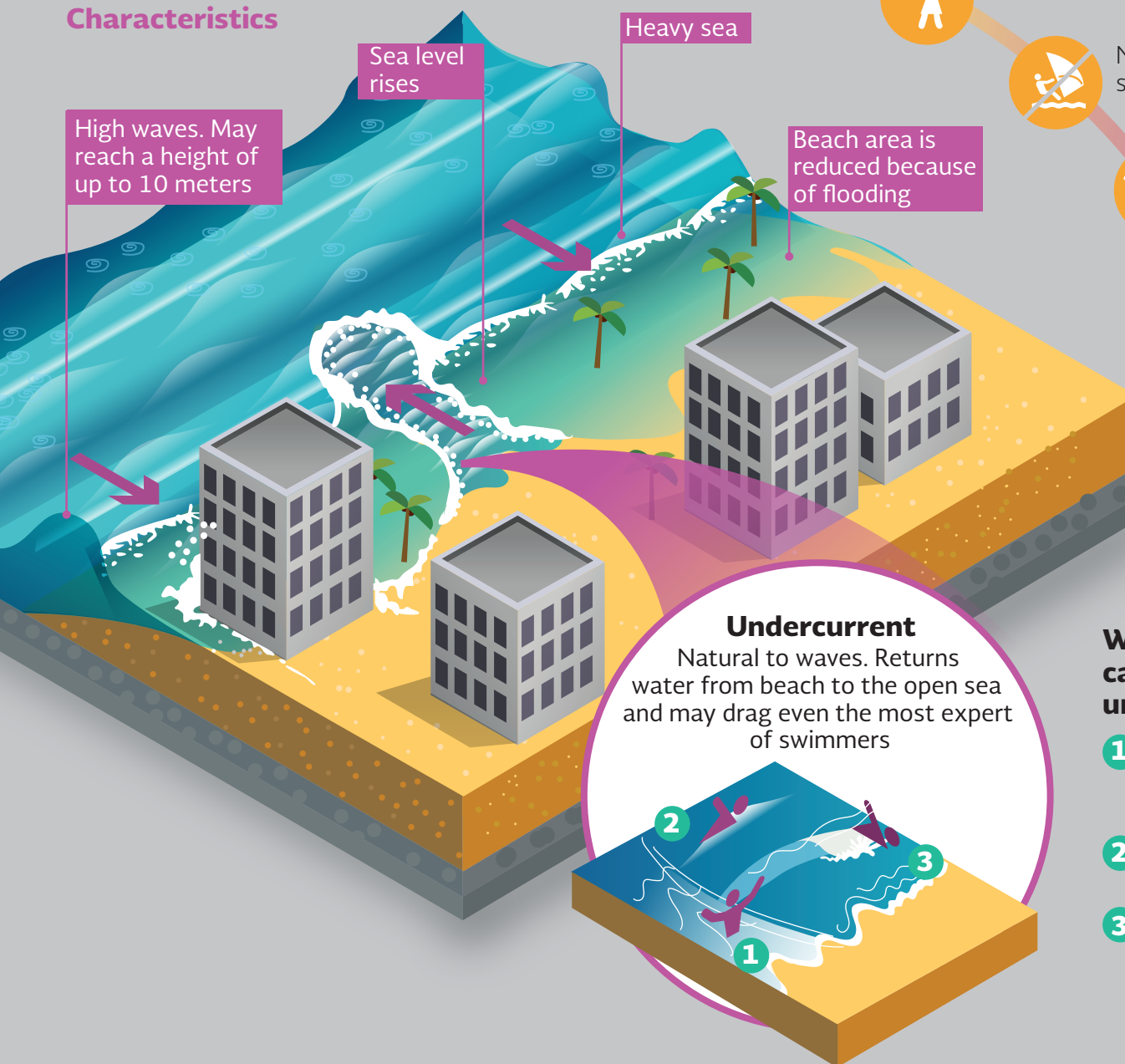


OCEAN SWELL: Careful, “the ocean is coming out”!

What is it?

Swell is a series of strong waves produced by storms in the ocean. They move along the Pacific Ocean. May happen any time along the year, but **usually from May through November**

Characteristics



Preventive measures

Don't walk along the beach



Don't swim in the ocean



Follow lifesavers and Civil Protection recommendations



Obey weather warnings



No water sports



Along the beach, obey established signaling



Remove grass-thatched huts (palapas) from beach area

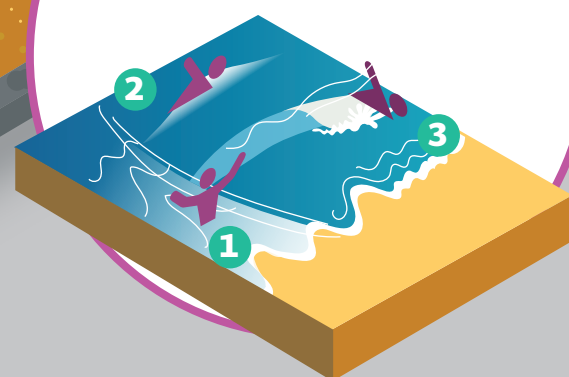


Remove and safekeep small boats



Undercurrent

Natural to waves. Returns water from beach to the open sea and may drag even the most expert of swimmers



What to do if caught by the undercurrent

- 1 Keep calm and never swim against the current
- 2 Swim parallel to the beach
- 3 To leave the current, swim diagonally

What to do if the swell pulls you?



