

REPORT OF ADVISORY PANEL ON MARINE BIRDS AND MAMMALS



The sixth meeting of the PICES Advisory Panel on *Marine birds and mammals* (hereafter MBM-AP) was held from 14:00–18:00 hours on October 13, 2006. Drs. Hidehiro Kato and William J. Sydeman, MBM-AP Co-Chairmen, called the meeting to order and welcomed the participants (*MBM-AP Endnote 1*). The Panel reviewed the Terms of Reference (*MBM-AP Endnote 2*) to orient the new observers. It was re-iterated that MBM-AP serves to generate interest in seabirds and marine mammals in PICES, and to coordinate multi-disciplinary investigations, symposia and workshops within the PICES community. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved (*MBM-AP Endnote 3*).

MBM-AP Workshop at PICES XV (Agenda Items 3)

A ½-day MBM-AP workshop (co-sponsored by BIO, POC and Hokkaido University Center of Excellence) on “*Responses of marine mammals and seabirds to large-scale and long-term climate change: Mechanisms of environmental forcing*” was convened in the afternoon of October 12, 2006. Eight oral papers and 3 posters were presented. The summary of the workshop can be found in the *Session Summaries* chapter of this Annual Report.

The workshop was very successful. It was noted that an after-workshop meeting and/or dinner would be desirable for continued dialogue, and that posters need more attention and time. A full-day workshop might have been better for discussion. It was pointed out that we are still giving disparate talks, when more integration with each other would be good. The participants concluded that the workshop presentations were not appropriate for publication. While the material was excellent, some of it is already published, and the new material is in the early stages of analysis and interpretation. Integration of bird and mammal experts with climatologists and oceanographers was excellent, but mechanisms of seabird and marine mammal

responses are still poorly understood. There are, however, many aspects of research on marine birds and mammals that provide compelling advantages in looking at climate change impacts on marine ecosystems of the North Pacific.

Publication of previous workshops from PICES XIII and XIV on diet of predators in the North Pacific (Agenda Items 4)

In 2003 and 2004, MBM-AP convened two workshops on combining dietary datasets of marine predators. There are many very good data available, and it is important to highlight them through publication. The Panel believes this work should be resurrected.

Planning for PICES XVI (Agenda Item 5)

MBM-AP will put forth a modified description for a ½-day Topic Session at PICES XVI (to be co-sponsored by BIO, FIS and POC) on “*Phenology and climate change in the North Pacific: Implications of variability in the timing of zooplankton production to fish, seabirds, marine mammals and fisheries (humans)*” (*BIO Endnote 3b*).

MBM-AP membership (Agenda Item 6)

Dr. Sydeman pointed out the good participation in MBM-AP activities by Japanese and U.S. scientists. He also noted the improved involvement of Russian experts. The Panel is concerned by the lack of national participation from other member countries and recommends that:

- China be requested to assign experts on marine mammals (*e.g.*, from the State Oceanic Administration) and seabirds (*e.g.*, from the Forest Service Administration) to the Panel;
- Korea be asked to nominate experts from NFRDI and KORDI to the Panel; Korea is expending research on marine mammals and

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seabirds, and the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem project offers new opportunities.

- Canada be encouraged to designate a seabird expert to serve on the Panel; Canada has many active marine bird research programs, yet the Canadian seabird position on the Advisory Panel has been vacant for 4 years.

Report of the Pacific CPR Program: Marine Bird and Mammal Project (Agenda Item 7)

Dr. Sydeman made a progress report on accomplishments of the Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) Marine Bird and Mammal Project.

Country reports: Climate change and marine birds and mammals (Agenda Item 8)

Dr. Sergey Kornev provided a report on Russian time series and studies.

MBM-AP Endnote 1

Members

Hidehiro Kato (Japan, Co-Chairman)
Sergey Kornev (Russia)
William J. Sydeman (U.S.A., Co-Chairman)
Andrew Trites (Canada)
Yutaka Watanuki (Japan)

Participation list

Observers

Yoko Mitani (Japan)*
Keiko Kato (Japan)*
George L. Hunt (U.S.A.)
Julie Thayer (U.S.A.)

*first MBM-AP meeting attended

MBM-AP Endnote 2

Terms of Reference for Advisory Panel on *Marine birds and mammals*

1. Provide information and scientific expertise to BIO, CCCC/CFAME Program, and when necessary, to other scientific and technical (Standing) committees with regard to the biology and ecological roles of marine mammals and seabirds.
2. Identify important problems, scientific questions, and knowledge gaps in assessing the roles of marine mammals and seabirds in marine ecosystems.
3. Assemble relevant information on the biology of marine mammals and seabirds and disseminate it to the PICES community through scientific reports and symposia.
4. Develop strategies to improve collaborative, interdisciplinary research with marine mammal and seabird researchers and the PICES scientific community.

Suggested additions are underlined and deletions appear in (parenthesis)

Cooperation with IWC (Agenda Item 9)

MBM-AP asks that Dr. Kato be nominated as a PICES representative to the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Terms of Reference–review (Agenda Item 10)

The MBM-AP Terms of Reference were reviewed, and some small modifications are recommended (*MBM-AP Endnote 2*).

Vision Statement–review (Agenda Item 11)

This was not accomplished due to a lack of time.

Other business (Agenda Item 12)

There was a discussion about the PICES North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report, and plan for its revision. In particular, the participants wondered when they could provide comments.

MBM-AP Endnote 3

MBM-AP meeting agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Review of MBM-AP Workshop (W8) at PICES XV on “*Responses of marine mammals and seabirds to large-scale and long-term climate change: Mechanisms of environmental forcing*”
4. Discussion of publication of previous workshops from PICES XIII and XIV on diet of predators in the North Pacific
5. Planning for PICES XVI
6. MBM-AP membership
7. Report of the Pacific CPR Program: Marine Bird and Mammal Project
8. Country reports: Climate change and marine birds and mammal
9. Cooperation with IWC
10. Terms of Reference–review
11. Vision Statement–review
12. Other business

