# Sediment Transport Modeling Based on Geological Data for Holocene Coastal Evolution: Wave Source Estimation of Sandy Layers on the Coast of Hidaka, Hokkaido, Japan

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#### Abstract

Sediment transport modeling (STM) is a potentially effective tool for estimating the magnitude of tsunamis and earthquakes without historical records. However, applying STM to prehistorical tsunamis is challenging because of many uncertainties in topography and roughness. In the coast of Hidaka, Hokkaido, Japan, there is potential to conduct STM even in the absence of historical records because of the comprehensive geological data that reveal the coastal evolution during the Holocene in addition to tsunami sediment surveys. The tsunami deposits in Hokkaido suggest the presence of events on a larger scale than historical tsunamis; particularly the 17th-century tsunami had multiple potential wave sources other than a Kuril Trench earthquake, inhibiting its magnitude estimation. In this study, we applied STM to paleotsunamis in the coast of Hidaka, where the wave source is unknown and there are comprehensive geological data. The modeling parameters—paleotopography, roughness, grain size, initial sand source, sea level, and beach ridge height—were estimated using data obtained from geological surveys and sedimentary structures of the observed sand layers better than that of the extreme storm and volcanic tsunami. The paring down wave sources of the sand layer implies that a wider rupture zone in the Kuril Trench is less likely. This case study provides information on the parameters that geologists and modelers should consider when applying STM to paleotsunamis.

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S area Upland Flood plain Saltmarsh





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11	Key Points:						
12	• Sediment transport is modeled in prehistoric periods by obtaining parameters as						
13	paleogeography and roughness from geological data						
14	• A tsunami induced by a Kuril Trench earthquake reproduced the distribution and						
15	sedimentary structure of prehistoric sand layers						
16	• Sensitivity tests revealed parameters that have a significant effect on sediment transport						
17	modelings in prehistoric periods						
18							

### 19 Abstract

Sediment transport modeling (STM) is a potentially effective tool for estimating the magnitude 20 of tsunamis and earthquakes without historical records. However, applying STM to prehistorical 21 tsunamis is challenging because of many uncertainties in topography and roughness. In the coast 22 of Hidaka, Hokkaido, Japan, there is potential to conduct STM even in the absence of historical 23 records because of the comprehensive geological data that reveal the coastal evolution during the 24 Holocene in addition to tsunami sediment surveys. The tsunami deposits in Hokkaido suggest the 25 presence of events on a larger scale than historical tsunamis; particularly the 17th-century 26 tsunami had multiple potential wave sources other than a Kuril Trench earthquake, inhibiting its 27 magnitude estimation. In this study, we applied STM to paleotsunamis in the coast of Hidaka, 28 where the wave source is unknown and there are comprehensive geological data. The modeling 29 parameters—paleotopography, roughness, grain size, initial sand source, sea level, and beach 30 ridge height—were estimated using data obtained from geological surveys and sensitivity tests. 31 The modeling of a tsunami induced by a Kuril Trench earthquake reproduced the sediment 32 distributions and sedimentary structures of the observed sand layers better than that of the 33 extreme storm and volcanic tsunami. The paring down wave sources of the sand layer implies 34

that a wider rupture zone in the Kuril Trench is less likely. This case study provides information

- 36 on the parameters that geologists and modelers should consider when applying STM to
- 37 paleotsunamis.

# 38 Plain Language Summary

Sediment transport modeling (STM) can correctly reproduce extreme waves caused by tsunamis 39 and storms based on sedimentary evidence. However, applying it to prehistorical periods is 40 41 challenging because of uncertainties in paleotopography. In the coast of Hidaka, Hokkaido, Japan is suitable area for STM because of the comprehensive geological data that reveal the 42 coastal evolution during the Holocene in addition to tsunami sediment surveys. In this study, we 43 established realistic computational parameters for STM based on detailed geological data and 44 estimated wave sources for the sand layers formed by extreme waves. By comparing the 45 observed sediment distribution or sedimentary structures and those estimated from the transport 46 47 processes by the modeling of tsunami and extreme storm models, most of the sand layers were found to be tsunami deposits. This result allowed us to estimate the extent of the largest class of 48 rupture zones in the Kuril Trench. Additionally, sensitivity tests for computational parameters 49 with large uncertainties in the prehistoric period provide geologists and modelers important 50 information that should consider when applying STM to paleotsunamis. 51

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# 53 **1 Introduction**

Tsunami deposits are the few physical evidence that can be used to estimate the 54 magnitude of earthquakes in the prehistorical period. Since the historic records in Hokkaido is 55 limited to ~200 years, it is essential to reconstruct paleoearthquakes using tsunami deposits. To 56 estimate the rupture zone of paleoearthquakes from tsunami deposits, conducting surveys at 57 58 multiple sites and assuming a tsunami that comprehensively reconstructs correlated tsunami deposits at each site are necessary. Other factors, such as storms and floods should also be 59 comprehensively examined to confirm that the event layers are tsunami deposits. Modern 60 tsunami deposit studies have reported cases where the sand distribution does not correspond to 61 the inundation area (Abe et al., 2012). The numerical simulation of sediment transport via 62 extreme waves is a solution to the problems (Watanabe et al., 2018, 2021; Sugawara et al., 2019). 63 64 Because directly comparing the distribution of sand layers with simulated tsunami inundation is impossible, tsunami propagation and associated sediment transport modeling (STM) have 65 attracted considerable research attention (Sugawara et al., 2014a). Sugawara et al. (2019) 66 estimated a rupture zone based on STM for a historical earthquake with an unknown fault model 67 in Taiwan. They also suggested applying the estimation to historic tsunamis with no documented 68 records. However, STM includes many parameters other than tsunami inundation simulation that 69 70 can affect the results, and much uncertainty exists in simulated paleotsunami sediment transport (Apotsos et al. 2011a; Sugawara, 2019). If STM can be adapted to prehistoric periods, it can 71 72 provide not only a proxy for interpreting of the formation origins of event layers but also the magnitude of paleotsunami to restrict source fault parameters. 73

The coastal areas of Hokkaido are suitable for a STM practice since geological data on
the depositional environment has been reported in addition the little influence of artificial
alteration and the wide distribution of wetlands. Since historical records in Hokkaido are limited
to ~200 years, it is important to reconstruct paleoearthquakes using tsunami deposits. Geological

surveys along the Pacific coast of Hokkaido facing the Kuril Trench have suggested the 78 79 occurrence of Mw (moment magnitude) >8 earthquakes in the southern Kuril Trench (Nanayama et al., 2003; Sawai et al., 2009; Sawai, 2020). Generally, tsunami deposits associated with the 80 17th century earthquake are distributed farther inland than other observed tsunami traces, and 81 Mw 8.8 has been estimated using tsunami simulations (Ioki & Tanioka, 2016; Nakanishi et al., 82 2021). In these simulations, the source fault parameters are chosen to reproduce an inundation 83 area covering the distribution of tsunami deposits at some survey sites along the Pacific coast of 84 eastern Hokkaido (Figure 1b). Moreover, the tsunami deposits in the 17th century have been 85 reported in the western Hokkaido from the Hidaka to Iburi regions. To reproduce tsunami 86 deposits from western to the eastern Hokkaido by the same earthquake, a more extensive rupture 87 zone than the conventional model (Sawai, 2020). Moreover, the 17th-century tsunami generation 88 events do not only include the earthquake in the Kuril Trench but also the AD 1640 Mt. 89 Komagatake collapse and the 1611 Keicho tsunami (Figure 1), which potentially originated in 90 the Japan Trench, and their wave height distribution in Hokkaido are unknown. The multiple 91 tsunami candidates complicate the magnitude estimation of Kuril earthquakes. To determine the 92 extent of the rupture zone, comprehensive data must be obtained, especially filling in the blanks 93 94 between the western and eastern Hokkaido. Therefore, Nakanishi et al. (2022) conducted a geological survey to investigate the western extent of tsunami deposits derived from Kuril 95 earthquakes in the Shizunai area in the central Hidaka coast (Figure 1b). Consequently, seven 96 97 tsunami deposit candidate layers were found, and one of them was suggested as a 17th-century event. However, whether sand layers were caused by either tsunamis or storms based on 98 sedimentological features alone, was difficult to determine because the sand distribution were 99 limited in the coastal area. Further, because the tsunami deposit candidate layers are located 100 between Mt. Komagatake and the Kuril Trench (Figure 1), numerical simulations are essential to 101 estimate their wave sources. 102



