



# 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 is Earthquake Country

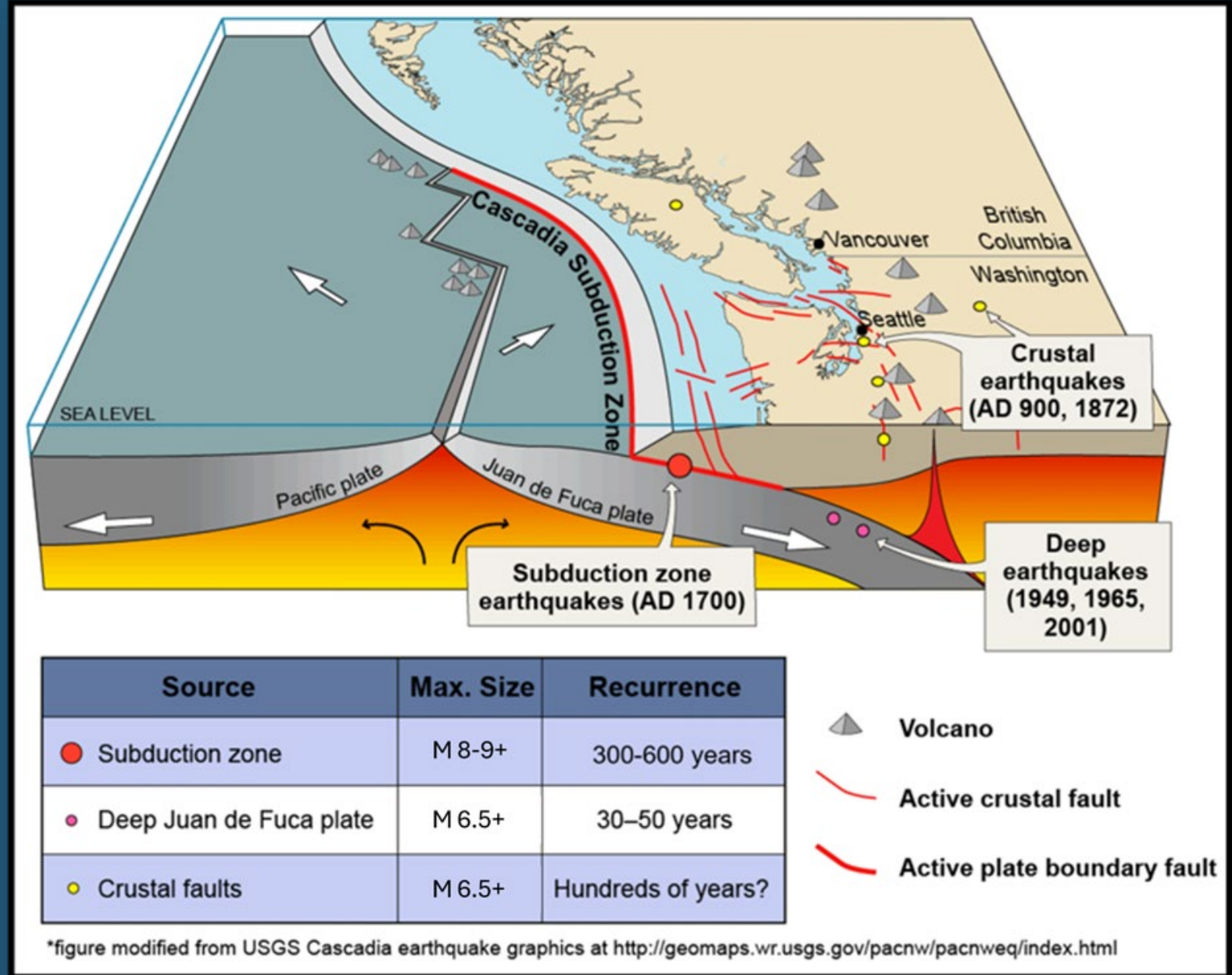
Washington has the  
**2<sup>nd</sup> highest earthquake risk**  
in the United States

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

"The Big One"

Nisqually, 2001

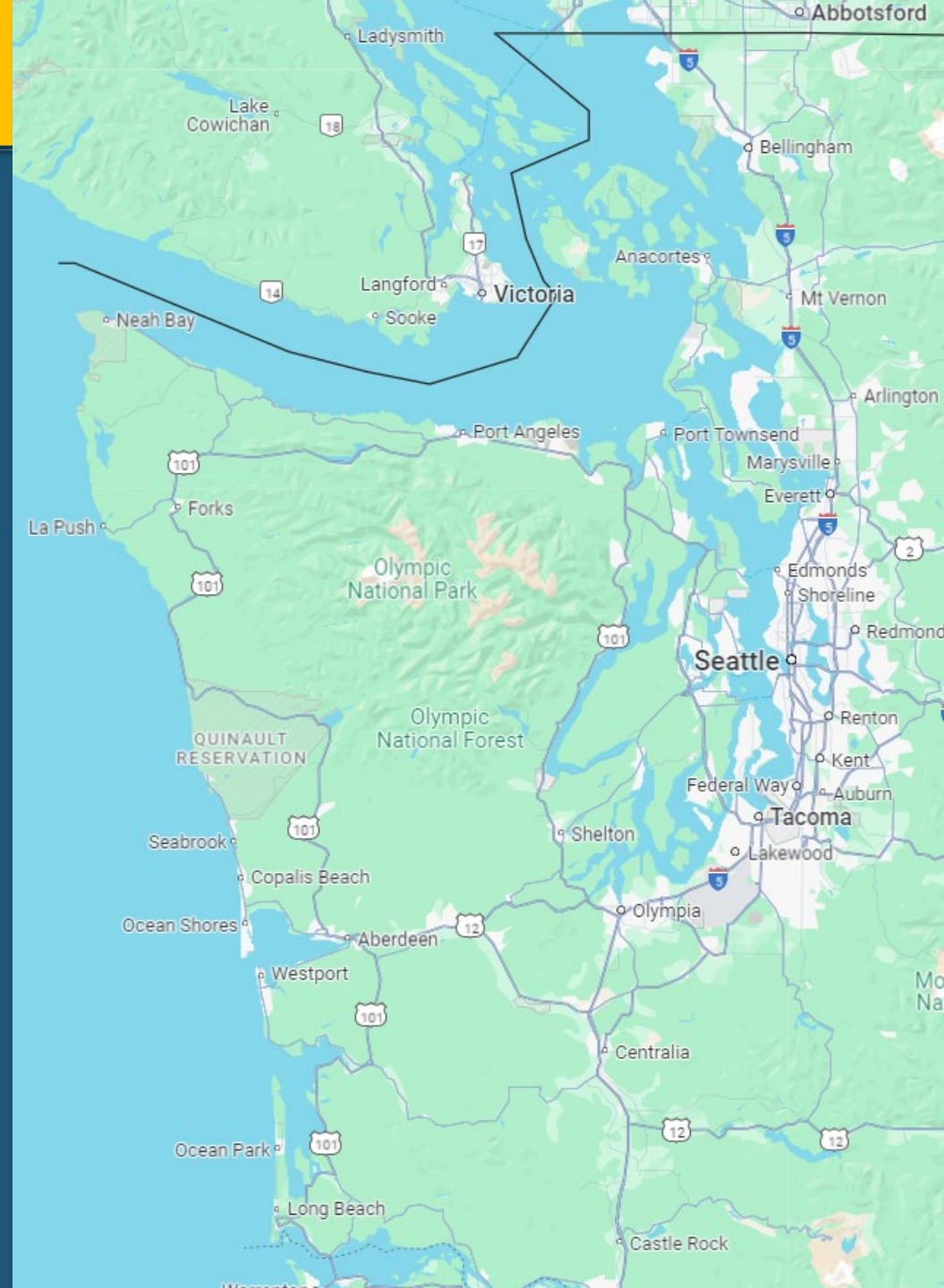
Seattle Fault, Chelan Fault, etc.



# 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**



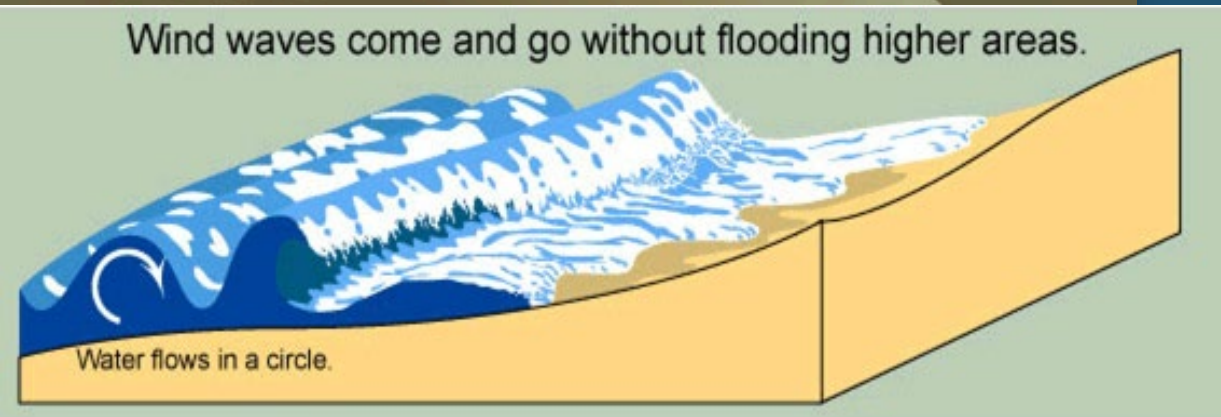


# What is a tsunami?

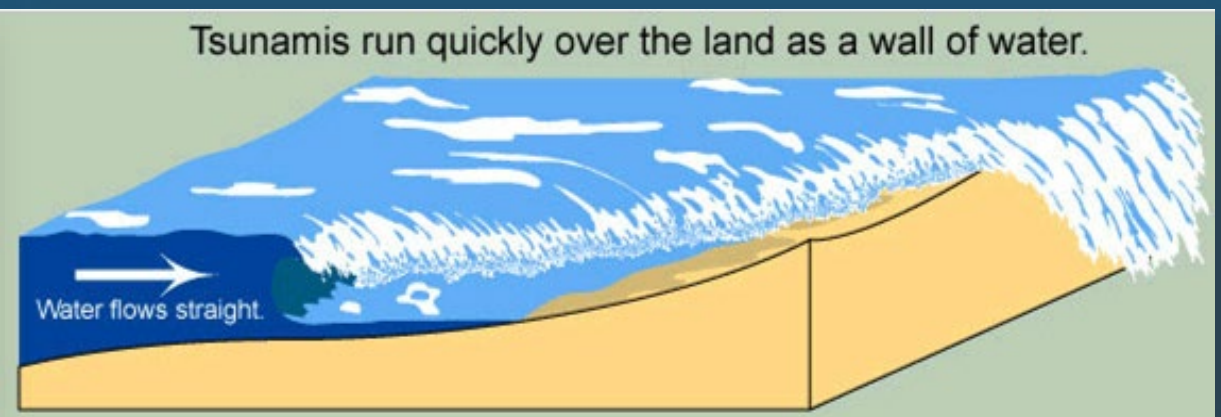


- A series of long waves lasting 12-24+ hours
- Caused by earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and some weather phenomena
- Can travel far distances across the water in minutes or hours
- The first wave is often neither the highest nor most destructive wave
- Very fast and powerful; entire column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

Wind waves come and go without flooding higher areas.



