



PMEL

UNESCO IOC – NOAA International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)
NOAA Pacific Environmental Laboratory,
NOAA Center for Tsunami Research (PMEL/NCTR)
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)

Tsunami Coastal Assessment Tool

TsuCAT



Dr. Laura Kong and Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade,
UNESCO/IOC – NOAA International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)
Christopher Moore, NOAA Center for Tsunami Research (NCTR)
Dr. Charles McCreery, PTWC

GLOBAL TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEMS

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
2021 www.ioc-tsunami.org

2023

**PTWC is
Tsunami Service
Provider
for the PTWS
and CARIBE-EWS**
*(Pacific (46 countries)
and Caribbean (49))*

**ITIC is
Tsunami
Information Center
for the PTWS
and supports
CARIBE-EWS**

NEAMTWS

North Eastern Atlant
and connected seas
and Mitigation Syste

☆ **NEAMTIC** NEAM Tsu
Information Centre (I

Accredited TSPs:

■ **CENALT**
Centre d'Alerte aux 1

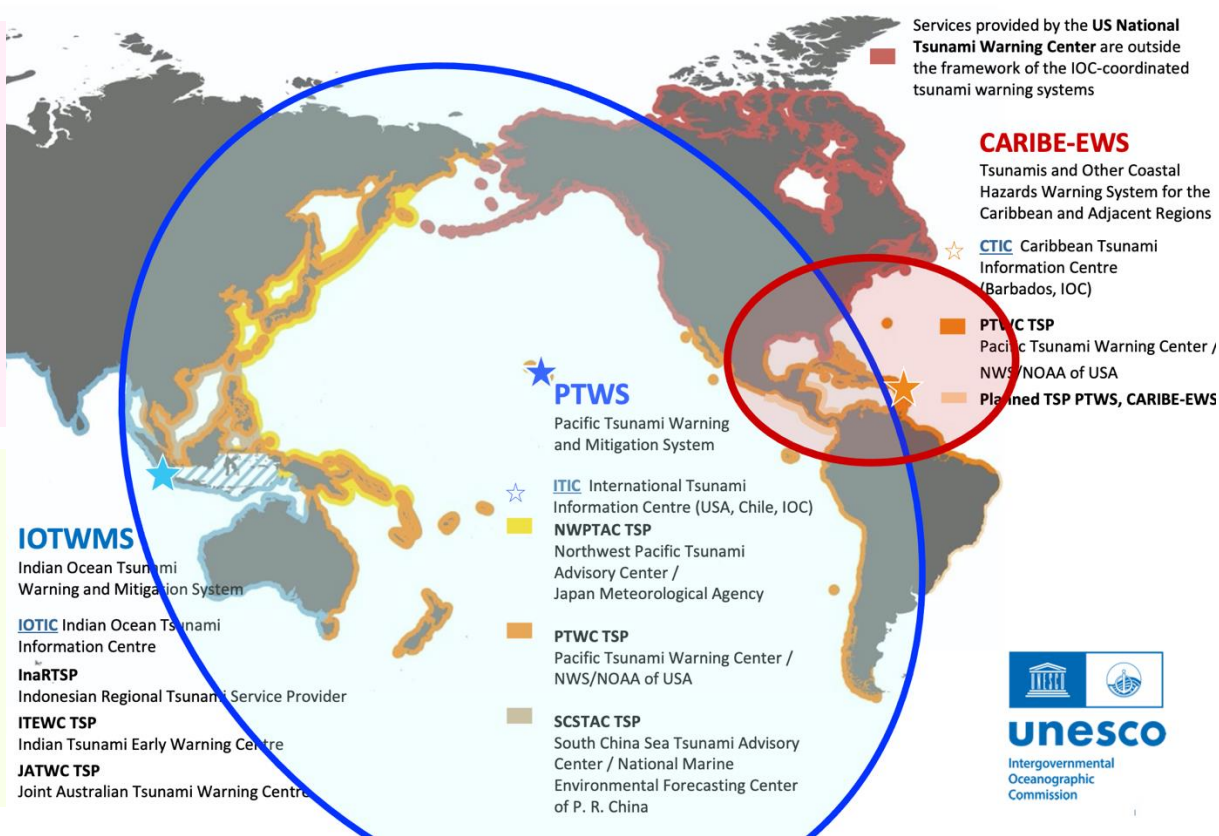
■ **IPMA**
Instituto Portugues c
of Portugal

■ **INGV**
Istituto Nazionale di

■ **KOERI**
Kandilli Observatory
Institute of Turkey

■ **NOA**
National Observator

■ **Planned NEAMTWS**



unesco

Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

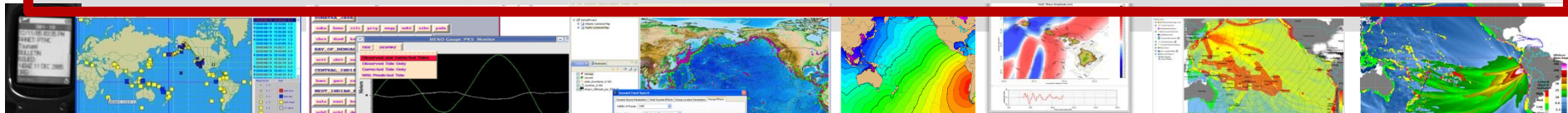


Tsunami Warning Decision Support Tools

ITIC-distributed, supported with NOAA PTWC, PMEL

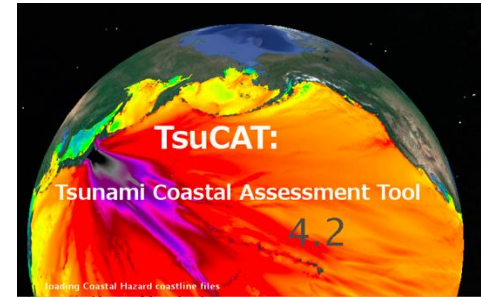


- ❑ **Tsunami Bull Board** (ITIC, 1995) ~464 science/tsu/govt
- ❑ **Real time EQ Display** (v3.13.227 (CISN, USGS / NTHMP, 2005), 350+
- ❑ **Real-time Sea Level monitoring**
 - Tide Tool v10.71 – TWC operations monitoring (PTWC, 2005)
 - IOC Sea Level Monitoring web site (IOC, 2008)
- ❑ **Tsunami Travel Time Software** v4.0.1 (ITIC, NCEI, 2007) – TTSDK4.0.1
- ❑ **Tsunami Historical Database** Online (WDS-NCEI), Offline (TsuDig, NCEI, ITIC, 2009)
- ❑ **Tsunami Hazard Assessment Tools – PMEL, ITIC**
 - ComMIT/MOST inundation modeling (2015 TEMPP; put under OTGA for Tsunami Ready)
 - **Tsunami Coastal Assessment Tool (TsuCAT) v4.4 Aug 2024 – PTWC messages for multiple countries and situational exercise injects, near-real time event ingest**



