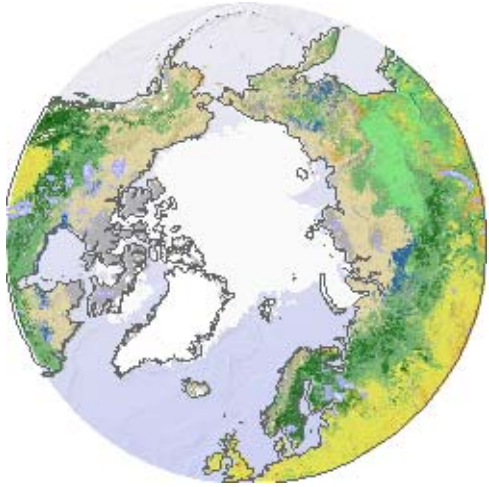


PICES and GLOBEC to sponsor workshop on sub-arctic seas



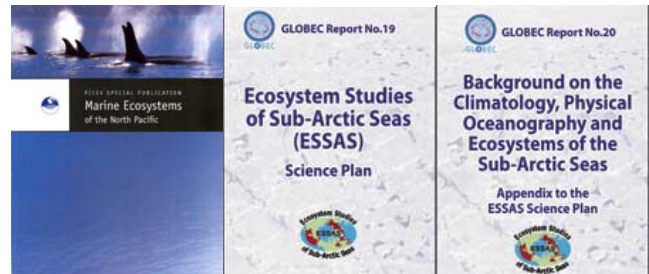
PICES and GLOBEC International will jointly sponsor a workshop to compare four sub-arctic marine ecosystems, those of the Okhotsk Sea/Oyashio region, the Bering Sea, the Newfoundland/Labrador Shelf and the Barents Sea. The workshop will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, from June 12-14, 2006, and will provide a foundation for the new GLOBEC regional program, Ecosystem Studies of Sub-Arctic Seas (ESSAS), which is to develop an understanding of how climate variability, at a number of temporal scales, will influence the sustainable productivity of the sub-arctic seas.

PICES and ESSAS share the goal of developing comparative studies of the sub-arctic seas and understanding how climate variability will affect their productivity and ability to support sustainable commercial and subsistence harvests. The goals of the workshop will be:

- To lay the groundwork for developing the data sets needed to achieve the appropriate comparisons; and
- To commence developing the teams necessary to synthesize available data and develop models for predicting the effects of climate variability on these ecosystems.

It is expected that the workshop will build upon extant syntheses and on-going and planned synthesis efforts. For example, the synthesis in the PICES North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report (PICES Spec. Publ., No. 1; http://www.pices.int/publications/special_publications/NP_ESR/2005/npesr_2005.aspx), and the ESSAS Science Plan and the Appendix to the ESSAS Science Plan (GLOBEC Reports Nos. 19 and 20; <http://www.pml.ac.uk/globec/structure/regional/essas/essas.htm>) that assembled data from each of the sub-arctic seas should provide much basic information. Additionally, papers such as those by Aydin *et al.*, examining the similarities and differences between the eastern and western Bering Sea (Aydin, K.Y., Lapko, V.V., Radchenko, V.I., and Livingston. P.A. 2002. A

Comparison of the eastern Bering and western Bering Sea shelf and slope ecosystems through the use of mass-balance food web models. *U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-AFSC-130*, 78 p.), Hunt and Megrey's comparison of the Bering and Barents Sea ecosystems (Hunt, G.L., Jr. and B.A. Megrey. 2005. Comparison of the biophysical and trophic characteristics of the Bering and Barents Seas. *ICES J. Mar. Sci.*, 62: 1245-1255), and the recent work by Ciannelli *et al.* (In Press) comparing the Barents Sea and the Gulf of Alaska systems, will provide a solid basis for moving forward with the analyses of these ecosystems. The workshop will also take advantage of advances made in a planned PICES January 2006 workshop on developing indices for North Pacific comparisons, and the results of workshops in the Norwegian funded program, Norway-Canada Comparisons of Marine Ecosystems (NORCAN), to be held in the autumn of 2005 and the late spring of 2006. The NORCAN workshops will develop specific plans for comparisons between the Barents Sea and the Labrador Shelf, including the use of biophysical models, and will initiate research on physical forcing, zooplankton dynamics and climate impacts on fish populations in these sub-arctic seas.



