

a review of the ship reports describing experiences during the large shallow Mexican earthquake of June 3, 1932. Although slight motions were felt throughout the early morning hours in the mountainous area behind Manzanillo, it was not until 1037 GMT that the principal shock occurred. The epicenter, located about 30 mi. inland near 19.5°N., 104.3°W., fell in the chain of volcanic mountains that traverse Mexico in an east-west trend and are, probably, a continental continuation of the long straight Clarion Fracture Zone that originates in the Central Pacific and passes through the volcanic Revilla Gigedo Islands before emerging on the Mexican coast.

During the early morning hours of June 3, 1932, the SS SOLANA was steaming through a smooth sea with light variable winds near 18°30'N., 104°08'W. At 1037 GMT she was violently shaken for about 7 sec. The ship was then about 60 mi. (170°) from the epicenter in approximately 800 fathoms of water and did not detect any change in the state of the sea. The perpendicular distance to the fault zone was also about 60 mi.

A few miles to the southwest at 18°20'N., 104°32'W., the MV SEVENOR experienced, at the same

time, vibrations that were less severe but of longer duration (1 min.). The SEVENOR was approximately 70 mi. (191°) from the epicenter and the perpendicular distance to the fault zone was between 65 and 70 mi. The ship reported a calm sea and slight westerly swells and detected no noticeable change in the surface of the sea.

Conditions aboard the MV NORTHERN SUN at 19°56'N., 106°14'W. were entirely different. Although the vessel was 115 mi. (285°) from the epicenter, the perpendicular distance to the probable fault zone was probably not more than 10 mi. Vibrations, commencing at 1029 GMT, continued for 3 min. and became so violent that the engines were stopped. Before the earthquake, the sea had been smooth with a slight westerly swell, but by 1046 GMT the swell pattern had changed and the sea was confused.

Farther to the north at 20°28'N., 106°20'W., the SS ARIZONA commenced to vibrate at 1039 GMT and continued to do so for about 75 sec. The ship was about 130 mi. (297°) from the epicenter with a slight southwesterly sea and did not notice any change in the state of the sea. The perpendicular distance to the fault was probably somewhat over 40 mi.

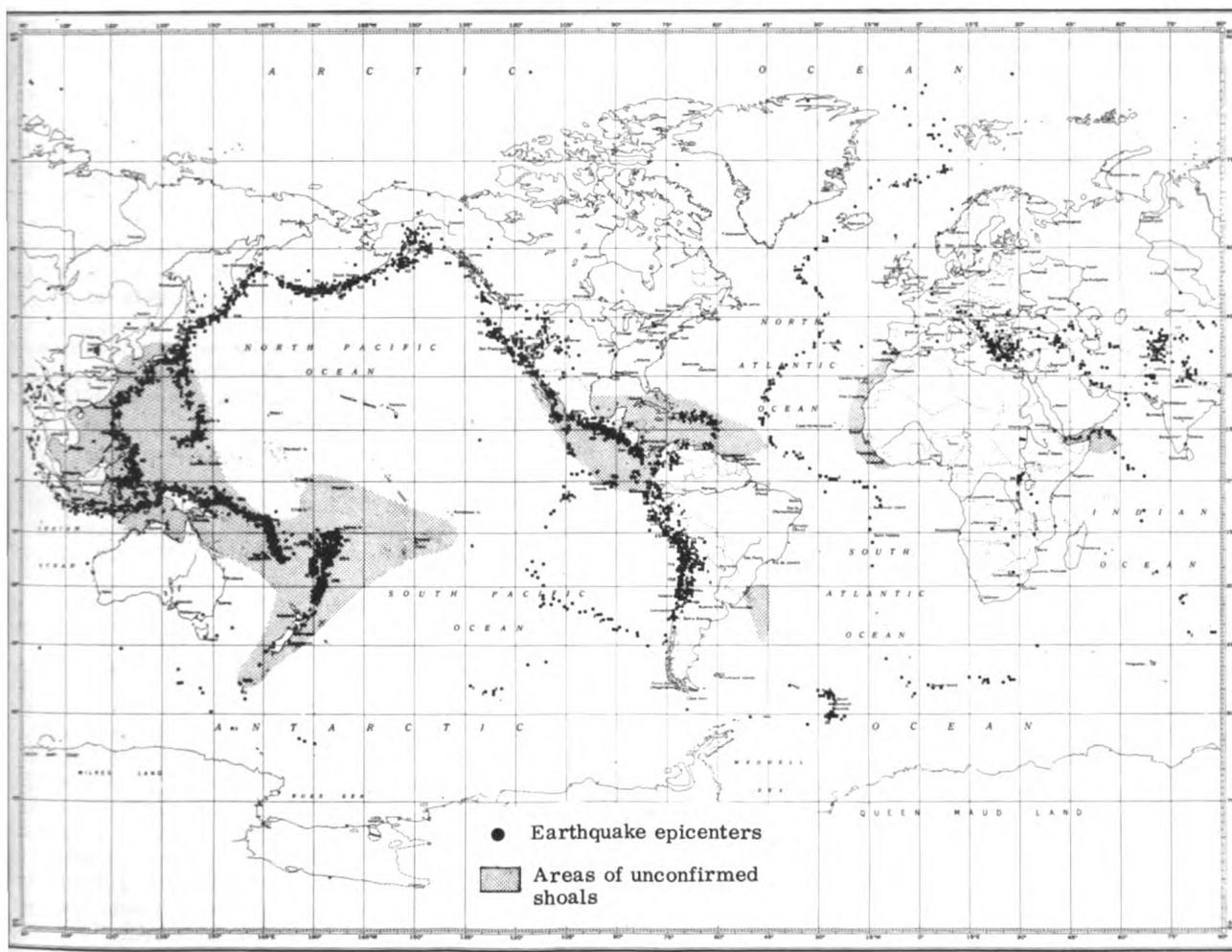


Fig. 9 The world distribution of seismic activity is depicted by the earthquake epicenters. There is a good correlation between seismic activity and reports of unconfirmed shoals.