

Monster ocean wave sets southern hemisphere record: scientists

May 11 2018



The largest wave ever in the southern hemisphere has been recorded during a ferocious storm off the coast of New Zealand

Scientists have recorded what is believed to be the largest wave ever in

the southern hemisphere, a 23.8 metre (78 foot) monster the height of an eight-floor building.

A buoy recorded the wave on Tuesday during a ferocious [storm](#) in the notoriously wild Southern Ocean near Campbell Island, some 700 kilometres (430 miles) south of New Zealand, research body MetOcean Solutions said.

Senior oceanographer Tom Durrant said it wiped out the previous southern-hemisphere record of 22.03 metres recorded in 2012.

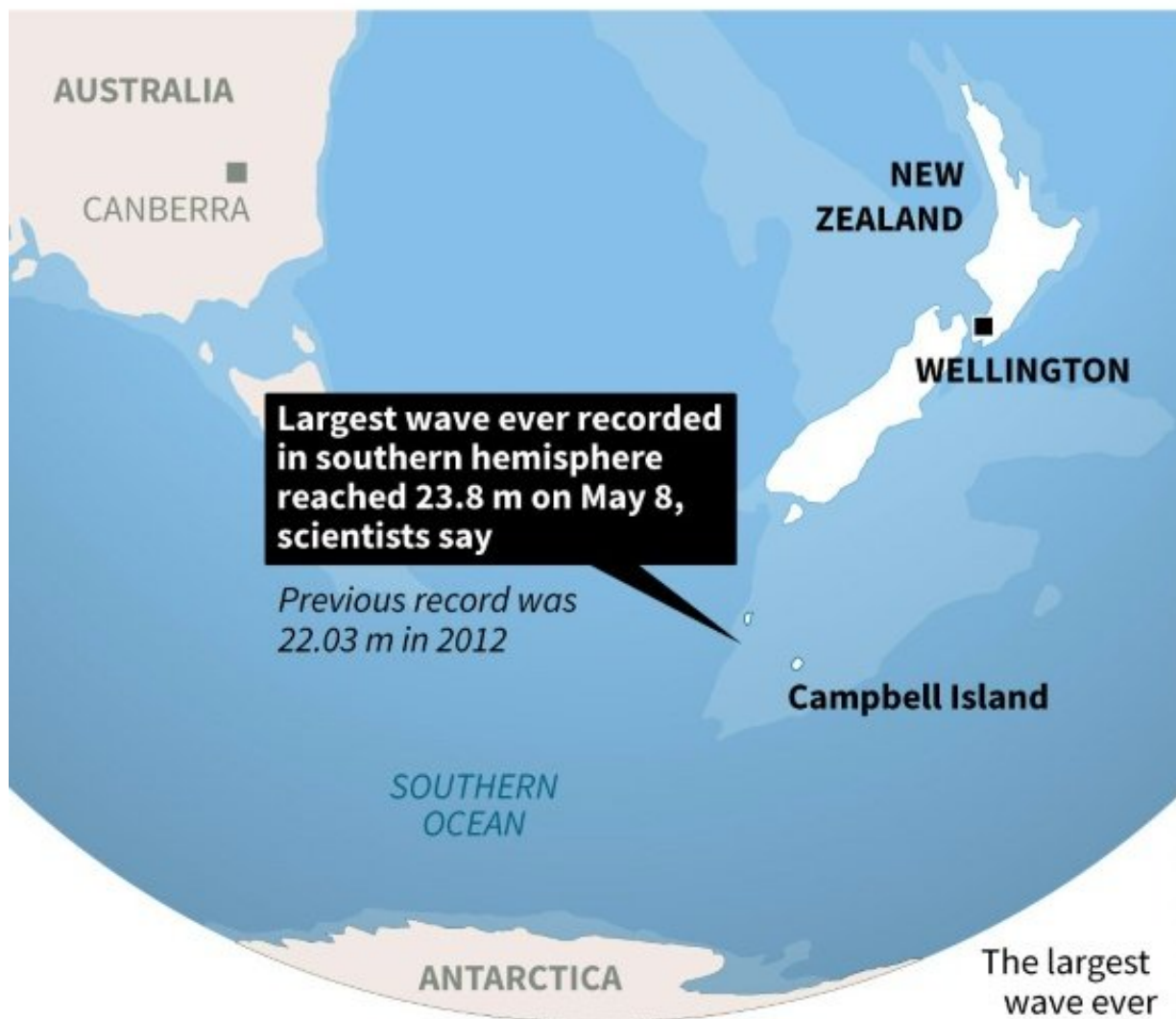
"To our knowledge it is largest wave ever recorded in the [southern hemisphere](#)," he said, adding that the Southern Ocean was an "engine room" for generating swell waves that move across the planet.

"Indeed, surfers in California can expect energy from this storm to arrive at their shores in about a week's time," he said.

Durrant added that even bigger waves topping 25 metres were probably whipped up by the storm, which tracked east through the area on Tuesday, but the buoy was not in the best place to record them.

He said the buoy, installed in March to measure the extreme conditions in the Southern Ocean, also only recorded for a 20-minute burst every three hours to conserve its batteries.

Monster wave



The wave would be higher than five double-decker buses stacked on top of each other



Or the Sphinx in Egypt

The largest wave ever noted was an earthquake-generated tsunami in 1958 that measured 30.5 metres, according to Smithsonian magazine

Source: metocean.co.nz/AFP Photo

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Graphic on the monster wave recorded in the southern hemisphere.

"It's very probable that larger waves occurred while the buoy was not recording," he said.

The largest wave ever noted was an earthquake-generated tsunami at Alaska's Lituya Bay in 1958 that measured 30.5 metres, according to Smithsonian magazine.

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