

2024 Report of Marine Environmental Quality Committee (MEQ)**2024 MEQ Business Meeting**

The 2024 Business Meeting of the PICES Marine Environmental Quality Committee (MEQ) was held as a hybrid meeting on October 27, 2024 (18:00-20:30) in 305A at the Hawaii Convention Center, USA during PICES-2024. MEQ's chair, Dr. Thomas Therriault, could not participate, therefore MEQ Vice-chair, Dr. Takafumi Yoshida chaired the meeting.

The Agenda for the Business Meeting is shown in Endnote 2, and a summary of meeting participants is shown in Endnote 1. Attendees included participants from all PICES member nations except Russia and China. The 9 meeting participants included MEQ members (7) as well as observers from JANUS (2 online).

Meeting Chair: Takafumi Yoshida (Japan - Vice Chair of MEQ)**Agenda Item 1**

The Meeting Chair welcomed the participants, who briefly introduced themselves, and reviewed and adopted the agenda for the meeting. Dr. Yoshida then reviewed the MEQ Mission Statement and current MEQ membership (see Endnote 1), affiliated Expert Groups, membership changes including S-HAB (1 for Canada and 1 for Korea), and the list of invited Observers (two from JANUS).

Agenda Item 2

The Meeting Chair reviewed the dates and times of the MEQ-sponsored workshop and sessions (W4, S10, S12, S9, and MEQ-P) eligible for awards at PICES-2024. Following a brief discussion about who would be available to attend the relevant presentations, MEQ members volunteered to judge these presentations and provided results to Dr. Yoshida (who also judged all the eligible talks) in time for him to inform Science Board prior to the Closing Session on November 1st. The winners were Kengo Egami (S9, best talk) and Nicole McHugh (S9, best poster).

Agenda Item 3

Each Expert Group (ExG) was asked to review their main activities in 2024 (i.e., since the last PICES meeting), identify high priority items that should be reported to Science Board, indicate plans for 2024 and beyond (including possible extensions), and suggest new topics and directions for MEQ (including ideas for new ExGs). The Meeting Chair explained the updates based on the submitted reports from AP-NIS and S-HAB. Requests from ExGs were discussed under Agenda Item 4. MEQ members endorsed the updates from the ExGs.

Members confirmed and clarified WG-42's proposal for a new ExG on marine plastic. Dr. Savoca, member of WG-42, and Dr. Andrew, the past acting MEQ Chair, shared additional context and previous discussions on this proposal since the last PICES Annual Meeting. The proposal for a new ExG on marine plastic pollution was submitted to Science Board at PICES-2023 in Seattle, however, WG-42 had not yet submitted their final report and had

some outstanding tasks to finish. Thus, Science Board requested MEQ to bring this proposal forward once WG-42 had completed its tasks and final report. WG-42's final report was submitted to MEQ before the PICES-2024 Annual Meeting and MEQ members reviewed the report and provided additional comments. The revised final report was submitted to PICES Secretariat.

MEQ members reviewed the draft proposal for the new ExG and agreed to request Science Board recommend the establishment of a new ExG on marine plastic. The proposed chair of this new ExG and MEQ Vice-chair discussed details and options with the PICES Secretariat, and it was agreed to change the proposed ExG from an Advisory Panel to a Section in line with the ToR and tasks to be undertaken. The revised version was submitted to Science Board for consideration.

Agenda Item 4

MEQ members discussed the requests of S-HAB and AP-NIS. Both ExGs requested travel support for their high-priority events including the Bi-annual IOC-FAO Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Bloom and 12th International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions, respectively. Both meetings are joint projects between PICES and partners, therefore MEQ agreed to approve these requests and seek Science Board support. In addition, S-HAB requested open access fees related to a product from the TCODE/MEQ Topic Workshop "GlobalHAB International Workshop on Solution to Control HABs in Marine and Estuarine Waters" which was held at the PICES-2023 Annual Meeting in Seattle, USA. However, the manuscript is still under preparation. Therefore, MEQ provisionally approved this request pending confirmation if this request can be made prior to paper acceptance from the journal.

Member country representation at MEQ Business Meetings has been challenging for several years and at PICES-2024 two countries were not represented (Russia and China). Meeting participants understand that the current geopolitical landscape is challenging but MEQ members hope to improve this situation as early as possible such that all voices are heard at MEQ business meetings. In addition, limited in-person participation by other member countries created other logistical challenges for MEQ including critical reporting, discussions, and judging oral and poster presentations.

Agenda Item 5

Dr. Yoshida introduced the Governing Council commissioned External Review Committee and its primary objective to review, evaluate, and make recommendations to move PICES forward. The External Review Report was available through the PICES Website, and an online comment page is open to solicit feedback on the report. All participants understood PICES should be changing its role/structure/projects to contribute to emerging global issues and needs of member countries. On the other hand, it was suggested that deep discussions about how the current structure will be changed, and how to reflect member countries' and/or global needs to scientific programs are necessary. The Meeting chair asked participants to provide feedback to ensure as many views as possible are received. The Meeting chair will summarize discussions and prepare a summary report on this matter. This report was

submitted to the PICES Secretariat.

The Meeting chair introduced an outcome linked to the Inter-Sessional Science Board Meeting where Governing Council requested MEQ be the parent Committee of a new Working Group on “Ocean Negative Carbon Emission for Carbon Neutralization” that would be co-parented with POC and BIO. The proposal for this new Working Group was shared among participants and meeting participants discussed the possibility of MEQ supporting this request. Meeting participants pointed out that it is difficult to be a co-parent Committee based on the current proposal due to a lack of expertise among existing MEQ members on carbon emissions and a mismatch between MEQ’s mission and the ToR for this new WG. Dr. Yoshida will convey MEQ’s opinions at the PICES-2024 Science Board meeting.

