

## 2024 December Intersessional Governing Council Meeting Report and Decisions

Governing Council (hereafter GC or Council) met online from 16:00-18:00 on December 12, 2024 (PDT) under the Chairmanship of Tetsuo Fujii.

Decisions taken by Council are indicated in **bold** text below.

All member countries were represented at the meeting (IGC Endnote 1).

The agenda was adopted (IGC Endnote 2).

### IGC Agenda Item 1. Consideration of items coming from the Intersessional Science Board meeting.

#### a. Sessions and workshops for PICES-2025.

The Deputy Executive Secretary presented the sessions and workshops selected and recommended by Science Board, from the 39 proposals that were submitted (this is more than typical, suggesting the new process is encouraging more discussion and planning).

Some sessions are suggested to be merged resulting in 16 topic sessions (plus the SB Symposium) and 11 workshops selected for PICES-2025. This will require 4 parallel sessions and some sessions to be half-day, which can be accommodated by the venue.

Questions from GC clarified how the session merging will be managed, and how the sponsoring Committees for the sessions will be confirmed.

GC understood that each session has several co-convenors from multiple countries, but we should ensure that the lead (corresponding) convenors should also be balanced for all countries overall, and this may take some adjustments to achieve. Action: Deputy Executive Secretary to share list of all proposed convenors following the meeting.

There was a comment that co-sponsoring organizations should be encouraged to address the External Review Committee's recommendation regarding strategic engagement. Not all listed are confirmed and others may emerge.

Some sessions were not selected in order to keep a shorter meeting than in the past (the same duration as PICES-2024 with two days of workshops and 4.5 days of sessions).

**GC Decision 2023/S/20. PICES-2025 sessions and workshops.****i. The following workshops will be convened at PICES-2025:**

Workshop No.	corresponding convenor	Convenors PICES EGs	Title	sponsor Committees (TBC)	Sponsor Organizations (TBC)
<b>W1</b>	Steven Bograd	SB POC AP-ECOP AP-UNDOS FUTURE-SSC	Climate-Ready Fisheries Management: Reviewing Effective Strategies for Developing Decision Support Tools	FIS, HD, POC, TCODE, MONITOR, FUTURE	ICES
<b>W2</b>	Akash Sastri	SB BIO AP-NPCOOS WG-48	Intercomparison of North Pacific Zooplankton Time Series	BIO, MONITOR	
<b>W3</b>	Sei-ichi Saitoh	AP-ARC	Present and future pressures and human activities in the Arctic Ocean and Pacific Gateways	MEQ, HD, FUTURE	
<b>W4</b>	Tsuneo Ono	CC-S	Building framework for cross-community conversation between natural carbon cycles and marine carbon dioxide removal	POC, BIO	
<b>W5</b>	Charles Hannah	POC AP-NPCOOS	Basin-scale processes linking western and eastern Pacific dynamics and biogeochemistry	POC, FUTURE	
<b>W6</b>	Erin Satterthwaite	AP-ECOP AP-UNDOS SG-GREEN WG-52 FUTURE-SSC	Effective strategies across ocean data lifecycles: Enhancing ocean data management & mobilization	TCODE, FUTURE	Hakai Institute/Tula Foundation
<b>W7</b>	Yu Kanaji	S-MBM, WG-53	Response of top predators to unusual oceanographic, climatic and anthropogenic events in the North Pacific	BIO	
<b>W8</b>	Raphael Roman	AP-ECOP AP-UNDOS WG-51	Engaging with Local & Traditional Knowledge Holders to Co-Design Ocean Science in Pacific Small Island Developing States	HD, TCODE FUTURE	ICES, APN
<b>W9</b>	Karen Hunter	HD WG-49	Applying a cumulative effects framework to explore actionable, social-ecological solutions for climate extreme event impacts across the North Pacific	HD, FUTURE	
<b>W10</b>	Jennifer Jackson	POC AP-UNDOS AP-NPCOOS	An examination of shelf data collected by moorings and other fixed stations in the North Pacific Ocean.	POC, TCODE, MONITOR	
<b>W11</b>	Satoshi Nagai	MEQ AP-NIS	Harnessing Environmental DNA (eDNA) for Early Detection and Monitoring of Marine Invasions in the Face of Climate Change	MEQ,	