103

Figure 1. Maps of the study area. (a) Overall view of Japan and the plate boundary; the blue line indicates the 104 105 computational domain (405 m mesh), and the blue-fill zones indicate the wave-source area of the 1611 Keicho 106 tsunami in Imai et al. (2015)'s model. (b) Bathymetry of Northern Japan, showing the rupture zone of the 17th-107 century Kuril Trench earthquake model (gray boxes: Nakanishi et al., 2021), the initial water level due to the 108 collapse of Mt. Komagatake in 1640 (brown broken lines: Nakanishi & Okamura, 2019), and the path of the typhoon 109 model used in the numerical simulation; the gray broken lines show the initial water level of the 2003 Tokachi-oki 110 earthquake tsunami used to validate the tsunami simulations (Romano et al., 2010), and the blue boxes indicate the 111 computational domains (135-, 45-, 15-m meshes). (c) Geological overview map showing the boring sites. The thickness of each sand layer is marked beside the boring sites. (d) DEM data of the Shizunai area; the dotted lines 112 113 delineate the zone of artificial land improvement, and contour lines are 1 m apart. (e) Paleogeography reconstructed 114 from geological data of the Shizunai area around the 17th century; the solid yellow line indicates the boundary of the 115 initial sand-source area, the black crosses indicate the distribution of ES-1, and the dashed lines indicate the survey 116 lines. (f) Paleotopography (high ridge scenario) around 3500 BP; the red dashed line indicates the PBR zone, which 117 is the assumed variable, the solid yellow line indicates the boundary of the source sand, the black crosses indicate 118 the distribution of EI-4, and the purple line indicates the survey Line E.

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In this study, we probed prehistoric tsunami- and storm-induced STM for event layers 120 with an unknown wave source in the Shizunai area, paring down some possible wave sources. To 121 apply STM in a prehistoric period, we attempted to reconstruct paleogeography based on 122 geological information. The parameters difficult to identify were obtained from sensitivity tests, 123 and the effect on STM was discussed. Not only the thicknesses of sand layers, which are usually 124 used for validation, but also sedimentary structures based on the timeseries variation in sediment 125 transport were examined. This study provides essential information on the computational 126 parameters that modelers should consider and the geological information that geologists should 127 collect when applying STM to paleotsunamis. By comparing the simulated and observed 128 sediment features, we estimated which tsunami caused the event layers and finally discuss the 129 rupture zone of the Kuril Trench. 130

131

### 132 2 Study Area

The southern part of the Kuril Trench is being subducted at a rate of ~8 cm/yr (Sella et al., 2002), and M 7–8 earthquakes occur at intervals of 50–100 years (Satake, 2015). These earthquakes occur within in the Tokachi-oki and Nemuro-oki segments, with fault lengths of 100–150 km. The most recent earthquake in the Tokachi-oki segment occurred in 2003, and a fault model of Mw 8.1 was estimated on the basis of a joint inversion of geodetic and tsunami data (Romano et al., 2010). The runup height of the tsunami generated by this earthquake was less than 2 m along the Hidaka coast (Tanioka et al., 2004).

Our study area is the Shizunai area located in the central coast of Hidaka, Hokkaido, 140 where Nakanishi et al. (2022) conducted a detailed geological survey (Figure 1c). The alluvium 141 in the Hidaka area comprises wave-dominated sandy beach deposits that form a Holocene beach 142 ridge system. A paleobeach ridge (PBR), formed after the mid-Holocene highstand, was 143 observed 300 m from the current coastline (Figure 1c). Peat wetlands are developed behind the 144 PBR (I area), and floodplain sediments are distributed on the seaward side (S area). Because 145 there is no tide station in the surrounding area, the mean higher high water and highest 146 astronomical tide for the past 3 years at Tomakomai and Urakawa, neighboring tide stations, 147 were used as a reference (Figure 1b). The mean higher high water and highest astronomical tide 148 are, respectively, 0.37 and 0.60 m at Urakawa and 0.44 and 0.65 m at Tomakomai. Thus, for the 149 study area assumed 0.4 and 0.6 m, respectively. 150

### 151 2.1 Observed Sand Layers

ES-1 (ca. 17th century), ES-2, and ES-3 (ca. 7th–10th century) have been identified as 152 anomalous sand layers in the S area (Nakanishi et al., 2022). ES-1 is distributed over the entire S 153 area but does not exceed the PBR, and ES-2 and ES-3 are distributed almost similarly to ES-1 154 (Figure 1c). From the river's mouth to the northeast, the sand layers are thinning. Vertical grain-155 size changes of the sand layers show a single normal grading structure. In the I area, four event 156 layers (from top to bottom, EI-1, EI-2, EI-3, and EI-4) have been reported between 4,000 and 157 3,000 BP, and the sand layers tend to thin inland (Figure 1c). EI-3 and EI-4 are distributed sheet-158 like, whereas the thicknesses of EI-1 and EI-2 change from a few tens of centimeters to an 159 unrecognizable layer at a distance of  $\sim$ 50 m from the PBR. In EI-1, the grain-size composition is 160 poorly sorted, with a repeated grading structure, whereas the other sand layers show either an 161 inverse-normal grading or a single normal grading structure. Nakanishi et al. (2022) concluded 162

that the event layers, except for EI-1, are probably tsunami deposits because they have similar

164 features to the deposits reported in observed tsunamis. ES-1, EI-3, and EI-4 are in the range of

tsunami recurrence age in the eastern Hokkaido coast, suggesting that they have been derived

166 from tsunamis originating from earthquakes in the Kuril Trench. However, because the

167 distribution of the sand layers is around 100 m from the coastline, there is still a possibility that

- the sand layers were deposited by extreme storms. Furthermore, there are multiple tsunami wave
- source candidates for the 17th century event, but these have not been discussed in detail.

# 170 2.2 Relative Sea Level Changes

To reconstruct the paleomorphology for STM, it was necessary to estimate the relative 171 sea level (RSL) at the time of the events. The RSL changes in Shimokita Peninsula (Figure 1b), 172 based on geological evidence and associated with ice sheet melting during the Holocene, indicate 173 a mid-Holocene highstand range of 0.7–2.1 m, with a peak at 4.000–3.000 BP (Yokoyama et al., 174 175 2012). In the Shizunai area, the mid-Holocene highstand, estimated from a glacial isostatic adjustment (GIA) model without considering crustal movement, is 0.5-2.5 m (Okuno et al., 176 2014). The marine terrace heights of marine isotope stages (MISs) 5e and 7 around Shizunai 177 range in 45-55 and 85-90 m, respectively (Koike & Machida, 2001). Considering the 4-13.5 m 178 sea-level rise in MIS 5e due to GIA (Okuno et al., 2014), the uplift rate was calculated to be 179 0.25–0.40 mm/yr, with a similar uplift rate over MIS 7. Nakanishi et al. (2022) reported sea-level 180 index points corresponding to the mean higher high water and highest astronomical tide based on 181 diatom assemblages and chemical analyses. Comparing these results with the RSL changes based 182 on the GIA model (Figure 2), the trends of the changes were consistent, but the sea-level index 183 points were 1-2 m higher between 5,000 and 4,000 BP. The GIA model shows a difference of  $\sim 1$ 184 m between the Shimokita Peninsula and Shizunai area, which reflects regional isostatic 185 differences (Okuno et al., 2014). Therefore, we varied the slope of the RSL curve to a tangent of 186 the sea-level index points. The revised RSL curve based on sea-level index points at 4 m above 187 present sea level (asl) during 5,000-4,000 BP agreed with the sea-level index points around 188 1,300 BP, which was also within the range of the 6,000-BP RSL estimated by Okuno et al. 189 (2014). The sea-level index points at 5 m asl were rejected because the estimated mean sea level 190 191 exceeded the sea-level index points around 1,300 BP and the RSL based on the GIA model. According to this estimation curve, the estimated RSL at the time of the events was ~0.3-m asl 192 during the 17th century (ES-1), ~1 m asl during the 7th–10th centuries (ES-2 and ES-3), 3–3.5 m 193 asl from 3,500 to 3,000 BP (EI-1 and EI-2), and 3.5-4 m asl from 4,000 to 3,500 BP (EI-3 and 194 EI-4). As the paleo-sea level and tide level at the time of the event could not be uniquely 195 determined, we estimated the paleo-sea level from the RSL change curves for each event 196 occurrence considering the current tidal change levels ( $\pm 0.5$  m) as the error. 197



