

2024 Report of AP-ECOP



The [Advisory Panel on Early Career Ocean Professionals](#) (AP-ECOP) had **two business meetings in 2024**:

1. The first was a **virtual meeting on September 23/24, 2024**. It was co-moderated by Hannah Lachance and Raphael Roman, while all AP-ECOP co-chairs served as rapporteurs. The agenda focused on the confirmation of our collective achievements in 2024 and the tasks to complete before the 2024 PICES Annual Meeting, including the [International Open Science Training](#) (virtual), ECOP Opportunities Flier, Introduction to PICES session, and Mentorship Program.
2. The second meeting was held **in-person, with an option to join online**, during the 2024 PICES Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, on **October 29, 2024** (see photos above). It was co-chaired by Hana Matsubara and Minkyong Kim served as the rapporteur. This time, the focus was on discussing the **top three priorities for 2025**, which revolve around (1) Communication/outreach, (2) Needs Assessment, and (3) Mentorship. Though not mandatory, we encouraged AP-ECOP attendees to select at least one action item that they would like to contribute to or support in 2025. Crucially, the meeting was an opportunity to **engage and recruit new members, six of whom officially joined us in late 2024/early 2025 from China, Japan, Canada, and the USA**. Sadly, this business meeting was also the final one that Hannah Lachance attended as an AP-ECOP co-chair. Although she stepped down, Hannah will remain an important member of AP-ECOP. She has been actively seeking a replacement to ensure proper leadership balance between the East and West Pacific.

AP-ECOP – 2024

AGENDA ITEM 1

Welcome, introductions, adoption of agenda

The Co-Chairs welcomed participants to the meeting ([AP-ECOP Endnote 1](#)), introductions were made, and the agenda was reviewed and adopted ([AP-ECOP Endnote 2](#)).

AGENDA ITEM 2

Reconfirmation of our mission

The Co-Chairs reconfirmed the five Terms of Reference (ToR) of AP-ECOP with the attendees:

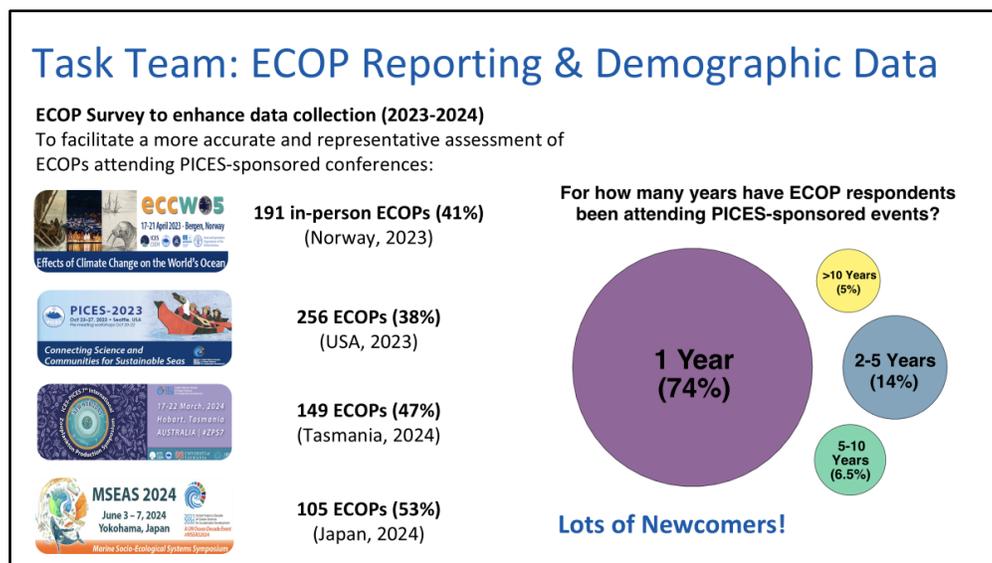
1. Explore opportunities for ECOP representation in PICES through enhanced demographic data collection and assessment;
2. Recruit diverse ECOPs through revitalized communications and existing networks;
3. Engage ECOPs through professional opportunities in Expert Groups, programs, and other aspects of the PICES structure;
4. Foster inter-generational exchange through mentorship programs and activities;
5. Collaborate with partners to develop and advance inclusive engagement in the North Pacific and internationally.

