

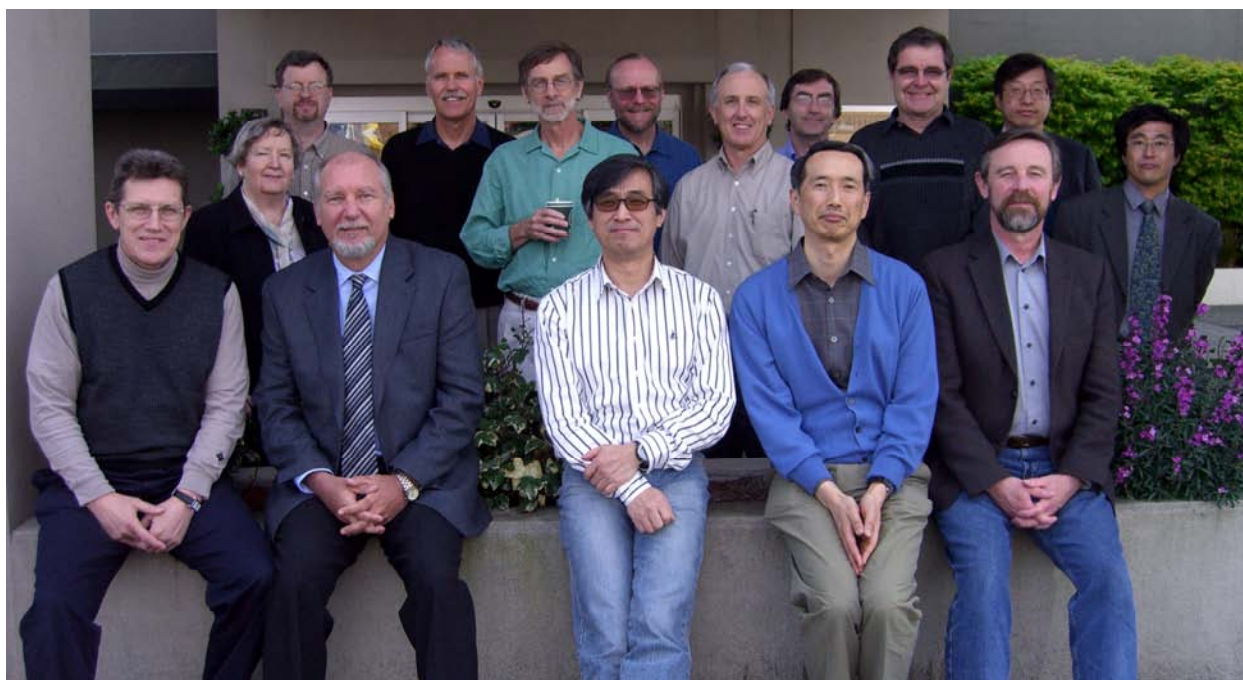
The 2008 Inter-Sessional Science Board Meeting

The PICES Science Board met for one day on April 25, 2008, in Seattle, U.S.A., following a 2-day workshop to develop an Implementation Plan for a new PICES scientific program on “*Forecasting and Understanding Trends, Uncertainty and Responses of North Pacific Ecosystems*” (FUTURE). The major agenda items were to review mid-term activities of the Scientific and Technical Committees, status of preparation for the 2008 Annual Meeting in Dalian, China, and other business, including discussion of the outcomes and follow-up actions from the FUTURE Implementation Plan workshop. Within this issue of PICES Press is a summary of the workshop results. I hope you will take time to read this article because it provides a report on the status of the formation of the Implementation Plan Writing Team and its membership, highlights the approach to developing the Implementation Plan and the timeline for completing the plan and starting FUTURE.

