1 **Automated Detection and Location of Tectonic Tremor along the Entire**
2 **Cascadia Margin From 2005-2011**

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14
15 **Abstract**

16 We have constructed an automated routine to identify prominent bursts of tectonic
17 tremor and locate their source region during time periods of raised amplitude in the tremor
18 passband. This approach characterizes 62 episodes of tectonic tremor between 2005 and 2011,
19 with tremor epicenters forming a narrow band spanning the entire length of the Cascadia
20 Subduction Zone. We find a range of along-strike lengths in individual episodes, but the length
21 appears proportional to both duration and geodetic moment, consistent with proposed scaling
22 laws for slow earthquake phenomena. Examination of individual episodes in detail reveals
23 intriguing updip-downdip migration patterns, including slow updip migration during initiation
24 and repetitive downdip migration between different episodes. The broader catalog of tremor
25 episodes refines the inferences from earlier work that episodic tremor and slip is segmented
26 along-strike and correlated with apparent seismogenic zone segmentation in most cases. The
27 overall band of tremor is offset ~50 km from the downdip edge of interseismic coupling along
28 the central and northern parts of the subduction zone. Along the southern part of the

subduction zone, it is adjacent to this boundary, suggesting that the locked and transition zones may be more closely linked in southern Cascadia.

1. Introduction

The factors responsible for the transition in slip behavior on a subduction megathrust from the shallow seismogenic zone to the deeper stable slip zone remain in dispute. Accurately determining the location of the transition zone may have significant implications for estimating the area of the subduction interface capable of propagating slip in a great earthquake. Advances in seismic and geodetic monitoring systems have led to the discovery of a unique class of slow earthquakes, including episodic tremor and slip (ETS) originating from the transition zone of the subduction interface [e.g., Beroza and Ide, 2011; Schwartz and Rokosky, 2007]. Surface-based geodetic instruments provide clear evidence of recurring episodes of transient slip with durations of days to weeks, which show ground motions opposite to the direction of relative plate convergence [Dragert et al., 2001]. Often associated with these episodes of transient slip is an emergent, extended-duration, seismic signal resembling an intense swarm of microseismicity with seismic waves deficient in higher frequency energy, which is generally referred to as nonvolcanic or tectonic tremor [Obara, 2002; Rogers and Dragert, 2003].

Constraining precise tremor source locations is often challenging due to the lack of impulsive body wave arrivals used in traditional earthquake location techniques. Consequently, many previous studies have employed envelope waveform cross correlation techniques which yield optimized time lags used to resolve source locations with reliable horizontal locations, but less certain vertical locations [Obara, 2002; Payero et al., 2008; Wech and Creager, 2008]. Tremor has been particularly difficult to locate in portions of Cascadia with large station spacing and irregular distribution of seismic instruments. Studies concentrating on the seismic component of tremor and slip have been focused toward the northern end of the subduction zone due to the higher density of seismic instruments [e.g., Kao et al., 2009; Wech et al., 2009; Houston et al., 2011], while the rest of the margin has received considerably less attention [e.g., Szeliga et al., 2004; Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010; Bartlow et al., 2011]. In northern Cascadia,

several studies have documented the remarkable temporal and spatial correlation between tectonic tremor and transient slip [Kao et al., 2009; Wech et al., 2009], indicating the overall distribution of tectonic tremor matches the inferred distribution of transient slip. This correlation is particularly well documented for episodes that migrate through a 200-300 km segment of the subduction interface in northern Washington, repeating on average every 14 months [e.g. Rogers and Dragert, 2003; Brudzinski and Allen, 2007; Wech et al., 2009].

Outside of the northern Washington segment, correlations between transient offsets in GPS time series and raised amplitudes in the tremor passband suggest that ETS occurs throughout the subduction zone despite the relatively sparse seismic and GPS station spacing [Brudzinski and Allen, 2007; Holtkamp and Brudzinski, 2010]. ETS in these other regions does not repeat as regularly in time, with standard deviations 2-5 times larger than in northern Washington [Brudzinski and Allen, 2007]. Moreover, tremor source location analysis in other parts of the subduction zone has been limited [Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010; Ide, 2012], resulting in uncertainty about whether patterns observed in northern Washington are characteristic of the entire subduction zone or whether they reflect anomalous behavior where the subducting plate must accommodate a unique bend due to a $\sim 45^\circ$ change in the strike of the trench.

To increase our understanding of tectonic tremor and transient slip, we sought to develop a tremor detection and location approach to conduct a comprehensive analysis of tremor episodes spanning the entirety of the Cascadia Subduction Zone from 2005 to 2011. The goal of this paper is to validate a new methodology for characterizing tremor episodes, so the paper is focused on comparing the results with other prior results and other relevant observations. For example, this analysis reveals several unique modes of simple and complex migration with components of migration parallel and normal to the strike of the subducting plate. The lateral extent of the tremor source region, the epicenter density, and the recurrence interval of tremor episodes are compared with offshore paleoseismic signatures, the predicted plate interface depth, thermal structure, and interseismic coupling. While we would like to have a deeper interpretation of some of the patterns observed, we sought to focus on

comparisons because more sophisticated modeling would be needed to justify more physical explanations.