TsuCAT: Tsunami Coastal Assessment Tool

- ❑ **Why / What:** Request by Pacific Islands for warning DSS
Gives country capacity to assess tsunami hazard.
Support better understanding, use of PTWC Forecast Products
- ❑ **Who:** Country agencies with Tsunami Hazard Assessment, Warning and Emergency Response responsibilities
- ❑ **Tool use:**
 - Planning tool - assess threat before – ‘energy beams’
 - Decision system support tool – Customize country sub-regions (polygons), Quick, early assessment through DB lookup
 - Exercise tool – develop scenarios to use (from v4.0, 2019)



- ❑ **Features:**
 - Database: ~5400 earthquake scenarios from along active subduction zones, Pacific, Caribbean, Indian Ocean (M6.5-9.5)
 - Scenarios from Expert Meetings (Caribbean, Pacific)
 - Results from NOAA models (MOST/SIFT (M8+), RIFT (M6.5-7.9)
 - Offshore max amplitude / coastal wave amplitude (Green's Law)
 - PTWC or User custom forecast polygons
 - Exercise Messages and Injects

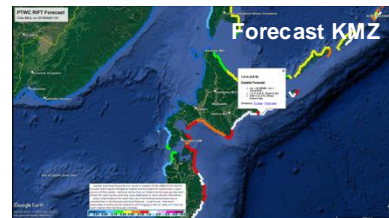
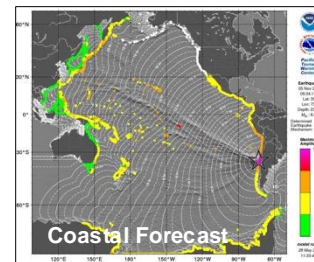
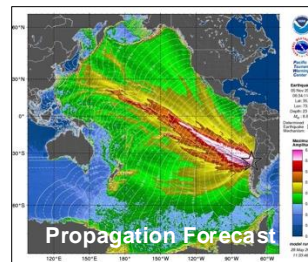
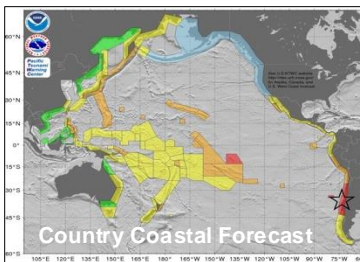
PTWC Text and Graphical Tsunami Products



- ❑ Issued when there is a potential tsunami threat (~M7.1+)
- ❑ Help Countries determine tsunami alert levels for their coasts

Public Text Product (tsunami.gov)

Graphical Products (only sent by email to Country TWC)



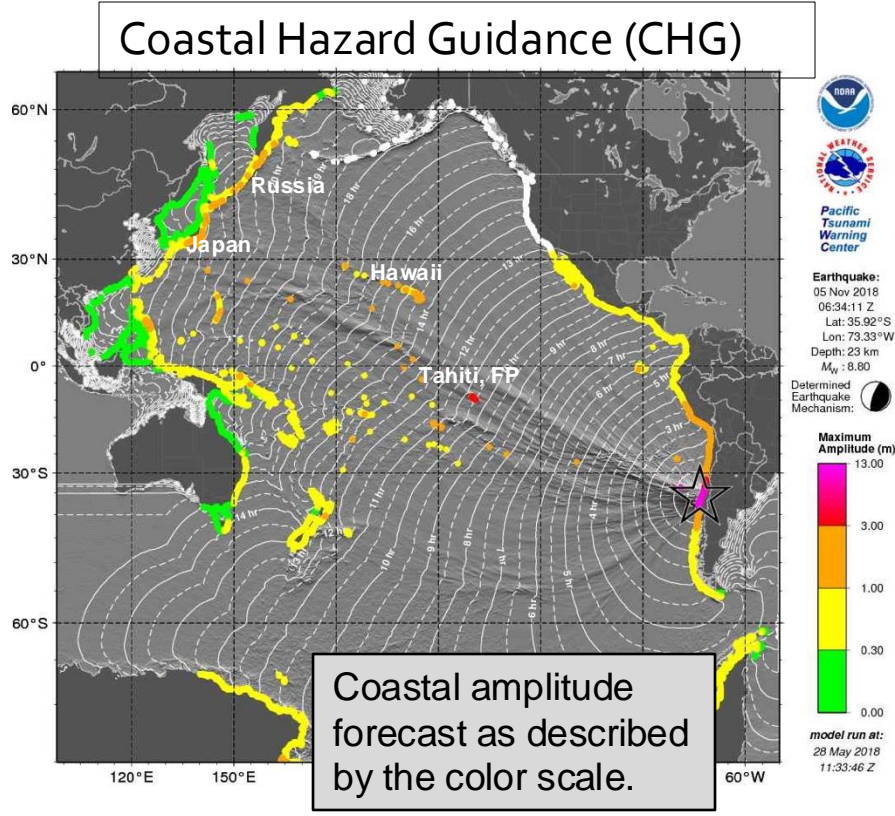
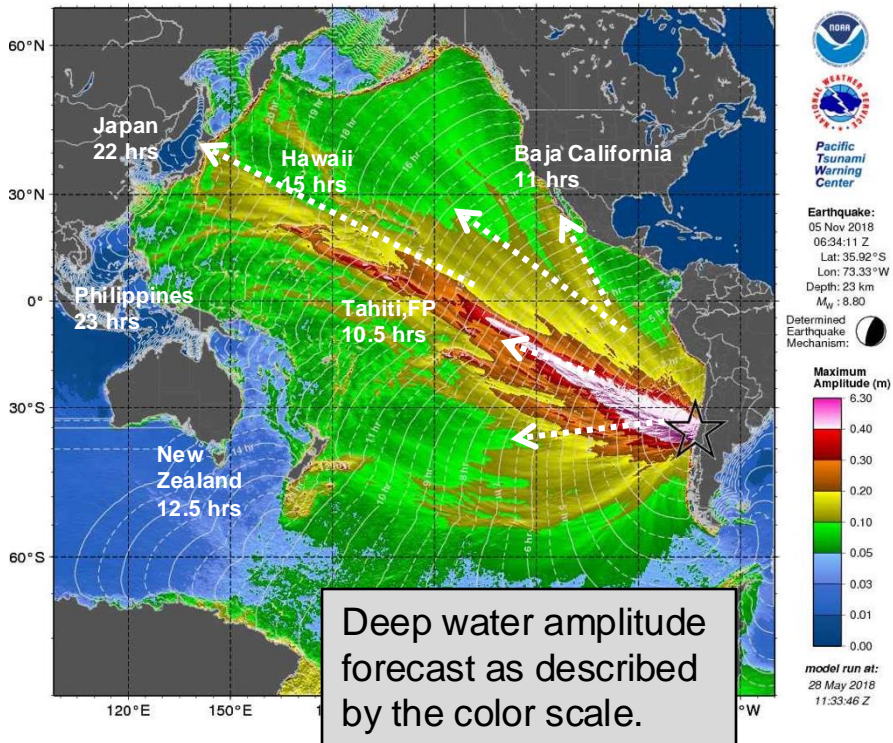
Forecast Statistics

WS - RUN ID 20180528113346
 ates: 35.95 73.3W Depth: 623m Magnitude: 8.8
 the UNESCO/IOC Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and its system. National authorities will determine the appropriate alert or more refined information.

Actual amplitudes at the coast may vary from forecast amplitudes due to uncertainties in the forecast and local features. In particular, ocean tsunami amplitudes on atolls will likely be much smaller than the forecast indicates.

Region Name	Coastal Forecast (meters)				Offshore Forecast (meters)				Total Points
	Maximum	Mean	Median	STD	Maximum	Mean	Median	STD	
South_Central_Chile	11	2.70	1.00	4.50	8.25	2.10	2.00	1.40	10
Sub_Permian_Oceania	2.5	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.0	0.86	0.53	0.53	121
North_Central_Chile	11	4.00	2.00	1.00	4.25	2.10	2.00	1.40	5
Philippine_Islands	4.7	2.70	1.40	0.70	1.5	0.50	0.25	0.25	24
Raiety_Island	2.7	2.70	2.70	0.00	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.00	1
Samoa_Islands	2.1	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.50	0.50	0.12	5
Southern_Peru	2.0	1.50	1.40	0.15	1.0	0.51	0.40	0.11	87
Socorro_Islands	1.0	1.50	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.07	25
Hawaii	1.0	1.00	0.22	0.04	0.32	0.22	0.14	0.17	167
Linn_Islands_Australia	1.0	1.00	0.25	0.25	0.34	0.20	0.15	0.10	137
Izu_and_Bonin_Maria_Islands_Japan	1.7	1.40	1.40	0.20	0.38	0.29	0.20	0.09	2
Pacific_Islands_of_the_Philippines	1.0	0.60	0.40	0.27	1.0	0.20	0.20	0.10	308
East_Coast_of_Japanese_Islands	1.0	0.94	0.93	0.22	1.0	0.53	0.40	0.20	482
Central_Peru	1.0	1.00	0.25	0.25	0.80	0.20	0.20	0.11	118
Northern_Chile	1.5	1.0	1.0	0.14	1.2	0.36	0.32	0.16	118

Propagation and Coastal Forecasts



Coastal Hazard Guidance (CHG)

Coastal Hazard Guidance – Green’s Law



- **PTWC RIFT Model uses Green’s Law to quickly estimate coastal ampli**
 - Modeling on fine-scale coastal grids takes too long, even on supercomputers
 - PTWC does not have access to fine-scale bathymetry for all coasts

Green’s Law:

$$\eta_s \cong \eta_d \left(\frac{H_d}{H_s} \right)^{1/4}$$

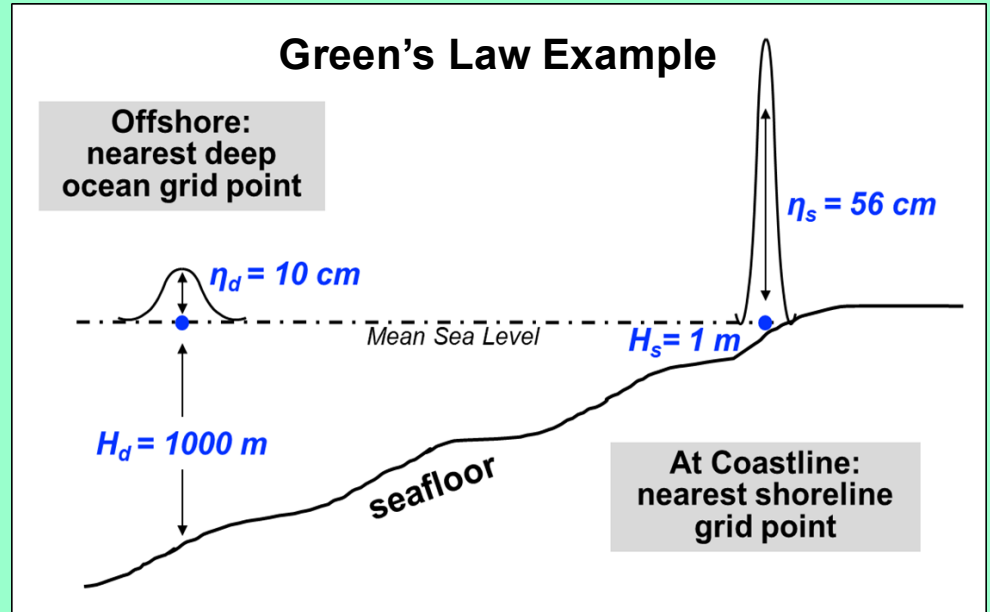
η_s wave amplitude at shoreline point

η_d wave amplitude at nearest deep ocean grid point

H_d water depth at nearest deep ocean grid point

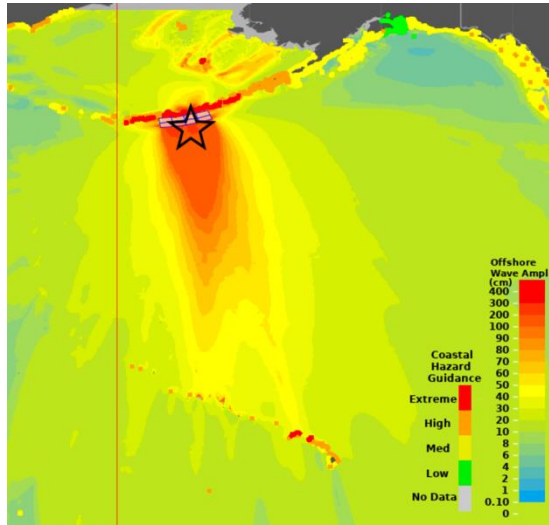
H_s water depth at shoreline point

Offshore Tsunami Amplitude (10 cm)	Shoreline Amplitude from Green’s Law (1 m water depth)	
Water Depth	Amplitude	Amplification
1000 m	56 cm	5.6
500 m	47 cm	4.7
100 m	32 cm	3.2
50 m	27 cm	2.7



