

**ITSU-XX
CENTRAL AMERICAN SEA LEVEL OBSERVING NETWORK –
RONMAC-
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By Alejandro Gutiérrez

RONMAC

General co-ordinator

E-mail: gechever@una.ac.cr/infosat@ice.co.cr

As it is known met-marine stations (Ronmac type) where placed along the coasts of Central America, as a result of hurricane Mitch. Figure 1 shows the operational and planned situation in the year 2000.

With the time some of the stations stopped operating, because of technical, administrative matters or because of the impact of ships in situ. This was the case of the Lempa River (El Salvador), Puerto Cortés, Puerto Cabezas, Santo Tomás de Castilla, Limón and Cuajiniquil (North Pacific, Costa Rica).

Santo Tomás de Castilla (Guatemala) has been reinstalled (see Figure 2) and it is working properly. Limón and Cuajiniquil will be soon replaced by Ronmac type stations as it is expected to be reinstalled Puerto Cabezas' station but this time in Blue Fields for logistics matters.

The Lempa River station and the proposed Swan Island's one, proposed to be installed, seem not to enter into the short term regional plans.

Belize City and Quepos in Costa Rica have new Ronmac type stations at the moment.

Corinto station is operating (not all its sensors, though) and is not transmitting in real time as the rest of the yellow stations do. We expect to check and fix this station soon. This station is the only Central American one to have a tsunami monitoring sensor installed by the ITIC. This is not Ronmac's responsibility though.

Here at Ronmac office in Costa Rica we are also digitizing old Central American stations marigrams as well. The digitized data is sent to the corresponding Central American institute where the original documents are coming from or, at request, to any interested scientist or institution.

Ronmac- Costa Rica keeps permanently in touch with the technicians in charge of the different stations in the rest of the countries, in order to assist them with spare parts or technical advice when it is needed.

Ronmac has actively participated in the last regional meetings favouring the establishment of a coastal hazards warning system for the Wider Caribbean, same that ended up with the “Tsunami and Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Wider Caribbean”, adopted in México City in June this year. In this regards, one of the excitatives that Ronmac strongly made during this meeting is the need of organizing the national GOOS in the different countries of the region, as a pre-requisite for this warning system in the region, and consequently specifically requested IOCARIBE to carefully follow up on it.



Figure 1

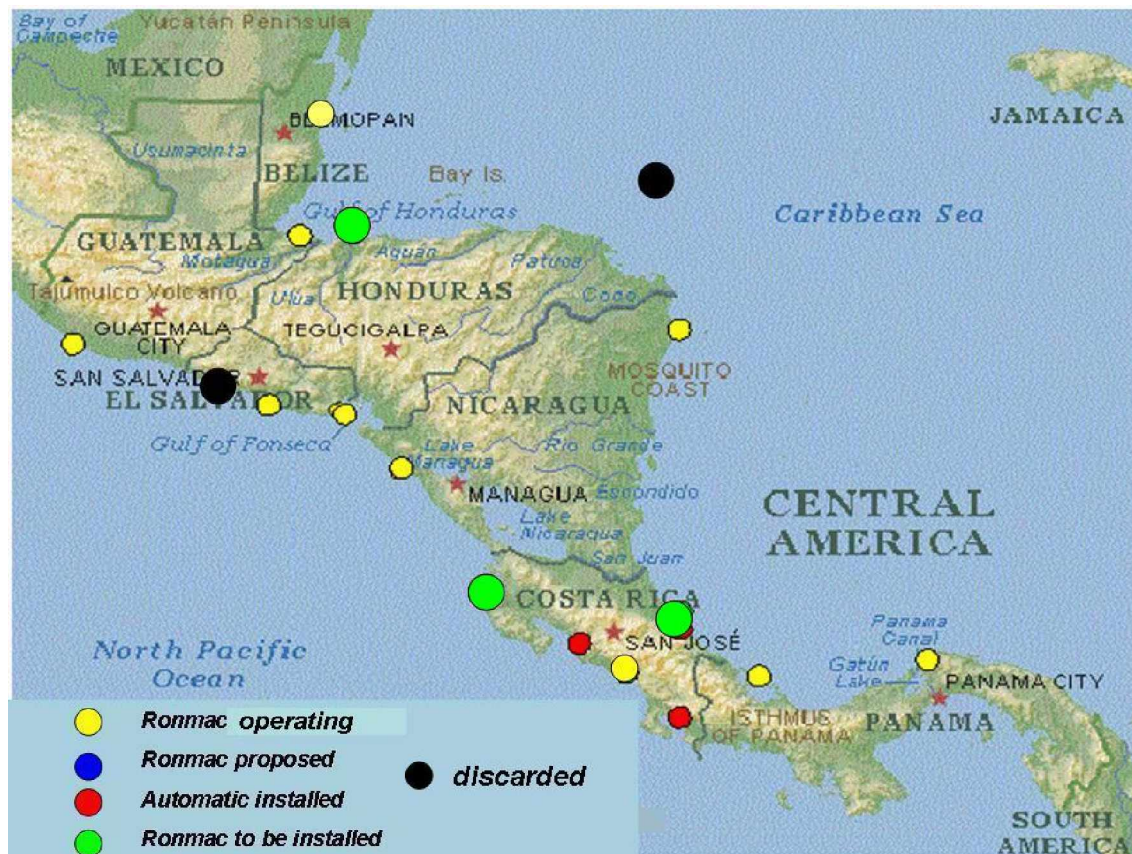


Figure 2