

National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program
Warning Coordination Subcommittee (WCS)

Meeting Notes

August 3, 2023

1. WCS Terms of Reference (attached in email)

- Reviewed edits from previous version based on WCS membership input
- Membership voted to recommend approval of the Terms of Reference to the Coordinating Committee
- State/Territory Co-Chair term complete, 1 nomination received for new co-chair – Maximilian Dixon, Washington EMD
 - WCS membership voted to recommend to the Coordinating Committee: Maximilian Dixon - new WCS State/Territory Co-Chair

2. WCS Work Plan (attached in email)

- Reviewed and updated language and due dates in the Work Plan
- All FY22/23 projects are currently on schedule – There was a slight delay with the Hazard Simplification project; Washington State is working to bring delayed pieces of the project back on schedule
- Exercises Section:
 - National Tsunami Program Exercises
 - National Exercise Calendar, Handbooks/Manuals are available on the tsunami.gov website at: <https://tsunami.gov/?page=exercises>
 - Pacifex Exercise
 - National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) requests input from states/territories regarding available dates in Spring 2024 for the exercise
 - NTWC requests state/territory participation in the exercise – open to ideas for injects, scenario, and scope
 - Caribe Wave

- Exercise documents are available at:
 - IOC Caribe Wave website (will be updated annually): http://itic.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2229&Itemid=3331
 - Link to some of the older documents: http://www.ioc-tsunami.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=viewDoclistRecord&doclistID=213
 - All CARIBE WAVE Documents are also published and stored by IOC/UNESCO in its archives. In the archive part 1 is the handbook and part 2 the reports: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/search/3677ea30-dc64-4d47-95ad-ace5adc4ccc8>
- Equitable Alerting and Communication Products projects are tied to the Hazard Simplification project. These projects will be addressed as the Hazard Simplification project progresses.
 - Hazard Simplification Project – Washington State provided an update of the project. See details in #3 below.

3. Hazard Simplification Project Briefing

- NOAA/NWS has not made a decision for the tsunami hazard regarding the use of the “Advisory” alert messaging. Project is “on-hold” until Social Science study is completed. NOAA/NWS moving forward with NOAA/NWS and WCS partnership in gathering project input.
- NOAA/NWS has identified resources for a social science study specific to the tsunami hazard and the use of the term “Advisory”.
- Washington is the lead WCS partner for this project. Washington is working to include input from all NTHMP partners to capture processes, timelines and products.
 - Chip G. will work with Pacific Island partners to gather and provide input for the project.
- Washington and partner states/territories provided a brief on upcoming activities: (WA project briefing presentation attached in email)

- Oregon: Meet with local and tribal partners. Will include Ethan (WA) to provide overall context of the project.
- Puerto Rico: Ethan (WA) offered to assist with developing information and will reach out to Puerto Rico NTHMP partners to gather information.
- Hawaii: Ethan (WA) will contact to assist with input.
- Guam: Chip G. will assist with input to populate templates.
- California: Received input from most federal and state partners. Continue to gather input from local partners.
 - o Received project diagram from Ethan (WA) and is using to complete input.
 - o Using Hazard Simplification input to develop CA Tsunami Plan.
 - o Developed a survey to obtain input from partners, NTHMP partners requested California share the survey for their consideration/use in gathering input for the project.
- American Samoa: Timeline almost complete. Now have IPAWS and WEA capability. Identifying how new information will fit-in to the project input. Will discuss with Ethan (WA) for ideas.
- Alaska: Looking for project clarification from WA. Working through Ops and will send information to WA once review complete.

4. Warning Center Updates

- NTWC
 - Messaging software update underway. Will then be able to address some items on the Tsunami Alert System Emergency Management Needs List and other issues identified by the NWS.
 - SIFT forecast system update coming, GNSS capability.
 - NTWC will be able to use RIFT to back-up Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
 - Tsunami.gov website revamp contract awarded by the end of the federal fiscal year.
 - o Contain a catalog of exercises.
 - o Historic incidents with data.
 - Staff needed at NTWC & PTWC, science and service.

- U.S. Coast Guard partnership: developing a draft proposal to support USCG in developing a response process, SOPs, etc.
- Auditing partner support services
 - o Request from NTHMP for a user needs survey on website.
 - o Barry Arm: Coordinating with USGS on landslide tsunami potential.
- PTWC
 - Conducting outreach visits to partners.
 - Planning strategy meeting between NTWC & PTWC.
 - Meeting with Emergency Managers in all Hawaii counties to identify needs and how to use PTWC information.
 - Upgrades to SIFT system.
 - International meeting with partners regarding non-seismic sources (i.e. Tonga)
- Slack:
 - Open to anyone who signs-up
 - 🌊 NWSChat 2.0 (aka Slack) is online and in use today.
 - o Filter criteria for who should use the tool:
 - ❓ Do you actively respond to a tsunami event in support as part of your Federal or State/Territory position?
 - or -
 - ❓ Do you provide direct support to your local National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office during a tsunami event?
 - 🚫 If the answer is No, even if you are a member of NTHMP and a person with vast tsunami knowledge and scientific understanding, and even if you're the most curious of tsunamiologists we all know, this tool is NOT for you. [Our terms of use are here \(See #3 Registration Obligations\)](#).
 - ✅ [If the answer is Yes, click here and go to Partner Registration.](#) Then, if you are a local partner, choose your local Weather Forecast Office. If you are a State or Federal partner, please choose "AAQ" as your local office and I'll see your registration request. In any notes field, please say you are a tsunami partner.

- o There are rooms for NTWC and PTWC messages, and there are two additional rooms for Pacific and Atlantic event collaboration under NTWC which you can be added to.
- o Please contact David Snider (david.snider@noaa.gov) if you have questions regarding Slack. Congrats and well done to all those already signed in.

5. Tsunami Alert System – Emergency Managers Needs List (attached in email)

- WCS membership break-out discussion (3 break-out groups)
- Notes from the groups were provided to the state/territory co-chair and will be consolidated into the spreadsheet and circulated out to meeting participants for additional input and/or clarification.
- Tsunami Technical Advisory Panel Findings and Recommendations shared during break-out discussion:

Technical Advisory Panel Findings and Recommendations

- o Improve unification and capabilities of the Tsunami Forecast System.
- o Improve tsunami detection and observation systems.
- o Provide more extensive, consistent, and accurate tsunami messages and products.
- o Develop enhancements to Tsunami Warning Center forecasts and alert systems.
- o Improve consistency in tsunami preparedness and mitigation products for communities.
- o Produce guidance for improving long-term community resilience to tsunami hazards.
- o Improve tsunami hydrodynamic modeling.
- o Develop tsunami research priorities and leverage research opportunities.