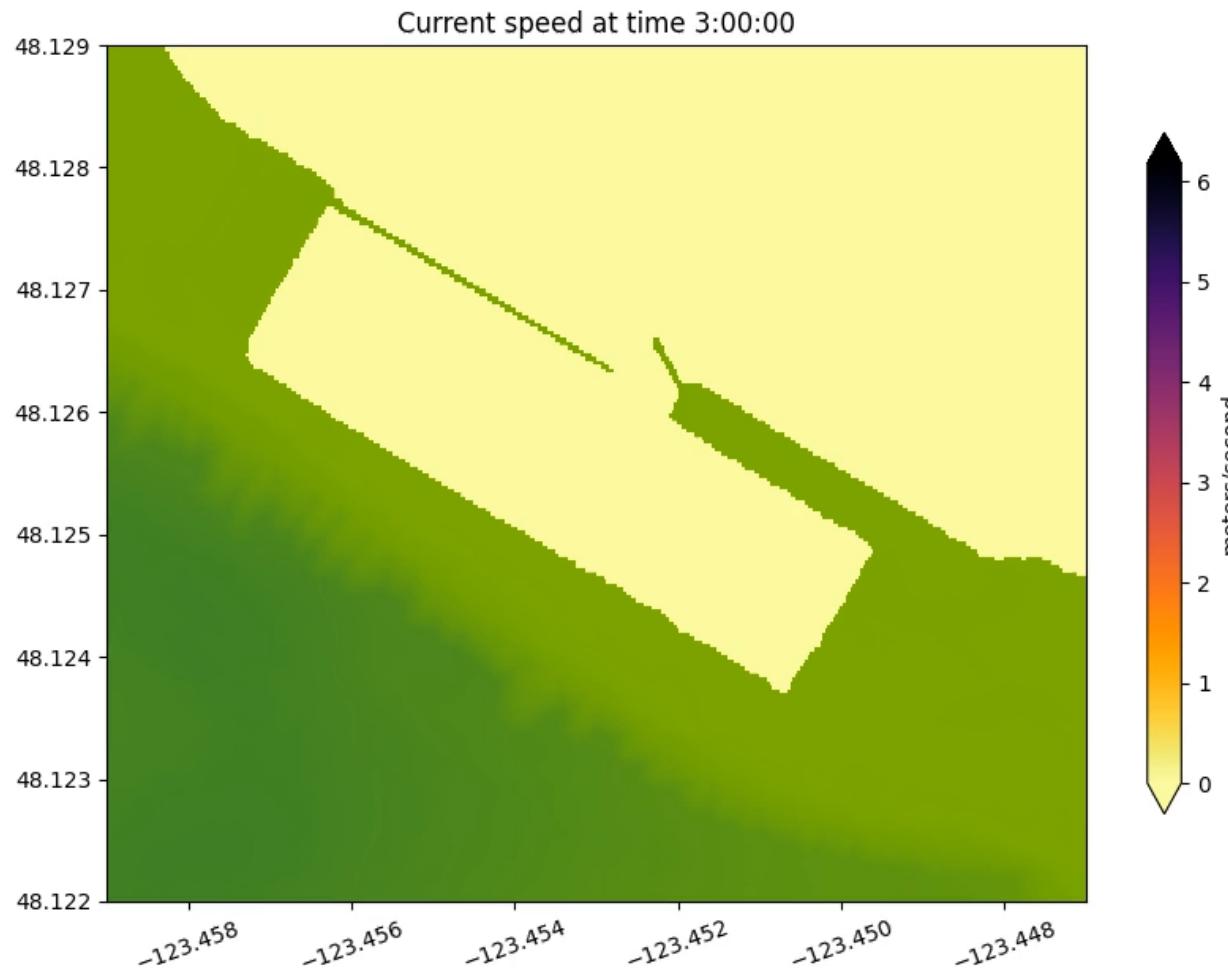


Benefits of 1/9" modeling resolution: DEM enhancements



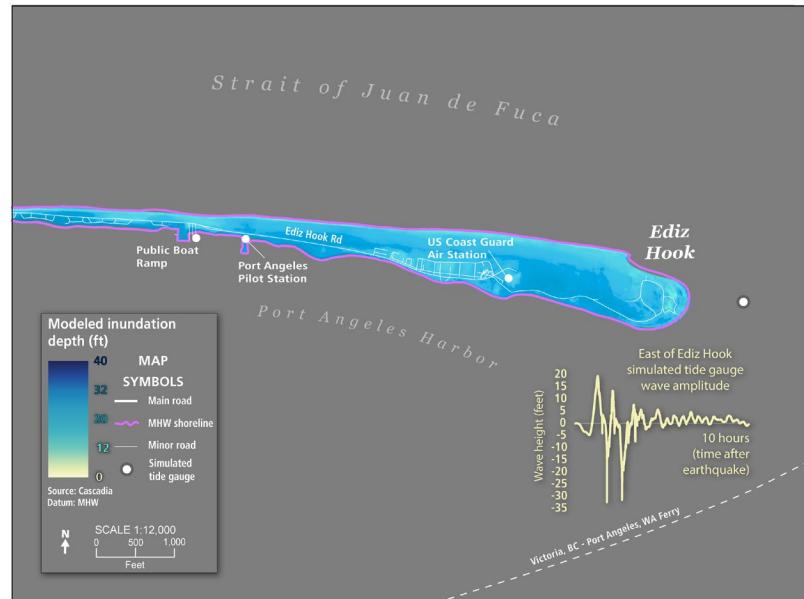
Benefits: higher accuracy models around narrow port features

