

2016 Governing Council Decisions

The following decisions were taken at the Intersessional Governing Council Meeting in Hangzhou, China, June 1 and 2, 2016:

DECISION [2016/A/1]: Revising the Strategic Plan

- i. Council reviewed the progress of the Study Group on Revising the Strategic Plan and accepted the draft plan subject to:
 - Minor changes in wording of Goals 3 and 4
 - Removal of flags from the front cover
 - Replacement of some background images with alternative images provided by Japan, Korea, China and Russia
 - Final approval by correspondence by the end of August, 2016.
- ii. Council agreed to introduce the new Strategic Plan at PICES-2016.
- iii. Council determined that Study Group on Revising the Strategic Plan (SG-RSP) has completed its work and is disbanded

DECISION [2016/A/2]: PICES Logo

Council adopted the revised logo as the official logo for PICES.

DECISION [2016/A/3]: PICES Chair Award

Council tasked the Executive Secretary and the Finance and Administration Committee to develop Terms of Reference and procedures for a new award to recognize sustained contributions to the management and operations of PICES. The first recipients of the award will be named at PICES-2016.

DECISION [2016/A/4]: Changes to PICES Staff Rules

- i. Council adopted the following revised Staff Rules:
 - a) Staff Rule 17(b)
The starting salary shall be established according to the principles of Staff Rule 16.
 - b) Staff Rule 18
The Executive Secretary may recommend to the Council approval for the reclassification of staff on the basis of changes to the assigned work.
 - c) Staff Rule 22
Employees shall earn annual leave at the rates provided in each of the relevant collective agreements of the public sector of the host State.
 - d) Staff Rule 39(a)
Severance pay will be paid to staff in accordance with the appropriate group collective agreement of the public sector of the host State; and
- ii. Council directed the Executive Secretary to draft a recourse provision for consideration by the Finance and Administration Committee at PICES-2016.
- iii. Council directed the Executive Secretary to draft changes to the Home Leave and Relocation (Staff Rule 31) for consideration by the Finance and Administration Committee at PICES-2016.
- iv. The Executive Secretary was tasked to develop an internal recognition/award program for Secretariat staff for consideration by the Finance and Administration Committee at PICES-2016

DECISION [2016/A/5]: Data Management Policy

Council tasked the Finance and Administration Committee to develop a Data Management Policy for PICES, working closely with the Technical Committee on Data Exchange to prepare a scoping document for consideration at PICES-2016.

DECISION [2016/S/1]: Inter-sessional symposia/session/workshops and meetings

Council approved the following activities:

Activity	Dates	Location	PICES Role	Support to be provided
ICES Ocean Acidification Workshop	December, 2016 (dates TBD)	Copenhagen, Denmark	Co-convenor	Up to three PICES representatives to be supported
Station P – 60 year anniversary Workshop	December, 2016	Sidney, Canada	Co-sponsor	Support for two invited speakers, including one from the Asian side
ESSAS Open Science Meeting	December, 2016	Tromso, Norway	Co-sponsor	Support for ECS and invited speakers (detailed request to be presented at PICES-2016)
Capacity-Building: PICES Summer School- “ <i>Advanced survey approaches for broad scale fishery independent surveys of fish and their habitat</i> ”.	Summer, 2017 (dates TBD)	USA (location TBD)	Sponsor	Support for Early Career Scientists plus lecturers.
SCOR Working Group – Eastern Boundary Currents	TBD – typically a three year time span	TBD	Associate Member	Support for 1 PICES Associate Member if this Working Group is approved by SCOR

DECISION [2016/S/2]: Publications

- i. The FUTURE Phase II Implementation Plan was approved for publication as a web-based document
- ii. The request for financial support for Open Access publication for a review article entitled “*Fukushima Daiichi–Derived Radionuclides in the Ocean: Transport, Fate, and Impacts*” was supported. This article is considered to be an important contribution of the collaboration between PICES WG 30 on *Assessment of Marine Environmental Quality of Radiation around the North Pacific* and SCOR WG 146, *Radioactivity in the Ocean, 5 Decades Later (RiO5)*. The costs for Open Access publication are shared with SCOR.
- iii. While noting the bilateral meetings specified in Decision 2013/S/4 (iv), Council approved the publication of the Supplementary Chapter of the Second North Pacific Ecosystem Status report and requested that the copy-editing of this report be given a high priority.
- iv. Council requested that the Finance and Administration Committee, working in conjunction with the Science Board, develop policy regarding Open Access publication for PICES publications in peer-reviewed journals for review at PICES-2016.

DECISION [2016/S/3]: New Expert Groups

The following expert groups, with terms of reference as described in GC Appendix B, were established:

- i. A Working Group to complete the Third North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report (WG-NPESR3)
- ii. An Advisory Panel on Marine Non-Indigenous Species (AP-NIS), subject to revised Terms of Reference

GC Appendix B

Working Group on Third North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report (WG-NPESR3)

Acronym: WG- NPESR3

Parent Committees: MONITOR and FUTURE SSC

Co-Chairs: TBD

Membership: TBD

Term: May 2016 – Nov 2017 (anticipated report by PICES-2017 or ISB-2018)

Motivation

This Working Group will conduct the synthesis of the foundational Environmental Time Series Observations (ETSOs). According to the schedule and duties described in the NPESR Implementation Plan (Qingdao, October 2015), the WG will coordinate and communicate with the SG-NPESR3, the NPESR Editorial Board, and other concerned parties to effect an orderly transition of duties as the work of the Study Group is concluded after PICES-2016.

