Paleoseismology of Sanak Island: Collaborative Research with University of Rhode Island, Rutgers University, and U.S. Geological Survey

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Abstract

We sampled four sites on southern and eastern facing aspects of Sanak Island: Dodds West; Dodds Valley; Sandy Bay South; and Salmon Bay. Field methods involved the use of gouge cores to undertake reconnaissance of stratigraphy. We collected core samples using Russian and Fat Gouge hand driven coring devices at core locations that were representative of the overall stratigraphy at each study site. Analysis of the cores resulted in us obtaining 19 new AMS radiocarbon dates and 57 samples documenting the diatom assemblages. We constructed island-wide correlations between the four sites in the field using two distinctive tephras: a fine-grained grey tephra; and a coarse-grained red to orange tephra. Subsequent AMS radiocarbon dating confirms our field correlations.

Suitable sites for identifying land-level changes could not be located on Sanak Island. However, we find evidence for marine incursions up to five times during the last 4500 years, including the 1946 AD earthquake. Evidence for marine incursion consists of sand deposits that are compositionally similar to beach sand that were deposited within late Holocene tephra-derived soil and marsh sequences at three sites (Dodds Bay/Dodds Valley/Salmon Bay) and within freshwater marsh peat at Sandy Bay South. Sand beds contain marine diatoms indicating a marine source. On the basis of elevation above modern sea level and extent of inundation, we conclude that these sand beds are most likely due to inundation by tsunami rather than storms.

Our stratigraphy and diatom data coupled with chronology from AMS C-14 ages demonstrate that at Sanak Island, where the megathrust is currently creeping, repeated tsunamis have inundated >500m inland and >4m above modern mean sea level during the last 4500 years. The relationship between apparent lack of coupling during the instrumental era and previous marine incursions is unclear.
Context

The Alaska-Aleutian megathrust is capable of producing Mw 9+ earthquakes and associated large tsunamis as evidenced by the 1964 Mw 9.2 earthquake. Results of almost two decades of GPS instrumentation coupled with increasingly sophisticated modeling are identifying previously unresolved patterns of deformation. However, because GPS measurements span only fractions of most earthquake cycles, many aspects of ongoing plate deformation lack a unique interpretation. Little is known about the recurrence intervals and magnitudes of great earthquakes of the Alaska-Aleutian megathrust. Therefore, the seismic hazard posed by subduction zone faults can only be completely understood by studying paleoseismology records over many seismic cycles extending back hundreds to thousands of years.

Detailed paleoseismology records of the Alaska-Aleutian megathrust are limited to Cook Inlet and eastern Kodiak Island (areas only 400 km apart). These study sites are within the 1964 rupture area, which itself represents only 20% of the 3000 km Alaskan-Aleutian megathrust. Our study site, Sanak Island (Figure 1), is to the west of Kodiak Island. Sanak Island was inundated by the tsunami from the 1946 AD earthquake (e.g., Okal et al., 2003), and is within the hypothesized 1788 rupture zone (e.g., Lander et al., 1996). Indeed the 1946 “Scotch Cap” tsunami was the deadliest in US history, with more than 150 fatalities in Hawaii.

We therefore set out to evaluate the paleoseismic history of Sanak Island to address research questions including:

1. Are modern geodetic measurements consistent with the paleoseismology?

2. If evidence for earthquakes and/or tsunamis are found, what are the recurrence intervals for these events near Sanak Island?

Project deliverables included:

1. Collection of sediment cores from sites on Sanak Island to analyze evidence for land-level changes and/or tsunami deposits.

2. Analysis of fossil diatom samples.

3. Analysis of geochemistry samples.

4. Analysis of AMS C-14 dates and Cs-137 data to produce a chronology for earthquakes and/or tsunami at Sanak Island.

5. Presentation of results at scientific meetings.

6. Submission of results to peer-reviewed journals
1. Summary of deliverables
We sampled four sites on Sanak Island: Dodds West; Dodds Valley; Sandy Bay South; and Salmon Bay (Figure 1). Field methods involved the use of gouge cores to undertake reconnaissance of stratigraphy. We collected core samples using Russian and Fat Gouge hand driven coring devices at core sites that were representative of the overall stratigraphy at each site. Analysis of the cores resulted in us obtaining 19 new AMS radiocarbon dates and 57 samples documenting the diatom assemblages in and around anomalous sand beds. We tested whether a new geochemistry technique could distinguish between marine and terrestrial sources for the sands. We constructed island-wide correlations between the four sites in the field using two distinctive tephras: a fine-grained grey tephra; and a coarse-grained red to orange tephra. Subsequent AMS radiocarbon dating confirms our field correlations. We are presenting our initial findings at the 2015 Geological Society of America meeting in Baltimore and will submit a paper for peer review by May 2016.

