

PICES 2025 Workshop 8 Agenda

‘Engaging with Local and Traditional Knowledge Holders to Co-Design Ocean Science in Pacific Small Island Developing States’

Date: November 9, 2025

Duration: 1 day, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Location: Room Oshidori (2F), Workpia Yokohama, Japan

Co-sponsoring organizations

- Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) [[link](#)]
- Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) [[link](#)]
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) [[link](#)]

Convenors

- Naya Sena (Japan), *corresponding* [nayacsena@gmail.com]
- Raphael Roman (Canada), *corresponding* [raph.genf@gmail.com]
- Steven Bograd (USA)
- Rieko Tamura (APN, Japan)
- Khush Jhugroo (Canada)
- Mitsutaku Makino (Japan)
- David Reid (ICES, Denmark)

Invited Speakers (all confirmed for in-person attendance)

- ❖ Meshach Sukulu ([World Fish](#), Solomon Islands)
- ❖ Alicia Edwards ([Reimaanlok Program](#), Marshall Islands)
- ❖ Chris Leong ([Research Institute for Humanity and Nature](#), Fiji national residing in Japan, [APN project](#))
- ❖ Hilda Sakiti-Waqa ([The University of the South Pacific](#), Fiji)
- ❖ Cherie Morris ([The University of the South Pacific](#), Fiji, [APN Project](#))
- ❖ Hideyuki Shiozawa ([Island Nations Division of OPRI](#), Japan)
- ❖ George Carter Sala ([Australia National University Pacific Institute](#), Samoa national residing in Australia) – **video recording**

Updated Workshop Description

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (UN Ocean Decade; 2021-2030) provides a unique opportunity to convene global partners to address challenges associated with climate change, marine ecosystem health, and food security. The Ocean Decade Programme ‘[Sustainability of Marine Ecosystems Through Global Knowledge Networks](#)’ (SMARTNET), jointly sponsored by ICES and PICES, works with several other Programmes to advance knowledge generation and sharing to support ocean sustainability, with an emphasis on coordination and collaboration with Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In this Workshop, we will highlight the role of local and traditional knowledge from Pacific SIDS in shaping ocean science. This knowledge, rooted in cultural practices and environmental stewardship, offers unique insights that complement and blend with scientific approaches, making it essential for effective ocean management and climate resilience in SIDS.

We aim to convene ocean scientists, practitioners, stakeholders, and rightsholders from Pacific SIDS with members of the [PICES](#), [ICES](#), [OPRI-SPF](#), and [APN](#) communities to assess the opportunities, priorities, methods and challenges for co-designing ocean science in SIDS. We will explore a wide variety of interdisciplinary issues of immediate concern to SIDS, including sustainable fisheries, ecosystem services, food security, plastic pollution, impacts of climate extreme events on coastal and island communities, and disaster risk reduction.

We will synthesize local and traditional knowledge frameworks from Pacific SIDS to optimize strategies for actionable science, trust building, and respectful collaborative practices. A tangible outcome of this Workshop will be a white paper outlining good practices for the co-design and implementation of ocean science in Pacific SIDS.

Workshop 8 Agenda

Note: Volunteers will take photos and record short video interviews during the day. A consent form will be provided at the start of the workshop.

Part 1: Presentations. Invited speakers from the Marshall Islands, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands will highlight priority ocean concerns, challenges, and co-designed, people-centred, transdisciplinary solutions for the Pacific region. Representatives from APN, ICES, OPRI, and SmartNet will provide introductory presentations, outline scientific capacity, and share relevant case studies and programmatic priorities. An Indigenous ECOP from Canada will also present, sharing his unique perspectives from across the Pacific (*Duration: 3.5 h*).

- Launch a first **demographic survey** & informed consent form (*5 min*)
- **Opening remarks** by conveners (including representatives from SmartNet, APN, ICES, and OPRI-SPF) (*15 min*)
- **Ice-breaker** activity (*10 min*)
- First round of **invited presentations** (*15-20 min each, 1h max*)
 - **Alicia Edwards** – “*The Reimaanlok Framework: A National Conservation Area Plan for the Republic of the Marshall Islands*”
 - **Meshach Sukulu** – “*Reviving Traditional Stewardship: Lessons from Community-Based Fisheries Management in Malaita, Solomon Islands*”
 - **Hideyuki Shiozawa** – “*Introducing community-based ecotourism in Palau: A case of problem-solving initiative through a people-centered, multi-layered approach*”

Coffee break (*10:35 – 10:55 AM, 20min*)

- Second round of **invited presentations** (*15-20 min each, 1h max*)
 - **Cherie Morris** – *Presentation title/topic TBC*
 - **Chris Leong** – “*A transdisciplinary lens on the impact of submarine groundwater discharge for coral reef protection in Pacific Islands*”
 - **Hilda Sakiti-Waqa** – *Presentation title/topic TBC*

- **Presentation** by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research ([APN](#)) (10 min)
- Group **photo** #1

Lunch Break (12:00 PM – 2:00 PM)

- **Ice-breaker** activity (10 min)
- **Presentation** by the UN Ocean Decade-Endorsed [SmartNet Programme](#) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea ([ICES](#)) (10 min)
- **Oral presentation** (abstract submitted & accepted to W8):
 - **Pieter Romer (Canada):** “Advancing Indigenous involvement in ocean monitoring through meaningful engagement and building true partnerships” (15-20 min)

Part 2: Breakout groups or ‘conversation cafés’. Activities will include mind mapping, diagrams, and scoring charts. Prompt questions and instructions will be displayed on the screen (Duration: 40 min)

- Launch a **second survey** to gather participants’ feedback on their experience and expectations of Co-Design principles (10 min)

Coffee break (3:30–3:50 PM, 20 min)

- Recorded **video interview** with Prof. George Carter Sala (15-20 min)

Part 3: Plenary discussions and closing remarks/statements. Participants will nominate rapporteurs to summarize breakout group discussions, while the convening team records and consolidates key points, linking related topics (Duration: 1h).

- Launch a **final survey** to gather feedback about the workshop (e.g., what can be improved, testimonies, etc.) (5 min)
- **Closing remarks** by conveners and co-sponsors (10 min)
- Group **photo** #2