

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the history of the PICES Metadata Federation project, the planning and activities that took place to establish four federated PICES member countries, and the ongoing challenges and future developments. The greater intention of this project is to federate the marine metadata holdings of all PICES member countries. Recently Canada and the People's Republic of China have expressed interest in joining the PICES Federation.

The main body of the report includes a detailed description of specific technical instructions and guidance for anyone wishing to join the Federation, including hardware requirements, software requirements and installation, and steps required for configuring and registering a node at the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Clearinghouse.

We conclude with some comments on future directions and up-to-date information on the

emerging changes expected to take place in the Clearinghouse interface.

Perhaps the most important part of the document is that the Federation Clearinghouse technology is quickly evolving to new and improved standards and capabilities (See Sections 9 and 11 for more details.). As a consequence, PICES chose to publish this living document as an on-line PDF PICES Technical Report with the goal to keep it as current as possible as new Federation partnerships make themselves available, as well as new developments in communication and search technologies come on-line. Thus, expect to see that this report will be updated frequently as the Clearinghouse search interface moves from the legacy interface (NSDI legacy interface) to the new GeoNetwork interface. Please refer to the revision date on the title page to make sure you have the most recent copy.