2. Methods

2.1 Core Descriptions
Grain size, sedimentary structures, contacts, thickness, and lateral and vertical facies changes were described in the field using general stratigraphic methods in combination with the Troels-Smith (1955) method for describing organic-rich sediment.

2.2 Surveying to sea-level datum
Elevational accuracy is crucial for all our mapping and sampling. To establish vertical orthometric and tidal data at each site, we pursued two strategies. Firstly, we leveled cores, pits, and topographic elevations with a RTK GPS instrument. Data collected by the GPS base station was post-processed to obtain North American Vertical Datum 88 (NAVD88) orthometric elevations. To establish elevations with respect to a tidal datum, we installed water pressure sensors at Petersen Bay to capture the shape and timing of the tidal curve for comparison to the nearest tide gauge at Sand Point. We needed to use both orthometric and tidal-datum strategies because the link between NAVD88 orthometric and NOAA tidal data is not well established in Alaska (e.g., Kemp et al., 2013a).

2.3 Chronology
We picked plant macrofossil samples from selected cores for AMS $^{14}$C dating (Table 1). We focused on samples that can tightly constrain the timing or tsunami sand deposition, such as tidal herb stems entombed in mud or sand and seeds from terrestrial plants (e.g., Kemp et al., 2013b). Multiple $^{14}$C ages above and below key contacts related to land-level changes and tsunami deposits allow stratigraphic correlation among sites. We have decades of experience with this type of dating. We have developed age models for our stratigraphic sequences using Bayesian statistical software (BChron, Parnell et al., 2008). We used Cs-137 to ascertain the age of the upper sand at Dodds West, Dodds Valley, and Salmon Bay.
2.4 Diatoms
We conducted fossil diatom analysis to help characterize sand beds and determine sediment provenance (Hemphill-Haley, 1995; Dawson, 2007; Pilarczyk et al., 2014). We subsampled the stratigraphy of Core DW107A and Core DV103C at 1 cm intervals in the organic silts that bracket the sand beds and within the sand beds themselves. Diatoms were extracted from ~1 g of sediment using the standard preparation methods of Palmer and Abbott (1986). Between 25 and 100 mL (depending on the diatom concentration) of clean diatom solution was pipetted evenly on a cover slip, dried, and the coverslip mounted on a glass slide using Naphrax. A total of 50 diatom slides were prepared and counted. Diatoms were identified to species level using a light microscope under oil immersion at 1000x magnification with reference to Krammer and Lange-Bertalot (1986, 1988, 1991 a,b) and Lange-Bertalot (2000). When possible >200 diatoms were identified and counted in slides with each species expressed as a percentage of total diatom valves counted. We classified diatoms based on their salinity preference as outlined in Alaskan references (Zong et al., 2003; Hamilton and Shennan, 2005a,b; Shennan et al., 2007; Shennan et al., 2010) and global catalogs (Krammer and Lange-Bertalot, 1986, 1988, 1991 a,b; Hartley et al., 1986; Vos and de Wolf, 1988, 1993; Denys, 1991). Samples were also scanned for the abundance of chrysophyte cysts (freshwater golden algae) to help distinguish freshwater from tidal environments. In the diatom diagrams we show only those freshwater species >10% of the assemblage, and those marine species >2% of the assemblage.

2.5 Geochemistry
A relatively new organic geochemical approach based on the distribution of branched GDGTs (brGDGTs) compared to the one of crenarchaeol (isoprenoid GDGT) is tested to track tsunami sediment layers in cores from the Sanak Island. BrGDGTs are mainly produced by soil bacteria while crenarchaeol is a biomarker for marine Archaea of the genus Thaumarchaeota, although it has been reported cases of low amount of crenarchaeol production in soils (Schouten et al., 2013 and references therein). This proxy quantified in the so-called Branched and Isoprenoid Tetraether (BIT) index (Hopmans et al., 2004) have been used by several studies to track soil organic matter input into aquatic environments. BIT index values bellow ca. 0.3 are typical from marine environments whilst values closer to 1 are from a terrestrial environment. Here, we measure the BIT index and quantify the concentration of both, brGDGT and crenarchaeol, in 3 cores (DV102, 103 and 107B).

