

Advisory Panel on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science (AP-UNDOS) 2025 Report

In-person (hybrid) business meeting at PICES-2025: 09:00 to 15:00, November 13th, 2025 (JST)

Location: Workpia Yokohama, Japan

Participants:

(In-person, AP-members) Fangli Qiao (China), Naya Sena (Japan), Mitsutaku Markino (Japan), Hiroaki Saito (Japan), Sukyung Kang (Korea), Hanna Na (Korea), Hyung-Gyu Lim (Korea), Erin Satterthwaite (USA), Steven Bograd (USA), Sanae Chiba (Secretariat)

(In-person, Observers) Alan Haynie (ICES), Dave Reid (ICES), Toshiyuki Yamazaki (APN), Kotaro Tanaka (OPRI), Marine Lebrec (DOOS), Julia Schmid (BECI),

(Online) Chen Yang (Catherine) (SmartNet Coordinator)

Rapporteur: Chen (Catherine) Yang



Agenda 0. Welcome and Introduction

SmartNet Co-chair Steven Bograd welcomed participants and introduced Ms. Chen Yang (Catherine), who was newly appointed as a SmartNet Coordinator, based on the [MOU](#) between PICES and Ocean Decade International Cooperation Center China (ODCC). Catherine remotely supports SmartNet activities from ODCC office in China.

Agenda 1. Review of Activities since PICES-2024.

Bograd reported on SmartNet achievements in 2025. The major activities included convening a Town Hall meeting “[Moving towards integrated evaluation approaches in support of ocean policy](#)” at One

Ocean Congress 2025 held in Nice, France; a session “Climate ready fisheries management in the UN Decade of Ocean Science”, at ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC) held in Klaipeda, Lithuania, and two workshops at PICES-2025 (see **Agenda 2**). Detailed information on SmartNet achievements can be found in SmartNet [2025 Year in Review](#).

Agenda 2. SmartNet convened Workshops at PICES-2025

2.1 [Workshop 1](#): Climate-Ready Fisheries Management: Reviewing Effective Strategies for Developing Decision Support Tools (November 8th, 2025)

Co-sponsors: ICES and BECI

Bograd summarized the workshop outcomes. The workshop was held as part of the workshop series addressing one of the SmartNet priority topics, the Climate-Ecosystem-Fisheries Nexus. It aimed to compare mechanisms used to integrate climate information into ecosystem-based fisheries management, and to develop a global inventory of capacities and gaps, in data streams, information infrastructure, modeling frameworks, co-development, communications, and governing structures, to enable us to outline “good practices” for the implementation of “climate-ready” fisheries management.

Following the video presentation by the invited speaker, Beth Fulton, and several selected talks, a panel discussion and breakout sessions on four topics: gaps, barriers, opportunities, and challenges for implementation of climate-ready fisheries management, were held. See the [PICES Press article](#) for the detailed report.

Discussion

(Publication plan) Participants discussed plans for publishing the workshop outcomes. Bograd suggested jointly developing a white paper with participants from the ICES ASC session (see Agenda 1), structured around the following five key points:

- Defining and monitoring attributes of resilience in climate-impacted fishery systems
- Seeking thresholds for decision-making
- Identifying approaches for adaptive management that align with changing ecosystems
- Enhancing close partnerships and cross-regional collaborations among scientists, practitioners, and other stakeholders
- Developing strategies for fisheries resilience and adaptation in the context of climate change

Participants agreed that perspectives of intergovernmental organizations should be reflected in the white paper.

(Science-policy communication) Participants discussed how existing climate information outputs could be translated into decision-making that responds to specific management needs across various time and spatial scales. The need for breakthroughs in addressing communication gaps between scientists and managers through targeted dialogue was highlighted. A joint workshop with social scientists at PICES-2027 and/or the upcoming Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Symposium in 2027 was proposed to improve science-policy communication and co-develop decision-making tools. ICES General Secretary Alan Haynie stressed the importance of integrating outcomes from various ICES/PICES-organized meetings, for example, how different countries have integrated oceanographic data into biological modeling processes. ICES will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2027, during which a new strategic plan and a climate-related roadmap will be developed to connect various events around core themes and to link with PICES activities.

