

National Weather Service  
National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program  
Warning Coordination Subcommittee

Winter Meeting  
January 25, 2023

- I. Hazard Simplification Project
  - A. National Weather Service (NWS) Hazard Simplification
    - 1. NWS is Considering Everything – retaining “Advisory” is on the table
    - 2. Letter Received from 5 States (Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii) requesting retention of “Advisory” tsunami alert
    - 3. Warning Coordinating Subcommittee/Coordinating Committee Recommendation
    - 4. Director/Executive Council considering all input to make decision
  - B. Washington Deep Dive Project
    - 1. Washington created a timeline document – will share with membership
    - 2. Ethan Weller, Washington EMD will contact all WCS members to provide input
      - a. British Virgin Islands to be added to PTWC partners list
    - 3. All state/territory partners expected to participate
      - a. Look at SOPs, Templates, Roles & Responsibilities
      - b. Timelines, Alert Flow
      - c. Differences in State and Territories
    - 4. Phase 1: Collection and packaging of information – Completion: August 2023
    - 5. Phase 2: Impact/Needs Analysis – Completion: FY23 grant cycle
  - C. Hazard Simplification Scope
    - 1. For NWS Domestic Products Only
    - 2. Does not impact decision support provided to Typhoon Warning Center, Micronesia, etc.
    - 3. Create a “One Stop Shop” resource that identifies SOPs, processes, etc.
    - 4. Purpose: Fully understand impact (gaps and needs) of proposed change – removal of “Advisory” alert terminology
- II. NTWC Projects
  - A. Social Science Project
    - 1. 2-month (approximate) timeline
    - 2. Evaluate messaging – audience, communications, etc.

3. Separate but parallel effort with WA EMD Deep Dive, will support and work in concert with that effort
- B. Slack
1. Communication platform for Emergency Management partners, State Warning Points
  2. Roll-out by August 2023
  3. Limited number of accounts available
  4. NWS supported
  5. Audience comments:
    - a. MS Teams – good resource for communication and coordination for event duration (state and local level – used in Washington and California)
    - b. NWS will not be using Teams - Slack is capable of supporting video, images, and auto-posting official NWS messages to support decision making at the EM level.

### III. Emergency Management Project

- A. Identify gaps and needs in the tsunami alerting and response process/procedures
- B. Gaps identified by Warning Coordination Subcommittee:
1. Sub-dividing Coastal Areas/Breakpoints (or??):
    - a. Hawaiian Islands
    - b. San Francisco Bay Area
    - c. Puget Sound – Seattle
    - d. Aleutian Islands
    - e. Columbia River up to Portland needs to be included (hyper-dynamic model discussed) – to first dam
    - f. British Columbia and Juan De Fuca alignment
    - g. Special Procedure Areas (SPA's - as described by NTWC)
    - h. SPAs are an interim solution until the TWS systems are upgraded
  2. Polygons
    - a. Solution to eliminate use of FIPS codes for WEA messaging – sized closer to tsunami hazard area
      - NWS reported timeline for system update to accommodate polygons is unknown at this time. At least 2-3 years out.
    - b. May be solution to replace use of SPAs to separate forecasts for outer coast and inner coastal areas (Puget Sound, San Francisco Bay, Coronado, separate Hawaiian Islands, etc.)
    - c. Increase forecast locations
  3. Messaging:
    - a. Develop recommended canned messaging for use by local partners

- b. Early messaging – communication gap within 1<sup>st</sup> 30 minutes to 1 hour
  - 1. NTWC needs to address confidence in messaging and forecasts
- c. Draw down prior to wave arrival
- d. Consistent definition of wave arrival
  - 1. Include on bulletin?
- e. Current velocity – overtime, after cancellation message
- 4. Tide Gauges
  - a. Increase locations/use
  - b. Alaska, California, others??
- 5. Add current gauges at tide gauge locations – report water level readings
- 6. Alerting mismatches in cross-border areas
- 7. Possibility of mirroring ShakeAlert system for tsunami alerting
  - a. WCS needs additional information prior to determining if this is a possibility, and prior to consideration of use of this technology (or something similar) for tsunami response.
- 8. Tsunami Sensors (i.e. – Barry Arm area)

#### IV. WCS Work Plan Discussion

- A. Exercise Handbooks project will remain on Work Plan. Location will be identified and link provided for repository
- B. Tsunami scenario catalog – Remain on Work Plan. TWCs and local partners
- C. Hazard Simplification Project – Remain on – Washington Project for Deep Dive. WCS to maintain project coordination
- D. New Projects:
  - 1. Incorporating use of Slack into Tsunami Response protocols at federal/state/local levels
  - 2. Equitable Tsunami Alerting – what would this mean? How would this be implemented? Changes needed?
  - 3. More collaboration with NCEI and TsuCat needed – Info Sharing

#### V. Tsunami.gov Website

- A. NWS is in the process of assessing and updating the website
- B. NTHMP partners will have the opportunity to provide input

#### VI. Tonga Incident Follow-Up – 1 Year Later

- A. PTWC discussed response challenges and new steps put in place

#### VII. WCS Terms of Reference Update

- A. Several areas identified for updates and edits
- B. Changes will be made and revised draft will be distributed to WCS membership for review and any additional edits needed

- C. Clarification made regarding origin of WCS. WCS established for Emergency Management partners to discuss tsunami response and alert and warning issues. Suggestion made to include Mapping and Modeling Subcommittee partners in “outside experts and other stakeholders” list.
- D. Discussion regarding State/Territory Co-Chair position
  - 1. Solicited nominations since current Co-Chair in position for 2-years. Can serve two 2-year terms.
  - 2. No nominations for a new Co-Chair were received. A survey will be distributed to WCS membership to solicit nominations