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МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 03 18
E-mail: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

IOC Circular Letter N° 2753
(Available in English only)

IOC/VR/TA/BA/ss
24 January 2019

To: Registered Tsunami National Contacts (TNC) of the following countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China (Peoples Republic of), Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap), France (French Polynesia), Indonesia, Malaysia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Viet Nam

Cc: Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
Director, International Tsunami Information Center
Director, IOC Tsunami Unit

Subject: Full transition to NWPTAC enhanced products as from 28 February 2019

Through IOC [Circular Letter 2702](#), we announced the start of issuance of experimental Enhanced Products of the North West Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC) for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS) as from 20 December 2017.

After a thorough evaluation, NWPTAC has decided to fully adopts the enhanced products and will be distributing them as from 28 February 2019.

NWPTAC Enhanced Products consist of initial text messages compiled from a pre-established tsunami simulation database and subsequent text messages accompanied by three types of graphical products based on real-time simulation techniques (Tsunami Travel Time Map, Coastal Tsunami Amplitude Forecast Map and Deep-Ocean Tsunami Amplitude Forecast Map). The products will be distributed exclusively to national authorities of user countries.

The main differences between previous products and Enhanced Products are as follows:

- NWPTAC extends its area of service to the eastward (till longitude of 170° east) and will include the full area of Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.
- Estimated tsunami amplitudes are now described in five ranges: 0.3-1 m, 1-3 m, 3-5 m, 5-10 m and over 10 m. This is in contrast to eight categories with definite numbers in the previous products.

Chairperson

Prof. Peter M. HAUGAN
Research Director II, Institute of Marine
Research/Geophysical Institute
University of Bergen
P.O. Box 1870 Nordnes
5817 Bergen
NORWAY

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Ms Monika BREUCH-MORITZ
c/o Secretariat of German IOC Section
Federal Maritime and Hydrographic
Agency
Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78
20359 Hamburg
GERMANY

Dr Alexander POSTNOV
Deputy Director
State Oceanographic Institute
ROSHYDROMET
6, Kropotkinsky Lane
119034 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Ariel Hernan TROISI
Head, Oceanography Department
Navy Hydrographic Service
Av. Montes de Oca 2124
C1270ABV Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA

Dr Somkiat KHOKIATTIWONG
Marine Biodiversity Research Specialist
Department of Marine and Coastal
Resources
Government Compact B
Changwattana Road
Laksi
12010 Bangkok
THAILAND

Dr Ashley S. JOHNSON
Director, Oceans Research
Department of Environmental
Affairs
Foretrust Building
Martin Hammerschlagt Way
Foreshore
SW Cape 8012 Cape Town
SOUTH AFRICA

- Forecast Points have changed and increased from 65 to 96 points.

For reference the background of these changes is reminded below.

Through IOC [Circular Letter 2535](#) dated 4 September 2014, Member States of PTWS were informed of the start of issuance of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) Enhanced Products for PTWS on 1st October 2014.

In pursuit of continuous improvement for PTWS tsunami warning products, Japan announced the same year at the IOC Executive Council that NWPTAC would also be developing new products based on the requirements of user countries. The PTWS Steering Committee (PTWS SC) agreed shortly after on a timeline targeting full transition to NWPTAC Enhanced Products. It also recommended that Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) continue the process of developing NWPTAC Enhanced Products for PTWS.

At its 26th session (Honolulu, April 2015), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for PTWS (ICG/PTWS) agreed that NWPTAC should proceed with its development of Enhanced Products for the Northwest Pacific region. Accordingly, Exercise Pacific Wave 2016 (PacWave16) and Exercise Pacific Wave 2017 (PacWave17) were conducted to evaluate NWPTAC Enhanced Products.

At its 27th session (Tahiti, April 2017), the ICG/PTWS agreed that NWPTAC should start issuance of its experimental NWPTAC Enhanced Products in parallel with its existing products in the second half of 2017. In line with this decision JMA started experimental issuance of NWPTAC Enhanced Products on 20 December 2017.

Since then, JMA has successfully issued 18 NWPTAC Enhanced Products during 12 events (as of 14 December 2018). Furthermore, NWPTAC Enhanced Products were validated in the Exercise Pacific Wave 2018 (PacWave18) from September to November 2018.

Based on the above-mentioned evaluation and the feedback received from Member States during the experimental phase, a users' guide have been developed and is now published as an electronic resource with the following reference:

UNESCO-IOC. 2019. *Users' Guide for the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC): Enhanced Products for the Pacific Tsunami Warning System*. Paris, UNESCO, IOC Technical Series No 142. (English only).

The Users' Guide draws on two previous publications: *User's Guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center: Enhanced Products for the Pacific Tsunami Warning System*, IOC Technical Series No 105, revised edition (English, Spanish) ([IOC/2013/TS/105 Rev.3](#)) and the *Operational users guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS)*, IOC Technical Series No 87, second edition (English only) ([IOC/2011/TS/87 Rev](#)).

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure:

[Users' Guide for the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center \(NWPTAC\): Enhanced Products for the Pacific Tsunami Warning System. IOC Technical Series No 142](#) (English only).