198 Figure 2. Estimated RSL change curves in the Shizunai area. The green-fill displays a RSL curve estimated from the 199 200 GIA model around the Shimokita Peninsula (Yokoyama et al., 2012) and the crustal deformation range of the 201 Shizunai area. Black bars indicate the RSL estimated by Okuno et al. (2014)'s GIA model with crustal deformation 202 around the Shizunai area. The T-shape indicates the sea-level index points with error as the tide ranges in the 203 Shizunai area (Nakanishi et al., 2022). The blue dotted and gray lines show the estimated RSL curve adjusted to the 204 sea-level index points and the rejected RSL curve, respectively. The color bars indicate the paleodepositional 205 environment and depositional age of the sand layers in the Shizunai area (Nakanishi et al., 2022). 206

#### 207 2.3 Paleogeomorphology

To reproduce the paleogeomorphology, 5-m mesh data were used to eliminate artificial 208 structures (i.e., roads and railroad tracks) and reconstruct the estuary, beach ridge, and ground 209 surface based on the geological information (Figure 1d–f). The paleotopographies of the 17th 210 211 century and 3,500 BP were created. Artificial structures and embankments were removed as the 17th-century topography (Figure 1d) based on aerial photographs from the 1940s and 212 topographic maps from the 1880s. Landowner interviews determined that the pastureland in the 213 S area had been reclaimed. The elevation of the 17th-century ground surface was interpolated 214 using the depth of AD 1663 Usu tephra obtained from the pasture periphery. According to 215 Nakanishi et al. (2022), brackish water entered around the river mouth (Line C: Figure 1c). 216 Therefore, the steep landform that separates the S area from the river mouth (now covered by a 217 national highway) was smoothed. Based on the 1940s' aerial photographs, we assumed that the 218 Yura River flowed directly to the sea. The presence of old rivers along Line B and the low 219 organic matter content of the river floodplain before the 17th century suggested that the S area 220 was a lowland with little vegetation. The shallow bathymetry was supplemented from the 221 surrounding area data because no data were available. Detailed shallow-water isobath in 222 Tomakomai (Japan Coast Guard, 1982), located northwest of Shizunai (Figure 1b), shows 223 generally smooth topography along the coastline, with slopes ranging from 7/1000 to 5/1000. 224 The shallow bathymetry of the study area was interpolated to follow a  $\sim 6/1000$  slope. The 17th 225 century bathymetry reconstructs a gently sloping fan-delta topography in front of the river 226 mouth. 227

The 3,500-BP topography was created as the period from the mid-Holocene highstand to the sea regression when the PBR was a beach (Figure 1f). The topography was revised to the basal level of the EI-4 layer. The PBR was assumed to have gradually developed from a tidal flat

environment before 5,000 BP and reached its current height around 2,000 BP, based on the 231 distribution of volcanic ash (Nakanishi et al., 2022). Seawater inflow ceased around 4,000 BP, 232 which was considered the initial stage of PBR formation. It was assumed that the development of 233 the PBR was progressing since the depositional environment was closed during 3,500–3,000 BP. 234 However, we were unable to obtain any materials to estimate the exact height of the PBR when 235 the event occurred. Dune and embankment heights considerably affect an inundation and sand-236 layer distribution (Sugawara, 2019). Therefore, we assumed the intermediate ridge (medium 237 ridge) height between the current PBR height (high ridge) and flat topography (low ridge). The 238 current PBR is slightly lower in the middle area parallel to the shore, as reflected in the shape of 239 all beach ridges (Figure 1f). The seaward side of the PBR was reconstructed as a gently sloping 240 beach. The coastline and isobath were designed parallel to the marine erosion cliffs and the 241 distance from PBR depend on the estimated sea levels and slope. The seafloor slope is estimated 242 to have changed, reflecting the dynamic equilibrium due to sea-level rising (Bruun, 1962). 243 Therefore, the slope was estimated from the beach ridge migration and sea level rise using the 244 Bruun rule (Bruun, 1962). The shallow-water bathymetry was interpolated with a slope of 245

- 246 9/1000–16/1000 based on the results.
- 247

# 248 **3. Methods**

### 249 3.1 Wave Propagation and Sediment Transport

Wave propagation calculation and STM were performed using Delft-3D (Delfters, 2020), 250 which has been employed to reproduce many observed tsunamis and storm surges and laboratory 251 experiments (see, e.g., Apotsos et al., 2011a, b, c; Lesser et al., 2004; Li & Huang, 2013; van 252 Ormondt et al., 2020; Watanabe et al., 2017, 2018). The governing equations comprise 253 horizontal depth-averaged momentum equations, a depth-averaged continuity equation, and a 254 transport equation (Delfters, 2020). Particularly, the wave propagation calculation used Delft-3D 255 Flow module nonlinear shallow water equations with a finite difference scheme on a staggered 256 grid (Stelling & van Kester, 1994). The reproducibility of the tsunami simulation was verified 257 using the 2003 Tokachi-oki earthquake fault model and tsunami data (Romano et al., 2010). The 258 results of the Delft-3D simulation were comparable to those of Romano et al. (2010) for the 259 coastal areas of Tokachi and Hidaka (Figure S1). Storm hydrodynamics was calculated by 260 coupling the Delft-3D-Flow module and SWAN (Booij et al., 1999; Watanabe et al., 2017, 2018). 261 Because storm surges are strongly influenced by tides, tidal change was obtained from the 262 TPXO7.2 database as the base boundary condition. Storm waves due to wind were calculated by 263 SWAN, and the Flow module was employed for the wave propagation calculations using 264 alternately handing over data. 265

Topography and bathymetry data were nested at 405, 135, 45, 15, and 5-m mesh sizes. 266 The bathymetry data were from the Japan Oceanographic Data Center and the Japan 267 Hydrographic Association M7000 series, whereas the topography data were from the ASTER 268 GDEM, Version 3, Shuttle Radar Topography Mission and Geographical Survey Institute 5-m 269 mesh digital elevation model (DEM). To stabilize the calculations, the time step for the 5-m 270 mesh domain was set to 0.1 s, and the computation time was 3, 18, and 12 h for tsunamis, tide 271 changes, and storm surge and wave, respectively. The tsunami wave heights were confirmed 272 insufficient to cause land flooding after 3 h. 273

The bedload and suspended load transport of non-cohesive sediments were calculated in 274 the 5-m mesh domain following van Rijn (1993). The sediment transport was solved as a coupled 275 equation using the mass conservation and continuity equations in a single vertical layer to reduce 276 the computational time; the coupled equation could reproduce realistic tsunami and storm 277 deposits (Watanabe et al., 2017, 2018). The settling velocity was calculated following van Rijn 278 (1993)'s method based on sediment diameter and the relative density of the grain size. The 279 reference height for sediment exchange with a bed was based on the bed roughness at each step 280 (van Rijn, 1993), and the thickness of the sediment was updated at every time step to reflect the 281

transported sediment.