3. Results

3.1 Stratigraphy

3.1.1 Dodds West
Dodds West records evidence of five inundation events (DW1 through DW5) during the last ~4500 years (Figure 2).
3.1.2 Dodds Valley
Dodds Valley records evidence of four inundation events (DV1 through DV4) during the last 4500 years (Figure 3).

3.1.3 Sandy Bay South
Sandy Bay South records evidence of two inundation events (SBS1 and SBS2) during the last ~2000 years (Figure 4).

3.1.4 Salmon Bay
Salmon Bay records evidence of two inundation events (SB1 and SB2) during the last ~2000 years (Figure 5).

3.2 Chronological data
Our new AMS 14-C ages are shown in Table 1. We determine that Sand 1 was deposited by the 1946 AD earthquake, consistent with Cs-137 data (Figure 6) at three sites (Dodds Valley, Dodds West, Salmon Bay) that demonstrate deposition prior to 1963, “bathtub” rings of driftwood around the sites, and previous research that indicated inundation up to 6m at our sites during the 1946 earthquake that was greater than observed during the 1957 earthquake that occurred further west (Okal et al., 2003). Using the tephras and our 14-C ages, we correlate sands between sites as shown in Table 2. Estimated ages derived from Bayesian age modeling using Bchron (Parnell et al., 2008) of each sand layer are shown in Figure 7.

3.3 Diatom Analysis

3.3.1 Dodds West
Sand DW5
Samples from the organic silt below sand bed DW5 (Figure 8) contain well-preserved, abundant (>50%) marine tidal flat diatoms (e.g., Cocconeis costata, Cocconeis scutellum, and Grammatophora marina) and marine plankton (Hyalodiscus scoticus and Thalassiosira sp.) with lesser abundances (<50%) of freshwater marsh diatoms (Pinnularia intermedia, Pinnularia lagerstedtii) and chrysophyte cysts. The mixed tidal flat and freshwater assemblage is unique in that it does not contain any transitional, low marsh diatoms. It is possible that winter processes, such as a build-up of sediment-laden sea-ice on the tidal flat could have transported tidal flat diatoms onto the freshwater tidal marsh (Hamilton et al., 2005), creating the mixed assemblage. However it is difficult to distinguish winter processes from other processes contributing to mixed diatom assemblages, such as the daily tidal mixing that occurs throughout the year.

Marine tidal flat diatoms (e.g., Cocconeis costata, Cocconeis scutellum, and Grammatophora marina) and marine plankton (Hyalodiscus scoticus and Thalassiosira sp.) reach their highest abundance in the core (82%) in sand bed DW5.
The well-preserved assemblage includes the same taxa found below the sand, but is characterized by a decrease in freshwater microfossils and a high percent abundance of marine plankton (26%) compared to underlying sediments (15%) and overlying sediments (11%).

The organic silt immediately overlying sand bed DW5 contains abundant, well-preserved (>50%) marine tidal flat and marine planktonic diatoms with lesser abundances (<50%) of freshwater marsh diatoms and chrysophyte cysts, similar to sediments underlying sand bed DW5. Two centimeters above sand bed DW5, freshwater diatoms begin to increase and marine diatoms decrease, reflecting an environment with a decreased marine influence. The appearance of the freshwater diatom *Eunotia praerupta* 2 cm above sand bed DW5 supports a freshening system.

**Sand DW4**

Samples from the organic silt below sand bed DW4 (Figure 8) contain well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms (*Achnanthidium reimeri, Eunotia praerupta, Pinnularia brevicostata, Pinnularia intermedia,* and *Pinnularia lagerstedtii*) and chrysophyte cysts typical of a freshwater marsh environment. No marine taxa were found in samples underlying sand bed DW4, suggesting the winter or tidal processes responsible for the mixed assemblages in the base of the core are no longer acting on the freshwater marsh.

Diatoms within sand bed DW4 are characterized by high fragmentation, low concentration, and an influx of marine tidal flat diatoms (*Cocconeis scutellum* (16%), *Delphineis surirella* (11%), and *Cocconeis costata* (6%)) into an assemblage otherwise dominated by freshwater taxa. The fragmented, mixed assemblage containing anomalous tidal flat diatoms is consistent with a marine incursion into the freshwater marsh.

