

25 **Abstract**

26 Infrequent megathrust earthquakes, with their complex cycles and rupture modes, require a high-
27 resolution spatiotemporal record of tsunami inundation over thousands of years for more
28 accurate long-term predictions. Geological records suggest that prior to the 17th century, $M_w > 8$
29 earthquakes on the Kuril Trench occurred at intervals of several hundred years. However,
30 uncertainties remain about the rupture zone, owing to limited survey areas and chronological
31 data. Therefore, we investigated tsunami deposits in a coastal wetland of southeastern Hokkaido,
32 Japan, to characterize tsunamis originating from the Kuril Trench over the last 4000 years. On
33 the eastern Erimo coast, ten sand layers were identified that exhibit the common features of
34 tsunami deposits, such as a sheet distribution of several hundred meters, normal grading
35 structure, and a sharp basal contact. According to numerical simulations, the 17th-century sand
36 layer could be reproduced by tsunamis generated using a multiple rupture zone model ($M_w \sim 8.8$).
37 We used high-resolution radiocarbon dating and tephras to correlate tsunami deposits from the
38 last 4000 years with those reported from regions ~ 100 km away. The tsunami history revealed by
39 this study show good agreement with those of the compared regions. However, paleo-tsunamis
40 reported from regions > 200 km away include some events that differ from those in this study,
41 suggesting a diversity of $M_w > 8$ earthquakes in the Kuril Trench. We clarified the history and
42 extent of earthquake-generated tsunamis along the southwestern end of the Kuril Trench, which
43 was previously unknown. Our results provide a framework for magnitude estimations and long-
44 term prediction of earthquakes.

45

46 **Plain Language Summary**

47 Geological evidence over the past several thousand years is essential to improve the long-term
48 predictions of giant earthquakes with recurrence intervals of several hundred years. The
49 correlation of tsunamigenic traces along the Kuril Trench, especially on the southwestern coast,
50 are unclear, hence, it is difficult to obtain information about the recurrence intervals and rupture
51 zone of low-frequency earthquakes. Therefore, we investigated sedimentary records of tsunamis
52 in the southwestern end coast along the Kuril Trench. We newly found the ten layers of sandy
53 tsunami deposits and determined their ages. The tsunami ages over the past 4000 years are
54 consistent with the tsunami history reported in the surrounding areas, indicating the large
55 tsunami spreading along a wider coastline than previously known. The possible presence of such
56 tsunamis is also supported by the numerical modeling of the tsunami caused by the $M_w \sim 8.8$
57 earthquake in the 17th century. The tsunami history revealed in this area will provide a
58 framework for future paleo-tsunami studies in the southern Kuril Trench.

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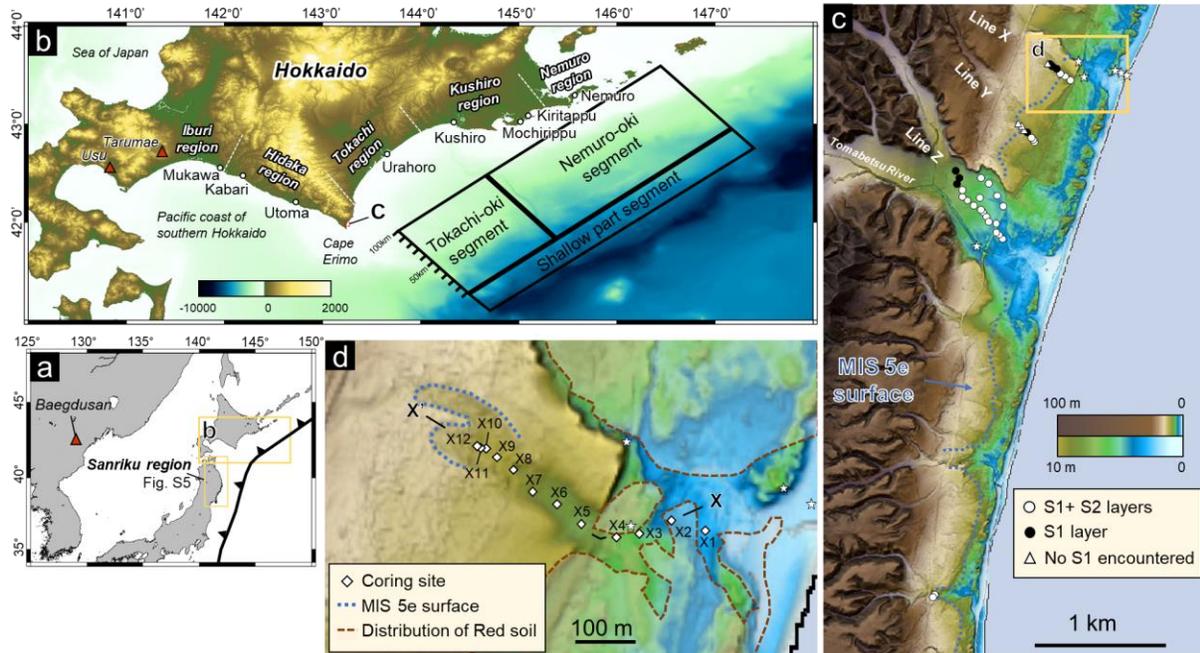
60 **Keywords:** Tsunami deposits, Kuril Trench, Radiocarbon dating, Numerical simulation,
61 Hokkaido

62

63 **1 Introduction**

64 Low-frequency megathrust earthquakes (e.g., the 1700 Cascadia, 1960 Chile, 2004
65 Sumatra, and 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquakes) have been reported to occur over wider rupture
66 zones and prolonged occurrence intervals for hundreds to thousands of years, than the M7–8
67 earthquakes (Sieh et al., 2008; Goldfinger et al., 2013; Philibosian & Meltzner, 2020; Salditch et
68 al., 2020). To study these low-frequency megathrust earthquakes, prehistorical data with
69 timescales ranging from thousands to tens of thousands of years are required. Prehistoric data
70 may be obtained solely from geologic records. For instance, these data can be obtained from
71 uplifted terraces, deep-sea turbidites, and tsunami deposits (Goldfinger et al., 2013; Satake,
72 2015; Hutchinson & Clague, 2017). Every subduction zone has a high risk of M~9 earthquakes
73 recurrence because the instrumentally recorded earthquakes do not relieve strain completely.
74 Therefore, it is necessary to investigate case studies of low-frequency megathrust earthquakes
75 from various regions as event clusters and the changes in the rupture zone patterns differs for
76 each subduction zone (Nelson et al., 2006; Philibosian & Meltzner, 2020; Salditch et al., 2020).

77 Based on the instrumental observations obtained from the past 200 years in the southern
78 part of the Kuril Trench, Mw7–8 earthquakes are known to occur with intervals of 50–100 years,
79 with the Tokachi-oki or Nemuro-oki segments acting as rupture faults (Satake, 2015; Sawai,
80 2020). In contrast, geologic evidence of tsunami deposits and seismic crustal deformation along
81 the Pacific coast of eastern Hokkaido indicate that the southern Kuril Trench has repeatedly
82 ruptured during intervals of several hundred years, with the most recent event occurring in the
83 17th century (Nanayama et al., 2003; Sawai et al., 2004, 2009; Kelsey et al., 2006; Sawai, 2020).
84 Therefore, another rupture is speculated to occur in the near future, as ~400 years have passed
85 since the 17th-century earthquake (Sawai, 2020). Based on the evidence of tsunami deposits from
86 the 17th century, which have been found at many sites in eastern Hokkaido and tsunami
87 numerical simulations suggest that this earthquake was of Mw 8.8 or greater (Nanayama et al.,
88 2003; Ioki & Tanioka, 2016). However, there is no information regarding the paleo-tsunami in
89 the Pacific coast of southern Hokkaido, and clarifying the magnitude of Mw>8 earthquakes are a
90 major issue. More than 17 sand layers have been reported to occur over several thousand years
91 (Nanayama et al., 2003; Sawai et al., 2009). Some of these sand layers induced by of “unusually
92 large” earthquakes-generated tsunamis, such as the 17th-century one, which could not explained
93 by the observed tsunamis. For events prior to the 17th century, chronological correlations have
94 rarely been examined, but accurate correlations of these tsunami records are important for
95 understanding the recurrence intervals and rupture modes of megathrust earthquakes.