Many of the synthesis products available to date have provided excellent compendia of information about a particular sub-arctic ocean basin, but few have explicitly compared mechanisms and responses to climate forcing across basins or between Atlantic and Pacific systems. If the comparative method is to be used successfully, it will be necessary to identify important underlying structuring features of the ecosystems and how climate forcing, acting on those mechanisms, will result in ecosystem change. It will also be necessary to develop data sets that can be used in predictive modeling efforts. These data sets will have to be sufficiently closely aligned that inter-regional comparisons will be fruitful. Although all ecosystems are unique, there must be a search for basic elements common to many, if not all, that can be usefully employed in a comparative approach.

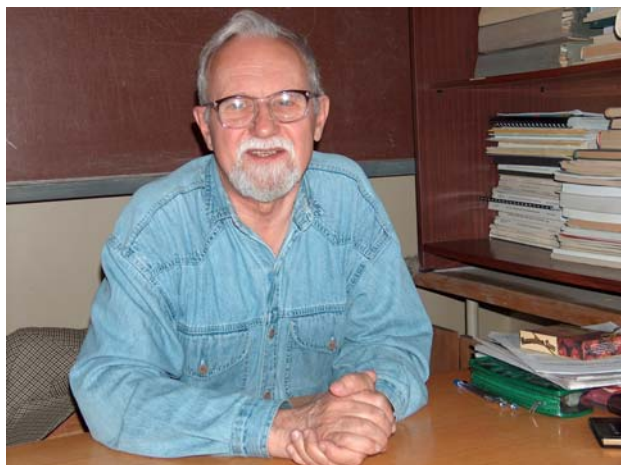
The proposed workshop will be a significant step in achieving the goals of the PICES CFAME (Climate Forcing and Marine Ecosystem Response) Task Team of putting "Particular emphasis on testing ecosystem-level

hypotheses, through review and examination in a collaborative environment, of (i) comparisons between regional and/or basin ecosystems, (ii) linkages in time, space, or seasonality between climate and ecosystems, and (iii) responses of regional ecosystems to basin-scale forcing.” The workshop will, through its review of the existing syntheses of North Pacific data sets and comparisons with data from North Atlantic systems, provide a solid basis for the development of revisions and updating of the first version of the PICES North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report.

The workshop will consist of a very few talks about the different regions on the first day, and then a series of

discussions, some in breakout groups, focusing on the mechanisms by which climate variability affects the sub-arctic seas. To promote open discussions, the number of participants will be limited. People interested in attending the workshop should contact George Hunt (geohunt2@u.washington.edu), with a brief statement of interest, by March 1, 2006. The co-conveners (George Hunt and Ken Drinkwater), with the aid of the ESSAS Scientific Steering Committee, will develop a list of invited attendees, and will then notify applicants of the availability of space and their acceptance for the workshop. It is hoped that the process of selecting invitees will be completed by March 15, 2006, to facilitate the making of travel arrangements.

Professor Mikhail N. Koshlyakov - 75



Professor Mikhail Koshlyakov in his office at the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology (Moscow, Russia, 2005).

In November 2005, friends and colleagues of Professor Mikhail N. Koshlyakov at the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology (Russian Academy of Sciences) and beyond, celebrated his 75th birthday. Being most famous for his contribution to the discovery of mesoscale (synoptic) eddies, that largely changed physical oceanography of the 20th century, Mikhail Koshlyakov is an ideologist, initiator, organizer and participant of many field experiments. Among them is a unique set of polygon study areas (including the Soviet component of the US/USSR POLYMODE project), which, first, proved the very existence of mesoscale oceanic eddies all over the world oceans and, later, provided knowledge on important dynamics of their interaction with fronts and large scale

currents. In 1997, Professor Koshlyakov received the highest oceanographic award of the Russian Academy of Sciences - the Prize of Admiral S.O. Makarov.

Since the very beginning of the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE), Professor Koshlyakov played an important role in advancing national participation in this epic international project. He was a member of the WOCE International Working Group on the Southern Ocean (1990-93), a member of the WOCE International Scientific Steering Committee (1993-97), and Chairman of the Russian National WOCE Committee (1993-97). In 1992, the cruise of R/V *Akademik Ioffe* under his leadership carried out one of the most difficult hydrographic surveys in the Southern Ocean.

Until recently, Professor Koshlyakov was Head of Laboratory of Marine Currents at the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology. After stepping down from this position, he keeps working productively on the dynamics of and water mass formation in the Southern Ocean. For nearly forty years, his lectures at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology have continued to inspire undergraduate students to choose oceanography for their life-time career. Many of his former students are now working in leading oceanographic institutions of Russia, republics of the Former Soviet Union, Canada, the United States, France and other countries. Contributors to the “*Oceanology*” journal know him as a highly professional and friendly Deputy Editor.

A more complete biography of Professor Koshlyakov is in preparation for the next issue of the PICES Press.