**After PICES-2025 the group submitted a Workshop Proposal “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Communication Strategies to Advance Climate-Informed Fisheries Management” for PICES-2026, which*

was accepted by the Science Board and the Governing Council (Endnote 1).

2.2 [Workshop 8](#): Engaging with Local and Traditional Knowledge Holders to Co-Design Ocean Science in Pacific Small Island Developing States

Date: Nov 9th, 2025

Co-sponsors: Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF), ICES.

Achievements:

Workshop co-convenor, Naya Sena, reported the workshop outcomes. Thanks to the funding support from OPRI and APS, several speakers from the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were invited. Most participants were indigenous and local individuals, encompassing scientists, project leaders, and community leaders. Additionally, an indigenous speaker from Canada was invited to join. The quality of the content presented during the workshop was well-received by attendees. The workshop facilitated dialogues with those speakers. Given that the ocean constitutes 99% of SIDS territory, engaging their communities that hold local and traditional knowledge is essential for advancing ocean science and sustainable management of the Pacific, but they are often excluded from sponsored scopes. See the [PICES Press article](#) for the detailed report.

Follow-up plan

After the workshop, convenors and some participants held an informal gathering to discuss the following plan. For PICES-2026, besides the follow-up workshop, ideas on holding a special event with the focus on engagement of Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge (ITK), for example, an evening storytelling session in which Pacific traditional and local knowledge, such as star navigation, local folklore and art, were shared. Publication of a white paper, led by Sena, based on the workshop outcomes, was also suggested.

**After PICES-2025, the group submitted a workshop proposal “Weaving knowledge systems to co-design transdisciplinary and actionable solutions,” for PICES-2026, which was accepted by the Science Board and the Governing Council (Endnote 2).*

3. Updates of Partner Organizations and Projects

3.1 Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

The Director of APN Secretariat, Toshiyuki Yamazaki, introduced the current strategic plan and key programmes of the organization, and provided updates on SmartNet-relevant APN activities. PICES and APN exchanged a [Collaborative Framework for Scientific Cooperation](#) in February 2023 to strengthen cooperation between the Asia-Pacific and North Pacific regions. The framework focuses on core thematic areas such as climate change adaptation, fisheries, marine plastic pollution, and traditional ecological knowledge, emphasizes joint research, capacity building for early-career professionals, and exchange through shared platforms. APN will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2026, planning to showcase joint intergovernmental achievements.

Funding Opportunities

APN has two key annual funding programmes for ECOPs, for which PICES ECOPs are encouraged to apply if they are eligible.

- Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP): Provides funding up to US\$135,000 for a maximum of 3 years; over half of the projects are led by early-career professionals (2020 - 2024).
- Scientific Capacity Development Programme (CAPaBLE): Provides funding up to US\$80,000 for a maximum of 2 years.

The 2025 proposal calls for both programmes opened on November 3, 2025 (closed on November 30), with several topics highly aligned with PICES' key work areas: Global Change and Its Impacts on Ecosystems and Livelihoods in the Pacific (Pacific region), and Big Data for Global Change (temperate East Asia)

The CAPaBLE funding can be used to support workshops of the PICES Annual Meeting (applied for last year but not approved for specific reasons; Canada is not an APN member, so re-application may be considered after January 2027).

Capacity Development Programmes

APN Proposal Development Training Workshop (PDPW) has been held annually since 2008 in both in-person and online formats, covering the Asia-Pacific region. One or two PICES ECOPs participated in the workshops held in Fiji in 2024 and in Korea in 2025. The next PDPW will be held in Malaysia in 2026. Yamazaki stressed that, in addition to the existing programmes, joint activities and cooperation among ECOPs on policy-related areas would also be a major focus of the PICES capacity development plan.

