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<https://www.weather.gov/nthmp/>

NWS Tsunami Program Newsletter for the NTHMP

Recent Updates and Notes for NTHMP



Welcome to the Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, NTHMP!

This newsletter from the National Weather Service's (NWS) Tsunami Program will provide NTHMP Partners with recent and upcoming meetings, agendas and topics within the subcommittees, work group and caucus, and work from the NWS Tsunami Program.

Please share any updates or feedback with Sarah (Sarah.Rogowski@noaa.gov), NWS Tsunami Program Analyst and NTHMP Administrator, and Corina Allen (Corina.Allen@noaa.gov), NWS Tsunami Program Manager.

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TOP STORIES

Demystifying the Tsunami “SPT”

by Corina Allen

By NWS Governance, there are 11 individual Service Program Teams (SPT) within the Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office (AFSO). Each of these SPTs is led by a Program Manager (like me for the Tsunami Service Program) who manages priorities and facilitates discussions and actions for the members. SPT membership is comprised of the Branch Chief of the NWS Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services, NWS Tsunami Program staff, the two Tsunami Warning Centers (TWC) and International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC), an NWS Employee’s Organization (NWSEO) representative from each TWC, a representative from each of the NWS Regional Headquarters (Western, Pacific, Alaska, Eastern, and Southern - none from Central), the NOAA Office of Atmospheric Research's (OAR) Pacific Marine Environmental Lab (PMEL), the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), the National Ocean Service (NOS), and the NWS Office of NOAA’s Science and Technology Integration (OSTI).

SPTs represent the individual requirements gathering and gap identification for each service area (such as Tsunami, Severe, Winter, and Fire Weather, Tropical, Marine, and so forth). This includes updates to the product and services policies and instructions outlined in the NWS Directives System (<https://www.weather.gov/directives/>). SPTs, including the Tsunami SPT, meet at least monthly to discuss current year programmatic milestones and updates to that work, issues or gaps in official NWS products and services, and work through the official change management process for new services or enhancements to existing operational products and services. The SPT is also a forum for the promotion of upcoming events, priorities, and other items that members would like to discuss, so that topics are addressed in a timely fashion, throughout the year.

How does this impact the NTHMP?

As an example, after the Mitigation and Education Subcommittee (MES) Tiger Team’s recommendations for the enhancements to the NWS TsunamiReady Program were approved by the Coordinating Committee (CC) at the 2024 Summer Meeting, these recommendations were provided to the voting members of the Tsunami SPT where they were analyzed to determine which recommendations could be accepted for implementation or action and which ones needed further analysis or resourcing to implement. That is just one example, but the idea is that if any requests or recommendations are intended for official products and services changes within the responsibilities of the NWS Tsunami Program, that is put forward to the SPT, discussed, and appropriate actions are taken depending on those conversations.

Update: Operations Alignment of the TWCs & ITIC

by Gregory Schoor & Corina Allen

NOAA’s National Weather Service (NWS) is working on operationally aligning the two Tsunami Warning Centers* (TWCs) and the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC), in order to provide consistent tsunami forecasting, alerting, decision-support services, and seamless,

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comprehensive service backup. Substantial progress has been made over the past year, solidifying the requirements for the new common analytical software to the common operating systems and technical support. The most critical component of the effort to establish a common operating platform is for the provision of service backup between the two TWCs, in the event that one TWC becomes inoperable or requests to be backed-up.

Accompanying that effort is the development and eventual installation of common tools at both TWCs, where duty scientists will access and analyze one potential tsunami event with the same modeling outputs in order to perform their analysis and possible alert decisions. The common suite of tools, deemed the “Common Analytic System” (CAS) will ingest observational data critical to TWC operations, process the data for forecast development, and provide alert-related guidance to operational staff at the TWCs. An internal working group is inventorying the currently-used analytic methodologies from the TWCs, including the various software applications used to detect, monitor, and forecast tsunami events. This group will review the inventory to determine the most critical and pertinent to maintain within the CAS environment. Results and recommendations will be provided to the National Center for Tsunami Research (NCTR) within the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL), under the NOAA Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR), tasked with the development of CAS. The next year will be critical for continued work on the various aspects of demonstrating the new service backup capabilities and the prototype CAS outputs, as we work toward fully-redundant future operational capacities of the TWCs and the levels of Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) provided by the TWCs and ITIC.

