

## News from the PICES Secretariat

*After 14 years of dedicated service to PICES, Dr. Skip McKinnell is stepping down as Deputy Executive Secretary as of January 31, 2014. Dr. Harold (Hal) Batchelder will take up the position upon Skip's retirement on March 1, 2014.*

*Members of the PICES community were asked to provide thoughts on Skip's contributions to PICES and PICES science, and we heard from many. All your messages will be given to Skip. A few excerpts are included below.*

Skip has been an extremely valuable asset to the PICES community. He always had excellent advice on how to get things accomplished within the organization. His advice was thoughtful, accurate, and widely sought. Moreover, his many scientific accomplishments contributed in substantive and meaningful ways to the PICES mission. Above all this, he has been a wonderful colleague and will be missed.

*Gordon Kruse, USA*

Skip has always displayed a deep and abiding passion for understanding how the North Pacific “works” – both in theory and in practice. In his quest, he was worked with a very broad array of experts and played with a lot data... In his role as Deputy Executive Secretary, Skip really set his mind and energies to “upping” the quality and quantity of published scientific output from PICES. He has been incredibly successful at this and the organization is well recognized for its scientific publications, due largely to his efforts....

*Robin Brown, Canada*

I met with Skip in 2002 October at Qingdao. ... It was the first time for me to be invited to an international conference and I knew only a few foreign scientists at there. However, Skip talked to me very friendly and I was very relieved. His generosity made me comfortable, and I had a good impression of PICES. ...Always he gave us good suggestions, ideas, and inspirations. In addition, for Asian people, he is one of the most important persons who ask native English speakers to slow down the English. He is also one of the slowest and most clear English speakers, and we Asian scientists can breathe easily when Skip joins to the conversation. Hope he will continue to collaborate with us as a scientist and of course as a friend in future. ...Thank you again, Skip, for your unmeasurable hospitality as a secretary and your great friendship.

*Shin-ichi Ito, Japan*

I enjoyed talking with Skip-san during the PICES meetings. Every time, Skip-san told me some recent interesting scientific paper that he read. One day, it was a study about the remains of tuna bones that he had reviewed. His talk stimulated me very much, and I started a fishery archeological study based on remains of salmon bones. I hope that Skip-san will continue to stimulate us, even if he is retired.

*Yukimasa Ishida, Japan*

For me, Skip was at the heart of the science that PICES produced. Skip knew the marine science of the North Pacific and had a superb ability to identify interesting problems and to ask penetrating questions. ... His talks during the regular sessions were “must attend” events. The topics were stimulating and outside the box, the analysis clear and thorough, and the conclusion often the unexpected. His delivery brought the story alive and made it memorable. ...His leadership in the PICES Special Publications on the Marine Ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean 2003-2008 was monumental and of great value to all in the PICES community. The 2010 volume is a critical resource to many of us. ...I enjoyed our idle, relaxed times together as much as the intellectually stimulating times. ...His departure is a great loss to PICES.

*George L. Hunt, Jr, USA*

When I began attending PICES and ICES meetings as a young scientist, remembering the names of new colleagues was daunting. ...But whether in an airport terminal in Frankfurt or a salmon symposium in Seattle, Skip has been a friendly face in a sea of unfamiliar scientists. His continued contribution in oceanographic research while serving as Deputy Executive Secretary of PICES administrator is truly admirable. Beyond these official contributions to PICES and our conceptual understanding of the Pacific Ocean, Skip is a friend and colleague who has always found the time to discuss science, even with the newest of PICES participants. I look forward to continued work with Skip as he devotes more time to contemplating the dynamics of climate and fisheries in the world's oceans.

*Ryan Rykaczewski, USA*



... I have worked for BASS, CFAME, FIS, WG 16, WG-FCCIFS, NPESR, and PICES-related meetings for all of which Skip-san provided us excellent Secretariat service, as well as his excellent scientific insights. I greatly appreciate his service for the past 14 years, and also hope for his continuation of scientific work that originated from PICES but is not yet published. I hope to see you again in Japan and to enjoy strange Japanese seafood, as we did before.