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

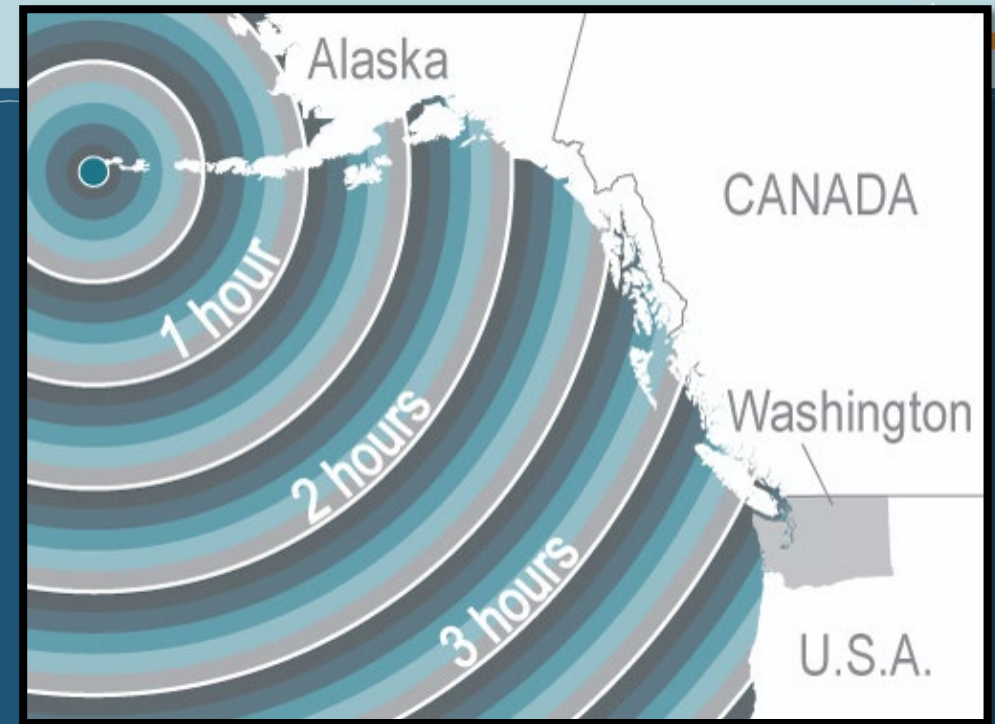






### Local

- 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







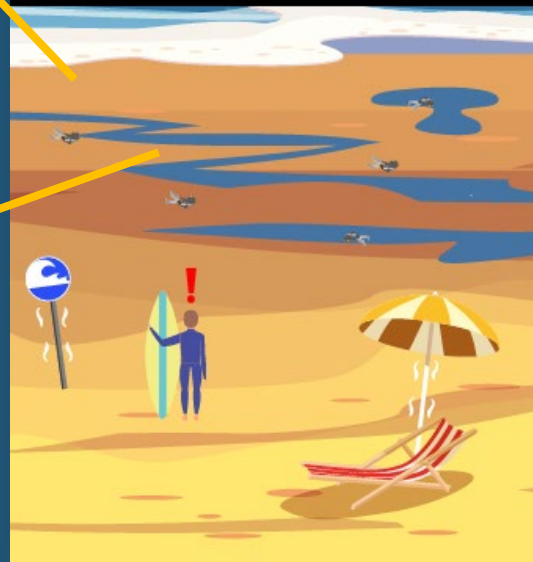


# Natural Tsunami Warning Signs

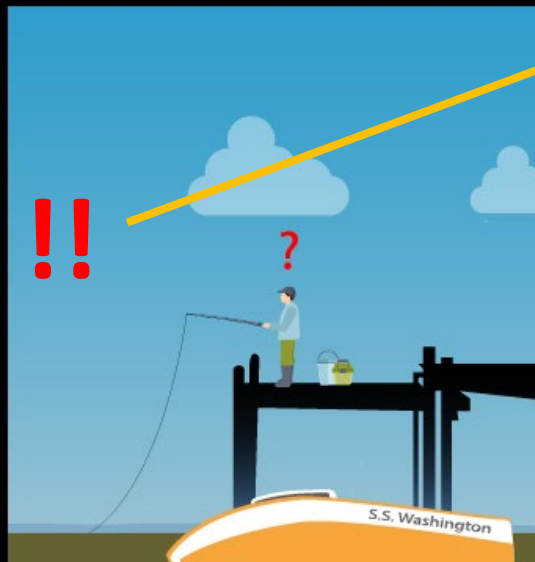


Long or strong ground shaking at the coast

Ocean water bubbling, frothing, or otherwise acting abnormally



Sudden rise or fall of the ocean



Loud roaring sound coming from the ocean







**DROP!      COVER!      HOLD ON!**

Protect Yourself During Earthquakes



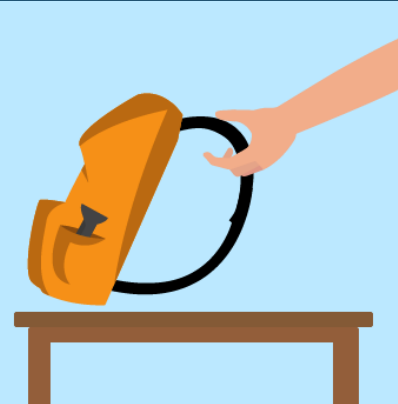
**GO TO HIGH GROUND OR INLAND!**

The Shaking is Your Tsunami Warning



**STAY THERE!**

Tsunami Waves May Arrive for Hours

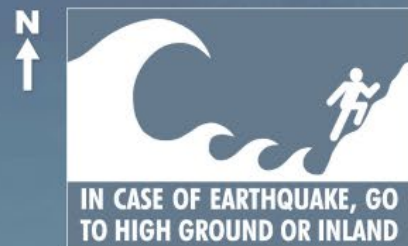




# Port Angeles Tsunami Evacuation Walk Times

WASHINGTON GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

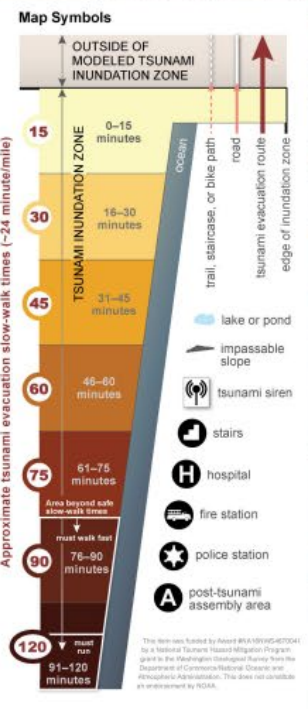
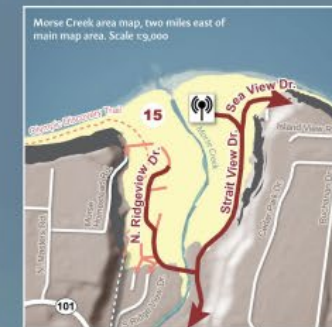
MARCH 2019



ESTIMATED  
WAVE ARRIVAL TIME  
TO STUDY AREA:  
60 MIN

Beyond safe slow-walk time—must walk fast (~18 minute/mile)  
to exit inundation zone before tsunami arrival

Beyond safe slow-walk time—must run (~15 minute/mile)  
to exit inundation zone before tsunami arrival



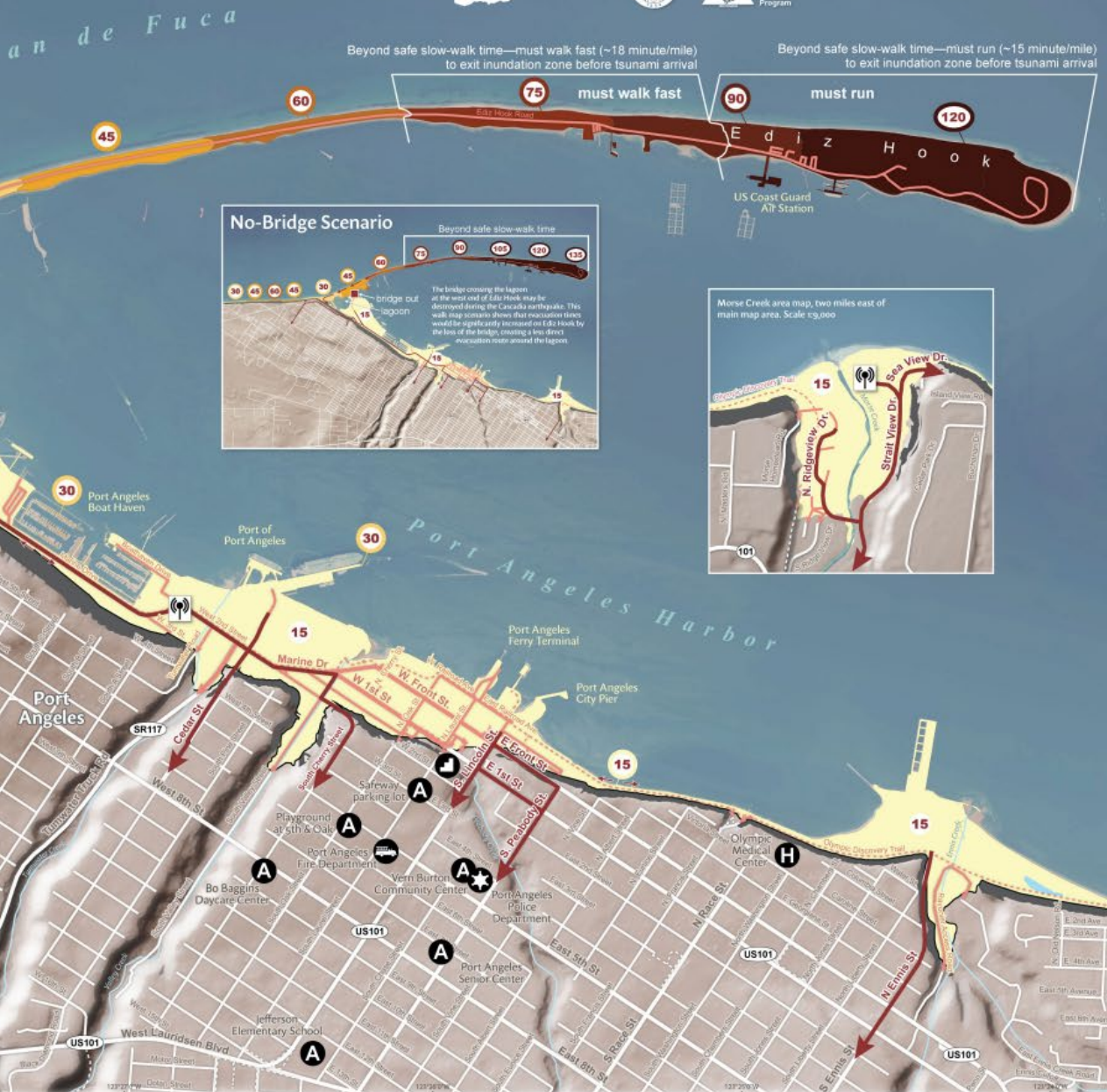
This map is a planning and preparation tool. Learn the evacuation routes for you and your family where you live, work, and play—evacuation maps may not be on hand during an actual emergency.

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 inundation zone of a Cascadia-sourced subduction zone earthquake. This map provides inundation extent for the 1.5 scenario, defined as the ~2,500-year event from which seismic and tsunami codes are locally derived. Time estimates on this map are modeled assuming a slow walking pace of a 45 mph (~24 minute/mile), equivalent to the pace used for the timing of cross walks. Estimated wave arrival times shown 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 siren, 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 not be the highest, and danger of tsunami inundation may persist for many hours after the initial wave has subsided.

