

2023 Report of AP-ECOP



The Advisory Panel on Early Career Ocean Professionals (AP-ECOP) had two business meetings: a meeting held virtually on September 6 and 7, 2023 and a hybrid meeting during PICES-2023 in Seattle, USA, on October 25, 2023 (*see photo above*). Co-chairs Hannah Lachance and Minkyong Kim led the first meeting and served as rapporteurs, and co-chairs Hannah Lachance, Raphael Roman, and Hana Matsubara led the second meeting and served as rapporteurs. During the virtual meeting, the agenda focused on the confirmation of achievements in 2022 and the tasks to complete before PICES-2023 such as mentorship events and ECOP Opportunities Flier. During the hybrid meeting, the focus was discussing the top priorities for 2024, including the International Open Science Training, mentorship program/scheme, and PICES ECOP membership listserv and design of a future biannual newsletter.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Welcome, introductions, adoption of agenda

The Co-chairs welcomed participants to the meeting ([AP-ECOP Endnote 1](#)), introductions were made, and the agenda was reviewed and adopted ([AP-ECOP Endnote 2](#)).

AGENDA ITEM 2

Reconfirmation of our mission

The Co-chairs reconfirmed the [five Terms of Reference \(ToRs\)](#) of the AP-ECOP with the attendees.

1. Explore opportunities for ECOP representation in PICES through enhanced demographic data collection and assessment.
2. Recruit diverse ECOPs through revitalized communications and existing networks.
3. Engage ECOPs through professional opportunities in Expert Groups, programs, and other aspects of the PICES structure.
4. Foster intergenerational exchange through mentorship programs and activities.
5. Collaborate with partners to develop and advance inclusive engagement in the North Pacific and internationally.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Reports from each task team

In 2023, AP-ECOP created four task teams to effectively achieve the ToRs. Co-chairs reported achievements in each task team which they lead.

- **Mentorship team** The first mentorship program was implemented during PICES-2023. Twenty-six mentor-mentee pairs were developed based on background information and preferences. In a post-conference survey, participants answered that they were satisfied with their mentor/mentee (4.9/5.0) and the mentorship program (4.6/5.0) and all respondents answered that they would like to participate in the next mentorship program. One of the mentorship activities encouraged participants to vote for their preferred “mentorship team photo”, including “before and after group photos”. The best mentorship photo from PICES-2023 is everyone’s group photo and it is available on X (formerly Twitter) [[click here](https://twitter.com/PICES_MarineSci/status/1730149903693750670?s=20) or https://twitter.com/PICES_MarineSci/status/1730149903693750670?s=20]
- **Outreach team** The ECOP Opportunities Flier was created and shared at the registration desk at PICES-2023. This year’s flier was translated into six PICES member country languages: Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Korean, and Russian.
- **Engagement team** A new section to collect information on ECOP’s engagement was included in each Expert Group Report before the Science Board Meeting. The results showed that 51.6% of Expert Groups within PICES have engaged at least one ECOP, including “active non-official members” (see *Table*). WG 51 and FUTURE are currently requesting ECOP participation.

Type of Expert Group	Total Number of Groups	Number of Groups Engaging ECOPS
Advisory Panel	6	5
Section	4	2
Study Group	3	2
Working Group	10	5
Scientific Committee	7	2
Scientific Program	1	0
Total	31	16

- **Recruitment team** After testing the ECOP survey during the 5th International Symposium on the Effects of Climate Change on the World’s Ocean ([ECCWO5](#)), we implemented it for the 2023 PICES Annual Meeting in Seattle. Specifically, the [short survey](#) (1-2 min) was available to ECOPs on the online registration portal. It was not mandatory, but participation was encouraged to help our Advisory Panel (and the PICES Secretariat) better understand and track the registration demographics of ECOPs at PICES Annual Meetings and other sponsored events. This year, 380 ECOPs from 45 different countries (see *Fig. 1*) registered for the 2023 PICES Annual Meeting. Students accounted for 41% (154) and 59% were non-students (226). For most ECOP respondents (76%), PICES-2023 was their first ever PICES event, while 5% of them were long-term attendees (>10 years), as shown in *Fig. 2*.
 - Among the students who registered, 8% were undergraduates, 32% were enrolled in a Master’s degree program, and 63% were pursuing a PhD.
 - When examining non-student ECOPs (i.e., those who were not students at the time of the survey), a large majority (~80%) held a PhD degree as their highest level of education. The top four professions they held were postdoctoral fellow (28%), researcher (27%), university professor/lecturer (24%), and government scientist (20%). Other positions included consultants, education specialists, project coordinators, and entrepreneurs.

