



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
REFM Division
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98115-6349

February 6, 2009

Dear WG-FCCIFS Member:

On behalf of my Co-Chairs and the PICES and ICES secretariats, I welcome you to the PICES/ICES Working group on *Forecasting Climate Change Impacts on Fish and Shellfish* (WG-FCCIFS). The formation of our Working Group is the product of several years of background discussions and meetings within the ICES and PICES communities. Our goal is to advance our understanding of climate change impacts on fish and shellfish populations around the world. This is one of the most important and stimulating research issues facing climate and fisheries scientists, and we are excited to get started. Please read through the following information. I have used bold text on issues that require an action.

The terms of reference for our Working Group and a calendar of events are posted on the WG-FCCIFS webpage. During the next 5 months we hope to hold a few “virtual” meetings by web-ex where we can discuss logistics, share and discuss our research. Given that we are a worldwide research team and time zones prevent a joint conference call, we plan to hold the virtual meetings separately (with the U.S., eastern Canada and Europe) and the (U.S., western Canada and Asia). I will work with my Co-Chairs to establish an agenda for these meetings and will publish the minutes from the meetings on the website so we can complete the exchange of information. **Please let me know if you agree with this plan.**

In an effort to get started, PICES will establish a website where we can post relevant information. Links to this website will be found on the ICES website under our Working Group. PICES will also establish a secure portal on the web where we can post background materials, preliminary results and draft documents. As a first step, Tom Okey and I developed a list of research programs actively working on climate change issues. **Please look at this list and send me information any missing programs.** As a second step, we would like to develop a reading list for the group. This reading list will assist us in our effort to identify relevant analytical approaches that could be used to forecast climate change impacts on fish and shellfish. We will post a several key papers on the secure website in the near future.

In the near future we will finalize membership for the 2010 symposium Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and confirm the theme sessions for the symposium. We may be contacting some of you to request that you serve on the SSC. I will discuss these issues in detail in a separate mailing.

In closing, we welcome you to our group and we look forward to meeting all of you in June at our first formal meeting.

Sincerely,

Anne B. Hollowed
Senior Scientist

cc:

Alex Bychkov, PICES Secretariat, Adi Kellerman, ICES Secretariat
Manuel Barange, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, United Kingdom
Harald Loeng, Institute of Marine Research, Norway
Suam Kim, Pukyong University, Korea