2. Data and Methods

We constructed a catalog of prominent tectonic tremor activity between 2005 and 2011 by developing an automated location routine to seismic data spanning the entire length of the Cascadia subduction zone (Figure 1). The framework of this routine is derived from a previously developed semi-automated location routine [Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010]. The semi-automated approach focused on time periods of elevated tectonic tremor energy [Brudzinski and Allen, 2007], identified the most pronounced signals on stacked envelope seismograms, and inverted analyst-refined arrival times for source locations. The automated location routine incorporates two additional components: the definition of evenly spaced network subsets to aid in detection of concurrent tremor at different locations along strike and a cross correlation procedure to identify waveform similarity and perform arrival time refinement. The automation facilitates a more objective means of identifying and locating tectonic tremor, although the technique remains biased towards larger bursts of energy. Results from the two approaches are very similar (Supplementary Material), but the automated procedure is much quicker, allowing us to expand beyond the semi-automated analysis both spatially and temporally. Figure 1 illustrates how the temporary networks helped to increase the station density in underserved areas of the margin.

2.1 Tremor Episode Detection

Our analysis focuses on time periods of elevated tectonic tremor activity using a master network of stations with high tremor signal-to-noise ratios. We begin by removing the instrument response from hour-long seismograms, applying a bandpass filter for the tremor passband (1-6 Hz), and calculating the envelope. As in Brudzinski and Allen [2007], tremor activity is calculated from the mean amplitude of filtered envelope seismograms recorded at individual stations, limited to nighttime hours to avoid cultural noise and excluding hours with spikes based on known earthquakes, instrument problems, or high max-to-mean ratios.

Following the application of a four-day moving average and normalizing each time series, peaks in the time series that exceed 3 standard deviations are deemed above the background noise at 99% confidence and are identified as major tremor episodes. In addition, we observe minor tremor episodes that do not rise as clearly above background noise, but still exhibit coherent raised amplitudes at several neighboring stations. These major and minor episodes are the focus of our investigation.

2.2 Subdivision of the Seismic Network

It is well documented that multiple regions can concurrently experience elevated levels of tectonic tremor [Kao et al., 2009; Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010]. To minimize the potential for signal interference between two or more competing source regions, the Cascadia Subduction Zone is subdivided into eleven partially overlapping subnetworks. Each subnetwork is centered on a degree of latitude and extends one degree of latitude to the north and south. Within each subnetwork, one hour long envelope seismograms are correlated between each station pair. Stations are removed if their average correlation coefficient with respect to the other stations within the regional network is greater than 1 standard deviation from the average correlation coefficient of the entire regional network. Furthermore, only source locations within $\pm 0.5^\circ$ from the center of each region are retained, which ensures good azimuthal coverage of the tremor wavefield and decreases the potential for duplicate locations among neighboring subregions.

2.3 Individual Tremor Burst Identification and Source Location

The signal processing component of the automated source location routine starts with the same envelope seismograms produced during the tremor detection procedure. To further enhance coherent tremor signals from station to station relative to the background noise, a 0.06 Hz low-pass filter is applied. We stack multi-component envelope waveforms at a given site to reduce noise when looking for station to station correlations [Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010], which also facilitates the use of vertical component data in conjunction with three component data.

A key difference between our approach and that of others [Obara, 2002; Wech and Creager, 2008] is that we optimize processing by only focusing on times of prominent tremor bursts, whereas previous studies have sought to analyze all available time windows. To identify the most prominent tremor signals across the network, a composite network time series is generated by stacking the envelope time series of each station encompassed within a given network subset. The remaining signals rising above the background noise with an amplitude ratio over a short-term window (10 s) and long-term window (100 s) that is greater than 2 are considered to be tectonic in origin. For detections in the composite network time series, the maximum amplitude signal within 15 seconds in each individual stacked envelope time series is identified and treated as apparent S wave arrival. To evaluate waveform similarity and perform arrival time refinement, a 100 second time window around each set of arrivals is cross correlated. The resulting sets of arrivals, if observed at a minimum of four stations, are used as input into a grid searching algorithm that solves for the source location by minimizing travel time residuals [Hermann, 2004]. As in Boyarko and Brudzinski [2010], we use a 1-D regional S wave velocity model for central Cascadia [Ludwin et al., 1994]. In addition to source location errors obtained from the grid searching algorithm, the horizontal source location error is estimated using a bootstrap reliability test [Efron, 1979; Wech and Creager, 2008; Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010].

2.4 Catalog Refinement

To produce a spatially and temporally coherent tectonic tremor catalog, the initial catalog generated from our processing is refined with the application of culling and clustering procedures, consistent with approaches outlined in earlier studies [Wech and Creager, 2008; Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010]. In the culling procedure, solutions with significant position and correlation errors are removed such that only sources with errors less than 10 km in all directions and correlation coefficients greater than 0.65 are retained. In the clustering procedure, each solution is required to occur in the presence of a minimum of two additional solutions inside a 0.3×0.3 degree area and 3 day time frame. In effect, these two procedures

assist in removing singular seismic sources such as earthquakes and provide a more reliable spatial and temporal assessment of a persistent, migrating source.

3. Seismic Processing Results

The application of our processing to seismic data from 2005-2011 resulted in the identification of over 10,600 tremor locations that span the length of the subduction zone and concentrate in a narrow region that roughly follows the strike of the subducting plate (Figure 1). The spatial and temporal distribution of tremor along the strike of the tremor source region is shown in Figure 2. In this reference frame, the clusters of tremor locations extending in the strike direction advance at slow rates (km/d) and endure for extended periods of time (days to weeks), in contrast to the fast rates (km/s) and short time scales (seconds to minutes) associated with ordinary earthquake ruptures.

