Human Responses to Prehistoric Earthquakes and Seismic Uplift on the Northeast coast of Kamchatka

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The Kamchatsky Peninsulaon the Northeastern Coast of Kamchatka was a very seismically active area in prehistory. The earthquakes caused significant land uplift that shifted the shorelines at various periods during the past 6000 years. During the 2009, 2010, and 2011 field seasons a survey for new archaeological sites was conducted along the paleoshorelines and the present coast. The sites were relatively dated in the field using known volcanic tephra layers. This paper will present the results of a regional settlement pattern analysis that examines the responses of the human inhabitants of this region to the seismic uplift and subsequent shoreline shifts in prehistory.