PICES Technical Committee on Data Exchange Action Plan
(March 2006)

Mission

The mission of the PICES Technical Committee on Data Exchange (TCODE) is to identify the data management requirements of the PICES scientific community and PICES Secretariat and provide advice and assistance on all matters affecting information technology in PICES.

Strategy of TCODE

To meet the mission of PICES, the PICES strategy for capacity building and the mission of TCODE, the committee will arrange its activity for the next several years based on the following directions:

- Maximize the usage of existing data throughout the PICES community through improved access, including searchable metadata inventories.
- Promote the development and use of contemporary technologies, standards, protocols, data analysis methods and software tools for studies of all components of the ecosystem.
- Assist and participate in the implementation of international data management programs and their regional components.
- Organize a virtual international TCODE community.

Theme A.   Advancing scientific knowledge

Goal 3.   Provide advice on methods and tools to guide scientific activities

Action 3.1   Promote the development and use of shared information technologies in quantifying the biological and physical components of the ecosystem.

> **Task 3.1.1**   Hold a session at the PICES Annual meeting in 20XX on "Data management and software tools for conducting oceanographic and biological surveys"

Action 3.2   Improved access to quality marine data.

> **Task 3.2.1**   Hold a session at PICES Annual meeting in 20XX on "Marine Data Exchange Systems"

> **Task 3.2.2**   Hold a session at PICES Annual meeting in 20XX on "Marine Data Quality Assurance"

> **Task 3.2.2**   Initiate the incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into the data archives

Action 3.3   Keep the TCODE inventory updated and provide input to the North Pacific Ecosystem Metadatabase (NPEM).

> **Task 3.2.1**   Review the status of the datasets covered by the TCODE inventory and NPEM and update them on a regular basis.

Action 3.4   Carry out a project that connects PICES member nations' metadatabase systems into one integrated resource ("federated searching" program).

> **Task 3.3.1**   Identify participants for each member nation and arrange submission and updating of the metadata records.

Theme C. Fostering partnerships

Goal 5. Promote collaboration with organizations, scientific programs, and stakeholders that are relevant to the PICES goals

Action 5.1 Establish dialogue with the various bodies of the international, national, state and local organizations, commissions and programs involved into Marine Data Management issues.

Task 5.1.1 Initiate and maintain a dialogue with the PICES/ICES groups (Monitor Technical Committee, a successor of ICES-IOC Study Group on the Development of Marine Data Exchange Systems using XML, ICES Working Group on Marine Data Management).

Goal 6. Promote collaboration among scientists within PICES

Action 6.1 Increase the "manpower" of TCODE.

Task 6.1.1 Update the TCODE mailing list and advertise the TCODE web pages on a regular basis.

Action 6.2 Provide support to the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) initiatives.

Task 6.2.1 Support HAB Section (HAB-S) work with the ICES-IOC Harmful Algal Event Database (HAEDAT) database and required metadata.

Theme E. Distributing PICES scientific information

Goal 8. Make the scientific products of PICES accessible

Action 8.1 Inform the PICES community about marine data management activities.

Task 8.1.1 Implement and adopt a structure for the national annual reports (key institutes and agencies, key persons/contacts, data and metadata sets, ocean observing systems, data and metadata formats and standards, information technologies for collecting, measuring and enumerating marine organisms, software applicable in marine ecosystems studies and modeling, DM programs that underpin marine scientific programs, existing marine organization and institution data polices; available education materials and publications on marine DM issues, etc.).

Task 8.1.2 Update the content of TCODE web pages on a regular basis.

Task 8.1.3 Provide periodic articles in PICES Newsletters and related publications.