

SMARTNET: 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



19 December 2025

Monterey, California, USA / Victoria, BC, Canada / Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear SMARTNET Steering Committee and Friends,

We hope you have all had a wonderful and productive year in 2025. We wanted to highlight some of the activities and accomplishments of the [**SMARTNET Programme**](#) over the past year, and to notify you of our plans for 2026. We look forward to working with you all to make SMARTNET and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development a success!

SMARTNET Governance and Implementation

We have maintained our governance structure in 2025, with Steven Bograd (NOAA, USA) and Sanae Chiba (PICES Secretariat) continuing to serve as the PICES Co-Chairs of SMARTNET, and Dave Reid, ICES Science Committee Chair, serving as SMARTNET Co-Chair from ICES (**Figure 1**). Our SMARTNET Steering Committee is composed of members of the PICES Advisory Panel on the UN Decade of Ocean Science ([AP-UNDOS](#)), who represent each of the PICES member nations and encompass a broad range of disciplinary expertise and career experience, including several early career ocean professionals (ECOPs). (See [**Appendix A**](#) for AP-UNDOS Terms of Reference.) On the ICES side, several members of their Science Committee have formed an ad hoc group to guide ICES activities in SMARTNET.



Figure 1: Co-Chairs of SMARTNET, Steven Bograd (l) from NOAA, Dave Reid (c) from ICES Science Committee, and Sanae Chiba (r) from PICES Secretariat.

Together, we are continuing to execute the [**SMARTNET Phase II Implementation Plan**](#), which was completed last year and approved by PICES Governing Council. SMARTNET will continue to work within our strategic framework involving knowledge production, knowledge sharing, networking with

Ocean Decade Actions, and engagement with diverse communities, as outlined in the Implementation Plan (**Figure 2**). Informal Task Teams are in the early stages of coordinating key SMARTNET activities, focused around ‘written communications’, ‘public surveys’, ‘networking’, ‘outreach’ and ‘capacity sharing’.

2025 Accomplishments

SMARTNET had another productive and successful year in 2025. SMARTNET was active in the production of scientific output, in hosting workshops to promote our scientific enterprise, and in fostering networks of collaborators. A list of SMARTNET 2025 accomplishments is presented in **Appendix B**.

SmartNet Program Structural Landscape and Strategy



Figure 2: SMARTNET structural landscape and strategy.

Scientific Production

SMARTNET scientific manuscripts and articles that were published in 2024-25 continue to inform activities within the Ocean Decade. These include (A) a [review](#) of UN Ocean Decade efforts around the ‘climate-biodiversity-fisheries’ nexus and recommendations for new Actions, published in *ICES Journal of Marine Science*; (B) a [review](#) of SMARTNET’s strategies for sharing knowledge and capacity with ECOPs from Small Island Developing States, published in *Oceanography*; and (C) syntheses of the recommendations from the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 Working Groups 2 and 7, published this year in *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, and focused, respectively, on Ocean Decade *Challenge 2: Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity* and *Challenge 7: Sustainably expand the Global Ocean Observing System*.



Figure 3: SMARTNET / PICES scientists participated in the Ocean Decade Ocean Visions 2030 Working Groups to provide recommendations for engaging with the key Challenges.

SMARTNET scientists participated in the Vision 2030 process through these Working Groups as well as Working Group 5 (*Challenge 5: Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change*; **Figure 3**).

In addition to these publications, SMARTNET scientists contributed ‘[success stories](#)’ on our SIDS outreach and capacity-sharing activities to IOC-UNESCO documents published in association with the COP16 on Biodiversity, held in Colombia in October 2024, and the UN Oceans Conference-3 ([UNOC3](#)), held in Nice, France, in June 2025.