The Meeting chair introduced the proposal for a joint session at PICES-2025 Annual Meeting from AP-ARC. In the Arctic Ocean, environmental issues related to marine plastic pollution and non-indigenous species will be more serious in near future. Therefore, for MEQ, this will be an important emerging issue. Meeting participants agreed to co-sponsor this proposed session.

Agenda Item 6

The 2024 MEQ Business Meeting was adjourned at 20:20.

MEQ Endnote 1**MEQ participation list**

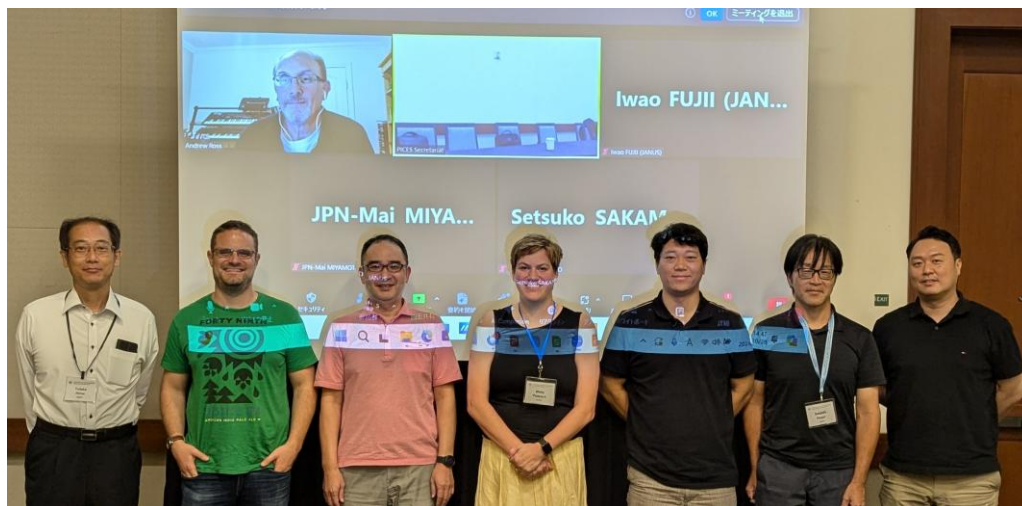
MEQ participants (9 of 15 members, shown in green)

Members	State		Affiliation
Dr. Andrew R.S. Ross (Online)	CAN	MEQ, S-HAB	Institute of Ocean Sciences, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Dr. Thomas W. Therriault		MEQ, AP-NIS, FUTURE-SSC	Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Dr. Peter Ross		MEQ, WG-42	Pacific Science Enterprise Centre, Coastal Ocean Research Institute
Dr. Akihide Kasai	JPN	MEQ	Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University
Dr. Satoshi Nagai		MEQ, AP-NIS	Fisheries Technology Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Dr. Takafumi Yoshida		MEQ, S-HAB	NOWPAP CEARAC, Japan
Dr. Jeong Hee Shim	KOR	MEQ, S-CC	Ocean Climate and Ecology Research Division, East Sea Fisheries Research Institute (NIFS)
Prof. Tae-Hoon Kim		MEQ	Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Chonnam National University
Prof. Dong-Hun Lee		MEQ	College of Environmental and Marine Science and Technology, Pukyong National University
Dr. Tatyana A. Belan	RUS	MEQ	Far Eastern Regional Hydrometeorological Research Institute (FERHRI)
Dr. Elena Maximovna Latkovskaya		MEQ	Sakhalin Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (SakhNIRO)
Dr. Chuanlin Huo	CHN	MEQ	National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment
Dr. Chunhou Li		MEQ	South China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, CAFS
Dr. Misty Peacock	USA	MEQ, S-HAB	Salish Sea Research Center, Northwest Indian College
Dr. Matthew Savoca		MEQ, WG-42	Department of Oceans, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University

Other participants (2):

Iwao Fuji (Observer) JANUS, reporting to *MoE, Government of Japan*

Mai Miyamoto (Observer) JANUS, reporting to *MoE, Government of Japan*



MEQ Endnote 2**Agenda for the 2024 MEQ Business Meeting****Date: Sunday, October 27, 2024 (18:00 – 20:30 HST)**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8725754976>

1. Welcome, Introduction, and Adoption of Agenda (T. Yoshida) **[20 min]**
Welcome members and observers, and review MEQ Business Meeting agenda.
2. MEQ Best Oral Presentation award and Best Poster award for PICES 2024 (T. Yoshida) **[10 min]**
Discuss approach for judging MEQ Best Oral Presentation award and Best Poster award.
3. Updates from MEQ Expert Groups (T. Yoshida) **[30 min]**
Reports and discussion from S-HAB, AP-NIS, and WG42 including:
 - Review of main activities in 2024
 - High priority items that need to be reported to SB
 - New topics and directions for MEQ development, including proposals for new MEQ-parented EGs.
4. MEQ Meeting Decisions (All) **[40 min]**
 - Requests to Science Board (Travel, Business Meetings, other requests with financial implications)
5. Other business (All) **(40 min)**
External Review Report
New WG on Ocean Negative Carbon for Carbon Neutralization
Proposal of joint session for PICES 2025 Annual Meeting from AP-ARC
6. Adjourn