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Can we predict mega-earthquakes

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The December 26 event seems to be the first indication that the algorithm, designed for prediction of M8.0+ earthquakes can be rescaled for prediction of both smaller magnitude earthquakes (e.g., down to M5.5+ in Italy) and for mega-earthquakes of M9.0+. The event is not full verification, but it is very important for general understanding of our methodology and the Problem of Earthquake Prediction. The extent of the M8 algorithm M9.0+ TIPs in space and time is thought provoking. There was one cluster of TIPs in 1984-1989 around western Mediterranean (a compact union of eight out of the 262 CI's) and another one in 1994-1999 around the Cascadia subduction zone (a compact union of the five CI's off coast of the western U.S.). Neither of these produced an M9.0+ event. The union of TIPs now has a global extent (124 CI's are in alarm). The other relevant observation is that all four mega-earthquakes of the 20th century (Kamchatka, 1952/11/04, Mw9.0; Andreanoff Islands, 1957/03/09, Mw9.1; Chile, 1960/05/22, Mw9.5; Alaska, 1964/03/28, Mw9.2) happened within a narrow interval of time. Such a cluster is unlikely with a 99% confidence for uniformly distributed independent events. Since good evidence suggests that seismic events including mega-earthquakes cluster, it is possible that we will have further confirmation of M8 prediction within 5-10 years in other regions.