Tsunami inundation data from:  
Burgess, D. W., French, C. W., Wash, T. J., Gonzalez, F. J., LeVesque, R. 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 2018-01. 8 sheets, scale 1:11,000 and 1:18,000. T. J. Wash, [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/wgsmc\_2018-01\_tsunami\_hazard\_port\_angles\_pt\_townsend.asp]

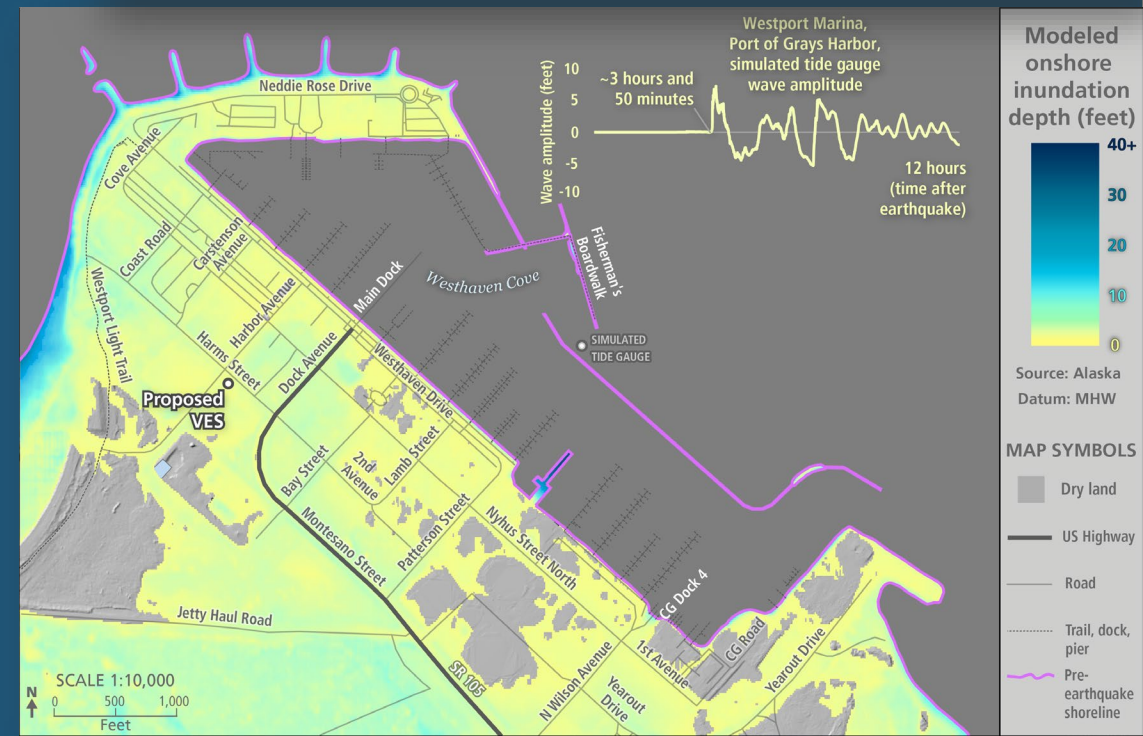
0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1  
SCALE 1:9,000  
miles





# 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

California, 2022



California, 2022



Oregon, 2011



California, 2011



# Tsunami Alerts

## Alert Name

## Actions

## Potential Hazards



### **WARNING**

Get to high ground or inland  
**IMMEDIATELY**  
Follow tsunami evacuation signage

**DANGER! TSUNAMI IMMINENT!**  
Flooding/powerful currents  
Wave heights > 3 ft. or unknown



### **ADVISORY**

Stay out of the water and  
away from the shore

**STRONG CURRENTS AND  
DANGEROUS WAVES**  
in or very near coastal water  
Wave heights of 1 - 3 ft.



### **WATCH**

Be prepared to take action  
Stay tuned to local radio/TV/  
NOAA "alert" weather radios

**TSUNAMI IS POSSIBLE**  
Alert level *will* change once  
more information is known



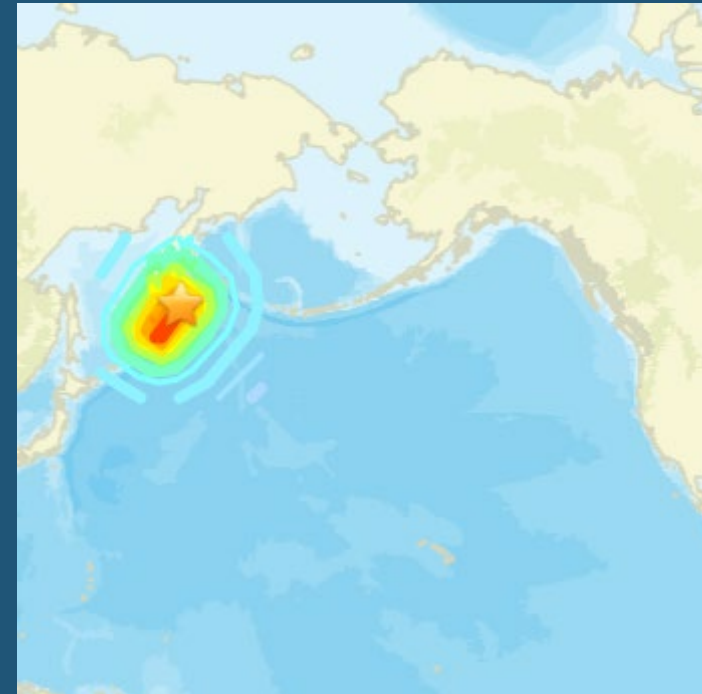
### **INFORMATION STATEMENT**

No action needed

**NO TSUNAMI IMPACT EXPECTED**  
Alert level may change once  
more information is known

# 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 – 7<sup>th</sup> 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

IMPACT THRESHOLDS  
ZERO TO PEAK

● Over 100cm / 3 feet

● 30 - 100cm / 1-3 feet

● Under 30cm / 1 feet

● No Tsunami observed

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**

CHERRY POINT -

No tsunami observed.

FRIDAY HARBOR -

No tsunami observed.

PORT ANGELES - Jul 30 6:46 a.m.

**41cm / 1.3 ft**

PORT TOWNSEND - Jul 30 5:24 a.m.

**6 cm / 0.2 ft**

SEATTLE Jul 30 6:15 a.m.

**6 cm / 0.2 ft**

LONGVIEW

No tsunami observed.

SKAMOKAWA

No tsunami observed.







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

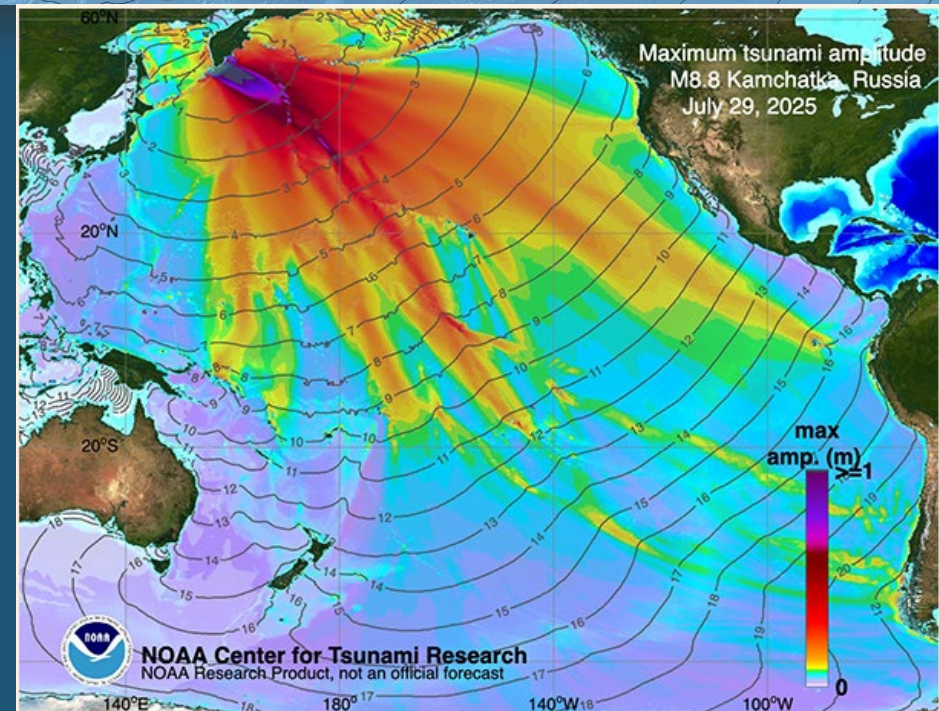
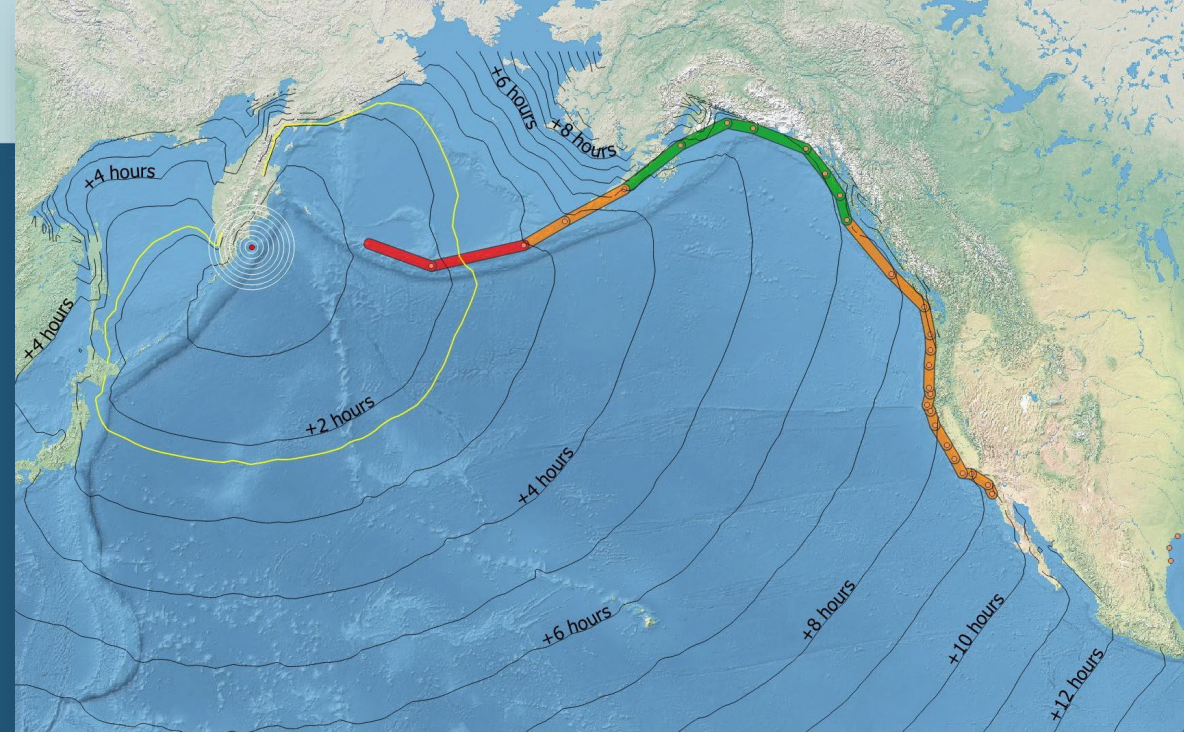
BEACH CLOSED

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



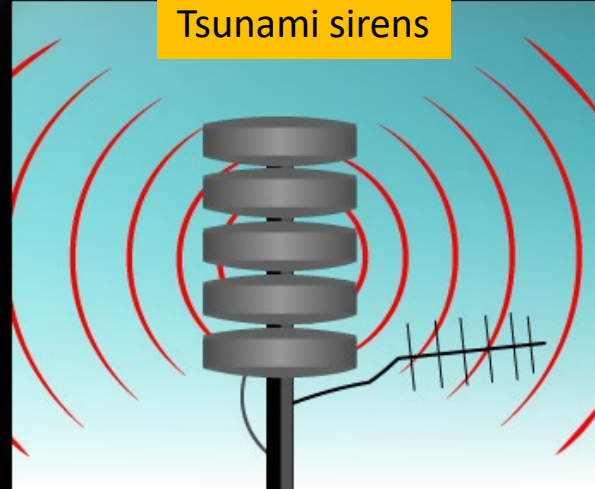
EAS on TV or the radio



NOAA Weather Radio



Tsunami sirens



Sign up for tsunami alerts  
at [mil.wa.gov/alerts](https://mil.wa.gov/alerts)



- **3<sup>rd</sup> party apps**
  - iNWS (National Weather Service)
  - NVS Tsunami Evacuation App
  - Local alert options (CodeRed, Everbridge, etc)
- **Other**
  - NOAA Weather Radio
  - [tsunami.gov](https://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**





# 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](http://mil.wa.gov/tsunami)

**OVERVIEW**  
1/9-ARC-SECOND  
RESOLUTION

SCALE 1:18,000  
0 0.5 1  
Miles

Strait of Juan de Fuca

Base of the Hook

Tip of the Hook

Ediz Hook

Port Angeles Harbor

Waterfront

Port Angeles

Victoria, BC - Port Angeles, WA Ferry

Marine Dr

Stromboli Pier

W 8th St

W 5th St

W 4th St

W 3rd St

W 2nd St

W 1st St

W Front St

W Lauriden Blvd

S C St

S Lincoln St

S Paulson St

W Seaside Way

The Lagoon

Gibson Spit

Washington Harbor

Travis Spit

This topographic map of Sequim Bay, Washington, features a yellow rectangular box highlighting the John Wayne Marina area. The map shows the bay's coastline with various points and harbors labeled, including Washington Harbor, John Wayne Marina, Travis Spit, Klapot Point, Hardwick Point, Goose Point, Schoolhouse Point, and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center. Major roads such as W Sequim Bay Rd, Hwy 101, and Hwy 102 are depicted. An inset map in the top right corner shows the location of Sequim Bay within the state of Washington. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates a scale of 1:15,000, and a north arrow is also present.

