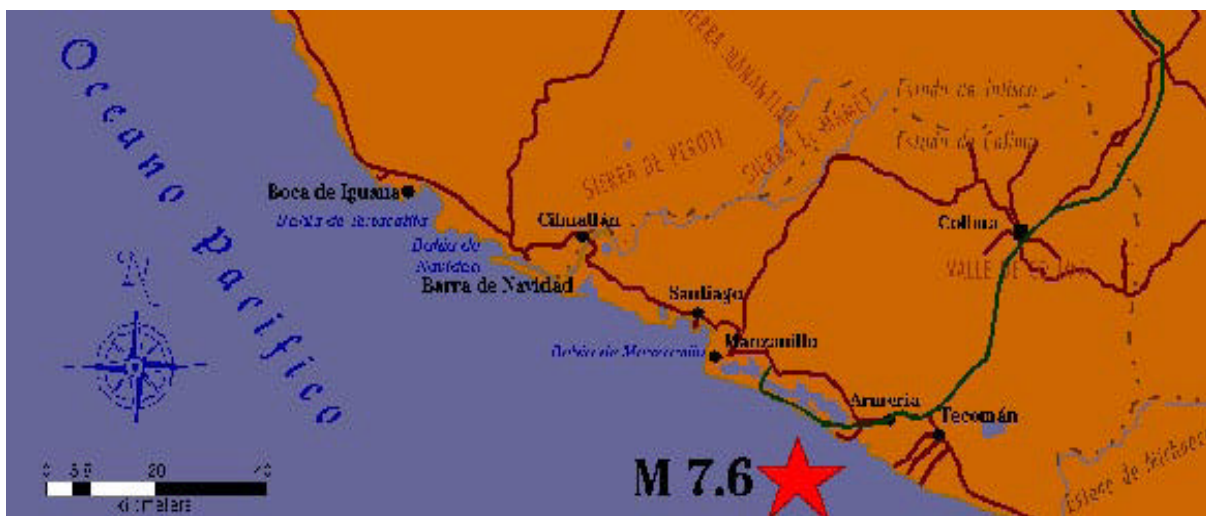


Mexico - Manzanillo - 9 October 1995

A large earthquake ($M_w = 8.0$) occurred along the Northern Middle America Subduction Zone on the Pacific coast, off the states of Jalisco and Colima, in central Mexico. The quake killed about 40 people, injured about 100 and destroyed or severely damaged many buildings near Manzanillo. Strong ground motions were felt strongly in Mexico City.

The Manzanillo earthquake was the largest event in 60 years. It generated a moderate local tsunami that affected approximately 200 kilometers of Mexico's coastline from north of Playa de Cuyatlán to south of Tenacatita Bay.

Tsunami wave runup ranged from 1 to 5.7 meters, however a maximum wave runup of 11m was reported for one locality. Observers reported a total of four or five waves - the first being the largest. Maximum tsunami inundation occurred in Tenacatita Bay. According to eyewitnesses' reports the water began to withdraw 15 minutes after the earthquake, then returned like "a fast rising tide". The tsunami was stronger on the northern end of the Bay, near Boca de Iguana, where it destroyed and damaged several houses and carried boats half a kilometer inland. Runup ranged between 3.5 and 5 meters. Fortunately no one was killed. At La Manzanillo, a small town on the southern end of the bay, the tsunami runup was 2 meters. The town was completely flooded for about 200 meters inland.



Near the entrance to the Port of Manzanillo, strong tsunami-induced currents of up to 12 knots, eroded the banks and caused considerable damage to harbor facilities. Tsunami runup heights ranged from 4.75 to 1.75 meters from Manzanillo Bay southward. The tsunami was observed as far away as Puerto Vallarta, 300 kilometers to the north.