- In terms of sector (n=122), 51% of respondents were affiliated with academic institutions, 34% worked in government, and 12% were associated with NGOs.

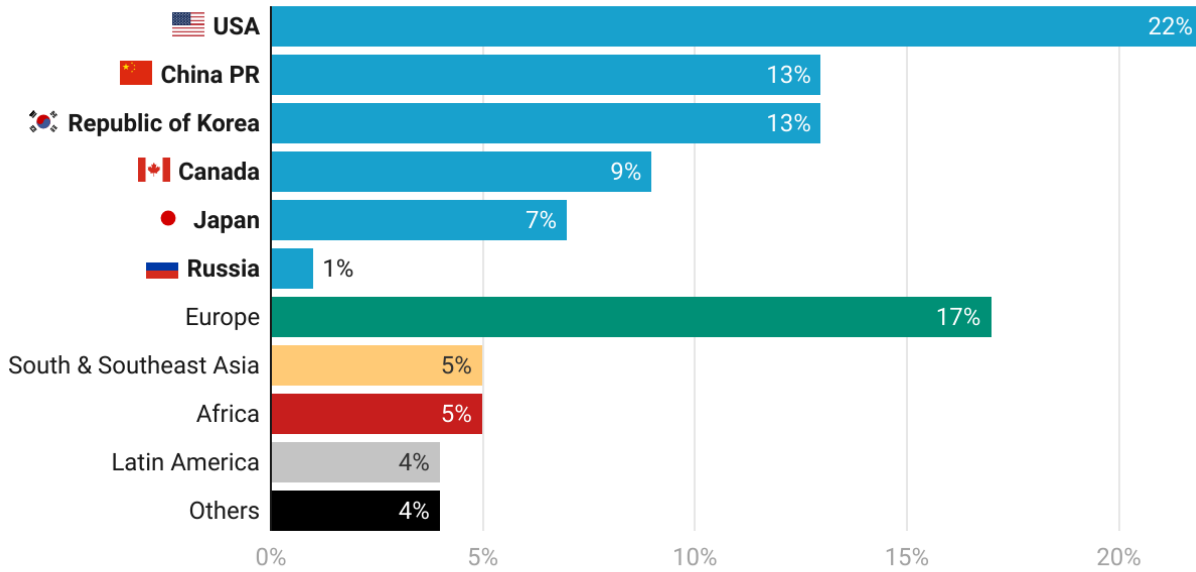


Fig. 1 Percentage (%) of registered ECOPs per PICES member country and other regions (N=380).

