

B.C. TSUNAMI NOTIFICATION ZONES Fact Sheet



Tsunamis are rare but serious events. Many areas of coastal B.C. may be threatened in the event of a tsunami. However, it is generally accepted by scientific and technical experts that Victoria and eastern Vancouver Island and certainly Vancouver and the lower mainland are not considered risk areas.

West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WC/ATWC) notifications refer to B.C. coastal areas in terms of “breakpoints” that, while understood in technical circles, will have little meaning to the general public.

To ensure all B.C. communities receive appropriate tsunami messaging, that is easily understandable using provincial landmarks, the Provincial Emergency Program has divided the province into five (5) zones for notification purposes.

All tsunami notifications prepared by the Province will refer to these five zones. Each of the five designated zones includes all islands and inlets within the location descriptive. The five zones are:

Zone A: Beginning on the Alaska/B.C. border near Stewart, B.C. and moving in a southward direction along the coast to the southern tip of Banks Island, including the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Zone B: Beginning on the southern tip of Banks Island to the northern tip of Vancouver Island (the western limit of the eastern boundary of Cape Scott Provincial Park.) This zone has a southern limit of a line running from the convergence of the Tsitika River and Johnstone Strait (in Robson Bight Provincial Park) on Vancouver Island in the south to the most eastern point of Broughton Island in the north.

Zone C: Beginning on the eastern boundary of Cape Scott Provincial Park on the northern tip of Vancouver Island and running in a south-easterly direction along the outer coast of Vancouver Island to Sombrio Point southeast of Port Renfrew.

Zone D: Beginning at Sombrio Point southeast of Port Renfrew and running in a easterly direction to the most northerly point of the Saanich Peninsula.

Zone E: Beginning at the most northerly point of the Saanich Peninsula, including Brentwood Bay and all the Gulf Islands within the Georgia Basin to one of two points at the northern limit. The northern limit is a line running from the convergence of the Tsitika River and Johnstone Strait (in Robson Bight Provincial Park) on Vancouver Island in the south to the most eastern point of Broughton Island in the north.

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