



SOFE-AP: Role, Objectives and Products

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FUTURE AP tasking – AICE, COVE and SOFE

In the first year, the tasks of the FUTURE Advisory Panels are to:

- Establish a list of specific FUTURE priority topics, activities and products for review by the Science Board;
- Work with the existing expert groups associated with FUTURE to review and revise, if needed, their Terms of Reference;
- Work with the Scientific and Technical Committees and the PICES community to identify gaps in the priorities and activities of the expert groups and to provide recommendations to the Science Board;
- Coordinate with the Scientific and Technical Committees in developing Terms of Reference for new expert groups to be part of FUTURE; and



FUTURE AP tasking – SOFE only

- NPESR
 - Coordinate with the Editors of the next version of the North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report and advise on how the Report should be updated in the future.
- Review/develop user characteristics / requirements for FUTURE
 - Work with the Communication Study Group and the Study Group on Human Dimensions of Environmental Change to commence the review of user characteristics for FUTURE products.
- Recommend expert groups
 - to identify major sources of uncertainty and impediments to improving the skill of assessments and forecasts, suggest research areas for priority development, and provide coordination of potential PICES products.
- provide for PICES final peer review
 - on information and interpretations
- Provide recommendations/directions on outreach
 - Using output from SG-COM and other sources



SOFE – Tasks - Summary

- The Advisory Panel on *Status, Outlooks, Forecasts, and Engagement* (SOFE) is focused on identifying major sources of uncertainty and impediments to improving the skill of assessments and forecasts, suggesting research areas for priority development, and providing coordination of potential PICES products. SOFE will provide for a PICES final peer review on information and interpretations, and work on how to engage potential users of North Pacific ecosystem and climate information, including the quality of information and uncertainty.



SOFE – key expert groups

- joint PICES/ICES Working Group on *Forecasting Climate Change Impacts on Fish and Shellfish* ([WG-FCCIFS](#))
- Study Group on *Human Dimensions of Environmental Change* [SG- HD](#)
- Study Group on *Communications* (SG-COM)
 - Final report recently completed



SOFE - Challenges

- New subject areas for PICES (Outlooks, Forecasts and Engagement)
 - Which forecasts are required AND achievable?
 - Do we have the expertise and capacity?
 - Is there sufficient funding?
- Technically and scientifically challenging tasks
 - Developing ecosystem forecasts and assessing skill!
 - We are not alone here – other APs are facing some tough issues
- Peer Review
 - Increasingly difficult as the breadth of products increases (e.g. ecosystem status and forecasts; environmental change and impacts on society)
- Some of this is URGENT
 - Deadlines (e.g. IPCC AR5) are close



SOFE – Pressing/Urgent issues

- Design and implement a peer review process for the PICES Report to the Cohen Commission
 - Report will be completed in early September and reviews are required by the end of September
- Develop an outreach/engagement strategy for the NPESR2
 - Report is now being printed
 - Outreach/Engagement is required to ensure that the work has IMPACT
- Develop an outreach/engagement strategy for the Working Group 19 Report on *Ecosystem-based management science and its application to the North Pacific*
- Complete SOFE Workplan



SOFE – Peer Review

- Which publications need peer review?
 - Status Reports?
 - Other PICES scientific reports?
 - Advice to external parties?
- How do we manage the peer review process?
 - Subject area expertise/balance
 - PICES contracting party balance?
 - Timeliness?
 - Quality
- Mandatory reading on peer review (Muir Russell Report on leaked emails)
 - (URL here) See Appendix 5