AGENDA ITEM 3

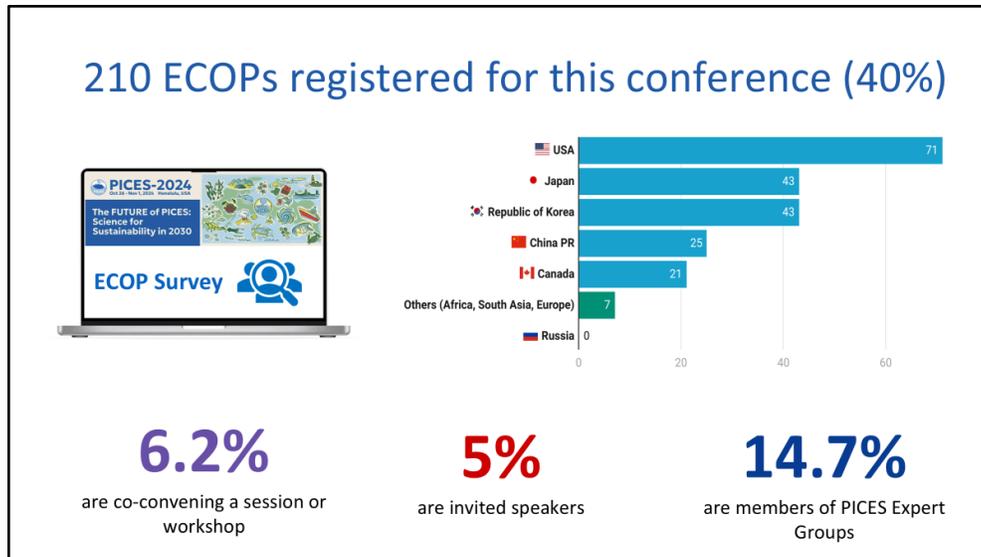
Reports on three focused activities for 2024

1) ECOP reporting & demographic data

Since its first trial in the spring of 2023 during ECCWO5 in Norway, the [short ECOP Survey](#) has helped us collect more detailed demographic data on ECOPs who registered to PICES-sponsored conferences. Specifically, we found and presented that the proportion of ECOP participants in the four events held between 2023 and 2024— ECCWO5, PICES-2023, the 7th International Zooplankton Production Symposium, and MSEAS—was remarkably high, ranging from 38% to 53%. Importantly, 74% of all respondents indicated that it was their first time participating in a PICES-sponsored conference, as shown in the summary slide below.



Additionally, the results of the [ECOP Survey](#) conducted during the 2024 PICES Annual Meeting showed that 210 ECOPs registered, accounting for 40% of all registrations. Among them, only 14.7% were members of PICES Expert Groups, 6.2% were co-convening sessions or workshops, and 5% were invited speakers (see slide below).



The increasing proportion of ECOP participants in PICES-sponsored events and the visualization of this data represent a welcome development that contributes to AP-ECOP's **TOR 1 and 2**. On the other hand, to achieve higher-level engagement, such as participation in Expert Groups, which relates to **TOR 3**, further efforts should be made to encourage first-time participants to continue their involvement and guide them toward opportunities that suit their individual interests.

2) Mentorship program/scheme



Following the successful experiment at PICES-2023, the second iteration of the Mentorship Program was held at PICES-2024. A total of 61 participants joined the program in Honolulu, which is a gratifying achievement contributing to **TOR 4**. On the other hand, the number of participants from certain fields, such as chemical oceanography, was relatively low, making the matching process somewhat challenging.

3) International Open Science Training

Held a few weeks before PICES-2024, our free virtual training aimed to promote intercultural dialogue and explore various facets of international collaboration through three sessions on (1) Science Diplomacy, (2) Data Management, and (3) Science Communication. While PICES member countries constituted our primary target audience, the training ended up attracting more than 400 registrants from around the world, including Africa, Southeast Asia, Europe and the Caribbean. A total of 214 participants attended across the three sessions. These virtual sessions ran smoothly thanks to the invaluable support of four dedicated and passionate ECOP volunteers that we selected through a rigorous application process. Coming from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the USA, they took notes, introduced speakers, co-moderated sessions, and managed the chat and Q&A boxes on Zoom. Their efforts were rewarded with a special travel grant that allowed all four of them to attend the 2024 PICES Annual Meeting in Honolulu, USA.

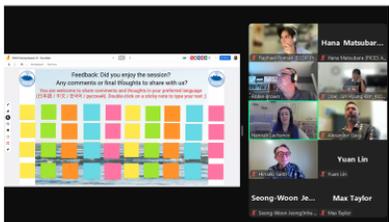
All recordings and presentation slides are freely available on the AP-ECOP webpage [at this link](#). In addition, together with our four travel grantees, we published a synthesis article for the 2025 Winter issue of PICES Press: <https://meetings.pices.int/publications/pices-press/PICES-Press-2025-Vol33No1.pdf#page=41>

International Open Science Training

- **Objective:** Promote intercultural dialogue and explore various facets of international collaboration through three sessions on Science Diplomacy, Data Management, and Communications.
- **No. of participants who registered: 445 / Total attendees: 214**
 - Coming from all over the world!
- **4 panelists per session** (2 each from west/east side of North Pacific)
- **Four ECOP volunteers** were nominated as travel grantees and supported each session as notetakers, co-moderators, etc.



