

Three papers were presented by participants in the failed “OECOS–East” attempt to obtain funding for a parallel study in the Gulf of Alaska. Drs. Michael Dagg and Suzanne Strom reported results from the GLOBEC Northeast Pacific program work on the Alaskan shelf. In apparently iron-limited waters at the shelf edge, Dr. Dagg found that grazing by *Neocalanus* spp. could be (1) keeping large phytoplankton from blooming – balancing their slow growth rate with grazing, and (2) releasing nano- and picophytoplankton from predation by microherbivores. Dr. Strom reported on the lower trophic level community composition in shelf-edge waters, showing the parallel to definitively iron-limited communities farther seaward. Events are observed in which iron limitation is relieved at and beyond the shelf edge by both river discharges laden with sediment and by wind-borne dust plumes.

Dr. Miller reviewed the original OECOS–East plan to investigate the likely causal correlates of sub-seasonal

variation in phytoplankton stock abundance at Station P. He stressed that detailed evaluation of relations at the lowest trophic levels *without* supplementing the iron availability is needed to reveal the ecodynamics of HNLC systems. The key is to determine the phase relations of physics, nutrients, floristics, microherbivores and macrozooplankton to the sub-seasonal variation of chlorophyll and to more explicit measures of phytoplankton biomass.

It is clear from the reports that OECOS-West produced excellent results and valuable insights about ecosystem function during the Oyashio spring bloom. Another attempt at such a time series should consider moving farther away from Hokkaido and from the Kuroshio–Oyashio frontal region. Such a project might well be undertaken under Russian auspices some place well offshore from Sakhalin or southern Kamchatka. The work proposed by OECOS–East remains to be done and will be eminently worthwhile.

PICES Calendar

- PICES Harmful Algal Bloom Training Course, January 15–23, 2009, Manila, Philippines;
- Third Argo Science Workshop: The future of Argo (co-sponsored by PICES), March 25–27, 2009, Hangzhou, China;
- 11th Salmon Ecology Workshop (related to the development of the North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report for the Alaska Current, California Current and the Bering Sea), April 7–8, 2009, Juneau, U.S.A.;
- North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report Workshop on “*Status and Trends in East Asian Marginal Seas*”, April 21–22, 2009, Busan, Korea, in conjunction with the 15th Pacific–Asian Marginal Seas (PAMS) meeting “*Observations, Understanding, and Prediction of Climate Variability in PAMS*”, April 23–25;
- Inter-sessional Science Board and Governing Council meetings and Workshop to develop an Implementation Plan for the new PICES integrative scientific program, FUTURE, April 26–29, 2009, Qingdao, China;
- 3rd GLOBEC Open Science Meeting (co-sponsored by PICES), June 22–26, 2009, Victoria, Canada;
- Third PICES Summer School on “*Satellite Oceanography*”, August 25–28, 2009, Seoul, Korea;
- 6th International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions (co-sponsored by ICES, PICES, U.S. National Sea Grant College Program, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and Portland State University), August 24–27, 2009, Portland, U.S.A.;
- ICES/PICES Symposium on “*The Effects of Environmental Variability on Cephalopod Populations*”, (CIAC’09), September 3–11, 2009, Vigo, Spain;
- OceanObs’09 Conference—*Ocean information for society: Sustaining benefits, realizing the potential* (co-sponsored by PICES), September 21–25, 2009, Venice, Italy;
- ICES/PICES Theme Sessions on “*Climate Impacts on Marine Fishes: Discovering Centennial Patterns and Disentangling Current Processes*” and “*Global Ocean Observing Systems*” at the ICES Annual Science Conference, September 21–25, 2009, Berlin, Germany;
- PICES Eighteenth Annual Meeting (PICES-2009), October 23–November 1, 2009, Jeju, Korea;
- International Symposium on “*Rebuilding Depleted Fish Stocks: Biology, Ecology, Social Science and Management Strategies*” (primary sponsors: ICES, PICES and UNCOVER; co-sponsoring organizations: NAFO, DFO and IMR), November 3–6, 2009, Warnemünde Germany;
- North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report Synthesis Workshop, December 1–3, 2009, Honolulu, U.S.A. (by invitation);
- PICES/ICES Symposium on “*Forecasting Climate Change Impacts on Fish and Shellfish*”, April 26–29, 2010, Sendai, Japan;
- 26th Lowell Wakefield Symposium on “*Ecosystems 2010: Global Progress on Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management*”, spring or fall 2010, Anchorage, U.S.A.;
- PICES Nineteenth Annual Meeting (PICES-2010), October 2010, Portland, U.S.A.;
- ICES/PICES Symposium on “*Carrying Capacity: What does it mean in a Changing Ocean?*”, 2010, Lisbon, Portugal;
- 5th International Zooplankton Production Symposium (primary sponsors: PICES and ICES), March 2011, Pucon, Chile;
- PICES Twentieth Annual Meeting (PICES-2011), October 2011, Russia.