### 283 3.2 Tsunamis and Storm Source Models

284 Source candidates for the 17th century tsunami in the Hidaka region included the Kuril Trench earthquake, AD 1640 Mt. Komagatake collapse, and AD 1611 Keicho tsunami (Sawai, 285 2020; Nakanishi et al., 2022: Figure 1). A fault model was proposed for the 17th century Kuril 286 Trench earthquake to simulate an inundation area that roughly covered tsunami deposits from 287 Nemuro to Erimo (Satake et al., 2008; Ioki & Tanioka, 2016; Nakanishi et al., 2021). This model 288 does not fully address the issues of the unknown extent of the rupture zone from east to west and 289 too high wave heights in the Tohoku region (Satake et al., 2008). The tsunami induced by the 290 collapse of Mt. Komagatake was described to have killed at least 700 people in historical 291 documents (Nishimura & Miyaji, 1995). The estimated initial wave heights of this event 292 reproduced tsunami deposits extending from Uchiura Bay to the western Iburi coast, consistent 293 294 with the volume of debris that flowed into the sea (Nakanishi & Okamura, 2019). According to historical documents, the AD 1611 Keicho tsunami caused tremendous damage in the Tohoku 295 region but no major seismic motions. Therefore, theories include tsunami earthquakes (i.e., in the 296 outer rises or the Kuril Trench) and submarine landslides, but the wave sources are 297 nonconsensual (Sawai, 2020); Imai et al. (2015) estimated the rupture zone (Mw 8.4-8.7) in the 298 Japan Trench by inverting multiple faults based on the record of tsunami run-ups. However, the 299 wave heights of these models are 2–3 m even in the northern Shimokita Peninsula (Figure 1a); 300 thus, the tsunami heights in the Shizunai area are estimated to be about the same as those of 301 302 historical tsunamis. We used the 17th-century earthquake (Ts: Nakanishi et al., 2021) model as the Kuril Trench earthquake to validate the wave source of the event layers in the Shizunai area 303 (Figure 1b). This model, based on Ioki & Tanioka (2016)'s model, divides the area into three 304 regions with different slip values: the Tokachi-oki segment, 10 m; the Nemuro-oki segment, 5 m, 305 and the shallow segment, 25 m. The shallow segment was based on the shallow slip that caused 306 high wave heights in the Tohoku region in 2011 (Satake et al., 2013). Additionally, the Tokachi-307 oki segment had a 70-km modified fault width to cover tsunami deposits in the Erimo area 308 (Nakanishi et al., 2021). Although many uncertainties remain in the model, this study has not 309 reached a model modification because it cannot be constrained a fault parameter by a single site 310 study. The initial wave height by the crustal deformation was calculated using the Okada 311 (1985)'s method. The AD 1640 Mt. Komagatake collapse tsunami was modeled under an initial 312 wave height condition (Tv model: Figure 1b), which reproduced the tsunami deposits around 313 Uchiura Bay (Nakanishi & Okamura, 2019). Because no fault model had established Kuril 314 earthquakes before the 17th century, we tentatively used the Ts model for the older events. 315

It was necessary to consider if the deposits were caused by extreme storms because the distribution of the event layers is more limited than that of paleotsunami deposits reported in eastern Hokkaido. Because Hokkaido is located far north of the equator, it is rare for strong

- typhoons to make landfall in this area (Table S1). Over the past 70 years, 27 typhoons have made
- landfall in Hokkaido, 19 of which landed on the Hidaka coast. Because determining the
- parameters of the largest typhoons of the late- to mid-Holocene in Hokkaido is difficult, we
- assume that the typhoon models were excessive scale of Hokkaido, judging from the
- 323 observational record. These models are the largest storm in recorded history in Hokkaido (Sh) at
- 80 kt and 965 hPa, based on the wind speeds and minimum pressures of Typhoon Mireille in
  1991 and Typhoon Shirley in 1965 (Table S1). A Japan's largest storm model (Sj) had a
- minimum pressure in all of Japan and maximum wind speed of 870 hPa and 140 kt, respectively,
- based on Typhoon Tip in 1979—the largest typhoon ever recorded in Japan. The parametric
- 328 wind field was based on Holland et al. (2010)'s wind profile relationships. The radius of the
- typhoon was set to 250 and 370 km for the Sh and Sj models, respectively. The typhoon path was
- set to the highest wave height in the Shizunai area based on the path of Typhoon Chanthu
- 331 (Figure 1a), which caused significant damage in 2016. The forward speed of the typhoon is
- 332 20 km/h, which is the most frequently recorded speed for typhoons approaching Hokkaido
- 333 (Nakajo et al., 2013).

# 334 3.3 Sensitivity Testing

- As well as wave height, STM is affected by topographic and sediment conditions
- (Apotsos et al., 2011b; Gusman et al., 2012, 2018; Li et al., 2012, 2014; Sugawara, 2019;

337 Sugawara et al., 2014b, 2019; Watanabe et al., 2017, 2021). Therefore, we performed sensitivity

- tests in the realistic parameter ranges that may have affected STM (Table 1).
- 339

340 Table 1. Parameters of the sediment transport modeling scenario. Sensitive test

	Case	Initial bed	Sea level	Source roughness	Land roughness	Grain size	Bathymetory Slope
	AIBM25	All area	+ 0.5 m	0.025	0.025	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	6/1000
	AIBM20	All area	+ 0.5 m	0.020	0.020	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	6/1000
	GS13	Sand area	+ 0.5 m	0.025	0.025	0.13 mm	6/1000
	GS44	Sand area	+ 0.5 m	0.025	0.025	0.44 mm	6/1000
	S25L25	Sand area	+ 0.5 m	0.025	0.025	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	6/1000
	S25L20	Sand area	+ 0.5 m	0.025	0.020	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	6/1000
	S25L30	Sand area	+ 0.5 m	0.025	0.030	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	6/1000
	S20L25	Sand area	+ 0.5 m	0.020	0.025	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	6/1000
	S30L25	Sand area	+ 0.5 m	0.030	0.025	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	6/1000
	S20L20	Sand area	+ 0.5 m	0.020	0.020	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	6/1000
	BS3	Sand area	+ 0 m	0.020	0.020	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	3/1000
	BS6	Sand area	+ 0 m	0.020	0.020	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	6/1000
_	BS12	Sand area	+ 0 m	0.020	0.020	0.13 mm, 0.44 mm	12/1000

341 342

S area	(ES-1~ES-3)
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Scenario	Wave source	Adjusted level	Source roughness
Ts0mM20	17th century Kurile earthquake	0 m	0.020
Ts0mM25	17th century Kurile earthquake	0 m	0.025
Ts0.5mM20	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 0.5 m	0.020
Ts0.5mM25	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 0.5 m	0.025
Ts1mM20	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 1 m	0.020
Ts1mM25	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 1 m	0.025
Tv1mM20	Komagatake IWL98m	+ 1 m	0.020
Sj1mM20	Japan largest typhoon	+ 1 m	0.020
Sj1mM25	Japan largest typhoon	+ 1 m	0.025
Sh1mM20	Hokkaido largest typhoon	+ 1 m	0.020
Sh1mM25	Hokkaido largest typhoon	+ 1 m	0.025

I area (EI-1~EI-4)						
Scenario	Wave source	Adjusted level	Source/Land roughness	Beach ridge height		
Ts3mRh	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 3 m	0.025	High		
Ts3mRm	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 3 m	0.025	Medium		
Ts3.5mRh	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 3.5 m	0.025	High		
Ts3.5mRm	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 3.5 m	0.025	Medium		
Ts3.5mRI	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 3.5 m	0.025	Low		
Ts4mRm	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 4 m	0.025	Medium		
Ts4mRI	17th century Kurile earthquake	+ 4 m	0.025	Low		
Sj3mRh	Japan largest typhoon	+ 3 m	0.025	High		
Sj3mRm	Japan largest typhoon	+ 3 m	0.025	Medium		
Sj3.5mRh	Japan largest typhoon	+ 3.5 m	0.025	High		
Sj3.5mRm	Japan largest typhoon	+ 3.5 m	0.025	Medium		
Sj3.5mRI	Japan largest typhoon	+ 3.5 m	0.025	Low		
Sj4mRm	Japan largest typhoon	+ 4 m	0.025	Medium		
Sj4mRI	Japan largest typhoon	+ 4 m	0.025	Low		
Sh3mRh	Hokkaido largest typhoon	+ 3 m	0.025	High		
Sh3mRm	Hokkaido largest typhoon	+ 3 m	0.025	Medium		
Sh3.5mRh	Hokkaido largest typhoon	+ 3.5 m	0.025	High		
Sh3.5mRm	Hokkaido largest typhoon	+ 3.5 m	0.025	Medium		
Sh3.5mRI	Hokkaido largest typhoon	+ 3.5 m	0.025	Low		
Sh4mRm	Hokkaido largest typhoon	+ 4 m	0.025	Medium		
Sh4mRI	Hokkaido largest typhoon	+ 4 m	0.025	Low		

345 Gray color indicates the scenarios no overflow scenarios

To confirm the influence of the initial source-sand thickness, STM was also performed 346 under the condition that the entire area could be a sand source as a control experiment (Table 1). 347 The entire sand source scenario (AIBM20) for both survey lines overestimated the source-sand 348 area and layer thickness due to unrealistic sand sources (Figure 3); erosion occurred at sites 349 where the mud was distributed as surface sediment according to the geological survey 350 (Nakanishi et al., 2022). The initial source-sand thickness of the observed sediments was set as 351 the distribution of sandy beaches and rivers based on the geological information (Figure 1e), 352 indicating that the initial source-sand thickness was 0 m in the area where peatland and 353 floodplain sediments were distributed. The initial source-sand thickness was confirmed to be 354 greater than the maximum erosion thickness to ensure that the supply of sand is sufficient. 355



356

Figure 3. Sensitivity test results of STM along Lines A and B. Markers indicate the thickness of the observed sand layers. The scenario conditions are summarized in Table 1.