**ii. The following sessions will be convened at PICES-2025 (after merging of those highlighted in blue):**

Session No.	corresponding convenor	Convenors PICES EGs	Title	sponsor Committees (TBC)	Sponsor Organizations (TBC)
<b>S2</b>	Shin-ichi Ito	S-CCME AP-ECOP WG-45	Changing ecosystem structure under global climate change: monitoring, detecting, modelling, and socio-ecological impacts	HD, POC, MONITOR, FUTURE	WESTPAC (AMS), GOOS (NEAR-GOOS)
	SungHyun Nam	POC, CREAMS-AP	Changing Asian Marginal Seas: from marine science to societal needs, current challenges for integrative science and UN Ocean Decade		
	Feng Zhou	MONITOR	Deoxygenation and ocean acidification in a changing climate		
<b>S3</b>	Michael Jacox		Interactions of variability and change in the North Pacific	POC, FUTURE	
<b>S4</b>	Motomitsu Takahashi	BIO S-CCME WG-53	Responses of small pelagic fish communities to recent climate regime shifts and climate extremes	FIS, BIO, MONITOR	ICES
<b>S5</b>	Antonietta Capotondi	WG49	Climate Extremes and Coastal Impacts in the Pacific	HD, POC, MONITOR, FUTURE	CLIVAR, WCRP LHA EPESC
	Amber Holdsworth		Innovative methods for understanding and predicting ocean extremes		
<b>S6</b>	Melissa Karp		Incorporation of climate and ecosystem impacts in stock assessment advice: Discussion of current approaches and challenges, and charting a path forward	TBC (FIS?, HD?)	
<b>S7</b>	Toru Kobari	BIO	The impact of oceanographic processes on ecosystems supporting fisheries production in boundary current regions	BIO, MONITOR	
<b>S8</b>	Vivitskala Tulloch	BECl	How can ecosystem-scale information be used to improve our understanding of climate change impacts, and support management and conservation in the North Pacific?	FUTURE	
<b>S9</b>	Chengjun Sun	WG-42 FUTURE	Marine plastic and microplastic pollution in the North Pacific	MEQ, TCODE	
<b>S10</b>	Takeyoshi Nagai	WG-50	Multiscale physical, biological and ecosystem dynamics and their variabilities under climate change	POC, FUTURE	
	Zhiwei Zhang		Meso- to small-scale dynamical processes and their influences on air-sea interactions and marine ecosystems		
	Mark Wells	HAB-S SG-GREEN	Changing Ecosystems in the North Pacific: Projections and Mitigation		
<b>S11</b>	Kelia Axler		Applying Innovative and Established Approaches to Assess the Resilience of the Early Life Stages of North Pacific Fishes to Changing Oceanographic Conditions	TBC (FIS, BIO?)	
<b>S12</b>	Jim Ruzicka		Understanding the linkages between forage species and top predators and how they may affect resilience in North Pacific ecosystems.	TBC (FIS?)	
<b>S13</b>	Elizabeth Holmes		Shifting institutional culture to develop climate solutions with Open Science and Open Data	TCODE	
<b>S14</b>	Brian Hunt	WG-53	The status and future of urban oceans of the North Pacific—pathways to resilient and sustainable coastal cities	MEQ	
<b>S15</b>	Shion Takemura	HD WG-51	The rise of bibliometric analyses to address sustainability solutions through a human dimension lens	TBC (HD?)	ICES
<b>S16</b>	Minkyung Kim	AP-ECOP CREAMS-AP	Radiocarbon studies in the North Pacific and its marginal seas	TBC	
<b>S17</b>	Mark Wells	HAB-S SG-GREEN	What can we learn about the occurrence of <i>Karenia</i> spp. blooms in the North Pacific?	MEQ	GlobalHAB, IOC ICES etc.

b. AP-CREAMS

GC reviewed the rationale behind the proposed change in the AP's target region in the revised Terms of Reference, and the removal of the Advisory Panel term that were presented in the ISB report. The discussion that followed focussed on still wanting clarification of the region the AP intends to consider. Member countries were concerned that it may be challenging to find appropriate expertise in members they appoint to the AP, under a widely expanded area. It was clarified that SB considered the revision as a minor change to the AP ToR, not major, and that

they believe the region of focus remains unchanged, just widened to consider the connections with the open ocean. There was a suggestion from GC that the AP should refer to the PICES eco-regions (defined in NPESR3) to clarify the regions that will be studied under the revised ToR (e.g. regions 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22).

**GC Decision 2024/S/21. AP-CREAMS revision. GC requested more detailed information on the rationale behind the proposed change, therefore it was determined that their term (with current ToRs) be extended for half a year, to enable them to submit a revised proposal to include: A rationale for the changes suggested including necessary revisions to the Action Plan, suggested membership needs (they may require additional USA members in an expanded area, for example) and a map using PICES eco-regions. This is to be presented at the next Intersessional Science Board meeting. It is expected that the fixed term will be removed when the proposal has been reviewed.**

- c. WG-OCN revised proposal and WG-ONCE revised report. The revised text was received too late to come to a Decision at the meeting. Action: Chair will request a vote by correspondence on the revised proposal and revised report. The request will be made by email and member countries are requested to respond by December 19, 2024.

