

PICES FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
ACTION PLAN for 2012–2015 (approved on October 17, 2012)

Mission

The Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee is an Executive Committee responsible for overseeing financial and administrative matters and effectiveness of the Organization and reporting directly to Council. Details on the functions, membership and leadership of the F&A Committee are described in [Rule 19](#) of the Rules of Procedure.

Specific areas of oversight of the F&A Committee include:

- Audited accounts for the preceding financial year;
- Preliminary accounts for the current financial year;
- Budget for the upcoming year, and a forecast budget for the year thereafter;
- The administrative effectiveness of the Organization in general and the Secretariat in particular;
- Amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Chairman's Handbook as may be necessary; and
- Other matters as may be referred to it by the Council.

Strategy of the F&A Committee

The [2011 PICES Strategic Plan](#) has five themes: A) Advance scientific knowledge, B) Apply scientific knowledge, C) Foster partnerships, D) Develop capacity, and E) Ensure a progressive organization. Specific goals are identified within some of these themes. The actions of the F&A Committee to meet these goals are outlined in this Action Plan.

Theme A: *Advance scientific knowledge*

Goal 1: *Understand the functioning, resilience, and vulnerability of marine ecosystems*

PICES scientific activities are dedicated to understanding and quantifying the physical, chemical and biological processes of North Pacific ecosystems, which underlie ecosystem resilience and vulnerability. These processes are also key to understanding how the oceans respond to and are affected by climate change.

Goal 2: *Understand and quantify how marine ecosystems respond to human activities and natural forcing*

Being a part of the ecosystem, humans are affected by natural processes, and in turn impact marine ecosystems. This goal addresses ecosystem effects of climate variability and change, catastrophic events, and anthropogenic stressors in coastal and offshore regions.

Theme B: *Apply scientific knowledge*

Goal 3: *Provide scientific advice pertinent to North Pacific ecosystems*

For the scientific knowledge to be applied, it first must be made available. PICES provides periodic products on the status, trends and future state of North Pacific ecosystems and develops reports addressing critical and emerging issues. PICES also considers and responds to specific requests for scientific advice from Contracting Parties and other organizations as appropriate. This information provides a basis for user communities to modify their actions.

Goal 4: *Ensure that PICES products are relevant, timely, and broadly accessible*

PICES communicates the results of its scientific activities broadly, through high quality publications, the PICES web page and other electronic media, and production and dissemination of educational materials.

Action 4.1 Review PICES Publication Program

- Task 4.1 Annually review progress in implementing the PICES publication program and make suggestions to Governing Council for improvements

Theme C: *Foster partnerships*

Goal 5: *Collaborate with organizations and scientific programs relevant to PICES*

Collaboration and communication lies at the heart of creating scientific knowledge and using it effectively. PICES develops close relationships with scientific organizations and programs that have shared goals, by carrying out joint activities and exchanging observers.

Goal 6: *Strengthen communication and engagement with users of PICES scientific products*

For scientific products to be useful, PICES engages user communities from the early stage of the product development through dissemination of the final product.

Theme D: *Develop capacity*

Goal 7: *Advance methods and tools to improve and enhance scientific activities*

Investments in collecting, recording, managing and analyzing scientific data are enhanced if the observations made by scientists from the Contracting Parties are directly comparable. The quality of science benefits from harmonization of methods and techniques. PICES facilitates and provides opportunities for development of international standards, inter-calibration of methodology and sampling equipment, as well as collaborative opportunities to develop new, creative methodologies.

Goal 8: *Foster collaboration among scientists within PICES*

Capacity building will make it possible for scientists and institutions from all Contracting Parties to participate fully in, and benefit fully from, the cooperative programs that are developed by the Organization. PICES provides venues, organizes activities and develops procedures that facilitate the formation of new collaborations and maintenance of existing productive partnerships. PICES expedites the involvement of young scientists in PICES activities.

Action 8.1 *Develop programs to promote collaborative activities*

Task 8.1 *Revise description of PICES Visiting Scientist Program*

Goal 9: *Create education and training opportunities*

A central element of capacity building is education and training. PICES develops training courses to meet the interests and needs of its members in scientific areas such as, methods and skills in data management, modeling, and environmental monitoring.

Theme E: *Ensure a progressive organization*

Goal 10: *Provide an effective infrastructure to support PICES activities*

The activities in support of the primary mission of PICES require effective support and implementation, as well as broad participation from the scientific communities of the Contracting Parties. An efficient organizational structure and good internal communication ensure a vibrant science enterprise. An effective Secretariat that supports the mission and goals of the Organization is essential to its success.

Action 10.1 *Ensure stable budget for accomplishing PICES activities*

Task 10.1 Annually review audited accounts, annual contributions, fund-raising activities, registration fee structure, and financing of PICES high priority activities and make recommendations to Governing Council

Action 10.2 *Ensure PICES Rules of Procedure and Chairman's Handbook meet the needs of the organization*

Task 10.2 Review and recommend changes to the PICES Rules of Procedure and Chairman's Handbook that reflect the current structure and needs of the organization

Action 10.3 Ensure an effective Secretariat

Task 10.3 When appropriate, make recommendations to Governing Council regarding space, staffing, and resources to support the Secretariat