359

Because the roughness coefficient of sand sources significant effect on sediment transport 360 (Li & Huang, 2013; Li et al., 2014; Sugawara et al., 2014b; Watanabe et al., 2017), we 361 performed a control experiment using the reported Manning's roughness coefficient, ranging 362 from 0.020 to 0.030 m<sup>-1/3</sup>s (Apotsos et al., 2011b; Kaiser et al., 2011; Kotani et al., 1998). 363 Manning's roughness coefficients of 0.025 and 0.030  $m^{-1/3}$ s had the same distribution area, 364 although the layer thicknesses were 1.5–2 times different (Figure 3). The scenario of Manning's 365 roughness coefficient of  $0.020 \text{ m}^{-1/3}$ s produced thicker layer and a wider inland distribution area, 366 indicating that the roughness coefficient of the source was sensitive to STM. Therefore, 367 calculations were performed using both the widely used condition of  $0.025 \text{ m}^{-1/3}\text{s}$  and the 368 condition of 0.020 m<sup>-1/3</sup>s. Terrestrial roughness coefficients vary with land surface morphology 369 and vegetation density (Jaffe et al., 2012; Kaiser et al., 2011; Kotani et al., 1998; Sugawara et al., 370 2014b). Based on geological information, the terrestrial environment in the I area in 4,000–3,000 371 BP was estimated to be supratidal to freshwater marsh (Nakanishi et al., 2022). The S area was 372 estimated to have been bare ground with an organic matter concentration of < 1%. These ground 373 surfaces were considered to have a Manning's roughness coefficient range of 0.020-0.030 m<sup>-1/3</sup>s 374 (Jaffe et al., 2012; Kotani et al., 1998; Sugawara et al., 2014b). By only varying the terrestrial 375 roughness coefficient, the results of STM were between 0.02 and 0.03  $m^{-1/3}$ s, which did not 376 considerably affect on the layer thickness distribution (Figure 3). Therefore, the S area was set to 377  $0.020 \text{ m}^{-1/3}$ s as bare ground, and the I area was set to  $0.025 \text{ m}^{-1/3}$ s as a water body based on 378 Kotani et al. (1998). Seafloor roughness was set to  $0.025 \text{ m}^{-1/3}$ s (Kotani et al., 1998). 379

The simulated grain-size composition was based on the event layers and sources. Based on grain size, the event layer sources were determined to be beach and estuarine sands. The mean diameters ranged from 1.0 to 0.125 mm for most sand layers, with modes at 0.44 and 0.13 mm (Nakanishi et al., 2022). As a sensitivity test, we used either a single grain size (0.13 or 0.44 mm) or mixed sand (1:1 ratio of 0.13 and 0.44 mm) to assess how the distribution changed (i.e., a normal distribution with D10 =  $0.75 \times D50$  and D90 =  $1.5 \times D50$ ). The single 0.44 mm case had a narrow distribution area and thick layers, whereas the single 0.13 mm case had a wide
distribution and thin layers (Figure 3). The mixed sand scenario showed a broad thin layer and a
thick layer near the sand source. Gusman et al. (2018) suggested that mixed sand reproduces
actual sediment well, so mixed sand close to the actual source grain size was used to monitor
sedimentary structures.

391 The slope of the seafloor affects STM because it is related to reducing flow velocity. This study reproduced realistic seafloor topography with reference to the shallow-water bathymetry in 392 the surrounding area, and the sensitivity for the extent of the estimated sediments when the slope 393 differs was investigated. Sensitivity tests were performed on realistic and extreme isobaths with 394 slopes of 3/1000 and 12/1000 (Figure 3). The 12/1000 slope scenario showed similar results to 395 the realistic scenario, despite the twice higher angle. Because the 3/1000 slope is a stretch of 396 shallow water, sand deposition begins seaward and does not extend inland due to deceleration 397 offshore. 398

399

### 400 **4 Results**

### 401 4.1 Wave Form

The maximum tidal range used to calculate the storm was 2 m, with a peak at 11 hr (Figure 4). The storm track was set as land near Shizunai at the time of the tidal peak. In response to low atmospheric pressure, the Sj and Sh models simulated maximum wave heights of 2.5 and 1.5 m, respectively. The corresponding net water level rises due to the typhoon were 1.5 and 0.5 m. The wind direction changed from south–southeast to northwest after landfall.



407

Figure 4. Wave amplitudes, atmospheric pressure and wind speed obtained by numerical simulations of the tsunami and storm models. (a) Amplitudes of tsunamis due to the 17th-century Kuril earthquake and 1640 mountain collapse.
(b) Wave amplitudes induced by storms, accounting for tidal changes. (c) Timeseries of changes in air pressure and

411 wind speed/direction caused by the storm models.

The tsunami induced by the Ts model was 0.5–2 m in the first to fourth waves off Shizunai, but the fifth to seventh waves tended to be higher, ranging from 2 to 3.5 m in height. These large amplitudes of subsequent waves were attributed to the edge waves and the tsunami caused by the 2003 Tokachi-oki earthquake (Tanioka et al., 2004; Supporting information S2).

417 The tsunami induced by the Tv model had a maximum wave height of < 2 m in the first wave

and a decaying profile after the second wave.

<sup>412</sup> 

419 4.2 Modeling of 7th–17th Century Inundation and Sediment Transport

# 420 **4.2.1 Tsunami models**

The inundation path by the Ts model was limited to the river mouth due to the presence 421 of 6-m-high dunes (Figure 5). The tsunami inundation area for all sea level scenarios did not 422 exceed the PBR. Higher sea level scenarios tended to have wider inundation areas. The tsunami 423 inflow eroded the entire river mouth, and sand was deposited immediately landward in both 424 425 tsunami models (Figure 5a–g). The sediment thickness by the Ts model was thick near the estuary and thinner inland; this trend was the same regardless of the roughness coefficient and 426 sea level. Higher sea level scenarios show wider sediment distributions, but the layer thickness 427 does not change much (Figure 5a-c). Smaller scenarios for source roughness displayed slightly 428 wider and thicker sand layers. The sediment transport by the Tv model only occurred within a 429 limited area in the estuary, and there was little difference between the inundation area and 430 431 sediment distribution (Figure 5g).





Figure 5. Cumulative sedimentation and erosion amount estimated using STM in the S area; the green dotted lines indicate the maximum inundation area; and the black crosses indicate the distribution of ES-1. 434

435

436 Figure 6 shows the succession of hydraulic conditions and sediment transport for the +1m sea level and  $0.020 \text{ m}^{-1/3}$ s roughness scenario at LB1 (Figure 1c). An 8-cm sand layer was 437 deposited by the first and sixth waves (Figure 6a). On the inflow of the seventh wave, the largest 438

- 439 wave, most sediment was eroded, and then a 5-cm sand layer was deposited. The return flow
- 440 eroded ~1 cm sand, leaving a 4-cm sand layer. The grain size of the sand layer was 0.13 mm
- 441 with twice the flux of the 0.44 mm component. These sands were transported only in suspension.



442

Figure 6. Timeseries of hydrodynamic and sediment transport and the sedimentary structures estimated using STMs at LB1. In the Ts (a) and Sj (b) models, the timeseries of water level, sediment thickness, transport flux for each transport mode, flow velocity, and transport flux for each grain-size composition are shown. The sedimentary structures inferred from STM using the Ts (c) and Sj (d) models, and observed ES-1.