AASZ, MHW, maximum current speed

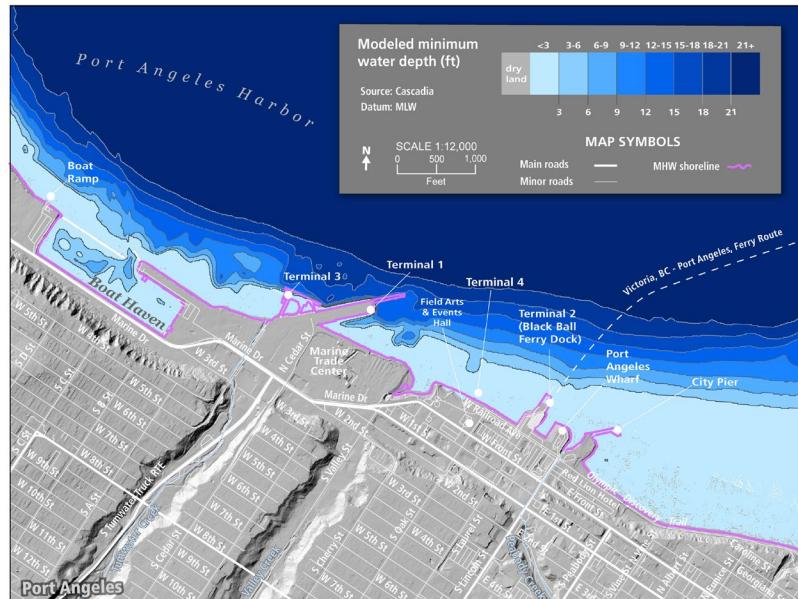


Main product development

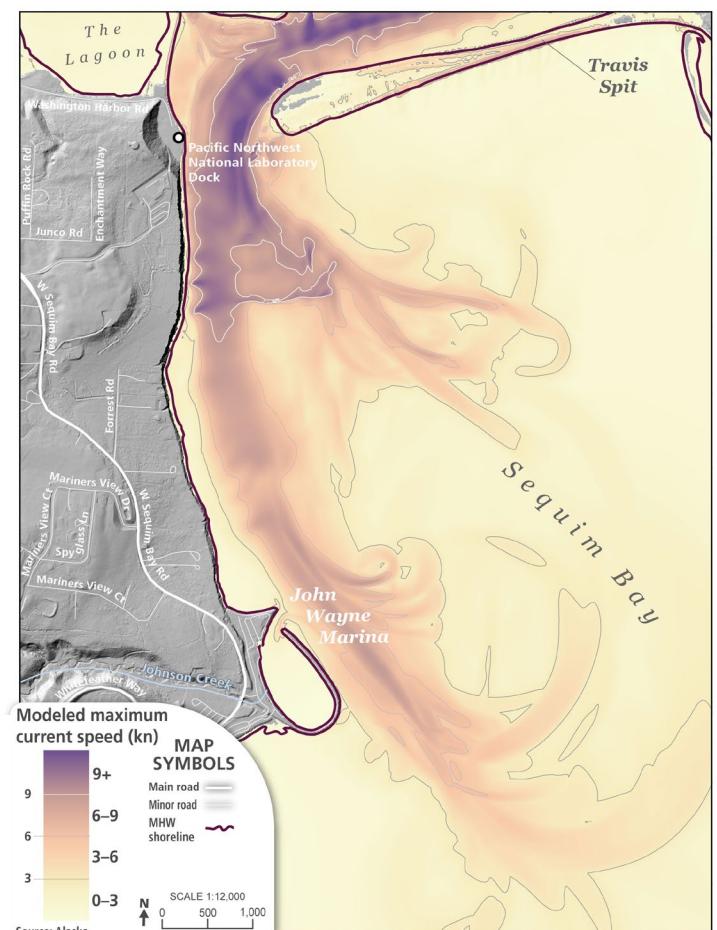
Maximum flow



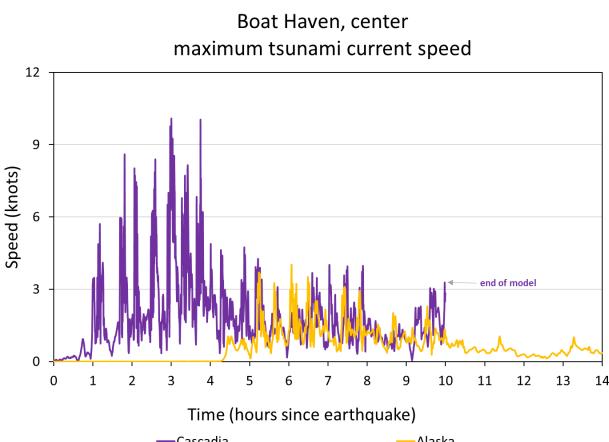
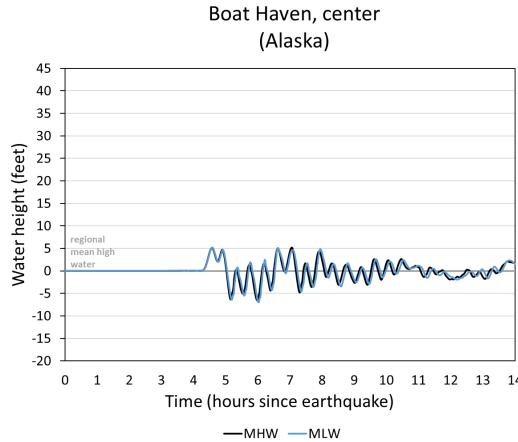
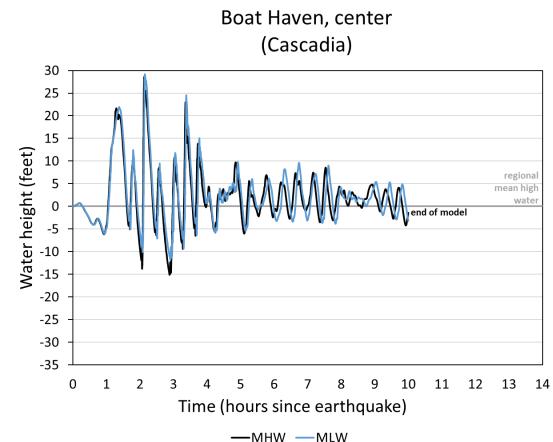
Minimum water depth



