Tsunami Sources
Icosahedron Globe
August 2012 Edition

This globe of Earth shows the locations of historical tsunami sources extracted from NGDC’s Global Historical Tsunami Database (ngdc.noaa.gov/hazard). A tsunami is a series of traveling waves of extremely long length and period, usually generated by disturbances associated with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean “oors. Volcanic eruptions, submarine landslides and coastal rockfalls can also generate tsunamis as can a large meteorite impinging the ocean.

The underlying color shaded-relief image was generated from NGDC’s ETOP01 “Ice Surface” (ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global). ETOP01 is a 1 arc-minute global relief model of Earth’s surface that integrates land topography and ocean bathymetry. Bathymetry is largely from estimated seafloor topography derived from sea-surface satellite altimetry measurements.