PICES Human Dimensions Committee

Action Plan 2024-2029

The HD Committee's Key Tasks

Established in 2016, the PICES Human Dimensions (HD) Committee plays a new and important role in the PICES organization and research community.

The Committee's mission is vast. Formally, the HD area of responsibility is to **promote and coordinate interdisciplinary research** that leads to **increased understanding of the relationship** between North Pacific marine ecosystems and the **people, communities, and economies** that are part of those systems and rely on the resources and services they provide.

Particular emphasis will be given to fostering research on:

> (a) **methodological and empirical challenges involved in integrating human dimensions into ecosystem analyses**; and
>
> (b) **exploration of development pathways that are sustainable** from social, economic, and ecological perspectives.

The HD committee will **support the work of other PICES expert groups**, including any integrated science program.

Where other PICES expert groups often consider the impact of human activities on ecosystems, the HD committee will **promote both the consideration of these impacts and how biophysical changes impact the well-being of people, communities, and economies** taking into account their characteristics and values.

In addition, the committee will engage with kindred '**human dimension' initiatives of other organizations** (e.g., ICES[i] and IMBeR[ii], etc.)

Action Planning Essentials

1. We, the members of the PICES HD Committee, recognize the broad range of faculties, disciplines, experts, training, methodologies, and topics included in "HD".
2. The Action Plan must consider the key tasks of HD, and align wherever possible.
3. The Action Plan must consider that HD committee members bring a wide variety of skills and career experiences. This will likely be an ongoing benefit as well as a challenge for the Committee's overall mission.

HD Action Plan

1. Key Task: Promoting interdisciplinary research

Action: Improve HD Committee Integration

I. Determine current Human Dimensions ecosystem-related priorities for each member country. Compare and contrast these across member states to identify key focus areas for HD Committee.
II. Seek more ECOP representation, preferably from each Member Country.
III. Determine the types of approaches being taken in member states to achieve integrated ecosystem analyses or other HD integration. (preferably, by establishing an Expert Group)
IV. Present outcomes and address new questions by hosting a workshop on "Progress for Social Sciences/HD Integration in our Understanding of and Responses to Ecosystem Change" at the PICES Annual Meeting.

Action: Support Transformative Ocean Science in PICES

I. Define and determine areas of possibility in PICES to contribute to 'Transformative Ocean Science', the core concept of UNDOS[iii].
II. Participate to FUTURE SSC and contribute to the planning of Transformative Ocean Science activities within PICES.
III. Support existing and new SGs and WGs from the appropriate HD perspective (i.e. which faculty/expertise) by providing Member State representation (e.g. WG49, WG Human Networks, SciCommm etc.).
IV. Examine outputs from previous HD SGs and WGs. Compile new knowledge or next steps identified by WGs.
V. Link MSEAS2024[iv] Meeting to Annual PICES meeting – i.e. "Highlight sessions" and Key note speakers. Have a central place on the 2025 PICES Annual Meeting agenda.

2. Key Task: Coordinating HD research within PICES

Action: Understand limitations, gaps, and opportunities of HD research in PICES

I. Determine how HD is already involved within PICES and its impact on PICES research to date (e.g. Takemura et al. in review).
II. Acknowledge and communicate the broad range of faculties (biology, ecology, oceanography, chemistry, engineering, economy, geography, anthropology, policy, sustainability science, etc.), disciplines (single discipline, interdisciplinary, cross disciplinary, transdisciplinary), experts (academia, business, professionals, etc.), stakeholders (inter-governmental organizations, government, agency, Non Governmental Organizations, communities, industry sectors, indigenous communities, developing countries, islands countries, etc.), training (summer school, workshop, seminar, dissemination, development and cooperation, etc.), methodologies (DPSIR framework, SES framework, Text analysis,

e.g. For a Fisheries Management focus area results may be used to deliver a new SG to answer questions such as:
a. Examine different management strategies and ways used to organize fisheries including indigenous participation?
b. How are climate change impacts affecting fisheries management?
c. How are member states working with Indigenous Peoples to foster sustainable resource use?

Network analysis, Time series analysis, Geo spatial analysis, Image analysis, smartphone, AI, etc.), and topics (climate change adaptation, transformative ocean science, …, etc.) included in "HD".

III. Work with AP-SciComm to advertise HD opportunities within PICES

3. Key Task: Explore development pathways[vi] from an interdisciplinary lens

Action: Explore this key task at the Committee level

I. Committee level discussions on this Key task to determine opportunities to explore and address development pathways from an interdisciplinary lens.

II. Participate to planning process of ICES-PICES collaboration for UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and contribute to it with Human Dimension lens (AP-UNDOS and SmartNet[v])

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[i] ICES: International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, is the world oldest intergovernmental science organization, which focus on the north Atlantic (https://www.ices.dk/Pages/default.aspx)

[ii] IMBeR: Integrated Marine Biosphere Research, is a Large-Scale Ocean Research Project under SCOR (Scientific Committee on Ocean Research of the International Science Council) and a Global Research Network under Future Earth (https://imber.info/)

[iii] UNDOS: United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, is a 10-year framework initiative to identify, generate and utilise key marine knowledge for sustainable marine management.(https://oceandecade.org/)

[iv] MSEAS2024: the 2nd Marine Socio-Ecological Systems Symposium held in Yokohama in June 2024 focused on management for sustainable use of the Earth's marine and coastal systems. (https://meetings.pices.int/meetings/international/2024/MSEAS/Background)

[v] SmartNet: Sustainability of marine ecosystems through global knowledge networks, is a global knowledge network (GKN) for ocean science by strengthening and expanding the collaboration of ICES, PICES and their partner organizations. (https://www.ices.dk/about-ICES/global-cooperation/Pages/Smartnet.aspx)

[vi] Development pathways evolve as the result of the countless decisions being made and actions being taken at all levels of societal structure, as well due to the emergent dynamics within and between institutions, cultural norms, technological systems and other drivers of behavioural change (annex_i_glossary.pdf (cambridge.org)).

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