Haynie expressed interest in learning from APN's experience in sharing experiences to support government decision-making processes. Yamazaki confirmed that relevant experiences will be compiled into documents and published on their official website in the near future.

3.2 Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS)

DOOS Habitat Mapping lead, Marine Lebrech, reported on recent activities of DOOS. DOOS completed its initial 5-year funding by US NSF, and received an additional 2-year grant from the US-based philanthropy, Schmidt Ocean Institute. Affiliated with the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), DOOS is a community-driven international initiative aiming to build a “network of deep ocean observing networks,” such as deep-sea components of MBON, US IOOS and ARGO. To address one of the DOOS Working Group foci “Science and Policy,” it collaborates with UNDOS programmes, including SmartNet.

Promotion of ECOPs

DOOS runs Deep Ocean Early Career Research Program (DOERS) to support ECOPs in Deep-sea research, which has attracted over 160 ECOPs worldwide. The program supports ECOP participation in international conferences and provides various training opportunities, including leadership training workshops. Thanks to this initiative, which explores practical ways to cooperate with other UNDOS programmes relevant to deep-sea research, the UNDOS ECOP Task Force “Deep ECOMP” was recently established. Deep ECOMP connects early-career networks across UNDOS programmes, aiming to close existing gaps and model a pathway toward long-term sustainability.

Discussions

Participants discussed how SmartNet could support DOERS activities by leveraging ICES/PICES frameworks. Lebrech proposed to hold a deep-sea-themed session or workshop at the PICES Annual Meeting to increase the community's attention on the topic. SmartNet co-chair, Sanae Chiba shared that, although deep-sea research has not been a mainstream focus of PICES science, a new Working Group focusing on deep-sea connectivity will likely be established at PICES-2025, which is expected to address newly ratified BBNJ Treaty. Responding to the question about the innovation in cost-effective deep-sea observation technology, Lebrech noted that one of the DOOS Working Groups is developing low-cost

technologies to improve platform accessibility.

3.3 Basin-scale Events to Coastal Impacts: An Ocean Intelligence System for Fish and People (BECI)

BECI Project Scientist Julia Schmid updated BECI activities. BECI is a UNDOS-endorsed project and has been a SmartNet partner, with its Science Director, Kathryn Berry, serving as an ex-officio member of AP-UNDOS. BECI aims to establish the North Pacific Ocean Knowledge Network to integrate and synthesize existing research, monitoring, and management work into a one-stop platform, enabling end-users to easily access reliable information, identify trends, and deliver solutions.

Key Milestones in 2025-2026 included finalizing its science plan and an Indigenous engagement plan and launch the North Pacific Ocean Knowledge Network online platform. BECI demonstrated the functions of the prototype interactive platform to PICES communities and stakeholders, including representatives from the North Pacific RFMO, throughout the PICES-2025. The platform contains interactive dashboards and mapping tools (for visualizing marine environments, species distribution patterns in different regions, vertical resource distribution, etc.), resource catalogues, and products for cross-regional comparison using standardized ecosystem assessments. BECI continues to conduct extensive strategic outreach on the platform through conference calls, webinars, themed workshops, and international scientific meetings, including the Ocean Science Meeting 2026. The next step will be to develop an implementation plan and secure future funding support.

3.4 UNDOS Endorsed Project “SIDS Decade Local Challenge”

Sena introduced the project “SIDS Decade Local Challenge,” which was recently endorsed by UNDOS. The project was motivated by the challenges that underrepresented communities, including SIDS and African states, faced in engaging with UNDOS initiatives due to limited resources. In 2024, while the proportion of approved UNDOS projects addressing Africa and SIDS reached 15%-20%, the participation of local institutions in Africa or small island regions remained very low (only 6% of projects included local institutions in Africa, and even lower in SIDS).