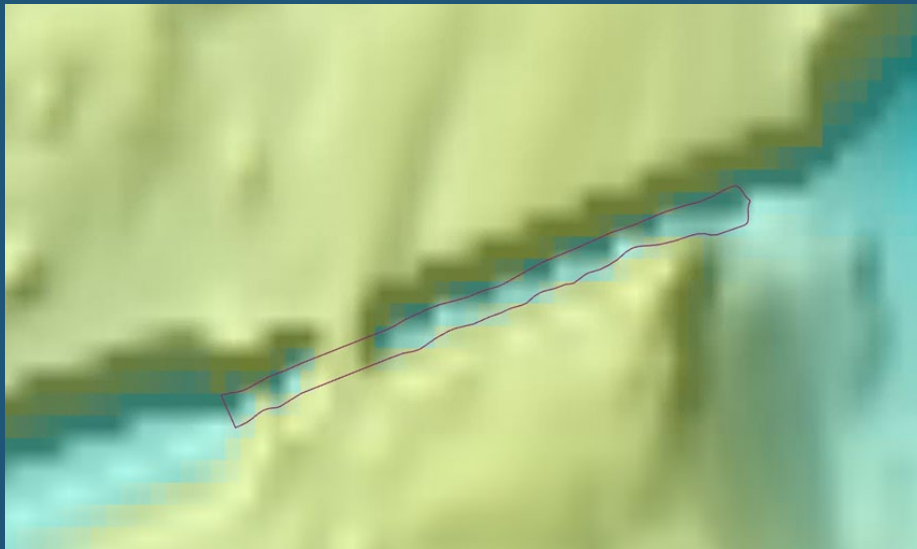
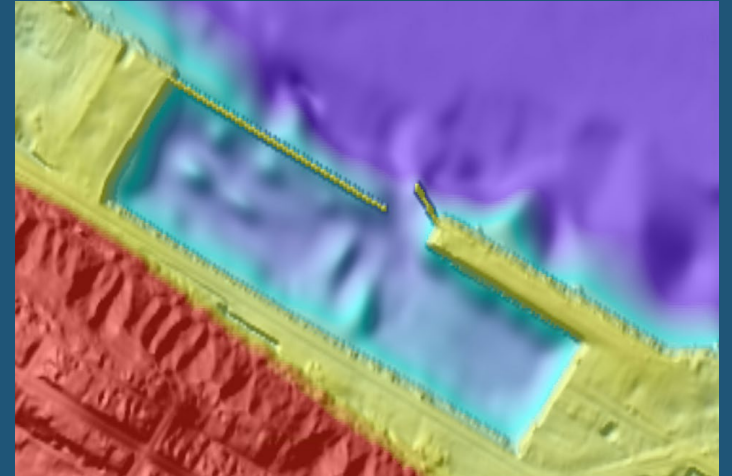
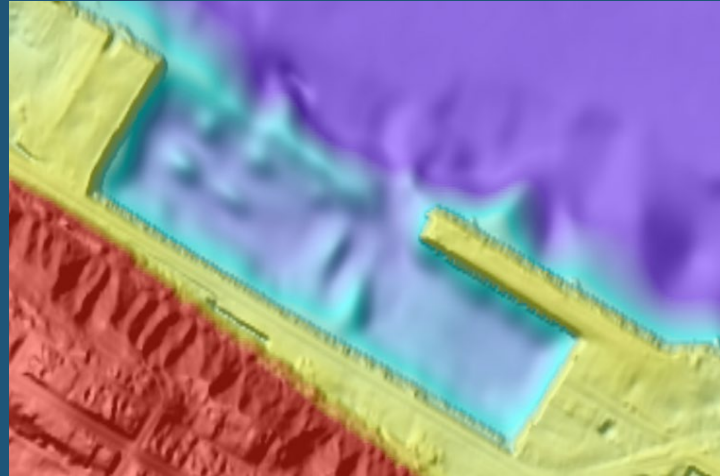
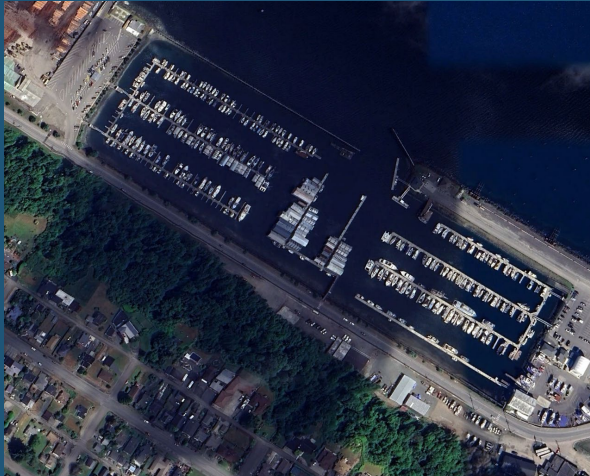
### Datums for 9444090, Port Angeles, WA

All figures in feet relative to MLLW

Datum	Value (feet relative to MLLW)
MHHW	7.07
MHW	6.52
MSL	4.25
MTL	4.22
DTL	3.54
MN	4.59
MLW	1.93
NAVD88	0.43
MLLW	0
DHQ	0.55
GT	7.06