Recordings & Materials are available on AP-ECOP webpage!



Frequently Asked Questions:

Where will the training be held? ONLINE!

When will the training take place? Each topic will be a ~2hr session on the dates indicated to the right.

What if I can't attend all three sessions? While we encourage you to attend all three sessions, we understand there might be some unavoidable scheduling conflicts. Please register for the sessions you would like to attend from QR codes or links.

Who can attend? Any current or aspiring ocean professional! This training is run by and will include speakers from PICES member countries but the training is open to all regions, career stages, etc.

Co-conveners:
 Hana Matubara (Japan)
 Raphael Roman (Canada)
 Hannah Lachance (USA)
 Steven Rogard (USA)
 Shin-ichi ITO (Japan)
 Janette Gann (USA)
 Seung-Tae Yoon (Korea)
 Tammy Wergard (Canada)

International Open Science Training

Join us for this FREE 3 day, interactive training series to learn about:

 **International Collaboration/ Science Diplomacy**

September 26 @ 4-6 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
 September 27 @ 8-10 am JST (Japan Standard Time)
Apply from the QR code at here: <https://meetings.pices.int>

 **International Data Management**

September 30 @ 6-8 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
 October 1 @ 10am-12pm JST (Japan Standard Time)
Apply from the QR code at here: <https://meetings.pices.int>

 **Science Communication**

October 9 @ 5-7 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
 October 10 @ 9-11 am JST (Japan Standard Time)
Apply from the QR code at here: <https://meetings.pices.int>

Please register for the sessions you would like to attend by scanning the QR code!
Note: The date and time are written in two formats according to different time zones, but they refer to the same point in time.




Are you new to PICES?
 Watch this YouTube video for an introduction! 

AGENDA ITEM 4 Priority Activities for 2025

1) Communication/Outreach (TOR 1, 2)

Moving forward, AP-ECOP aims to enhance its communication and outreach efforts by actively sharing updates on key activities through listservs, repositories, newsletters, and social media. This includes highlighting ECOP contributions, such as newly published research, and providing information on opportunities for engagement in PICES expert groups. Additionally, AP-ECOP will work to disseminate funding and job opportunities from PICES member countries, ensuring that relevant information reaches a broad audience. To further support these initiatives, potential collaborations with AP-SciCom will be explored.

At the same time, AP-ECOP seeks to strengthen partnerships with external organizations to expand its reach and impact. This includes engaging with the [Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research](#) (APN), with which we will co-convene a Workshop at PICES-2025 in Yokohama, Japan ([AP-ECOP Endnote3](#)); the [Deep Ocean Observing Strategy](#) (DOOS), which had an observer at our business meeting in Honolulu; as well as other

relevant initiatives and groups we may identify in 2025. Through these efforts, AP-ECOP aims to create more opportunities for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and meaningful participation in the broader scientific community.

2) Needs Assessment (TOR 1,4,5)

Given the recommendations in the External Review Report and the approaching conclusion of the FUTURE program, it is expected that PICES will begin discussions on its future structure. In response, AP-ECOP is also considering conducting a survey to assess the needs of PICES Expert Groups, ECOPs, and other relevant stakeholders. This survey aims to explore how ECOPs can effectively engage in PICES' future scientific activities and contribute to its research efforts.

3) Mentorship (TOR 3)

The mentorship program will continue in 2025. While the program has been well received by participants, feedback has also highlighted areas for improvement, including consistent mentorship activities held before and after the Annual Meeting through online sessions, as well as the development of guidelines that establish a clear framework for mentor-mentee interactions. These improvements will help enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the program.

For 2025, all participants at the business meeting agreed to focus on the three aforementioned priority activities and to establish task teams to advance these efforts.

AP-ECOP Endnote 1

AP-ECOP participation list (both online and in-person meetings)

Members

*Raphael Roman (Canada, Co-Chair)
*Hana Matsubara (Japan, Co-Chair)
*Minkyong Kim (Korea, Co-Chair)
*Hannah Lachance (USA, Co-Chair)
*Pengbin Wang (China)
Shin-ichi Ito (Japan)
Yoonja Kang (Korea)
*Seung-Tae Yoon (Korea)
*Steven Bograd (USA)
Matt Savoca (USA)
*Erin Satterthwaite (USA)
Vera L. Trainer (USA)

Stars ‘*’ identify AP-ECOP members who attended both business meetings (virtual and in-person)

Members unable to attend both meetings

Canada: Andrea White
China: Zuhao Zhu
Japan: Heping Li, Satomi Takagi
Korea: Saeseul Kim, Satomi Takagi
USA: Alexandra Davis