The tephra above sand bed DW4 contains no diatoms.

**Sand DW3**

Samples from the organic silt below sand bed DW3 (Figure 9) contain well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms (*Achnanthidium reimeri, Eunotia praerupta, Pinnularia brevicostata, Pinnularia intermedia,* and *Pinnularia lagerstedtii*) and chrysophyte cysts typical of a freshwater marsh environment. No marine taxa were found in samples underlying sand bed DW3.

Diatoms within sand bed DW3 are characterized by high fragmentation, low concentration, and an influx of marine tidal flat diatoms (*Delphineis surirella* (16%), *Planothidium delicatulum* (11%), *Cocconeis scutellum* (6%)) into an assemblage otherwise dominated by freshwater taxa. We also observed an increase in freshwater diatoms commonly found in shallow lakes and ponds (*Platessa hustedtii, Stauroforma exiguiformis, Staurosira construens*) in the sand. The fragmentation of diatom valves, and the anomalous tidal flat diatoms and shallow freshwater diatoms
in sand bed DW3 are consistent with a tsunami eroding, transporting, and depositing sediments from a variety of environments.

The organic silt immediately overlying sand bed DW3 contains well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms and chrysophyte cysts typical of a freshwater marsh environment, similar to sediments below sand bed 3. Two samples from the “Red beard” tephra (samples 33-34 cm and 34-35 cm) contain few (<100) diatoms, but those present are consistent with the freshwater marsh assemblage found in underlying and overlying samples. No marine taxa were found in samples overlying sand bed DW3.

**Sand DW2**

Samples from the organic silt immediately below sand bed DW2 (Figure 9) contain well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms (*Achnanthidium reimeri, Eunotia praerupta, Pinnularia brevicostata, Pinnularia intermedia, and Pinnularia lagerstedtii*) and chrysophyte cysts typical of a freshwater marsh environment. No marine taxa were found in samples underlying sand bed DW2.

Diatoms within sand bed DW2 are characterized by high fragmentation, low concentration, and an influx of marine tidal flat diatoms (*Planolithidium delicatulum* (6%), *Cocconeis scutellum* (5%), *Grammatophora marina* (5%)) into an assemblage otherwise dominated by freshwater taxa. We also observed an increase in freshwater diatoms commonly found in shallow lakes and ponds (*Platessa hustedtii, Stauroforma exiguiiformis, Staurosira construens*) in the sand. The fragmentation of diatom valves, and the anomalous tidal flat diatoms and shallow freshwater diatoms in sand bed DW2 are consistent with a tsunami eroding, transporting, and depositing sediments from a variety of environments.

The organic silt immediately overlying sand bed DW2 contains well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms and chrysophyte cysts typical of a freshwater marsh environment, similar to sediments below sand bed DW2. No marine taxa were found in samples overlying sand bed DW2.

**Sand DW1**

Samples from the organic silt below sand bed DW1 (Figure 10) contain well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms (*Achnanthidium reimeri, Eunotia praerupta, Pinnularia brevicostata, Pinnularia intermedia, and Pinnularia lagerstedtii*) and chrysophyte cysts typical of a freshwater marsh environment. No marine taxa were found in samples underlying sand bed DW1.

Diatoms within sand bed DW1 are characterized by high fragmentation, low concentration, and an influx of marine tidal flat diatoms (*Delphineis surirella* (10%), *Planolithidium delicatulum* (10%), *Cocconeis scutellum* (8%)) into an assemblage otherwise dominated by freshwater taxa. We also observed an increase in freshwater diatoms commonly found in shallow lakes and ponds (*Platessa hustedtii*) in the sand. The fragmentation of diatom valves, and the anomalous tidal flat
diatoms and shallow freshwater diatoms in sand bed DW1 are consistent with a tsunami eroding, transporting, and depositing sediments from a variety of environments.

The organic silt immediately overlying sand bed DW1 contains well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms and chrysophyte cysts typical of a freshwater marsh environment, similar to sediments below sand DW1. No marine taxa were found in samples overlying sand bed DW1.