3.1. Spatial Extent and Temporal Duration of Tremor Episodes

We define an episode of tectonic tremor to be a group of spatially and temporally coherent tremor solutions by requiring that a minimum of 20 solutions occur in the presence of an additional solution inside a 0.3×0.3 degree area and 3 day time frame [Wech and Creager, 2008]. Application of this operation to data from 2005-2011 resulted in the identification of 62 tremor episodes, each of which is assigned an alphanumeric character that increases in value according to the start date of the episode (Table S1).

Source parameters including duration, length, migration rate, and directionality are estimated to measure the extent and growth of each episode (Table S1). Durations are calculated by summing the number of active tremor days in a given episode. Lengths are calculated by measuring the distance separating the mean position of the five most extreme tremor solutions in the strike direction such that the effects of outliers along the edges of a given episode are minimized.

The strike-parallel length of a tremor episode is proportional to its duration as shown in Figure 3. Such a relationship between length and duration is consistent with migration rates reported in earlier studies [Kao et al., 2009]. Slow slip phenomena have seismic moment

proportional to duration while traditional earthquakes have moment proportional to duration cubed [Ide et al., 2007; Aguiar et al., 2009] and this suggests that the seismic moment in Cascadia, and elsewhere, is controlled primarily by how far an individual event extends along-strike.

To evaluate the performance of our approach, we have compared the resulting catalog with the PNSN catalog over the time frame when the two overlap (July 2009 to December 2010). While there are a number of subtle differences, the PNSN catalog is derived by looking for correlated waveforms at all times, whereas our technique focuses on times of raised amplitude in the tremor passband. To facilitate the comparison, we applied the same catalog refinement and episode threshold to the raw PNSN catalog as used in our approach. The refined PNSN catalog reveals many more shorter duration episodes than our technique but the overall spatial distribution of the tremor zones are similar (Figure S2). Our technique finds all PNSN episodes with at least a 1000 events, although our technique only detects ~10% of the events. The fewer detections also leads to missing some portions of these larger episodes (~40% smaller on average), most of which can be attributed to better detection in central Cascadia. Fortunately the effect on the ratio of strike-parallel distance to episode duration is small (~10%). It appears the lack of shorter duration episodes detected by our technique is a consequence of our decision to focus only on times of raised tremor-band amplitude as a preliminary step in the detection process. This decision was motivated by faster processing times to aid in scanning through years of previous data, whereas the PNSN catalog processing was set up to process data going forward in realtime.

3.2 Strike-Parallel Migration Rates and Directionality

The migration of tremor parallel to the strike of the subducting plate is a common feature observed in many tremor episodes [e.g. Obara, 2002]. In previous studies, the spatial and temporal evolution of tremor episodes have typically been characterized by unilateral or bilateral sequences that migrate along the strike of the subduction zone at rates on the order of ~10 km/day [Kao et al., 2009; Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010]. Additionally, there are accounts of more complex strike-parallel migration patterns including temporally-continuous, but spatially-

discontinuous, along-strike migration of multiple source regions and terminating fronts of migrating tremor following convergence into recently active regions [Kao et al., 2006; Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010].

By analyzing tremor along the entire Cascadia margin over a 5-year time span, we identify trends in the spatial extent, temporal duration, migration rates and directionality, tremor initiation and termination. In particular, we focus on observations of strike-parallel and strike-normal tremor migration for episodes shown in Figure 2. The following discussion describes the position of tremor epicenters relative to the center of the tremor zone (Figure 1), with negative strike-normal positions occurring on the upper half of the tremor source region, and positive strike-normal positions occurring on the lower half of the tremor source region.

Approximately 50% of the episodes in our catalog exhibit clustering of tremor epicenters sufficient to resolve strike-parallel migration rates (see Supplementary Material for how migration rates are calculated). The results indicate tremor advances along strike at rates ranging from 3-16 km/d, which are similar to many previous studies of NVT [e.g., Schwartz and Rokosky, 2007]. We are reporting the strike-parallel migration rate in order to compare with prior analyses, but that we calculated the migration rate combining strike-parallel and strike-normal components together and found the median difference from strike-parallel alone was only 3%. Overall, the margin-wide average strike-parallel migration rate was 8.7 km/d, consistent with the 8.3 km/d scaling factor relating the length and duration source parameters (Figure 3). There is a slight indication of regional variability in tremor along strike migration rates with mean values of 8.9 km/d, 7.0 km/d and 9.5 km/d in the southern, central, and northern regions of the subduction zone, although the sample size in these regions is small enough that the standard deviations overlap.

3.3 Tremor Initiation

In a recent study of northern Washington tremor, many episodes appeared to initiate along deeper parts of the tremor source region and migrate to shallower parts of the fault before migrating northward [Wech and Creager, 2011]. Episode durations and recurrence intervals between them were also gradually shorter with increasing depth, which was likewise

found in Japan [Obara et al., 2012]. The deep-to-shallow migration patterns and depth-duration-recurrence relationships were interpreted with a deterministic stress transfer model [Wech and Creager, 2011], where the fault is progressively stronger in the updip direction, such that each tremor and slip episode adds stress to the region immediately updip from it until it reaches the higher yield stress, promoting updip migration. The term deterministic is used to indicate a presumed lack of randomness that leads to a simple system where stress is transferred in a recurrent way from deep to shallow through a similar chain of slip episodes. Stable sliding below the ETS zone is thought to produce the stress that trigger the deepest tremor, which is presumably the weakest part of the fault based on the shortest recurrence times. A global comparison of ETS recurrence intervals with fore-arc velocity structure suggests that silica enrichment influences the weakening and shorter recurrence times [Audet and Bürgmann, 2014].