Maximum current speed



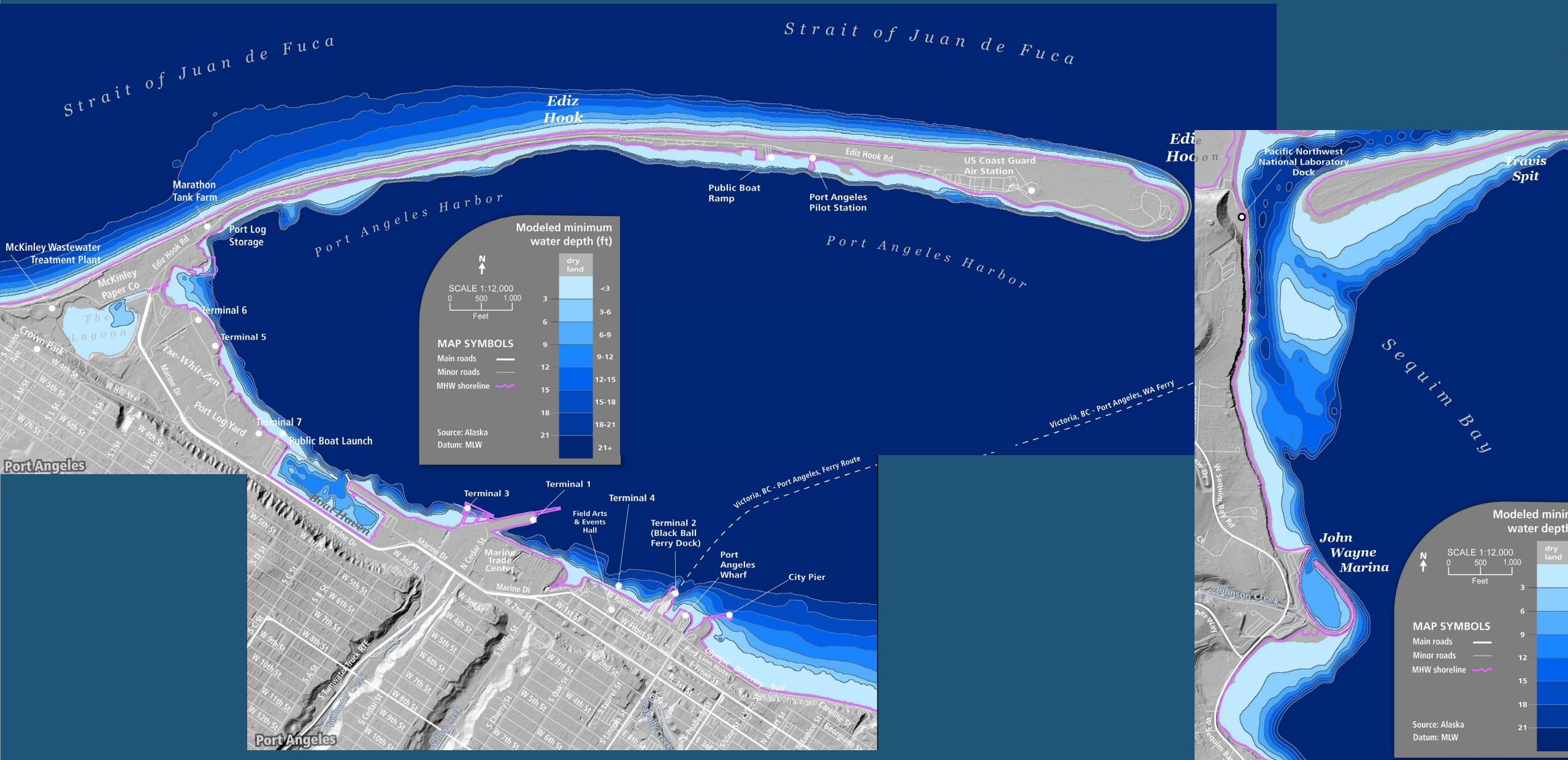
Simulated tide gauges



AASZ Modeling Results – Inundation



AASZ Modeling Results – Minimum Water Depths

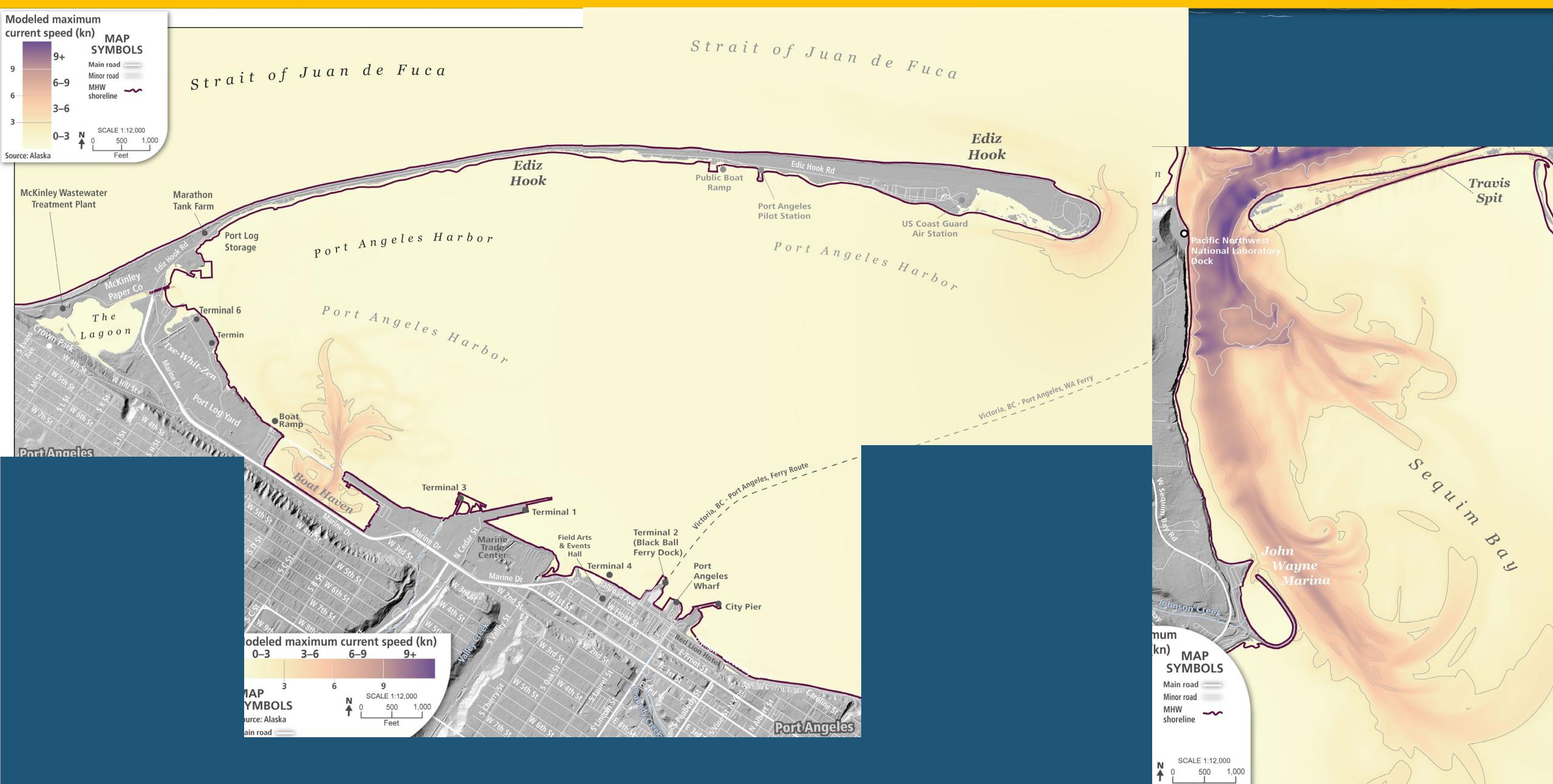


Tsunami Currents and Maritime Infrastructure Damage

Current Speed	Damage Type
0 Knots	No Damage
>0-3 Knots	No Damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small buoys moved
3-6 Knots	Minor/Moderate damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Docks/small boats damaged• Large buoys moved
6-9 Knots	Moderate/Major Damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Damage to docks and boats• Mid-sized vessels off moorings
>9 knots	Major Damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant damage to docks and boats• Large vessels off moorings
>>9 Knots	Complete Destruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Widespread damage to all maritime infrastructure and vessels of all types

The older the infrastructure, the greater the impacts at lower currents!