Networks and International Outreach

SMARTNET has continued to be very active in strengthening collaborations with other UN Ocean Decade Actions, building a broader Network around the ‘climate-biodiversity-fisheries’ nexus, and co-designing science with partners:

(A) SMARTNET is a founding partner in a Community of Practice that hosts a monthly webinar series on ‘*Topics at the nexus of climate change, fisheries and blue foods*’ (Figure 4). The series is hosted by our partner Actions SUPREME, FishSCORE2030, Blue Food Futures, BECI and FishMIP, and highlights current efforts and challenges at the climate-fisheries nexus. The webinars, scheduled at various times to accommodate different time zones, are well attended by a global audience and are contributing to building a Network of scientists and practitioners to address the Decade’s identified challenges around the ‘climate-fisheries nexus’.

(B) SMARTNET participated and provided leadership at the One Ocean Science Congress (OOSC) and the UN Oceans Conference (UNOC-3) in Nice, France, in June 2025. SMARTNET co-chair Dave Reid, together with PICES representatives Sonia Batten and Mitsutaku Makino, convened a Town Hall Meeting on '*Moving Towards Integrated Evaluation Approaches in Support of Ocean Policy*' (Figure



Figure 5: SMARTNET Town Hall at the UNOC-3 in Nice, France, June 2025.

(C) SMARTNET made significant progress in 2025 on the **SMARTNET ‘Ocean We Want’ Global Survey**, led by Mitsutaku Makino (**Figure 6**). The ‘Ocean We Want’ Survey is one of the key SMARTNET contributions to the Ocean Decade. The theme of the Ocean Decade is ‘the science we need for the

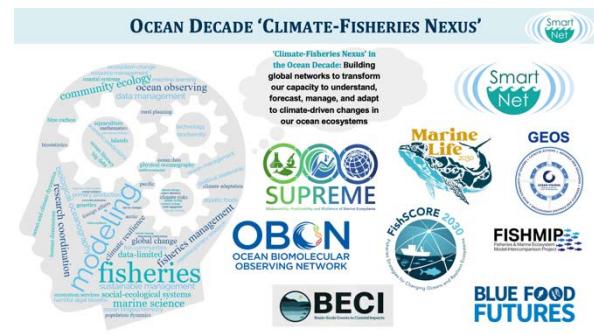


Figure 4: UN Ocean Decade ‘climate-fisheries nexus’.

5). Claire Enterline, a ‘climate-fisheries nexus’ partner from the FishSCORE2030 Programme, presented the review paper (Bograd et al., 2024) on UN Ocean Decade efforts around the ‘climate-biodiversity-fisheries’ nexus and recommendations for new actions. Mitsutaku Makino presented on the Ocean We Want International Survey Project (more below), while SMARTNET Co-Chair Sanae Chiba served as a panelist on the UNOC-3 side event on ocean literacy sponsored by the International Platform on Ocean Sustainability (IPOS).



Figure 6: Illustrations (by Bass Kohler) from the SMARTNET ‘Ocean We Want Survey’ side event at the UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, Spain, April 2024.

ocean we want', but what exactly is the ocean we want, and who are 'we'? This global survey seeks answers to this question from the general public. Makino-san and colleagues have now completed surveys in 8 nations (Japan, USA, Australia, France, Chile, Germany, South Africa, Indonesia) encompassing a sample size of over 10,000, with plans to expand the survey into 30-40 more countries over the next year (**Figure 7**). Key outcomes include regionally specific assessments of the key issues facing our oceans and their resources, and recommendations for meeting the Decade-identified challenges to support sustainable oceans and ecosystems. While there are regional and demographic differences in responses, most respondents gave high priority to a 'clean ocean', a 'healthy ocean' and a

'productive ocean'. We encourage the SMARTNET network to stay informed about the 'Ocean We Want' Global Survey as it expands next year and continues to develop models to explain the relationship between individual values, concerns, and people's sense of responsibility.