To examine if tremor is prone to initiating along the base of the tremor source region and migrating upward throughout Cascadia, we analyzed the initiation phase of tremor episodes in our catalog. Strike-normal centroid curves for each episode of sufficient length are approximated by calculating the mean strike-normal position over a ± 2 day time frame (Figure 4). Analysis of the regularly recurring episodes along the northern end of the margin (E2, E16, E36, E45) complements the results presented in earlier studies [Houston et al., 2011; Wech and Creager, 2011], as the majority of these episodes initiate in the downdip half of the tremor source region and exhibit an updip progression prior to switching to mostly strike-parallel migration (Figure 5a). However, our catalog reveals that one of these episodes (E36) shows evidence for originating near the center of the tremor zone before quickly migrating downdip and then following an updip migration pattern similar to episode the other episodes.

The majority of episodes in our catalog exhibit an updip migration during the first week of an episode (Figure 4). However, closer examination of our catalog reveals that not all episodes initiate along the downdip end of the tremor source region (Figure 4c). The majority of tremor episodes tend to initiate within ± 5 km of the center of the tremor source region and stay within 10 km of the tremor centroid through the course of the first week of activity (Figure 4b). This could indicate that initiation in Central and Southern Cascadia does not generally

follow the deterministic stress transfer model where episodes are primarily driven by stable sliding below the ETS zone. If the stress transfer is more deterministic in the Puget Sound region, it may help explain why the recurrence intervals are more regular than in other regions [Brudzinski and Allen, 2007]. However, tremor at the downdip end of the source region is likely to generate the smallest episodes [Wech and Creager, 2011], so our focus on prominent bursts of tremor activity could be missing some features at the downdip end.

We further investigated this through similar processing of the PNSN catalog during our study time frame (Figure S3). The PNSN catalog has more episodes that only last a few days that are significantly more prevalent on the lower half of the tremor zone. However, for the episodes that last a week or more, there are roughly equal numbers that start in the lower, middle, or upper third of the tremor zone. So it appears that when shorter episodes are resolved, more episodes initiate on the lower part of the tremor zone, but when we focus on the longer episodes, they do not have a tendency to start in a particular depth range.

3.4 Repeating Episodes of Complex Tremor Evolution

The detailed migration patterns of several prominent episodes reveal two key findings about tremor evolution: (1) variable rates of strike-normal tremor migration are superimposed on variable rates of strike-parallel migration, and (2) several segments along the margin show remarkably similar patterns of tremor migration between different episodes. Figure 5 shows lines connecting the average daily tremor epicenters to best illustrate the migration trends. An example plot of the tremor epicenters the lines were constructed from is available in the Supplementary Information (Figure S4).

The first example of these findings is in northern Washington region (Figure 5a) and has been examined in previous studies [Wech et al., 2009; Houston et al., 2011]. Episodes E36 and E45 in May 2008 and 2009, respectively, occur over similar spatial and temporal scales, with source durations that span several weeks and lengths that exceed 250 km in the strike direction. During the early stage of these episodes, tremor migrated 10-20 km updip over the course of a week and then advanced mostly parallel to the strike of the tremor source region for a period of 10-14 days. This strike-parallel migration was followed by an intriguing downdip

excursion over a period of 5-9 days that occurred in a similar location beneath southern Vancouver Island. The downdip excursions coincide with a distinct decrease in the strike-parallel migration rate. After the down-dip excursions, strike-parallel migration continued for 5-10 days, although the rate and distance in this final stage of tremor migration differed for the two episodes.

A second pair of "repeating tremor" episodes, E1 and E33, occurred in September 2005 and April 2008 across the southern end of the subduction zone (Figure 5b). In the early stage of these episodes, tremor initiated at the updip edge of the tremor source region and expanded downdip and slowly along strike over a period of 5-7 days. After this initiation phase, tremor advances more rapidly along strike and more gradually updip over a period of 13-18 days. A key aspect of this pair of episodes is that the initial downdip migration moved from near the 40 km contour of the subduction interface to the 50 km contour before changing direction and steadily migrating back to shallower slab depths. Older versions of the slab contours [McCrory et al., 2006] cause this migration patterns to appear to cut across several slab contours, so our tremor data favor the newer slab model [McCrory et al., 2012] and may suggest an even shallower dip near 41°N.

A particularly intriguing pair of repeating tremor episodes, E11 and E26, in July 2006 and June 2007 overlap and extend north of the previously described pair of episodes. In contrast to the simple unidirectional migration characteristic of the pair to the south, this pair migrated bilaterally. Figure 5c illustrates the intriguing growth characteristics of these episodes, including a "delayed" bifurcation with activity in the southward-migrating track initiating approximately 6-8 days prior to the initiation of activity in the northward migrating track. This pattern is remarkable as typical bifurcation patterns exhibit initiation at the same position along strike and continuous growth outward along strike. The "delayed" bifurcation patterns are consistent for the two episodes, with tremor expanding to similar positions in the strike direction and similar migration rates in the southward and northward tremor fronts.

