



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
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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> - fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 58 12 - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 39 83/84  
E-mail: [v.ryabinin@unesco.org](mailto:v.ryabinin@unesco.org)

**IOC Circular Letter N° 2704**  
(Available only in English)

IOC/VR/BA  
15 December 2017

**To:** CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP)  
CARIBE-EWS National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC)  
CARIBE-EWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)  
ICG/CARIBE-EWS Chair and Vice-Chairs

**Cc:** Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC  
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and  
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Directors of UNESCO and IOC Regional Offices in the Caribbean Region  
Regional Organizations cooperating with UNESCO/IOC  
NAVAREA Coordinators  
Chair IHO/IMO/WMO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee  
(WWNWS-SC)  
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center

**Subject: Announcement of the CARIBE WAVE 18 tsunami Exercise  
in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions on 15 March 2018**

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions at its eighth session (ICG/CARIBE EWS-VIII, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 29 April–1 May 2013), decided to conduct tsunami exercises named CARIBE WAVE on an annual basis leaving each Member State to define its level of participation. At its Twelfth Session (Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 10–12 May 2017), the ICG/CARIBE-EWS, recommended that Exercise CARIBE WAVE 18 take place on 15 March 2018, with three hypothetical scenarios.

The initial dummy messages for the three scenarios will be issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC), which acts as the CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Service Provider, on 15 March 2018 at 1400 UTC and will be disseminated over all its standard broadcast channels.

- The first scenario simulates a tsunami generated by a magnitude Mw 8.6 earthquake located along the Southern Lesser Antilles. Event origin time: **14:00:00 UTC March 15, 2018.**

**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  
President  
Federal Maritime and Hydrographic  
Agency (BSH)  
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

- The second scenario simulates a tsunami generated by a magnitude Mw 8.1 earthquake located along the Caribbean coast of Colombia. Event Origin time: **14:00:00 UTC March 15, 2018**.
- The third scenario simulates a tsunami generated by a magnitude Mw 7.6 earthquake off the West coast of Puerto Rico. Event Origin time: **14:00:00 UTC March 15, 2018**.

The purpose of the exercise is to improve the Tsunami Warning System effectiveness along the coasts of the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions. The exercise provides an opportunity for the corresponding emergency management organizations to exercise their operational lines of communications, review their tsunami response procedures, and promote tsunami preparedness. Regular exercising of response plans is critical to maintain readiness for an emergency. This is particularly true for the Caribbean and Adjacent regions, where tsunamis are infrequent but can be of very high impact. All Emergency Management Organizations (EMO) are encouraged to participate and include the communities at risk.

The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) will issue the initial dummy messages on 15 March 2018 at 14:00:00 UTC (Universal Time Coordinated) for the three scenarios. These messages will be disseminated over all standard Tsunami Warning Centre broadcast channels. The dummy messages are issued to test communications with Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) and National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC), and to start the exercise. As of 14:05 UTC the PTWC will only send by emails the simulated tsunami products to officially designated TWFPs and NTWCs according to the chosen scenario.

For CARIBE WAVE 18, each Member State needs to select one scenario in advance of the exercise. Each Member State must have informed PTWC ([charles.mccreery@noaa.gov](mailto:charles.mccreery@noaa.gov) and [gerard.fryer@noaa.gov](mailto:gerard.fryer@noaa.gov)) with a copy to the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Programme ([christa.vonh@noaa.gov](mailto:christa.vonh@noaa.gov)) of its chosen scenario **by March 2, 2018**. During the exercise, the TWFP/NTWC will receive only the simulated products for the scenario chosen and will decide if and how to disseminate them within their area of responsibility. In cases where a Member State does not inform the PTWC and CTWP, the organizers will decide which scenario the PTWC will send the products for.

The ICG/CARIBE-EWS of UNESCO/IOC, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Caribbean Regional Stakeholders (CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, and EMIZA) are providing the framework for this exercise as a means for emergency responders throughout the Caribbean and adjacent regions to test and update tsunami response plans. Attached is the participant [handbook](#) for the CARIBE WAVE 18: *A Caribbean and Adjacent Regions Tsunami Warning Exercise, 15 March 2018. Volume 1: Participant Handbook. IOC Technical Series, 136*. Additional information relevant to the exercise is also available at <http://www.caribewave.info>.

For CARIBE WAVE 18, the CARIBE-EWS organization team has teamed up with TsunamiZone.org for online registration. The link for registration is <http://tsunamizone.org/caribbean>. Under the 'Caribbean Zone Region' Tab, participants will be able to sign up under one of the following community categories: individuals, businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, community groups, government agencies, individuals. After registering, a confirmation email will be sent. Emergency Management Organizations (EMOs) will have real-time access to the status of registration of participants within their areas of responsibility. EMOs are encouraged to promote this registration system. During CARIBE WAVE 17 over 670,000 participants registered.

Online seminars in English, Spanish and French to orient participants on the exercise are scheduled on 23–25 January, 27–28 February and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Registration to seminars is at <http://www.caribewave.info>. For further information on the exercise, please contact Ms Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade, Manager US NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program and Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group of CARIBE-EWS (email: [christa.vonh@noaa.gov](mailto:christa.vonh@noaa.gov)), and/or the Technical Secretary ICG/CARIBE-EWS, Mr Bernardo Aliaga

(email: [b.aliaga@unesco.org](mailto:b.aliaga@unesco.org)). You are also encouraged to disseminate copies of this letter to appropriate organizations and authorities within your country.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*[signature]*

Vladimir Ryabinin  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. 2018. *Exercise CARIBE WAVE 18, Barbados, Colombia and Puerto Rico Scenarios – A Caribbean and Adjacent Regions Tsunami Warning Exercise, 15 March 2018. Volume 1: Participant Handbook*. IOC Technical Series, 136. Paris: UNESCO (English) – *online resource*:  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002607/260761E.pdf>