Coastal Hazard Guidance - improvement

Wave shoaling: Green's Law, plus Modified Amplification Factor



- Modifications to plane-wave ampl: $a \propto h^{-1/4}$
- Model runs on 4 arcmin grids: deeper reference depth (to account for poorly resolved shelf waves)
- Steep slopes (atoll, $> 1:10$): $a = 1.25$ (approximately profile #1, Løvholt 2012)
e.g., much reduced AF1.25 compared to 50-meter AF 2.69



TsuCAT - Background



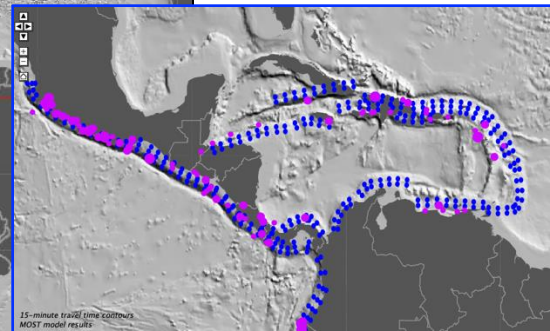
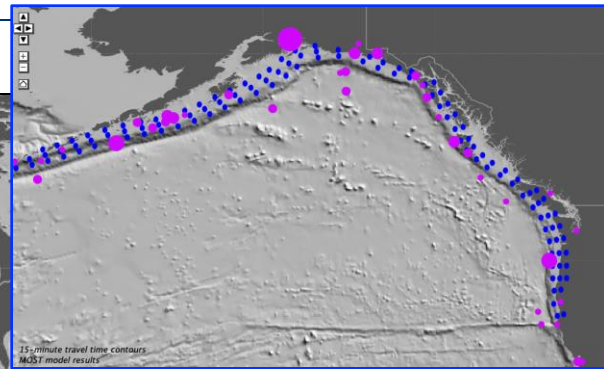
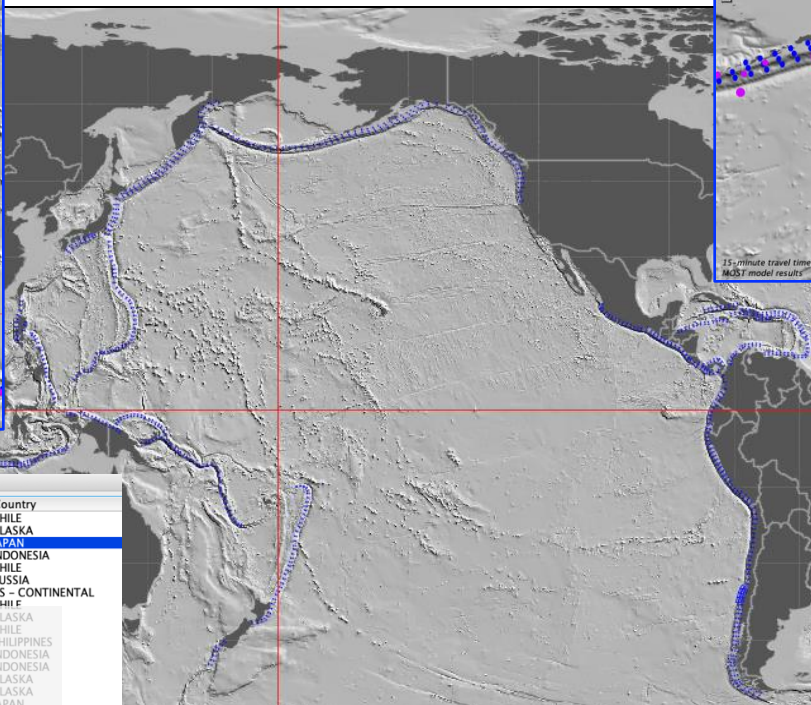
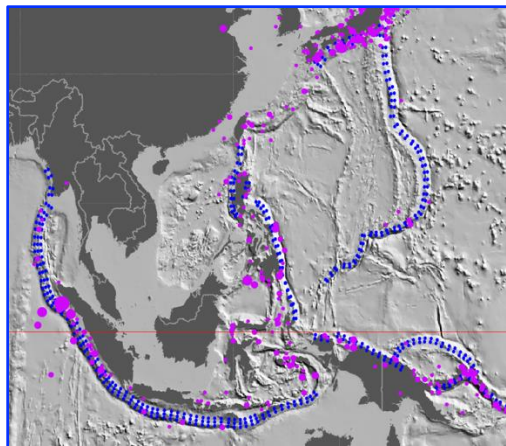
□ Requirements:

- Offline (no internet required) - portable
Online (internet, adds geographic map tiles (OpenStreet, ESRI))
- Platform: Windows, Linux, Macintosh; Java v1.8
- Storage: 28 GB; No installation - run from flash drive
- Bathymetric grid resolution: MOST (compute 4 arc-min), RIFT (compute 4 arc-min decr to 30 arc-sec)

□ Layers

- Offshore Wave Amplitude, Coastal Hazard Guidance, Travel Time
- PTWC coastal polygons, or user-customized
- Results export – model, regional report
- Reference information: Historical Seismicity(USGS, NOAA NCEI Significant), Tsunami Obs (NOAA NCEI), USGS Plates, Place names
- User-supplied maps (polygon shape files), Quick guide tutorial
- PTWC Enhanced Products Exercise messages

Scenarios - NOAA Propagation DB, Historical Tsunamis



Tsunami Earthquakes, 1700-present

Date	Mw	Latitude	Longitude	Country
1960-05-22 19:11	9.5	38.143° S	73.407° W	CHILE
1964-03-28 03:36	9.2	61.017° N	147.648° W	ALASKA
2011-03-11 05:46	9.1	35.237° N	140.872° E	JAPAN
2004-12-26 00:58	9.1	3.316° N	95.854° E	INDONESIA
1730-07-08 08:45	9.1	32.500° S	71.500° W	CHILE
1952-11-04 16:58	9.0	52.755° N	160.057° E	RUSSIA
1700-01-27 05:00	9.0	45.000° N	125.000° W	US - CONTINENTAL
2010-02-27 06:34	8.8	36.172° S	72.898° W	CHILE
1965-02-04 05:01	8.7	31.200° N	178.550° E	ALASKA
1922-11-11 04:32	8.7	33.859° S	70.755° W	CHILE
1897-09-21 05:12	8.6	122.000° E		PHILIPPINES
2012-04-11 08:38	8.6	2.085° S	93.063° E	INDONESIA
2005-03-28 16:09	8.6	19.000° S	93.000° E	INDONESIA
1957-03-09 14:22	8.5	31.000° N	153.000° W	ALASKA
1946-04-01 12:29	8.5	31.000° N	153.000° W	ALASKA
0887-08-26 00:00	8.9	31.000° N	135.000° W	JAPAN
0889-07-13 00:00	8.9	31.000° N	135.000° W	JAPAN
1963-10-13 05:17	8.5	0.988° S	79.347° W	CUBA
1938-02-01 19:04	8.5	0.988° S	79.347° W	CUBA
1906-01-31 15:36	8.5	0.988° S	79.347° W	CUBA

Select from:

- Tsunamiogenic Eqs,
- UNESCO Expert mtgs
- User-chosen

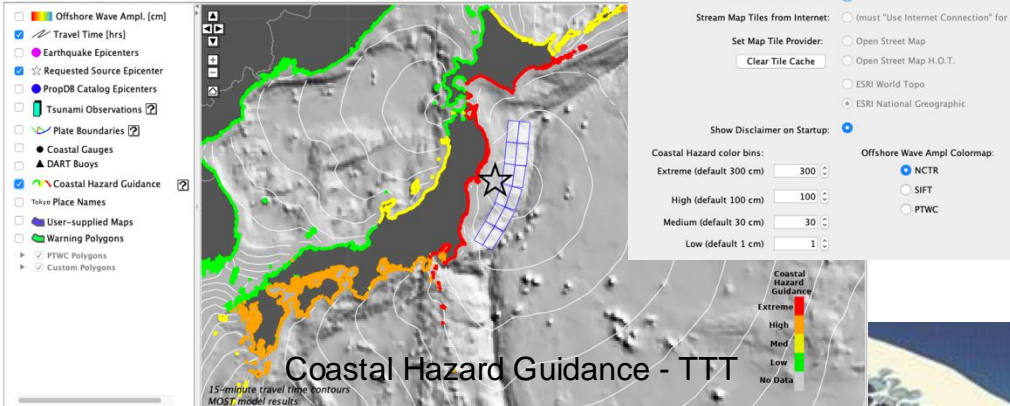
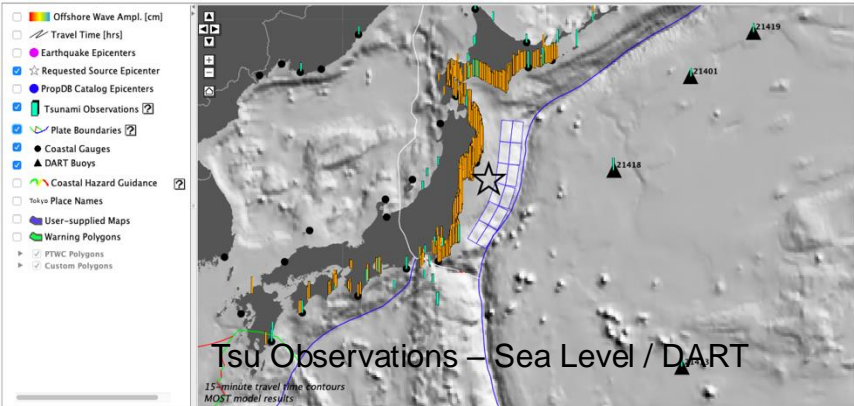
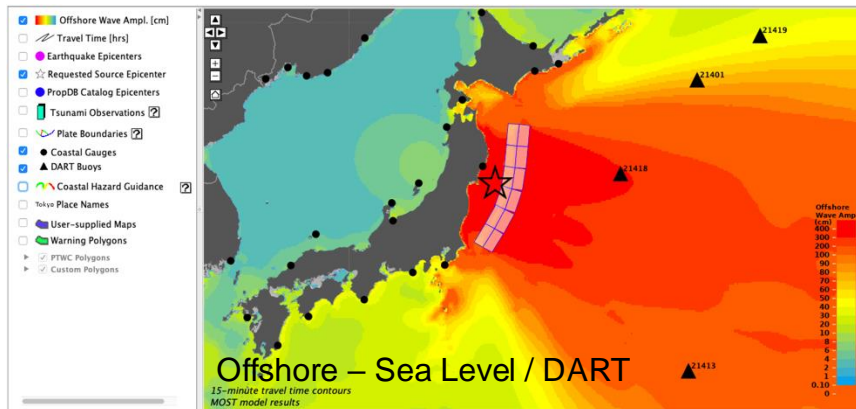
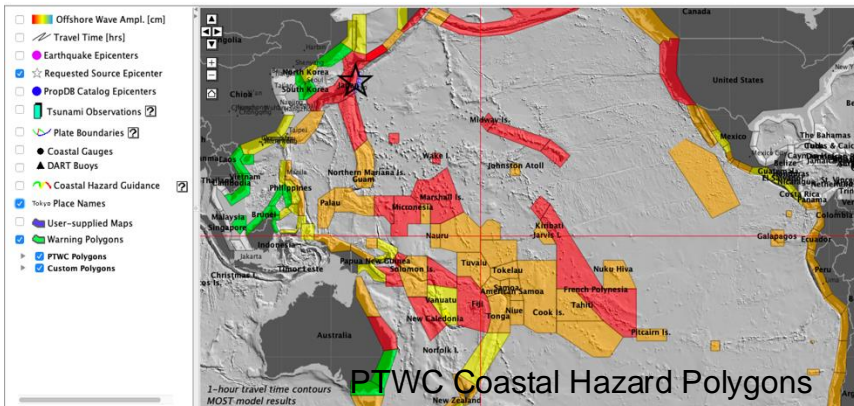
- WR-255_Earthquake_tsunami_sources_NorthernHaiti_2013.pdf
- WR-275_Scientific_meeting_of_experts_for_coordinated_scenario...hemes_for_the_South...
- WR-276_Sources_tsunamis_Dominican_Republic_2016.pdf
- WR-278_Tsunami_Hazard_in_Central_America_Historical_Events_and_Potential_Sources_C...
- WR-289_Experts_Meeting_on_Tsunami_Sources_Tonga-Kermadec.pdf
- WR-291_Experts_Meeting_on_Sources_of_Tsunamis_in_the_Lesser_Antilles_2020.pdf



2011 Great East Japan, M9.1 – Data / Result Layers

Requested Epicenter, Lat: Lon: Closest in Catalog, Lat: Lon: (34 [km] away)

Mw: Event:



Use Internet Connection:

Stream Map Tiles from Internet: (must "Use Internet Connection" for

Set Map Tile Provider: Open Street Map Open Street Map H.O.T. ESRI World Topo ESRI National Geographic

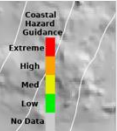
Show Disclaimer on Startup:

Coastal Hazard color bins:

- Extreme (default 300 cm):
- High (default 100 cm):
- Medium (default 30 cm):
- Low (default 1 cm):

Offshore Wave Ampl Colormap:

- NCTR
- SIFT
- PTWC



TsuCAT – Tool Applications

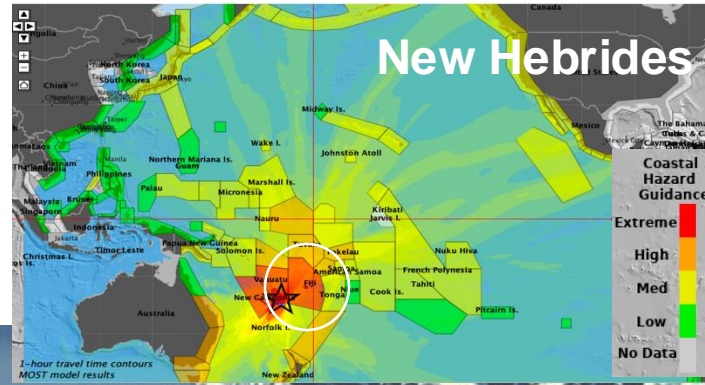
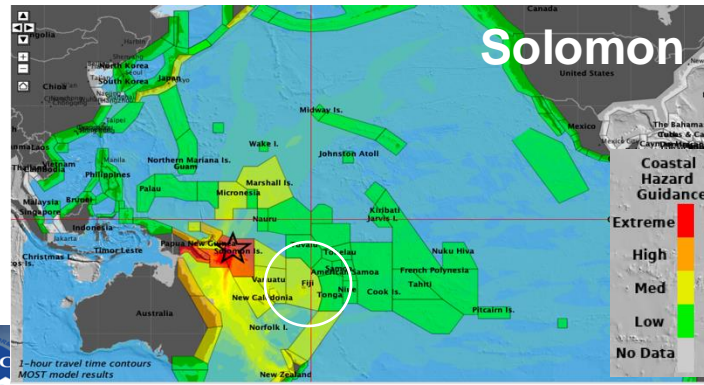
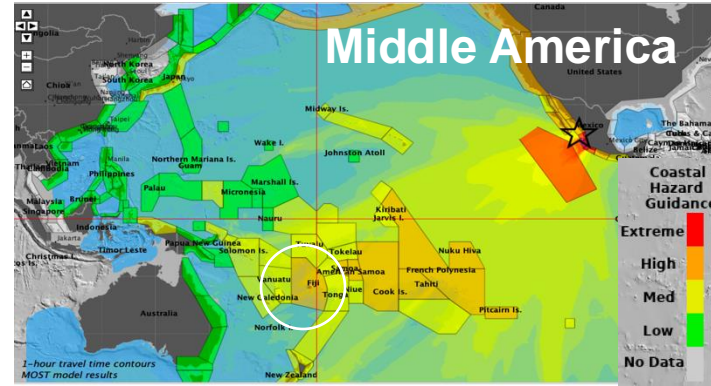
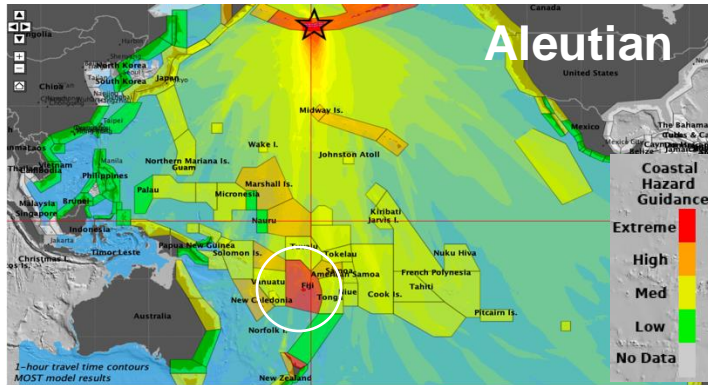


- ❑ **Hazard Assessment** - conduct study to determine worst case, or likely impact, to a country's coast from different scenarios
- ❑ **Exercise development** - decide which scenario to use for a tsunami exercise, generate PTWC exercise messages
- ❑ **Response Planning** – use scenarios to develop tsunami response plans, protocol and procedures (SOPs)
- ❑ **Warning decision making** – estimate tsunami impact using the nearest similar scenario during a real event (early assessment prior to receiving PTWC forecast products)



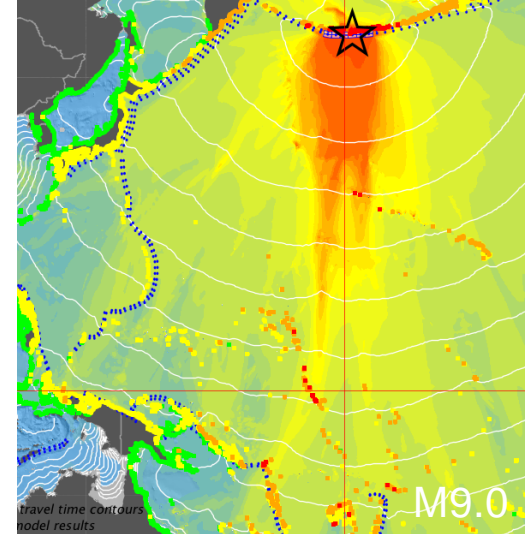
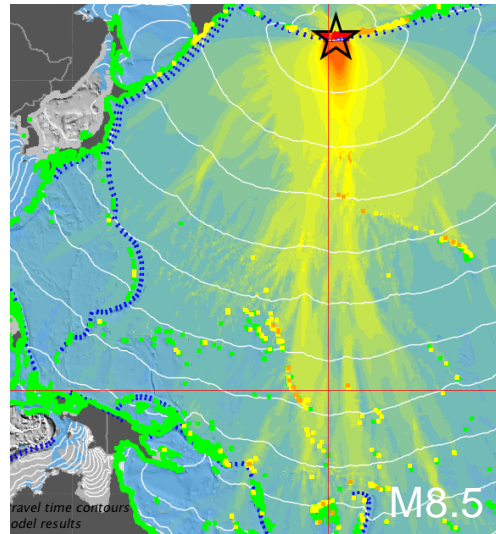
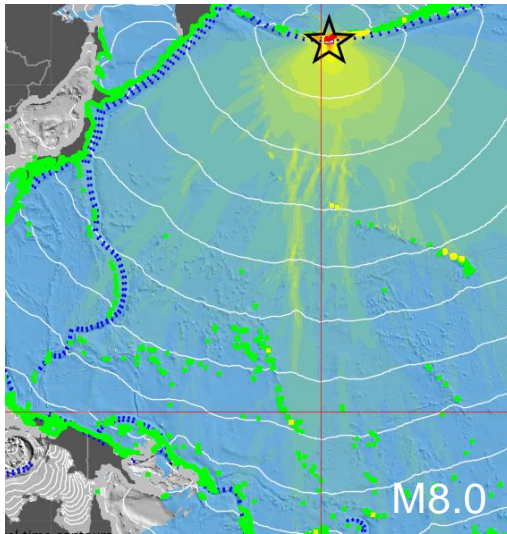
Uses: Threat Assessment

What location is most dangerous to Fiji for a M8.7?

