

NOAA Caribbean Strategy: 2015 Accomplishments Report

Goal 3: Enhanced Multi-Hazard Monitoring, Forecasting and Risk Management

The **NOAA Caribbean Strategy** is the strategic approach of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to coordinate and integrate the capabilities of all NOAA staff and line offices to address regional issues and improve the effectiveness of its mission and international cooperation in the Caribbean region.

The Strategy is structured around three primary goals:

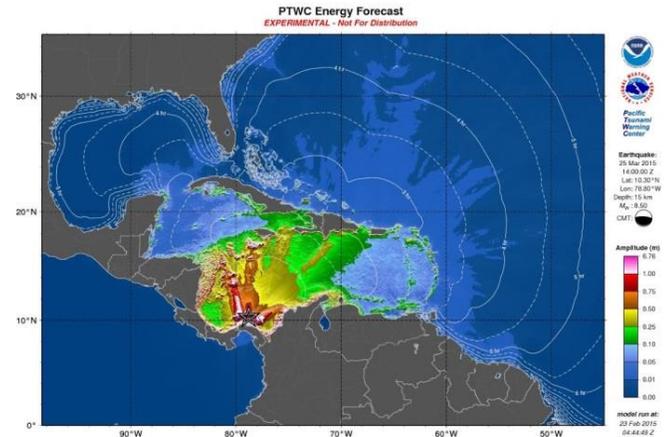
- **Goal 1:** Improved conservation and management of ocean and coastal ecosystems
- **Goal 2:** Strengthened understanding of, and adaptation to, a changing climate
- **Goal 3:** Enhanced multi-hazard monitoring, forecasting, and risk management

Within **Goal 3**, four primary objectives guide implementation of NOAA's climate science and services activities:

- **Objective 1:** Build technical capabilities to use sea level, meteorological, hydrographic, and spatial positioning services.
- **Objective 2:** Increase technical capacity for environmental monitoring and forecasting to increase resilience of Caribbean communities.
- **Objective 3:** Assist governments in integrating social science and socioeconomic factors into disaster and emergency planning.
- **Objective 4:** Enhance the capacity for multi-hazard disaster preparedness in the Caribbean region.

Goal 3: Key 2015 Accomplishments

- **Objective 1:** NOAA National Weather Service (NWS), along with data and modeling from the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS) and UPR Sea Grant, implemented a service to warn beach-goers about dangerous shoreline wave conditions and possible rip-current formation.
- **Objective 2:** Sargaso??
- **Objective 3:** NWS approved new guidelines for TsunamiReady® recognition and worked with the UNESCO IOC CARIBE EWS for the approval of an international Tsunami Ready recognition program.
- **Objective 4:** NOAA's Tsunami Warning Centers and Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program in Puerto Rico led the CARIBE WAVE/LANTEX 2015 regional tsunami exercise with a participation of nearly 200,000 people in 48 countries and territories from Bermuda thru Brazil.



NOAA NWS Pacific Tsunami Warning Center Energy Forecast for CARIBE WAVE 2015 Regional Tsunami Exercise.

Goal 3: Priority Activities for 2016

- **Objective 1:**
 - Expand the sea level network in the Caribbean and hold a training course.
 - Expand cooperation with Cuba on hydrographic charting.
- **Objective 2:**
 - Along with University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Sea Grant and UPR faculty and students, develop a monitoring & evaluation program using drones to assess coastal infrastructure and erosion impacts in Rincon, Puerto Rico.
- **Objective 3:**
 - Recognize Puerto Rico as TsunamiReady, and St. Kitts and Nevis as the first UNESCO CARIBE EWS TsunamiReady jurisdictions.
- **Objective 4:**
 - Transition of tsunami warning services for Puerto Rico and the US and British Virgin Islands from US National Tsunami Warning Center to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
 - Full implementation of the PTWC Enhanced International Tsunami Products for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions.

Implementation of the Strategy is supported in part by the **NOAA in the Caribbean Initiative (NOAACarib)**, a forum of NOAA programs and partners committed to strengthening communication and coordination in the region to more effectively deliver NOAA's science and services mission.