It is worth noting that these "repeating" episodes are not exact replicas of one another, as might be expected due to dynamic heterogeneity arising from complex slip histories in the time between episodes. However, these episodes all exhibit a similar point of initiation, similar

trajectories with respect to the strike-normal migration of tremor, and similar migration rates. These observations of repeating tremor episodes argues for a specific set of conditions on the subduction interface conducive to generating these complex strike-parallel and strike-normal progressions. For example, the rare updip initiation and downdip migration in the southernmost episodes (Figure 5b) could reflect a feature related to being near the edge of the slab. Likewise, the remarkably similar locations of updip and downdip migrations in the northern episodes (Figure 5a) could be due to localized warping of plate interface structure associated with the broad bend in the slab, pushing tremor locations inland or seaward relative to a smoothed slab contour. The more complex delayed bifurcation pattern seen in the other pair of similar episodes is more difficult to explain. The spatial divergence is coincident with changes in the plate interface structure, but the cause of the delayed northward migration is unclear.

4. Comparisons with other Features of the Cascadia Subduction Zone

Geologic evidence in the form of turbidite and tsunami deposits indicate that great megathrust earthquakes have struck the Cascadia subduction zone with recurrence intervals ranging from 200-1200 years over the past 10,000 years [Nelson et al., 2006; Goldfinger et al., 2012]. The unusually small number of small and moderate-magnitude interplate earthquakes [Trehu et al., 2008; Williams et al., 2011] and complete absence of great earthquakes in modern times result in uncertainty about the structure of the seismogenic zone along the margin and, in particular, the slip distribution on the plate boundary during large events. First order questions such as the area of the plate interface capable of generating substantial slip and possible along-strike variations in slip remain unanswered. Analysis of tectonic tremor provides information on the distribution of slip in the transition zone, which may offer new insights into the configuration of the adjacent, updip seismogenic zone.

4.1 Recurrence Intervals

The spatial and temporal patterns in tremor episodes reveal regional changes in tremor recurrence, similar to trends established in earlier studies [Brudzinski and Allen, 2007;

Holtkamp and Brudzinski, 2010], but with somewhat shorter recurrence intervals. Figure 6c shows the recurrence for 15 km x 15 km bins with at least 3 episodes. In southern Cascadia, we find two ~150-200 km wide patches that fill the two southernmost segments and recur on average every 6-8 months. In northern Cascadia, we find the ~300 km wide segment across the Puget Sound shows two ~100 km patches of 8-12 month recurrence and the rest of the segment showing 12-16 month recurrence. In contrast to these other regions, central Cascadia has less frequent tremor episodes, but there is evidence from small patches for recurrence of 16-18 months in central Oregon and 20-24 months in northern Oregon and southern Washington. These results are consistent with previous estimates that tremor recurrence patterns can be grouped into three broad regions that correlate with geologic terranes (Klamath, Siletzia, and Wrangellia) [Brudzinski and Allen, 2007], which supports the idea that there are geologic controls that dictate the timing of tremor episodes. Comparisons of ETS with fore-arc velocity structure suggests that the degree of silica enrichment may be responsible for the recurrence times [Audet and Bürgmann, 2014].

In addition to these broad strike-parallel patterns of recurrence, we find evidence for strike-normal trends in recurrence as well. For example, the southern part of segment 6 across northern Washington shows a progressive decrease in recurrence interval from ~20 months at the updip end to ~6 months at the downdip end. This trend has been previously identified in a more detailed study focused on this segment [Wech and Creager, 2011] and in Nankai [Obara et al., 2012], with the former demonstrating that the trend we observe extends down to even smaller recurrence intervals at greater depths. We also observe a similar yet previously undocumented case of this trend in the central portion of segment 1 in northern California and segment 2 in southern Oregon, where the recurrence interval decreases from ~10 months at the updip end to ~2 months at the downdip end. This trend has been interpreted to represent an increasingly weaker interface with depth that leads to a lower failure threshold and shorter recurrence [Wech and Creager, 2011].

4.2 Segmentation

The spatial and temporal patterns in tremor episodes indicate that tremor migration may be controlled by along-strike changes in physical properties. For example, the nucleation and termination points of tremor episodes appear to recur at similar positions along strike (Figure 2), as noted in previous studies [Brudzinski and Allen, 2007; Holtkamp and Brudzinski, 2010]. To quantitatively estimate which portions of the margin are most likely to be associated with the start and stop points of tremor episodes, we divided the margin into 30 km bins along strike and summed the number of times an episode began or ended in that bin. We weighted this sum by the number of tremor epicenters, giving more weight to larger episodes. Figure 6a shows the normalized "segmentation factor" with darker red shading for larger weighted sums. These results are supported by the observation that regions with a relatively high "segmentation factor" coincide with pronounced minima in tremor density (Figures 2b and c).

Tremor segmentation has been proposed to be correlated with segmentation of the seismogenic zone [Brudzinski and Allen, 2007; Goldfinger et al., 2012]. Although the true nature of seismogenic zone segmentation is unknown due to the lack of megathrust earthquakes in the historic record, it has been inferred from geologic [Wells et al., 2003; Song and Simons, 2003] and paleoseismic [Goldfinger et al., 2012] evidence. Figures 6a and 6c shows locations of fore-arc gravity lows and sedimentary basins that are thought to be related to asperities on the plate interface, and Figure 6b shows apparent boundaries defined from the paleoseismic history.

