

Off the coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku subsequent earthquake advisory

Jumpei Shimizu, Kiyoshi Takeda, Yasuhide Hasegawa, Kazuki Miyaoka, Takumi Hirahara,
Masahiro Yoshida, and Shin'ya Tsukada
Japan Meteorological Agency
shimizu_jumpei@met.kishou.go.jp

The Pacific Plate subducting beneath Japan forms the Japan Trench (off the coast of the Boso Peninsula to the east of Aomori Prefecture) and the Chishima Trench (off the coast of Tokachi toward off the coast of Etorofu and eastward), where many large earthquakes have occurred in the past. A large earthquake which causes a massive tsunami and strong ground motions could well happen in the area in the future.

As multiple large earthquakes have occurred locally within clusters of a few days, there is a need for precaution both against initial large earthquakes and against following large ones.

If an earthquake with a M_w (moment magnitude) value of 7.0 or more occurs in or around the anticipated focal regions of megathrust earthquakes along the Japan Trench and the Chishima Trench, the potential for a large subsequent earthquake is considered to be relatively high.

Japan Meteorological Agency issues Off the Coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku Subsequent Earthquake Advisory in such cases, even though probability based on actual worldwide records is only about 1/100.

Advisory issuance does not necessarily indicate a need to evacuate. During the following week, people can go about their daily activities, but should be aware of the potential need to evacuate in the event of strong ground motion or tsunami warnings, in addition to making sure that earthquake preparations are in place.