(D) As in past years, SMARTNET also co-hosted Workshops, both at the ICES Annual Science Conference, held in Klaipeda, Lithuania, in September 2025 and at the PICES-2025 Annual Conference, held in Yokohama, Japan, in November 2025. The ICS-ASC Session, titled '*Climate-Ready Fisheries Management in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development*' was convened by the three Co-Chairs along with FishSCORE2030 partner Kathy Mills

(**Figure 8**). A key objective of the session was to leverage SMARTNET and other ICES/PICES activities to facilitate enhanced collaboration between our organizations and expand our global networks and scientific reach. The session featured nine oral and two poster presentations (with corresponding lightning talks), providing a diverse suite of examples of the use of climate information to support sustainable fisheries management. In addition, we had extended periods of active discussion amongst the audience, speakers and conveners to identify key issues within the theme. Collectively, the presentations and group discussions described useful examples of advancing 'climate-ready' fisheries management across diverse eco-regions and governance structures.

Figure 8: SMARTNET-sponsored ICES-ASC Theme Session C Conveners (l to r) Bograd, Mills, Chiba, Reid.



Figure 7: (l) Map of countries in which the SMARTNET 'Ocean We Want Global Survey' has been implemented, and (r) illustration (by Bass Kohler) of various responses to the Survey.



At the PICES-2025 Conference two months later, SMARTNET convened a similarly themed Workshop on ‘*Climate-Ready Fisheries Management: Reviewing Effective Strategies for Developing Decision Support Tools*’ (Figure 9). Conducting similar discussions at the ICES-ASC and PICES-2025 provided a glimpse of how climate information is being integrated into fisheries management across diverse settings, revealing a variety of examples and opinions and providing a unique opportunity to assess the capacities, gaps, barriers and pathways forward for climate-ready fisheries management.



Figure 9: SMARTNET-sponsored PICES-2025 Workshop 1 conveners and speakers.

SMARTNET convened a second Workshop at PICES-2025, ‘*Engaging with Local and Traditional Knowledge Holders to Co-Design Ocean Science in Pacific SIDS*’, which was led by SMARTNET ECOPs, Naya Sena and Raphael Roman, and brought a number of invited speakers from Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to celebrate and promote the role of local and traditional knowledge to assess the opportunities, priorities, methods, and challenges for co-designing ocean science in SIDS (Figure 10). Funding to support the participation of SIDS scientists was provided by the [Ocean Policy Research Institute \(OPRI\) of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation](#) and the [Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research \(APN\)](#). The Workshop highlighted the need for co-designing as a core scientific approach within PICES and the broader ocean science community, underscored the importance of integrating diverse knowledge systems, and served as a practical demonstration of co-design. A full description of these SMARTNET-supported Workshops can be found in the upcoming Winter 2026 issue of *PICES Press*.



Figure 10: Participants at the SMARTNET-sponsored Workshop on ‘*Engaging with Local and Traditional Knowledge Holders to Co-Design Ocean Science in Pacific SIDS*’ at the PICES-2025 Annual Meeting in Yokohama, Japan, in November 2025.

(E) Finally, SMARTNET welcomes Chen ‘Catherine’ Yang, who has joined the SMARTNET team as a Coordinator this year with support from the Ocean Decade International Cooperation Center (ODCC) in Qingdao, China, which has formed a Memorandum of Understanding with PICES to provide support for PICES Ocean Decade Activities. We greatly thank the Chinese delegation and the ODCC for their support!

Ocean Decade Relationships

In addition to continued development of our Ocean Decade Community of Practice on the ‘climate-biodiversity-fisheries nexus’, we will continue our relationship with relevant Decade Collaborative Centers (DCCs). Our original sponsor DCC, the Ocean Visions Decade Collaborative Center, ceased operation at the end of 2024. SMARTNET is now associated with the Italy-hosted Coastal Resilience Decade Collaborative Center ([CR-DCC](#)), as is our sister Programme [SUPREME](#), and SMARTNET Co-Chair Steven Bograd serves on the CR-DCC Program Committee. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the CR-DCC and our umbrella Projects in the coming year. SMARTNET will continue to integrate these Decade-endorsed Projects, and welcome new ones, into our Network. We currently have 10 Projects under the SMARTNET umbrella (see [here](#)), with several others recommended for endorsement in the latest round of proposals.