Observers in Honolulu, USA

Seonock Woo (Korea)
Kylie Cherneski (USA)
Mary Kevin (Canada, PICES Intern)
Talen Rimmer (Canada)
Liz Hetherington (USA)
Yuan LIN (Japan/China)
Toya Hirokawa (Japan)
Peng Lian (China)
Lauren Kashiwabara (USA)

PICES (invited but could not join)

Sonia Batten (Executive Secretary)
Sanae Chiba (Deputy Executive Secretary)

AP-ECOP Endnote 2

AP-ECOP meeting agenda (in-person)

1. Welcome, introductions, adoption of agenda
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting procedures
3. Reconfirmation of our mission
4. Reports on three focused activities for 2024
5. Priority Activities for 2025

AP-ECOP Endnote 3

Workshop Proposal for PICES-2025 (Accepted)

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

PICES Sponsors: AP-UNDOS/SmartNet, HD, AP-ECOP, FUTURE SSC
Co-Sponsors: ICES and APN

Conveners:

1. Raphael Roman, *PICES AP-ECOP co-chair; AP-UNDOS and WG-51, CANADA, rk.roman@unesco.org (ECOP, lead co-convenor);*

2. Naya Sena, *PICES, JAPAN*, nayacsena@gmail.com (ECOP, lead co-convener);
3. Khush Jhugroo, *PICES AP-UNDOS, CANADA*, khush.jhug@gmail.com (ECOP);
4. Steven Bograd, *PICES AP-UNDOS co-chair, FUTURE and SmartNet co-chair, USA*, steven.bograd@noaa.gov;
5. Sanae Chiba, *PICES Secretariat, CANADA*; sanae.chiba@pices.int;
6. Mitsutaku Makino, *PICES HD Committee Chair, JAPAN*, mmakino@aori.u-tokyo.ac.jp;
7. David Reid, *ICES, SmartNet co-chair, DENMARK*, david.reid@ices.dk;
8. Saurav KC, *APN-ECAP, NEPAL*, saurav@creew.org.np (ECOP);
9. Naomi Young, *APN Secretariat, JAPAN*, nyoung@apn-gcr.org (ECOP).

Potential Invited Speakers:

- Sefano M. Katz, Program Director at the Pacific Blue Foundation, Fiji, sefano@pacificbluefoundation.org;
- Dr. Chris Leong, ECP Project Leader, CBA2024-03SY-Leong. Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan, chris@chikyu.ac.jp;
- Dr. Anwesh Singh, Scientific Planning Group member for Fiji and Project Leader, CBA2023-04MY-Singh. University of the South Pacific, Fiji, awneshsingh@gmail.com;
- Dr. Andreas Neef, Project Leader, CRRP2023-02MY-Neef. Griffith University, Australia, a.neef@griffith.edu.au;
- Dr. Amanda Ford, ECP Project Leader, CRRP2022-0MY-Ford. University of the South Pacific, Fiji, amanda.ford@usp.ac.fj (ECOP);
- Dr. Saurav KC, Deputy Executive Director, Center of Research for Environment, Energy, and Water (CREEW), Kathmandu, Nepal, saurav@creew.org.np (ECOP)

Description:

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (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). 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 scientific approaches, making it essential for effective ocean management and climate resilience in SIDS. In this Workshop, we aim to convene ocean practitioners, stakeholders, and rightsholders from Pacific SIDS with members of the PICES and Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) communities to assess the opportunities, priorities, methods and challenges for co-designing ocean science in SIDS. We will explore a wide variety of issues of immediate concern to SIDS, including sustainable fisheries, ecosystem services, food security, 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 with the PICES and APN scientific enterprise to optimize strategies for actionable science, trust building, and respectful collaborative practices. An outcome of this Workshop will be a white paper outlining good practices for the co-design and implementation of ocean science in Pacific SIDS.

Suggested Workshop Format:

- (a) Presentations: Short introductory presentations from Pacific SIDS representatives outlining priority ocean concerns and challenges, and from PICES and APN representatives outlining scientific capacity (2 hours).

- (b) Facilitated breakout groups on opportunities, priorities, methods and challenges for co-designing ocean science in Pacific SIDS; identification of potential case studies (2 hours).
- (c) Plenary discussion: Report back from breakout groups, identification of good practices for co-design of ocean science in Pacific SIDS, and determination of next steps, including follow-up workshops at international symposia and white paper outline (2 hours).

Convener Justification:

Our proposal lists **nine co-conveners**. To justify this, we would like to highlight three important points:

1. This is a co-sponsored workshop with ICES and APN, and is the first implementation of the new APN-PICES [Collaborative Framework for Scientific Cooperation](#). Hence, we have invited a few conveners from those organizations.
2. We also want to have a diverse set of ECOPs leading the workshop, including from PICES and APN.
3. Finally, this will be a key achievement of the PICES-sponsored SmartNet Program.