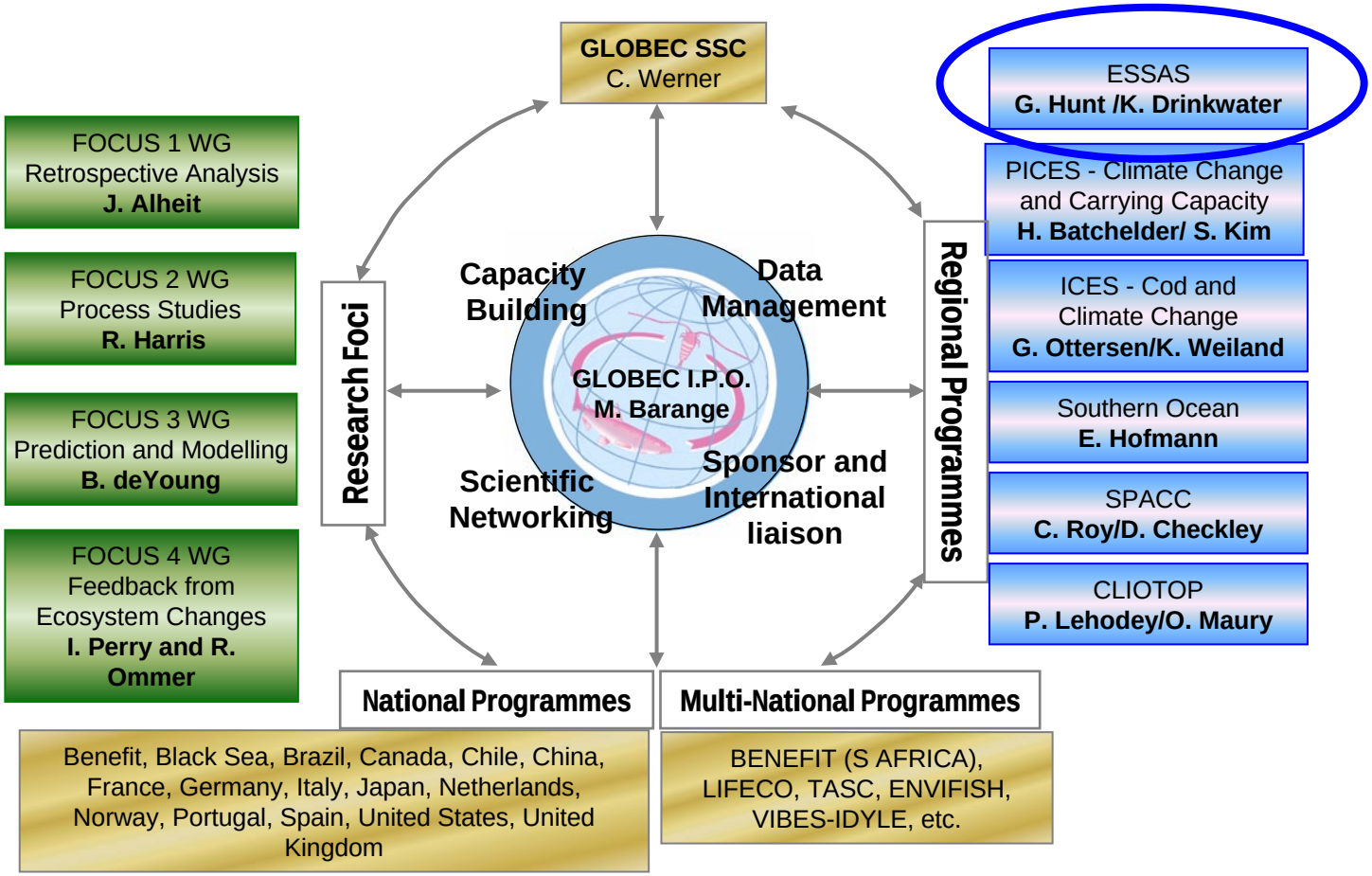
ESSAS – PICES Cooperation

Presentation to the PICES Council

Yokohama, Japan October, 2006

ESSAS is one of the Regional Programmes of GLOBEC



The goal of the ESSAS Program:

to compare, quantify and predict the impact of climate variability and global change on the productivity and sustainability of Sub-Arctic marine ecosystems.