Initial estimates of ETS segmentation in Cascadia were defined by the strike-parallel extent of larger episodes as seen on seismic and GPS instruments from 1998-2005 [Brudzinski and Allen, 2007]. Our current study provides more detailed tremor source locations along the entire margin and extends the catalog an additional 5 years. Moreover, we utilize additional observations along the margin including the tremor density, tremor recurrence, and tremor segmentation factor. Overall, we find evidence for 8 segments with lateral dimensions of 100-250 km (Figures 2 and 6). The strongest ETS evidence points to 3 fundamental segments that correspond to the terranes suggested by Brudzinski and Allen [2007], such that one might consider other boundaries to represent subsegments. The spatial patterns of our tremor episodes complement the six initially proposed ETS segment boundaries. In some cases, the

along strike positions of our proposed segment boundaries are offset up to 50 km from the original locations, which we attribute to the larger number of episodes and tremor epicenters upon which to base our segmentation model. Our results support an additional segment boundary located near $\sim 42^{\circ}\text{N}$, which corresponds with a previously reported 50 km wide minimum in tremor density [Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010]. The following is a systematic south to north description of the evidence for ETS segmentation used to define the boundaries of each segment/subsegment and a comparison to proxies for megathrust segmentation.

Klamath Terrane: Segments 1 and 2

Tremor activity does not extend south of the Mendocino Triple Junction region despite the fact that our station coverage continues ~ 100 km further south (Figures 1 and 6). This termination appears to represent the end of conditions under which tremor can occur as it is located ~ 50 km from the approximate southern edge of subducted lithosphere based on recent slab contours [McCrory et al., 2012] (Figure 1). However, seismic reflection surveys [Beaudoin et al., 1998] and joint inversions of surface waves with receiver functions indicate the southern edge is further north closer to the tremor epicenters [Liu et al., 2012] (Figure 1). Intriguingly, the edge of tremor locations progressively diverges from the apparent slab edge with increasing depth. We speculate that as subduction progresses, increasing penetration of heat into the slab or escape of fluids out of the slab along the southern edge could push the appropriate conditions for tremor further from the slab edge.

The northern termination of segment 2 is also marked by a large segmentation factor and an abrupt decrease in tremor activity near 43°N (Figure 6). This marks the boundary between more frequent tremor episodes with shorter recurrence intervals beneath the Klamath terrane and less frequent tremor episodes with longer recurrence intervals beneath Siletzia to the north. In addition to the onshore change in geologic terrane and topographic signature that correlate with this ETS segmentation boundary, there is paleoseismic evidence for 8 megathrust earthquakes that terminated just north of Rogue Apron (42.5°N), although half of those occurred over 6000 years before present and their extent is poorly constrained. Additional evidence for a seismogenic zone boundary at the location comes from the Cape

Blanco headland (43°N), the gap between the Coos Bay and Eel Bay basins, and the break between offshore gravity lows.

The boundary between segments 1 and 2 can be characterized as a local lull in tremor activity rather than a consistent segment boundary. For example, repeating events E11 and E26 terminate about 75 km north of the southern edge of this region near 41°N (~150km along strike distance) and have a characteristic gap near 41.5°N (~225km). The other pair of similar events in this region differs in their northern termination, E1 near 41.5°N (~225km) and E33 near 42°N (~275km). Figure 2 shows a variety of episodes that initiate or terminate at each of these potential subsegment boundaries (10 episodes near 150km, 8 episodes near 225 km, 4 episodes near 275 km). The potential ETS segment boundary is difficult to choose as we see three peaks in segmentation factor (Figure 6a), reduction in tremor density between 41.5°N and 42°N [Boyarko and Brudzinski, 2010] (Figure 6b), and increased tremor recurrence between 41.5°N and 42°N (Figure 6c). We have chosen a compromise boundary at 42°N, in part because it corresponds to the approximate northern extent of two paleoseismic events (6b and 10e in Goldfinger et al. [2012]). and it results in the broad Eel River Basin matching the extent of segment 1.

Siletzia Terrane: Segments 3, 4, and 5

This region has the longest average recurrence interval and the fewest episodes to interpret. The southern end of segment 3 and northern end of segment 5 occur at the approximate terrane boundaries and have the strongest segmentation factor in this region, but this is primarily due to tremor episodes from segments 2 and 6 terminating at these boundaries (Figures 2 and 6). The northern edge of segment 5 also correlates with a large change in the thickness of the Siletz/Crescent terrane [Trehu et al., 1995; Wells et al., 1998] and the edge of an offshore gravity low and sedimentary basin, but there is curiously little paleoseismic evidence for earthquake termination. Geologic correlations at the southern end of segment 3 were discussed in the previous section.

The northern boundary of segment 3 is defined by 5 of 6 tremor episodes that terminate at this location, which produces an increase in segmentation factor at this boundary (Figures 2 and 6). We also note that there appears to be an increase in ETS recurrence intervals

going north across the northern boundary of segment 3 from less than 20 months to greater than 20 months. When comparing to the geology, we find the extent of segment 3 is matched by an offshore gravity low as well as the Coos Bay Basin. The available paleoseismic evidence is consistent with this extent but is less resolved in this region.

