

PICES Press



Newsletter of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (Published semi-annually)



The future of PICES

The magical island of Jeju-do, Korea, was the location for the 2nd inter-sessional Science Board and Governing Council meeting, hosted by the Korean Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) and the Korean Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) on May 6-8, 2004. This was only the second joint meeting of the two senior committees of PICES (in its 12 year history) and, like the first such meeting held last year in Victoria, it proved to be extremely valuable for assessing the progress of the many PICES Committees and Working Groups and for planning future directions for the Organization. Key items that were discussed included the PICES Strategic Plan, the North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report, the PICES web site, and the activities of PICES' Committees and Working Groups. Many of these activities will be featured during the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of PICES in Honolulu, Hawaii, October 14-24, 2004.

PICES Strategic Plan

Over the past year, all our Scientific and Technical Committees, and the Climate Change and Carrying Capacity (CCCC) Program have been discussing a draft Strategic Plan for PICES. This plan is designed to

establish the broad goals and directions for the Organization, and to be used to guide future PICES activities. This Strategic Plan was developed by a Study Group which included members from Governing Council and Science Board, and was chaired by the PICES Chairman, Dr. Vera Alexander. The Strategic Plan highlights the PICES mission "To promote and coordinate marine scientific research in the North Pacific Ocean in order to advance scientific knowledge of the area concerned and of its living resources". The PICES Strategy for succeeding in this mission includes five central themes (each of these have detailed goals to support the theme):

- Advancing scientific knowledge;
- Applying scientific knowledge;
- Fostering partnerships;
- Ensuring a modern organization in support of PICES activities; and
- Distributing PICES scientific information.

Over the next months the scientists of PICES will be asked to consider how the activities of each Committee, Program and Working Group can support this plan, leading to the development of an Action Plan for PICES.



- 1 The future of PICES
- 4 Paris by day – Symposium on “*Quantitative ecosystem indicators in fisheries management*”
- 7 The Bering Sea: Current status and recent events
- 8 The state of the western North Pacific in the second half of 2003
- 10 The state of the eastern North Pacific entering spring 2004
- 12 PICES-IFEP Workshop on “*In-situ iron enrichment experiments in the eastern and western subarctic Pacific*”
- 16 Canadian SOLAS/PICES-IFEP session on “*Response of the upper ocean to meso-scale iron enrichment*”

- 19 Fisheries and ecosystem responses to recent regime shifts
- 20 PICES Interns
- 21 Did a regime shift occur in 1998 around Japan? – Highlights from a symposium addressing this question
- 25 The Global Ocean Carbon Observing System – Connecting national programs and regional networks
- 30 The North Pacific Ecosystem Metadatabase
- 34 International GLOBEC Symposium on “*Climate variability and Sub-Arctic marine ecosystems*”
- 35 PICES Calendar
- 36 PICES/GLOBEC Symposium on “*Climate variability and ecosystem impacts on the North Pacific: A basin-scale synthesis*”



Dr. Ian Perry presents the agenda of the interim Science Board and Governing Council meeting.

North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report

A draft of the North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report was presented and discussed during the MONITOR Workshop and the Committee meetings at PICES XII in Seoul, Korea, in October 2003. Revisions to the report were completed over the past months. A second major step towards the future of PICES was achieved when Science Board approved the scientific content of the report at this inter-sessional meeting. It is hoped that the report can be made available soon on the PICES web site. PICES has also entered into discussions with the United States for a role in developing a Pacific Coast Observing System (PaCOS). PICES involvement could range from facilitating international collaboration among Canada, Mexico and the United States, to a “PaCOS desk” at the PICES Secretariat, which would have an important role in updating the California Current chapter of the next Ecosystem Status Report.

Symposia

Several symposia are being planned in collaboration with other international programs. These include: a symposium on “*Climate variability and sub-arctic marine ecosystems*” scheduled for May 16-20, 2005, in Victoria, Canada, and hosted jointly with GLOBEC; a joint NPAFC/PICES symposium tentatively titled “*Pacific salmon as indicators of the state of North Pacific marine ecosystems*” being planned for October 2005, in Seoul, Korea; a joint ICES/PICES symposium on “*Marine bioinvasions*” scheduled for April 2006, on the east coast of the United States; and a *4th International Zooplankton Symposium* jointly with ICES and GLOBEC planned for June 2007, in Hiroshima, Japan. In addition, PICES and ICES are discussing hosting a joint *Young Scientists Conference* to provide an international forum where young marine scientists from (P)ICES member countries can meet at an early stage of their career to experience international scientific cooperation, to begin to establish peer networks,

and to provide an opportunity for young scientists to contribute to the international scientific work that forms the basis for managing the marine environment. Fund-raising for this conference has already begun.