Following PICES-2016, the Working Group will work with the Editorial Board and the authors of the individual ETSOs to develop regional syntheses, culminating in a North Pacific synthesis. Following production of the North Pacific synthesis, the WG will serve as editors for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Resource Ecology and Ecosystem Modeling project as it produces the regional syntheses and these are combined into a web-published NPESR3. At the pleasure of the Editorial Board, the Science Board and Governing Council, the Working Group may participate in developing and producing NPESR publications in other formats. For definition of items listed in the terms of reference and more precise scheduling information please refer to the Third Ecosystem Status Report Implementation Plan:

<http://www.pices.int/publications/other/members/SG-NPESR-3-Third%20Ecosystem%20Status%20Report%20Implementation%20Plan%20October%2016%202015.pdf> .

Terms of Reference

1. Consult with the Editorial Board and SG-NPESR3 on the selection of authors to be included in the NPESR3 syntheses;
2. Lead the authors of the NPESR3 in regional synthetic analyses of trends in ETSOs of the individual North Pacific ecosystems as determined by the WG in consultation with the Editorial Board and the Science Board;
3. Convene the North Pacific Synthesis Workshop (2017) to include the working group members and the authors of the ETSOs to develop an overarching synthesis of North Pacific Ecosystems in formats to be determined by WG, the Editorial Board, and the Science Board;
4. Work with the Editorial Board (or its designees) to edit sections of the NPESR3 as they are produced;
5. Lead the production of the Third North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report in cooperation with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Resource Ecology and Ecosystem Modeling.

Advisory Panel on Marine Non-indigenous Species (AP-NIS)

Acronym: AP-NIS

Parent Committees: MEQ

Co-Chairs: TBD

Membership: TBD

Term: Review period to be determined by Parent Committee

Background

As early as PICES' Thirteenth Annual Meeting (2004, Honolulu, USA), the importance of understanding the impact of transport processes on species distribution in the North Pacific was noted when MEQ held a Topic Session, co-sponsored by ICES, on "*Natural and anthropogenic introductions of marine species*". Discussions at that session called for the establishment of a PICES working group, which would work closely with ICES invasive species working groups. At the following Annual Meeting in 2005 (Vladivostok, Russia), an MEQ Workshop, co-sponsored by ICES, on "*Introduced species in the North Pacific*" kicked off the Working Group on *Non-indigenous Aquatic Species* (WG 21). The importance of non-indigenous marine species was further emphasized at PICES' Sixteenth Annual Meeting when it was announced that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan would fund a 5-year project (2007–2012) on the "*Development of the prevention systems for harmful organisms' expansion in the Pacific Rim*". One component of this project was on marine non-indigenous species (MNIS) and WG 21 was tasked to develop a comprehensive database and Atlas of MNIS of the North Pacific.

Since marine NIS represent a current and persistent risk to PICES member countries, the NIS database and other accomplishments of WG 21 have positioned PICES to better comprehend and advance marine NIS topics, including emerging vectors (*e.g.*, vessel biofouling, ballast water, tsunami/marine debris), altered species distributions, risk assessment, and interactions/impacts on marine ecosystems (including structure, function, productivity, and resilience). There is also a strong linkage to FUTURE and to the North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report, and there is considerable interest about how projected global climate change will affect the introduction, spread and impacts of NIS in the North Pacific so risk identification can be undertaken to inform potential mitigation measures by PICES member countries. ICES and NOWPAP are also interested in identifying specific NIS vectors or taxa of common interest to PICES member countries. At the end of its term, WG 21 looked at several options for PICES' continued involvement in marine NIS, and recommended that an Advisory Panel on *Marine Non-indigenous Species* be established.

Terms of Reference

1. Continue to share information on marine non-indigenous species (NIS) in the North Pacific *via* an updated NIS database;
2. Exchange information on updated regulations/policy, best practices for monitoring, early detection, rapid response, and control/containment options;
3. Develop a better understanding of changing distributions of NIS and invasion pathways and vectors in the context of global climate change including expected changes in water temperature, salinity, oxygen, and $p\text{CO}_2$;
4. Plan workshops/sessions/symposia related to NIS topics. (For example a joint PICES/ICES Theme Session on "The increasing importance of biofouling for marine invasions: an ecosystem altering mechanism" was held at the 2014 ICES Annual Science Conference.);
5. Work with other international, intergovernmental organizations (*e.g.*, IMO, ICES, NOWPAP and WESTPAC) and/or countries to accomplish these terms of reference, especially those related to data/information exchange;
6. Publish regular reports on accomplishments.