3.3.2 Dodds Valley

Sand DV4
Samples from the organic silt below sand bed DV4 (Figure 11) contain well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms (*Aulacoseira italica*, *Pinnularia lagerstedtii*, *Stauroforma exiguiformis*, and *Staurosira construens*) typical of a freshwater peat bog environment with periodic standing water. No marine taxa were found in samples underlying sand bed DV4.

Diatoms within sand bed DV4 are characterized by high fragmentation, low concentration, and an influx of marine tidal flat diatoms (*Surirella ovalis* (4%) and *Planothidium delicatulum* (2%)) and marine plankton (*Thalassiosira* sp. (3%)) into an assemblage otherwise dominated by freshwater taxa. The fragmented, mixed assemblage containing anomalous tidal flat and planktonic marine diatoms is consistent with a marine incursion into the freshwater marsh.

The organic silt overlying sand bed DV4 contains well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms typical of a freshwater peat bog environment with periodic standing water, similar to sediments below sand bed DV4. No marine taxa were found in samples overlying sand bed DV4.

Sand DV3
Samples from the organic silt below sand bed DV3 (Figure 12) contain abundant reworked tephra shards and a highly fragmented, low concentration assemblage of freshwater diatoms (*Achnanthidium reimeri*, *Aulacoseira italica*, *Eunotia praerupta*, *Pinnularia lagerstedtii*, *Stauroforma exiguiformis*, and *Staurosira construens*) typical of a freshwater peat bog environment with periodic standing water. The low concentration and high fragmentation of diatom valves in the tephra rich organic silt is probably due to soil forming processes weakening and fragmenting diatom valves. No marine taxa were found in samples underlying sand bed DV3.

Diatoms within sand bed DV3 are characterized by high fragmentation, high concentration, and an influx of marine tidal flat diatoms (*Planothidium delicatulum* (6%), *Cocconeis scutellum* (2%), and marine plankton (*Thalassiosira* sp. (2%)) into an assemblage otherwise dominated by freshwater taxa. The relatively high concentration of diatom valves within the sand bed compared to underlying and overlying tephra rich sediments suggests that the entrainment and rapid burial of
Diatom valves by the tsunami resulted in higher preservation rates (Hemphill-Haley, 1996; Sawai et al., 2009) than in reworked organic tephras. The fragmented, mixed assemblage containing anomalous tidal flat and planktonic marine diatoms is consistent with a marine incursion into the freshwater marsh.

The organic silt overlying sand bed DV3 contains abundant tephra shards (Red Beard tephra) and a highly fragmented, low concentration of freshwater diatoms typical of a freshwater peat bog environment with periodic standing water, similar to sediments below sand bed DV3. No marine taxa were found in samples overlying sand bed DV3.

**Sand DV2**
Samples from the organic silt below sand bed DV2 (Figure 12) contain well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms (*Aulacoseira italica, Eunotia praerupta, Pinnularia lagerstedtii, Stauroforma exiguiformis, and Staurosirella pinnata*) typical of a freshwater peat bog environment with periodic standing water. No marine taxa were found in samples underlying sand bed DV2.

Diatoms within sand bed DV2 are characterized by high fragmentation, high concentration, and an influx of marine tidal flat diatoms (*Planothidium delicatulum* (5%), *Cocconeis costata* (2%), and *Delphineis surirella* (2%)) and marine plankton (*Paralia sulcata* (3%)) into an assemblage otherwise dominated by freshwater taxa. We also observed an increase in freshwater diatoms commonly found in shallow lakes and ponds (*Stauroforma exiguiformis, Staurosirella pinnata, Staurosira construens*) in the sand. The fragmentation of diatom valves, the presence of tidal flat diatoms and marine plankton, and the increase in shallow freshwater diatoms in sand bed DV2 are consistent with a tsunami eroding, transporting, and depositing sediments from a variety of environments.

The organic silt overlying sand bed DV2 contains abundant tephra shards and a highly fragmented, low concentration of freshwater diatoms typical of a freshwater peat bog environment with periodic standing water, similar to taxa found below sand bed DV2. No marine taxa were found in samples overlying sand bed DV2.

**Sand DV1**
Samples from the organic silt below sand bed DV1 (Figure 13) contain abundant reworked tephra shards and a highly fragmented, low concentration assemblage of freshwater diatoms (*Achnanthidium reimeri, Eunotia praerupta, Stauroforma exiguiformis, Pinnularia intermedia, Pinnularia lagerstedtii, and Aulacoseira italica*) typical of a freshwater peat bog environment with periodic standing water. No marine taxa were found in samples underlying sand bed DV1.