96

97 Figure 1. Study area. a: Location map of Hokkaido and Baegdusan. The black barbed line indicates the Pacific
 98 Plate subduction zone. b: Bathymetric and topographic map of Hokkaido. Paleotsunami investigation sites
 99 and local sources of tephra described by Nakanishi et al. (2020b) are marked. Black boxes indicate the 17th-
 100 century earthquake fault model area (Ioki & Tanioka, 2016). c: Topographic map based on 5 m-grid digital
 101 elevation model data from the Erimo area. Circles and triangles indicate location of coring sites. Also, circles
 102 show the distribution of S1 and S2. Blue dashed lines indicate the distribution of the MIS 5e surface (Koike &
 103 Machida, 2001). Stars indicate sand sampling locations for beach, river, and Red soil. The yellow box indicates
 104 the range shown in Fig. 1d. d: Close-up map of the coring sites on line X. The distribution of Red soil in 1947 is
 105 shown, as interpreted from aerial photographs. The stars are the same as in Fig. 1c.

106

107 In this study, we investigated the east coast of Erimo Cape to identify tsunami deposits
 108 and to estimate its spatial distribution. We estimated the wave source of the 17th century tsunami
 109 deposits newly discovered in this area using numerical simulations. The tsunami deposits are
 110 correlated with the event layers in the surrounding regions where the its ages have already been
 111 reported based on ¹⁴C dating and tephrochronology. Based on the similarities and differences of
 112 the tsunami ages revealed by the event correlations in the coast along the Kuril Trench, this study
 113 discusses the tsunami history and coastal extent for the last 4,000 years from the Tokachi to
 114 Hidaka regions.

115

116 2 Background

117 2.1 Tectonic setting

118 The Pacific plate is subducting under the Okhotsk plate along the Kuril Trench at an
119 average rate of ~8 cm/year (e.g., Sella et al., 2002). Instrumentally recorded earthquakes in the
120 southern part of the Kuril subduction zone are known to occur at a magnitude of Mw7–8 with a
121 fault length of ~100 km and a maximum value of 200 km (Satake, 2015). The rupture zone is
122 classified into two segments, Tokachi-oki and Nemuro-oki, with a recurrence interval of 50–100
123 years (Satake, 2015). The interseismic GPS data and the seismic wave velocity studies suggest a
124 gap in the asperity distribution in these rupture zones (Hashimoto et al., 2009; Liu et al., 2013).

125 2.2 Historical tsunami records

126 The most recent disastrous damaging earthquake in the southern Kuril Trench was the
127 2003 Tokachi-oki earthquake (Mw 8.0), recording and at the maximum tsunami generated wave
128 height of the tsunami generated was 4 m (Tanioka et al., 2004). Although this tsunami caused
129 traces a debris and minimal erosion of up to 3.5 m, which were reported in Erimo of Hokkaido,
130 but no sandy deposits were formed (Nishimura et al., 2004). Earlier historical tsunamis
131 originating from the Kuril and Japan Trenches have had recorded wave heights ranging of 3–4 m
132 along the Erimo coast. However, there are no significant sandy deposits have been identified
133 records of significant sandy deposits (Nakanishi et al., 2020a).

134 2.3 Previous work on geological records of tsunami

135 Since there are no historical records for Hokkaido before the 19th century (Satake, 2015),
136 geological investigations of tsunami deposits and seismic crustal deformations have been
137 reported (Nanayama et al., 2003; Sawai et al., 2004, 2009; Kelsey et al., 2006; Szczuciński et al.,
138 2016; Ishizawa et al., 2017; Nakanishi et al., 2020a). In the Tokachi to Nemuro region,
139 extensive tsunami deposit surveys have been carried out (Nanayama et al., 2003). Based on
140 tephrostratigraphic correlation, previous studies have identified two sand layers between the 17th
141 and 10th centuries, and 2–4 sand layers have been identified to be formed between 1000 and 2400
142 years ago. However, the detailed correlation between these sand layers is unclear due to the lack
143 of comprehensive radiocarbon data (Sawai, 2020). The tsunami history of Harutoriko in the
144 Kushiro region along with Kiritappu and Mochirippu area have been investigated based on wide-
145 spread tephra and radiocarbon dating of tsunami deposits for the past 7,000 years (Nanayama et
146 al., 2003, 2007; Sawai et al., 2009). However, comparison of ages for these regions is difficult
147 because of large errors in the obtained ages. Precise radiocarbon dating has been reported for
148 tsunami deposits for the past 3000 years in Urahoro, Tokachi region (Ishizawa et al., 2017),
149 which is located ~100 km from Erimo. The tsunami deposits in eastern Hokkaido have
150 anomalous distribution heights and extents that could not be deposited by tsunamis caused from
151 earthquakes with Mw~8, such as the 1952 and 2003 Tokachi-oki earthquakes (Nanayama et al.,

152 2003, 2007; Sawai et al., 2009). Therefore this suggests that these deposits were deposited due to
153 tsunamis from Mw~9 earthquakes that occurred in the rupture zone over Tokachi-oki and
154 Nemuro-oki segments.

155 2.4 Regional setting

156 The east coast of Cape Erimo, Hokkaido, is located at the southern end of the Hidaka
157 region and faces the Tokachi-oki segment (Fig. 1). This coast contains an ~200 m wide sandy
158 beach where the maximum dune height is ~10 m above present sea level (asl). The first recorded
159 mass settlement in this area was in 1872. Desertification of the area had progressed due to
160 deforestation until a greening project was initiated in 1953 (Sakuraba, 2019). The aerial
161 photographs taken in 1947 display that the coast was originally covered with an aeolian
162 redeposited volcanic ashy material called "Red soil" for over 500 m length. (Fig. 1). Based on
163 glacio-hydro isostatic adjustment (GIA) models, the relative sea-level change due to the GIA
164 over the past 6000 years in the Erimo area was estimated as 0 ± 1 m (Okuno et al., 2014).
165 Marine terraces during marine isotope stage (MIS) 5e extend parallel to the coast at ~15–25 m
166 asl (Koike & Machida, 2001). The uplift rate is 0.02–0.17 mm/yr based on MIS 5e terraces on
167 the Erimo coast when the GIA estimation of 125-ka is considered (Okuno et al., 2014). The
168 Erimo coast is microtidal area where the maximum tidal range is < 1 m and the difference
169 between the mean sea level and a mean higher high water is ~0.4 m (J-DOSS:
170 <https://www.jodc.go.jp/jodcweb/JDOSS/index.html>). We surveyed the wetlands along lines X
171 and Y (Fig. 1), which traverses depressions on the marine terraces. The depression perpendicular
172 to the coastline on the marine terrace is considered to be the old river traces. The river
173 topography is flat on the terrace surface of MIS 5e indicates that the rivers ceased to flow before
174 at least 125 ka. Lines X and Y are part of an area that has been banned from exploitation due to
175 the existence of the nature park since 1981. The line Z is parallel to the Tomabetsu River and this
176 area is covered by a thick peat layer. The inland area was not surveyed due to the construction of
177 residential areas.

178 3 Methods

179 3.1 Field surveys

180 Field surveys were conducted in October 2019, July 2020, and October 2020. Core
181 samples were obtained from three survey lines (43 sites) to investigate the spatial distribution of
182 tsunami deposits, especially those after the 10th century. The samples were extracted using a
183 handy Geoslicer (length of either 0.6 m: Takada et al., 2002) and a peat sampler (diameter of 7
184 cm, length of 2.5 m). We sampled the pre-10th-century sediments to a depth of 1–2.5 m to
185 investigate change of the sand layers inland on line X. The core samples were described
186 sedimentary facies (color, grain size, thickness, bedforms) and photographed. Thereafter, the
187 whole cores were transfer to a plastic case and subsampled in the laboratory for each laboratory
188 analysis. Beaches, rivers, and aeolian sand (Red soil) around the peatland were collected to

189 examine the source of the sand layers (Fig. 1). The elevation profile of survey line X was
190 measured via real-time kinematic positioning using Global Navigation Satellite System multi-
191 band receivers (GNSS: ZED-F9P U-blox). The data pertaining to forests, where signal reception
192 was not consistent, were supplemented by correcting the Digital Elevation Model (DEM:
193 <https://fgd.gsi.go.jp/download/menu.php>) data of the Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) to
194 ensure data matching, with respect to the GNSS data.