Approved by UNDOS in 2025, long after its submission in 2023, and led by the African SIDS ECOP Node, the project aims to identify "Decade"-level challenges for all African SIDS and support the achievement of their UNDOS roadmap (initial term: 2026-2028). SmartNet was requested to serve as a project partner. The group completed the assessment in Cabo Verde, and it is in progress in other states. They were facing a funding shortage to implement the project and seeking additional funding to cover the estimated cost of US\$10,000. Sena asked participants for useful information on fundraising and collaboration opportunities.

Discussion

Haynie shared information on ICES involvement in the "*All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance*," where this project might find collaboration opportunities.

Naya suggested that SmartNet could sponsor practical training courses for research methods for African SIDS ECOPs and researchers (online). Participants agreed but recommended that publishing a paper or document on the research methods should be the first step in planning the training course.

3.5 ICES role in SmartNet

ICES Science Committee Chair and SmartNet Co-chair David Reid discussed the PICES-ICES collaboration through the SmartNet framework. At the ICES ASC 2025, ICES Science Committee

(SciCom) members expressed their willingness to remain continuously engaged in SmartNet, and a subgroup of SciCom was established. Given that SmartNet are connected with many (10 as of Jan 2026) UNDOS Projects endorsed under the SmartNet umbrella, he noted that formally connecting specific ICES expert groups' activities to those diverse projects would be the key to meaningful collaboration beyond the ICES/PICES community.

Discussions

When asked whether the joint expert groups would remain the main mechanisms to maintain ICES/PICES collaboration after the completion of UNDOS in 2030, David agreed but pointed out that the past and current joint EGs had experienced logistical challenges in progress reporting, due to difference in ICES and PICES rules. He added that ICES was establishing a new community initiative group to enhance inter-organizational collaboration, which will provide an opportunity to evaluate these challenges that the Joint EGs faced.

Regarding the cost of collaboration with SmartNet partners, the SmartNet Co-chairs emphasized that the original intention of establishing SmartNet was to leverage and expand existing ICES/PICES frameworks and structures, and thus it would not necessarily require significant funding. They hope that SmartNet can leave a valuable legacy after UNDOS and establish a formal mechanism to ensure that the global knowledge network continues to facilitate communication.

4. What is the Ocean We Want – Project Update

Mitsutaku Makino of the University of Tokyo reported on recent progress of “[What is the Ocean We Want](#)” Survey, one of the key SmartNet contributions to the Ocean Decade. The project will identify regionally specific people's perceptions of the UNDOS's goal "The Ocean We Want," through national surveys on their priority areas within UNDOS' 7 societal outcomes, such as clean ocean, safe ocean, healthy and productive ocean, etc., and identify the major environmental, social, and economic backgrounds which affect their priority setting. The survey outcome will be crucial for understanding country-specific policy needs for ocean science and management. The team completed the first phase survey in 4 countries (Japan, Australia, France, the US) in 2023, and is conducting its 2nd phase survey with an additional 4 countries (Chile, Germany, South Africa, Indonesia). A paper will be published to share the data used for the survey. The team seeks additional funding to conduct a full-scale survey in 13-40 countries in 2026, and follow-up surveys every 3 years to continuously monitor changes in public opinion.

Survey Outcome

The team collected 1,000 valid samples from each country through web-based surveys. Face-to-face interviews were conducted in Indonesia due to insufficient internet coverage. Among the 7 UNDOS societal outcomes, “clean ocean” and “healthy and productive ocean” were generally top-ranked with some differences in other outcomes among countries; e.g. “safe ocean” was ranked higher in Japan, while Chile, France, and Indonesia prioritized ocean literacy more. People in Germany and Australia showed a strong sense of personal responsibility for marine issues. Experience of water-based recreational activities was an important factor influencing the extent of people's concern about the ocean. See the [project website](#) for detailed survey outcomes.

Discussions

Participants discussed the challenges in designing and conducting public surveys, such as clarifying ambiguities in questions and addressing possible bias in comparing survey results obtained through different methods (face-to-face interviews versus website-based surveys).