2026 Plans and Tasks

SMARTNET will continue to focus on our primary activities: scientific production, networking and outreach, & capacity sharing. A list of SMARTNET 2026 planned activities is presented in [Appendix C](#).

SMARTNET is anticipating having another active year in terms of networking and outreach. In addition to co-hosting the monthly webinar series on the ‘climate-fisheries nexus’, SMARTNET will convene a theme session at the AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, in February 2026. The session, titled *‘Innovative and Climate-Informed Technologies for Marine Fisheries and Ecosystem Management’* will be chaired by Dave Reid and Steven Bograd, along with Bryony Townhill from the Center for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, UK, and Student/Early Career Chair, Olusola Adeoye from Nature Cares resources centre, Nigeria.

SMARTNET has also proposed to co-host two Workshops at the PICES-2026 Annual Meeting in Nanaimo, BC, Canada, in October 2026. The first, *‘Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Communication Strategies to Advance Climate-Informed Fisheries Management’*, aims to facilitate stakeholder engagement and establish effective communications pathways to implement climate-informed fisheries management, building upon this year’s ICES-ASC Session and PICES-2025 Workshop. The second Workshop, titled *‘Weaving knowledge systems to co-design transdisciplinary and actionable solutions’*, will also build upon this year’s PICES-2025 Workshop on co-designing science in SIDS and will be led again by SMARTNET ECOPs Naya Sena and Raphael Roman. We hope to see many of our SMARTNET members and collaborators at these events in 2026!

Networking will also continue to be a primary activity in 2026. SMARTNET will continue to build our Networks with other Ocean Decade Actions in the ‘climate-fisheries nexus’, with the CR-DCC, and with our Decade-endorsed Projects. We anticipate virtual meetings of the SMARTNET Co-Chairs, the SMARTNET Steering Committee, and our Network partners beginning early in the New Year. We are very excited to work next year with Catherine, our Coordinator from China (ODCC), who will be a tremendous help in accomplishing our goals.

We hope to see many of you at our upcoming SMARTNET and ICES/PICES events, and we welcome ideas and thoughts from all of you on how best to move SMARTNET forward in the coming year. Thank you all for your support of SMARTNET in 2025, and we look forward to a productive and rewarding 2026!

Happy New Year from your SMARTNET Co-Chairs!

Steven Bograd, Dave Reid, Sanae Chiba



Appendix A

PICES AP-UNDOS Terms of Reference

1. Define and promote the joint scientific activities of PICES and partner organizations (including [ICES](#)) that will contribute to UN Ocean Decade societal outcomes.
2. Implement the SmartNet Programme (in partnership with ICES), organize its activities and partnerships, monitor its progress, and communicate updates to the PICES community.
3. Implement a strategy that prioritizes engagement with early career ocean professionals, indigenous communities, developing nations, and recognizes the importance of promoting diversity and gender equity in our activities; Coordinate with [FUTURE SSC](#), [AP-ECOP](#) and [AP-SciCom](#) to develop these strategies.
4. Develop recommendations for new UN Ocean Decade activities for endorsement by [UNESCO-IOC](#), with new and existing partners, allowing for participation of additional partners throughout the Decade.
5. Develop recommendations for new and existing PICES Expert Groups to implement and maintain SmartNet and UN Ocean Decade activities and encourage and support Expert Group participation in all aspects of the UN Ocean Decade.

