

REPORT OF STUDY GROUP ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN PICES AND NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

☪

☪

Terms of reference

At PICES XV (October 2006, Yokohama, Japan), a Study Group on *Scientific Cooperation between PICES and Non-member Countries* (hereafter SG-SC) was established under the direction of Governing Council (Decision 06/A/6), with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Study Group will identify options and propose mechanisms for scientific cooperation between PICES and non-member countries, within the current Convention. The options considered will include a review of the ICES “Affiliate Status” arrangement and how it could be adapted to the needs of PICES. Benefits and drawbacks should be identified for each option in terms of the following:
 - scientific objectives of PICES;
 - financial/human resources implications;
 - needed changes to the PICES Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations.
2. The Study Group will assess the benefits and challenges in terms of the scientific objectives of PICES of expanding the “area concerned”, as specified under Article II of the Convention, to the Southern Pacific, and should provide a compilation of all countries’ views on such a change to the Convention.
3. The Study Group should provide its report to Governing Council by August 15, 2007, for consideration at PICES XVI in Victoria (October 2007).

Membership

It was agreed that the Study Group will be chaired by the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee (Dr. Laura Richards), and its membership will include one representative from each Contracting Party, plus a representative from Science Board and a

representative from the Secretariat. The full approved SG-SC membership is listed below:

Harold P. Batchelder (Science Board)
 Alexander Bychkov (PICES Secretariat)
 Alexandra Curtis (U.S.A.)
 Chris Hemmingway (Canada)
 Oleg Katugin (Russia)
 Seok Jin Kang/Kyoung Jin Kim (Korea)
 Hideki Nakano (Japan)
 Laura Richards (Canada, Chairman)

Background

Atmospheric and oceanic processes in regions beyond the PICES area of concern affect North Pacific marine ecosystems and their dynamics. Many of the issues addressed by PICES are not unique to the North Pacific. These realities led to an idea that expanded cooperation between PICES and scientific institutions in other regions of the Pacific Ocean might serve their mutual interests. In recent years, it has become evident that scientists from these regions have the background and expertise to contribute in a meaningful way to PICES activities.

For the past several years, the Organization has attempted to interest Mexico in acceding to the PICES Convention. Details can be found in the 1999–2005 Annual Reports. While Mexican scientists are enthusiastic, no progress was made, perhaps due to economic and other factors. Scientists from other countries (*e.g.*, Australia and New Zealand) also participate relatively regularly in PICES Annual Meetings and make valuable contributions to events. However, these countries would not likely be interested in acceding to the PICES Convention because of the Area of Concern, which is specified in Article II as:

“The area which the activities of the Organization concern shall be the temperate and sub-Arctic region of the North Pacific

Ocean and its adjacent seas, especially northward from 30 degrees North Latitude, hereinafter referred to as the “area concerned”. *Activities of the Organization, for scientific reasons, may extend farther southward in the North Pacific Ocean.*” (emphasis added)

While the Convention allows the scientific activities of PICES to extend beyond the precise boundaries of the area concerned, the Convention does not expressly address activities south of the North Pacific Ocean. Thus, there is limited incentive for countries bordering the South Pacific Ocean to become full members of PICES without changing the Convention. Of course, if PICES continues to grow in prominence in Pacific marine science, others may become more interested in joining in the future.

The current Rules of Procedure allow for non-member State participation in PICES activities as follows:

- As *ex officio* members on Advisory Panels with the endorsement of Science Board and approval of Council (Rule 13(iv));
- As registered participants at Annual Meetings, as attendees at meetings of any group, except where participation has been limited by Council or is limited in the Convention or Rules of Procedure (Rule 20(iv));
- As attendees at Science Board or Finance and Administration Committee meetings upon invitation of the Chairman of Council or the Chairman of Science Board or Finance and Administration Committee, respectively (Rule 20(iii));
- Upon invitation by Council or an Executive Committee, as attendees to all or part of the meeting of Council or Executive Committee (Rule 20(v)).

To be explicit, the current rules do not allow scientists from non-member States to be members of any group except an Advisory Panel. These scientists can attend Annual Meetings and other events, and participate in the discussion and influence the decisions of most committees and groups. However, should a decision come to a vote, they are not eligible to

participate. They are also not eligible for financial support from the PICES Trust Fund.

SG-SC was established to explore options for broadening the scope of scientific participation within PICES and to consider the consequences to the Rules of Procedure and/or Convention that would be required to facilitate this change. In particular, SG-SC was asked to review the ICES model of affiliate status for scientific institutions in non-member States.

View on changes to the PICES Convention

Based on responses from Study Group members, there is no interest at this time in pursuing a discussion around changes to the Convention. SG-SC recommends fully exploring options and mechanisms for broadening participation by non-member State scientists that are possible “within the current PICES Convention” before beginning to explore alternatives that would require modifications to the Convention.

Options for scientific cooperation within the current Convention

Expanding cooperation with other organizations

- a. Organization of symposia, workshops, and publications with appropriate inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or on topics of importance to PICES that would benefit from the expertise of that organization;
- b. Development of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with appropriate IGOs or NGOs that focus on other areas of the Pacific to allow cooperation on topics of importance to PICES that would benefit from the expertise of that organization, *e.g.*, through joint research plans and programs. PICES already has MOUs with ICES, IOC, NPAFC and IPHC.

These options are consistent with current operating arrangements within PICES. The desirability and cost of entering into any such arrangement are reviewed and approved (or rejected) during the annual planning process of Standing Committees and Scientific Programs

and their subsidiary groups, Science Board, Finance and Administration Committee and Council.

Expanding cooperation with non-member States

- a. Inviting scientists of non-member States as speakers at PICES-sponsored events. PICES may contribute to the cost of participation through the budget allocated to that specific event. However, the number of invited speakers is limited, and PICES may choose to give priority to scientists from member States.
- b. Encouraging scientists of non-member States to participate in Annual Meetings and to sit on Advisory Panels as allowed within the current Rules of Procedure. In this case, full costs of participation would be borne by the home State or institute.
- c. Amending the Rules of Procedure to allow scientists from non-member States to serve as members of Standing Committees and their subsidiary groups, Scientific Programs and their subsidiary groups, and Study Groups, as recommended by Science Board and approved by Council. The amended Rules should also specify that affiliate members not be counted toward the quorum of any group.

ICES affiliate model

The ICES affiliate model, based on one institution per country, could be adapted to the PICES structure and requirements. The obligations and conditions of affiliate status could be similar to those specified in the ICES Affiliate Policy document, including a financial contribution as approved by Council to defray additional costs to the Secretariat. The privileges of affiliate status could, with suitable amendments to the Rules of Procedure, include participation on Standing Committees and their subsidiary groups, Scientific Programs and their subsidiary groups, and Study Groups, except as limited by Council. Such participation would be subject to the same limits as for Contracting Parties on numbers of appointees allowed per affiliate, and would normally exclude voting

privileges and the ability to hold chairmanship positions.

Under the ICES affiliate status, “*a named institute or organization in a country is given the responsibility of representing the interests of that country within ICES, and of making all the advantages available to all relevant scientists in that country, not just the people in their own institute. The affiliate countries each pay an annual contribution which is about 1/12 of the minimal national contribution for a Member Nation.*” There are several privileges conferred by acceptance of affiliate status: 1) scientists from affiliates may participate in most subsidiary committees of ICES; 2) participation by scientists representing affiliates in the ICES Annual Science Conference, symposia and publications of ICES shall be in accordance with the same conditions applying to scientists from member countries; and 3) ICES affiliates shall receive copies of a large subset of ICES publications (ICES Annual Report, Research reports, Study/Working Group reports, and ICES Newsletter).

If PICES were to institute a similar “affiliate” status, then a possible scenario is as follows:

- a. The affiliate institute would make a financial contribution to PICES to support the operation of the Organization, but the contribution could be substantially less than the contribution of the six Contracting Parties, for example, 10% of the current annual fee per Contracting Party.
- b. Scientists from affiliated institutes could be members of a Scientific Program (*e.g.*, CCCC), Scientific Committee (*e.g.*, BIO, FIS, MEQ, POC), or Technical Committee (*e.g.*, TCODE, MONITOR). They could not be a Chairman.
- c. Scientists from affiliate institutes could be full members on Sections, Task Teams, Study Groups, and Working Groups of PICES. They could also chair any of these groups. In the case of an affiliate Chairman, however, a Co-Chairmen arrangement would be preferable with one of the Co-Chairman from a Contracting Party. For Study Groups, the Rules of Procedure would need to be amended to allow for Co-

Chairmen (*i.e.*, one Chairman is sufficient if that person is from a Contacting Party; otherwise a Co-Chairman should be chosen who meets the geographic balance requirements).

- d. The Rules of Procedure could be amended to allow scientists from affiliate institutes to participate as members of Groups in addition to Advisory Panels. The specific

privileges of participation would need to be resolved for each type of group, depending on the needs of the Organization.

- e. As per the current Trust Fund guidelines (iii), scientists from affiliate institutes would not be eligible to apply for financial support to participate in PICES activities. The affiliate institute would be expected to cover the costs of their scientists' participation.