

2025 December Intersessional Governing Council Meeting Report and Decisions

Governing Council (hereafter GC or Council) met online from 16:00-17:00 on December 17, 2025 (PST) under the Chairmanship of Tetsuo Fujii.

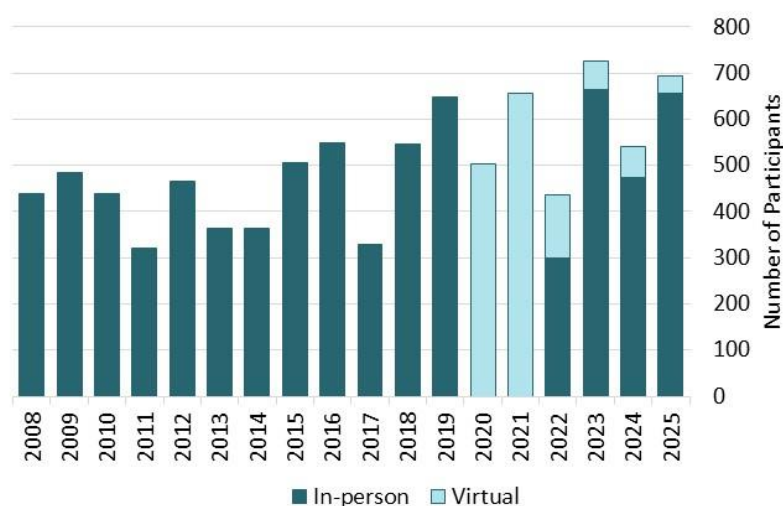
All member countries were represented at the meeting (IGC Endnote 1).

The agenda was adopted (IGC Endnote 2). Decisions taken by Council are in **bold text** below.

IGC Agenda Item 3. Update from Executive Secretary

a. Final PICES-2025 attendance

The ES presented the final numbers for PICES-2025 (656 in person participants with 37 on-line only for a total of 693 participants from 26 countries). This was the second largest PICES annual meeting:



Canada congratulated Japan on hosting such a large, successful meeting.

b. Financial matters

The ES notified Council that there had been no changes to the financial situation and it is expected that PICES will begin 2026 under the ongoing Austerity budget.

c. Actions outstanding from GC meeting in Yokohama including:

i. Annual meeting briefing mail-out

The ES reported that the Briefing was edited to reflect Council's comments regarding amount of text and to add an ECOP interview, and then circulated widely. Feedback so far has been positive. The Chair commented that it would be better if it was more prominent on the website, perhaps with a banner.

Action - the ES to follow-up.

ii. Website update

The ES reported that the most visible part, the landing page update, will be completed mid-late January. The Secretariat will continue working on upgrading the back-pages through the year to maintain functionality. [Note that restructuring of those pages has mostly already been done, but still needs to

migrate to a new code-base to ensure ongoing operability.] Specific, more technical, response from the website contractor given:

The technology stack and development tools used for the prior upgrade in 2016 are now significantly outdated and no longer supported. This creates ongoing challenges for routine maintenance, limits compatibility with current software versions, and complicates the development of new website functionality and leaves us unable to take advantage of many technological advances since 2016.

The proposed solution leverages modern web technologies that support an incremental and low-risk migration approach. The front page will be updated by mid-January, while remaining pages will be progressively refactored and migrated in the background. This process will be supported by modern AI-assisted tools to improve efficiency, consistency, and code quality.

iii. Letter template distribution

The ES reported that this had been sent out to GC members a few days prior. GC members may edit and send out themselves, or provide the ES with contact information and suggested letter edits for her to distribute. The goal is for responses to be received by end of March to enable the WG on Strategic plan revisions to use the information. The ES will follow up with individual member countries after the new year.

IGC Agenda Item 4. Report and recommendations of the Science Board

The SB Chair presented the results of the ISB meeting earlier in the week where the session and workshop proposal rankings were reviewed, and the overall science/business meeting schedule for PICES-2026 discussed. There were more than usual workshop proposals submitted and additional discussion took place regarding the unsuccessful, but still highly-ranked, Practical Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Ocean Science in the North Pacific workshop sponsored by FIS. Council felt that this was a time-sensitive and important workshop. It requires a full-day so cannot occupy the spare “side-event” slot of a few hours that is available. Canada confirmed that the required resources would be found for an additional room, if this workshop can go ahead. Action: SB Chair to consult with SB regarding the addition of the FIS AI workshop.