Diatoms within sand bed DV1 are characterized by high fragmentation, high concentration, and an influx of marine tidal flat diatoms (*Planothidium delicatulum* (8%), *Delphineis surirella* (6%), and *Cocconeis scutellum* (3%)) and marine plankton (*Paralia sulcata* (2%)) into an assemblage otherwise dominated by freshwater taxa.
We also observed an increase in freshwater diatoms commonly found in shallow lakes and ponds (*Staurosirella pinnata*, *Staurosira construens*) in the sand. The fragmentation of diatom valves, the presence of tidal flat diatoms and marine plankton, and the increase in shallow freshwater diatoms in sand bed DV1 are consistent with a tsunami eroding, transporting, and depositing sediments from a variety of environments.

### 3.3.3 Sandy Bay South

**Sand SBS2**

Samples from the organic silt below sand bed SBS2 (Figure 14) contain well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms (*Aulacoseira italica*, *Pinnularia intermedia*, *Pinnularia lagerstedtii*, *Stauroforma exiguiformis*, and *Tabellaria flocculosa*) and chrysophyte cysts typical of a freshwater marsh environment. No marine taxa were found in samples underlying sand bed SBS2.

Diatoms within sand bed SBS2 are characterized by high fragmentation, low concentration, and an influx of marine tidal flat diatoms (*Delphineis surirella* (13%), *Cocconeis costata* (3%)) and marine plankton (*Thalassiosira sp.* (3%)) into an assemblage otherwise dominated by freshwater taxa. We also observed an increase in *Platessa hustedtii*, a freshwater diatom commonly found in shallow lakes and ponds. The fragmentation of diatom valves, and the anomalous tidal flat diatoms and shallow freshwater diatoms in sand bed SBS2 are consistent with a tsunami eroding, transporting, and depositing sediments from a variety of environments.

The organic silt immediately overlying sand bed SBS contains well-preserved, abundant freshwater diatoms and chrysophyte cysts typical of a freshwater marsh environment, similar to sediments below sand bed SBS2. We observed fragments of the marine tidal flat diatom *Delphineis surirella* (<2%) in the organic silt immediately overlying sand bed SBS2, likely the result of sediment mixing at the sand-peat contact.

### 3.4 Geochemistry

Results for all the sediment cores showed BIT index values of ca. 1 suggesting mainly terrestrial OM source. No significant difference was observed between soils from above and below the sand layer in comparison to the tsunami sediment layer. This suggests that the BIT index is not sensitive enough to identify tsunami/storm sediments, the most plausible explanation being backwash from tsunami inundation that entrained terrestrial organic matter within the sand layer and the post-deposition contamination of the sand layer by down profile inwash of peats and root penetration.
4. Conclusions

1. We did not find evidence for land-level changes on Sanak Island. This absence may be due to a lack of suitable recording environments with no extensive salt marshes.

2. Evidence for marine inundation during the 1946 AD earthquake is preserved at multiple sites across southern Sanak, consistent with historical evidence of significant inundation.

3. There is evidence for a further four inundation events prior to the 1946 AD earthquake at four sites across southern Sanak. The sand layers are confirmed to be of marine origin from diatom analysis. We postulate these deposits are a result of tsunami based on lateral extent of deposits and height above modern sea level.

4. Average recurrence interval between tsunami sands was ~675 years between 4300 and 2000 years ago.

5. Geologic evidence suggests a 2000-year gap between tsunami 2 and the 1946 AD earthquake.

6. The relationship between current lack of coupling during the instrumental period and previous marine incursions is unclear.

