



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION Océanographique Intergouvernementale
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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IOC Circular Letter No. 2563
(Available in English, French and Spanish)

IOC/WWW/TA/BA/ba
23 January 2015

- To** : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC in Member States of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS)
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States of the ICG/PTWS
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States of the ICG/PTWS
- Cc** : Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) and Tsunami National Contacts (TNC) of the ICG/PTWS
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
North West Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC)
ICG/PTWS Officers

Subject: Updating information on National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) for the PTWS region according to new definitions

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, through decision EC-XLVII/3.2.1(IV) of its Executive Council, decided to update the definitions of National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) as follows, and requested Member States to update their Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) data and contact detail accordingly:

- National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC): A centre officially designated by the government to monitor and issue tsunami warnings and other related statements within their country according to established National Standard Operating Procedures.
- Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP): A 24 x 7 point of contact (office, operational unit or position, not a person) officially designated by the NTWC or the government to receive and disseminate tsunami information from an ICG Tsunami Service Provider according to established National Standard Operating Procedures. The TWFP may or not be the NTWC.

The IOC and ICG reference documentation is being updated along those two definitions.

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TOGO

This decision has been taken in light of the increasing number of National Tsunami Warning Centres being established to ensure that tsunami bulletins from Regional Tsunami Service Providers are sent to appropriate national points of contacts. In this context, it should be noted that National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) must be officially designated by governmental authorities and that the TWFP should not be a person, but should be an office, an operational unit or a position within an organisation (e.g. Duty Forecaster) and that the TWFP contact details provided should be operational on a 24x7 basis. The TWFP may or not be the NTWC.

Pursuant to the decision referred to above, Member States of the ICG/PTWS are requested to officially update or re-confirm information on their National Tsunami Warning Centres and contact details of their Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) in operation in the Pacific Tsunami Warning System by filling up the attached updated form. Nomination Forms duly completed should be sent to the IOC Executive Secretary **by 16 February 2015 at the latest**, through one of the following channels:

1. Minister of Foreign Affairs
2. Head of UNESCO National Commission
3. Permanent Delegate to UNESCO

Any inquiries about the status of your TWFPs and the present circular can be addressed to the Technical Secretaries of ICG/PTWS: Bernardo Aliaga, b.aliaga@unesco.org

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Ms Flavia Schlegel
Executive Secretary (*ad interim*)

Enclosure: NTWC and TWFP Nomination Form for the Pacific Tsunami Warning System (PTWS)
(*English only*)



PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEM (PTWS)

NATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING CENTRE (NTWC)
and
24x7 TSUNAMI WARNING FOCAL POINT (TWFP)

NOMINATION FORM¹

Name of Country: _____

Place in Country*: _____

** Only if this Contact Point informed hereafter is not for the entire country's coast.*

Note that more than one Tsunami Warning Focal Point may be designated using a new form for each nomination. In case a Member State run other NTWC and TWFP in areas covered by other regional tsunami warning systems, e.g. islands or overseas jurisdictions geographically separated from main center(s), information on those contact points should be provided using the Nomination Form of the regional Tsunami Warning System they pertain.

Do you agree to share your TWFP information with other TWFP and NTWC contacts?

Yes No

Definitions (IOC/EC-XLVII/Dec.3.2.1 (IV), 2014):

National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC): A centre officially designated by the government to monitor and issue tsunami warnings and other related statements within their country according to established National Standard Operating Procedures

Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP): A 24 x 7 point of contact (office, operational unit or position, not a person) officially designated by the NTWC or the government to receive and disseminate tsunami information from an ICG Tsunami Service Provider according to established National Standard Operating Procedures. The TWFP may or not be the NTWC.

¹ Updated January 2015

1. National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC)

NTWC Agency Name: _____

NTWC Agency Contact or Officer in Charge (person):

Name: _____

Position: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Postal Address: _____

2. Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) for receiving Tsunami Bulletins

TWFP Agency name: _____
(if different from NTWC agency)

TWFP Agency Contact or Officer in Charge (if different from NTWC Agency):

Name: _____

Position: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

TWFP 24x7 point of contact (office, operational unit or position, **not a person**):

Name of office, operational unit or position: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cellular phone number: _____

Fax: _____

3. Designated Communication Method Information (operational on 7/24 basis)

Please specify GTS (WMO-Global Telecommunication System), AFTN (Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunications Network), Fax, or E-mail in a priority order. Note that all dissemination methods designated below will be made simultaneously by the issuing centers, but bulletins may reach their destinations at different times depending on the communication method.

Please note the following:

- Bulletins from the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) are not available by AFTN.
- In general, the GTS and AFTN dedicated, private communication methods guarantee timely receipt of bulletins within several minutes, whereas Facsimile and E-mail may incur delays of tens of minutes during peak usage times.
- Fax and E-mail alone are not the timeliest and should not be used as the primary means.
- For GTS, include the international 4-letter GTS Location Indicators used in the abbreviated headings. Location Indicators can be found at http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/Operational_Information/VolumeC1/CCCC_en.pdf
- For AFTN, the 8-letter Address Indicators are found in ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) Documents 7910 and 8585, and consist of a 4-letter location indicator and 4-letter type-of-operations indicator.

For each dissemination method, please specify the mode (GTS, email, SMS or Fax) and the addresses/contact numbers to use (GTS Location Indicator, email address(es), cellular phone number(s), Fax number):

Primary Method:

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): _____

Address/contact numbers: _____

Alternate 1:

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): _____

Address/contact numbers: _____

Alternate 2:

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): _____

Address/contact numbers: _____

Alternate 3:

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): _____

Address/contact numbers: _____

Please also specify telephone number for voice communication, in a priority order. In general, due to language barriers, the regional or subregional centre does not use voice communication as the primary means of dissemination, but as a backup or for confirmation of message receipt through the above means, when urgently needed.

Primary: _____

Alternate 1: _____

Alternate 2: _____

Alternate 3: _____

4. Comments:

Submitted by: _____

Signature: _____

Position: _____

Government Department/Agency: _____

Date: _____