AASZ Modeling Results – Current Speeds

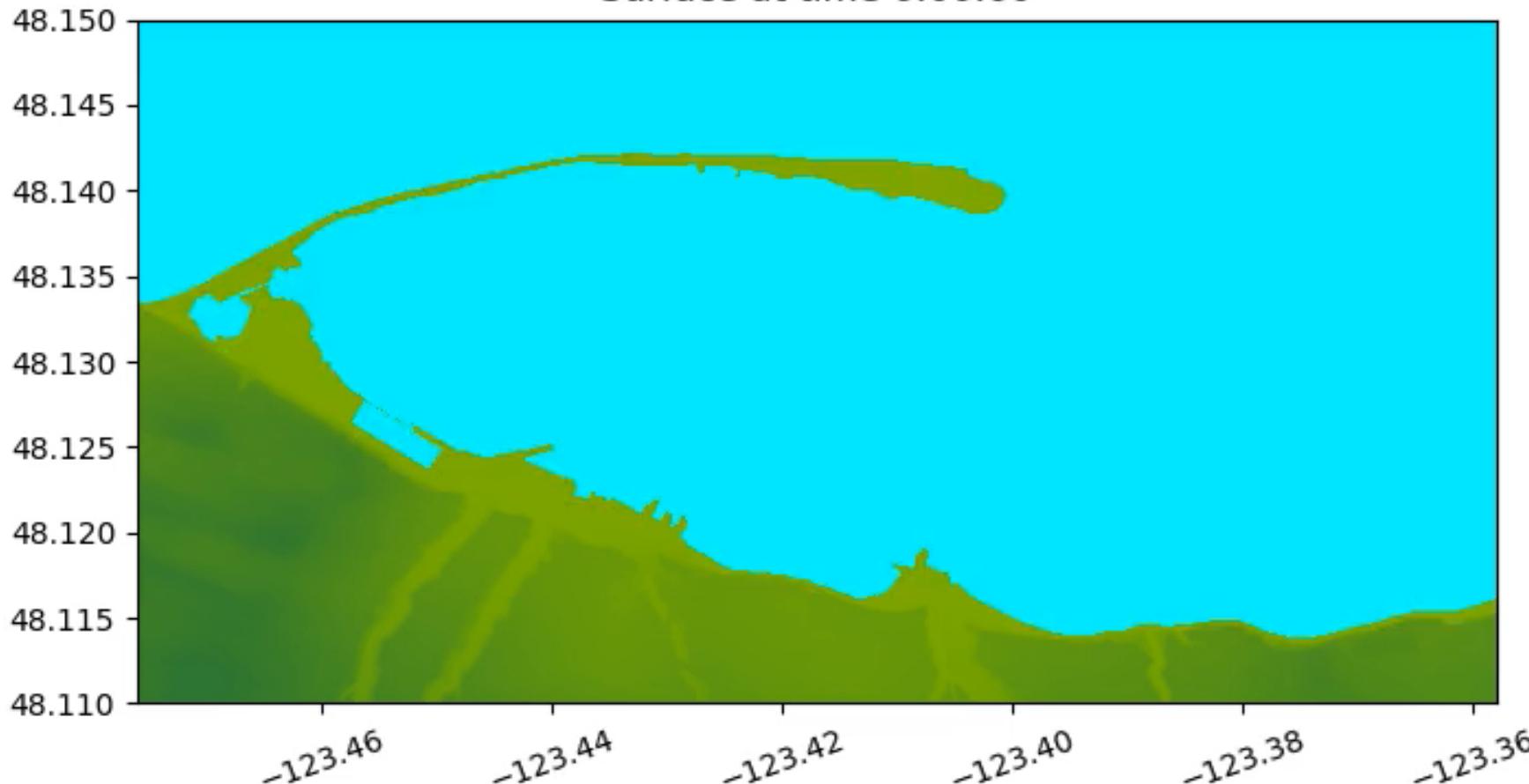


Distant AASZ Tsunami Key Actions

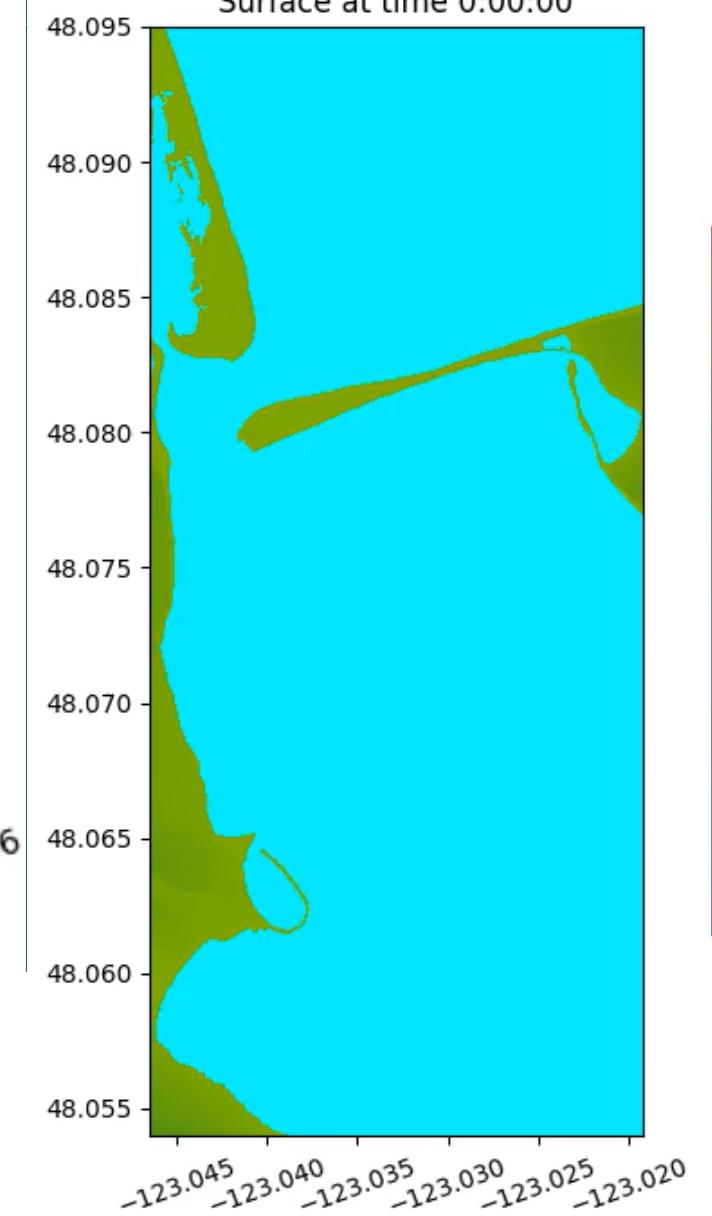
- About 4 hours and 20 minutes for waves to arrive (Port Angeles);
- Tsunami Impacts
 - Limited inundation
 - Primarily a maritime threat
 - Rapid water level changes at Port Angeles Boat Haven
 - Potentially damaging currents
- Response actions for distant tsunami response
 - Notification and coordination to internal staff and customers
 - Shut down infrastructure before tsunami arrives
 - Restrict traffic or access to areas that may be impacted
- Mitigation actions for distant tsunami impacts
 - Dock infrastructure upgrades
 - Fortifying and building protective infrastructure (breakwaters, floodgates, etc.)



