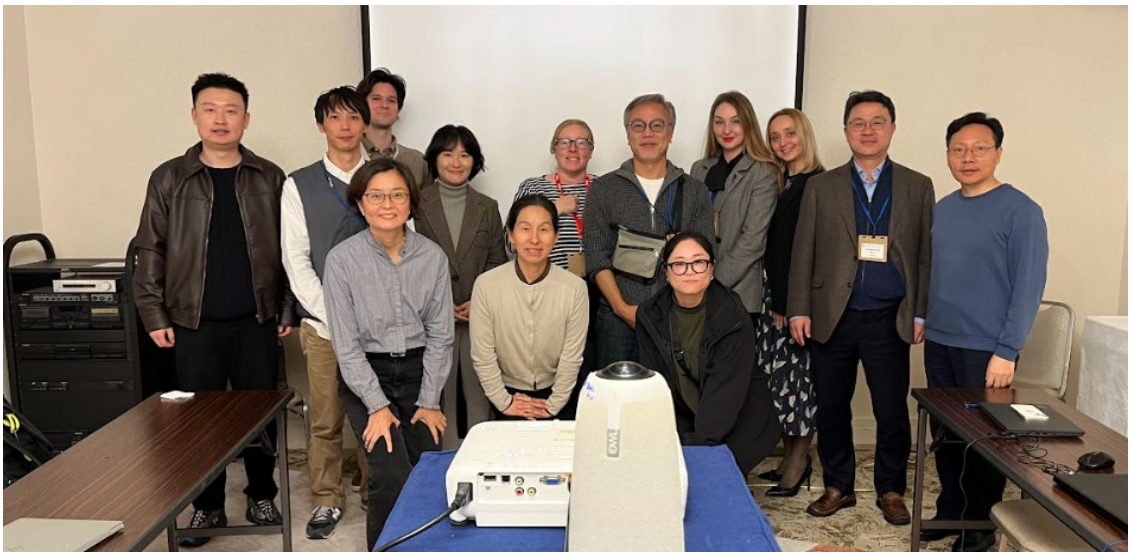
2025 Report of Human Dimensions Committee



HD Committee in person-meeting at Workpia, Yokohama, Japan, November 2025

The Human Dimensions Committee (HD) meetings took place under the chairmanship of Prof. Mitsutaku Makino (Japan) for Day 1 at 23:30-01:00 UTC, October 8th (online), and Day 2 at 18:00-20:00 JST, November 8th (on-site), at PICES-2025 in Yokohama, Japan.

Day 1 Online HD Committee Meeting

Participants:
Chair: Mitsutaku Makino (Japan), Vice-Chair: Karen Hunter (Canada), Members: Shion Takemura (Japan), Ekaterina Kurilova (Russia), Ling Cao (China), Meng Su (proxy for Jingmei Li), Yeajin Jung (Korea), Sunny Jardine (USA), Sunny Chen (China)
Observer: Raphael Roman (Canada)

AGENDA ITEM 1
Introductions and review agenda

- Self-introduction, adoption of the Agenda and appointment of rapporteur
- Prof. Makino presented an overview of the PICES 2025 Annual Meeting, which will be held in Yokohama, Japan, from November 8 to November 14, 2025, including HD-related sessions and workshops.

AGENDA ITEM 2
Reports from HD Expert Groups and projects

- Ms. Karen Hunter (Co-Chair WG49) reported on WG49 activities.
- Dr. Shion Takemura (Co-Chair WG51) reported on WG51 activities and proposed a one-year extension of WG51's term, which was approved by the HD Committee. Prof. Makino will explain HD's decision at the PICES 2025 SB meeting, where the final decision will be made. Ms. Hunter (WG51 Co-Chair invited members to participate in WG51's PICES 2025 session 15 jointly convened with ICES
- Prof. Makino introduced WG53.

AGENDA ITEM 3
PICES 2025-2026 preparations – new topic sessions and expert group proposals

- Ms. Hunter proposed that the HD Committee consider new topic sessions/workshops and new Expert Groups for PICES 2026 to enhance HD activities. Members agreed to exchange ideas via email after the meeting and discuss further at the HD meeting on November 8.

AGENDA ITEM 4
Other

- Ms. Hunter suggested submitting the results of the "Annual HD Hot Topic" as an article for PICES PRESS to raise HD's visibility
- Prof. Makino commented that this idea is excellent because discussions on the Annual HD Hot Topic can also lead to planning next year's topic sessions.

