



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Sustainability of Marine ecosystems through global knowledge Networks (SmartNet)

Decade Programme

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Lead Institutions

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea ([ICES](#)) & North Pacific Marine Science Organization ([PICES](#))

Key Partners

SmartNet will facilitate partner engagement by leveraging ICES and PICES partners and through creation of a global knowledge network

Decade Challenges Addressed

- CHALLENGE 1: Understand and beat marine pollution
- CHALLENGE 2: Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity
- CHALLENGE 3: Sustainably feed the global population
- CHALLENGE 4: Develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy
- CHALLENGE 5: Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change
- CHALLENGE 6: Increase community resilience to ocean hazards
- CHALLENGE 7: Expand the Global Ocean Observing System
- CHALLENGE 8: Create a digital representation of the Ocean
- CHALLENGE 9: Skills, knowledge and technology for all
- CHALLENGE 10: Change humanity's relationship with the ocean

Ocean Basins

North Atlantic	Indian
South Atlantic	Arctic
North Pacific	Southern
South Pacific	

Summary

SmartNet will establish a global knowledge network (GKN) for ocean science by strengthening and expanding the collaboration of ICES/PICES and partner organizations. It will support and leverage ICES/PICES member countries' activities related to UNDOS, by emphasizing areas of mutual research interest including climate change, fisheries and ecosystem-based management, social, ecological and environmental dynamics of marine systems, coastal communities and human dimensions, and communication and capacity development. It also incorporates strategies to facilitate UNDOS cross-cutting inclusivity themes relating to gender equality, early career engagement, engagement of local and traditional knowledge, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Duration: 01/01/2021 - 31/12/2030

Priority Activities (2025-2028)

- Enhance joint ICES-PICES collaborations through mutual annual science conference, and co-organising international symposia, including SPF 2026, ESC 2027 (TBA), ECCWO 2028 (TBA).
- Advance Climate-Ecosystem-Fisheries Nexus science and management through collaboration with multiple UNDOS programmes and projects.
- Expand capacity sharing opportunities beyond the ICES and PICES Convention Areas, with a particular focus on the Global South and SIDS.
- Inform new UNDOS activities through "Ocean we want" surveys on public perceptions of and priorities for UNDOS outcomes.

"SmartNet will reach far beyond our established networks to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide to generate state-of-the-art advice and evidence for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals."

– ICES-PICES Ocean Decade Steering Committee

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