Surface at time 0:00:00

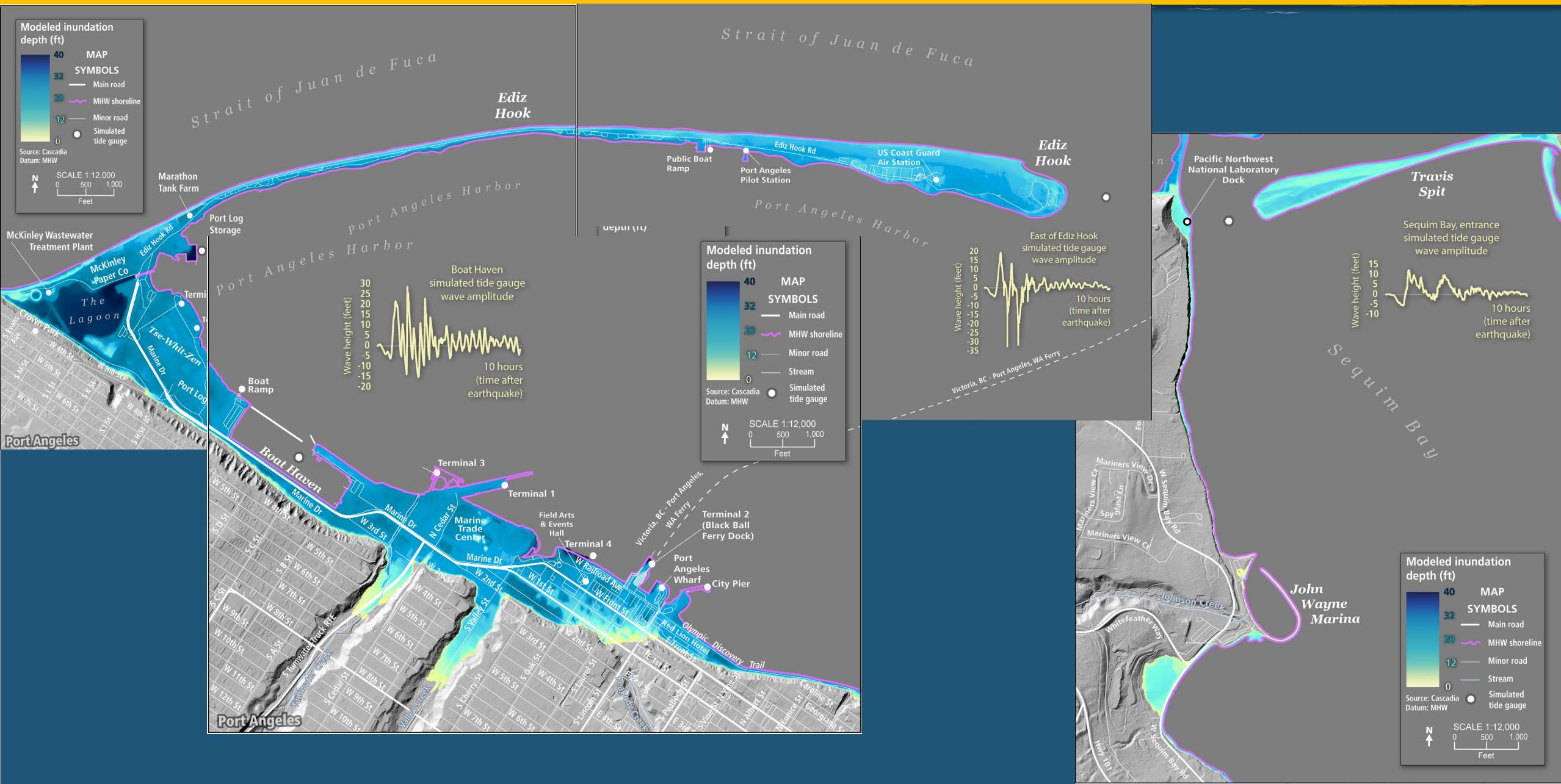


Surface at time 0:00:00

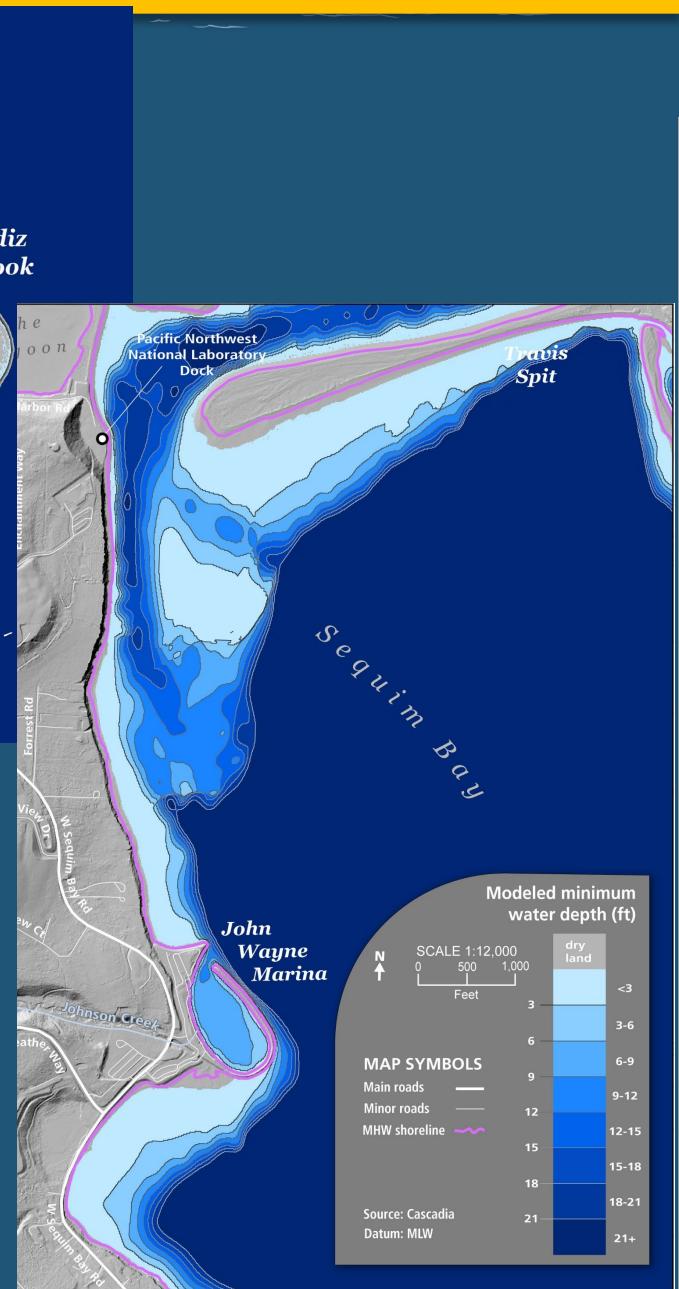


Cascadia Subduction Zone Modeling Results - Inundation

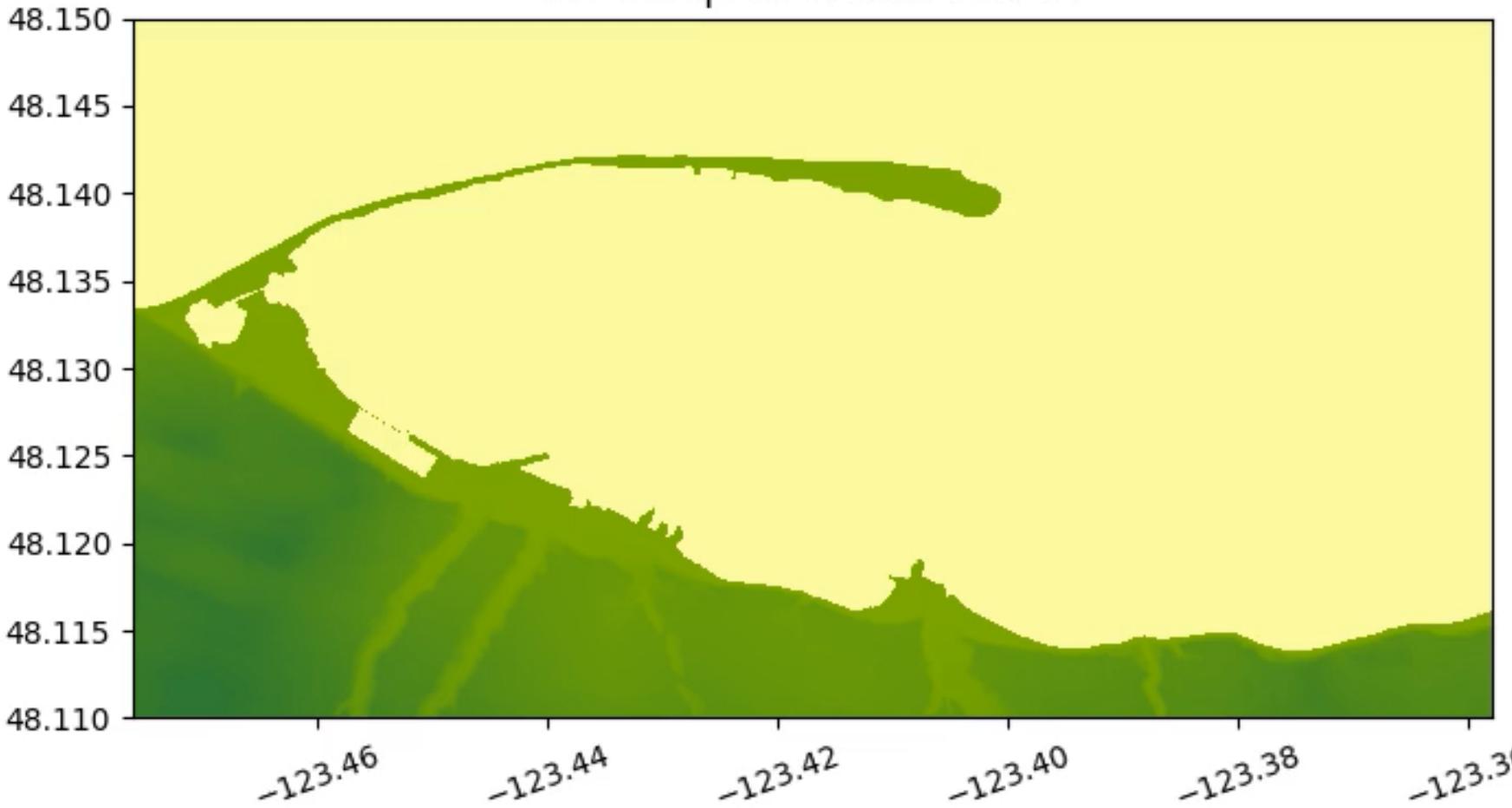
CSZ Modeling Results – Inundation



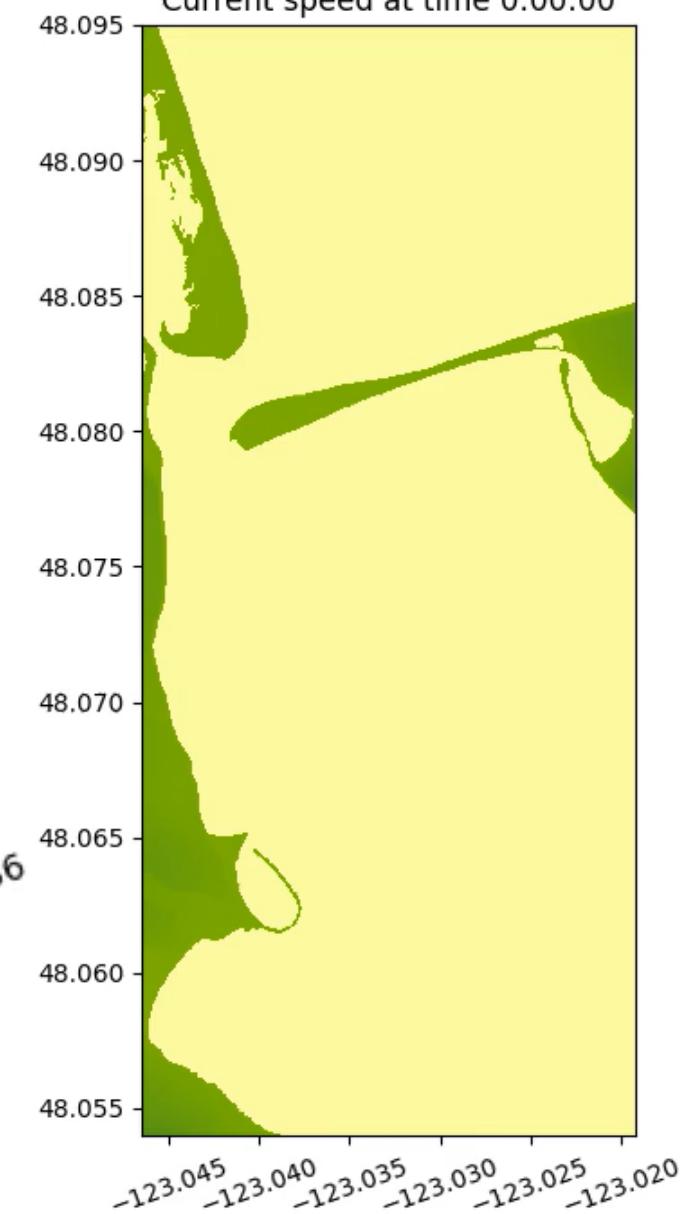
CSZ Modeling Results – Minimum Water Depths



