

IF YOU ARE ON A SHIP OR BOAT



Aonae, Okushiri Island, Japan. Total destruction of houses and other buildings resulting from the tsunami of July 12, 1993, in the Sea of Japan. Numerous fires broke out following the tsunami adding to the property loss and misery. Over 120 people were killed by the tsunami in Japan.

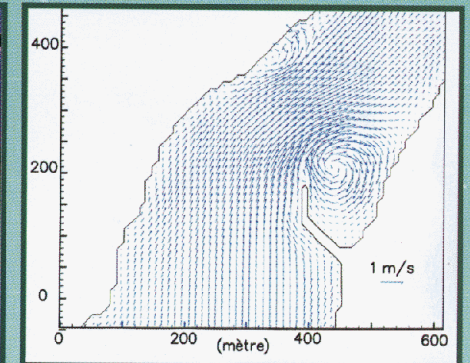
- Since tsunami wave activity is imperceptible in the open ocean, do not return to port if you are at sea and a tsunami warning has been issued for your area. Tsunamis can cause rapid changes in water level and unpredictable dangerous currents in harbors and ports.

- If there is time to move your boat or ship from port to deep water (after you know a tsunami warning has been issued), you should weigh the following considerations:

- Most large harbors and ports are under the control of a harbor authority and/or a vessel traffic system. These authorities direct operations during periods of increased readiness (should a tsunami be expected), including the forced movement of vessels if deemed necessary. Keep in contact with the authorities should a forced movement of vessels be directed.

- Smaller ports may not be under the control of a harbor authority. If you are aware there is a tsunami warning and you have time to move your vessel to deep water, then you may want to do so in an orderly manner, in consideration of other vessels. Owners of small boats may find it safest to leave their boat at the pier and physically move to higher ground, particularly in the event of a locally-generated tsunami. Concurrent severe weather conditions (rough seas outside of the harbor) could present a greater hazardous situation to small boats, so physically moving yourself to higher ground may be the only option.

- Damaging wave activity and unpredictable currents can affect harbors for a period of time following the initial tsunami impact on the coast. Contact the harbor authority before returning to port making sure to verify that conditions in the harbor are safe for navigation and berthing.



July 30, 1995, Chilean Tsunami. Left: An observation of the tsunami effects behind the breakwater at Tahauku Bay in the Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia, several thousand kilometers away from the tsunami source. Right: Currents in Tahauku Bay based on numerical modeling of the Chilean tsunami. The modeling reproduces the same kinds of ocean currents seen in the photo.

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