195 3.2 X-ray diffraction analysis

196 Since the mineral combinations in detritus reflect differences in sources and
197 sedimentation (Jagodziński et al., 2009, 2012; Nakamura et al., 2012), X-ray diffractometry
198 (XRD) analysis was conducted to identify the mineral species present in the sand layers. Since it
199 is reported that onshore sand was dominant in modern tsunami deposits (e.g., Jagodziński et al.,
200 2012; Nakamura et al., 2012; Szczuciński et al., 2012), beach and dune sand was considered as a
201 candidate for the source of tsunami deposits. In addition, river sand from floods and aeolian sand
202 were also considered, and these were analyzed and compared with the sand layers. 23 sand and
203 mud samples were collected from the core samples and the source candidate sand sampled from
204 the sampling sites are shown in Fig. 1. In all sand samples, the medium grain sample was used.
205 We also analyzed the very fine grain sample for checking grain size effect. The mineralogical
206 composition was determined by XRD (Bruker D2 PHASER) performed by the same method
207 described in Nakanishi et al. (2020a). The conditions for analysis were set at 30 kV, 10 mA, 0.02
208 steps for 1 s, and a registration 2θ range from 5° to 65° .

209 3.3 Grain size analysis

210 The grain size distribution of a sand layer is widely used to determine its origin and
211 transport mode (e.g., Folk & Ward, 1957; Morton et al., 2007). We performed grain size analysis
212 using a sieve on each sand layer obtained from the cores and the surrounding sand (beaches,
213 river, and aeolian sand). We sampled 26 samples in total, at every 1 cm in the vertical direction
214 at X5 site and from the bulk layer at other sites. Samples of 10–20 g were pretreated with H_2O_2
215 to remove the organic matter and disperse the particles. The dried samples were sieved using a
216 set of 14 sieves with mesh sizes ranging from 4.5 phi to -2.0 phi. Basic statistics such as mean
217 (Mz), standard deviation (σ_1), and skewness (Sk_1) were calculated following the method outlined
218 in Folk & Ward (1957).

219 3.4 Radiocarbon dating

220 Radiocarbon dating was used to determine the depositional age of the tsunami deposits
221 (Table 1). Analytical samples (units of 1 cm) were collected above and below the sand layers as
222 plant fragments in peat, avoiding roots. When plant fragments were not available, bulk samples
223 were used for measurements. Graphitization of the sample was performed via the same method
224 employed by Nakanishi et al. (2020a), and ^{14}C dating was prepared at the Atmosphere and Ocean

225 Research Institute using Single Stage accelerator mass spectrometry (Yokoyama et al., 2019).
 226 We calibrated the ^{14}C ages to the calendar ages using the OxCal 4.4 with the IntCal20 dataset
 227 (Reimer et al., 2020). The P_Sequence and Sequence model and the general outlier model in
 228 OxCal were used to constrain the calibration ages using stratigraphic order (Bronk Ramsey,
 229 2008, 2009a, 2009b). Each model was constructed separately for individual peat layers among
 230 the tsunami deposits (Ishizawa et al., 2017, 2020). The recurrence intervals of tsunamis were
 231 estimated from the age difference between each sand layer (Lienkaemper & Bronk Ramsey,
 232 2009). We re-calibrated the ^{14}C age of the reported tsunami deposits using the same protocols
 233 (Ishizawa et al., 2017; Nakanishi et al., 2020a) using IntCal20.

234

235 Table 1. ^{14}C dating results.

Sample name	Material	Site	Depth (cm)	^{14}C age	Error	Modelled age (1σ)		Modelled age (2σ)		Mean	Lab number
						from	to	from	to		
peat-S1_2U	Bulk peat	X5	-30	392	± 25	500	461	511	335	469	YAUT-053023
peat-S1_2L	Bulk peat	X5	-35	814	± 24	714	683	733	677	702	YAUT-053019
peat-S2L	Bulk peat	X5	-41	862	± 22	776	732	897	725	766	YAUT-053018
peat-S5U	Bulk peat	X5	-54	1475	± 24	1379	1315	1393	1307	1352	YAUT-053017
peat-S5_6U	Bulk peat	X5	-60	1801	± 26	1728	1630	1780	1608	1684	YAUT-053016
peat-S5_6L	Bulk peat	X5	-66	1971	± 24	1925	1838	1977	1827	1888	YAUT-053015
peat-S6_7U	Bulk peat	X5	-70	2053	± 27	2051	1950	2098	1940	2012	YAUT-053013
peat-S6_7L	Bulk peat	X5	-71	2119	± 23	2120	2048	2145	2004	2082	YAUT-053012
peat-S7L	Plant fragment	X5	-78	2304	± 25	2350	2324	2358	2182	2322	YAUT-053011
peat-S8U	Plant fragment	X5	-83	2524	± 23	2719	2515	2732	2492	2587	YAUT-053009
peat-S8_9U	Plant fragment	X5	-100	2679	± 24	2841	2755	2850	2750	2792	YAUT-053006
peat-S8_9L	Plant fragment	X5	-106	3010	± 26	3240	3156	3331	3075	3198	YAUT-053005
peat-S9_10U	Plant fragment	X5	-112	3216	± 25	3460	3401	3480	3379	3428	YAUT-053004
peat-S9_10L	Plant fragment	X5	-115	3411	± 24	3672	3578	3703	3568	3631	YAUT-053003
peat-S10L	Plant fragment	X5	-121	3563	± 25	3897	3833	3969	3728	3863	YAUT-053002

Sample name	Material	Site	Depth (cm)	^{14}C age	Error	Calibrated age (1σ)		Calibrated age (2σ)		Mean	Lab number
						from	to	from	to		
peat-209cm	Plant fragment	X4	-195	3628	25	3976	3900	4071	3849	3942	YAUT-053024

236

237 3.5 Numerical simulation

238 To estimate the origin of the sandy layers in this area, tsunami numerical simulations
 239 were carried out using the source faults of the 17th-century earthquake based on the distribution
 240 of tsunami deposits (Satake et al., 2008; Ioki & Tanioka, 2016). The numerical simulations were
 241 performed using the tsunami calculation code “JAGRUS” (Baba et al., 2015, 2017). We used the
 242 bathymetric data from the Japan Oceanographic Data Center and the M7000 series from the
 243 Japan Hydrographic Association. The ASTER GDEM Version 3 from Shuttle Radar Topography
 244 Mission (<https://doi.org/10.5067/ASTER/ASTGTM.003>) and the 5-m mesh DEM data from the
 245 GSI were used as topographical data. In order to avoid underestimating the inundation area, the

246 modern roads that are assumed not to have existed in the 17th century were manually cut out and
247 flattened using the surface command of generic mapping tools (Wessel et al., 2013). We nested
248 the geographical data in the following order of 450 m, 150 m, 50 m, 16 m, and 5 m grid size. The
249 calculations were carried out using a linear long-wave equations for the 450 m grid size system
250 and a non-linear long-wave equations for the finer grid size systems in a staggered-grid, leap-
251 frog finite differential scheme. The absorbing boundary condition was applied at the edge of the
252 computational domain. The time step was 0.1 s to safety reach a stability condition. Manning's
253 roughness coefficient was $0.03 \text{ m}^{-1/3}\text{s}$ as per Ioki & Tanioka (2016). The tide level was assumed
254 to be constant at the present mean sea level. The seismic deformation was computed as per the
255 formula of Okada (1985), and the rise time was assumed to be 60 s (the deformation was
256 included in the geographical data). The tsunami propagation calculations were performed up to
257 7200 s.

258 **4 Description of tsunami deposits**

259 4.1 Stratigraphy and depositional ages

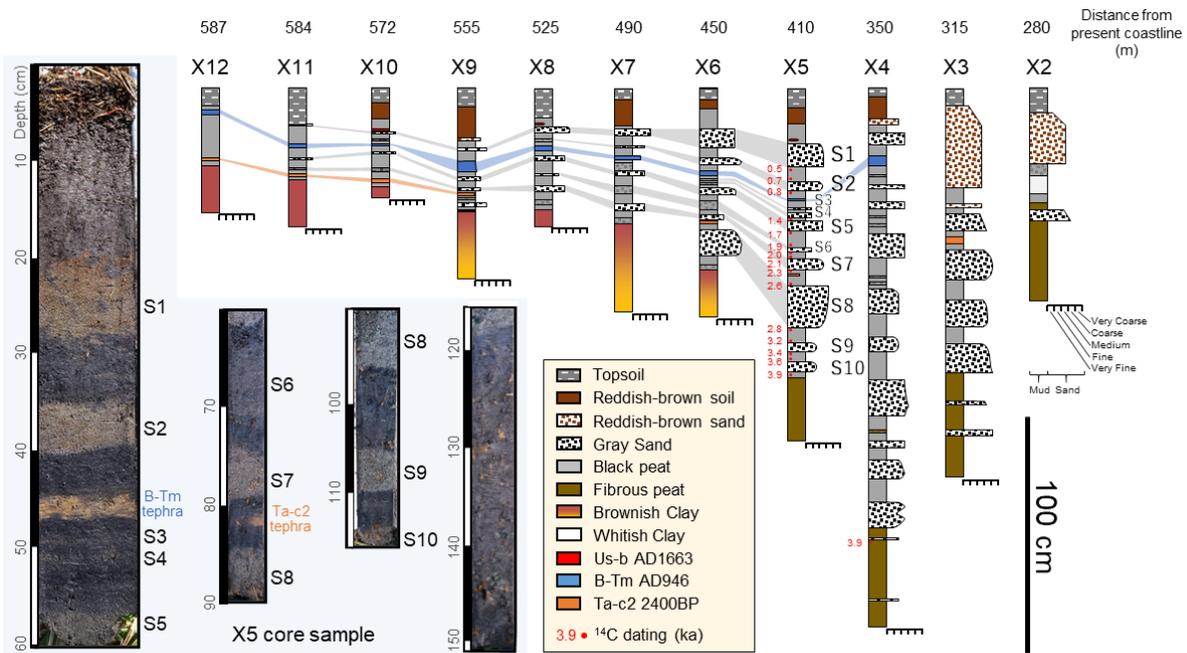
260 The sedimentary sequence on line X, from bottom to top, was as follows: fibrous dark
261 brown peat or a clay layer, black peat intercalated by gray sand layers, reddish-brown soil or
262 sand as “Red soil”, and topsoil. The clay layer was observed to be pinkish-brown to yellowish-
263 brown sticky clay at depths of ~0.5 m or more from the ground surface on the landward side of
264 the X6 site (Figs. 2 and S1). On the seaward side of the X5 site, a fibrous peat layer was
265 observed below ~1.5 m from the ground surface. Here, the sand layers were either thinner than 5
266 cm thick, or no sand layer was observed.

267 Three tephra layers and ten sand layers were intercalated in the black peat. The tephra
268 layers have already been identified in this area by Nakanishi et al. (2020b), from top to bottom as
269 follows: a patchy white volcanic ash layer (1663 AD, Usu Volcano-b tephra: Us-b), a yellowish-
270 white volcanic ash layer with a thickness of ~2 cm (946 AD, Baegdusan Volcano-Tomakomai
271 tephra: B-Tm), and an orange volcanic ash layer with a patchy 2-cm thickness within the peat
272 layers (~2400 BP, Tarumae Volcano-c2 tephra: Ta-c2). We observed two sand layers between
273 the Us-b and B-Tm tephra, five sand layers between the B-Tm and Ta-c2 tephra, and three to
274 five sand layers below the Ta-c2 tephra (named S1–10 from top to bottom). In the age-depth
275 model, the depositional ages obtained from the peat layers by ¹⁴C dating and the tephras were
276 linearly correlated (Fig. 3). This model is also consistent with the known ages of the volcanic ash
277 layers. The depositional rate was constant (0.14 mm/yr), indicating continuous deposition of the
278 peat layers. The most basal sand layer (i.e., S10) was deposited after 3900 BP.

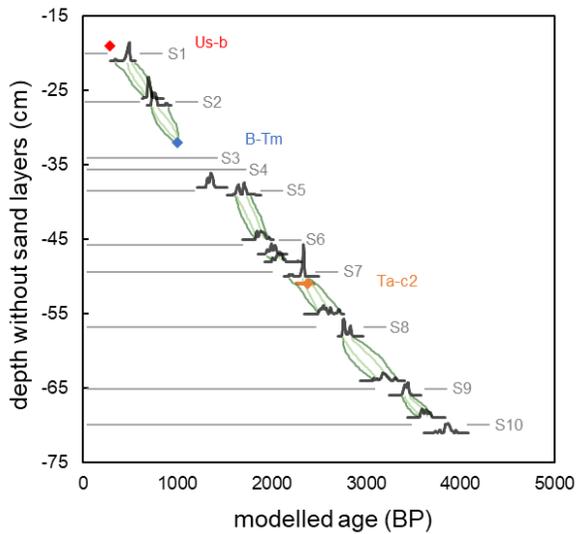
279 A reddish-brown sand layer and soil was found as “Red soil” in sets around the ground
280 surface. The reddish-brown sand layer have a mode of 1.5 phi with poor sorting and a high
281 background and a low mineral peak intensity of XRD (Figs. 4, 5, S2 and, S3), indicating rich
282 amorphous components such as a pumice. Therefore, the reddish-brown sand layers can be

283 distinguished from gray sand layers by the fact that they are found only near the ground surface,
284 are poor poorly sorting, and contain pumice. The topsoil is black and consists of litters, which
285 changes gradually to Red soil. Core samples from other sites along line X are consisted of black

286 or fibrous peat. Two gray sand layers (S1 and S2) were identified in the peat layers between Us-b
 287 and B-Tm in each survey line.

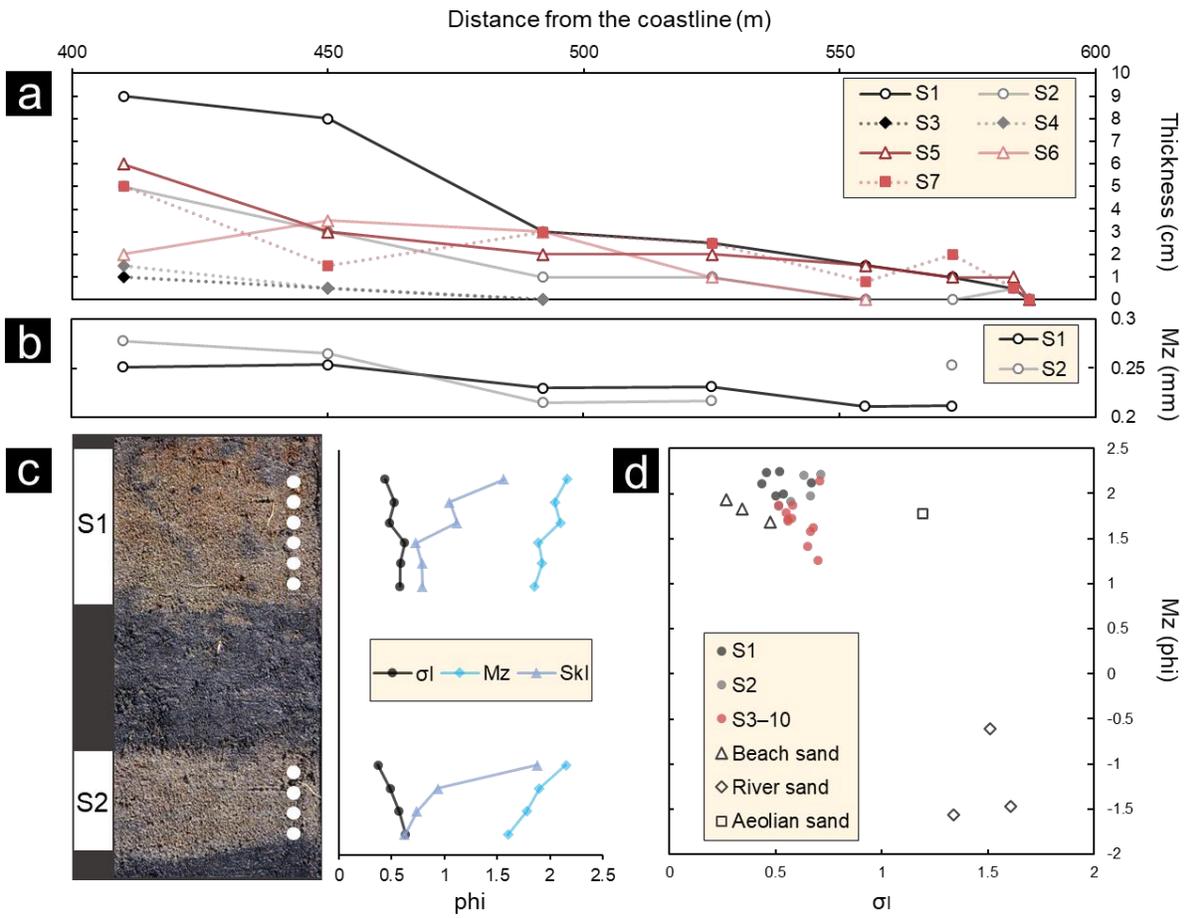


288
 289 Figure 2. Correlated stratigraphic columns along survey line X and photographs of the core samples from the
 290 site X5.