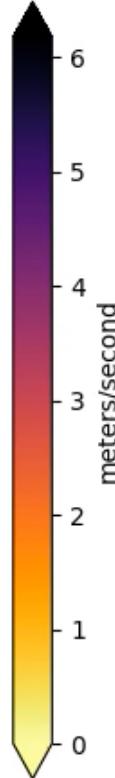
Current speed at time 0:00:00



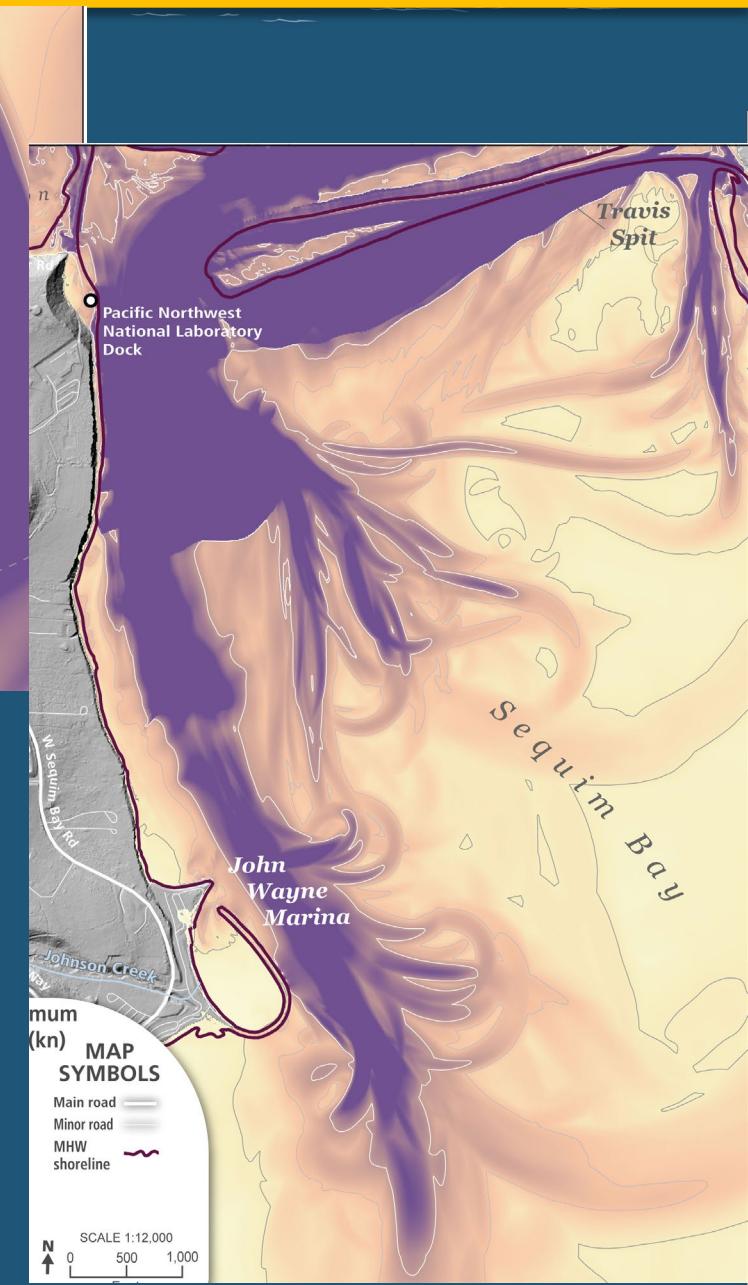
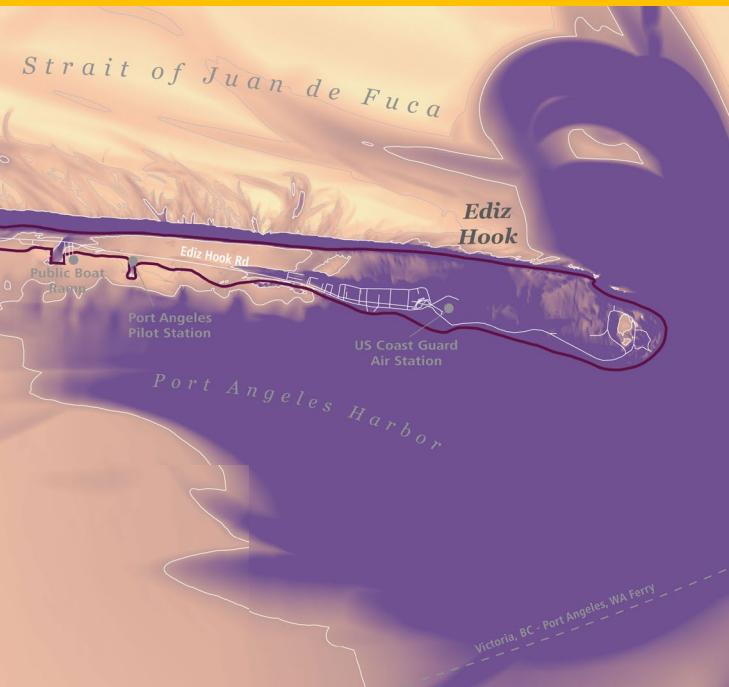
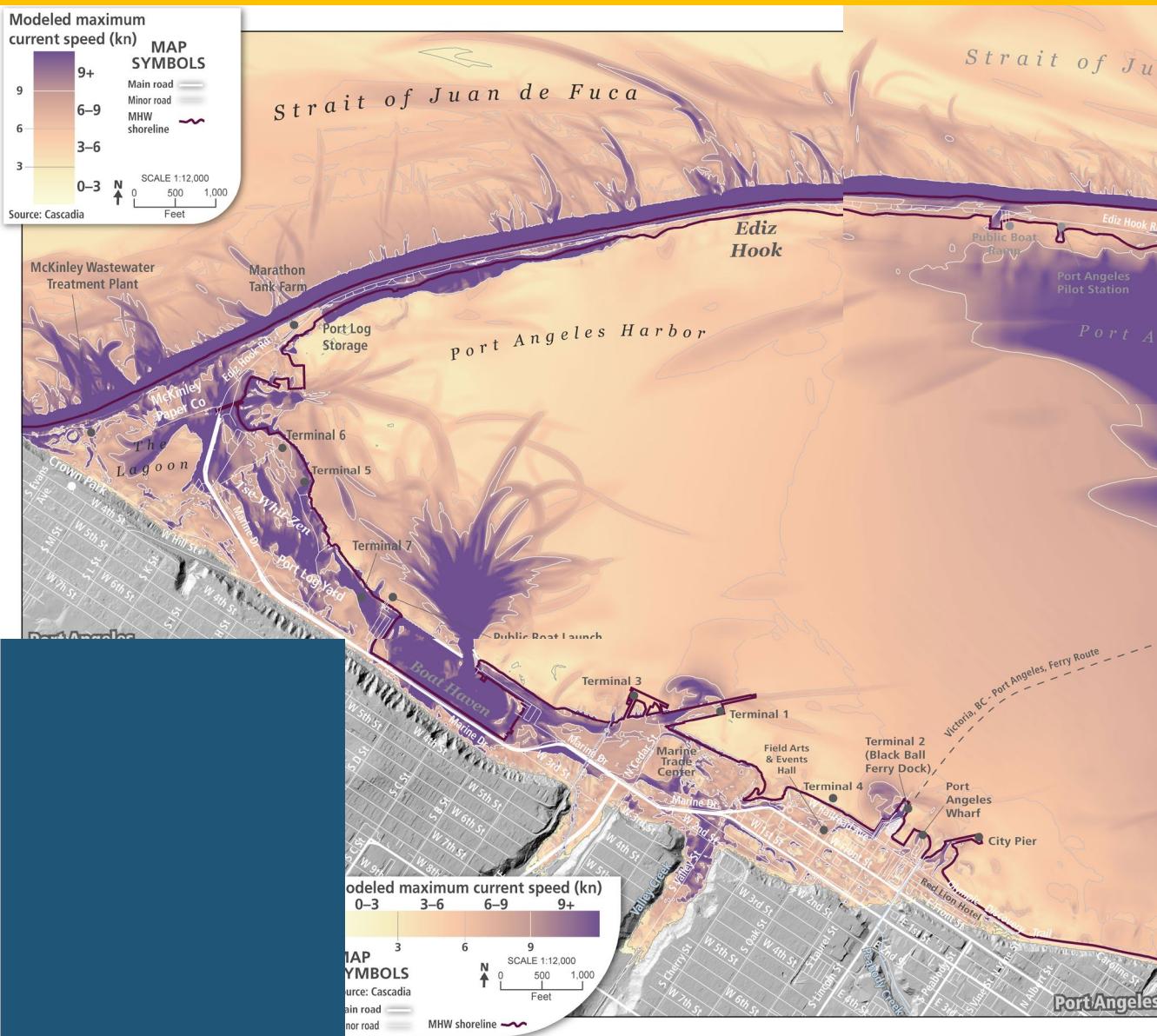
Current speed at time 0:00:00