Keep calm. These waves will move you away from the coast, but will not submerge you



Do not swim against the current. You will only waste energy



Swim parallel to the beach



To leave the current, swim diagonally



Try to call the lifesaver's attention



If you are tired, just float

Be informed

Comisión Nacional del Agua
www.gob.mx/conagua

Centro Nacional de Prevención de Desastres
www.gob.mx/cenapred

Centro de Ciencias de la Atmósfera
www.atmosfera.unam.mx

Reporta emergencias al 911

Source: Centro Nacional de Prevención de Desastres

Translation: Guadalupe Meléndez de Escalante



GOBIERNO DE MÉXICO

SEGURIDAD
SECRETARÍA DE SEGURIDAD Y PROTECCIÓN CIUDADANA



CNPC
COORDINACIÓN NACIONAL DE PROTECCIÓN CIVIL



CENAPRED
CENTRO NACIONAL DE PREVENCIÓN DE DESASTRES



gob.mx/cenapred



Be informed

Learn about the ocean swells

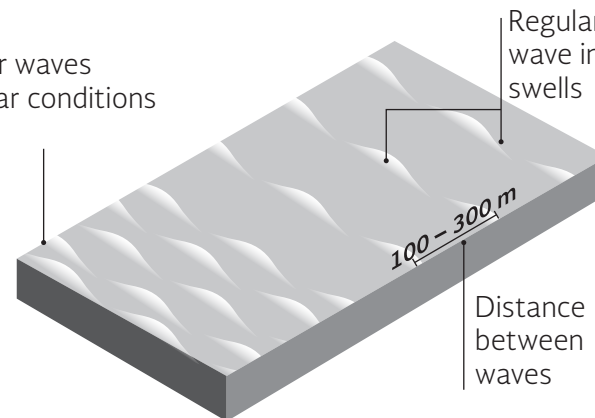
Risk area

Swells appear along the Pacific Ocean coast, and mainly affect the states of

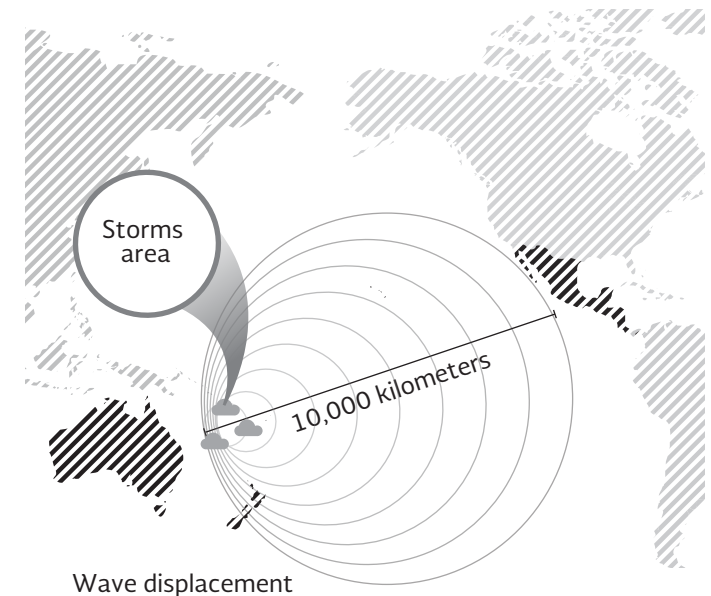


Some people also call it **sea levy**. It is easily identified from far away, because its energy organizes waves in a regular pattern along its path, and the distance among them is from 100 to 300 meters

Irregular waves
in regular conditions
sea



Marine storms produced by swell sometimes originate in Australia, and this event runs along more than 10,000 kilometers to reach Mexican coasts



Did you know that



The ocean is **coming out** is a phrase employed by people living along the coast when they refer to the ocean swell



The difference between a **swell** and a **tsunami** is its **origin**. The former is due the action of the wind from storms over the ocean on areas far away from the coast, the latter is mostly due to earthquakes

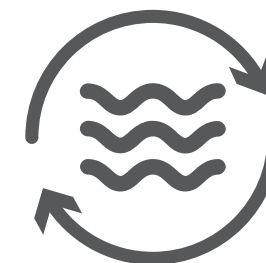
Nowadays, numerical models and webcams can monitor these events, with the analysis of all oceans moving towards the shores



During May 2015 a swell affected the states of Guerrero, Chiapas, Colima, Oaxaca y Michoacan,



with over 500 houses damaged and some human losses more than 500 damaged homes and some human losses



Swells are beneficial, because they move in all directions, remove, mix, and recycle marine ecosystem waters, which means a process for an exchange of energy



Risk atlas may be useful to learn which are the possible areas affected by swells