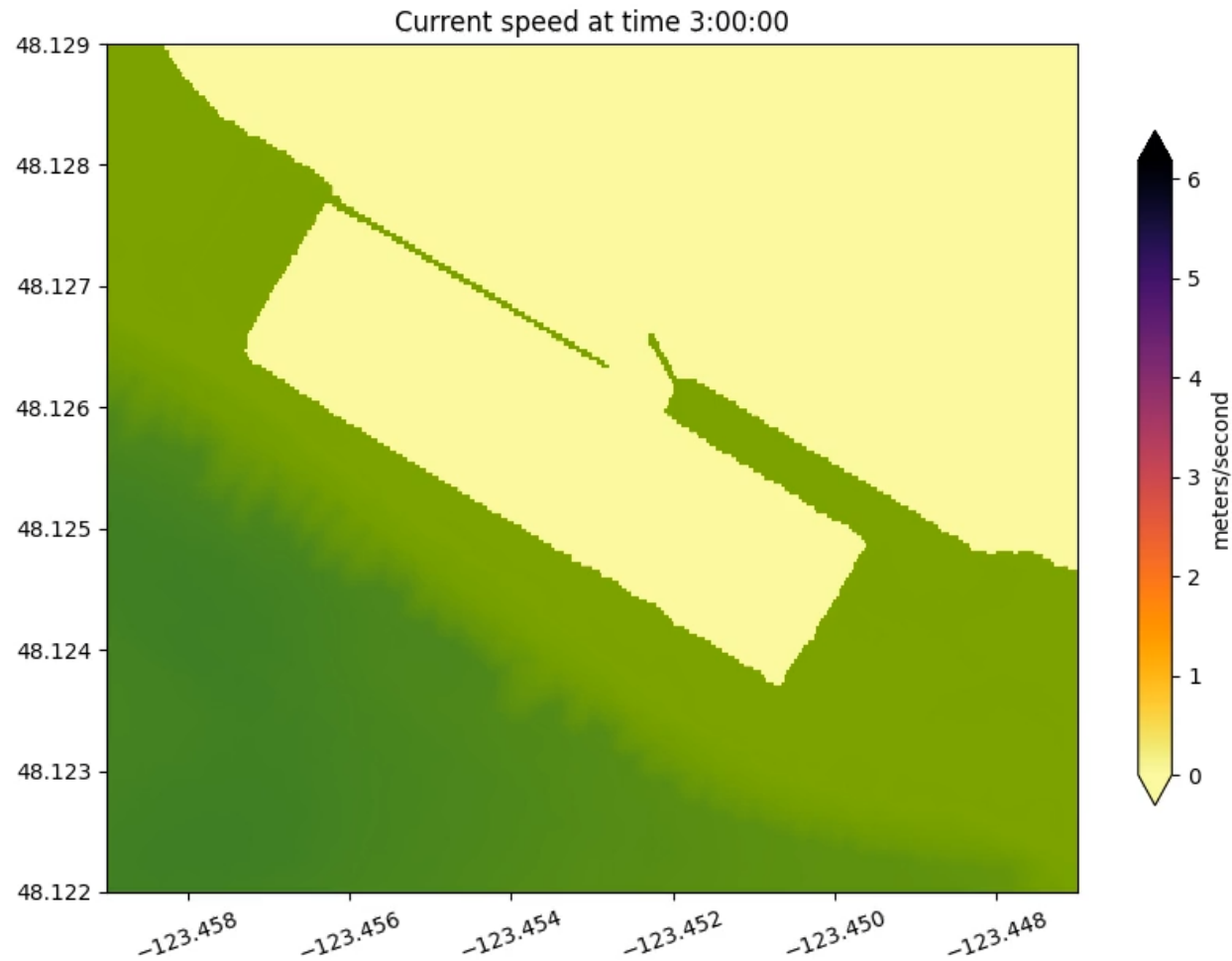


# Benefits of 1/9" modeling resolution: DEM enhancements



# Benefits: higher accuracy models around narrow port features

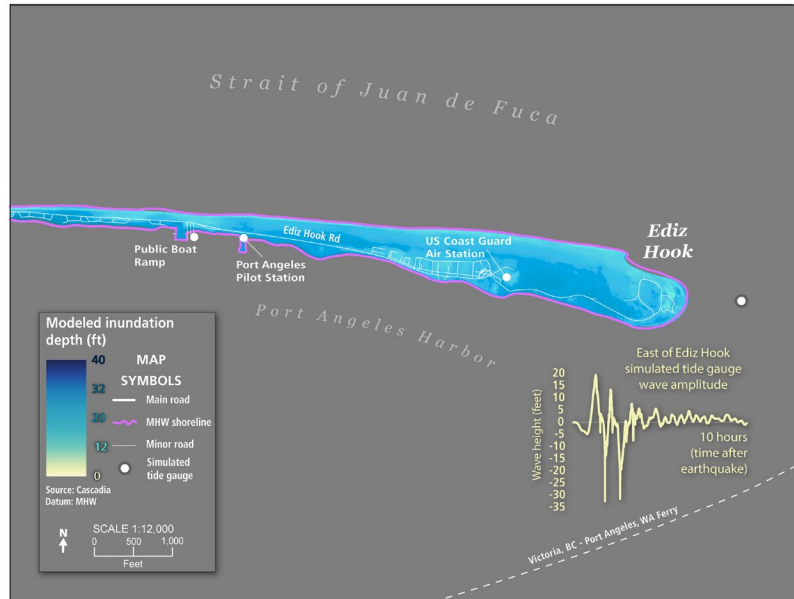
AASZ, MHW, maximum current speed



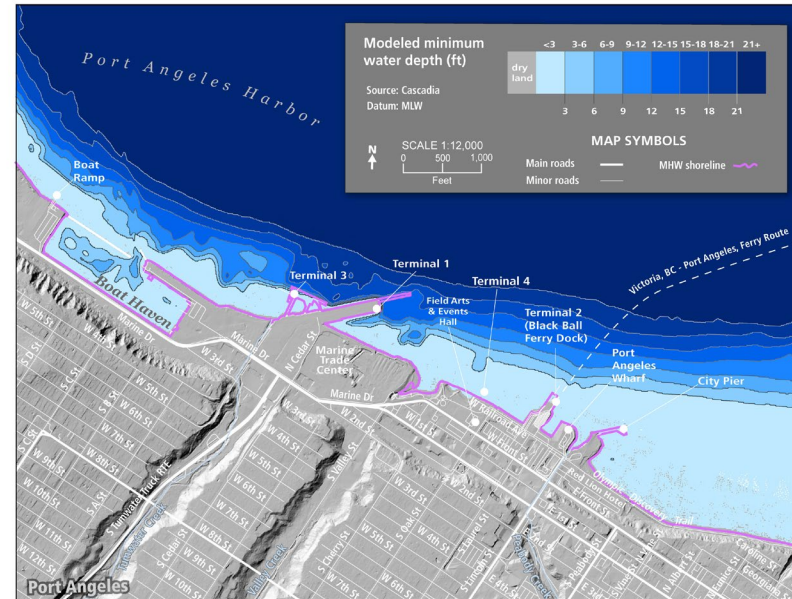


# Main product development

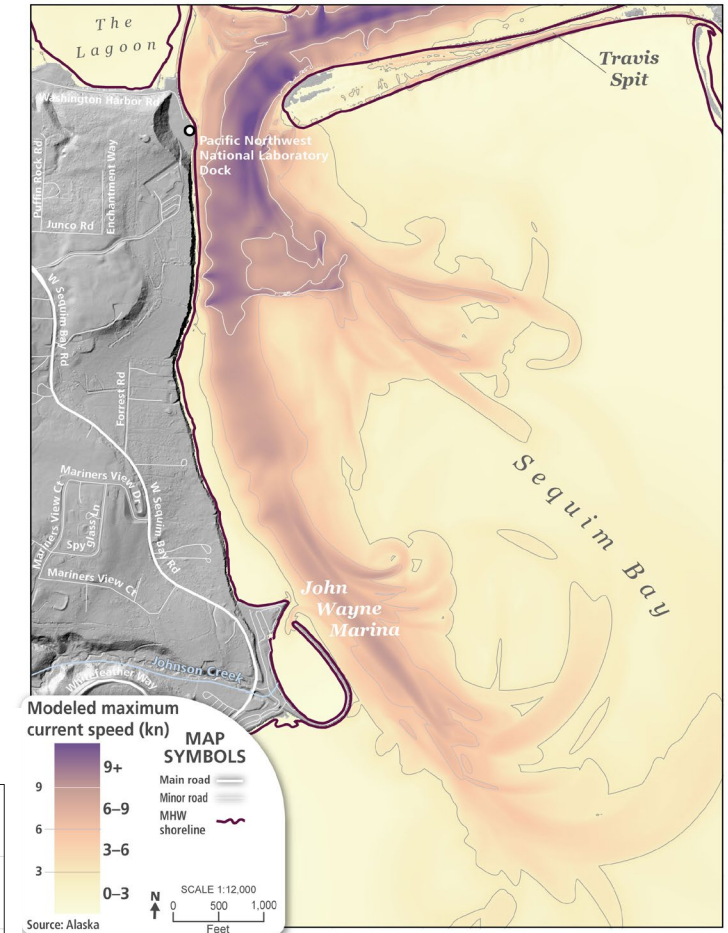
## Maximum flow



## Minimum water depth

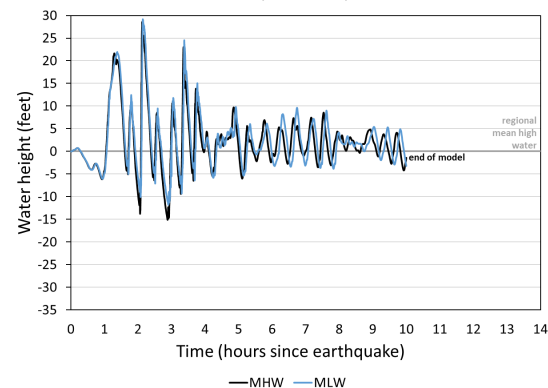


## Maximum current speed

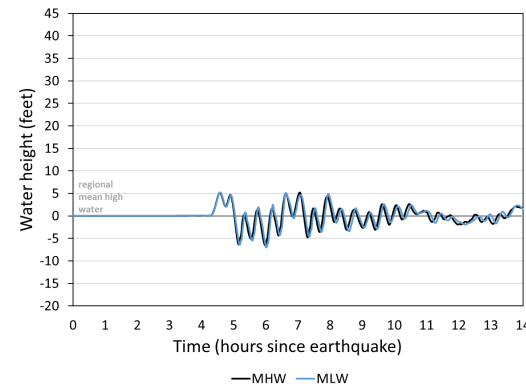


## Simulated tide gauges

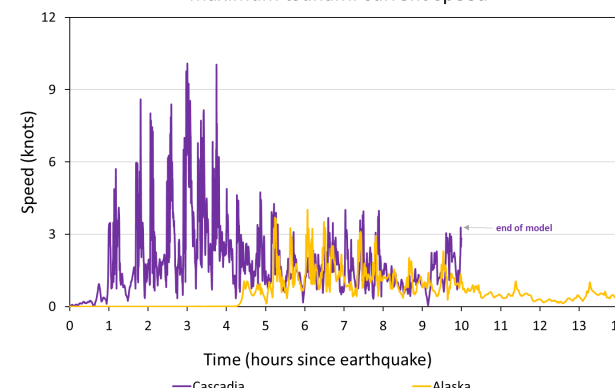
Boat Haven, center  
(Cascadia)



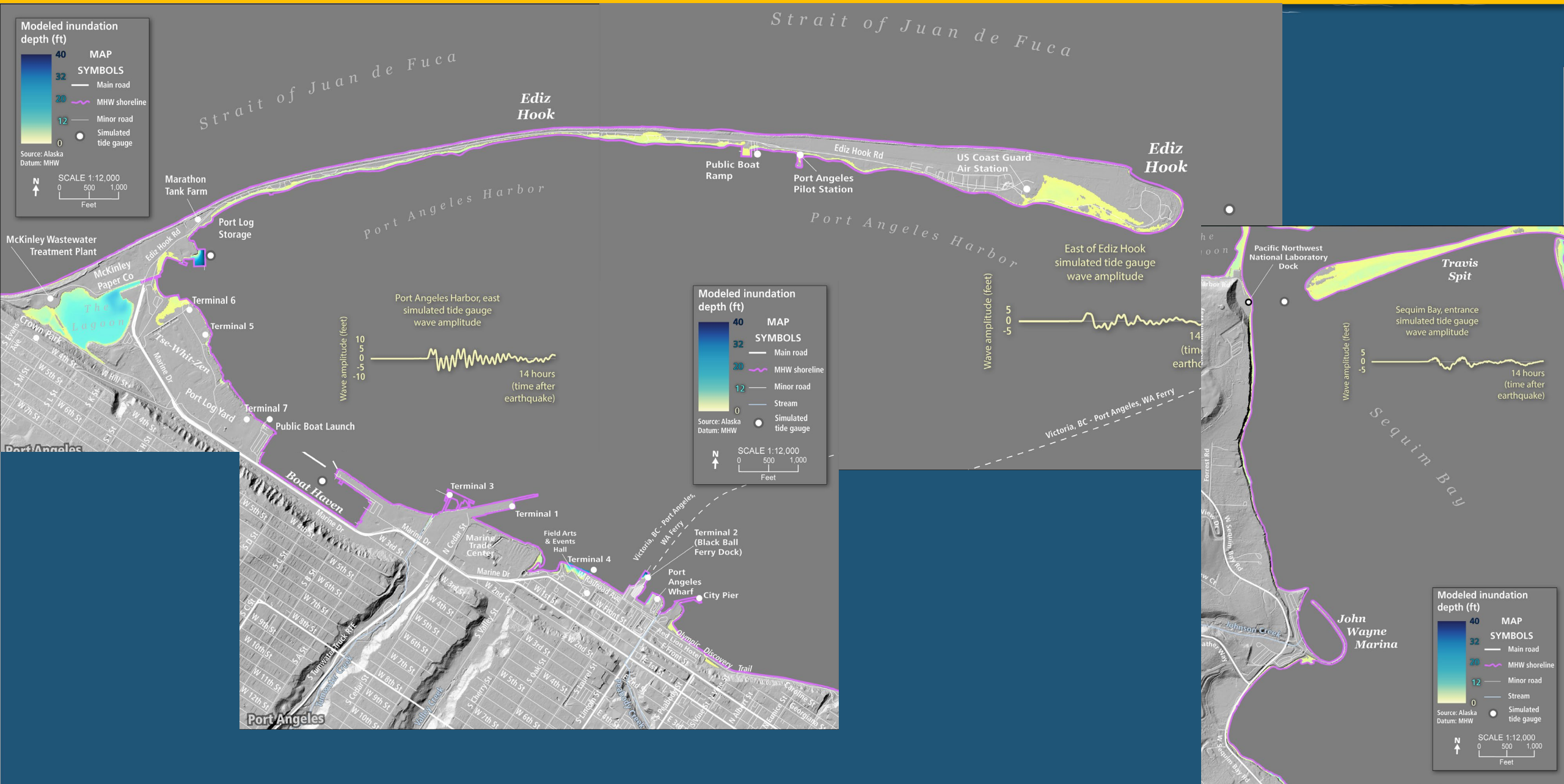
Boat Haven, center  
(Alaska)



Boat Haven, center  
maximum tsunami current speed

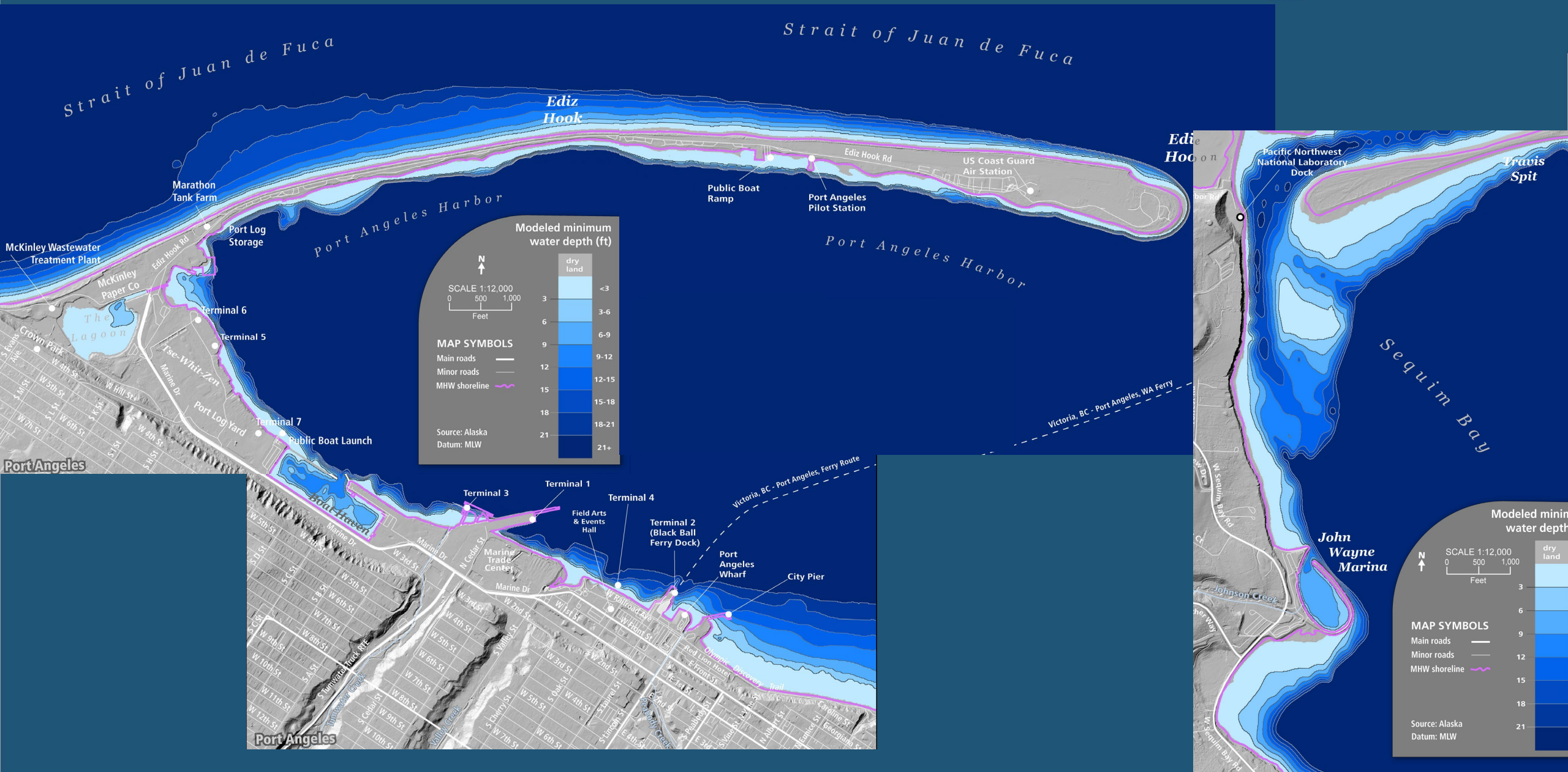


# AASZ Modeling Results – Inundation



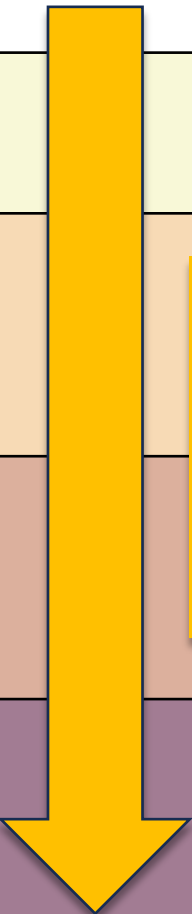


# AASZ Modeling Results – Minimum Water Depths



# 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"><li>• Small buoys moved</li></ul>
3-6 Knots	Minor/Moderate damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Docks/small boats damaged</li><li>• Large buoys moved</li></ul>
6-9 Knots	Moderate/Major Damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Damage to docks and boats</li><li>• Mid-sized vessels off moorings</li></ul>
>9 knots	Major Damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant damage to docks and boats</li><li>• Large vessels off moorings</li></ul>
>>9 Knots	Complete Destruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Widespread damage to all maritime infrastructure and vessels of all types</li></ul>



