The Kuril Islands earthquake of 15 November 2006 occurred as thrust-faulting on the Okhotsk plate beneath the Pacific plate with a magnitude of 8.3. This earthquake is the largest to have occurred in the central Kuril Islands since the 1973 Mw = 8.2 Kuril Island earthquake. The 1973 earthquake is estimated to have had a probability of about 1%.

In the region of these earthquake epicenters, the Pacific plate moves northwest ESE of the November earthquake within the outer-rise portion of the Pacific plate. The magnitude of 8.3 for the Kuril Islands earthquake of 15 November 2006 is significantly greater than the magnitude of 7.5 for the November 2006 earthquake. This magnitude difference suggests that the Kuril Islands earthquake is likely to be more destructive.

The epicenter of the November 2006 earthquake was located near the Kuril Islands, about 200 km (125 miles) north of the November 2006 earthquake. The depth of the earthquake was about 10 km (6 miles). The November 2006 earthquake was followed by numerous aftershocks, some of which were quite large, with magnitudes ranging up to 7.5.

The November 2006 earthquake was followed by a series of large aftershocks, some of which were quite large, with magnitudes ranging up to 7.5. These aftershocks were associated with the rupture of the main earthquake and the formation of a new fault segment.

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