



ICG/PTWS-XXX Meeting
12-15 September 2023
Nuku`alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Provision of Tsunami Services to the Maritime Community

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The Issue

- Products to inform ships at sea about tsunami events that may affect them are created and disseminated by NAVAREA Coordinators of the International Hydrographic Organization's (IHO) World Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS).
- NAVAREA Coordinators currently do this by manually extracting information from Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) and NTWC messages.
- In recent years, representatives of the WWNWS have requested that TSPs create special Maritime Products with key information about tsunami threats that occur and send them to appropriate NAVAREA Coordinators for dissemination to ships at sea.
- This issue has been discussed over several years at meetings of the TOWS-WG and its Task Team on Tsunami Watch Operations.
- Australia's TSP for the IOTWMS has developed these Maritime Products
- To date, none of the PTWS TSPs have developed Maritime Products

WWNWS NAVAREAs – 21 in Total



WWNWS NAVAREAs – 7 in PTWS Region



Background from the TOWS-WG

The Task Team on Tsunami Watch Operations at the TOWS-WG 12th Session (2019)

Recommendation 9: Approve the proposal on TSP Messages for the Maritime Community and requests the ICGs to consider the proposal for implementation in their respective basins. Further, IOC Secretariat is to share the final proposal with WWNWS-SC and facilitate coordination between ICGs and the WWNWS-SC for operationalizing the service.

The TOWS-WG 12th Session (2019)

The Group approved the proposal on TSP Messages for the Maritime Community and requested the ICGs to consider the proposal for implementation in their respective basins.

The TOWS-WG 16th Session (2023)

The Group recommended the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session in 2023 to instruct the regional ICGs: TSPs in collaboration with NAVAREA operators test the tsunami maritime safety products in 2023/24, with a view to operationally implementing in 2024/25;

Background from PTWS SC Meeting March 2023

The issue was discussed. A number of concerns were expressed including:

- Various situations that could create confusion if multiple TSPs as well as NTWCs were sending their information to the NAVAREA Coordinators
- There is no directory of NAVAREA Coordinators and that this information is essential for addressing the issue.
- The Pacific has seven NAVAREAs so seven NAVAREA Coordinators – hosted by the U.S., Peru, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and Russia.

The IOC Secretariat noted that the next meeting of the WNWWS would be held September 4-8, 2023, and these concerns could be raised there.

The PTWS Steering Committee recommended:

- The establishment of a Task Team (TT) on the provision of tsunami information of the TSPs to the maritime community for navigational warning with the following membership: All TSPs (PTWC, NWPTAC, SCSTAC), Chile, Peru and Australia.
- The SC instructed the Secretariat to send an email to formally launch the TT and support holding of a TT meeting before September 2023.

This special Task Team has not yet been formed, and interaction with the WNWWS in September has not yet taken place.

Recommendation from the Task Team of TSPs

The Task Team of TSPs in their recent meeting on August 1, 2023, agreed on the following general approach:

- PTWC should be the only PTWS TSP to create and provide the special tsunami maritime safety products to all NAVAREA Coordinators in the Pacific.
- With regard to provision of the special tsunami maritime safety products to all NAVAREA Coordinators in the Pacific, PTWC will transmit them to the NTWCs as well as the ordinary tsunami bulletin and the NTWCs will forward it to the NAVAREA Coordinators in their countries.
- In addition, the other TSPs as well as NTWCs can provide their own more specific tsunami information to the NAVAREA Coordinator(s) appropriate for their respective service areas.
- NTWCs are responsible for management of the focal point as well as coordination on forwarding methods to the NAVAREA Coordinator covering the country of the NTWC.



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Thank You

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