### 448 **4.2.2 Storm models**

The inundation by the Sh and Sj models did not reach the PBR, even when the mean sea level was set to + 1 m (Figure 5hi). The erosion and sedimentation by the Sj model was limited to an area between the river mouth and land, showing discontinuous thickness distributions parallel to the coastline (Figure 5h). The Sh model showed little sediment transport (Figure 5i).

For the succession of hydraulic conditions, the Sj model at LB1 shows that the wave height increased after the typhoon landfall, and gradual sedimentation occurred in 720–790 min (Figure 6b). Therefore, ~10 cm of erosion occurred, but a return flow component was unobserved, so this sand was transported inland. The transport mode was suspension, although a temporary bed load was recognized. The sediments formed during landfall were mostly fine, but the coarse component increased when the layer thickness reached the maximum.

# 459 4.3. Simulation of 4,000–3,000 BP Inundation and Sediment Transport

The results are described for each sea-level scenario (Figure 7). Line E in the center of the I area perpendicular to the coastline was used as the survey line (Figure 1f) because the boring site was near a cliff and the mesh size of the DEM data was on average 5 m, which differed from the actual topography in places.



464

Figure 7. Cumulative sedimentation and erosion amount estimated using STM in the I area; the green dotted line
 indicates the maximum inundation area, and the black crosses indicate the distribution of EI-4.

#### 468 **4.3.1 4,000 BP (+ 4 m sea level)**

The low and medium ridge scenarios were simulated at 4,000 BP because the PBR was not well developed (Nakanishi et al., 2022).

471 Tsunami model

483

The extent of the simulated tsunami inundation was 4–5 m asl (Figure 7ab). The estimated sediment distribution showed a sheet-like distribution of a few centimeters in the low ridge scenario (Figure 7a), whereas a localized, thick sand layer behind the PBR was confirmed in the medium ridge scenario (Figure 7b). Both ridge scenarios exhibited erosion at the top of and beyond the PBR, following outwash deposited in lobe-shape in shallow water.

The timeseries at point P (Figure 7a) of the medium ridge scenarios are shown in Figure 8. The overflow and sediment transport occurred in the first and the fifth to seventh waves. The first and sixth waves deposited 6- and 2-cm sand, respectively, but the layers were eroded by the return flow and the seventh wave, and the sand layer formed by the first wave remained. The transport mode was dominated by the suspension, and the grain-size composition was almost equal amounts of fine and coarse components.





484

Figure 8. Timeseries of hydrodynamic and sediment transport and sedimentary structures estimated using STM at point P (Figure 7a). The Ts (a) and Sj (b) models in the medium ridge scenarios, and the low (c), medium (d), and high (e) ridge scenarios of the Ts model show the timeseries of water level, sediment thickness, transport flux in each transport mode, flow velocity, and transport flux of each grain-size composition. The sedimentary structures inferred from the Ts (f) and Sj (g) models in the medium ridge scenarios, and the low (h), medium (i), and high (j) ridge scenarios of the Ts model. Columnar diagrams of the sand layers observed at LA7 (Figure 1c) are shown for comparison.

#### 492 Storm models

In the low ridge, the extent of the inundation by the Sh and Sj models was 3–5 m asl (Figure 7ce). In the medium ridge scenarios, the Sh model exhibited no inundation beyond the PBR, but the Sj models showed ~4 m asl of inundation (Figure 7d). The sediment distribution estimated using the Sh model was limited to around the PBR (Figure 7e). The Sj model showed a gradual inland thinning inland, and the lower ridge scenario formed a thicker sand layer slightly further inland. The simulated sediments using the Sj model (medium ridge scenario) were repeatedly deposited and eroded for more than 300 min after landfall (Figure 8b), following an additional 2cm thick sand layer deposited by storm waves. The dominant transport mode was suspension. Up to 720 min, the grain-size composition was almost equal amounts of fine and coarse components, but as the influence of the storm waves decreased, the fine component became dominant.

# 504 **4.3.2 3,500 BP (+ 3.5 m sea level)**

# 505 Tsunami model

All ridge scenarios showed inundation up to 3–4 m asl over the PBR (Figure 7f–h). The low ridge scenario formed a thin sheet-like layer in the medium and high ridge scenarios, showed a localized thick layer beyond the PBR, and showed gradually thinning inland. In the medium ridge scenario, the relatively lower part of the PBR was eroded, following sand deposited beyond the PBR or discharged into the sea (Figure 7g). In the high ridge scenario, the area beyond the PBR was eroded, and no sand was discharged to sea by the subsequent return flow (Figure 7h).

512 A timeseries of the hydrodynamic and sediment transport at point P beyond the PBR was compared for each ridge-height scenario (Figure 8c-e). In the low ridge scenario, sand layers 513 were deposited in the first and fifth waves, but the final layer thickness was only ~2 cm (Figure 514 8c). A fast return flow with the same velocity as the inflow was observed. In the medium ridge 515 scenario (Figure 8d), a 9-cm sand layer was deposited by the first and fifth waves, but 1.5-cm 516 sand was then eroded by the sixth and seventh waves. The grain size of the sand layer was 517 dominated by the fine component in the first wave, and the coarse component exceeded the fine 518 component in the fifth wave. Most sand layers were transported by suspension, with limited 519 bedload transport. In the high ridge scenario, the fifth wave created sediment transport by 520 suspension, forming a 6-cm sand layer (Figure 8e). The grain-size composition showed a slightly 521 higher proportion of the fine component than the coarse component. 522

523 Storm models

In the Sh models, no PBR overflow was observed, even in the low ridge scenario. The Sj models inundated over the PBR up to ~3 m asl in the low and medium ridge scenarios and the inundation area was the same in both scenarios (Figure 7ij). Meanwhile, no overflow occurred in the high ridge scenario. The low ridge scenario showed erosion and sedimentation of the entire PBR, whereas the medium ridge scenario showed inundation from a relatively lower part of the PBR and a small amount of sedimentation in the I area.

# 530 **4.3.3 3,000 BP (+ 3 m sea level)**

Because the depositional environment in this period was a closed freshwater swamp (Nakanishi et al., 2022), the medium and high ridge scenarios were employed. In the Ts model, overflow was observed in both ridge scenarios, but little deposition occurred over the PBR (Figure 7kl). In the storm model, no inundation occurred over the PBR in either scenario.

535

# 536 **5 Discussion**

537 5.1 Variation in Simulated Sediments According to Selected Parameters

# 538 **5.1.1 Roughness coefficient**

A roughness coefficient is related to a friction velocity, thereby affecting entrainment 539 from a sediment source and a reduction in velocity. Many studies reported that the roughness 540 coefficient of the source area and the inland area has a significant influence on the distribution of 541 sediments (e.g., Li et al., 2014; Sugawara et al., 2014a). The tsunami simulations formed thick 542 sediments in low roughness-coefficient scenarios, and their distribution tended slightly to extend 543 inland (Figures 3 and 9). The roughness coefficient of the sand source area was a controlling 544 factor for the layer thickness rather than the sediment distribution area because of its effect on 545 the extent of erosion. The roughness coefficient on land, which is related to flow deceleration, is 546 unaffected by a difference of ~ $0.01 \text{ m}^{-1/3}$ s (Figure 3). The results means that these uncertainties 547 can be reduced by obtaining information on the depositional environment through light-element 548 and diatom analyses. The storm simulations formed thicker sediments in the lower roughness-549 coefficient scenarios, whereas the distribution did not change significantly. Because of the 550 potential for differences between tsunami and storm simulations, the roughness coefficient 551

should be properly set based on geologic data.



553 554

554 Figure 9. Thicknesses of the observed sand layers (indicated by markers) and estimated layer thicknesses using STM

555 on the survey lines (Figure 1).