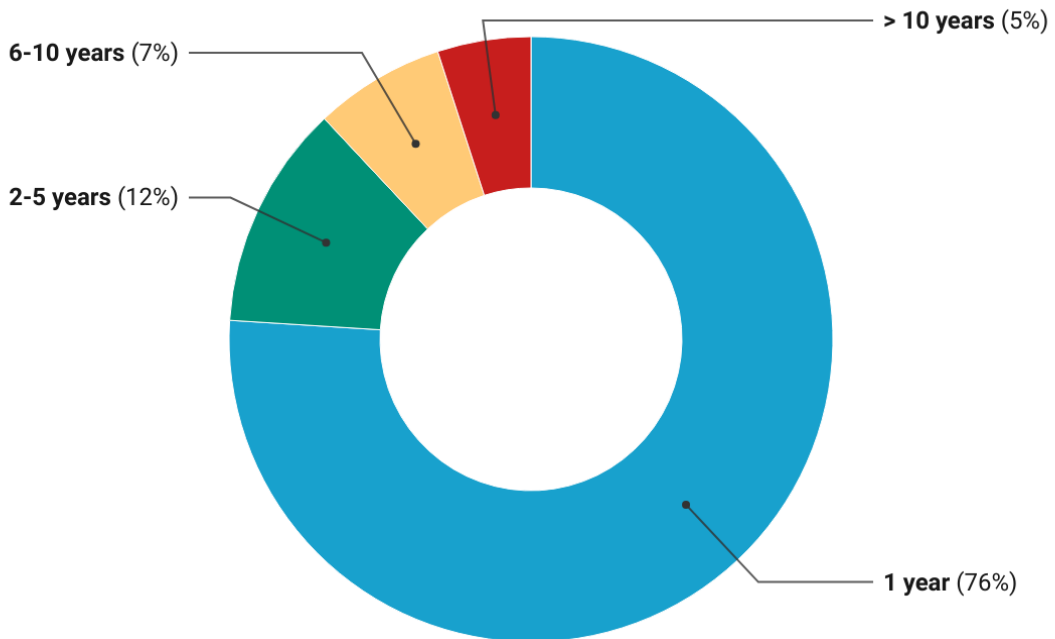


Fig. 2 Percentage (%) of registered ECOPs based on the number of years they have attended PICES events (N=380).

AGENDA ITEM 4

Discussion about top priorities for 2024

1. International Open Science Training “Building effective international collaboration for ocean sustainability”

- The proposal for the training was approved by the Governing Council in 2022. However, the training has not been conducted yet due to the lack of capacities. Some of the AP-ECOP co-chairs are listed as co-convenors for the training.
- The AP-ECOP members agreed that the implementation of this training program will continue to be one of the top priorities for 2024.

2. Mentorship program/scheme (trialed during PICES-2023)

- The Mentorship program was piloted at PICES-2023. 26 mentor-mentee pairs were developed based on their background information and preferences.
- The AP-ECOP members agreed to continue this scheme as one of the top priorities in 2024. The need for guidelines and follow-up communication with the 26 mentor-mentee pairs was discussed to facilitate continuation of the mentorship sessions after the Annual Meeting if desired.

3. Curate and update PICES ECOP membership listserv and design a newsletter

- The AP-ECOP members agreed to revive, update, and expand the PICES ECOP membership listserv and design a future newsletter to communicate and share the latest engagement opportunities within and outside of PICES. Ideally, the newsletter will be released twice a year before the Intersessional and Annual Meetings).
- AP-ECOP will send an email to the ECOP participants of PICES-2023 after the Annual Meeting to provide them with an option to join the listserv and thus subscribe to the newsletter.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Reconfirmation of ECOP engagement opportunities during the Annual Meeting

- The AP-ECOP Fact Sheet was created as an outcome of Workshop 1 (“Creating Concise and Compelling Fact Sheets to Amplify your PICES work”) during PICES-2023. The fact sheet will be circulated within AP-ECOP and finalized after the Annual Meeting.
- AP-ECOP also included a recommendation to Science Board and Governing Council for there to be an "Introduction to PICES" at every other Annual Meeting.

AP-ECOP Endnote 1

AP-ECOP participation list

Members

Minkyoung Kim (Korea, Co-Chair)
* Hannah Lachance (USA, Co-Chair)
Hana Matsubara (Japan, Co-Chair)
Raphael Roman (Canada, Co-Chair)
* Pengbin Wang (China)
Zuhao Zhu (China)
Shin-ichi Ito (Japan)
* Hiroki Wakamatsu (Japan)
* Keyseok Choe (Korea)
Yoonja Kang (Korea)
Saeseul Kim (Korea)
* Steven Bograd (USA)
* Alex Davis (USA)
Emily Lemagie (USA)
Erin Satterthwaite (USA)
* Vera Trainer (USA)

* AP-ECOP members who attended both business meetings (virtual and in-person)

Members unable to attend

Canada: Andrea White
China: Edmond Sanganyado, Heping Li
Japan: Aoi Sugimoto
Korea: Seung-Tae Yoon
Russia: Nikita Chikanov
USA: Matthew Savoca

Observers

Jorn Schmidt (ICES/External Review Committee)
Dave Checkley (External Review Committee)
Maria Schoenbeck (Lead of national ECOP Node of Guatemala)

AP-ECOP Endnote 2

AP-ECOP meeting agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, adoption of agenda
2. Reconfirmation of our mission
3. Reports from each task team
4. Discussion about top priorities for 2024
5. Reconfirmation of ECOP engagement opportunities during the Annual Meeting