**GC Decision 2024/S/22 (after the vote by correspondence)**

- i. **The final report from WG46 (Joint PICES/ICES Working Group on Ocean Negative Carbon Emissions (ONCE)) was not accepted as a publication.**
- ii. **The proposal for a new Working Group on Ocean Negative Carbon Emissions for Carbon Neutralization (OCN) was not accepted with the terms of reference as provided.**

IGC Agenda Item 2. Report from the Study Group on External Review Report response, discussion and planning of next steps.

The Chair of the Study Group, Cisco Werner, introduced the SG's work on the External Review report recommendations presented in the table that was circulated to GC prior to the meeting. At a high level, the two groups of recommendations concerned with the evolution of the role and mission of PICES (#1) and the Integrated Science Plan (#3) are mostly strategic and the other three are mostly operational (the organizational structure #2, administration #4 and capacity development #5). If the two strategic recommendations are first focussed on in the coming year, then it should be clear how the other three that are more operational will fall-out and can be subsequently addressed.

The ISP needs careful thought about whether it should be a decadal program or a series of shorter programs. It was noted that FUTURE needs to have a planned gradual horizon, with a process to summarize its main conclusions. The next ISP needs to learn from FUTURE, and be developed in a well-defined forward direction.

It was suggested that GC should hold a panel event at PICES-2025 to express the direction that GC is taking, to make sure that the PICES community is aware that the process is continuing and to take advantage of the opportunity for full communication that the annual meeting provides.

There was also a discussion about incorporating both top-down and bottom-up input. SB will provide their consolidated views on the science implications at the end of January. There is a synthesis of community responses received at PICES-2024 available now as well. So, there are, or soon will be, several community-driven responses available to incorporate when GC tackles the next steps.

The next step was determined to be to develop a high-level draft of the strategic plan by the next IGC, in order to have a well-defined draft for discussion at PICES-2025. GC were encouraged to add any further comments or suggestions to the Table shared from the SG. Action. The Executive Secretary will reach out, once SB has provided its report, and set up a meeting (the mode of the meeting may be virtual or work by correspondence) for any of GC who would like to participate in the group drafting the strategic plan.

### Agenda Item 3. Any other business.

The Chair requested an update from the Executive Secretary on the budget situation. The ES confirmed that Russian dues for 2023 had been received and that she had communicated last week with the embassy-liaison, who had facilitated the recent payment, regarding the possibility of receiving 2024 dues by the end of December. The response received was that this would likely not happen, and the Russian member confirmed that the process is ongoing but not predictable for this year. The ES confirmed that the Austerity budget would most likely apply on January 1<sup>st</sup> but that it was possible for the Organization to function with the planned budget and existing reserve, and the way to rebuild the reserve that was put in place at PICES-2024.

**GC Endnote 1****Delegation list of participants for the December 2024 Intersessional Governing Council meeting**

<u>Canada</u> Andrew Thomson Bernard Vigneault	<u>Russian Federation</u> Vladimir Radchenko (Alternate)
<u>Japan</u> Fumie Maruyama Takashi Kamaishi Yutaka Hiroe (Advisor, F&A member) Tatsuki Oshima (Advisor, F&A member) Natsumi Okawa (Advisor)	<u>USA</u> Cisco Werner Jack Barth Amanda Williams (Advisor, F&A member) Kristen Koch (Advisor, F&A Chair) Hannah Lachance (Advisor)
<u>People's Republic of China</u> Fangli Qiao	<u>Other</u> Tetsuo Fujii (PICES Chair) Enrique Curchitser (PICES Past-Chair) Sonia Batten (Executive Secretary) Sanae Chiba (Deputy Executive Secretary)
<u>Republic of Korea</u> Se-Jong Ju Jiin Kim (Advisor, F&A member) Jun Hyung Kim (Advisor, F&A member) Joongho Moon (Advisor)	

**GC Endnote 2****Agenda**

- a. Consideration of items coming from Intersessional Science Board meeting held Dec 9th:
  - a. Sessions and workshops for PICES-2025.
  - b. AP-CREAMS revision.
  - c. WG-OCN revised proposal and WG-ONCE revised report
- b. Report from the Study Group on External Review Report Response, discuss and planning of next steps.
- c. Any other business