References


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Table 1. Correlations between site specific sand layers and overall stratigraphic framework for Sanak Island
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<td>DW107C 34.5-35.5cm</td>
<td>OS-119688</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>Woody stems</td>
<td>2260±25</td>
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<td>Salmon Bay</td>
<td>SB101A 49.5-50cm</td>
<td>OS-115944</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>Bark</td>
<td>130±15</td>
<td>12-269</td>
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<td>OS-119777</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>Twigs</td>
<td>2320±30</td>
<td>2184-2376</td>
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<td>SB101A 52-53cm</td>
<td>OS-118796</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>Algae holdfasts</td>
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<td>2455-2747</td>
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<td>Dodds Valley</td>
<td>DV103A 33-34cm</td>
<td>OS-121226</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>Woody fragments</td>
<td>2570±120</td>
<td>2348-2919</td>
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<td>DW107A 36-39cm</td>
<td>OS-116286</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>Moss leaf Modern</td>
<td>Modern Modern</td>
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<td>Dodds Valley</td>
<td>DV103C 75.5-76cm</td>
<td>OS-116169</td>
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<td>Dodds West</td>
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<td>OS-118797</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>Algae holdfasts</td>
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<td>Algae holdfasts</td>
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<td>Twigs</td>
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<td>1822-1920</td>
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Table 2. AMS 14-C dates used in this study to provide a chronologic framework at Sanak Island
Figure 1. Study area map. A) Sanak Island with three main study sites highlighted by white rectangles. B) Dodds Region study site with Dodds West (DW) and Dodds Valley (DV) coring transects marked by red lines. C) Sandy Bay South site with coring transect marked by red line. D) Salmon Bay site with coring transect marked by red line.
Figure 2. Simplified stratigraphy for Dodds West study site highlighting sand layers and tephras that could be correlated in the field.
Figure 3. Simplified stratigraphy for Dodds Valley study site highlighting sand layers and tephras that could be correlated in the field.
Figure 4. Simplified stratigraphy for Sandy Bay South study site highlighting sand layers and tephras that could be correlated in the field.
Figure 5. Simplified stratigraphy for Salmon Bay study site highlighting sand layers and tephras that could be correlated in the field.
Figure 6. Cesium-137 data for Sand 1 at cores obtained in Dodds Valley (DV103A), Dodds West (DW102C) and Salmon Bay (SB101C) study sites. Cesium-137 distributions identify that Sand 1 at all three sites was deposited prior to 1963.
Figure 7. Modeled ages for Sands 2, 3, 4, and 5. Sand ages were modeled using Bchron (Parnell et al., 2008). Sand 4 has a wider age distribution than the other three sands due to no direct AMS 14-C dates bounding this sand layer.
Figure 8. Diatom assemblages for sand layers DW5 and DW4 in Dodds West core DW107A. Diatoms are sub-divided into environmental preference for either freshwater or marine environments. Summary diagrams show the percentage of each environmental preference per sample, as well as the number of diatom valves per gram of sediment, and the percentage of diatoms that were fragmented.
Figure 9. Diatom assemblages for sand layers DW3 and DW2 in Dodds West core DW107A. Diatoms are sub-divided into environmental preference for either freshwater or marine environments. Summary diagrams show the percentage of each environmental preference per sample, as well as the number of diatom valves per gram of sediment, and the percentage of diatoms that were fragmented.
Figure 10. Diatom assemblages for sand layer DW1 in Dodds West core DW107A. Diatoms are sub-divided into environmental preference for either freshwater or marine environments. Summary diagrams show the percentage of each environmental preference per sample, as well as the number of diatom valves per gram of sediment, and the percentage of diatoms that were fragmented.
Figure 11. Diatom assemblages for sand layer DV4 in Dodds Valley core DV103C. Diatoms are sub-divided into environmental preference for either freshwater or marine environments. Summary diagrams show the percentage of each environmental preference per sample, as well as the number of diatom valves per gram of sediment, and the percentage of diatoms that were fragmented.
Figure 12. Diatom assemblages for sand layers DV3 and DV2 in Dodds Valley core DV103C. Diatoms are sub-divided into environmental preference for either freshwater or marine environments. Summary diagrams show the percentage of each environmental preference per sample, as well as the number of diatom valves per gram of sediment, and the percentage of diatoms that were fragmented.
<table>
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<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Salinity Summary</th>
<th>Diatom valves/g</th>
<th>Fragmentation (%)</th>
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Figure 13. Diatom assemblages for sand layer DV1 in Dodds Valley core DV103C. Diatoms are sub-divided into environmental preference for either freshwater or marine environments. Summary diagrams show the percentage of each environmental preference per sample, as well as the number of diatom valves per gram of sediment, and the percentage of diatoms that were fragmented.
Figure 14. Diatom assemblages for sand layer SBS2 in Sandy Bay South core SBSC2. Diatoms are sub-divided into environmental preference for either freshwater or marine environments. Summary diagrams show the percentage of each environmental preference per sample, as well as the number of diatom valves per gram of sediment, and the percentage of diatoms that were fragmented.