Day 2 On-site HD Committee Meeting

Participants:
Notes: U.S. member was absent due to federal government shutdown.
Chair: Mitsutaku Makino (Japan), Vice-Chair: Karen Hunter (Canada), Members: Ekaterina Kurilova (Russia), Jongseong Ryu (Korea), Jingmei Li (China), Shion Takemura (Japan), Sanae Chiba (PICES Secretariat), Yeajin Jung (Korea), Sunny Chen (China)
Observers: Raphael Roman (Canada), Juri Hori (Japan), Meng Su, Katya Verevkina (Russia), Motomitsu Takahashi (Japan)

AGENDA ITEM 1
Introductions and review agenda

AGENDA ITEM 2
Annual HD Hot Topic Presentations from Member Countries

- "Ocean-related climate change policy in your country"
- Members from Canada, China, Japan, Korea, and Russia reported on recent research and policies related to climate change adaptation in their countries.
- After the reports, members discussed the theme for next year's HD Hot Topic (PICES 2026). It was agreed to compile this year's results and continue discussions via email and online meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 3
Plan for 2026 onward

- Topic session/Workshop proposals for the next Annual Meeting 2026
- New Expert Group proposals/extension of existing Expert Group
- Proposals for the next Annual HD Hot Topic for PICES2026
- ＜WG53＞Dr. Motomitsu Takahashi (Co-Chair of WG53, FRA, Japan) requested travel support for two participants to attend an international symposium in La Paz, Mexico, in May 2026, where WG53 co-chairs will serve as conveners. Since this involves young researchers in HD-related studies, the HD Committee agreed to support this request in principle. Dr. Takahashi also proposed a WG53 topic session/workshop for PICES 2026 (*Agenda Endnote 2*). However, details were still under discussion, so HD could not approve support at this meeting. The committee will review the final proposal once submitted.

- ＜WG51＞Dr. Takemura reiterated the proposal to extend WG51's term by one year, which was approved by the HD Committee.
- ＜HD Committee＞Ms. Hunter proposed sharing ideas for EGs/topic sessions/workshops after PICES 2025 and reviewing them via email by the November 24 deadline. This was approved by participants.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Sharing of Election of new Chair, Vice-Chair and Relevant Updates from Members

- Prof. Makino nominated current Vice-Chair Karen Hunter as the next Chair. With support from four member countries (China, Korea, Japan, Russia), she was elected.
- Prof. Makino nominated Shion Takemura (Japan) as the next Vice-Chair. With support from five member countries (Canada, China, Korea, Japan, Russia), he was elected.
- Prof. Makino reported plans to recommend Dr. Juri Hori (Policy Research Institute, MAFF) as the new HD Japan member to GC.
- Ms. Hunter reported the recommendation of Raphael Roman (AP-ECOP Co-Chair) as a new HD Canada member.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Other

- Future Synthesis Paper published this year in the ICES Journal of Marine Science, co-authored by Dr. Takemura, Prof. Makino, Ms. Hunter (representing the HD Committee), and Future-SSC members. Figure 2 in the paper highlights one of the outcomes from our HD Committee's activities. https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsaf145
- Finally, Prof. Makino, whose term ends with this business meeting, gave closing remarks. Ms. Hunter expressed gratitude for his significant contributions to the HD Committee.





HD Endnote 1

Agendas for 2025 HD Meetings

<Day 1 Online meeting>

1. Self-introduction, adoption of the Agenda and appointment of rapporteur (15 min)
2. Reports from HD Expert Groups and projects
   - WG 49 (Karen, 5 min)
   - WG 51 (Shion, 5 min)
   - WG 53 (Motomitsu or Minling, 5 min)
3. PICES 2025-2026 preparations – new topic sessions and expert group proposals
4. Other

<Day 2 On-site meeting>

1. Self introduction, adoption of agenda and appointment of rapporteur (15min)
2. Annual HD Hot Topic from each Member Country (10 min each)
   "Ocean-related climate change policy in your country"
3. Plan for 2026 onward (20 min)
   1) Topic session/Workshop proposals for the next Annual Meeting 2026
   2) New Expert Group proposals/extension of existing Expert Group
   3) Proposals for the next Annual HD Hot Topic for PICES2026.
4. Sharing of Election of new Chair, Vice-Chair and Relevant Updates from Members (20 min)
5. Other

HD Endnote 2

Title: Beyond boundaries: Understanding epi- and mesopelagic forage communities of the open ocean

Duration: 1 Day

Convenors:
Ryan Rykaczewski (USA), Vladimir Radchenko (Russia), Chris Rooper (Canada), Motomitsu Takahashi (Japan), Chiyuki Sassa (Japan)