*Akihiko Yatsu, Japan*

You have been a great one to mine dusty file drawers for nearly forgotten data and to bring it to light and fresh use through your publications. This is so important to keep us researchers from unknowingly repeating what has already been done before, and to provide those priceless views from the past that yearly grow more valuable as our future faces increasing climatic uncertainty. ...I've always enjoyed your insight, advice, and dry sense of humor in managing and coordinating groups and I will miss that.....

*Nancy Davis, NPAFC*

One may wonder why PICES has become a household name among marine scientists, but one thing is clear: Skip has played a tremendous role hoisting the flag. As you are preparing for a new career let me only ask one favor of you: continue to be involved with science. I feel fortunate to be in your home province and hope for many more opportunities to meet, work, and enjoy life in your company.

*Villy Christensen, Canada*

Skip is indeed capable as both an administrator and a scientist, which is not an easy job. .... His peer review publications on salmon are impressive. Professor Ichiro Yasuda writes in the memorable article of his award-winning studies that one of his important achievements (*i.e.* 18.6-year period tidal cycle) is thanks to Skip's valuable advice. Other than to basic science, he also made valuable contributions to science under political pressure,... His wider view and great human network of marine science may make him admirable Deputy Executive Secretary of PICES.

*Taro Ichii, Japan*

...What sticks out more for me are personal interactions like i) the science discussions where you would come down the hall to my office (or me to yours) and we would chat about implications of the 18.6 year tidal cycle or your own calculations of the PDO or your latest ideas on Fraser sockeye returns; and ii) the laughs and stories enjoyed at numerous informal PICES dinners ... I will miss, but certainly cherish the memories of, these times and hope that they will continue, albeit less frequently, in the future.

*Mike Foreman, Canada*

I want to thank Skip for all that he has done for PICES and the scientific community as a whole. His service to PICES is a major reason why the organization has been such a success. He knows how to ask tough questions in a way that inspires the scientist to think carefully about the direction of his or her research. This is a rare talent that nurtures careful thought and advances innovation and creativity. ... I will miss him a great deal, but my hope is that he continues to attend future PICES meetings.

*Anne Hollowed, USA*

Skip McKinnell is an adept scientist and administrator, a rare combination. He also has a great ability to understand and transcend cultural and institutional differences. I've particularly enjoyed working with Skip over the years and talking science. No matter the subject or circumstance, Skip has a great breadth of knowledge, keen insight, and often unique perspective; I am enlightened every time we get together.... Skip has been a great ambassador for PICES and for Canada. We will miss you Skip, but wish you and yours well with your future adventures.

*Frank Schwing, USA*

Skip McKinnell is an outstanding oceanologist, one of a few who understands the ocean. In PICES, he showed his worth working as an effective organizer and manager who realized many large projects together with his colleagues. Being a highest professional scientist and an editor of many PICES publications he won great respect. At the same time, communicating with the colleagues from different countries, he is a modest and charming man who senses both the realities of our world and humor that sometimes reflects these realities...

*Anatoly Velikanov, Russia*

...He has always impressed me with his great skills at facilitating meetings and being able to cut through the often foggy discussions to identify the critical issues and questions. This is always done in a manner that is sensitive to how the different cultures around the North Pacific conduct science and conduct meetings.... He has been a tremendous asset to the Organization and, along with the Executive Director, has been largely responsible for the respect and status PICES now has as an international organization, and the high level and quality of its activities and scientific outputs.... Many thanks, Skip, for all of your very hard work and dedication!

*Ian Perry, Canada*

Hal Batchelder was born in New York, but grew up near Boston, Massachusetts, spending the summers of his youth at the Atlantic beaches in New Hampshire and camping and hiking the woods of New Hampshire and Maine. Hal and his younger brother were always in the woods behind their house, and created a series of "forts" that occupied endless hours of his non-school time. His father is a structural engineer, and once when Hal was asked by a teacher in grammar school to describe what his father does for a living, he responded, "he builds bridges out of toothpicks and glue". Hal was encouraged to pursue his own interests, which tended to involve natural sciences and the outdoors. In grade school he decided to be a 'forest ranger', and eventually attended the University of Maine to pursue this interest in forestry. However, as an undergraduate he

became more interested in marine science, especially intertidal ecology, and later, plankton ecology.