291
 292 Figure 3. Age-depth model without the sand layers at the site X5. Black histograms show modelled ¹⁴C age
 293 (Table 1). The dark and light green lines indicate the range of 2σ and 1σ modelled ages, respectively. Red and
 294 blue diamond's indicate widespread tephra (Us-b: 1663 AD, B-Tm: 946 AD) with incorporated into the age-

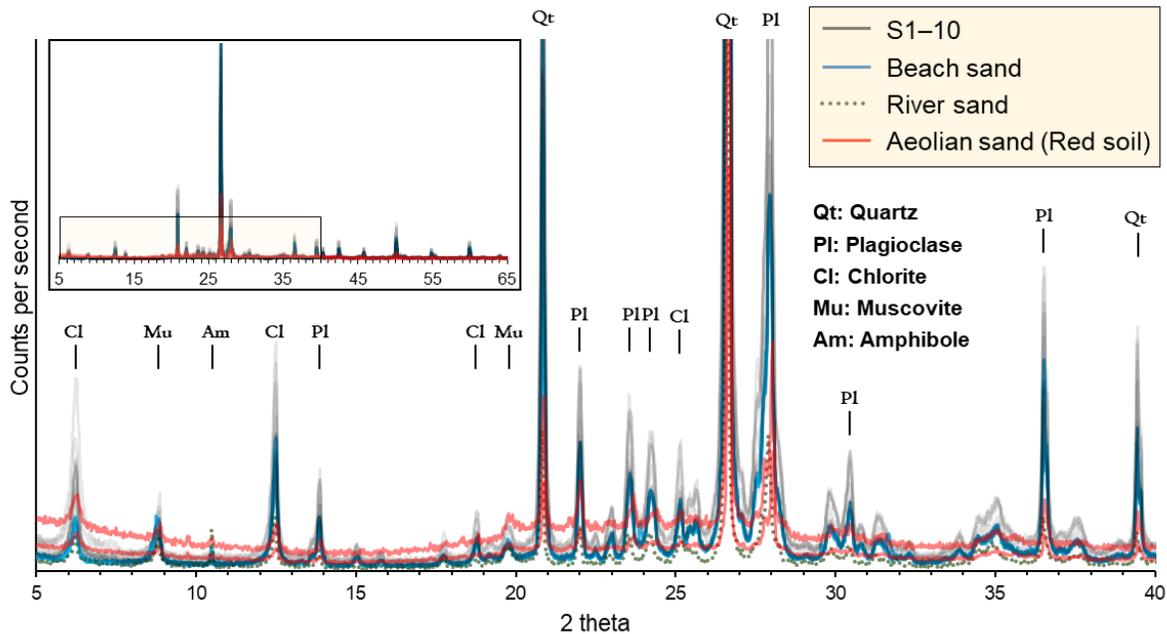
295 depth model. Yellow diamond and bar indicate Ta-c2 median ages and 2σ range calculated by the same
 296 method as the event layers, respectively.



297

298 Figure 4. Layer thickness and grain size analysis results for S1-10 and source candidate sand. a: Thickness
 299 change of S1-7 on line X. b: Horizontal changes of the mean diameter of S1 and S2 on line X. c: Vertical

300 changes of the mean diameter (M_z), standard deviation (σ_i), and skewness (Sk_i) for S1 and S2. d: Scatter plot
 301 of mean diameter and standard deviation in S1–10 of line X, beach, river and aeolian sand (Red soil).



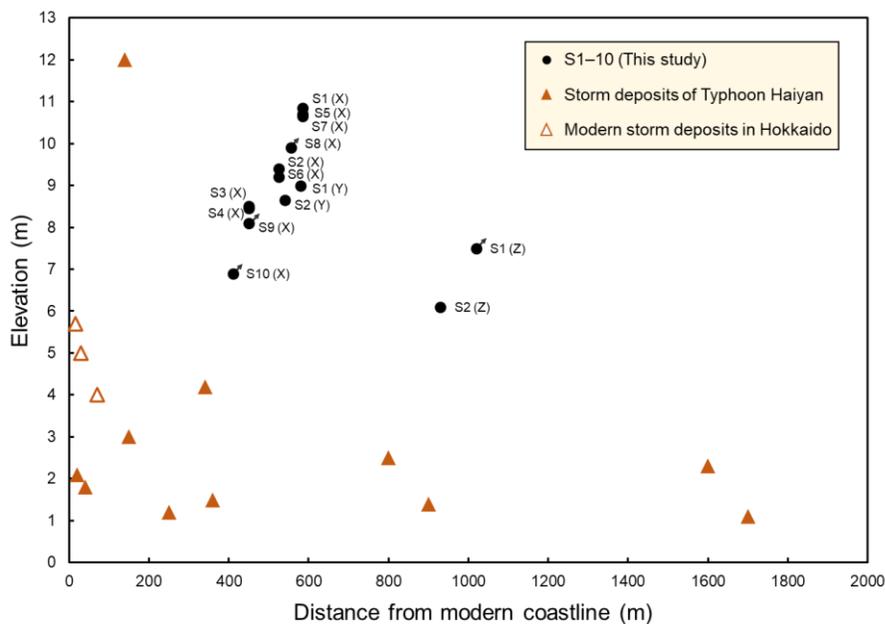
302
 303 Figure 5. Results of mineralogy analysis using XRD for S1–10 at the site X5 (10 samples), beach sand (3
 304 samples), river sand (1 sample) and, Red soil (2 samples). The inserted figure shows the whole view and the
 305 zoomed-out part.

306
 307 4.2 Sand layer characteristics

308 S1–10 were observed to be homogeneous and well-moderately well sorted fine to
 309 medium sand (Fig. 4). These sand layers commonly indicated single normal grading and sharp
 310 basal contacts. Some of thick sand layers contained rip-up clasts of black peat (Fig. S4). S1–8
 311 exhibited a mode of 2.5 phi and demonstrate very positive skewness. The grain size composition
 312 of S9 and S10 were consist of 0.5–2.5 phi and moderately well sorted sand on X5 (Fig. S2). The
 313 mineral assemblages of S1–10 were mainly quartz, feldspar, and chlorite, with low background
 314 value, indicating no amorphous components (Fig. 5). Mineral assemblages did not vary
 315 significantly with sample grain size or distance from the coastline. The mineral assemblages of
 316 beach and river sands are similar to those of S1–10, but the river sand differ from S1–10 in that
 317 that it has a higher proportion of hornblende and a lower proportion of other minerals.

318 The correlation between the cores was estimated based on the tephtras and the thickness
 319 of the peat layers. The black peat layer exhibited a constant sedimentation rate as shown by the
 320 age-depth model (Fig. 3), therefore, its thickness was assumed to be proportional to its
 321 accumulation age. Between Us-b and B-Tm, S2 changes to sandy peat at a site inland from X8,

322 and could not be identified further. Since only a single layer of sand was deposited 8 cm above
 323 B-Tm (the interval is ~600 yr), S1 was distributed at least till X11. Between B-Tm and Ta-c2,
 324 S3, S4, and S6 were < 2 cm layers and could not be identified until the X8 site. Two sand layers
 325 were identified from X9 to X11. Therefore, these could be compared with S5 and S7 based on
 326 the thickness of the peat layer (~2.5–4 cm below B-Tm and ~1–2 cm above Ta-c2 indicate
 327 ~1200–1300 BP and ~2400–2100 BP, respectively). The sand layers below Ta-c2 were difficult
 328 to compare because of limited dating, but S8–10 were likely comparable because of the presence
 329 of three or more sand layers on the seaward and landward sides. S1–7 exhibited a sheet
 330 distribution up to 450–600 m inland (up to 7–11 m asl) on line X (Figs. 4 and 6). The thickness
 331 of S1–7 exhibited a trend of gradual thinning inland; eventually, the sand layers became sandy
 332 peat or unrecognizable. S1, S5, and S7 were relatively thick and could be identified farthest
 333 inland (up to X11). In contrast, S3 and S4 were recognized as thin sand layers at X4, and their
 334 distribution was limited to 450 m from the shoreline. We focused on S1 and S2 to clarify their
 335 distribution in a wide area of the Erimo coast (Figs. 1 and 6). The distribution could be observed
 336 along the coast for several kilometers, and inland over 1 km along line Z, where the topography
 337 was relatively gentle. S1 was distributed further inland than S2 along all survey lines (Fig. 1). S1
 338 and S2 indicated that grain size gradually fines inland, from medium to fine sand (Fig. 4).