Potential invited speakers:
Patrick Lehodey, Marine Ecosystem Department, Space OceanographyDivision, CLS, France
Anela Choy, Scripps Inst. Oceanogr, University of California San Diego, USA

Workshop description:
Massive populations of mesopelagic and epipelagic fishes and invertebrates are found in the ocean's subtropical and subarctic gyres, well beyond the boundary current ecosystems. Scientists and natural resource managers often mention mesopelagic fish resources as a reserve of protein for humans although there are large uncertainties related to the biomass of those resources, their dynamics, and drivers of those dynamics. These populations have not often been targeted for harvest and so our understanding of these populations is hampered by the lack of fisheries data and limited research emphasis. However, these meso- and epipelagic communities serve as critical forage for highly migratory pelagic fishes, cetaceans, turtles, and seabirds, as well as play an important role in the ocean carbon cycle and as consumers of secondary productivity.

This workshop will bring together experts to exchange information and knowledge on the dynamics and status of mesopelagic fishes, as well as to estimate progress since past PICES efforts (e.g., WG14 in 2005 and the AP on Micronekton Sampling Inter-calibration Experiment in 2010). The workshop will focus on describing the progress in assessing the biomass and distribution of mesopelagics with the desire to understand dynamics and temporal variability of these species. In this workshop, we will seek out contributions that offer insight to the dynamics of forage communities in the ocean's subtropical and subarctic gyres, regions that are typically beyond the reach of coastal pelagic fisheries. How do these forage communities change over time? What factors influence these changes? What are the consequences of such changes for the highly migratory predators that depend on these populations as forage? How can new technologies and data approaches help shed light on open ocean forage communities?

The structure of the workshop will be a series of invited and submitted oral presentations and discussion panels with experts and members of the PICES community. A summary report to be published in either PICES press or as a peer-reviewed manuscript is the expected outcome.

Sponsoring PICES Committees or Programs: BIO, FIS, WG53

HD Endnote 3

PICES Human Dimensions Committee Action Plan 2024-2029

The HD Committee's Key Tasks
Established in 2016, the PICES Human Dimensions (HD) Committee plays a new and important role in the PICES organization and research community. The Committee's mission is vast. Formally, the HD area of responsibility is to promote and coordinate interdisciplinary research that leads to increased understanding of the relationship between North Pacific
marine ecosystems and the people, communities, and economies that are part of those systems and rely on the resources and services they provide.

Particular emphasis will be given to fostering research on:
(a) methodological and empirical challenges involved in integrating human dimensions
into ecosystem analyses; and
(b) exploration of development pathways that are sustainable from social, economic, and ecological perspectives.

The HD committee will support the work of other PICES expert groups, including any integrated science program. Where other PICES expert groups often consider the impact of human activities on ecosystems, the HD committee will promote both the consideration of these impacts and how biophysical changes impact the well-being of people, communities,and economies taking into account their characteristics and values.
In addition, the committee will engage with kindred 'human dimension' initiatives of other organizations (e.g., ICES and IMBeRii)

Action Planning Essentials
1. We, the members of the PICES HD Committee, recognize the broad range of faculties, disciplines, experts, training, methodologies, and topics included in "HD".
2. The Action Plan must consider the key tasks of HD and align wherever possible.
3. The Action Plan must consider that HD committee members bring a wide variety of skills and career experiences. This will likely be an ongoing benefit as well as a challenge for the Committee's overall mission.

HD Action Plan
1. Key Task: Promoting Transformative Ocean Science
Action: Improve HD Committee Integration

I. Determine current Human Dimensions ecosystem-related priorities for each member country. Compare and contrast these across member states to identify key focus areas for HD Committee.

II. Seek more ECOP representation, preferably from each Member Country.

III. Determine the types of approaches being taken in member states to achieve integrated ecosystem analyses or other HD integration. (Preferably, by establishing an Expert Group.)

IV. Present outcomes and address new questions by hosting a workshop on "Progress for Social Sciences/HD Integration in our Understanding of and Responses to Ecosystem Change" at the PICES Annual Meeting.

Action: Support Transformative Ocean Science in PICES

I. Define and determine areas of possibility in PICES to contribute to ‘Transformative Ocean Science’, the core concept of UNDOSiii

.

II. Participate in FUTURE SSC and contribute to the planning of Transformative Ocean Science activities within PICES.

III. Support existing and new SGs and WGs from the appropriate HD perspective (i.e., which faculty/expertise) by providing Member State representation (e.g., WG49, WG Human Networks, SciComm).