NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) and co-located World Data Service (WDS) for Geophysics and the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC), a UNESCO/IOC-NOAA partnership, have collaborated to produce a map showing the tsunami hazard for Caribbean, Central America, Mexico and Adjacent Regions. The information comes from the NCEI/WDS Historical Tsunami Database that includes information on tsunami source events throughout the world that range from 1410 B.C. to August A.D. 2020. Forty-one tsunamis in the region caused damage ranging from a few shipping crafts to the destruction of entire towns. Nineteen resulted in almost 6500 deaths. The most deadly was the 1892 Jamaica tsunami that resulted in 2,000 deaths at Port Royal. The 1946 Dominican Republic earthquake-generated tsunami caused 1,700 deaths in Manzanillo. In 1960 an earthquake off the coast of Chile generated a tsunami that caused 1,000 deaths in Colombia, and was observed along the entire coast of Central America, in Mexico, and in California.

A total of 62 confirmed tsunami source events are displayed on the Pacific region of this map; 61 were generated by earthquakes, 5 from earthquake-generated landslides, 5 from volcanoes, 2 from volcano-landslide events. A total of 52 confirmed tsunami source events are displayed in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean; 38 were generated by earthquakes, 1 from an earthquake-generated landslide, 5 from volcanoes, 2 from volcano-landslide events, 1 from a mud volcano, and 1 from a submarine landslide. Over 320 runup records are displayed on the Colombian coastline, Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. In this area, the highest runup was the 15.2 m tsunami wave generated by violent back-to-back earthquakes southwest of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands in 2001. Only 5 events beyond the map boundaries resulted in runups to the displayed Caribbean, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastlines.