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PTWS: Exercise Pacific Wave 2026

Co-chairs:

**Anthony Jamelot, CPPT, French Polynesia, France
Margarita Martinez, SENAPRED, Chile**

Reported by Laura Kong, ITIC

**TOWS WG TT-TWO, TT-DMP, 4-6 March 2026
Online**

ICG/PTWS-XXXI (April 2025)

- **Exercise Pacific Wave 2024**

- **Acknowledges** the conduct of PacWave24 and first-time testing of the maritime safety products

*PTWS SC decided to provide **special tsunami maritime safety products** to NAVAREA coordinators through the NTWC from the PTWC, and further decided to conduct a **trial dissemination of the dummy message from the PTWC to the NAVAREA coordinators through the NTWCs***

- **Exercise Pacific Wave 2026 (12th since 2006)**

- **Decides** to carry out the twelfth Exercise Pacific Wave in 2026 (PacWave 26) in the months of September through to November 2026 to support International Disaster Risk Reduction Day (13 October) and World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November), as reflected in the Terms of Reference.

- **Recommendation ICG/PTWS-XXXI.9. PacWave Exercises**

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS),

Noting the successful conduct of PacWave24 and lessons learned from the exercise,

Acknowledges identified gaps and opportunities for improvement during the PacWave24,

Recommends that in PacWave26 dissemination of the **maritime special products target directly to the NAVAREA Coordinators** instead of NTWCs,

Acknowledges reports of the WG-PICT and WG-SEP on regional exercises as part of PavWave24 and resulting recommendations,

Encourages **targeting enhanced cooperation with other geohazard agencies in future exercises through consideration of non-seismic scenarios.**

Further encourages Member States to exercise the use of VHF/HF radio communication and maintain redundancy to support national emergency and potential regional cooperation.

Task Team on PacWave Exercises - ToR

1. Design and carry out a twelfth Exercise Pacific Wave 2026 with the following characteristics:

- An exercise shall be conducted with the aim to **test PTWS tsunami service provider arrangements**, and **Country preparedness arrangements** and **operational procedures** to respond and recover from a destructive tsunami.
- An exercise shall be conducted with the following **objectives**
 - a) **Test communications from the PTWS TSPs** to TWFPs and NTWCs of Member States.
 - b) **Test national communication and cooperation, and readiness** within the country.
 - c) **Test regional communication and cooperation** between Member States.
 - d) **Test NAVAREA Live communication** from PTWC to each NAVAREA coordinator.



Task Team on PacWave Exercises - ToR

2. Exercise Pacific Wave 2026 (PacWave26) - highlights only:

- Be conducted as a **series of regional exercises organized through the PTWS Regional Working Groups where applicable, with support from the PTWS TSPs and ITIC involving all PTWS countries**
- Be conducted to include **one live communication test from the PTWS TSPs** to Member States on World Tsunami awareness Day (5 Nov).
- Be conducted to include exercise **activities over and above a tabletop exercise**. Possible exercise variations include:
 - Consider conducting in real time during the **daytime working hours with full staffing, or simulating minimal staff** during night-time or weekend hours
 - Consider testing country capability to carry out their warning and response responsibilities for the situation where **one or more PTWS TSPs is not able to provide guidance** in a timely manner.
 - Consider conducting the exercise **down to the community level**, including where possible an **extensive public awareness** campaign.
- The **PACWAVE-TT recommends increasing the scenario difficulties** to be experienced during the exercise as for example including **non-seismic sources or multiple events** scenario. And in this particular case, Members States are encouraged to enhance, as needed, **local, national or regional cooperation with other geohazard monitoring agencies** (such as volcanoes observatories, volcanic ash advisory centers, etc.)

Announced by **IOC circular letter** to Member States **at least 120 days** in advance of exercise date with exercise manual.

4. Members invited from the ICG/PTWS Member States and Regional Working Groups, SPC, PTWC, NWPTAC, SCSTAC and CATAAC. Task Team co-chairs to be elected by the ICG.



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