GC Decision 2025/S/16. Structure of PICES-2026

- i. Council approved the following general schedule for PICES-2026.

| Date | Session/WS (In-person only) | Business Meeting (Hybrid) |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Oct 24 (Sat) | Parallel Workshops x 4 | Day: EG meetings Evening: CMT meetings |
| Oct 25 (Sun) | Parallel Workshops x 4 | Day: EG meetings Evening: CMT meetings |

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|
| Oct 26 (Mon) | AM: Opening Session, Keynote, ECOP Awardees presentations and 1-2 plenary talk(s) or Town hall PM: Parallel Sessions x 4 | PM: SB Day 1 |
| Oct 27 (Tue) | Parallel Sessions x 4 | EG meeting, F&A meetings? |
| Oct 28 (Wed) | Parallel Sessions x 4 Evening: Poster session | EG meetings, F&A meetings? |
| Oct 29 (Thur) | Parallel Session x 4 1730- (TBC) Closing Session | AM: EG meetings |
| Oct 30 (Fri) | | SB Day 2, GC Day 1 |
| Oct 31(Sat) | | AM/PM GC Day2 |

- ii. Council approved the following topic sessions, together with Committee Paper Sessions, to be convened at PICES-2026.

| ID | Title | Sponsor Committees | Corresponding Convener | Co-conveners | Length (Day) |
|-----------|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------|
| S1 | Advancements in Digital Twins applications for evaluating climate change solutions | BIO/POC/ AP-UNDOS | Kirstin Holsman (USA) | Werner (USA), Sohn (Korea), Hollowed (USA) | 1 |
| S2 | Climate Extremes and Coastal Impacts in the Pacific | MEQ/POC/ FUTURE/ AP-UNDOS | Antonietta Capotondi (USA) | Minobe (Japan), Kumar (Korea), Hannah (Canada), | 1 |
| S3 | Ocean and ecosystem predictions to support decision making | FIS/POC/ FUTURE | Michael Jacox (USA) | Jang (Korea), Qiao (China), Cheng (USA), Amaya (USA), Mogen (USA) | 1 |
| S4 | Pathways and process towards sustainable urban ocean where humans and nature co-exist | HD/MEQ | Brian Hunt (Canada) | Sobocinski (USA), Yoshida (Japan), Kang (Korea) | 1 |
| S5 | Using ecosystem-scale information and machine-learning modeling approaches to understand climate change impacts on transboundary species in the North Pacific | MONITOR | Peng Sun (China) | Sohn (Korea), Berry (Canada) Akselrud, (USA), Suca (USA) | 1 |
| S6 | From Ocean Acidification to Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement: Their relationship and differences | BIO/POC | Tsuneo Ono (Japan) | Kozyr (USA), Takeshita, (USA) | 0.5 |
| S7 | Spearheading ocean observations using advanced techniques and sensors on the ocean environment and ecosystem | MONITOR | Sung Yong Kim (Korea) | Tanaka (Japan), Sastri (Canada), Barth (USA) | 0.5 |
| S8 | Oceanographic change and predator–prey dynamics: Emerging drivers of human–wildlife conflict | BIO/HD | Patrick O'Hara (Canada) | Hazen (USA), Trites (Canada), Sasaki (Japan), Kanaji (Japan), O'Hara (Canada), Liu (China) | 1 |

| | | | | | |
|------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----|
| S9 | Integrating ecosystem and climate into actionable science for small pelagic forage communities | BIO/FIS | Chris Rooper (Canada) | Takahashi (Japan), Asch (USA), Garrido (Portugal) | 1 |
| S10 | Using long-term ocean observations to understand ocean change and support resilient ecosystems and communities in the North Pacific | MONITOR/TCODE/ FUTURE/ AP-UNDOS | Erin Satterthwaite (USA) | Lobanov (Russia), Tadokoro (Japan), Wan (China), Boldt (Canada), et al. | 0.5 |
| S11 | Approaches to Understanding Population Connectivity and Its Impacts | FIS/MEQ/ AP-UNDOS | Mackenzie Mazur (Canada)(ECOP) | Mendonca (Canada), Xu Zeng, (China), Hansen (Canada), Sakamoto (Japan) | 1 |
| S12 | Transboundary Science for a Changing North Pacific Ocean | HD/MONITOR | Sean Anderson (Canada) | Ferriss (USA), WNP convenors: TBC | 1 |
| S13 | Long-term monitoring of the changing Northeast Pacific Ocean: 70 years of ocean observation at Ocean Station Papa and along Line P | MONITOR/TCODE | Tetjana Ross (Canada) | Chai (China), Nishioka (Japan), Cronin (USA) | 1 |

iii. Council approved the following workshops for PICES-2026:

| ID | Title | Sponsor Committees | Corresponding Convener | Co-conveners | Length (Day) |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| W1 | Bridging Global and Regional Marine Ecosystem Modelling: Connecting the Fish-MIP and PICES Communities under Fish-MIP 2.0 | TCODE | Vivitskaia Tulloch (Canada) | Blanchard (Australia), Tulloch (Canada), Cisneros (South Africa), Novaglio (Germany), Woodworth-Jefcoats (USA) | 0.5 |
| W2 | Beyond boundaries: Understanding epi- and mesopelagic forage communities of the open ocean | BIO | Chris Rooper (Canada) | Rykaczewski (USA), Radchenko (Russia), Takahashi (Japan), Sassa (Japan) | 0.5 |
| W3 | Developing a framework for cross-community conversation between natural carbon cycle and marine carbon dioxide removal communities | BIO/POC | Tsuneo Ono (Japan) | Kozyr (USA), Christian, (Canada), Lee (Korea) | 1 |
| W4 | Connections between the Arctic Gateways and the Central Arctic Ocean – Key research questions for the next 10 years | HD | Sei-Ichi Saitoh (Japan) | Steiner (Canada), Shin (Korea), Lindal (Norway) | 0.5 |
| W5 | Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Communication Strategies to Advance Climate-Informed Fisheries Management | FIS/POC/ FUTURE/ AP-UNDOS | Steven Bograd (USA) | Berry (Canada), Chiba (PICES), Hunter (Canada), Kang (Korea), Makino (Japan), Na (Korea), Reid (ICES), Satterthwaite (USA) | 1 |
| W6 | Toward Harmonized Plastic Pollution Indicators for the North Pacific: Data, Methods, and Action | MEQ/ FUTURE | Matthew Savoca (USA) | Sun (China) | 1 |
| W7 | Censusing Extreme Climate Events in the North Pacific | HD/POC/ FUTURE | Helen Killeen (USA) | Killeen (USA), Hunter (Canada), Wakamatsu (Japan) | 1 |

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|------------|--|---|----------------------------|--|-----|
| W8 | Weaving knowledge systems to co-design transdisciplinary and actionable solutions | MEQ/ TCODE/ AP-UNDOS | Naya Sena (Japan) | Roman (Canada), Bograd, (USA), others: TBC | 1 |
| W9 | How to develop engaging posters | SB | Patrick O'Hara (Canada) | Trites (Canada), Norgard (Canada), others: TBC. | 0* |
| W10 | From Indicators to Integration: Building a Standardized Multinational North Pacific Ecosystem Status Reporting Framework | FIS/HD/ MEQ/ MONITOR/ TCODE/ AP-UNDOS | Kathryn Berry (Canada) | Satterthwaite (USA), Gann (USA), Diggs (USA), Wan, (China), Yoon (Korea), Watson (Canada) | 1 |
| W11 | Understanding Shelf Marine Heatwaves Through Long-Term Mooring Observations Across the North Pacific | MONITOR | Jae-Hyoung Park (Korea) | Hannah (Canada), Barth, (USA), Homma (Japan) | 0.5 |

IGC Agenda Item 5. Any Other Business

The Chair urged all countries to provide member nominations for expert groups, that were requested by the ES this week, as soon as possible.

GC Endnote 1**Delegation list of participants for the December 2025 Intersessional Governing Council meeting**

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|---|---|
| <u>Canada</u> Andrew Thomson (PICES Vice-Chair) Bernard Vigneault | <u>Russian Federation</u> Vladimir Radchenko (Alternate) |
| <u>Japan</u> Takashi Kamaishi Fumie Maruyama Yutaka Hiroe (Advisor, F&A member) Sayaka Minamikawa (Advisor) | <u>USA</u> Jack Barth Evan Howell Hannah Lachance (Advisor) |
| <u>People's Republic of China</u> Li Li (Alternate) | <u>Other</u> Tetsuo Fujii (PICES Chair) Enrique Curchitser (PICES Past-Chair) Jennifer Boldt (Science Board Chair) Sonia Batten (Executive Secretary) Sanae Chiba (Deputy Executive Secretary) |
| <u>Republic of Korea</u> Se-Jong Ju Tai Lee (Advisor, F&A member) Dahong Mun (Advisor, F&A member) Joongho Moon (Advisor) | |

GC Endnote 2**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting procedures
3. Update by Executive Secretary on:
 - a. Final PICES-2025 attendance
 - b. Financial matters
 - c. Actions outstanding from GC meeting in Yokohama including:
 - i. Annual meeting briefing mail-out
 - ii. Website update
 - iii. Letter template distribution
4. Report and recommendations of the Science Board
5. Any other business