339

340 Figure 6. Distribution heights and distances from the present coastline of S1–10 on each survey line. Black
 341 plots with arrows indicate sand layers that are potentially distributed farther inland due to unconfirmed
 342 distribution limits. The alphabets in parentheses indicate the name of the survey lines. Filled and white
 343 triangles indicate the maximum distribution of the storm deposits of Typhoon Haiyan in the central Philippine
 344 coast and the modern storm deposits reported in Hokkaido, respectively (Brill et al., 2016; Soria et al., 2017,
 345 2018; Nishimura & Miyaji, 1996; Ganzei et al., 2010; Shigeno & Nanayama, 2016; Chiba & Nishimura, 2018;

346 Switzer et al., 2020). The data from Typhoon Haiyan is used for comparison as a largest storm, not as the one
347 that actually affected Hokkaido.

348

349 4.3 Interpretation of formation of anomalous sand layers

350 S1–10 were observed in the peat with a sharply boundary with the rip-up clasts. The sand
351 layers show the single normal grading structure and the fine-grained trend inland. The grain size
352 compositions of S1–10 were similar to those of the beach and dune sand, and were distinguished
353 from poorly sorted aeolian sand and coarse-grained river sand (Figs. 4 and 5). The mineral
354 assemblages also support the fact that beach sand is the major source of S1–10. It is unlikely that
355 S1–10 were transported by river floods because the sediments of nearby rivers are gravel (Fig.
356 4). An aeolian sand such as Red soil is distinguished from S1–10 by the presence of amorphous
357 pumice and the poorly sorted sand. In addition, the repetition of the sharp contrasts between the
358 peat and the sand layers with the rip-up clasts can only have been formed by an abrupt event
359 such as an extreme wave.

360 Tsunamis and storms surge are known to form sand layers beyond the back-barrier (e.g.,
361 Morton et al., 2007; Takashimizu et al., 2012; Brill et al., 2016). In general, even though extreme
362 waves from storms show high inundation heights, the distribution of a sand layer is often limited
363 around a beach area (Morton et al., 2007; Watanabe et al., 2018). A storm surge is also a gradual
364 rise in water level, inundating the beach from lowest points. thus, a distribution of storm deposits
365 is often scattered and lobe-shaped (Nishimura & Miyaji, 1996; Brill et al., 2016; Chiba &
366 Nishimura, 2018). Storm deposits have also been reported in Hokkaido, and their distribution
367 was reported up to 4–6 m asl and a few tens of meters from the shoreline (Nishimura & Miyaji,
368 1996; Ganzei et al., 2010; Shigeno & Nanayama, 2016; Chiba & Nishimura, 2018; Switzer et al.,
369 2020). Additionally, tsunamis result in erosion and inland transportation of a large volume of
370 sediments in a short time interval (Morton et al., 2007; Szczuciński et al., 2012; Goto et al.,
371 2014). As a result of erosion, the contact between the transported sand layer and the background
372 sediment indicates very sharp and often observed rip-up clasts (Szczuciński et al., 2012;
373 Takashimizu et al., 2012). The inundation flow is slowed by flooding on land, and the grains
374 with higher specific gravity settle and are eventually recorded in the sediment as grading
375 structures (Jaffe et al., 2012; Yoshii et al., 2017). The amount of transported sediments is limited
376 owing to the decrease in tsunami flow velocity and inundation depth; thus, sheet-like distribution
377 and gradual thinning are observed (Szczuciński et al., 2012; Takashimizu et al., 2012; Goto et
378 al., 2014).

379 S1–10 exhibited normal grading and a sharp basal contact with rip-up clasts; these
380 sedimentary structures indicate an erosional flow and decrease in velocity of single flows. The
381 distribution extended several hundred meters inland from the beach and in a wide area along the
382 shoreline. In addition, the elevation of the sand layer distribution is at least 7–11 m asl, which is

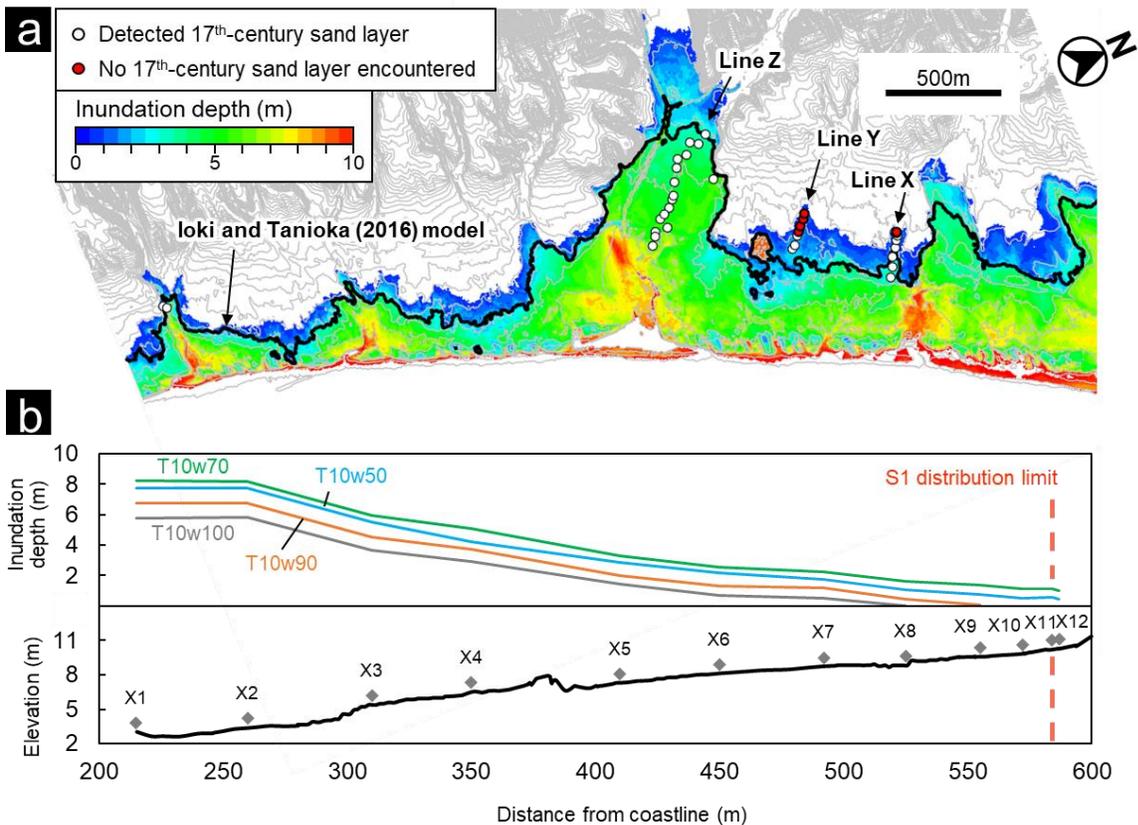
383 significantly higher than that of the modern storm deposits (Fig. 6: Brill et al., 2016; Soria et al.,
384 2017, 2018; Nishimura & Miyaji, 1996; Ganzei et al., 2010; Shigeno & Nanayama, 2016; Chiba
385 and Nishimura, 2018; Switzer et al., 2020). The elevation of the deposits is more than 5 m asl
386 even considering the relative sea level of the past 4000 years based on the hydro-isostasy and the
387 crustal uplift (up to +2.1 m at mean higher high water level: Koike & Machida; Okuno et al.,
388 2014). For the past 4000 years, the Erimo coast has been limited to the area ~100 m from the
389 present coastline with elevations under 2 m asl. Therefore, the distribution of S1–10 along line X
390 is estimated more than 300–500 m from the past coastline. Considering that the distribution of
391 S1–10 cannot be explained by anomalous storms and some sedimentary structures are common
392 to tsunami deposits, these are interpreted as anomalous sand layers deposited by high tsunami
393 waves.

394 **5 Numerical simulations**

395 The tsunamis induced by the Mw~8 earthquakes of the Kuril Trench are known to have a
396 recurrence period of several decades (e.g., the 1952 and 2003 Tokachi-oki earthquake). Given
397 that no sandy deposits have been transported into the back-barrier by these tsunamis (Nishimura
398 et al., 2004), it is unlikely that tsunamis induced by the Mw~8 earthquakes transported the S1–10
399 tsunami deposits. Therefore, we used numerical simulations to reconstruct the tsunami
400 inundation height resulting from a Mw~9 earthquake. A source rupture model based on
401 geological data has been proposed for 17th-century earthquakes (Nanayama et al., 2003; Satake et
402 al., 2008; Ioki & Tanioka, 2016). The T10N5S25 model (Mw 8.8: T10 means 10 m slip on
403 Tokachi-oki segments, N5 means 5 m slip on Nemuro segments, S25 means 25 m slip on the
404 shallow part segment; Fig. 1) reproduces an inundation area that covered distribution of tsunami
405 deposits extending from the Tokachi to Nemuro regions (Ioki & Tanioka, 2016). In addition to
406 the distribution of tsunami deposits, these source rupture models are required to meet the
407 constraint that the tsunami wave height should not exceed 3 m in the Sanriku region because
408 there is no description of an earthquake like this in the historical documents (Satake et al., 2008).
409 However, this requirement has not yet been appropriately fulfilled.