The boundary between segments 4 and 5 is not traversed by any of the 8 tremor episodes we identify in those segments, but there is only a brief time period between two episodes on either side of the boundary in late 2009. This results in an increased segmentation factor at the boundary. This boundary is correlated with a significant change in the thickness of the Siletz terrane and corresponding decrease in thickness of the upper plate rocks underlying Siletzia, which may be underplated oceanic crust and sediments and/or serpentinized upper mantle of the North American plate [Trehu et al., 1995; Bostock et al., 2002]. There is a broad offshore gravity low that traverses this boundary, but segment 4 correlates with the Newport and Astoria basins and segment 5 correlates with the Willapa Basin. There are also 4 paleoseismic turbidites that terminate near the boundary between segments 4 and 5.

Wrangellia Terrane: Segments 6, 7, and 8

While lumped in with the Wrangellia terrane based on the prevalence in southern Vancouver Island [Jones et al., 1977], the southern portion of segment 6 is likely underlain by Crescent terrane that wraps around the Olympics [Trehu et al., 1995; Wells et al., 1998]. Segment 6 is defined by 5 well-recognized episodes that show slightly variable northern and southern termination points. The extent of segment 6 correlates with an offshore gravity low and the Olympic Basin. Segment 8 is defined by 4 episodes that were best recorded during the POLARIS deployment on Northern Vancouver Island. Segment 7 is essentially the zone of weak tremor density first recognized as a persistent feature after a decade of tremor monitoring (1997-2007) [Kao et al., 2009]. Interestingly, the position of this gap occurs in close proximity to the landward projection of the Nootka Fault Zone and is coincident with the epicenters of two of the largest recorded crustal earthquakes in Vancouver Island [Kao et al., 2009]. This perhaps suggests the gap occurrence is related to a discontinuity in the subducting oceanic plates or a crustal stress anomaly associated with crustal seismicity.

4.3 Interplate Coupling and Tectonic Tremor

In Cascadia, the absence of historic great earthquakes and extremely low levels of interplate seismicity have prevented direct delineation of the downdip extent of the seismogenic zone. Instead, thermal and geodetic estimates of interplate seismogenic potential have served as proxies. Recent geodetic estimates are based on inversions of long-term (80 years) tidal and leveling records in southern Cascadia [Burgette et al., 2009] and time-dependent inversion of 5 years of continuous GPS measurements in northern Cascadia [McCaffrey, 2009] (Figure 1). Despite the different datasets, the two curves match within 10 km where they overlap, which is consistent with the ~10 km uncertainties demonstrated in those studies. The average distance between the downdip edge of interseismic coupling and the tremor source region varies along strike (Figure 1). The geodetic downdip edge abuts the tremor source zone in southern Cascadia but is offset by as much as 50 km in the northern half of the subduction zone.

Some of this offset might be explained by observations that transient slip tends to extend shallower than tremor [Wang et al., 2008; Song et al., 2009; Wech et al., 2009; McCaffrey, 2009; Brudzinski et al., 2010]. However, in Washington the peak in the distribution of transient slip is typically offset 10-20 km updip from the peak in the distribution of tectonic tremor [Wech et al., 2009; Bartlow et al., 2011], whereas the two distributions show less separation in northern Oregon [Bartlow et al., 2011]. Some offset between ETS and the seismogenic zone appears to remain in central and northern Cascadia. This would leave some offset of tremor and the downdip edge of interseismic coupling has serious implications for how one may interpret how ETS may impact the seismogenic zone.

This observation is important because stress transfer between the seismogenic and transition zones is likely to be greatest in the regions where ETS is closest to the seismogenic zone. Static stress modeling indicates the locked zone is brought closer to failure as a result of transient slip [Dragert et al., 2004], but this effect would be diminished if an offset is introduced. Slow dynamic instabilities via transient slip could conceivably accelerate, propagate updip, and evolve into an earthquake triggering mechanism [Matsuzawa et al., 2010], but this mechanism would rely on connectivity between the transition and seismogenic zones.

Moreover, proximity of the zones could allow dynamic instabilities via megathrust earthquakes to propagate down-dip into the ETS zone [Chapman and Melbourne, 2009], such that coseismic slip could extend 50-100 km further inland if the zones are connected. It appears that these potential relationships between ETS and megathrust earthquakes would be strongest in southern Cascadia where the zones are closest.

5. Conclusions

Application of our automated location routine to time periods of energetic tectonic tremor resulted in the identification of over 10,000 locations grouped into 62 episodes with spatial and temporal continuity. Tremor is concentrated in a narrow region spanning the entire length of the subduction zone. The along-strike length of an episode increases as a function of duration, suggesting length and duration are proportional to geodetic moment in Cascadia.

The detailed evolution tremor episodes indicates several modes of migration with components of motion parallel to and normal to the strike of the subducting plate. We find several cases of "repeating tremor" where an episode demonstrates migration patterns similar to those of earlier episodes, including changes in strike-parallel rates and strike-normal departures in similar locations. Previous studies of tremor evolution along northern Cascadia have shown tremor tends to initiate near the base of the tremor source region and expand updip in the first few days. Although we find that tremor tends to expand updip in the first few days of an episode, tremor only tends to initiate near the deep end of the tremor zone in the Puget Sound region. Elsewhere, tremor appears to initiate near the centroid line.