** Tsunami Warning Centers: 1) National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) in Palmer, AK and 2) Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) in Honolulu, HI*

NTHMP Grants Update

by Sarah Rogowski

The FY25 NTHMP Grants Process is underway. Guidance on grant submission, including the key dates and updated forms and references, have been posted to the NTHMP grants page (<https://www.weather.gov/nthmp/Grants>). Please reach out to Sarah (Sarah.Rogowski@noaa.gov) for any issues you may have finding specific documentation.

Pre-application meetings are scheduled in December & January. We will look for FY24 status (and FY23 status of NCEs) along with FY25 plans as available.

Upcoming Events

by Sarah Rogowski



The most recent NTHMP Coordinating Committee virtual meeting was held on **October 11, 2024**. Among the agenda items was the discussion of the reinstatement of the NTHMP Annual Report, an effort that ended in 2018, due to lack of contract support. The NTHMP’s *TsuInfo Alert* Newsletter future support and funding, the role of this Newsletter, as well as discussion on the logistics of the

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2025 NTHMP Annual Meeting (including the potential date and location) were also agenda items for this meeting.

The NTHMP Administrator and Subcommittee Co-Chairs will continue to meet virtually, each quarter, to help better facilitate and support collaborative work across the NTHMP. This Newsletter will also continue to provide updates on upcoming Subcommittee meetings.

Here are the updates for those recent or upcoming virtual meetings:

- A Subcommittee Co-Chairs (only) meeting: November 22 at 1PM MDT
- [Mitigation and Recovery Planning Work Group](#) (MRPWG): November 19 at 2PM MDT.
- [Mitigation and Education Subcommittee](#) (MES): November 20 at 2PM MDT.
- [Warning Coordination Subcommittee](#) (WCS): November 20 at 3PM MDT
- [Mapping and Modeling Subcommittee](#) (MMS): November 21 at 1PM MDT.
- The Coordinating Committee (CC): February 11 at 2 PM MDT.

The 2025 Annual Meeting is tentatively expected to occur May 19-23, 2025, location TBD.

On the “To-Do” List...

by Sarah Rogowski

Here are a few things on the NWS Tsunami Program list:

- **NTHMP Webpage:** Sarah continues to update the NTHMP webpage - from restoring information previously posted, to adding new information as it becomes available. One immediate goal is to build a consistent framework for the subcommittee, caucus and work group webpages, to include work plans and recent accomplishments as well as notes from previous meetings.
 - [Mapping and Modeling Subcommittee](#)
 - [Mitigation and Education Subcommittee](#)
 - [Warning Coordination Subcommittee](#)
 - [Mitigation and Recovery Planning Work Group](#)
 - [Island Caucus](#)



Thank you for your patience as we continue to rebuild this resource!

- **NTHMP Members (Roster):** There is currently a [Google Form](#) for NTHMP members to complete to help us update our mailing lists and member roster. If you know of someone interested or involved in the NTHMP that hasn't heard from us in a while, please share my contact information (sarah.rogowski@noaa.gov) so I can get to know them and make sure they are in the loop.

TsuInfo Alert - Reminder for Articles



by Sarah Rogowski

[TsuInfo Alert](#) is a bi-monthly newsletter that links scientists, emergency responders, and community planners to the latest tsunami research. This newsletter is published by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Geological Survey on behalf of the NTHMP. It is made possible by a NOAA NWS grant via the Washington Military Department, Division of Emergency Management. Contact Stephanie Earls (stephanie.earls@dnr.wa.gov), Librarian, Washington Geological Survey, to subscribe.

[ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#) (via the Washington State's Dept. of Natural Resources)

Have you recently published new tsunami mapping or research? Has your community just held a tsunami preparedness event or training?

If so, please consider submitting an article to TsuInfo. Recommended length is 150-500 words with 1-2 images that include captions and/or photo credit if applicable. Please clearly state authorship and associated organization. Send articles or questions to TsuInfo Editor, Stephanie Earls (stephanie.earls@dnr.wa.gov).