

IOC Circular Letter No 3065
(Available in English only)

IOC/VH/BA/AB/ab
7 January 2026

- To : CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP), National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) and Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
ICG/CARIBE-EWS Chair and Vice-Chairpersons
- C.c. : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC in ICG/CARIBE-EWS, Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and National Commissions for UNESCO of ICG/CARIBE-EWS Member States
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
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
Director, Central America Tsunami Advisory Center

**Subject: Announcement of the CARIBE WAVE 26 Tsunami Exercise
in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions on 19 March 2026**

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 18th Session in May 2025, the ICG/CARIBE-EWS, recommended that Exercise CARIBE WAVE 26 should take place on **19 March 2026 at 15:00:00 UTC**. The following two hypothetical scenarios will be used:

- A tsunami generated by a magnitude 7.6 earthquake located along the Swan Island Fault for the Cayman Islands scenario.
- A tsunami generated by a tsunami generated by a flank landslide of the Kick-'em-Jenny submarine volcano.

For CARIBE WAVE 26, each Member State needs to select one scenario and complete the following survey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CW26_ScenarioSelection) indicating its chosen scenario by **6 March 2026**.

Chairperson

Yutaka MICHIDA, Prof.
Special Presidential Envoy
for UN Ocean Decade
The University of Tokyo (Atmosphere
and Ocean Research Institute)
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5
2778564 Kashiwa
JAPAN

Executive Secretary

Mr Vidar HELGESEN
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Ms Allison D. REED
Foreign Affairs Officer
U.S. Department of State
Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs
Washington, DC
USA

Dr Atanas PALAZOV
Acting Director, Professor
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
40 Parvi May Str.
9000 Varna
BULGARIA

Capt Carlos ZUÑIGA ARAYA
Director of the Chilean Navy Hydrographic and
Oceanographic Service (SHOA)
Casilla 324,
Valparaíso, 237-0168
CHILE

Dr Hansan PARK
Principal Research Scientist, Korea
Institute of Ocean Science & Technology
(KIOST)
Director general of the Korea–Indonesia Marine
Technology Cooperation Research Center
385, Haeyang-ro, Yeongdo-gu, Busan
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA
President of Marine Hazards
Mitigation Center (MHMC)
National Institute of
Oceanography and Fisheries
(NIOF)
Qaitbay, Al-Anfushi
Alexandria
EGYPT

The objectives of this exercise are three-fold: (1) exercise and evaluate communications between Regional Tsunami Service Providers and Member States/Territories; (2) evaluate the tsunami procedures and programmes within Member States/Territories; and (3) evaluate volcanic products. Regular exercising of response plans is critical to maintain readiness for an emergency. The CARIBE WAVE 26 exercise also supports the '[UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme](#)' goal that is to ensure that 100% of communities at risk from tsunamis are prepared and resilient to tsunamis and to implement the UNESCO-IOC [Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme](#). It is up to every country to decide at what scale to carry out the exercise.

As part of this exercise, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center ([PTWC](#)) and the Central America Tsunami Advisory Center ([CATAC](#)) will issue an initial dummy message on 19 March 2026 at 15:00 UTC and disseminate it on all their standard Tsunami Warning Centre broadcast channels. This dummy message will be issued to test communications with Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) and National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) and will launch the exercise. PTWC and CATAC will then email the simulated tsunami products to officially designated TWFPs and NTWCs in accordance with the chosen scenario. Each TWFP/NTWC will decide whether and how to disseminate the messages within its area of responsibility. If a Member State does not inform the organizers of its chosen scenario selection, the organizers will make the selection.

The ICG/CARIBE-EWS of UNESCO-IOC, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Caribbean regional emergency management stakeholders (CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, and EMIZA) are providing the framework for this exercise to enable emergency services throughout the Caribbean and adjacent regions to test and update their tsunami response plans. **The participant handbook** containing the details of the exercise will be available online at <http://caribewave.org>. Further information about the exercise will also be published on this link in due course.

For CARIBE WAVE 26, the ICG/CARIBE-EWS decided to continue to use TsunamiZone for registration (<http://tsunamizone.org/caribbean>). The participants will be able to sign up and see other participants. Emergency Management Organizations (EMOs) and exercise coordinators are encouraged to promote this registration system. For CARIBE WAVE 25, almost 500,000 participants registered via this platform.

Multi-lingual **online seminars** for orienting participants on the exercise in English, Spanish and French languages are scheduled for **20–22 January** and **24–26 February 2026**. Detailed information will be available at <http://caribewave.org>. As an additional planning tool, the ITIC has produced videos on the PTWC Products and Staging for the Caribbean (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8956022>; request password to itic.tsunami@noaa.gov), as well as a promotional video on CARIBE WAVE (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9334456>). CARIBE WAVE stickers for free-distribution to the public are also available upon requests from the Offices of the International Tsunami Information Center Caribbean Office (ITIC-CAR). Please contact Ms Kimberly Maisonet-Gonzalez (kimberly.maisonet-gonzalez@noaa.gov) or Mrs Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade (christa.vonh@noaa.gov) to arrange for no-cost supply and delivery.

For further information on the exercise, please contact Ms Gisela Báez-Sánchez, Chair of the Task Team CARIBE WAVE 26 (gisela.baez1@upr.edu), Ms Alison Brome, UNESCO-IOC Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (a.brome@unesco.org), Mrs Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade, International Tsunami Information Center Caribbean Office (christa.vonh@noaa.gov), and/or Mr Bernardo Aliaga, Head, Tsunami Resilience Section at the UNESCO-IOC Secretariat (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]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary