

2025 May Intersessional Governing Council Meeting Report and Decisions

Governing Council (hereafter GC or Council) met online from 16:00-18:40 on May 29, 2025 (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 3. Update And Discussion on Budgetary Issues.

The Executive Secretary reported that at this time annual fees from five member countries have been received. The Austerity budget is being followed, with travel expenditures being kept to a minimum. Vladimir Radchenko apologised for the delay in payment from Russia and will clarify in the next weeks and let the Secretariat know as soon as possible about payment of contributions using the same mechanism as in November 2024. The Executive Secretary also reported that there are no significant unexpected expenditures so far in 2025 and the financial situation this year is being managed within the austerity budget. The priority for the travel budget in the second half of the year will be travel related to PICES-2025 (invited speakers, secretariat staff).

IGC Agenda Item 4. Report from GC Study Group on External Review Response

Since the Chair of the SG retired a few weeks prior, the Executive Secretary reported on SG progress to date. Council reviewed the draft roadmap, revised mission statement, and Working Group proposal. The SB Chair commented that there were some discrepancies between the timeline in the roadmap and SB's expectations of certain activities (FUTURE ending and a new ISP Study Group for example). SB members are keen to have additional communication between the SG and SB.

Council requested the SG-ERRR to continue working on the revised Mission Statement, roadmap and draft Working Group proposal intersessionally, with the goal of presenting these to Council at an IGC meeting in September. The SG should invite 1-2 members of SB to participate in the SG work.

GC Decision 2025/A/1. SG-ERRR member changes. The new Chair of the SG-ERRR will be Andrew Thomson (Canada) with the addition of Jack Barth (USA) as a member of SG-ERRR, replacing Cisco Werner (USA).

IGC Agenda Item 5. Update on Preparations for PICES-2025

- a. Possibilities for a shorter meeting for GC. The schedule for PICES-2025 has already allocated full days for science sessions and so it is not feasible to move SB meetings to earlier, to allow GC to

finish on Saturday. However, potential schedules for 2026 were proposed that might achieve this, and when PICES-2026 meeting is planned in more detail later this year both SB and GC can consider the feasibility. SB notes, however, that they feel the current structure is generally accepted as reasonable.

- b. Plenary Panel. Council discussed an event to be held during plenary at PICES-2025 to share Council's plans for evolving the organization with the wider community. It was agreed that it should be on the first day (Monday) and not really a Panel, something more like a Town Hall with ~3 short talks and an opportunity for discussion, but not too lengthy, perhaps 60-75 minutes total, so that the SB Symposium is not shortened too much. Submitted abstracts for the SB Symposium will not be known until the end of June and SB will need to know how many talks can be accepted. The SG-ERRR will further discuss the event, and Council can also discuss in September, but the Town Hall may include a presentation from Cisco Werner on the history of the review and need for increased strategic engagement, the SG-ERRR Chair and a SB member on the current focus and the vision of GC and SB. The goal is to demonstrate a collaborative process.

IGC Agenda Item 6. Report and Recommendations from SB

The SB Chair provided a report with information and recommendations coming from the 3-day ISB meeting earlier in the month.

GC Decision 2025/S/1. Council approved the following in-person business meetings for expert groups that have requested them, at PICES-2025:

EGs	Duration
AP-ARC *Joint meeting with ICES/WGICA (AP on Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Gateways)	3 days
AP-CREAMS (AP on Circulation Research in East Asian Marginal Seas)	0.5 day
AP-ECOP (AP on Early Career Ocean Professionals)	0.5 day
AP-NIS (AP on Marine Non-indigenous Species)	1 day
AP-NPCOOS (AP on North Pacific Coastal Ocean Observing Systems)	0.5 day
AP-UNDOS (AP on United Nations Decade of Ocean Science)	1 day
S-HAB (Section on Ecology of Harmful Algal Blooms in the North Pacific)	0.5 day
S-MPP (Section on Marine Plastic Pollution)	0.5 day
S-MBM (Section on Marine Birds and Mammals)	0.5 day

WG-49 (WG on Climate Extremes and Coastal Impacts in the Pacific)	1.0 day
WG-50 (WG on Sub-mesoscale Processes and Marine Ecosystems)	0.5 day
WG-51 (WG on Exploring Human Networks to Power Sustainability)	0.5 day
WG-53 (Joint PICES/ICES WG on Sustainable Pelagic Forage Communities)	2 evenings for the virtual participants from Europe.
FUTURE	0.5 day

GC Decision 2025/S/2. SmartNet.

- i. **Council approved the SmartNet Implementation Plan Phase II (2025-2028).**
- ii. **Council approved representation of AP-UNDOS on Science Board, with one vote.**