Some participants highlighted how the project outcomes, which were obtained through public surveys,

could be conveyed to national policy needs, as the team initially aimed. Makino commented that the relevant discussions had been initiated with the IOC. The IOC had conducted policy needs surveys with its member countries, and the input from this project on public voices is expected to contribute to redefining IOC initiatives on the regional and global policy formation for the “Science We Need for the Ocean We Want.”

Sena proposed including African SIDS as the ideal pilot study countries in the next batch of surveys

6. National Ocean Decade Committees of ICES/PICES Member Countries

Chiba introduced the recently launched webpage for “[National Decade Committees \(NDCs\)](#)” on the UNDOS website, which showcases UNDOS-related activities at the national level. NDCs are voluntary, inclusive, multi-stakeholder platforms established to coordinate, support and increase a country’s participation in UNDOS at the national level. As the mandate and scope of each NDC are unique and tailored to national needs, SmartNet members were encouraged to communicate with their own NDCs to exchange information and identify how SmartNet activities could contribute to the needs of NDCs in ICES and PICES member countries.

As for PICES, all six member countries have their NDCs. Among them, the contacts of China, Japan and Korea have close connections to SmartNet members and/or PICES community:

- **Canada:** The contact organization is DFO. NDC plans to leverage membership in the [Oceans Research in Canada Alliance \(ORCA\)](#), a community of practice with over 500 members, but so far, little information is available online.
- **China:** The contact organization is the First Institute of Oceanography (FIO) (see their progress report for 2021-2025 [here](#)).
- **Japan:** The contact is Dr. Tanaka (OPRI) and Dr. Michida (former TCODE chair). Japan has made significant progress in Ocean Decade-related work, and its national-level projects are closely connected to public needs. See the [link](#) for more information.
- **Korea:** The contact is a KIOST employee, but little information is available on the website.
- **Russia:** The contact is outside the PICES community, and little information is available online.
- **USA:** The official contact organization is the US National Academies of Science and Engineering. PICES is listed among the Ocean Decade U.S. Nexus on the [NDC](#) website, and NOAA is one of its sponsoring organizations, but there has been little association between the US NDC and PICES.

Other useful information on UNDOS/IOC website

Chiba also introduced several portals on the UNDOS/IOC website that might be useful for SmartNet capacity development activities. Given that these rich online resources are not yet fully known or utilized by the ocean science community, including ECOPs and scientists from underrepresented countries, she suggested promoting this information through the SmartNet network.

- [IOC Ocean CD Hub](#): Collect various capacity-building opportunities from around the world, including training, funding and job opportunities, internship programs, etc. UNDOS Capacity Development Facility operates the [Ocean Connector Platform](#), which aims to match users’ needs with appropriate partners. However, these useful platforms currently have no cross-links.
- [Ocean Matcher](#): Launched in June 2025 to connect philanthropic funders with the ocean community in need of funding. The number of funders is currently much smaller than the number of projects seeking funds, but it is an innovative attempt.

7. Upcoming Activities

7.1 Task Assignment for SmartNet Coordinator

Bograd explained the following tasks that SmartNet hopes to assign to Chen Yang (Chatherine), the SmartNet Coordinator.

Main Responsibilities

- Communication Management: Manage communication between SmartNet members; communicate with partners (including the Ocean Decade Coordination Unit, Decade Collaborative Centres, and all related projects).
- Coordination of Approved Projects under SmartNet: Establish a communication strategy with 10 UNDOS endorsed projects, and organize online meetings or small workshops in the next 2-3 months to bring all project teams together;
- Regularly report on SmartNet's activity progress (e.g., issue a SmartNet annual review newsletter)
- Assistance in Communication and Promotion: Assist the PICES and ICES secretariats in conducting UNDOS-related communication and promotion work.

Advanced Tasks (effort dependent)

- Assist in planning activities and formulating strategies.
- Represent SmartNet in various scientific meetings (online or in-person).
- Assist in updating the new SmartNet website, gathering information to be featured on the site.
**Secretariat designed and opened the [SmartNet website](#) in January 2026 on the PICES platform*

SmartNet Co-chairs will contact Catherine to discuss how to proceed with these tasks after PICES-2025.