The subduction zone can be divided into several along-strike segments based on the lateral extent, relative timing, and recurrence interval of tremor episodes. Two distinct segment boundaries correspond to the edges of forearc terranes and reflect changes in tremor episode recurrence. Other segment boundaries show some correlation with offshore gravity anomalies, forearc basins, and turbidite patterns thought to represent long-term asperities and segmentation of the seismogenic zone. Although one of the southern segment boundary is difficult to discern, the other apparent correlations between ETS segmentation and megathrust

segmentation suggest that broader features such as those imposed by the geology of the upper plate could be influencing segmentation of both the seismogenic and ETS zones.

Tremor is offset ~50 km from the downdip edge of interseismic coupling along central and northern Cascadia, but is adjacent to the downdip edge of interseismic coupling along the southern Cascadia. This suggests that if stress transfer occurs between the seismogenic and transition zones, then the southern end of the seismogenic zone is more likely to be influenced by ETS.

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FIGURES

Figure 1. Map of tremor epicenters (black circles) along the Cascadia subduction zone, including plate boundaries, seismic stations used for this study (yellow triangles), and downdip limit of the seismogenic zone (red line) inferred from estimates of interseismic coupling (dotted [McCaffrey, 2009] and dashed [Burgette et al., 2009]). Locations of tremor are from our analysis of episodes from 2005 and 2011. Some stations were active for only part of this period (inverted triangles). White dashed line is centroid of tremor epicenters, defined by calculating the mean position of tremor solutions at regular intervals in the strike direction. Surface of the subducting plate (blue curves) is only shown to 80 km depth [McCrory et al., 2012]. Lines indicate southern edge of the subducting lithosphere based on Beudoin et al. [1998] (purple) and Liu et al. [2012] (green).

Figure 2. Spatial and temporal distribution of tremor solutions obtained from automated analysis of time periods with increased activity in the tremor passband. (a) Along strike distribution of tremor over time. Strike-parallel distance is measured along the centroid tremor source line (Fig. 1), where distance 0 represents 122.3W, 39.6N and 1400 is 127.74W, 50.66N. Thin gray lines are proposed segment boundaries of ETS. Labeled episodes are highlighted in red. (b) Tremor (NVT) density per episode. Density is based on gridding of all tremor epicenters into 20 km x 20 km bins, which is then divided by the number of episodes that produce epicenters in that bin. Plot shows the strike-normal distribution of tremor relative to the centroid tremor source line (Fig. 1), where negative is updip. (c) Smoothed segmentation factor, calculated from cumulative tremor episode sizes that initiated or terminated at that location.

Figure 3. (a) Comparison of tremor length (L) measured in the strike direction and tremor duration (T) measured by summing the number of active tremor days. Velocity (C) regression curve (dashed line) is constrained within a 95% confidence interval to intersect the origin in order to satisfy physical requirements. Colors indicate area of the margin, where central Cascadia is defined as 43N to 46.5N. (b) Distribution of tremor migration rates based on spatially and temporally coherent clusters of tremor solutions with measurable migration. Colors indicate area of the margin.

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 756 Figure 4. Tremor episode migration curves showing strike-normal locations relative to the
 757 overall tremor centroid (dashed line). Each point represents a four day moving average of
 758 epicenters in a given episode, where day 0 includes epicenters over the 2 days before and after
 759 the first epicenter. Episodes are separated based on whether they initiate along the (a) updip, (b)
 760 center, or (c) downdip sections. The majority of episodes initiate within 5 km of the centroid, and
 761 these show a 5-10 km updip migration over the first few days.

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Figure 5. Pairs of episodes that demonstrate repeating migration patterns. Red indicates earlier episode, blue indicates later. Colored lines connect average daily locations showing (left) along-strike migration rate, (center) geographic migration, and (right) strike-normal migration. For reference, dotted lines show a slope of 8 km/day, separated by 10km (nominal location error). Dashed line is the overall centroid of all tremor source locations in the catalog. Thin solid lines indicate surface of the subducting plate [McCrory et al., 2012]. Pairs in (a) northern and (b,c) southern Cascadia show similarities in geographic extent, changing migration rate, and strike-normal departures. When differences do occur, they seem to involve different strike-normal pathways at the end of an episode.

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779 Figure 6. Evidence for segmentation of the tremor source region. (a) Tremor episode
780 segmentation factor. Black curves are offshore gravity anomalies thought to represent
781 megathrust asperities [Wells et al., 2003]. Red color scale indicates smoothed segmentation
782 factor, based on cumulative tremor episode sizes that initiated or terminated at that location.
783 Black solid lines on all three panels mark the apparent start and stop locations from visual
784 inspection of tremor episodes (Fig. 2). (b) Tremor density per episode based on gridding of all
785 tremor epicenters in our catalog. Black solid lines are shown again to highlight less tremor
786 activity at apparent locations of segmentation. Offshore markers are approximate northern
787 extent of various megathrust ruptures based on paleoseismic evidence [Goldfinger et al., 2012].
788 (c) Recurrence interval of tremor activity based on average time between episodes in 15 x 15
789 km bins. Black curves are offshore sedimentary basins (from north to south: Olympic, Willapa,
790 Astoria, Newport, Coos Bay, and Eel River basins), which are thought to represent megathrust
791 asperities [Wells et al., 2003].

792