

**Report of Working Group 35 on the Third North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report
at the intersessional meeting 9-11 April 2017, NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center,
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA**

The Working Group on the North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report (WG-35) met for the first time at the 2017 intersessional meeting in Honolulu (see endnote 1 for meeting participants). The primary objectives of the meeting were to:

1. review the progress of the implementation plan developed by the NPESR Study Group,
2. clarify the role and remit of the members involved in the production of the NPESR3,
3. refine the implementation plan to meet the milestones set for the PICES annual meeting in 2017 and 2018,
4. introduce the naming convention for the North Pacific regions following the Science Board decision to identify by number (Figure 1),
5. identify and confirm the lead authors for the 15 regional assessments,
6. determine a format and content structure for each regional assessment,
7. clarify the procedure for submitting the Ecosystem Time Series Observations (ETSOs) and select a coordinator from each PICES nation to get these data submitted to the NPESR database via the on-line portal.

As PICES Science Board recognized that no single existing classification system met the PICES needs a modified biogeographical classification system of 15 regions around the North Pacific has been adopted. As the biogeographical system represents an amalgamation of several other conventions these regions are identified as PICES regions 11 to 25 (Figure 1).

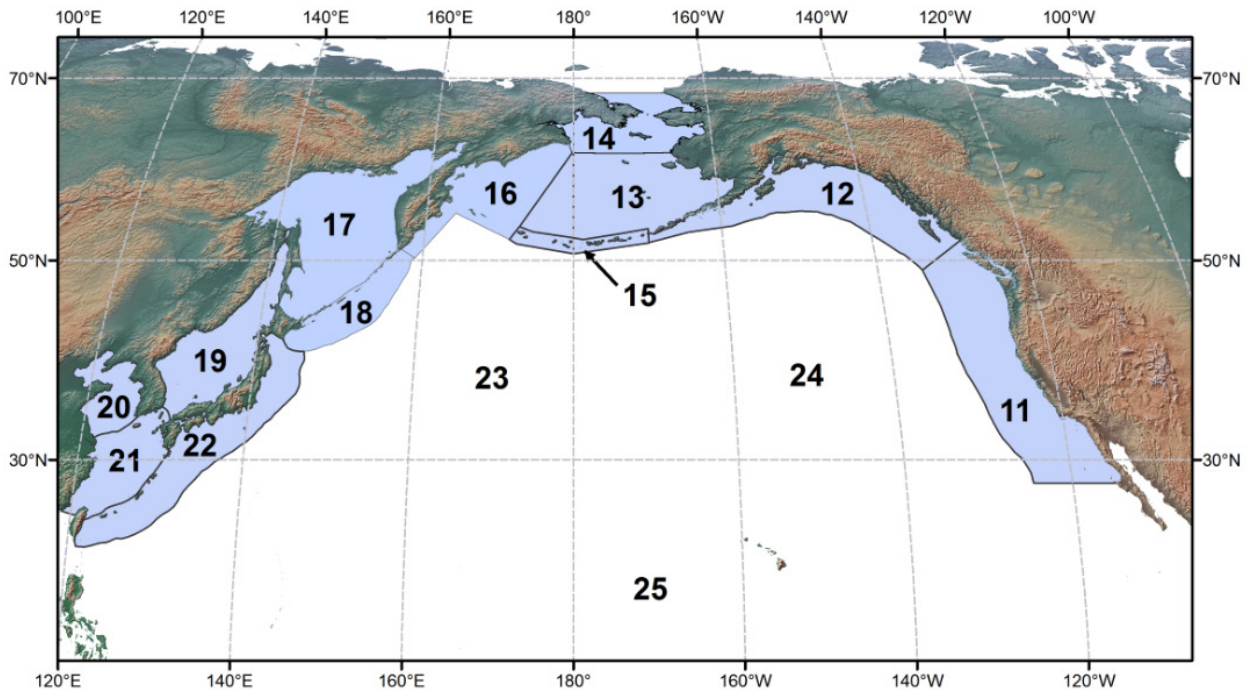


Figure 1. The biogeographical regions and numbering convention recommended by the Study Group and approved by PICES Science Board at PICES-2016 for the Third North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report.

After discussion it was agreed that changes to the implementation schedule provided by the Study Group (SG-NPESR3) were needed to address the:

1. Underestimation of time required to select members of working group,
2. Additional time required to setup an ETSO management system and customize it for PICES, and
3. Lack of clear process on how to access researchers with data, and provide them instruction on how they can submit their ETSO.

The schedule for the revised implementation plan is shown as Table 1.

