

Atlantic Tsunami warnings Are Needed

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More than 25% of Earth's tsunami events occur in the North Atlantic Ocean, notably in the Mediterranean Sea and the Caribbean Sea, but basin-wide events are also known. In the Caribbean over the last 150 years, death-related tsunami events are recorded in Venezuela (1853 and 1906), Virgin Islands (1867), Panama (1882), Puerto Rico (1918), Dominican Republic (1946), Costa Rica (1991), amongst others. The century-and-a-half Caribbean death toll is conservatively estimated as more than 2,500 persons, over four times as many as Hawaii, Alaska, and the US West Coast combined. The Subcommittee for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOCARIBE), as a continuance to the 1993 Workshop on Small Island Developing States, began the process of formulating a Tsunami Warning System for the Intra-Americas Sea. The four elements of the TWS in order of importance are: education, warning, management, and research. With the guidance of ITSU, the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific, an Intra-Americas Sea Tsunami Warning System was approved by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission General Assembly in 2002. Now to find funding and implement its elements before the next ones inundate our shores.