

REPORT OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

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The Publication Committee met in Vladivostok on October 11 and 14, 1999. Participants in both meetings were Drs. Warren S. Wooster (Interim Chairman), Howard J. Freeland, Vyacheslav B. Lobanov, and Stewart (Skip) M. McKinnell. Dr. Takashige Sugimoto attended the first meeting; Mr. Simon Richert (Elsevier) attended the second. The following matters were discussed.

Status of present publications: Annual Reports; Scientific Reports; PICES Press

Annual Reports are published each year within a few months of the Annual Meetings. They continue to grow in size as work of the organization increases. *Scientific Reports* are occasional technical reports that are usually proposed by one of the Scientific Committees or Program and approved by Science Board. Costs of these and other publications are not trivial, so the number of such reports must be limited. The newsletter, *PICES Press*, appears twice a year.

The quality of these publications is high. They constitute a vital component of the PICES program of information dissemination. The question of electronic publication is considered under item 4.

Treatment of papers submitted to Annual Meetings, extended abstracts, proceedings

In order to increase the availability of extended abstracts of papers to be presented at Annual Meetings, it is proposed that they initially be submitted in electronic form and posted on the PICES Home Page. Local Organizing Committees should then arrange to have a suitable number of copies printed for distribution at

the meetings. It was generally agreed that proceedings of the scientific sessions would be too expensive to produce and unnecessary when extended abstracts are available through the web. Utility of the compilations of short abstracts produced by the Secretariat and available at the meetings would be greatly improved if they were indexed.

Peer-reviewed scientific journal, alternatives (e.g., *Progress in Oceanography*)

While such a journal would have value in advertising the work of PICES, it is probably not necessary for publication of significant papers and would be expensive to produce. For the time being, use of special issues of established journals, such as *Progress in Oceanography* or *Fisheries Oceanography*, seems a good way for publication of papers from selected symposia. Mr. Richert expressed the satisfaction of Elsevier with the recent publication of the PICES Science Board Symposium on "Ecosystem dynamics in the eastern and western gyres of the subarctic Pacific" and suggested procedures that will facilitate production of future issues – e.g., designation of a central point of contact for information exchange, establishment at an early date of the number of papers and a time table for receipt and review of manuscripts, etc. Detailed instructions are being revised and will soon be available.

Electronic publication: merits, costs, and application

The PICES Home Page is already used for dissemination of many PICES abstracts, reports, and other publications, and this use will increase. As proposed above (item 2), the web would be an appropriate place to

post extended abstracts for the Annual Meetings. Consideration should be given to producing a CD-ROM version of the collected extended abstracts for those who would find this format convenient.

Translation of recommended scientific papers

When there is a clear demand from a Scientific Committee for translation into English of a work of exceptional merit, and this recommendation is endorsed by the Science Board, the Secretariat should determine the most effective way for this to be accomplished. Timely and accurate translation is expensive, so the requirement may be difficult to meet within current budgetary constraints. Assistance from member states with a translation capability would be particularly helpful.

Other matters: Editorial Board; special publication for 10th Anniversary

The current Publication Committee could serve as an Editorial Board. The Committee should continue to have a member from each country from whom a chairman would be elected. The Committee would report to the Science Board and would keep under review the publication policy of PICES. It was agreed that Dr. Howard J. Freeland should be asked to serve as Chairman from the end of PICES VIII.

Proposals are under consideration for a special publication in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Organization. The Committee was generally in favour of the idea, but felt that additional information on the nature and contents of such a publication are needed before the Committee can formulate a recommendation. It was also suggested that the Science Board consider the utility of publishing lists of selected papers, nominated by member states, that reflect scientific accomplishments of the past decade that could be attributed to the existence of PICES.