

A new PICES award for monitoring and data management activities

Background and aims

Progress in many aspects of marine science is based on ocean observations, monitoring, and the management and distribution of the data provided by these activities. It is widely recognized that these fundamental activities often lack the glamour that is attributed to the scientific achievements that rely on monitoring and observation. Monitoring activities are declining, especially in PICES member countries with severe financial constraints. With this in mind, it was proposed at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Yokohama, Japan, that a new PICES award be established to acknowledge monitoring and data management activities contributing to the progress of marine science in the North Pacific. The principles of the award were approved at the 2007 inter-sessional Science Board/Governing Council meeting, also in Yokohama, and the name and description of the award were finalized at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Victoria, Canada.

The PICES Ocean Monitoring Service Award (POMA) aims to recognize organizations, groups and outstanding individuals that have contributed significantly to the advancement of marine science in the North Pacific through long-term ocean monitoring and data management in the North Pacific. The award also strives to enlighten the public on the importance of those activities as fundamentals of marine science. It draws attention to an important aspect of the PICES Convention that is not so much in the limelight: *“to promote the collection and exchange of information and data related to marine scientific research in the area concerned.”* The POMA will be presented for the first time at the upcoming PICES Seventeenth Annual Meeting in Dalian, China.

Eligibility

Awards will be for significant contributions to the progress of marine science in the North Pacific through their long-

term monitoring operations and/or management of data associated with ocean conditions and marine bio-resources in the North Pacific. Recipients may include, for example, research vessels, research or administrative institutes, or portions thereof, involved in monitoring, data management and distribution, or technical groups. Outstanding individual efforts will also be recognized.

Nomination and selection

Nominations may be made by individuals or groups from PICES member countries and should be sent with supporting documentation to the Executive Secretary (bychkov@pices.int) by the date specified below in the “Call for nominations” notice. Two PICES Technical Committees, MONITOR and TCODE, will review the nominations and provide recommendations to Science Board prior to their inter-sessional meeting. Science Board will select the awardees. Considerations include a balance in the field of activities (oceanographic observation, bio-resources monitoring, management of data, *etc.*) and present and previous recipients. Those nominated to Science Board by MONITOR and TCODE but not selected are rolled over to the following year in order to keep a pool of potential candidates.

Award and presentation

The award consists of a certificate signed by the PICES Chairman and the PICES Science Board Chairman, which will be presented by the PICES Chairman to the recipients (or their representative) at a formal ceremony during the PICES Annual Meeting. No financial support from PICES will be provided to the recipient to attend the Annual Meeting where the award is given. Should any representative be unable to attend the Annual Meeting, a Delegate of the recipient’s country will receive the award on the recipient’s behalf.

Call for nominations

We are now soliciting nominations for the **2008 Wooster Award** and the **2008 POMA**. The closing date for nominations for both awards is **March 15, 2008**. Both awards will be presented during the Opening Session of PICES XVII in Dalian, China.

Nominations should include the following information: nominee’s name, institutional affiliation and title, address and biographical resume, and statement of justification for the nomination.

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