410 We tested whether the T10N5S25 model can be applied to the 17th-century tsunami
411 deposits in the Erimo area, further to the west. The resulting inundation area did not cover the
412 entire distribution of S1 (Fig. 7). In order to not affect the tsunami simulation results from the
413 Tokachi to Nemuro regions, we attempted to adjust the fault model to expand the tsunami
414 inundation area in the Erimo area. If, in the Tokachi-oki segment, the rupture model parameter is
415 made wider, or the slip amount is increased, the maximum wave height along the Sanriku coast
416 will be higher. Therefore, we attempted to reproduce the inundation area in Erimo by narrowing
417 the fault width, as it is known that wavelength affects the extent of inundation depending on the
418 topography (Satake et al., 2013). The fault widths were set every 10 km, ranging over 40–90 km

419 (T10w40–T10w90) along the Tokachi-oki segment; N5 and S25 are constant in all conditions.
 420 The magnitude of these rupture models were Mw 8.7–8.8.



421
 422 Figure 7. Simulation results of tsunami run-ups in the Erimo coast. a: Tsunami inundation area using the Ioki
 423 & Tanioka (2016) model (Black line) and the T10w70 model (colored). b: Tsunami inundation depth profiles
 424 for each fault width condition and topographic profile on line X. T10w100 is conventional model (Ioki &
 425 Tanioka, 2016)

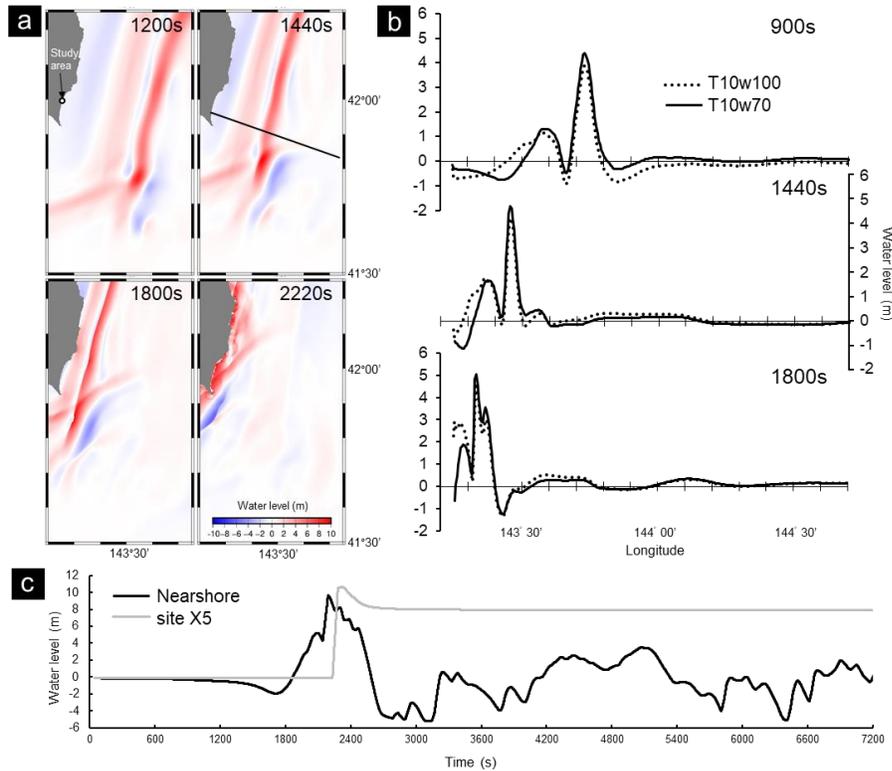
426 The T10w50–T10w70 models produced an inundation area that covered the entire
 427 distribution of S1 (Fig. 7). These models also changed the energy-directivity to the Sanriku
 428 region, such that the maximum wave heights on the Sanriku coastline decreased as the fault
 429 width narrowed (Fig. S5). The maximum wave heights on the coastline from the Tokachi to
 430 Nemuro regions also exhibited a slight decrease when narrow fault width conditions were
 431 applied. The T10w70 model is more reasonable because it reproduces an inundation area that
 432 covers enough tsunami deposits and minimizes the change in wave height from the Tokachi to
 433 Nemuro regions.

434 The crustal deformation of this model exhibits subsidence of ~15 cm around Erimo (Fig.
 435 S6), while the model proposed by Ioki & Tanioka (2016) exhibited a subsidence of ~40 cm,
 436 which does not explain the difference in the extent of inundation. Locally high wave heights in
 437 the Erimo area likely reflected shortening of the wave periods, caused by narrowing of the fault

438 width. When the fault width of T10 is 100 km, there is a certain interval between the first and
439 second waves, but the T10w70 model shows that the first wave propagates slightly slower and
440 excites the second wave (Fig. 8). In addition, in the T10w70 model, the third wave appears
441 earlier and merges with the wave trapped by the shallow bathymetry on the Erimo Cape
442 extension, expanding the inundation area subsequent to the second wave. The landward side of
443 X5 was inundated only by the first wave (Fig. 8). This is consistent with the fact that the
444 observed sedimentary structure of the sand layers was single normal grading (Fig. 4). The
445 T10w70 model is almost equal to Mw 8.8, which is the same scale as the conventional model.
446 This means that the model based on the tsunami deposits from the Tokachi to Nemuro regions
447 can reproduce the distribution of tsunami deposits found in the western end of the eastern
448 Hokkaido coast, without major changes. In this numerical simulation, we used a simple
449 modification method, involving changing the fault width of the Tokachi-oki segment, however, it
450 is known that an actual rupture zone is not rectangular but heterogeneous (e.g., Liu et al., 2013).
451 By taking this into account, a simulation could reproduce the distribution of tsunami deposits in
452 each region with greater accuracy. On the other hand, it should be noted that the distribution of
453 preserved sand layers contains uncertainties because tsunami sediments are known to be
454 remigrated by post-depositional process (Richmond et al., 2012; Szczuciński, 2020). In order to
455 reduce such an uncertainty, it is necessary to evaluate the tsunami inundation area by using

456 chemical and biomarker methods independent of the sand layer (e.g., Szczuciński et al., 2016;
 457 Chagué-Goff et al., 2017).

458



459

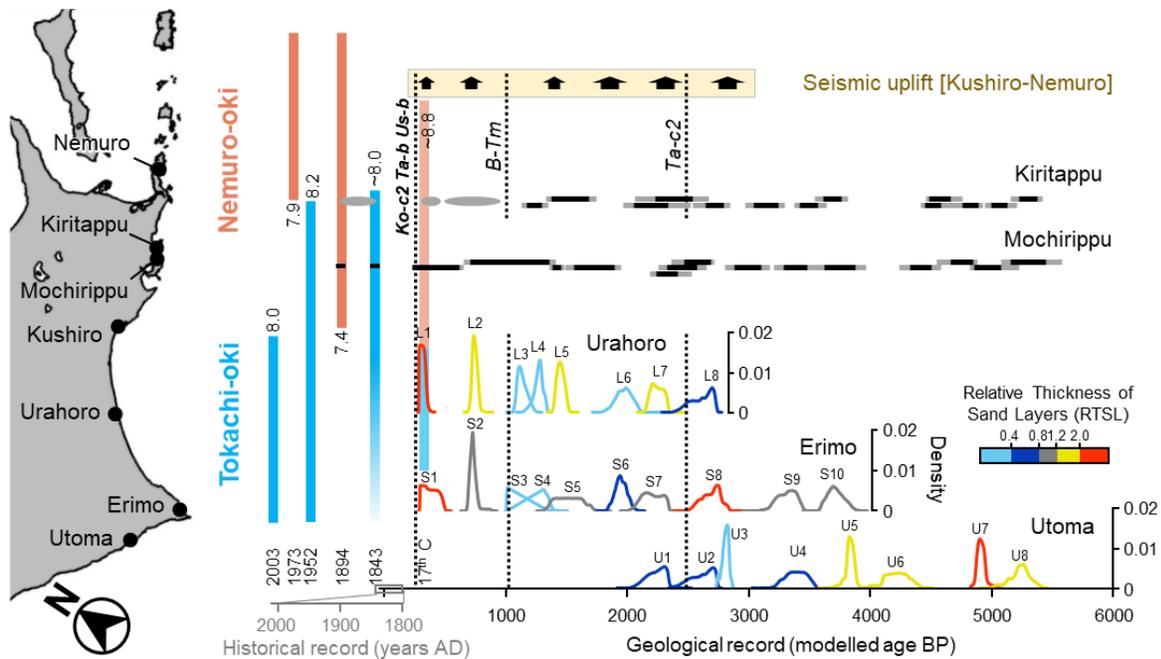
460 Figure 8. Tsunami waveform on the time series from the numerical simulation of the 17th-century tsunami. a:
 461 Temporal changes in water level for the T10w70 model. Snapshots taken at 1200, 1440, 1800, and 2220
 462 seconds after the earthquake. Black line shows survey line from Figure 8b. b: The wave profiles on the black
 463 line of Fig. 8a at 900, 1440, and 1800 seconds for T10w100 and T10w70 models. c: Time series of tsunami
 464 waveforms of T10w70 model at site X5 and nearshore of line X. The elevation in DEM at the site X5 is 7.9 m
 465 asl.

466

467 6 Correlation of tsunami deposits

468 The recurrence intervals for layers S1–10 ranged from 110 to 620 years (Table S1). Such
 469 tsunami recurrence intervals have been reported in the Tokachi and Hidaka regions (Ishizawa et
 470 al., 2017; Nakanishi et al., 2020a). To verify whether these paleo-tsunamis were formed by
 471 tsunamis of the same origin, we compared the depositional ages of the sand layers with those
 472 reported for Urahoro and Utoma, which were measured using the same ¹⁴C dating method (Fig.
 473 9). The agreement on the probability density function of events obtained by the sequencing
 474 model for each region was calculated using the overlapping coefficient (OVL: Inman & Bradley,

475 1989; Hutchinson & Clague, 2017: Table S2). Hutchinson & Clague (2017) adopted critical
 476 threshold values for probable coeval events when OVL was > 0.25 . In the Erimo and Urahoro
 477 areas facing the Tokachi-oki segment, the depositional ages were comparable in all the observed
 478 sand layers, and OVL ranged from 0.39–0.78 (Table S2). In particular, S2 and L2 showed a
 479 narrow range from ~800 to 700 BP, with an error of 20 years. The results mean that Urahoro and
 480 Erimo were struck by the same number of large tsunamis at the same time during the past 3000
 481 years. In the Utoma area, located on the southern Hidaka coast, the depositional ages were
 482 comparable in the four sand layers, except for U3, and OVL ranged from 0.26–0.81 (Table S2).
 483 The geological record in Utoma is currently limited to the period before 2000 BP, but the
 484 tsunamis with recurrence intervals of ~430 years are most likely to have been generated by
 485 $M_w > 8$ earthquakes of the Kuril Trench. However, it is necessary to consider the possibility that
 486 tsunamis from different sources, such as the U3 event in Utoma, are also included in the data.



487

488 Figure 9. Depositional ages of the sand layers in the Hidaka and Tokachi regions (Ishizawa et al., 2017;
 489 Nakanishi et al., 2020a). The depositional ages are presented as the probability density function. The color
 490 scale of histogram indicates the relative thicknesses of the sand layer (RTSL). The RTSL were normalized using
 491 the median value and exclude any outliers. The outliers were set to exceed the interquartile range by 1.5
 492 times based on the upper quartile. The gray and black bars indicate the estimated ages (2σ and 1σ ,
 493 respectively) of tsunamis reported in the Mochirippu and Kiritappu areas (Sawai et al., 2009). Black arrows
 494 indicate the age range of the seismic uplift in the Kushiro to Nemuro regions (Kelsey et al., 2006). The blue
 495 and red color bars indicate the fault lengths of the earthquakes that occurred off the Tokachi and Nemuro

496 coast, respectively (Satake, 2015). The number beside each color bar indicates the moment magnitude of the
497 earthquake.

498

499 The relative thicknesses of the sand layers (RTSL), normalized by the median values of
500 all the sand layers within the core, were also shown with tsunami ages (Fig. 9). In Erimo and
501 Urahoro, it is very interesting to match the patterns of the high and low values, except for layer
502 S8. This good agreement between the two regions, in spite of the 100 km distance between them,
503 may support the assumption that both regions suffered from tsunamis of similar magnitude. This
504 is because modern tsunami deposit studies infer that the thickness of a tsunami deposit is most
505 sensitive to the inundation depth (Goto et al., 2014; Naruse & Abe, 2017). However, it should be
506 noted that microtopography, accommodation space, sediment source, and post-depositional
507 changes all significantly influence on the thickness of the tsunami deposits (Szczeniński, 2020).
508 Actually, the RTSL in Utoma is thick in the sand layers deposited around 5000 BP, which was
509 due to the influence of the highstand sea-level in the mid-Holocene (Nakanishi et al., 2020a).

510 The distribution of the compared tsunami deposits along the coastline stretches at least
511 150 km, suggesting that they were caused by tsunamis resulting from $M_w > 8$ earthquakes, with
512 fault lengths of several hundred kilometers. Therefore, few of the S1–10 events are expected to
513 be correlated with the geological evidence identified from the Kushiro to Nemuro regions for
514 paleo-earthquakes (Nanayama et al., 2003; Sawai et al., 2004, 2009; Kelsey et al., 2006). The
515 age of the tsunami and seismic crustal movement in Kiritappu and Mochirippu has been
516 estimated based on ^{14}C dating (Sawai et al., 2009). However, direct correlation is difficult
517 because of the difference in the sample materials, dating methods, and dating depth points. The
518 number of sand layers between the Nemuro and Tokachi-Hidaka regions does not match, even if
519 the correlation is simply based on tephrochronology. Thus, both regions likely experienced at
520 least some differing paleo-tsunamis. The estimated ages of the seismic uplifts in the Nemuro to
521 Kushiro region (Kelsey et al., 2006) seem to correlate with the depositional age of the relatively
522 thick sand layers found in the Hidaka and Tokachi regions (e.g., S1, S5 and, S7). The
523 distributions of layers S1, S5, and S7 in the Erimo area are the most extensive inland (Fig. 7).
524 Thus, these tsunamis might have derived from larger magnitude earthquakes or wider rupture
525 zones compared with other events in the Tokachi-Hidaka regions.

526 **7 Conclusions**

527 We found ten anomalous sand layers in the coastal wetland in Erimo, Hokkaido, Japan.
528 These sand layers share similarities with beach sand and can be distinguished from aeolian and
529 river sand. Moreover, they share common features with modern tsunami deposits, such as normal
530 grading structure, and a sharp basal contact with rip-up clasts. The sand layers are distributed
531 over several hundred meters from the shoreline (up to 7–11 m asl), which could not be explained
532 by extreme storms or tsunamis caused by $M_w \sim 8$ earthquakes. Numerical simulations were

533 performed for the 17th-century tsunami to examine whether the distributions of the 17th-century
534 sand layer can be reproduced by the Mw8.8 earthquake model in the Tokachi to Nemuro
535 segments. The results show that the distribution can be reproduced in the Erimo coast by slightly
536 modifying the fault width of the conventional model. The correlation of the tsunami events in the
537 past 4000 years is consistent with the tsunami evidence from the Tokachi and Hidaka region, and
538 demonstrates recurrence intervals of 110–620 years. The chronological correlation between most
539 tsunamis at these sites indicates that the paleo-tsunamis reported in eastern Hokkaido reached the
540 Hidaka region. On the other hand, detailed study of the tsunami ages also revealed the
541 differences among the regions facing the Tokachi-oki and Nemuro-oki segments, suggesting the
542 diversity of the Kuril earthquakes every few hundred years. By extending the correlation of
543 paleo-tsunamis from Hidaka to Tokachi to the past 4000 years, the spatial extent and recurrence
544 interval of large tsunamis in the regions facing the Tokachi-oki segment have been significantly
545 updated. The common history of tsunamis in the area facing the Tokachi-oki segment revealed
546 by this study will provide a framework for a more comprehensive correlation of Mw>8
547 earthquakes in the entire Kuril Trench.

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553 **Data Availability Statement**

554 New ¹⁴C datasets for this research are provided as Table 1 in this paper. We used tsunami
555 calculation code JAGURS (Baba et al., 2015, 2017) at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3737816>.
556 Generic Mapping Tools was used to draw the figures (Wessel et al., 2013).

557

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