GC Decision 2025/S/3. Financial Support. Council approved the following support requests if the budget can accommodate them, noting Science Board's rankings:

i. **Travel support**

EG: AP-ARC (Arctic and Pacific Gateways) (SB)			
Conference inf.	Recipient(s)	Amount and rational of fund request	SB score
Clce2Clouds-BEPSII-CATCH sea-ice school February/March 2026, Saroma-lake, Hokkaido, Japan	A few ECOPs from PICES countries, support for travel and participation fee	(reference only: CA\$ 4200) Important for PICES ECOPs to develop skills on field work through sea ice school with understanding climate change in Pacific Arctic.	1.7 (Low to Middle)

ii. **Open access fee**

EG: S-HAB (Harmful Algae Bloom) (MEQ)		
Manuscript title	Rationale & Fee	SB score
"Controlling harmful algal blooms (HABs) in marine waters: current status and future prospects" Submitted to " Harmful Algae "	Requesting partial support (US\$2500) of the online access fee (US\$5000) to the manuscript. This joint work is the outcome of the TCODE/MEQ Topic Workshop GlobalHAB International Workshop on Solutions to Control HABs in Marine and Estuarine Waters (2023)	2.2 (Middle)

iii. **PICES-2025 side events**

EG: AP-ECOP (FUTURE): Joint program with Japan ECOP (Full Proposal)		
Event information	Rationale & Fee	SB score
Beach cleanup Nov 15 (Sat) at nearby beach (TBC)	For consumables (garbage bags, gloves, etc.): Approximately CA\$ 500. They will also seek LO support. <i>*SB comment - design the plan, including the date/time, to allow maximum participation of PICES ECOPs.</i>	2.3 (Middle)
Site visit to local research institutes: Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA) and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) Nov 14 (Fri) PM	Transportation from the PICES Annual Meeting venue to FRA/JAMSTEC (e.g., bus): Approximately CA\$ 1,200 They will also seek support from FRA and JAMSTEC	2.5 (Middle to High)

GC Decision 2025/S/4 New Expert Groups. Council approved the following new expert groups with terms of reference as provided in the report from Science Board.

- i. **WG54 - ICES/PICES WG on Best Practices for Using Deep Learning in Processing Plankton Images (WG-DLP), for a three-year term with Parent Committee BIO.**
- ii. **SG-NPESR4. Study Group on Developing the Implementation Plan for the North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report 4 for a 1.5-year term with Parent Committee SB.**

GC Decision 2025/S/5. Publications. Council approved the addition of the following publications as PICES publications.

- i. **Journal papers:**

EG (Parent)	Citation	Comment
PICES (N/A)	Special collection: Effect of Climate Change on the World Oceans. (2025) ICES J. Mar Sci. vol 82, Issue 1. https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/issue/82/1?login=false#2103468-7985641	Products of ECCWO5 , Bergen, 2023
PICES (N/A)	Special collection: Zooplankton Production Symposium (2024-2025) ICES J. Mar Sci. vol 82, Issue 1-4. https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/pages/zooplankton-production-symposium?login=true	Products of ZPS7 , Hobart, 2024
AP-UNDOS SmartNet (SB)	Purnomo, A. H., Sachoemar, S. I., Arifin, Z., Samiaji, J., Tanjung, R. H., Nurhayati, A., ... & Boschetti, F. (2025). Demographic dimension of ocean	Products of The Ocean We Want project under

	perceptions: Evidence from Indonesia. <i>Marine Policy</i> , 178, 106706. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2025.106706	SmartNet
<u>S-MBM</u> : Marine Birds and Mammals (BIO)	<p>Orben, R.A. et al. 2025. Collaborating with marine birds to monitor the physical environment within coastal marine protected areas. In <i>Frontiers in Ocean Observing: Marine Protected Areas, Western Boundary Currents, and the Deep Sea</i>. Oceanography 38: 32–37, https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2025e115.</p> <p>E.J. Portner et al., 2025. Resource partitioning among pelagic predators remains stable despite annual variability in diet composition. <i>Journal of Animal Ecology</i>. DOI: 10.1111/1365-2656.70032.</p> <p>E.L. Hazen et al. Ecosystem Sentinels as Early Warning Indicators in the Anthropocene. <i>Annual Review of Environment and Resources</i>. DOI: 10.1146/annurev-environ-111522-102317.</p>	
<u>S-MPP</u> : Marine Plastic Pollution (MEQ)	Savoca, M. et al. (2024). Monitoring plastic pollution using bioindicators: a global review and recommendations for marine environments. <i>Environmental Science: Advances</i> . DOI https://doi.org/10.1039/D4VA00174E	

- ii. **SG-GREEN final report. The report will be posted on the website as a final report and the SG disbanded.**

IGC Agenda Item 7. Any Other Business

The Executive Secretary reminded Council that nominations for the 2025 Chair Award are due to sonia.batten@pices.int by July 31, 2025

GC Endnote 1**Delegation list of participants for the May 2025 Intersessional Governing Council meeting**

<u>Canada</u> Andrew Thomson Bernard Vigneault	<u>Russian Federation</u> Vladimir Radchenko (Alternate)
<u>Japan</u> Takashi Kamaishi Fumie Maruyama Yutaka Hiroe (Advisor, F&A member) Sayaka Minamikawa (Advisor)	<u>USA</u> Jack Barth Evan Howell (Alternate) Hannah Lachance (Advisor)
<u>People's Republic of China</u> Fangli Qiao	<u>Other</u> Tetsuo Fujii (PICES Chair) Enrique Curchitser (PICES Past-Chair) Sukyung Kang (Science Board Chair) Sonia Batten (Executive Secretary) Sanae Chiba (Deputy Executive Secretary)
<u>Republic of Korea</u> Se-Jong Ju Jin Young Lim (Advisor) Taehee Lee (Advisor)	

GC Endnote 2**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting procedures
3. Update and discussion on budgetary issues
4. Report from GC Study Group on External Review Response
5. Update on preparations for PICES-2025
 - a. Discussion on possibilities for a shorter meeting for GC
 - b. GC Panel at end of SB
6. Report and recommendations of the Science Board
7. Any other business
 - a. Reminders – Chair Award