#### 556

### 557 5.1.2 Initial source-sand area

It has been reported that when an initial source sand area is limited by a bottom sediment 558 type, the calculated sediment distribution and thickness are also very restricted (Apotsos, 2011b; 559 Li et al., 2014). The sensitivity tests indicated that if an unrealistically wide initial sand source is 560 set up due to unclear bottom sediment quality in the prehistoric period, sand will be supplied 561 from areas where the bottom sediment is essentially mud and the estimated sediment distribution 562 will be overestimated (Figure 3). However, the unlimited initial source area scenarios displayed 563 the sediment distribution that covered the observed sand layer on Line B, even in the medium 564 sea-level scenario, because the sand was eroded slightly further inland than the setting initial 565 source area, suggesting that a slight change in the source area causes significant variation in the 566 estimated sediment distribution. Because the little geological data may have overlooked local 567 sand sources, especially when the event layers are limited to the coastal area, a more 568 comprehensive geological investigation is required. 569

# 570 **5.1.3 Paleotopography and bathymetry**

The importance of coastal topography in STM is emphasized by 2D modeling with 571 different slopes (Watanabe et al., 2021; Gusman et al., 2012). The I and S areas have different 572 coastal topography on the coastline, beach ridge height and the river mouth (Figure 1ef). The 573 simulated tsunami entered the S area only at the river mouth, thus its location and width or length 574 may affect the simulation results. The sediment thickness profiles are considerably affected by 575 different topographies (Figure 9) as a thick layer in front of a steep slope (100 m from the 576 coastline) on Line A and distributed in sheets on Line B. Meanwhile, the sedimentary structures 577 are common to both Lines A and E (Figures 6 and 8). Sedimentary structures reflecting wave 578 characteristics are not as sensitive to the topography as layer thickness distributions and may be 579 useful proxies even when there is high uncertainty in the paleotopography. Storm deposits are 580 more sensitive to topographic effects because the amounts of sand transported by the Sj model 581 were larger and more inland in the I area than in the S area (Figures 5h and 7c). The simulated 582 storm sediments showed that high waves and sediment transport occurred in a specific wind 583 direction because the S area is located at the end of a path that leads through the intricate 584 topography of the river mouth (Figure 5). This result can be explained by the narrow topography 585 as a gate for waves in the S area, whereas the I area is directly connected to the beach across the 586 PBR. 587

Bathymetries are uncertainties owing to the difficulty reconstructing more than 588 paleotopography. The sensitivity tests showed that extreme gently sloping bathymetries 589 underestimate onshore sediment distribution (Figure 3). When the sea transgressed, a simple 590 591 interpolation between the highstand shoreline and the current bathymetry resulted in the reconstruction of these extremely gently sloping bathymetries. Such bathymetries are unrealistic 592 when considering the dynamic equilibrium of the shoreline; therefore, the shallow-water 593 bathymetry using the knowledge of coastal evolution must be reconstructed. Moreover, no 594 significant effects were observed on extremely steep slopes. Therefore, the bathymetry 595 uncertainty used in the STM for 4,000–3,000 BP should influence the results minutely. 596

### 597 **5.1.4 Beach ridge height on coastal evolution process**

The height of the beach ridge has a significant impact on not only overflow but also the 598 amount of erosion and sedimentation caused by supercritical flows (Sugawara, 2019). The 599 simulated results for the I area showed that the estimated sediment distribution changed 600 significantly depending on the beach ridge height. In the low ridge scenarios, the estimated 601 sediment thickness was thin because the sediments, once transported to the I area, were 602 discharged directly to the sea by return flow (Supporting information S3). In the medium ridge 603 scenarios, localized thick sedimentation occurred beyond the PBR because the beach ridge 604 decreased the inflow velocity and the suspended sand was deposited beyond the PBR (Figures 605 7bg and 8ac). The return flows were also depressed by the ridge, preventing the sand from 606 flowing out to the sea. In the high ridge scenarios, if the difference between sea-level and top of 607 ridge was more than 3.5 m, the simulated tsunami could not overflow the PBR due to prevention 608 by the high ridge (Supporting information S4). Higher sea-level scenarios showed thinner 609 sediments, even if the ridge was well developed (Figure 7h). In this case, the overflow was 610 trapped by the PBR, and sand transported by suspension settled in a near-hydrostatic state 611 because the water level is constant after inundation (Figure 8e). Ridge development varies on the 612 order of hundreds to thousands of years, which has important implications for reconstructing of 613

# tsunami deposits from earthquakes with an interval of several hundred years.

### 615 5.1.5 Relative sea level

The simulated results showed that the higher sea level, the more inland the inundation and sediment transport, but the effect on the sediment thickness and distribution was less than that of the beach ridge height. However, sea level changes were critical factors in STM because they are related to the development of a beach ridge.

5.2 Comparing Simulated Sediment of Tsunami and Storm

Differences were found in the areas where erosion and sedimentation occurred for 621 tsunami and storm STM. The simulated tsunamis eroded in the areas of variable velocities, such 622 as beach ridges and river mouth, and the transported sediments showed a sheet-like sand layer 623 that extended inland (Figures 5 and 7). The simulated storms tended to erode heterogeneously 624 along the coastline, depositing thick deposits at relative lows in the nearshore area. The 625 difference between the sediment distribution and the inundation area was larger than that for the 626 tsunami models. This difference between the distribution of tsunami and storm deposits was 627 similar to that of STM in the Tohoku region (Watanabe et al., 2018). Tsunamis transport a larger 628 amount of sediment inland than storms because of their high velocity on land, resulting in a wide 629 sheet-like distribution of sediments. Meanwhile, storms show wide inundation of lowlands with 630 gentle slopes, but the distribution of sediments is limited to near the shoreline, and longer 631 inundation duration tends to produce thicker sediments. These characteristics were also observed 632 in the complex topography as the S area and in closed topography with ridge topography as the I 633 area. 634

The sedimentary structures of the sand layers were inferred from the timeseries of the hydrodynamic and sediment transport (Figure 6). The sedimentary structure of the Ts model was estimated to be a single normal grading because the transport mode was suspension and the final deposition was a single transport flow (Figures 6c and 8fhij). Moreover, the simulated storm sediments were estimated the repeated graded structures or massive structures because the flow velocity repeatedly increased and decreased at intervals of a few minutes. Overall, it shows a normal or inverse grading structure reflecting changes in wind speed (Figures 2, 6d and 8g). The

observed tsunami and storm deposits are distinguished by their sedimentary structures (e.g.,

Morton et al., 2007). Tsunamis form grading structure units depending on the number of inflows

and outflows, whereas storms often form many overlapping laminasets that generally show either

normal or inverse grading (Morton et al., 2007). These features are consistent with the
 sedimentary structures inferred from the timeseries variation in transport mode and grain size

composition by STM. Sedimentary structures estimated using STM are a proxies to identify

tsunami sediments even when it is difficult to distinguish based on sediment distributions.

5.3 Consistency Between the Observed and Simulated Sediments

### 650 **5.3.1 7th–17th century event layers (S area)**

651 The simulated and observed layer thicknesses were compared along Lines A and B to estimate the wave sources (Figure 9). For the Sj model, no sand was transported inland where 652 sand layers were observed at LA2, LB3, and LB4. Therefore, we concluded that storm models 653 654 were unrealistic for the formation of the event layers in the S area. The Tv model transported little sand inland. Only the + 1-m sea level (source roughness of  $0.020 \text{ m}^{-1/3}$ s) scenario of the Ts 655 model showed the estimated sediments were distributed up to the observed sand layer at LA2. 656 The estimated sedimentary structures were similar to ES-1 in that they show a single-normal 657 grading structure (Figure 6c). Therefore, the Ts model is a realistic candidate for the 17th century 658 event. The significant changes in the depositional environment, such as close to open brackish 659 water, or floodplain to upland environments, have been reported after the deposition of ES-1 and 660 ES-2 at LA1 (Nakanishi et al., 2022). The Ts model indicated that large scale erosion and 661 sedimentation occurred over the land near the river mouth (Figure 5a-f), suggesting that the 662 environment has been temporarily opened due to erosion or changed to an upland environment 663 due to rapid deposition. 664

### 665 **5.3.2 4,000–3,000 BP event layers (I area)**

666 STM using the realistic largest typhoon (Sh) in Hokkaido was found to be inadequate enough to transport a sand layer into the I area (Figure 7e). The sediment distribution estimated 667 by the S<sub>j</sub> model covered the observed distribution in both low and medium ridge scenarios, with 668 a tendency to thin inland (Figure 9). The scenarios where the sea level fell to +3.5 m would not 669 cover the observed sand layers. The unrealistic scale of the Sj model in Hokkaido suggested that 670 a tsunami is a more plausible cause for the formation of EI-3 and EI-4. The sedimentary 671 structures of the simulated storm sediments were unobserved in EI-2, EI-3, and EI-4 (Figure 8), 672 but they were similar to those of EI-1, which was repeatedly graded and became finer overall 673 (Nakanishi et al., 2022). However, considering the sea level during the deposition of EI-1 and the 674 height of the PBR, it was unlikely that EI-1 was transported beyond the back-barrier, even by an 675 overestimated typhoon. 676