Cascadia Subduction Zone Modeling Results – Current Speeds



CSZ Modeling Results – Current Speeds

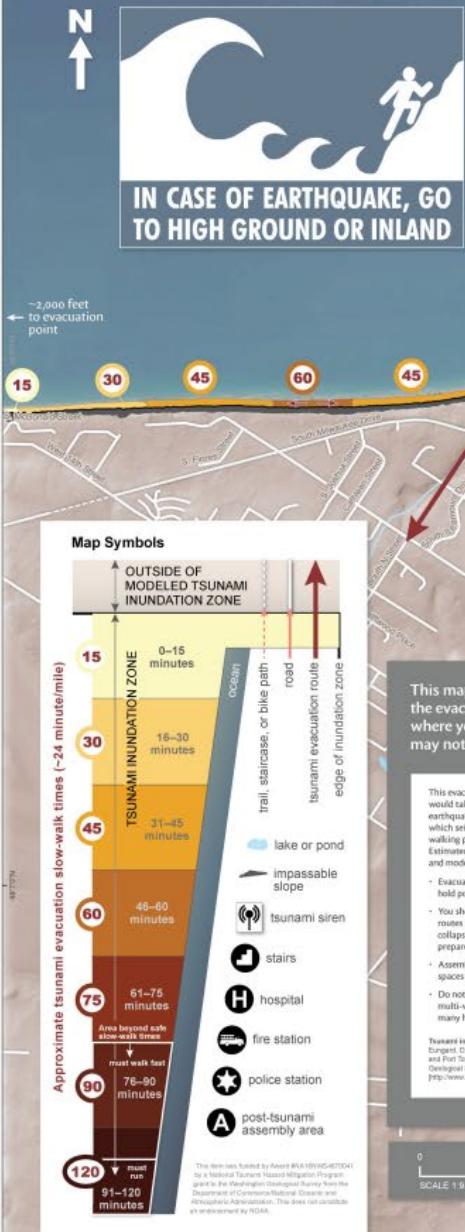


Local CSZ Tsunami Key Actions

- Earthquake shaking impacts
- 50 minutes for waves to arrive in PA; 1 hour 15 minutes for JWM
 - Water starts receding 15 minutes after the earthquake start in PA Harbor
- Tsunami Impacts
 - Widespread impacts to Ediz Hook and the PA waterfront, JWM
- Response actions for distant tsunami response
 - Drop, cover, and hold for the duration of shaking
 - Immediately head inland to high ground once the shaking stops
- Mitigation actions for distant tsunami impacts
 - Physical infrastructure is not realistic to mitigate CSZ impacts
 - Focus is on “soft” mitigation measures – evacuation signage, education and outreach



Port Angeles Tsunami Evacuation Walk Times



ESTIMATED
WAVE ARRIVAL TIME
TO STUDY AREA:
60 MIN

This map is a planning and preparation tool. Learn the evacuation routes for you and your family where you live, work, and play—evacuation maps may not be on hand during an actual emergency.

This evacuation walk time map for the City of Port Angeles provides an estimate of the amount of time it would take to evacuate from within the modeled foundation zone of a Cascadia-sourced subduction zone earthquake. This map provides inundation extent for the 150-year, defined as the >250-year event from which seismic and tsunami codes are locally derived. Time estimates on this map are modeled assuming a slow walking pace of 2.6 mph (~24 minutes/mile), equivalent to the pace used for the timing of cross walls. Estimated wave arrival times on the map indicate the time between the beginning of the earthquake and modeled wave arrival at that location.

Evacuation should begin as soon as earthquake shaking stops and it is safe to move from your drop, cover, and hold position or as directed by a tsunami warning system, NOAA weather radio, or other official announcements. You should make your way uphill and follow the designated evacuation routes shown on this map. These routes were selected for pedestrian evacuation, but may be affected by post-earthquake hazards, such as collapsed bridges, landslides, and downed power lines. Use situational awareness when evacuating and be prepared to take alternate paths if necessary.

Assembly areas are places of high ground for displaced people. These rally points are typically in open outdoor spaces or in large structures just beyond the tsunami inundation zones.

Do not re-enter or cross back into the inundation zone until instructed to do so by local officials. Tsunamis are multi-wave events. The first wave may be the highest, and danger of tsunami inundation may persist for many hours after the initial wave has subsided.

Van Dam Foundation data from: Jungard, D. W., Fornari, Carter, Welsh, T. J., Genzle, F. J., LeWaga, M. J., Adams, L. M., 2018. Tsunami hazard maps of Port Angeles and Port Townsend, Washington—Model results from a ~2,500-year Cascadia subduction zone earthquake scenario: Washington Geological Survey Map Series 2018-03, 6 sheets, scale 1:11,200 and 1:16,000, 1 p. text.

The item was funded by Award #NA16RJ20041 by a National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program grant in the Washington Strategic Reserve from the Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This does not constitute an endorsement by NOAA.



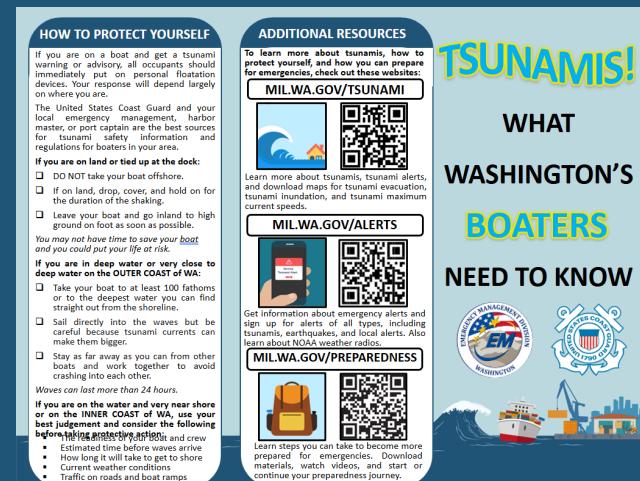
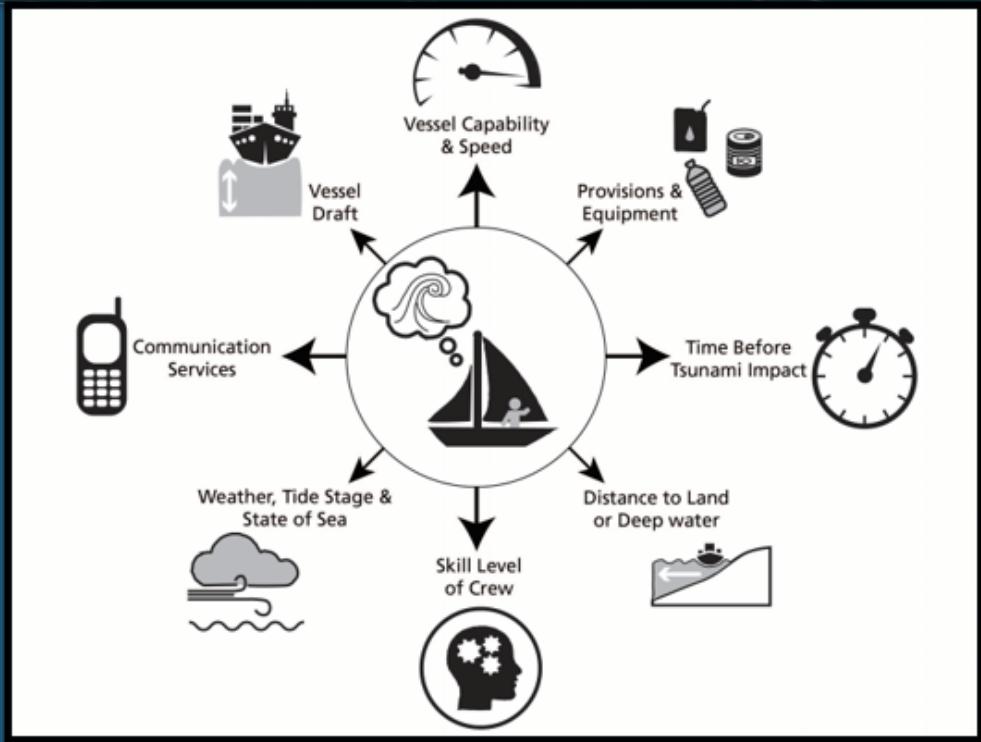
The map illustrates evacuation routes and safe zones for a tsunami in Port Angeles. Key features include:

- Port Angeles Harbor:** Labeled with a yellow shaded area.
- Ediz Hook:** A prominent landform with a red shaded area indicating where evacuation times would be significantly increased.
- Port Angeles Boat Haven:** Located near the harbor.
- Port of Port Angeles:** Located on the northern side of the harbor.
- Marine Dr:** A major street running along the harbor.
- Port Angeles Ferry Terminal:** Located on Marine Dr.
- Port Angeles City Pier:** Located on the eastern side of the harbor.
- Local Streets:** Labeled with names like Cedar St, W. 1st St, E. Front St, S. Peabody St, and N. Ennis St.
- Highways:** Labeled with route numbers 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 120, 15, 101, and 1117.
- Local Businesses and Institutions:** Labeled with 'Bo Baggins Daycare Center', 'Port Angeles Fire Department', 'Vern Burton Community Center', 'Port Angeles Police Department', 'Port Angeles Senior Center', 'Jefferson Elementary School', 'Playground at 6th & Oak', 'Safeway parking lot', and 'Olympic Medical Center'.
- Inset Maps:**
 - No-Bridge Scenario:** Shows a bridge crossing the lagoon that would be destroyed, increasing evacuation times. It includes route markers 30, 45, 60, 45, 30, 15, 75, 40, 105, 120, and 130.
 - Morse Creek area map:** Two miles east of the main map area, showing Morse Creek, N. Ridgeview Dr, and Sea View Dr.
- Evacuation Zones:** Shaded areas indicate where evacuation times would be significantly increased due to bridge destruction or other factors.
- Route Markers:** Red numbers (15, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 120) and letters (A, H, E) mark specific evacuation routes and points of interest.
- Safe Walk Times:** Text boxes indicate 'must walk fast' (18 minutes/mile) and 'must run' (15 minutes/mile) to exit inundation zones before tsunami arrival.