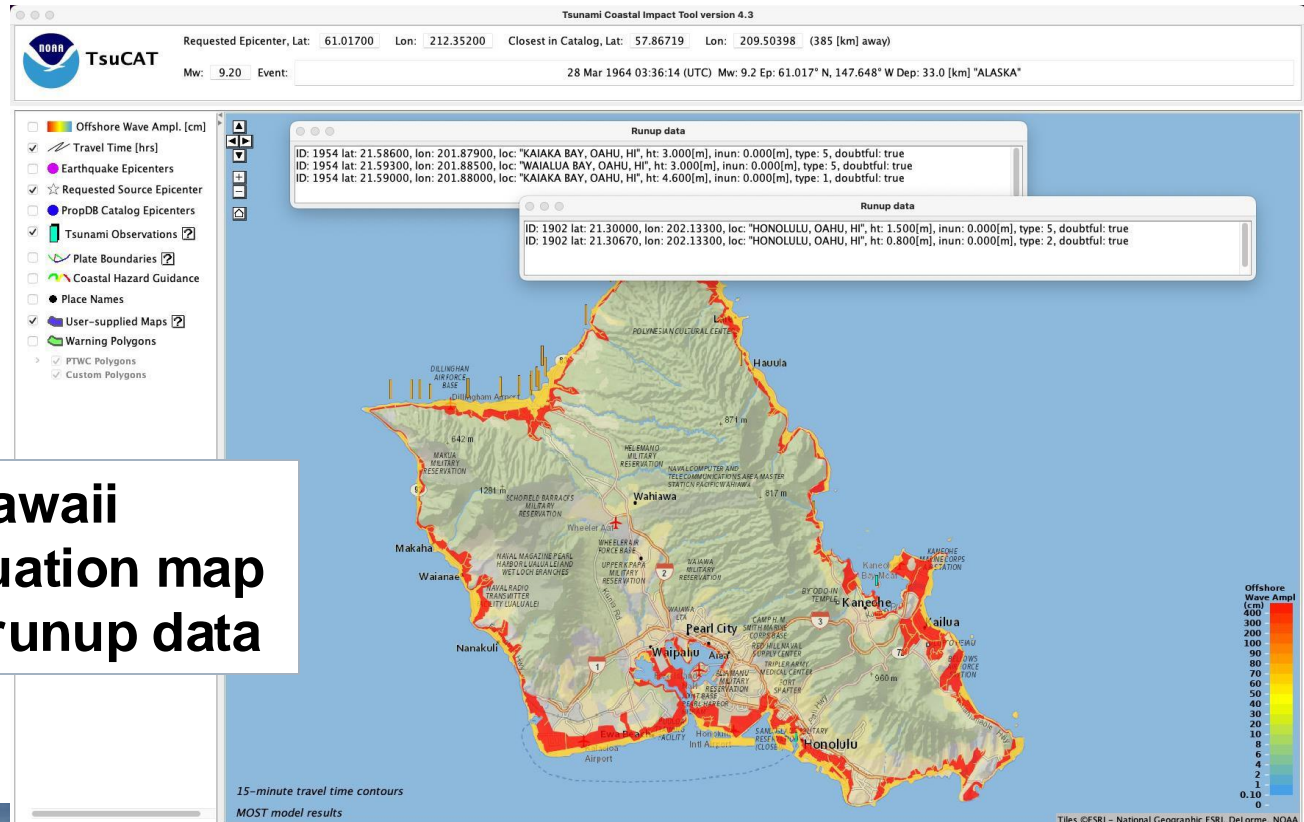


Uses : Threat Assessment

What size earthquake is most dangerous?
Aleutian Trench source: M8.0, 8.5, 9.0



Uses : Overlay of additional data layers



Oahu, Hawaii

- Evacuation map
- NCEI runup data

Uses: Generate Exercise messages with Injects

- ❑ **PTWC Public Text and Enhanced Products for multiple countries for events in pre-computed Pacific and Caribbean database**
- ❑ **Situational Injects for responding to based on selected scenario**
- ❑ **Password protected – to minimize ‘hoaxes’**
- ❑ **Select Menu - “Export Exercise Messages”**
 - Set Event (historical database or by mouse, origin time, magnitude)
 - Choose Generate (PTWC Text Messages, Enhanced Products (graphical, polygon table, kmz file)
 - Output folder, e.g., message/2019-04-02_0000_M9.0_Russia_PTWCproducts
- ❑ **Varying issue time and magnitude update**



GUI – Export PTWC Exercise Messages

1957 Kamchatka M9.0

Export Exercise Messages

Mag: 9.0 Epicenter: 52.688° N, 160.549° E

Adjust for date of Exercise: 10/16/2020 02:38

Generate 00:06 Message 1

00:33 Coastal Forecast Polygons

00:23 Coastal Forecast Amplitude

00:23 Deep Ocean Forecast Amplitude

00:23 Coastal Forecast Polygons

00:23 Regional West Central Pacific

00:23 Regional South Central Pacific

Text Messages Graphical Products

TEST...TSUNAMI MESSAGE NUMBER 1...TEST
UNSC PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER EMA BEACH HI
0244 UTC FRI OCT 16 2020
...THIS MESSAGE IS FOR TEST PURPOSES ONLY...
...TEST PTWC TSUNAMI THREAT MESSAGE TEST...

**** NOTICE **** NOTICE **** NOTICE **** NOTICE **** NOTICE ****
THIS MESSAGE IS ISSUED FOR INFORMATION ONLY IN SUPPORT OF THE
UNESCO/IOC PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEM AND IS
MEANT FOR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN EACH COUNTRY OF THAT SYSTEM.
NATIONAL AUTHORITIES WILL DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF
ALERT FOR EACH COUNTRY AND MAY ISSUE ADDITIONAL OR MORE REFINED
INFORMATION.
**** NOTICE **** NOTICE **** NOTICE **** NOTICE **** NOTICE ****

TEST... PRELIMINARY EARTHQUAKE PARAMETERS ...TEST

- MAGNITUDE 8.8
- ORIGIN TIME 0238 UTC FRI OCT 16 2020
- COORDINATES 52.7 NORTH 160.5 EAST
- DEPTH 22 / 14 MILES
- LOCATION OFF THE EAST COAST OF THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA, RUSSIA

TEST... EVALUATION ...TEST

- AN EARTHQUAKE WITH A PRELIMINARY MAGNITUDE OF 8.8 OCCURRED OFF THE EAST COAST OF THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA, RUSSIA AT 0238 UTC FRIDAY OCTOBER 16 2020

THIS IS A SIMULATION
NOT AN ACTUAL TSUNAMI

PTWC Coastal Tsunami Amplitude Forecast

Actual amplitudes at the coast may vary from forecast amplitudes due to uncertainties in the forecast and local features. In particular, maximum tsunami amplitudes on atolls and at locations with fringing or barrier reefs will likely be much smaller than the forecast indicates.