7.2 Publication Plan

Participants discussed contributing an article to the [Nature Ocean Sustainability special issue “Science Supporting Ocean Sustainability at the World Ocean Science Conference and UN Ocean Conference”](#). The article is expected to have broader content/topic with a focus on SmartNet’s overall approaches to ocean sustainability, capacity-sharing strategy, and successful practices. With the submission deadline of March 24, 2026, the authors, consisting of ICES and PICES members, and the writing plan must be identified soon.

7.3 PICES-2026 Workshop Proposals

Participants discussed ideas for SmartNet-convened workshops as the proposal submission deadline approached (November 24). Bograd proposed a workshop on the Climate-Ecosystem-Fisheries Nexus following the session at ICES-ASC and Workshop 1 at PICES-2025. Sena proposed another workshop on integrating Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge into a broader knowledge system, following the success of Workshop 8 (see Agenda 2 in the report of Workshops 1 and 8, and Endnotes 1 and 2).

7.4 Other Tasks in the Next 6 Months:

- Develop ideas for the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference.

Endnote 1**PICES-2026 Workshop Proposal****Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Communication Strategies to Advance Climate-Informed Fisheries Management***AP-UNDOS [SmartNet / BECI] Co-Sponsored Workshop Proposal for PICES-2026 Annual Meeting**Possible Co-Sponsorship: HD, FIS, FUTURE, POC***One-Day Workshop****Conveners:**

Steven Bograd, *NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Monterey, CA, USA; Co-Chair AP-UNDOS & SmartNet Programme*

Kathryn Berry, *PICES, Victoria, BC, CANADA; BECI Coordinator*

Sanae Chiba, *PICES Secretariat, Victoria, BC, CANADA; Co-Chair AP-UNDOS & SmartNet Programme*

Karen Hunter, *DFO Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, BC, CANADA; Chair Human Dimensions*

Sukyung Kang, *National Institute of Fisheries Science, Busan, KOREA; AP-UNDOS and FUTURE*

Mitsutaku Makino, *University of Tokyo, Chiba, JAPAN; AP-UNDOS and FUTURE*

Hanna Na, *Seoul National University, Seoul, KOREA; Co-Chair FUTURE*

David Reid, *ICES, Copenhagen, DENMARK; Co-Chair SmartNet Programme*

Erin Satterthwaite, *Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego, CA USA; AP-UNDOS and FUTURE*

Description:

Building networks to share knowledge and capacity is essential to understand, forecast, manage, and adapt to climate-driven changes in marine ecosystems and their associated fisheries. PICES actions under the auspices of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, SmartNet and BECI, are developing these networks, with the aim of convening global partners to address challenges associated with climate impacts, marine ecosystem health and productivity, and food security. As PICES pivots to a more actionable, solution-oriented scientific portfolio, it is essential to establish effective communications pathways – to ‘break down barriers and build bridges’ – amongst the scientific, management and stakeholder communities. In this workshop, we will explore how multiple and interacting oceanographic, ecological, and social data streams are being used to facilitate effective implementation of fisheries management and adaptation strategies within a multi-dimensional, complex and changing environment. We invite a broad array of participants (oceanographers, climate scientists, fisheries scientists, social scientists, managers and other stakeholders), across the PICES community and beyond, to: (1) explore the various mechanisms used to integrate complex environmental and social information into operational ecosystem-based fisheries management; and (2) review the existing tools/systems, gaps and pathways forward for climate-informed ecosystem and fishery management. An outcome of this Workshop could be a white paper outlining ‘best practices’ for enhancing partnerships and co-designing climate-informed ecosystem management across the PICES scientific and stakeholder communities.