Task	Responsible	2017					2018					2019											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
SG NPESR spreadsheet ETSOs submitted	WG-35 nation rep	█	█	█	█	█																	
confirm lead authors	co-chairs		█																				
invite and confirm contributing authors	lead authors			█																			
carryout analysis by authors	authors				█																		
PICES 2017 status report for regional assessments	lead authors					█																	
editorial board review of draft regional assessment	editorial board						█	█															
revise regional assessment as required	authors						█	█	█														
final regional assessments to Monitor, FUTURE	co-chairs							█	█														
confirm lead authors of synthesis report, prepare workshop	co-chairs								█	█													
publish regional assessments	PICES secretariat									█													
NPESR-3 synthesis workshop at ISB	WG-35, authors										█												
complete writing of synthesis report	WG-35, authors											█	█										
revise synthesis report after review by editorial board	authors													█									
submit final synthesis report to parent committees	co-chairs														█								
publish NPESR-3	PICES secretariat															█	█						
write and submit WG-35 report	co-chairs, WG-35																					█	

Table 1. Revised implementation schedule for NPESR-3.

The critical step of identifying Lead Authors for each of the PICES regions was initiated and Table 2 shows the Lead Authors and their associated PICES region. The assessment for Human Dimensions was considered better addressed in a national rather than biogeographical framework and is consequently categorised by itself, with Keith Criddle as Lead Author.

PICES Region	Lead Author
11	Bill Sydeman
12	Stephani Zador, Steve Kasperski
13	Elizabeth Siddon
14	Matt Baker
15	Ivonne Ortiz
16	Kirill Kivva
17	Yury Zuenko
18	Hiroshi Kuroda
19	Vyacheslav Lobanov
20	Sinjaee Yoo
21	Yu Fei
22	Kazuaki Tadokoro
23	Tsuneo Ono
24	Sonia Batten
Human dimensions	Keith Criddle

Table 2. NPESR-3 Lead Authors and the corresponding PICES regions.

To support Lead Authors in developing the regional assessments a web-based system to submit Ecosystem Times Series Observations (ETSOs) has been provided <https://pices.submittable.com/>. Representatives from each nation have been identified to facilitate the submission of ETSOs and access to these ETSOs by the Lead Authors (see Table 3).

Nation	ETSO coordinator
Canada	Peter Chandler
China	Guangshui Na
Japan	Kazuaki Tadokoro
Korea	Dong-Jin Kang
Russia	Vladimir Kulik
USA	Jeanette Gann

Table 3. Ecosystem Times Series Observations (ETSO) Coordinators and the corresponding PICES nations.

The following gives the proposed outline for the regional assessments based on the previous North Pacific Ecosystem Status reports, and the emerging science relevant to the 2009-2016 time period of interest.

Highlights

Introduction

Atmosphere

(temperature, sea level press, river inputs)

Physical Ocean

(Currents, hydrography/stratification,
seasonal sea ice)

Chemical Ocean

(oxygen, nutrients, OA)

Phytoplankton

Biomass
Productivity
HABS

Zooplankton

Microzooplankton
Mesozooplankton
Ichthyoplankton
Gelatinous zooplankton

Fishes and Invertebrates

Species Composition/Diversity
Catch and Biomass
Distribution
Recruitmen

Benthos

Biogenic habitat (e.g. eelgrass, coral)

Marine Birds

Marine Mammals

Pollutants/Contaminants

Human Dimensions

Catch value, Fisheries participation/employment, Aquaculture (production volume, value)

Climate Change, Ecosystem Considerations & Emerging Issues

The time period between the intersessional meeting in April 2017 and the 2017 PICES annual meeting in Vladivostok in September will be used to increase the number of submitted ETSOs, and prepare preliminary drafts for each of the regional assessments. At PICES 2017 WG-35 will work with the PICES Technical Committee on Data Exchange (TCODE) to ensure the ETSO data base complies with PICES data management policies.

Endnote 1: WG-35 NPESR-3 intersessional meeting (April 9-11, 2017) participants

1. Sinjae Yoo, Co-chair (KOR)
2. Peter Chandler, Co-chair (CAN)
3. Hiroaki Saito (PICES)
4. Robin Brown (PICES)
5. Hal Batchelder (PICES)
6. Stephanie Zador (USA)
7. Slava Lobanov (RUS)
8. Igor Shevchenko (RUS)
9. Guangshui Na (CHINA)
10. Steve Kasperski (USA)
11. Keith Criddle (USA)
12. Se-Jong Ju (KOR)
13. Dong-Jin Kang (KOR)
14. Joon-Soo Lee (KOR)
15. Steven Bograd (USA)
16. Sukyung Kang (KOR)
17. Jennifer Boldt (CAN)
18. Matt Baker (USA; participated by WebEx)
19. Jeannette Gann (USA; participated by WebEx)
20. Vladimir Kulik (RUS; participated by WebEx, briefly on Day 1)