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МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
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- To :** CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP)
CARIBE-EWS National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC)
CARIBE-EWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
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- Cc :** Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Directors of UNESCO and IOC Regional Offices in the Caribbean Region
Regional Organizations cooperating with UNESCO/IOC
NAVAREA Coordinators
Chair IHO/IMO/WMO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee
(WWNWS-SC)
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center

Subject: Publication of the User's Guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) Enhanced Products for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE-EWS)

I am pleased to announce the publication of the *User's guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center Enhanced Products for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE-EWS)*, which is the result of a thorough planning and careful preparation that began in 2012. The development of this guide, as detailed in the table below, has greatly benefitted from comments provided by users during the transition and implementation periods, by participants in CARIBE WAVE Exercises, as well as the attendees to two preparatory trainings organized in 2015 and 2017.

The Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC), the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC), the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program (CTWP) and the Secretariat have worked together to make training available on the PTWC Enhanced Products, ensuring that the products are understood, and that Member States know how to modify their Tsunami Warning Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) accordingly.

Timeframe	Action by	Decision/Recommendation/Action
2–4 April 2012 Curacao	Seventh session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the	The proposed Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) Enhanced Products to be tested during the CARIBE-WAVE 2013 and LANTEX 2013 exercises.

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Timeframe	Action by	Decision/Recommendation/Action
	Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS-VII)	
29 April–1 st May 2013 (Trinidad and Tobago)	ICG/CARIBE-EWS-VIII	(i) establishment of a Task Team for the further evaluation and potential implementation of the Enhanced Products (ii) inclusion in the CARIBE-WAVE/LANTEX 14 exercise (iii) Tsunami Warning Focal Points systematically informed about the availability of these products in their webpage or emails
13 to 15 May 2014 (US Virgin Islands)	ICG/CARIBE-EWS-IX	(i) full implementation of the enhanced products not be made until at least the tenth session of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS (May 2015) (ii) exercise based solely on the enhanced products be conducted in 2015 and be satisfactorily evaluated prior to full implementation (iii) continuation of the Intersessional Task Team on PTWC Enhanced Products until the enhanced products are fully implemented
19 to 21 May 2015 (Sint Maarten)	ICG/CARIBE-EWS-X	Recommendation ICG/CARIBE-EWS-X.5 endorsed the positive feedback on the PTWC enhanced products from the CARIBE-WAVE exercises and discussions and planned date for the changeover from the PTWC current products to its new products is to be on 1 st March 2016
From 26 October 2015 to 1 st March 2016		To effect a smooth transition from the previous text-only PTWC tsunami products to its new products, the ICG/CARIBE-EWS agreed with the PTWC proposed implementation, which included a transition phase implemented from 26 October 2015 to 1 st March 2016
7–10 December 2015 (Barbados)	Regional Training Workshop on Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) Enhanced Tsunami Products for ICG/CARIBE EWS	Attended by 40 participants from 20 countries as well as regional organizations such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), CTWP and the Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN)
1 st March 2016	PTWC	PTWC started issuing its Enhanced Products for CARIBE-EWS and discontinued the text-only products
31 October –2 November 2017 (Colombia)	Regional Training Workshop on Pacific Tsunami Warning Center Enhanced Tsunami Products for ICG/CARIBE EWS	Attended by 29 participants from 15 countries
Dec. 2017– Jan. 2018	IOC circular letter N°2715	Publication of the User's guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center Enhanced Products for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE-EWS), IOC. Technical series; 135, 2017; 51 p., (IOC/2017/TS/135 Rev.)

In closing, I would like to express the appreciation of the Commission for the successful efforts undertaken by PTWC, the above-mentioned actors, and you the representative of the national authorities in the CARIBE-EWS.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. 2017. *User's Guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center Enhanced Products for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE-EWS)*. IOC Technical Series No 135. UNESCO/IOC 2017 (English.).
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002597/259725e.pdf>