

Can my boat outrun a tsunami?



Boat attempting to leave Crescent City Harbor during the March 11, 2011 tsunami

A fisherman attempted to escape the 2011 tsunami in his boat as the tsunami was impacting the coast at Crescent City. He was lucky and was able to navigate out of the harbor, but just barely. He learned a lesson and in a video interview he shares his experience to help educate others to never risk their lives as he did.

Watch the video describing their story:
https://youtu.be/QEr_ZiVeAKw

If you feel an earthquake (local tsunami), don't take your boat offshore!

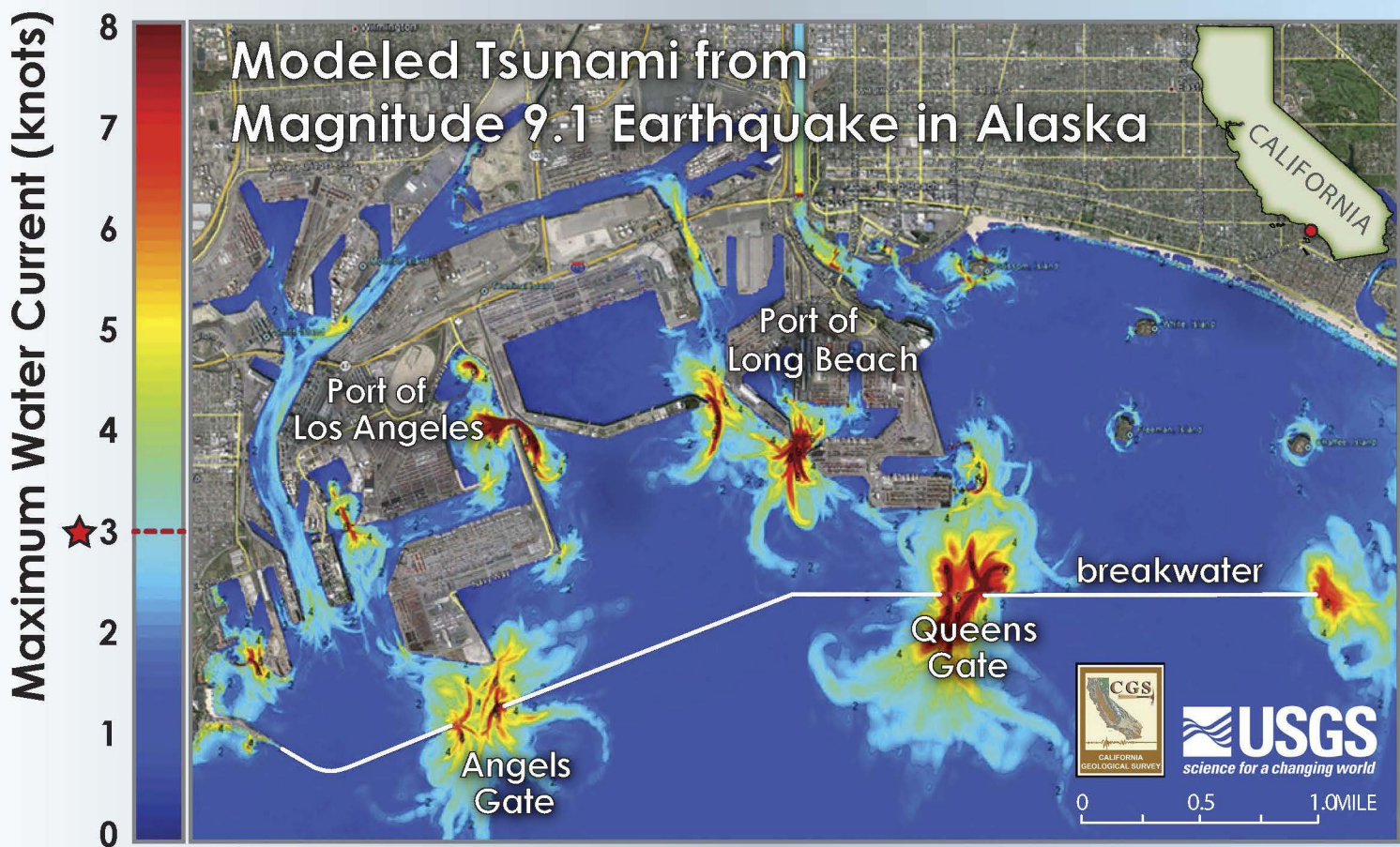
If a "distant" tsunami is coming, we recommend you don't take your boat offshore. If you do...

- ✓ Talk to the harbor master or local officials to learn about your harbor's tsunami safety protocols.
- ✓ Contact your harbor master or community emergency services office to sign up to receive tsunami alerts.
- ✓ Know weather conditions out on the ocean.
- ✓ Know how long it takes your boat to get to deep water. The 30-fathom (180-foot) depth line is the recommendation by State and National guidance.
- ✓ Have adequate supplies (water, shelter, food) and fuel to remain at sea for 24 hrs or more, you may need to return to a different harbor.



- ✓ Have a family plan for tsunamis in place so you know your family will be safe.
- ✓ If you do not have these essential preparedness items covered, DO NOT attempt to take your boat offshore. Secure your boat to the dock and leave the dock area before the tsunami arrives.

Talk to your harbor master or port captain for the best advice.



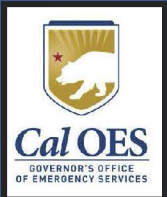
Modeling of tsunami waves show maximum current speeds.

During the tsunami there would be dangerously fast currents around the port entrances, marinas, and boat yards.

In some places, currents could break apart docks, damage pilings, and pull small vessels from their mooring lines.

Damage to harbors and boats can start to occur for currents above 3 knots (red star).

It's smarter to plan and prepare for a tsunami instead of trying to outrun one.



National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program



For More Information:
www.tsunami.ca.gov
www.tsunamizone.org