

foreword

This report provides an overview of what used to live, what currently lives, and what might yet live in the North Pacific Ocean. It is a contribution to the Census of Marine Life (www.coml.org) and how it might begin to synthesise the results of its large number of regional programs. If you are reading this report electronically, highlighted text is linked to supplemental material on the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) website located at (www.pices.int/publications/special_publications/). The making of this report has involved the efforts of a large number of people – too many to name individually, but the assistance from all is appreciated. Two specific workshops related to this project were convened in 2003. The first occurred in Seoul, Korea from 9-10 October, focussing on the Yellow Sea and East China Sea. It was convened by Dr. Sinjae Yoo and Dr. Hyung-Tack Huh (Korea Oceanographic Research and Development Institute) and Dr. Ian Perry and Dr. Skip McKinnell (PICES). The second workshop, in Victoria, Canada took place from 17-19 November. Its objective was to build on existing information published by PICES to address what is known, unknown and unknowable about marine life in the North Pacific Ocean. This report would not have been possible without the hard work of the PICES Secretariat. In addition, the project benefitted greatly from the activities of PICES to develop an overview of marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean. Finally, we would like to thank the Census of Marine Life Program, the Sloan Foundation, and Mr. Jesse Ausubel for support and guidance throughout the course of this project.

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