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§ 3201. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) The term “Administration” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(Pub. L. 109-424, §2, Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 2902; Pub. L. 109-479, title VIII, §802, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3653.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 109-424 and title VIII of Pub. L. 109-479 enacted substantially identical sections. This section is based on the text of section 802 of Pub. L. 109-479.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 109-479, title VIII, §801, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3653, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Tsunami Warning and Education Act’.”

Pub. L. 109-424, §1, Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 2902, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Tsunami Warning and Education Act’.”

§ 3202. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to improve tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, outreach, and mitigation to protect life and property in the United States;

(2) to enhance and modernize the existing Pacific Tsunami Warning System to increase coverage, reduce false alarms, and increase the accuracy of forecasts and warnings, and to expand detection and warning systems to include other vulnerable States and United States territories, including the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico areas;

(3) to improve mapping, modeling, research, and assessment efforts to improve tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, outreach, mitigation, response, and recovery;

(4) to improve and increase education and outreach activities and ensure that those receiving tsunami warnings and the at-risk public know what to do when a tsunami is approaching;

(5) to provide technical and other assistance to speed international efforts to establish regional tsunami warning systems in vulnerable areas worldwide, including the Indian Ocean; and

(6) to improve Federal, State, and international coordination for detection, warnings, and outreach for tsunami and other coastal impacts.

(Pub. L. 109-424, §3, Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 2902; Pub. L. 109-479, title VIII, §803, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3653.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 109-424 and title VIII of Pub. L. 109-479 enacted substantially identical sections. This section is based on the text of section 803 of Pub. L. 109-479.

§ 3203. Tsunami forecasting and warning program

(a) In general

The Administrator, through the National Weather Service and in consultation with other relevant Administration offices, shall operate a program to provide tsunami detection, forecasting, and warnings for the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and for the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico region.

(b) Components

The program under this section shall—

(1) include the tsunami warning centers established under subsection (d);

(2) utilize and maintain an array of robust tsunami detection technologies;

(3) maintain detection equipment in operational condition to fulfill the detection, forecasting, and warning requirements of this chapter;

(4) provide tsunami forecasting capability based on models and measurements, including tsunami inundation models and maps for use in increasing the preparedness of communities, including through the TsunamiReady program;

(5) maintain data quality and management systems to support the requirements of the program;

(6) include a cooperative effort among the Administration, the United States Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation under which the Geological Survey and the National Science Foundation shall provide rapid and reliable seismic information to the Administration from international and domestic seismic networks;

(7) provide a capability for the dissemination of warnings to at-risk States and tsunami communities through rapid and reliable notification to government officials and the public, including utilization of and coordination with existing Federal warning systems, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards Program;

(8) allow, as practicable, for integration of tsunami detection technologies with other environmental observing technologies; and

(9) include any technology the Administrator considers appropriate to fulfill the objectives of the program under this section.

(c) System areas

The program under this section shall operate—

(1) a Pacific tsunami warning system capable of forecasting tsunami anywhere in the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and providing adequate warnings; and

(2) an Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico tsunami warning system capable of forecasting tsunami and providing adequate warnings in areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico that are determined—