In 1977, Hal moved west to the Pacific coast and Oregon State University (Newport and Corvallis), where he obtained a Master's degree in Oceanography working on the population dynamics and structure of intertidal sea anemones. After finishing his M.Sc., Hal obtained a technical position on a research project run by Professors Charles Miller and Bruce Frost to sample zooplankton from the Canadian Weatherships *Quadra* and *Vancouver* at Station P in the North Pacific, during their last 18 months prior to retirement (the ships, not the Professors!). When not at sea, he spent most of his time dissecting, identifying and counting subarctic zooplankton. Eventually, Hal

returned to student status and completed a Ph.D. on the population dynamics and vital rates of the copepod, *Metridia pacifica*, in the subarctic Pacific. Hal moved across the U.S. again, to a post-doctoral and later a marine research scientist position at the University of Rhode Island where he studied the distribution and taxonomic sources of bioluminescent light in the subtropical and subarctic regions of the North Atlantic as part of the “*Biowatt*” and “*Marine Light Mixed Layer*” research programs.

Despite his Atlantic coast roots, Hal preferred the Pacific coast and especially Oregon. After seven years in Rhode Island, he was looking for employment opportunities on the West coast, and was fortunate to be hired in 1992 as the first scientific director of the National U.S. GLOBEC Steering Committee Office at the University of California, Davis. The US GLOBEC (Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics) program was initiated a couple of years earlier and was just starting to become a force in coastal marine science. Hal greatly enjoyed the science administration and coordination of this exciting new program linking climate variability with ecosystem dynamics. A couple of years later, the GLOBEC office relocated to the University of California, Berkeley. It was at this time that Hal became interested and passionate about sailing, and could be found on Friday evenings and Saturdays sailing solo or with friends on San Francisco Bay in a Santana-30 sailboat. After six years as national GLOBEC coordinator, where he was able to work closely with new colleagues (Zack Powell) and old college chums (Bill Peterson), the US GLOBEC office relocated to the University of Maryland. Tired of cross-country moves, Hal decided to stay in Berkeley to coordinate a new Northeast Pacific (NEP) regional program of US GLOBEC, and to resume his research interests that had been set aside to foster the development of the US GLOBEC program. As the GLOBEC NEP program began to initiate intensive and sustained field work in the Northern California Current in 2000, Hal relocated to the Oregon State University as an Associate Professor and later Professor (Senior Research), and from 2000 to 2009 he served as Executive Director of the U.S. GLOBEC NEP Regional Coordinating Office. He was able to resume a research career with projects focused on understanding the population dynamics and bioenergetics of North Pacific krill (*Euphausia pacifica*) and juvenile coho salmon, and the North Atlantic copepod, *Calanus finmarchicus*. Other projects have examined connectivity of marine reserves along the coast of Oregon, and mortality of copepods in Dabob Bay, Washington.

Hal attended PICES-1993 (Seattle, USA) and PICES-1998 (Fairbanks, USA), but was not involved in expert groups of PICES prior to 2001. Since 2001 (the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of PICES), he has served on many PICES groups, starting as the Co-Chairman of the Climate Change and Carrying Capacity program and member of the Science Board (2001–2009), and more recently as U.S. delegate to the Governing Council (2012–2013). He has contributed in numerous other ways to PICES, most importantly on the first North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report Working Group, the Fisheries and Ecosystem Responses to Recent Regime Shifts (FERRRS) Working Group, the Study Group on *Future Integrative Scientific Programs* (SG-FISP), and as a member of the FUTURE Advisory Panel on *Status, Outlooks, Forecasting and Engagement* (SOFE).

The only downside of the move in 2000 from Berkeley to Corvallis is that Oregon does not have the outstanding sailing that can be found on San Francisco Bay. The sailboat was sold—sigh! And, in 2004, Hal took up sea kayaking in rivers and estuaries, which he hopes to do more of from his new position in the PICES Secretariat. Other hobbies are reading, watching U.S. football, bicycling and hiking. Hal and his wife have long included cats as family members in their household—they are sources of joy and heartbreak (when they pass-on)—and several will be moving to Canada with them.



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