Suggested Workshop Format:

- (a) Presentations: Short introductory presentations on approaches to ‘climate-ready fisheries’ from scientific and management perspectives (2 hrs)
- (b) Facilitated breakout groups on ‘mechanisms used to integrate climate information into ecosystem-based fisheries management’ (2 hrs)
- (c) Facilitated breakout groups on ‘future directions for advancing climate-ready fisheries management’ (2 hrs)
- (d) Plenary discussion: Report back from breakout groups, identification of ‘best practices’ for climate-ready fisheries management, and determination of next steps, including a white paper outline (2 hrs)

Endnote 2**PICES-2026 Workshop Proposal****Weaving knowledge systems to co-design transdisciplinary and actionable solutions****Conveners**

Naya Sena, PICES AP-UNDOS, University of Tokyo, JAPAN; nayacsena@gmail.com (corresponding)

Raphael Roman, PICES AP-UNDOS, AP-ECOP and HD Committee, CANADA;

raph.genf@gmail.com (corresponding)

Steven Bograd, PICES AP-UNDOS, USA; Co-Chair SmartNet Programme; Karen Hunter, Chair HD

Committee, Co-Chair WG49&51, Canada; David Reid, ICES, Copenhagen, DENMARK; Co-Chair SmartNet

Programme; Erin Satterthwaite, PICES AP-UNDOS, TCODE, WG-52, FUTURE-SSC, USA; Rikki Clark,

Acadia University, Canada; Tammy Norgard, PICES AP-SciCom; Pieter Romer, Ocean Networks, Canada

Potential invited facilitators (and the corresponding topics)

1) Science communication & Knowledge Co-Creation | Potential facilitators: Matthew Koller, USA; Khush Jhugroo, Hatch Ltd, Canada

2) Storytelling & oral traditions | Potential facilitators: Dr George Carter, University of South Pacific, Samoa | Dr Jo-Ann Archibald, University of British Columbia, Canada

3) Arts & creative expression | Potential facilitators: Bass Kohler, cartoon artist

4) Local & Knowledge Systems | Potential facilitators: Patrick Farnole, University of Victoria, Canada; Cherie Waqa, University of South Pacific; Pieter Romer, Ocean Networks, Canada

Possible Sponsors

APN, Ocean Networks Canada, OPRI, ICES

Description

Building on the outcomes of Workshop 8 (PICES-2025), where participants shared practical examples of community-led like the marine management in the Marshall Islands, traditional ocean diplomacy practices from the Pacific, and community-based monitoring initiatives in Canada, the 2026 workshop continues the momentum toward integrating local and traditional knowledge into ocean science. The follow-up meeting held after Workshop 8 also emphasized the need for more dialogue-driven spaces and showed the emergence of a growing network across PICES, APN, SmartNet, and community partners. Responding to this feedback, the 2026 workshop aims to bring together diverse knowledge holders to deepen the conversation and co-design more inclusive and actionable pathways for ocean stewardship. The proposed workshop also aligns with the UNDOS SmartNet Programme's mandate to strengthen global knowledge networks and supports the Ocean Decade's call for cocreated, societally relevant ocean science. We understand that this call requires that other ways of knowing and creating knowledge be considered in the formation of information about oceans. Exploring how we achieve this goal is the central purpose of this proposed workshop. Rather than a traditional presentation-based format, the workshop will prioritize dialogue, collaboration, lived experience, creative expression, and shared reflection. Participants will collectively explore how different knowledge systems perceive ocean-related challenges, how they generate and communicate knowledge, and how they can work together to co-design solutions that are meaningful, innovative, and implementable. This highly interactive workshop will bring together scientists, Indigenous knowledge holders, artists, storytellers, science communicators, ocean practitioners, community leaders, early-career professionals, and other rightsholders from across the PICES region and beyond to co-create shared understanding and actionable pathways for ocean stewardship grounded in multiple knowledge systems. By weaving diverse ways of knowing, including scientific, artistic, cultural, Indigenous, and practice-based expertise, the workshop will explore how a transdisciplinary and co-design approach can generate more inclusive, creative, and actionable solutions for ocean sustainability