

Will climate change in the Arctic increase the landslide-tsunami risk to the UK?

Project Newsletter 1

28 January 2013

Internal announcements

Change of Project Manager:

James Hunt will be taking over the Project Manager role at the end of March this year. I will move to GEOMAR in Kiel, Germany, to continue my research on submarine landslides.

6 months project extension:

Pete Talling has put a request in to NERC for a six months extension to the end date of the project and is currently awaiting response. This would move the end date to end-March 2017. It reflects the delay in recruiting PhD students for WB1, and the change of Project Manager.

New member in Program Advisory Group:

Pascal Lardet has joined the Program Advisory Group. He is Flood Unit Manager for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Thanks to Kevin Horsburgh for arranging this.

Web page and file exchange platform:

A public web page with information on the project, news, contact details, links and relevant references will be set up shortly. I would be grateful for contributions, and will approach each group with more specific instructions soon.

A password-secured file server to exchange data, reports, etc. will also be arranged for. At the moment the Dropbox folder that Pete Talling initiated after the kick-off meeting is available and can be found here:

https://www.dropbox.com/login?cont=https%3A//www.dropbox.com/link/17.6dohXZVo42%3Fk%3DGG9GSMorzLKuyDsLmEMUb6W9GB76AO9o%26eh%3DAADfnejwWC0anSFNU5Q0K_Vq2HBLH7lFuNfCpJ_T3n_Ipw

Media Coverage

Nature news feature:

The project was mentioned in a recent NATURE News Feature entitled “Planetary disasters: It could happen one night”:

<http://www.nature.com/news/planetary-disasters-it-could-happen-one-night-1.12174>

Another example that very clearly shows the need for being cautious in all media-related communications! The journalist that interviewed Pete Talling made him rather nervous with her approach.

Nature Climate Change feature:

The project will also feature in the March issue of Nature Climate Change, with Alastair Brown interviewing Pete Talling at NOC. Alastair took a much more balanced approach in Pete’s view.

BBC Mega-tsunami programme:

The BBC are finalising a program on Mega-tsunami generated by flank collapse in the Canary Islands, following on from a somewhat controversial Horizon program a few years ago. Pete Talling met with the producer at NOC to make the case for a non-sensationalist approach, which was not focussed only on the worst case scenario. Dave Tappin was filmed in the Canaries by the program.

BBC Time Team Special:

A special episode of the Time Team documentary series is dedicated to the flooding of Doggerland. In this context the team investigates the impact of the Storegga tsunami on the neolithic people and features an interview with Dave Tappin. The special will be aired on Channel 4 in early 2013.

Related Projects

EU-projects:

An EU FP7 project on landslide-tsunami related research was submitted to the 7th Framework Programme round. The ASTARTE proposal led by Maria Ana Baptista got through to the second round.

An Initial Training Network (ITN) on landslide tsunamis led by Katrin Huhn (MARUM, Germany) was also submitted to the 7th Framework Programme round.

NERC project:

Dave Tappin is leading a standard grant proposal on the age and magnitude of the tsunami caused by the Late Bronze Santorini eruption. The proposal was put in to the NERC early December round.

Funding has not been granted yet for any of these projects and decisions are expected in June 2013.

Upcoming Meetings / Conferences / Workshops

2nd project meeting:

The next project meeting is provisionally scheduled for August or September 2013 and will be held again at NOC Southampton. Regarding more specific dates I will set up a doodle poll in a couple of months time.

Tsunami deposit workshop:

Dave Long is hosting a tsunami meeting in Edinburgh on February 8th to discuss tsunami deposits, their sedimentology and how to catalogue them. If you would like to attend please contact Dave (dal@bgs.ac.uk).

International Tsunami Symposium:

The 26th International Tsunami Symposium of the IUGG Tsunami Commission will be held in Fethiye-Gocek, Turkey and Rhodes, Greece on September 25-28, 2013:

<http://tsunami2013.org/>

The abstract deadline is 15th April 2013.

International Symposium on Submarine Mass Movements and Their Consequences:

The 6th International Symposium on Submarine Mass Movements and Their Consequences will be held in Kiel, Germany, on September 23-25, 2013:

<http://www.geomar.de/en/research/fb4/fb4-gdy/research-topics/6th-international-symposium/>

Abstracts for conference presentations can be submitted until 2nd September 2013.

Past Meetings / Conferences / Workshops

NERC Arctic Thematic Programme town meeting:

The NERC Arctic thematic programme held a town meeting in Cambridge, which was attended by Pete Talling and Jeff Priest.

AGU fall meeting 2012:

There was considerable interest in submarine landslide as tsunami sources at last year's meeting in San Francisco. Landslide-sourced tsunamis are excluded from almost all tsunami hazard analyses mainly due to the limited knowledge of return periods. Landslide recurrence rates are critical, and first steps have been taken towards estimating the statistical distribution of landslides. Eric Geist presented a study in which he applied thorough statistical tests to a landslide record in the Gulf of Mexico (IODP 308) and found the landslide record to be most likely Poissonian.

The tsunami community gathered at the town hall meeting "Tsunami Component of the 2015 UN-ISDR Global Assessment Report (GAR)" chaired by Finn Lovholt (NGI) and Nick Horspool (Geoscience Australia). This two-yearly report aims to quantify the global tsunami hazard and exposure. No landslide sources are considered in the 2013 report, but are aimed to address in the 2015 report.

BGS-UCL hazards workshop "Tsunami Disasters: How Effective has Science Been For Mitigation Planning and Disaster Relief?":

The workshop held in September 2012 in London focused on the use of scientific data for disaster mitigation. Scientists from different disciplines as well as government and NGO representatives from the UK and abroad participated to discuss how scientific data can be used more effectively in tsunami disaster mitigation. It was recognised that very little science is used in tsunami mitigation at both government and NGO level. Most government planners and NGOs have little understanding of the causes of tsunamis (their sources), or of their nature (geographical location, frequency or magnitude). It was also clarified that the science that underlies tsunami mitigation is not well established.

Upcoming deadlines

1 May 2013:

WB1 (with WB3) defining possible locations of future large landslides as input to tsunami modelling.

Work Block Activities

Time line for upcoming 6 months
 Milestone 1: 1 May 2013