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



# AASZ Modeling Results – Current Speeds

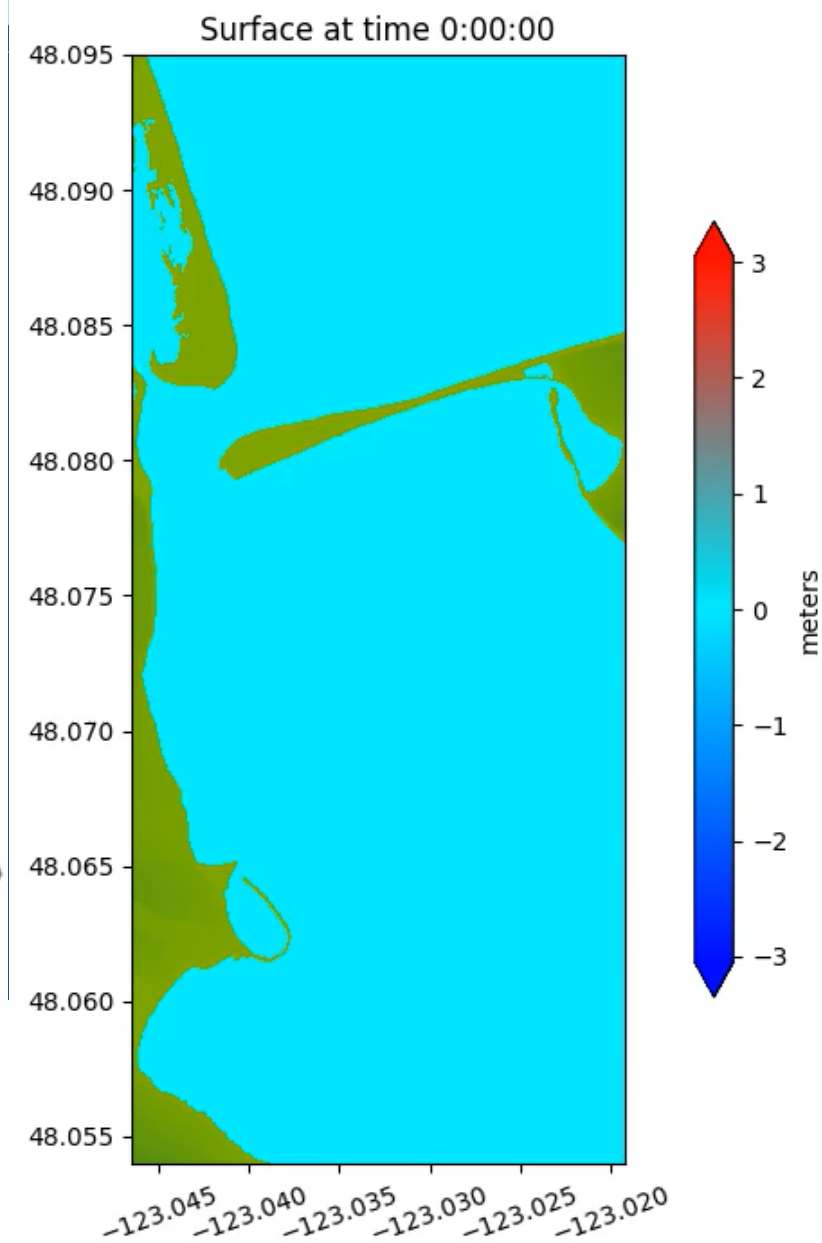
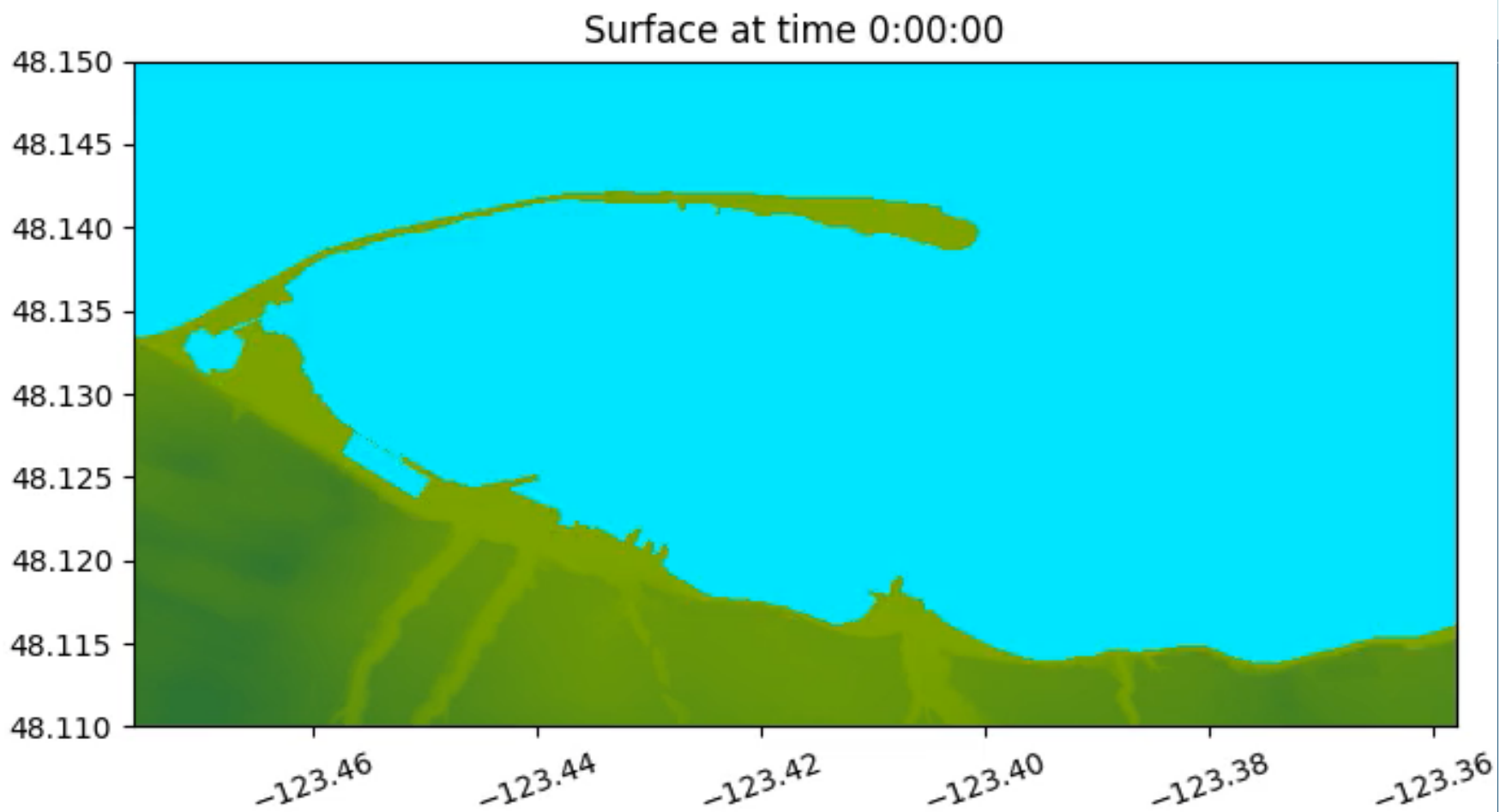


# Distant AASZ Tsunami Key Actions

- 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.)