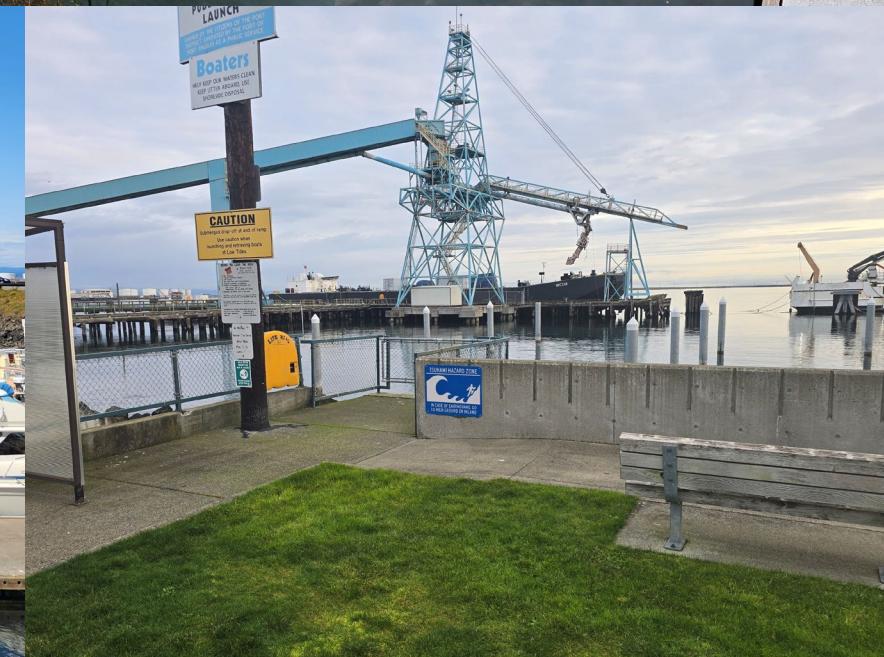
WA State Tsunami Boater's Guide

- Provides tsunami hazard guidance for boat owners and vessel operators in Washington State
- Includes maritime tsunami hazard information, natural warning signs, official alert methods, and checklists for receiving alerts, making plans, and building kits
- Lays out decision points both for vessels on the water and vessels docked onshore when a tsunami is approaching
- Provides links to additional sources of information to enhance preparedness efforts



Response and Mitigation Action Feasibility Results

- Evaluation of 16 response actions
 - 9 actions are feasible
 - 3 actions need review
- Evaluation of 15 mitigation actions
 - 3 actions are complete
 - 5 actions are feasible
 - 3 actions need review



Where are you on your preparedness journey?



- How will I get alerted to a hazard?
- Do I have a family emergency plan?
- Do I have a go-bag with me (home, vehicle, vessel)?
- Do I know my evacuation routes?
- How will I communicate/reunite with my family?
- Am I involved in community preparedness?





US Coast Guard Port Angeles, WA

CDR Trish Jantzen
Sector Puget Sound
Chief, Emergency Management

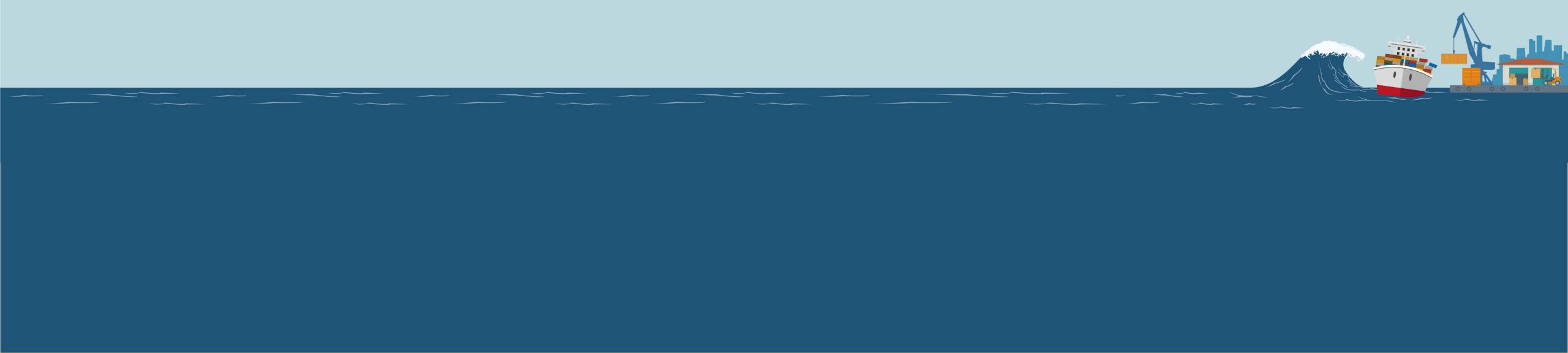




Jim Buck on Emergency Preparedness



Panel Q&A



Chris Hartman – Chief Operating Officer, Port of Port Angeles

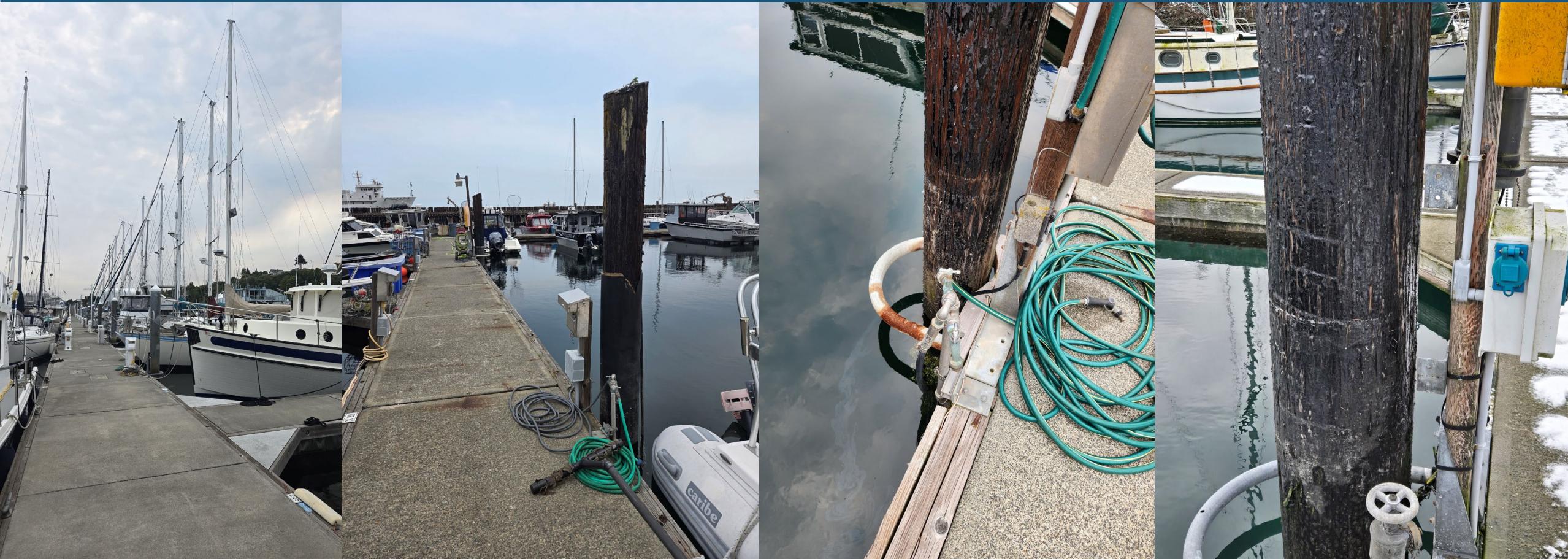
Response Opportunities

- Opportunities
 - Evacuate Public/Vehicles from Waterfront Areas
 - Pre-stage emergency equipment outside of the inundation zone



Mitigation Opportunities

- Opportunities
 - Installing taller and thicker pilings as part of the upcoming refloat projects
 - Improve movement of pilings along docks with the installation of rollers





You CAN survive IF you get prepared!



mil.wa.gov/alerts



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