We welcomed Drs. Bernard Megrey, Chairman of the Technical Committee on Data Exchange (TCODE), and Hiroya Sugisaki, Chairman of the Technical Committee on Monitoring (MONITOR), to their first inter-sessional Science Board gathering. These two Committees had responsibilities to evaluate nominations for the first PICES Ocean Monitoring Service Award (POMA), a new annual award to be given in recognition of contributions to the progress of marine science in the North Pacific through

long-term ocean monitoring and data management of various ocean conditions and marine resources. Since this was the first time we had solicited candidates for this award, we took some time to review the process and make some relatively minor changes in the award description to clarify the steps and responsibilities of TCODE and MONITOR. In addition to the first recipient of the POMA award, Science Board also selected the next recipient of the Wooster Award. Both award recipients will be announced and presented at the Opening Session of the PICES Annual Meeting in Dalian.

Some highlights from the Committees are as follows. Changes to the Terms of Reference for the Section on *Carbon and Climate* (under the Physical Oceanography and Climate (POC) and Biological Oceanography (BIO) Committees) were approved. The details of the revisions can be found at <http://www.pices.int/members/default.aspx>. Science Board also endorsed a request from POC for PICES to support the publication of a collection of papers on “*Tides in Marginal Seas*” as a special issue of a primary journal in memory of the Russian physical oceanographer, Professor Alexei Nekrasov, who passed away recently. The Working Group on *Ecosystem-based Management Science and its Application to the North Pacific* (under the Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ) Committee) proposed to establish a Task Team in FUTURE entitled



Participants at the 2008 inter-sessional Science Board meeting (April 25, 2008, Seattle, U.S.A.). Seated (left to right): Igor Shevchenko, Bernard Megrey, Sinjae Yoo, Michio Kishi, Skip McKinnell; standing (left to right): Vera Alexander, Harold Batchelder, Michael Foreman, Michael Dagg, Gordon Kruse, John Stein, Alexander Bychkov, Glen Jamieson, Tokio Wada, Hiroya Sugisaki.

“PICES Understanding, Linking and Synthesis of Ecosystems” (PULSE), whose emphasis will be on developing a more integrative, science-based ecosystem-scale understanding of the human dimension in FUTURE. This Task Team will be a good place to engage social scientists. Science Board agreed to pass on the proposal to the FUTURE Writing Team.

Each year, Science Board reviews its high priority activities. While implementing FUTURE is currently the highest priority, developing the North Pacific ecosystem status report, capacity building and international exchange also feature prominently. Science Board continued to discuss the best approach for preparing the next ecosystem status report. All agreed that this is a key product of PICES, and dedicated attention is needed to oversee its development. The job is time-consuming and takes significant resources to accomplish. Science Board is committed to this important effort but it will involve some additional fund-raising. On a more positive note, at our last Annual Meeting, Science Board recommended that PICES Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr. Skip McKinnell, lead the effort to develop the next version of the report. He will begin to contact regional experts to participate as lead authors.

A central role for PICES is the coordination of science activities. In that regard, our collaboration with other relevant organizations and programs is important. We have successful interactions with several organizations and are always looking to where other fruitful contacts are possible. One such organization is the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). Dr. Sinjae Yoo, Vice-Chairman of Science

Board, recommended that it would be mutually beneficial for PICES and NOWPAP to become more involved with each other’s activities, especially in the development of FUTURE. Science Board supported the recommendation to send an expert on eutrophication to a Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME)-NOWPAP workshop on that topic to be held in Senyang, China, in June 2008. In addition, ICES and PICES continue to work together and are organizing a symposium on *“Rebuilding depleted fish stocks – Biology, ecology, social science and management strategies”* in Warnemünde/Rostock, Germany, from November 2–5, 2009. Science Board agreed that Dr. Gordon Kruse, Chairman of the Fishery Science Committee should serve as a PICES co-convenor of the symposium, and that the Organization should consider supporting either a PICES member of the Scientific Steering Committee (preferably from Asia) or a plenary speaker from the Pacific to attend.

In closing, the week of April 21, 2008, was a busy and productive week for PICES. We discussed the approach to developing the Implementation Plan for FUTURE and established a Writing Team to implement this task. We also reviewed mid-term progress and many aspects of the day-to-day business of our Organization. It was an excellent opportunity to come together, and we took full advantage of it to complete some work that will be central to important activities at our Annual Meeting. I look forward to seeing my PICES colleagues in Dalian, China.

John Stein
PICES Science Board Chairman
E-mail: John.E.Stein@noaa.gov