

2024 September Intersessional Governing Council Meeting Report and Decisions

Governing Council (hereafter GC or Council) met online from 16:00-18:20 on September 18 (PDT) under the Chairmanship of Enrique Curchitser.

Decisions taken by Council are indicated in **bold** text below.

All member countries were represented at the meeting (IGC Endnote 1).

IGC Agenda Item 1. The External Review Committee report and discussion.

The External Review Committee (ERC) report was circulated to Council on July 31. The ERC Chair, Eileen Hofmann, presented an overview of the ERC's process and main recommendations in the report to Council. The PICES Chair thanked the ERC for their work and then opened the floor for questions and discussion. National delegates also thanked the ERC and commented on the thoroughness of the report. Following the discussion the ERC were invited to leave and Council discussed the next steps.

Action: GC determined that the report can be accepted now, as-is, and shared publicly with the PICES community. The Chair will write an introductory paragraph to attach to the report and the Executive Secretary will organize posting it on the website and communicating the release. Council also wanted a note of thanks to be sent to the ERC on behalf of Council, accepting the report.

It was suggested that in order to pave the way for discussions at PICES-2024, and to be able to make some rapid Decisions on more easily-met recommendations, Council noted that any thoughts from Council members could be sent to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in the Briefing Book ahead of time, or shared within GC by email in advance of the GC meeting.

Council wanted an opportunity to collect responses to the report before the Annual Meeting. Although the Special Panel will be held on the final day of PICES-2024 this is quite a short event and will also not allow people who are not there to provide feedback. The Committees will also be discussing the Report at their business meetings and will provide a summary of their feedback to Science Board.

Action: The Executive Secretary will set up a survey to collect responses which will be opened when the report is made public. The responses will be shared with GC, although as yet the number of responses is unknown and if too many, sorting and summarizing may not be done before the annual meeting.

IGC Agenda Item 2. Special Panel at PICES-2024

The draft Special Panel outline as recommended by Science Board was reviewed. Council determined that more external speakers were desired and, if possible, a Panel be generated with an even split between outside and inside PICES Panel members.

Action: Cisco Werner agreed to approach some external candidates to represent the Pacific Community and the fisheries management sector.

A draft list of names will be prepared in the next few days and circulated.

IGC Agenda Item 3. PICES Revised Data Management Policy

Council determined that the wording should be changed to refer to a “revised” policy, not a “new” policy. It was also recommended that the policy be reviewed more regularly to make sure it is sufficient for emerging data types.

GC Decision 2024/S/8 Council approved the adoption of the revised data policy.

IGC Agenda Item 4 Working Group ONCE-CN.

The revised WG proposal was reviewed. Council determined that the proposal was interesting but could not yet be accepted in its current form and had a number of comments and suggestions for a revision:

- The introduction contains some strong language about technology development and promotion in the bullet points that are outside of a typical PICES WG scope and are also not reflected in the deliverables. The deliverables are more in-line with expected WG capabilities. It is suggested that the terms of reference reflect PICES mission towards scientific understanding of the North Pacific Ocean.
- The terms of reference seem aspirational and unlikely to be achieved within three years. A timeline of deliverables for each year should be included. Terms of reference should be refocussed on PICES science.
- Council understood that this is a collaboration with GLOBAL-ONCE but that the WG ToR should focus only on PICES activities.
- The MEQ Committee should be asked for their input and to see if this is also a relevant WG for them to co-sponsor.

IGC Agenda Item 5. New Data Sharing Award

The proposed new award description and criteria were reviewed. There was discussion about the need for both long-term monitoring and data sharing awards. It was also noted that although nominations may be invited each year, the award will not be given each year if there is no suitable applicant.

GC Decision 2024/S/9 Council approved the addition of the PICES Open Data Excellence Award (PODA) to be awarded to individuals, groups, or organizations who have demonstrated exceptional innovation in the field of open science, data sharing, and FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable; Wilkinson et al., 2016) in support of the PICES community. The Open Data Excellence Award is bestowed in honor of the respected Dr. Igor Shevchenko, who for many years was deeply involved in national and international data sharing activities.

GC Endnote 1**Delegation list of participants for the September 2024 Intersessional Governing Council meeting**

<u>Canada</u> Andrew Thomson Bernard Vigneault	<u>Russian Federation</u> Oleg Katugin (Alternate)
<u>Japan</u> Katsutoshi Ishikawa Tetsuo Fujii Yutaka Hiroe (Advisor, F&A member) Natsumi Ohkawa (Advisor)	<u>USA</u> Cisco Werner Jack Barth Amanda Williams (Advisor, F&A member)
<u>People's Republic of China</u> Antao Wang Fangli Qiao (also External Review Committee member) Jingping Wang (Advisor) Wei Zheng (Advisor)	<u>Other</u> Enrique Curchitser (PICES Chair) Chul Park (PICES Past Chair) Sonia Batten (Executive Secretary) Sanae Chiba (Deputy Executive Secretary)
<u>Republic of Korea</u> Se-Jong Ju Jiin Kim (Advisor, F&A member) Un-named KIOST (Advisor)	<u>External Review Committee</u> Eileen Hofmann David Checkley Fangli Qiao Jörn Schmidt Sinjae Yoo