

Mapping and Modeling Subcommittee (MMS) Terms of Reference (Sept. 2015)

Introduction: The National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program's (NTHMP) Mapping and Modeling Subcommittee (MMS) brings together expertise on a variety of tsunami and coastal mapping, modeling, and hazard issues. The MMS acts in an advisory capacity to the NTHMP Coordinating Committee on tsunami hazard analysis, modeling and mapping issues including: tsunami hazard and source identification, strategic guidance and standards for modeling and mapping priorities, and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) development priorities. The MMS identifies and applies educational opportunities related to modeling and mapping products as well as hazard mitigation deficiencies that can be addressed by further mapping and modeling research, and utilizes opportunities to integrate modeling and mapping efforts into NTHMP mitigation activities. The MMS vision is to be the authoritative source of scientific and technical guidance for tsunami modeling and mapping projects done by the NTHMP.

Purpose:

- To provide technical guidance and recommendations to the NTHMP Coordinating Committee on matters related to tsunami hazard analysis, modeling, and mapping.
- To execute tasks related to tsunami hazard and inundation mapping and modeling as assigned by the NTHMP Coordinating Committee.
- To operate in an environment respecting the core values of honesty, integrity, trust, and diligence with a focus on service to the State and Nation, providing value to stakeholders within the mandate of the NTHMP while remaining objective, reasonable, and respectful.

By achieving this, we create an opportunity to be an effective body in predicting the potential damaging effects of major tsunami events.

Authority:

The MMS Subcommittee will be considered the primary mechanism for NTHMP partner input to the mapping, modeling, and hazard components of the NTHMP. The subcommittee's actions and recommendations will be achieved by consensus, and considered to represent the collective will of those partners. This authority is established within the context of PL 109-424 and subject to the provisions of Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Act, most particularly Section 5(c1).

Membership:

The MMS Subcommittee is comprised of 12 state representatives, one from each of the regions of the NTHMP Coordinating Committee, one representative from the USGS, and two NOAA representatives, one from a Tsunami Warning Center. The NTHMP Administrator is an ex-officio member. The current official membership is maintained on the [NTHMP website](#). Outside experts and other stakeholders may be invited to participate in MMS discussions but their agreement is not required for any formal consensus. These might include:

- University, NOAA, or other modeling and mapping experts
- Social Science Experts
- U.S. Geological Survey representatives
- Other

State membership is the Technical Representative from each of the NTHMP regions of the Coordinating Committee: Alaska, American Samoa, California, Commonwealth of the Northern

Mariana Islands, East Coast States, Guam, Gulf Coast States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Oregon, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington.

Chairpersons: The subcommittee will have two chairpersons selected from the body of the MMS and approved by a majority vote of the NTHMP Coordinating Committee at the annual NTHMP meeting. One chairperson must be a representative from NOAA and the other a representative from one of the member states. Chairpersons will serve for two years with rotation staggered to maintain continuity in leadership, although subcommittee members can recommend yearly extensions as needed.

Communications: Meetings will normally be held bi-annually, once in conjunction with the Annual NTHMP Meeting (winter), and once as a joint MES/MMS Subcommittee Meeting and Workshop (summer). Between meetings, communication will take place primarily by email and conference calls, although meetings for specific subcommittees or task teams are encouraged. MMS Meeting notes and actions items will be summarized by the Chairpersons, and circulated to its members and/or posted to the NTHMP web site. Strategies for the completion of action items will be coordinated by the Chairpersons. Recommendations from MMS will be forwarded to the appropriate organizations by the Chairpersons.

NTHMP Grants duties: The MMS Co-Chairs will review semi-annual NTHMP grant progress reports when provided by the Tsunami Program office at NWS Headquarters. The review comments will indicate whether to accept or reject the progress report, along with technical comments related to this subcommittee's scope and authority. Review comments will be returned within two weeks from the date they are sent.