This message is issued for information only in support of the UNESCO/IOC Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and is meant for national authorities in each country of that system. National authorities will determine the appropriate level of alert for each country and may issue additional or more refined information.

PTWC Coastal Tsunami Amplitude Forecast Polygons

This message is issued for information only in support of the UNESCO/IOC Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and is meant for national authorities in each country of that system. National authorities will determine the appropriate level of alert for each country and may issue additional or more refined information.

PTWC Deep-Ocean Tsunami Amplitude Forecast

This message is issued for information only in support of the UNESCO/IOC Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and is meant for national authorities in each country of that system. National authorities will determine the appropriate level of alert for each country and may issue additional or more refined information.

PTWC Regional West Central Pacific

This message is issued for information only in support of the UNESCO/IOC Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and is meant for national authorities in each country of that system. National authorities will determine the appropriate level of alert for each country and may issue additional or more refined information.

2020-10-16_0238_M9.0_Russia_PTWCproducts

View Arrange Action Share Edit Tags

Name

- PTWC_msg16_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg17_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg18_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg19_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg20_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg21_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg22_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
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- PTWC_msg28_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg29_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg30_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg31_2020_10_16_0238.rtf
- PTWC_msg32_2020_10_16_0238.rtf

ThreatGraphical_msg3_regional

- ptwcregionalmaps2of2
 - Coastal_Forecast_NorthWest_Pacific.png
 - Coastal_Forecast_South_America.png
 - Coastal_Forecast_South_Central_Pacific.png
 - Coastal_Forecast_South_China_Sea.png
 - Coastal_Forecast_Southwest_Pacific.png
 - Coastal_Forecast_West_Central_Pacific.png
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- ptwctsunamithreatmaps
 - coastal_amp.kmz
 - Coastal_Forecast_Regional.png
 - Deep_Ocean_Forecast_Regional.png
 - polygons_table.txt
 - PTWS_Forecast_Polygons_Regional.png
- ThreatGraphical_msg4_BasinWide
 - ptwcregionalmaps2of2
 - ptwcregionalmaps2of2

Earthquake: 16 Oct 2020 02:38:44 Z
Lat: 52.69° N
Lon: 160.55
Depth: 22 km
Mw: 9.00

Determined Earthquake Mechanism:

Maximum Amplitude (m)
4.60
3.00

Exercise Situational Injects

- ❑ Injects enable customization
- ❑ Injects: unexpected scenario, questions, inquiries related to PTWC messages
- ❑ Excel format (can further add)

The screenshot shows the 'Exercise Injects' application window with the following configuration details:

- Set Country: CHILE
- Name/Acronym of Tsunami Warning Center: SHOA
- Name/Acronym of Emergency Management Agency: SENAPRED
- Name of Earthquake Monitoring Agency: National Seismological Center (CSN)
- Head of Tsunami Warning Center: SHOA Director
- Leader in Government (eg, President, Senator, Prime Minister): President
- Member of the Public: School Principal
- Media (TV, Radio) station: Televisión Nacional de Chile (TVN)
- Exercise Injects filename (Excel): ExercisInjjects.xls

CHILE

Inject No	Event Time	Local Time	Event	To	From
1	0	1000	Earthquake Occurs!	All	Controller
2	2	1002	Earthquake alarms trigger from P wave amplitudes off-scale at regional seismic network station	SHOA	Controller
3	2	1002	National Seismological Center (CSN) calculates Preliminary Earthquake Parameters:	SHOA	Controller
4	5	1005	CISN Display shows PTWC Earthquake Observatory Message, M8.5	SHOA	Controller
5	6	1006	PTWC Message 1: PTWC Tsunami Threat Message Initial M8.5	SHOA	PTWC
6	7	1007	The shaking woke me up and my house was shaking for more than 60 seconds. Some power lines fell down are down. What has just happened? Where was the earthquake? Is there a tsunami? When will it hit?	SHOA, SENAPRED	Coastal Resident
7	16	1016	Many coastal provinces and local governments hear media reports that PTWC is forecasting waves more than 2.3-meters. A school principal calls SENAPRED: What should she do? Her school is on the beach	SHOA, SENAPRED	Controller
8	17	1017	PTWC Message 2: PTWC Tsunami Threat Message Magnitude Update M8.8	SHOA	PTWC
9	22	1022	Televisión Nacional de Chile (TVN) News broadcasts live video of start of surf contest at North Coast beach. It looks like a great day and waves look to be 3 m high. Surf's up. There are surfers heading into the water, and crowds are gathering	SHOA, SENAPRED	Media
10	27	1027	PTWC Message 3: PTWC Tsunami Threat Message Regional M8.8	SHOA	PTWC
11	29	1029	SHOA confirms tsunami at gauge: TALCAHUANO by Tide Tool, measured 13.4 m at 0055 UTC, Wave Period 40 min	SHOA	Controller
12	30	1030	President calls and wants an update immediately as to what going on and what actions are being undertaken. What is expected for our country and when? Do we need to call a Tsunami Warning?	SHOA	President
13	37	1037	PTWC Message 4: PTWC Tsunami Threat Message Pacific M8.8	SHOA	PTWC
14	44	1044	SHOA confirms tsunami at gauge: VALPARAISO by Tide Tool, measured 2.0 m at 0111 UTC, Wave Period 38 min	SHOA	Controller
15	47	1047	SHOA Director calls to request: 1) Earthquake and Tsunami report, 2) Tsunami travel time plot and coastal arrival times, 3) When will waves hit coasts and how big will they be, 4) Will it arrive at high tide or low tide?	SHOA	SHOA Director
			Public phone calls begin to saturate the telephone lines. They report that some people are evacuating. One older person who		



How to use - simple

- ❑ Run from flash drive (or can copy to hard disk, 28 GB)
- ❑ Requirement – Java 1.8x installed <https://java.com/en/download/>
- ❑ Click on application (Window, Mac, Linux)
 - On 1st time opening, set password (unique to user)
 - Default is ‘No Internet’
 - With Internet, on starting, will
 - ❑ Update EQ &Tsunami database files, e.g., ingests latest USGS earthquake hypocenters, and shows threat assessment
 - ❑ Use addtl online map databases (more detailed but req bandwidth)
 - Enter ‘start’ password, Set ‘personal’ password
 - For exercise messages/injects tool, enter password



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UNESCO IOC – NOAA International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)
NOAA Pacific Environmental Laboratory,
NOAA Center for Tsunami Research (PMEL/NCTR)
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)



Thank You

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