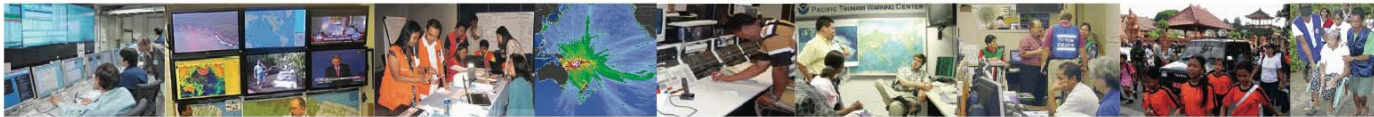


NEW PTWC TSUNAMI PRODUCTS TO START 1 OCTOBER 2014

Most of the world's earthquakes and tsunamis occur in the Pacific Ocean and its marginal seas. On average, the Pacific is struck by a locally damaging tsunami every year or two, and by a major Pacific-wide tsunami a few times each century. However, over the past nine years (2005-2014), the Pacific witnessed six destructive and deadly tsunamis that placed Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System countries in various levels of warning for local and distant tsunamis. To provide better, more informative information to Pacific Countries, in support of their national decision-making, the US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) will commence issuance of tsunami wave forecast guidance on 1 October 2014.

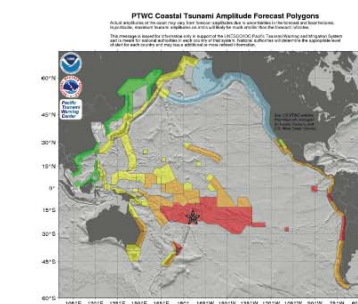


Announcing New Tsunami Products Threat and Information Messages

Starting 1 October 2014, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) will commence issuance of its new Enhanced Tsunami Products for Pacific countries. The start culminates a 7-year intergovernmental process coordinated by the UNESCO IOC through its Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS). The System encompasses 46 Member States of the Pacific Ocean and its marginal seas, covering more than 20,000 kilometers west to east. PTWC will retire its Warning and Watch services, and instead begin issuance of threat forecasts containing expected wave heights to country National Tsunami Warning Centers. Every country will now be required to decide on their own Warnings using guidance from PTWC, national, and other sources. <http://www.PTWS-PTWCproducts.info>

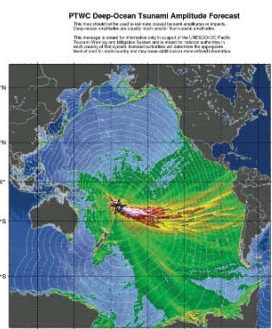
Preparing Countries for the New Products

The International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) has worked closely alongside the IOC to guide the transition, working in partnership to build warning decision-making capacity in all Pacific countries. The change has required the full assistance of countries, regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, and donors to support the meetings and training necessary to ensure international dissemination and country receipt of timely and helpful tsunami products that are correctly interpreted and used to assess national threats.

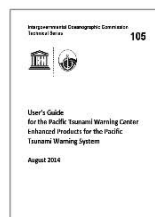
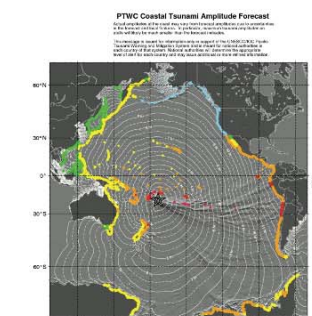


This coastal threat polygon map for the forecast tsunami shows the level of threat for forecast zones delineated by geological, geographic, and/or political boundaries.

This tsunami energy map shows the forecast tsunami energy directionality and maximum wave amplitudes offshore. The forecast, and the products shown, are available 30-40 minutes after the earthquake. At this stage, the forecast is based on the earthquake parameters, and not yet compared to, or constrained by, sea level observations.



This coastal threat map, and others shown, shows the maximum wave amplitudes are the coast. Tsunami travel time contours are also shown. The wave amplitude forecasts are used by PTWC to assess and assign a threat level to different coastal polygons.



The **User's Guide for the PTWC Enhanced Products for the PTWS** provides product descriptions and guidance to National Tsunami Warning Centers (NTWC). Both improved text and additional graphical products will be available. The graphical products provide more information at much greater level of detail, and will be provided only to Country Focal Points.

Countries to Issue Own Warnings

Instead of Warnings, the new PTWC products will be either Threat Messages or Information Statements. If there is a tsunami threat and information exists to sufficiently constrain a numerical tsunami forecast, then the products will also contain a forecast of maximum tsunami wave amplitudes. The new text products will replace the retired ones and will continue to be publicly available and sent through the same communication channels. In addition, PTWC will issue graphical and statistical threat products that will only be sent by email to a country's designated Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) to assist in their NTWC alert level decision-making. The NTWC may use the PTWC information as primary or supplemental guidance for their alerts.

UNESCO IOC ICG/PTWS

Over history, the Pacific has suffered 75% of the world's fatal tsunamis, with 99% of the casualties from local tsunamis striking within minutes. After the 1960 Chile tsunami that traversed 22 hours across the Pacific to kill 139 people in Japan, and at least 20 later in the Philippines, the International Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific was established in 1965 under the auspices of the IOC of UNESCO, with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) PTWC serving as its focal warning advisory center, and the UNESCO/IOC-NOAA ITIC as its technical assistance center to monitor and recommend improvements and assist countries in strengthening their system. The Japan Meteorological Agency Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center provides sub-regional advice with PTWC to the northwestern Pacific.