

Report of Working Group 35 on the *Third North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report*

The Working Group on the *North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report* (WG 35) met in a virtual format on October 2, 2020 (1400–1700 PST) under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Chandler (Canada) and Dr. Sinjae Yoo (Korea) prior to the 2020 PICES Annual Meeting (see *WG 35 Endnote 1* for meeting participants).

The primary objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Review the status of the NPESR3 Synthesis report;
2. Review the status of the NPESR3 Regional reports;
3. Review and amend the NPESR3 Implementation Plan as required;
4. Discuss recommendations for the NPESR4 process.



The status of the NPESR3 Synthesis report

A draft version of the synthesis report was reviewed by members of WG 35's parent committees (MONITOR and FUTURE SSC) during the summer of 2020. Comments were returned to the lead authors and revised sections assembled into an updated draft report in September 2020. Prior to formatting the Synthesis report as a PICES Special Publication the draft text is being reviewed by Science Board and Governing Council.

The status of the NPESR3 Regional reports

With the exception of Region 19, all regional chapters have been submitted to the editorial board for review. Region 19 is expected to be submitted in December 2020. The editorial board includes experts of various disciplines (*e.g.*, physical oceanography, fish) who are in the process of reviewing all regional reports in their area of expertise. Comments and edits by the editorial board are being addressed by the lead authors.

The status of the NPESR3 Implementation Plan

The initial NPESR3 Implementation Plan was designed to have the regional reports completed prior to the writing of the Synthesis report. The plan was modified to prevent delays in submission of one of the Regional reports impeding progress of the Synthesis report. The Synthesis report review process is near completion and its publication is expected by the January 2021. The review process for most of the Regional reports is underway and completion is expected by March 2021.

Recommendations for the NPESR4 process

The Working Group reviewed the motivation for producing the past and future NPESRs and the level of effort required. It was agreed that a PICES study group provides the best mechanism for defining the terms of reference for NPESR4, and several members of WG 35 expressed interest in being part of the study group. Key points discussed include:

1. The importance of an independent editorial process and the challenge of achieving results in a timely manner using volunteers.
2. A system to archive the time series relied upon to support the reports is necessary, and the Environmental Time Series Observations (ETSO) system has the promise to fulfill this requirement but requires a more defined custodial role.
3. The advantage of a dual time frame for ecosystem status reporting; an annual update that is semi-automated and available online (perhaps included as an expanded PICES Press edition), and (similar to the previous NPESR reports) a compilation of regional reports of the 14 regions defined in NPESR3 to be completed on a 7- to 10-year cycle.

WG 35 Endnote 1

WG 35 participation list

Members

Peter Chandler (Canada, Co-Chair)
Sinjae Yoo (Korea, Co-Chair)
Matthew Baker (USA)
Steven Bograd (USA)
Keith Criddle (USA)
Jeanette Gann (USA)
Dong-Jin Kang (Korea)
Eunjung Kim (Korea)
Vladimir Kulik (Russia)
Lin Liu (China)
Vyacheslav Lobanov (Russia)
SungHyun Nam (Korea)
Tsuneo Ono (Japan)
Kazuaki Tadokoro (Japan)
Stephani Zador (USA)

Members unable to attend

China: Hao Huang, Hongxia Ming, Guangshui Na
Japan: Joji Ishizaka
Korea: Minkyu Choi
Russia: Kirill Kivva, Vladimir Shulkin, Yury I. Zuenko
USA: Nicholas Bond, Stephen Kasperski

Observers

Ivonne Ortiz (USA)
Elizabeth Siddon (USA)
William Sydeman (USA)

PICES

Sonia Batten (Executive Secretary)
Harold (Hal) Batchelder (Deputy Executive Secretary)