As described by Nakanishi et al. (2020, 2022), the simulated results also showed that tsunami deposits were formed only during limited periods due to sea level changes and the development of beach ridges. The low ridge scenario results that only the thin and slight sand layers were formed (Figure 9) was consistent with the survey results that no clear event layer observed in the supratidal and high marsh environments before 4,000 BP (Nakanishi et al., 2022). The high ridge and low sea-level scenarios were recognized as most closely representing the topography after EI-1 deposition. The simulation results that no sand was transported to the I

area (Figure 7kl) was consistent with no event layer being observed in the I area after 3,000 BP 684 (Nakanishi et al., 2022). The medium ridge scenario most closely represented the ridge height 685 between the supratidal (~4,000 BP) and the fixed height of the PBR (~2,000 BP). Therefore, it 686 was considered that these topographic conditions were closest to those during the deposition of 687 EI-1 to EI-4. The medium ridge scenario of Ts model showed the sediment distribution with a 688 gradual decrease inland from 10 cm (Figure 9). This was generally consistent with the observed 689 thickness changes of EI-3 and EI-4. However, quantitative comparisons were difficult because 690 the detail layer thickness was sensitive to many factor (e.g., microtopography or postdepositional 691 effects). The estimated sedimentary structure also comprised multiple or single normal grading 692 units, which was similar to the sedimentary structure of EI-3 and EI-4, respectively (Figure 8fi). 693 694 Following this period, in the high ridge scenario, there is a pronounced normal grading structure with finer sand as EI-2 because a stagnant water condition continued due to the inhibition of the 695 return flow by the PBR (Figure 8j). The tsunami that inundated the I area stressed not only the 696 beach but also the area behind the PBR and cliffs, suggesting that erosion occurred on the beach 697 to peatland (Supporting information S5). The diatom assemblage analysis suggested that the 698 tsunami eroded the seaward ground surface and Paleogene cliffs because the event layers include 699 brackish or Paleogene species (Nakanishi et al., 2022). The results of the STM scenarios as 700 coastal evolution from high sea level and low ridge to low sea level and high ridge generally 701 agree with the interpretation of the event stratigraphy, indicating that the setting parameters are 702 703 reasonable. The STM of paleotsunami is useful not only for identifying the wave source but also for studying the formation potential of event layers. 704

5.4 Wave Source of Tsunami Deposits in the Shizunai Area

The event layer around the 17th century (ES-1) is probably the tsunami deposit because 706 of its similarity in the sedimentary distribution and structures with the sediments calculated using 707 the Ts model. Considering the low probability of the assumption that the sea level is +1 m, 708 which is a high tide in the 17th century (Figure 2), the Ts model (Nakanishi et al., 2021) is the 709 minimum fault model reconstructing the tsunami deposits in the Shizunai area in the Kuril 710 Trench. The volcanic tsunami model did not cover the observed sand layer distribution, and this 711 source model did not account for the collapse process of a debris inflow. Delft-3D cannot 712 account for the highly dispersive nature of volcanic tsunamis (Aptosos et al., 2011a). Therefore, 713 it is necessary to develop a more accurate tsunami source model and a suitable tsunami 714 propagation simulation for a STM in this area. The observed event layers from 4,000 to 3,000 BP 715 (EI-1, EI-2, and EI-3) were reproduced by the 17th-century earthquake model using different 716 717 paleotopographies. Earthquakes of comparable magnitude to the 17th-century earthquake in the Kuril Trench were found to be one of the wave source candidates to explain this tsunami deposit. 718 EI-1, with a layer thickness of more than 30 cm, was not reproduced by the tsunami and storm 719 720 models in all scenarios; however, the sedimentary structure was similar to those of the simulated storm deposits. To identify the wave source of EI-1, it will be necessary to survey the 721 surrounding area to examine the regional extent of the event layer. 722

Although the 17th-century tsunami model is based on tsunami deposits in eastern Hokkaido (Nanayama et al., 2003; Satake et al., 2008; Sawai et al., 2009; Ioki & Tanioka, 2016; Nakanishi et al., 2021), it was found that the 17th century sand layers in the Shizunai area, far west of the Kuril Trench, can be reproduced by a realistic parametric model. However, this rupture zone may be more expansive because it simultaneously reconstructs the distribution of tsunami deposits from western Hokkaido and the Kuril Islands (Ioki & Tanioka, 2017; Sawai,

- 2020). If the 17th century earthquake had a rupture zone extending further west that
- simultaneously reproduced the tsunami deposits in western Hokkaido (Takashimizu et al., 2007,
- 2017), the tsunami height in this area is even higher (e.g., Tetsuka et al., 2020), and the
- discrepancy between the observed and calculated sediments would be larger. Therefore, the
- magnitude of the present fault model on the southwest side of the Kuril Trench is generally appropriate. However, we cannot eliminate the possibility of Mw > 8 earthquakes in areas that
- have not been considered (e.g., off Hidaka or Shimokita Peninsula). On the other hand,
- red sedimentary units of tsunami deposits, which are final traces of repeated deposition and erosion,
- have the potential to reconstruct wave information such as the number of overflows and the
- timing of the peak (Li et al., 2012). This STM results by far- to intermediate-field tsunamis
- model with predominant edge waves from the Kuril Trench were the peak wave of the last wave
- and thus renewed most of the previous sediments (Figures 6 and 8). Near-field tsunamis with a
- peak first wave may have formed multiple grading units, reflecting the decaying subsequentwaves.
- 743

# 744 6 Conclusion

Through the STM of Kuril Trench earthquake-generated tsunamis, volcanic tsunamis, 745 and storm surges/waves, we identified the origin of event layers in the Shizunai area located on 746 the Hidaka coast of Hokkaido. The STM of prehistoric events demonstrated by constraining the 747 numerical parameters using sensitivity tests based on detailed geological surveys. In sensitivity 748 tests of several uncertainty parameters, the beach ridge height and the distribution of the initial 749 sand-source considerably influenced the estimated sediment distribution and sedimentary 750 structures. In particular, a high beach ridge prevents a tsunami overflow inland, whereas an 751 excessively low height causes sand discharge by return flow; these results can reasonably explain 752 the depositional period of the event layers on the coastal evolution processes. In Delft-3D, the 753 initial source sediment thickness can be set for multiple grain sizes, enabling comparisons of the 754 simulated results with sedimentary structures observed in geological surveys, even if the origin 755 of event layers cannot be determined from the layer thickness or distribution. This study 756 provided geological information that should be collected when applying STM to paleotsunamis, 757 and showed that STM are an effective tool for identifying wave sources and tsunami deposits by 758 taking this information into account even in prehistoric periods. 759

The tsunami event by the earthquake model in the Kuril Trench was sufficient to 760 reproduce some sand layers observed over the past several thousand years in the Hidaka region, 761 indicating that the western extension of the rupture zone is almost reasonable. STM through 762 763 tsunami deposits in the same period in several regions can estimate the magnitudes of paleoearthquakes. As more tsunami deposits along the Pacific coast of Hokkaido are studied, the 764 extent of the rupture zone in the Kuril Trench should become more clarified. In particular, STM 765 in several areas along the Hidaka coast will be useful for estimating the minimum seismic 766 magnitude at which tsunami deposits form and for constraining the detailed fault parameters in 767 the Kuril Trench. 768

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### 771 **Open Research**

#### 772 Data Availability Statement

This work relies on open-source code, namely Delft3D-Flow version 3.15 (Deltares, 2020) for

- sediment transport modeling (https://svn.oss.deltares.nl/repos/delft3d/tags/delft3d4/66766). This
- code requires registration to download. Tide level data for the past three years were obtained
- from the JODC Data On-line Service System (Japan Oceanographic Data Center, 2022, April 26:
- <sup>777</sup> https://www.jodc.go.jp/jodcweb/JDOSS/index.html). Both sites include translation functionality.
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