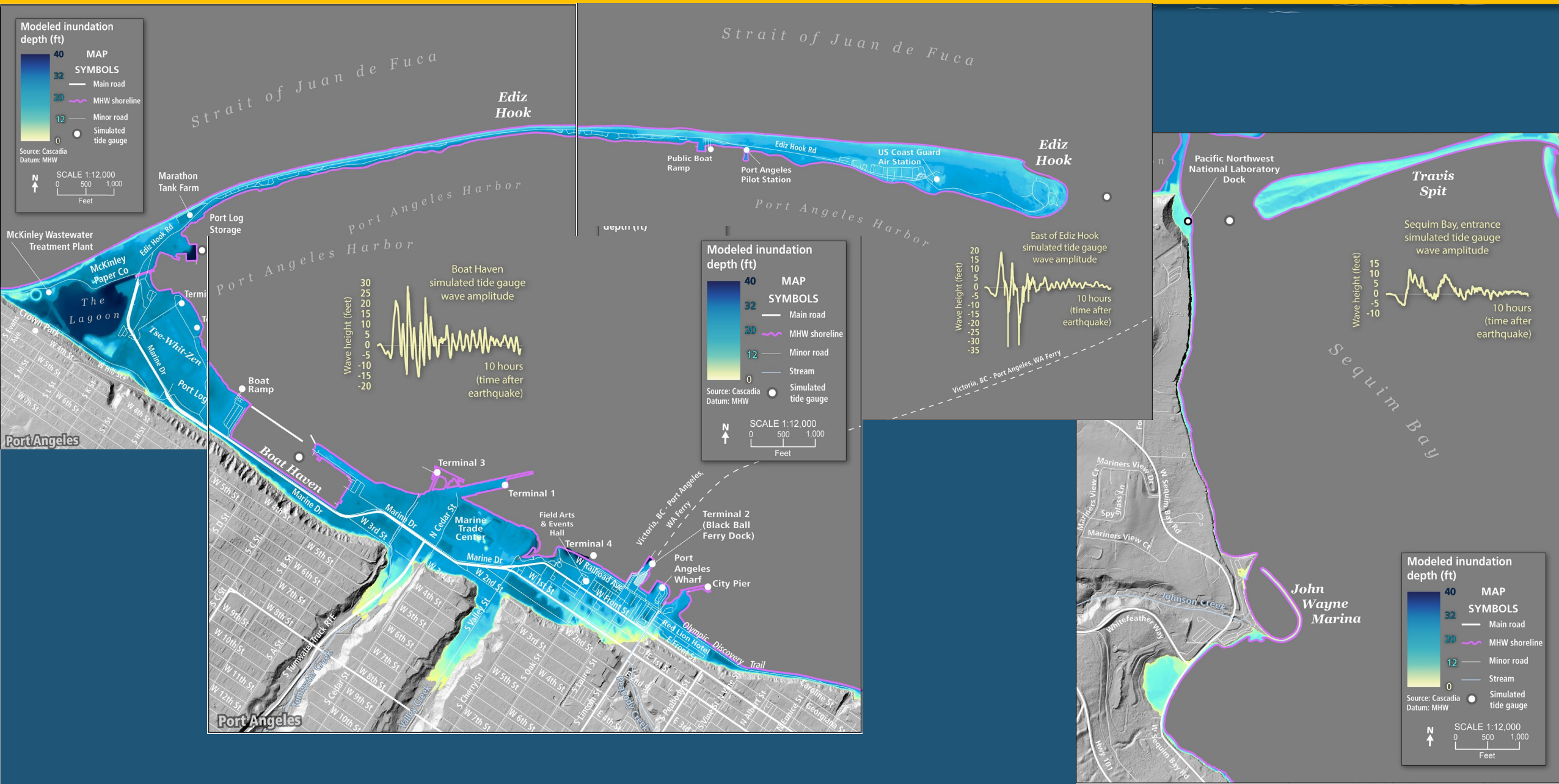






**Cascadia Subduction Zone Modeling Results - Inundation**

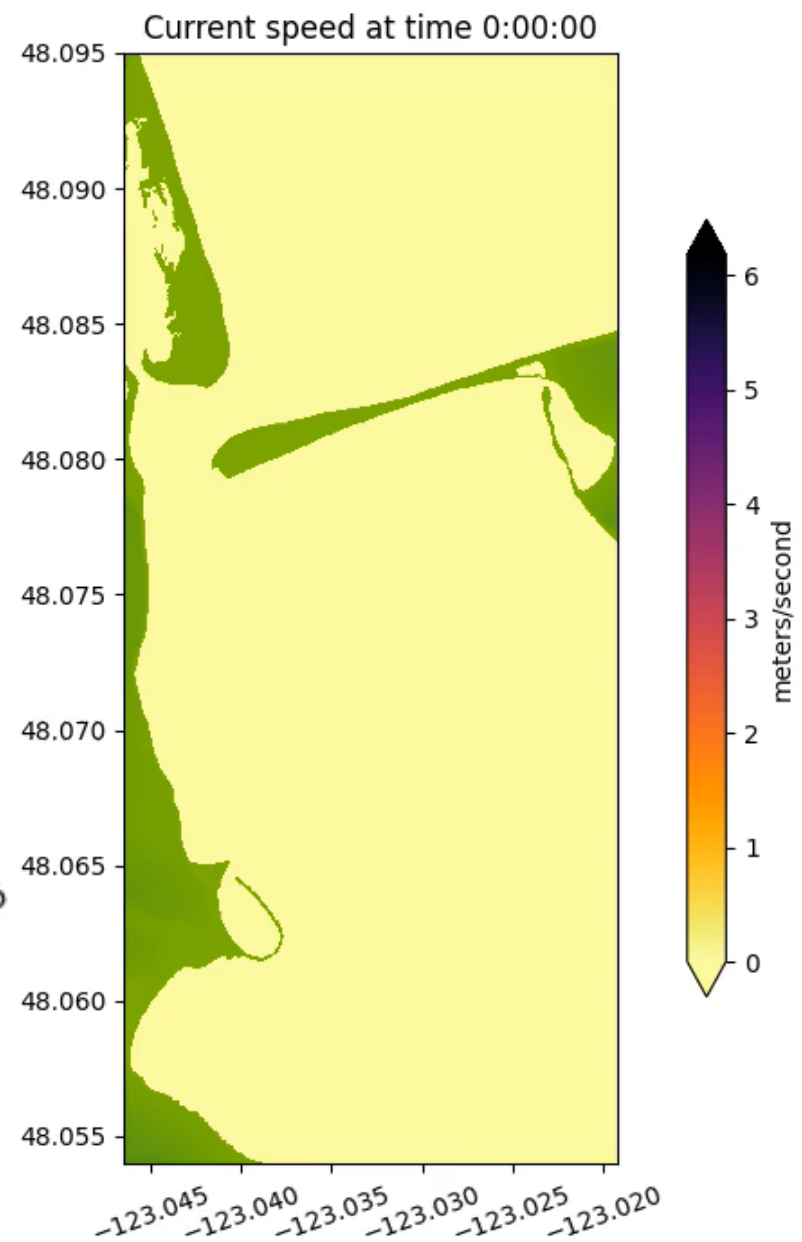
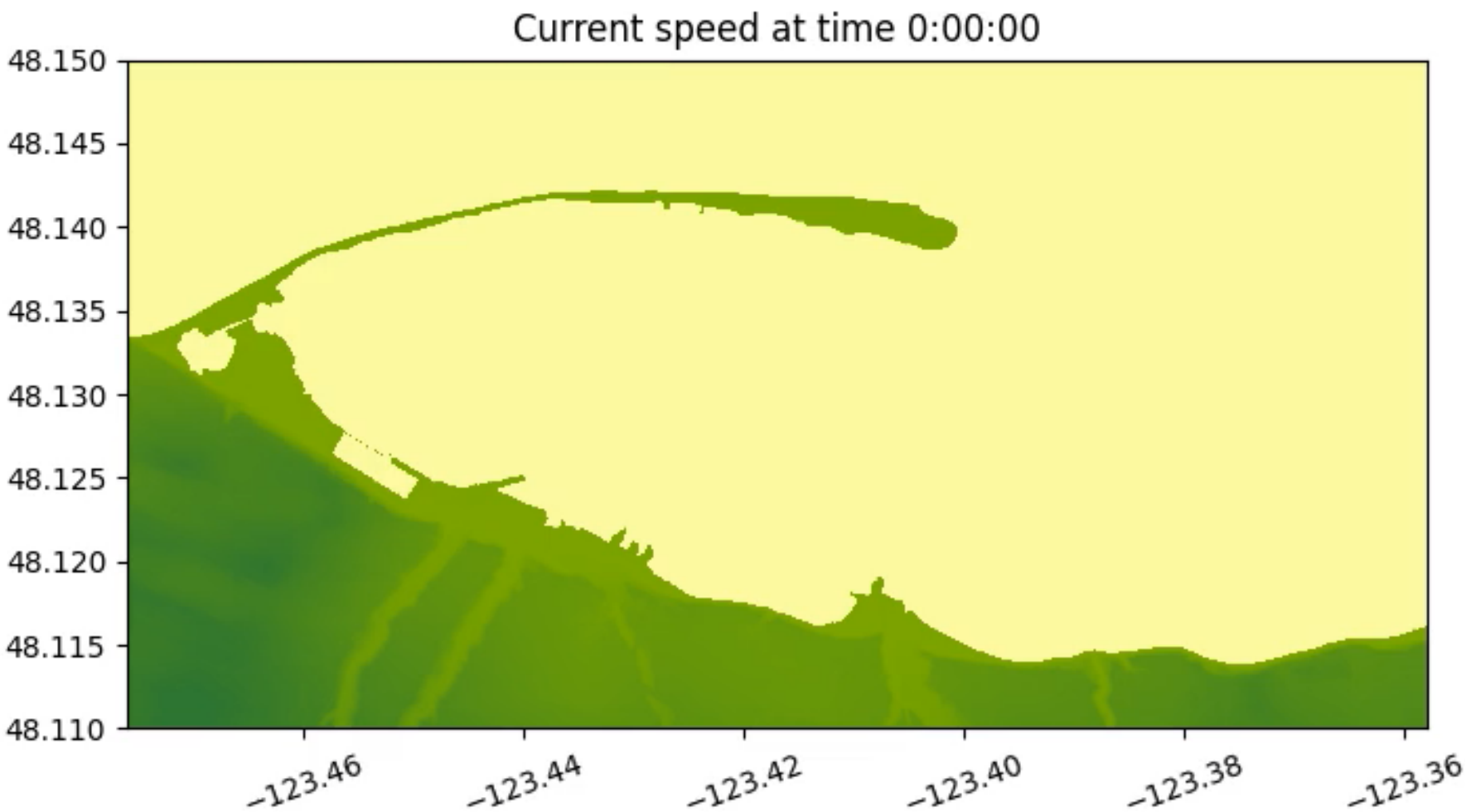
# CSZ Modeling Results – Inundation





# CSZ Modeling Results – Minimum Water Depths

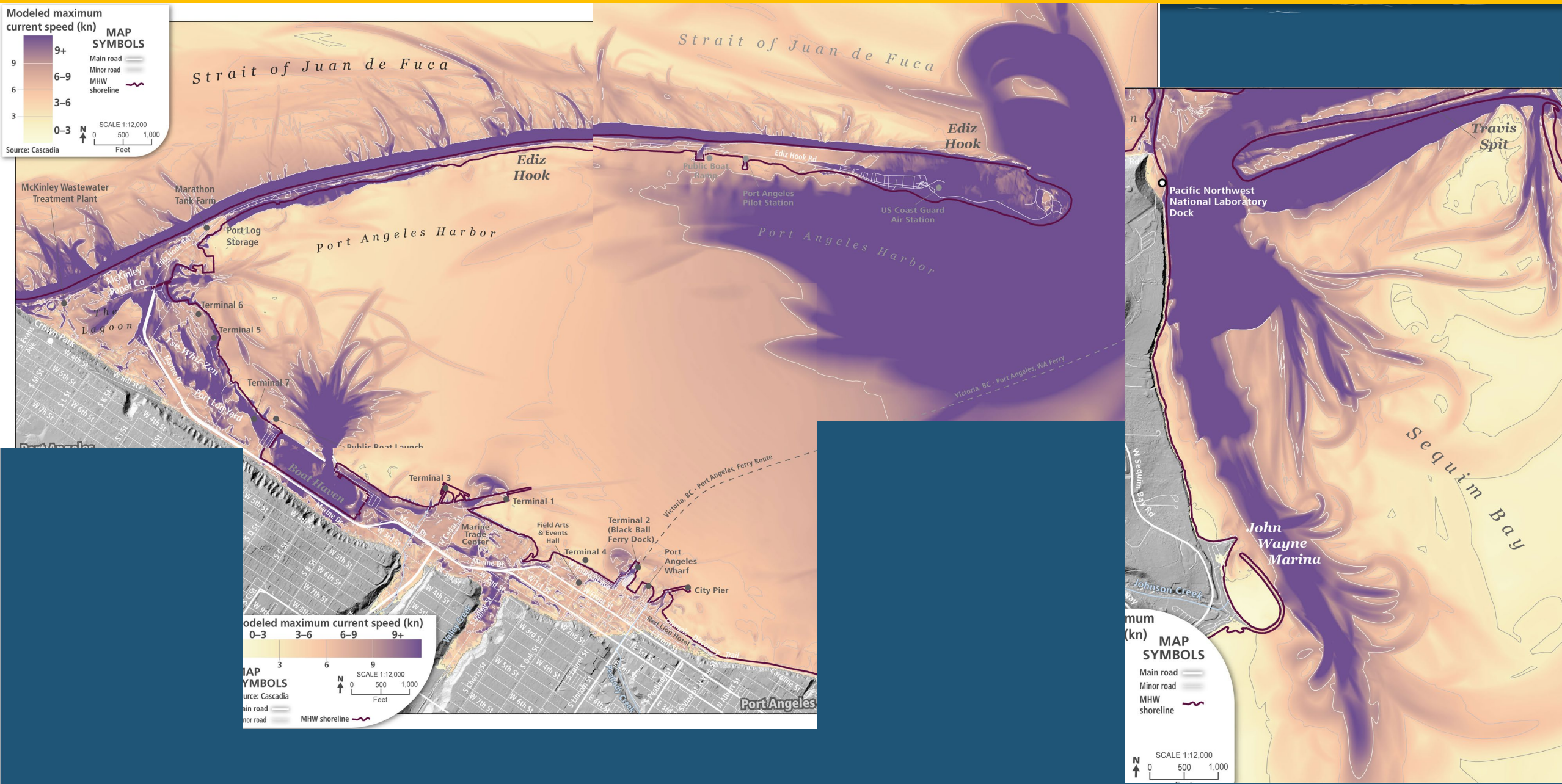




**Cascadia Subduction Zone Modeling Results – Current Speeds**



# CSZ Modeling Results – Current Speeds





# Local CSZ Tsunami Key Actions

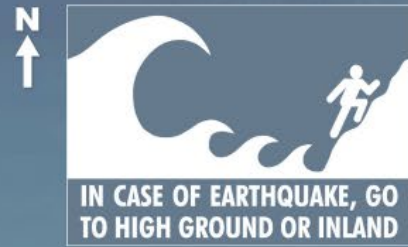
- Earthquake shaking impacts
- 50 minutes for waves to arrive in PA; 1 hour 15 minutes for JWM
  - Water starts receding 15 minutes after the earthquake start in PA Harbor
- Tsunami Impacts
  - Widespread impacts to Ediz Hook and the PA waterfront, JWM
- Response actions for distant tsunami response
  - 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

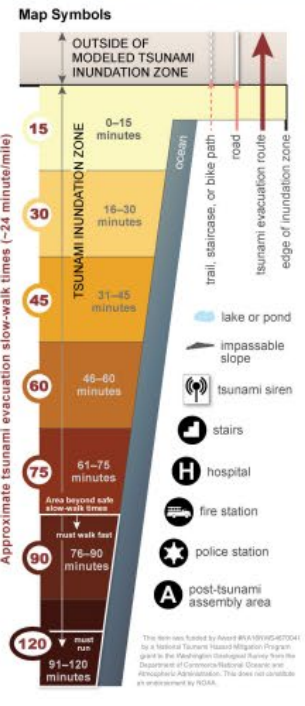
WASHINGTON GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MARCH 2019



ESTIMATED  
WAVE ARRIVAL TIME  
TO STUDY AREA:  
60 MIN

Beyond safe slow-walk time—must walk fast (~18 minute/mile)  
to exit inundation zone before tsunami arrival

