

Dr. Sullivan,

As per NOAA Circular 13-05 dated May 30, 2013, we have officially changed the name of the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center to the National Tsunami Warning Center.

While the new name has no bearing on the mission, organization, functional statements, budget or full-time equivalents, it will better reflect the National scope of the services provided by the Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska. The Center serves not only Alaska and the West Coast, but also the entire East Coast which faces less intense but a still potentially significant tsunami threat from both undersea land-slide and weather-generated sources).

We plan to continue the process of announcing the name change by formally socializing with the stakeholder Congressional delegations in September, leading to a formal announcement/press release in Alaska by mid-October. The use of social media at the National, Regional and Field Office level has proven effective for informing the public of these sorts of changes. The NWS Communications office will coordinate a similar effort here. It will also be important to provide visibility on this issue to Craig McLean, the US permanent representative to the IOC. I have schedule a meeting with him next week to discuss this.

This name change in no way relegates the importance of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) in Hawaii...which is largely focused on executing NOAA's international tsunami warning responsibilities (with the exception of Hawaii and the Pacific Territories). As such we are looking at using the WCATWC name change as an opportunity to increase continuity and consistency with the

Caribbean region by shifting tsunami alert responsibilities for Puerto Rico and the USVI from WCATWC (now NTWC) to PTWC—a change that has been suggested and endorsed by the CARIBE Intergovernmental Coordinating Group (ICG). This will be a longer process as we need to ensure all communications and IT requirements are met at PTWC to ensure no possible degradation in service. I expect we will make this switch no earlier than the summer of 2014.

This is an important step in reducing confusion across the NOAA/NWS Tsunami Program stakeholders and the general public by better defining the roles of the two centers: NTWC focused on the contiguous US Coastline, and the PTWC focused on International support, while providing forecast consistency for US Islands and territories within those International regions.

Please let me know if you have questions or require additional information or background.

Regards,

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