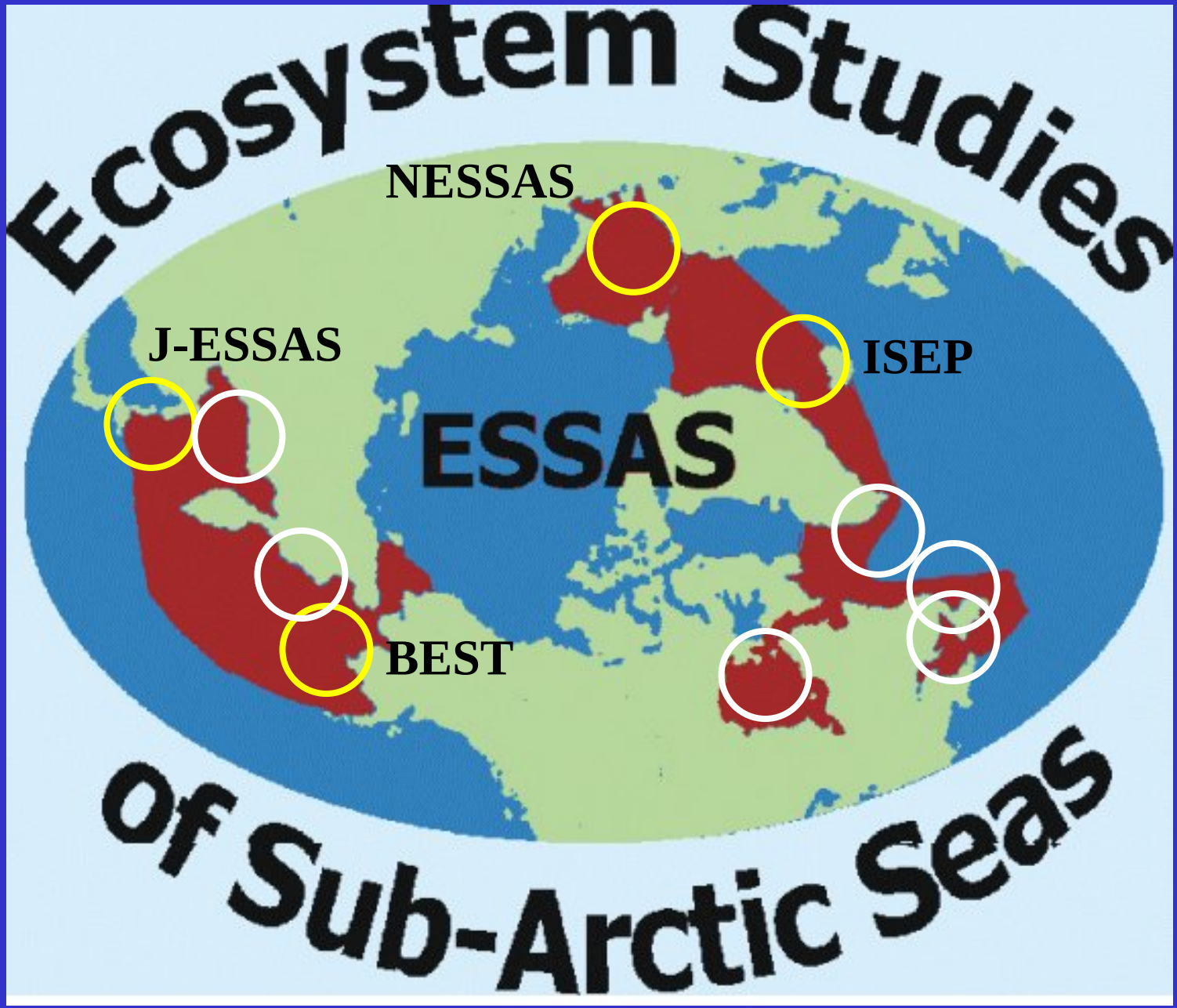
Geographical Regions

Accomplishments of ESSAS

ESSAS was initially conceived in 2002 and was 3 years in the planning.

The ESSAS Science and Implementation Plan was adopted by GLOBEC and published in May, 2005.

Four national ESSAS programs have already been funded and several other nations have expressed interest in establishing such programs.


Ecosystem Studies
NESSAS
J-ESSAS
ISEP
ESSAS
BEST
of Sub-Arctic Seas

Accomplishments of ESSAS

A joint GLOBEC/ESSAS Symposium on *Subarctic Ecosystems and Climate Variability* was held in Victoria, Canada, during May 2005.

- PICES co-sponsored the meeting through hosting the event and contributing to the travel funds for invited speakers.
- Attended by 220 scientists from 16 countries
- A special issue of Deep-Sea Research II in 2007 will publish over 40 papers from the Symposium.

Accomplishments of ESSAS

ESSAS is leading the ***IPY Consortium ESSAR*** (Ecosystem Studies of Subarctic and Arctic Regions)

- Presently contains 22 IPY Expressions of Intent, involving 14 nations covering both the Pacific and Atlantic and includes all of the subarctic and much of the Arctic region.
- Focuses upon the ecosystem responses to climate and covers physical oceanography, plankton research, fisheries, marine mammals and seabirds.
- Most proposals are awaiting funding announcements.

Accomplishments of ESSAS

An ESSAS/PICES Workshop was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in June 2006 on *Comparing Subarctic Seas*.

- PICES helped organize the Workshop including the logistical arrangements and provided travel funds to some scientists to attend.
- 3 ESSAS Working Groups established (Biophysical Coupling, Modelling, Prediction)

A second ESSAS Workshop on *The Role of Sea Ice in Subarctic Ecosystems* is planned for Hakodate Japan in June 2007.

Advantages to PICES of ESSAS Cooperation

ESSAS can provide:

1. A strong connection to the North Atlantic marine community, including ICES scientists.

2. An entry to IPY activities through the lead role played by ESSAS in ESSAR.

Advantages to PICES of ESSAS Cooperation

ESSAS can provide:

3. Complimentary activities to the PICES CCCC program.

4. Further strengthening of PICES ties with GLOBEC.

5. Provide input to the new PICES Integrated Science Programme.

Advantages to ESSAS of PICES Cooperation

PICES can provide:

1. Formal input to strengthened North Pacific contribution to ESSAS and better facilitate comparative studies there.

2. Direct support of ESSAS through financial and/or in kind support, such as meeting logistics for future ESSAS workshops.

3. Opportunities for ESSAS to leverage support from other international organizations.

Summary

We hope that PICES will look favorably on this request to build upon the past successful collaborations between PICES and ESSAS, and that you will agree to provide co-sponsorship of future ESSAS workshops examining mechanisms whereby climate variability affects the productivity of the sub-arctic seas.