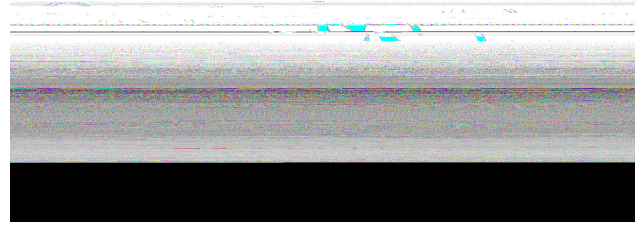


Press Release



53/2013

Seabed in Motion - Coastal Areas at Risk?

24 September 2013/Kiel. What is the probability that severe tsunamis are caused by submarine landslides? Which coastal regions are threatened worldwide? Questions such as these



fessor Michael Strasser from the Geological Institute at ETH Zurich. " Based on the available fragmentary database, we are essentially at a stage comparable to the Farmer's Almanac of past centuries." In recent years, Strasser has led the first campaign specifically assigned to drill submarine landslides triggered by earthquakes. With new measurement methods and technically advanced drilling systems, the researcher and his colleagues have explored the continental slope off Japan where continental plates collide and earthquakes are occurring repeatedly. "We hope to gain important insights into the recurrence rates of earthquake-triggered landslides soon," says Strasser. The geologist takes sediment samples from drill ships to investigate the age and structure of submarine landslide deposits in detail. For example, they want investigate how and why a slope started to slide down and