Activities of Committees

PICES is becoming more successful at encouraging PICES activities to take place year-round, and not just at, and immediately before, the annual meetings. Most PICES groups are on-track, and Working Groups 14 (*Effective sampling of micronekton to estimate ecosystem carrying capacity*) and 16 (*Climate change, shifts in fish production, and fisheries management*) are expected to table near-final reports at PICES XIII in Honolulu. Planning for the micronekton sampling inter-calibration experiment by the MIE-Advisory Panel (under the BIO Committee) is well advanced, with a cruise onboard the new NOAA research vessel, the *Oscar Elton Sette*, scheduled just prior to PICES XIII, to compare various gears used to sample micronekton in the North Pacific; preliminary data analyses are expected to occur at PICES XIII. New groups that have been formed and are expected to have their first meetings at PICES XIII include: Working Group 18 on *Mariculture in the 21st century - The intersection between ecology, socio-economics and production* (co-chaired by Ik-Kyo Chung of Korea and Carolyn Friedman of U.S.A.), the *Harmful Algal Blooms* Section of the MEQ Committee (co-chaired by Hak-Gyo Kim of Korea and Vera Trainer of U.S.A.), and Study Group on *Ecosystem-based management science and its application to the North Pacific* (co-chaired by Glen Jamieson of Canada and Chang-Ik Zhang of Korea).

What makes a successful Working Group?

During the 2nd inter-sessional Science Board and Governing Council meeting on Jeju Island, Korea, in May 2004, it was recognised that some Working Groups of PICES appear to be more successful at completing their activities than other groups. A lively discussion occurred as to what helps to make a successful Working Group. Key features include:

- strong chairmanship;
- members who are committed and enthusiastic about the topic;
- members who are capable and knowledgeable about the topic;
- having adequate resources available (especially of time and money);
- clear (and realistic) Terms of Reference, objectives, and deliverables;
- strong support and guidance from the parent committee.

PICES groups that propose Working Groups or subsidiary committees should keep these criteria in mind to help make these activities a pleasant and fruitful experience for everyone.



Group photo taken on the grounds of the Hyatt Regency Hotel after the completion of the interim meeting (Absent: Dr. Vera Alexander).

Climate Change and Carrying Capacity Program

The CCCC Program of PICES is heading towards the synthesis and conclusions of (at least) the present phase of the program. The Topic Session at PICES XIII titled "*The impacts of large-scale climate change on North Pacific marine ecosystems*" and the symposium on "*Climate variability and ecosystem impacts on the North Pacific: A basin-scale synthesis*" (planned for April 19-21, 2006, in Honolulu, Hawaii) are major milestones towards this synthesis. In addition, the IGBP/SCOR/IOC GLOBEC Program (of which CCCC is a Regional Program) is also entering its synthesis phase, which is expected to last until the Program's completion in 2009. The PICES CCCC synthesis activities will therefore play a major role in helping GLOBEC to draw together their findings. To facilitate the CCCC synthesis activities, the structure of the CCCC Program is being modified. The BASS (*Basin Scale Studies*) and REX (*Regional Experiments*) Task Teams will be formally completed at PICES XIII, and their members thanked for their hard work. A new Task Team called CFAME (*Climate Forcing and Marine Ecosystem Response*) will be formed to focus these synthesis activities along with the MODEL Task Team. The Terms of Reference for this new Task Team are being finalised. In addition, the MONITOR Task Team is being moved outside of the CCCC Program to become a Technical Committee similar to TCODE (the Technical Committee on Data Exchange). This is being done to recognise the increasing importance of monitoring in the North Pacific and that monitoring should continue beyond the completion of the CCCC Program; the Terms of Reference for this

Committee are also being finalised. It will add an additional member to Science Board.

PICES web site

The PICES Secretariat has worked very hard to develop a new PICES web site (<http://www.pices.int>), and the results are a great success. The site is now very pleasing to the eye and much easier to navigate. Electronic copies of past PICES reports and newsletters are being added to the site. What is needed now is material from each of the Scientific Committees, CCCC Program, and Working Groups to add to the site. A small "Web Publication Committee" under the guidance of Dr. Harold Batchelder has been established to facilitate adding new information and to provide some level of "quality control". In addition, PICES groups can easily have a private web page established for communications amongst their members, which should help improve the work of PICES.

PICES continues to be an exciting organisation with year-round activities. I invite you to visit and explore the new web site (<http://www.pices.int>) and to become involved – **PICES is there to help you with your science in the North Pacific.**

*R. Ian Perry
PICES Science Board Chairman
Fisheries & Oceans Canada,
Pacific Biological Station,
Nanaimo, B.C., Canada. V9T 6N7
E-mail: perryi@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca*