ABSTRACT

A tsunami from southeast Alaska is said to tell the Haida story of the great flood. An old tale describes how the body of the flood monster, an earthquake giant, is an image in Haida mythology. The story may represent transfigurational whorls.

Many tsunami whirlpools formed during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. These features were photographed by MGST scientists and reported by observers, and whirlpools have generally been reported in a number of other tsunamis.

In Greek legend, a whirlpool feature in the strait of Messoetis is said to be "Charybdis, the phenomenon of Poseidon and Calypso who divided lands for her father's enormous volcanic island" until Paris tired her into a whirlpool. An earthquake on 1763 celebrated the natural vortex feature, and in 1968, the city of Messoetis was destroyed by a tsunami for the first time ever, as documented by Z. 1968.

In Canada, tidal currents from the island side of southern Vancouver Island, show whirlpool-like symbols, with depictions of the Thunderbird and Whale supernatural animals used to explain the origins of earthquakes and tsunami by tribes on the outer coast of Vancouver Island.

CONCLUSIONS

- Whirlpools are a noticeable feature of tsunami events from the perspective of human observers.
- Native groups on the Pacific Coast of North America associated tsunami with whirlpool events.
- The legend of Charybdis, referring to the Strait of Messoetis between Italy and Sicily, may describe a tsunami that occurred prior to the founding of Messoetis 750 BCE.