Appendix B

SMARTNET & AP-UNDOS 2025 Accomplishments

Completed

1. Conducted SmartNet Co-Chairs call, 2025 planning ([Jan 2025](#))
2. Email correspondence with DCO-Ocean Data Sharing for SmartNet, SUPREME ([Feb 2025](#))
3. Completed PICES AP-UNDOS 2024 Annual Report ([Feb 2025](#))
4. Provided reviews to IOC of Project proposals for SmartNet, SUPREME ([Mar 2025](#))
5. Submitted themes for 09/2025 UNDOS call for Project proposals for SmartNet, SUPREME ([Mar 2025](#))
6. Participated in ICES Science Committee virtual meeting for PICES, SmartNet ([Mar 2025](#))
7. Completed DCO communication strategy survey for SmartNet, SUPREME ([Mar 2025](#))
8. Monthly SUPREME Coordination Team meetings ([2025](#))
9. Arranged SmartNet-sponsored ICES-2025 session ([Apr 2025](#))
10. Prepared climate-fisheries nexus presentation for OOSC in France ([May 2025](#))
11. Several SmartNet-endorsed activities at OOSC, UNOC3 in France ([Jun 2025](#))
12. Gave SmartNet, SUPREME presentation at DCC-CR virtual Program Committee meeting ([Jul 2025](#))
13. Email correspondences with several UNDOS Projects seeking endorsement under SUPREME or SmartNet ([Jul 2025](#))
14. Correspondence between SmartNet and Decade Capacity Development Facility ([Jul 2025](#))
15. Call between SUPREME and endorsed UNDOS Project ‘Building Coastal Resilience Against Climate Change’ ([Jul 2025](#))
16. Call between SUPREME and potential UNDOS Project ‘Macaronesia’ ([Jul 2025](#))
17. SmartNet participation in ICES-ASC in Klaipeda, Lithuania; ICES SmartNet sub-group established [SciCom, Theme Session] ([Sep 2025](#))
18. SmartNet Chairs nominations for Decade Advisory Board from PICES, ICES ([Oct 2025](#))
19. Reviewed, edited SmartNet, SUPREME entries on UNDOS Ocean Matcher ([Oct 2025](#))
20. AP-UNDOS pre-PICES-2025 call ([Oct 2025](#))
21. Provided IOC with reviews of 2025 UNDOS Project proposals for SmartNet ([Oct 2025](#))
22. AP-UNDOS / SmartNet activities at PICES-2025; hosted Workshops 1 and 8 ([Nov 2025](#))
23. Prepared and submitted PICES-2026 SmartNet-sponsored workshop proposals ([Nov 2025](#))
24. Reviewed 10 UNDOS Project proposals for SUPREME ([Dec 2025](#))
25. Prepared *PICES Press* articles for PICES-2025 Workshops 1, 8 ([Dec 2025](#))
26. Reviewed PICES-2026 session and workshop proposals for AP-UNDOS ([Dec 2025](#))

Appendix C

SMARTNET & AP-UNDOS 2026 Task List

Active

1. Re-configure SmartNet Steering Committee from AP-UNDOS, ICES sub-group (**Dec 2025**)
2. Integrate SmartNet coordinator (**2026**)
3. SmartNet, SUPREME Project synergy summaries (**2026**)
4. SmartNet & SUPREME Project endorsed project & SSC calls, periodic newsletters (**2026**)
5. *NPJ Sustainability* papers (**Mar 2026**)
6. UNDOS 2027 Conference proposals (**2026**)
7. Consolidate task teams on priority actions; Develop FishSCORE WG (**2026**)
8. Revise/maintain SmartNet web presence on UNDOS site and PICES platform (intern): (**2026**)
<https://forum.oceandecade.org/ventures?block-filters%5Bfulltext%5D=SMARTNET>
9. Develop criteria for SmartNet/SUPREME Project endorsement ala ML2030 (**2026**)
10. DCC-CR Program Committee activities (SmartNet, SUPREME) (**2026**)
11. DCC and endorsed Projects collaborations & activities (FishGLOB, GPIB, etc) (**2026**)
12. Follow up on SmartNet-SIDS engagement (**2026**)
13. Contribute to UNDOS Global Surveys (**2026**)
14. Planning and organization of Workshops with DCC support (**2026**)