Beyond safe slow-walk time—must run (~15 minute/mile)  
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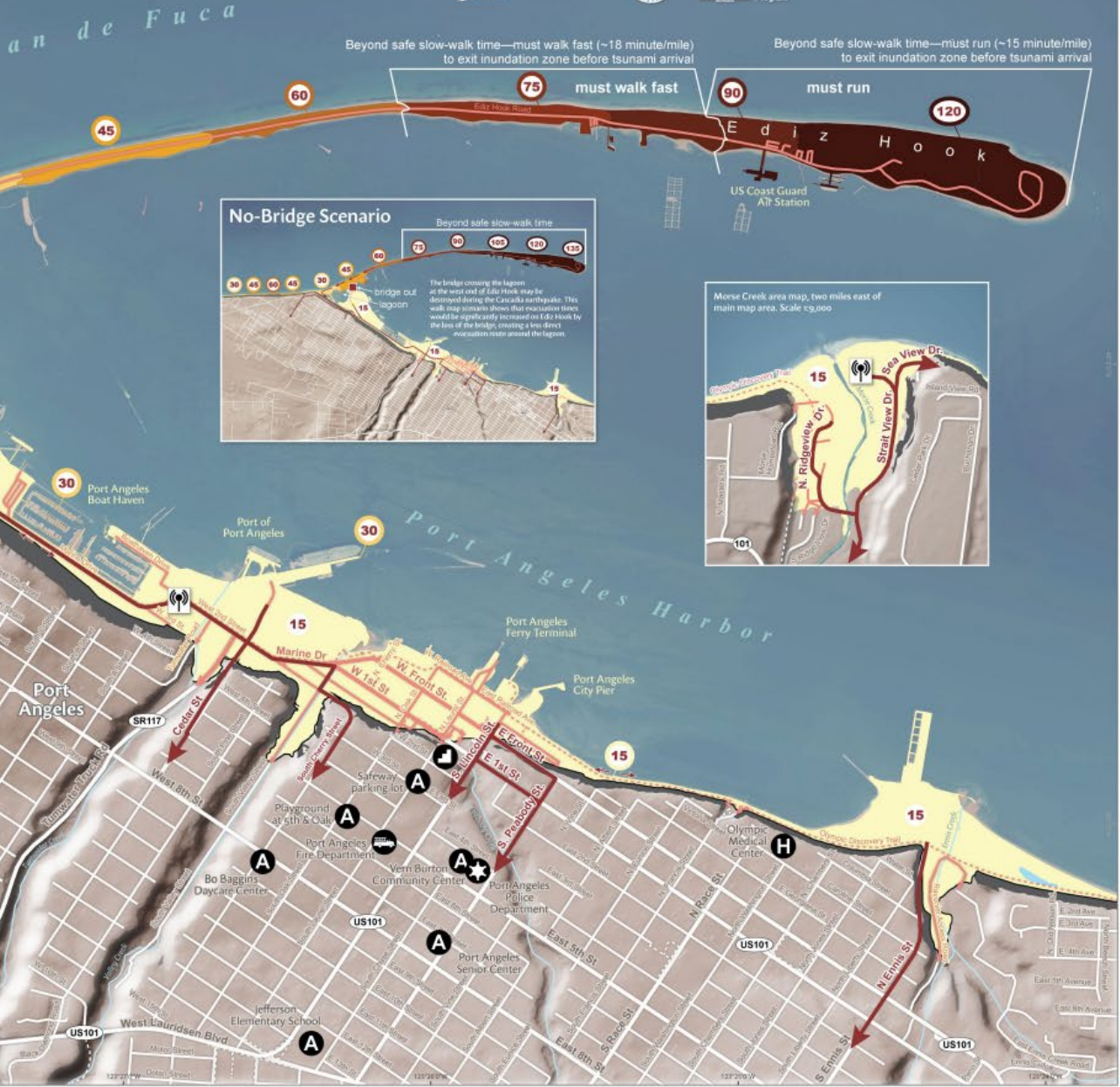


This map is a planning and preparation tool. Learn the evacuation routes for you and your family where you live, work, and play—evacuation maps may not be on hand during an actual emergency.

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 inundation zone of a Cascadia-sourced subduction zone earthquake. This map provides inundation extent for the 1:1 scenario, defined as the ~2,500-year event from which seismic and tsunami codes are locally derived. Time estimates on this map are modeled assuming a slow walking pace of a 45 mph (~24 minute/mile), equivalent to the pace used for the timing of cross walks. Estimated wave arrival times shown on the map indicate the time between the beginning of the earthquake and modeled wave arrival at that location.

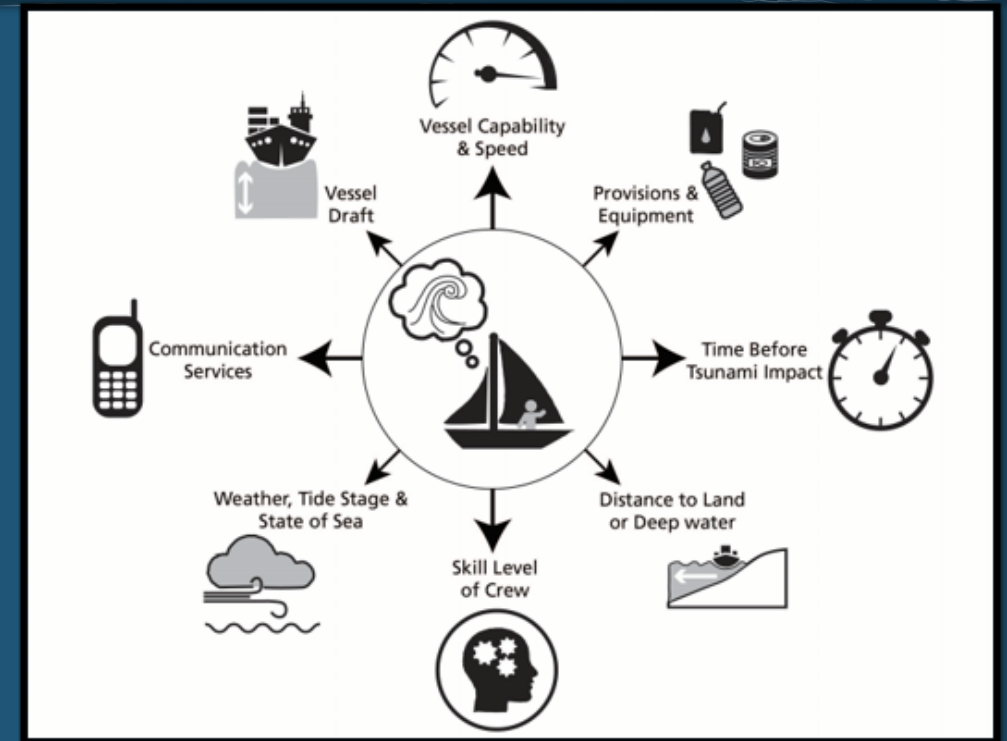
- Evacuation should begin as soon as earthquake shaking stops and it is safe to move from your drop, cover, and hold position or as directed by a tsunami warning siren, NOAA weather radio, or other official announcements.
- You should make your way uphill and follow the designated evacuation routes shown 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 not be the highest, and danger of tsunami inundation may persist for many hours after the initial wave has subsided.

Tsunami inundation data from:  
Burgess, D. W., French, C. W., Wash, T. J., Gendron, F. J., LeVesque, K. 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 2018-01. 8 sheets, scale 1:11,000 and 1:18,000. T is not.  
[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/mgs/mgs2018-01\\_tsunami\\_hazard\\_port\\_angles\\_townsend.asp](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/mgs/mgs2018-01_tsunami_hazard_port_angles_townsend.asp)



# 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



### HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

If you are on a boat and get a tsunami warning or advisory, all occupants should immediately put on personal flotation devices. Your response will depend largely on where you are.

The United States Coast Guard and your local emergency management, harbor master, or port captain are the best sources for tsunami safety information and regulations for boaters in your area.

**If you are on land or tied up at the dock:**

- ☐ DO NOT take your boat offshore.
- ☐ If on land, drop, cover, and hold on for the duration of the shaking.
- ☐ Leave your boat and go inland to high ground on foot as soon as possible.

*You may not have time to save your boat and you could put your life at risk.*

**If you are in deep water or very close to deep water on the OUTER COAST of WA:**

- ☐ Take your boat to at least 100 fathoms or to the deepest water you can find straight out from the shoreline.
- ☐ Sail directly into the waves but be careful because tsunami currents can make them bigger.
- ☐ Stay as far away as you can from other boats and work together to avoid crashing into each other.

*Waves can last more than 24 hours.*

**If you are on the water and very near shore or on the INNER COAST of WA, use your best judgement and consider the following before evacuating:**

- Estimated time before waves arrive
- How long it will take to get to shore
- Current weather conditions
- Traffic on roads and boat ramps

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more about tsunamis, how to protect yourself, and how you can prepare for emergencies, check out these websites:

[MIL.WA.GOV/TSUNAMI](https://MIL.WA.GOV/TSUNAMI)

Learn more about tsunamis, tsunami alerts, and download maps for tsunami evacuation, tsunami inundation, and tsunami maximum current speeds.

[MIL.WA.GOV/ALERTS](https://MIL.WA.GOV/ALERTS)

Get information about emergency alerts and sign up for alerts of all types, including tsunamis, earthquakes, and local alerts. Also learn about NOAA weather radio.

[MIL.WA.GOV/PREPAREDNESS](https://MIL.WA.GOV/PREPAREDNESS)

Learn steps you can take to become more prepared for emergencies. Download materials, watch videos, and start or continue your preparedness journey.

## TSUNAMIS!

### WHAT WASHINGTON'S BOATERS NEED TO KNOW



# 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

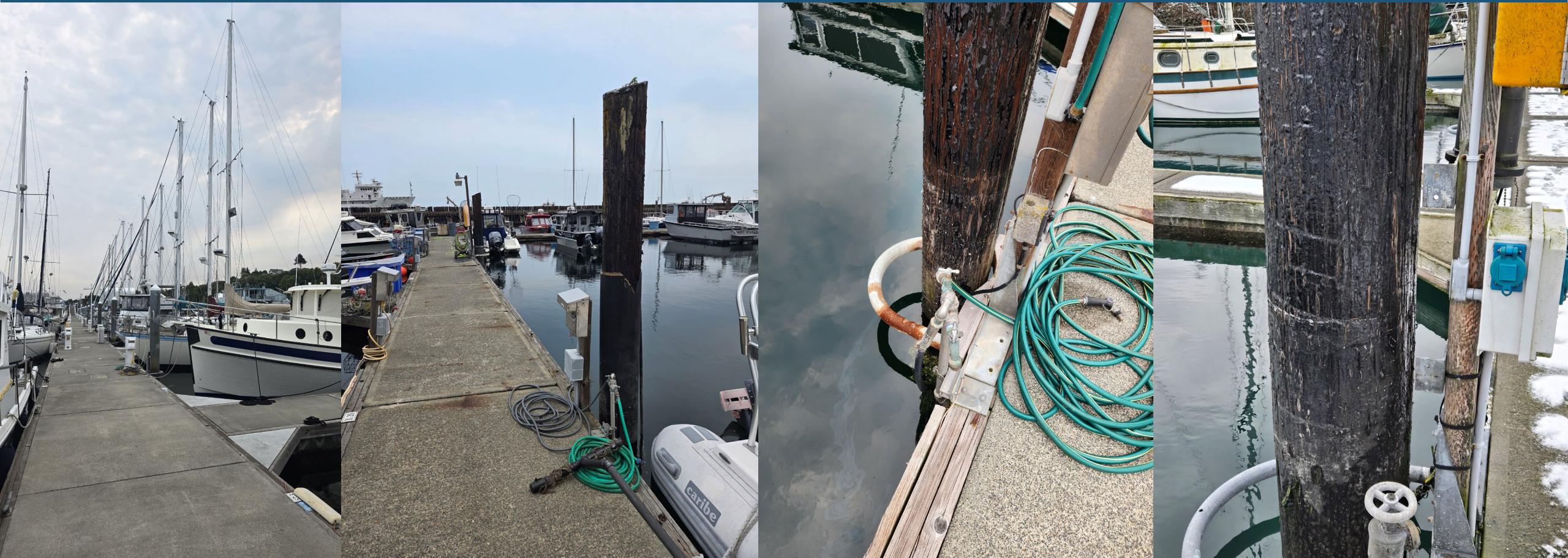
- Opportunities
  - Evacuate Public/Vehicles from Waterfront Areas
  - Pre-stage emergency equipment outside of the inundation zone





# 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](https://mil.wa.gov/alerts)



[mil.wa.gov/tsunami](https://mil.wa.gov/tsunami)



[mil.wa.gov/preparedness](https://mil.wa.gov/preparedness)

[Public.education@mil.wa.gov](mailto:Public.education@mil.wa.gov)



@WaEMD



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@EMD.wa.gov