
PICES Science Board and Governing Council hold their first joint meeting

In the over 10 year history of PICES, there has never been a joint meeting of the two senior committees of PICES, Science Board and Governing Council – that is until early April of this year. They have not met together for the simple reason that the busy schedules of the Annual Meetings do not provide enough time, nor is there time for Science Board to discuss broader issues of PICES business. There have been several disadvantages of not meeting together, including a lack of understanding on the part of Governing Council for the directions that Science Board is heading, and a lack of understanding on the part of Science Board of the issues and constraints that face Governing Council. This is why this first-ever joint meeting of Science Board and Governing Council, held April 7-9, 2003, in Victoria, Canada, was so important. It provided the time to discuss larger issues for PICES, in particular relating to future directions of the Organization, and it provided the new PICES Chairman and Governing Council with an opportunity to better understand the bases for the recommendations of Science Board.

The meeting reviewed updates from the Scientific and Technical Committees and the CCCC Program, and reviewed an excellent preliminary report from the PICES Study Group on *Capacity Building*. The Study Group was formed at PICES XI under the able chairmanship of Dr. Warren Wooster to (1) identify the capacity building needs

of PICES; and (2) develop a proposal to address the capacity building needs of PICES, including consideration of possible collaborations with other organizations. The final report of this Study Group is expected prior to PICES XII, for distribution to the standing Committees for their consideration and comments.

Science Board Vice-Chairman

Science Board and Governing Council also recognized the work and numerous meetings associated with serving as Science Board Chairman, and the difficulties that would arise should the Science Board Chairman be unable to carry out his or her duties. Therefore, by the recommendation of Science Board, Governing Council established a position titled Vice-Chairman of Science Board. The following rules were approved for the position of Science Board Vice-Chairman:

- The Vice-Chairman of Science Board shall be elected from the members of Science Board;
- Duration of the appointment shall be for 1 year (18 months for the first Vice-Chairman). Re-election for an additional term is permitted;
- The Vice-Chairman will normally reside on the opposite side of the Pacific to the Chairman;

- When the position of Science Board Chairman becomes (or will become) vacant, the incumbent Vice-Chairman does not automatically succeed the Chairman; elections will proceed according to regulations;
- The Vice-Chairman will prepare meeting materials and chair the meetings of Science Board in the absence of the Chairman, as required;
- The Vice-Chairman will assist the Science Board Chairman by: (i) preparing material for meetings (Science Board, PICES Annual Meetings, etc.); (ii) representing PICES at meetings and conferences of other organizations; (iii) consulting on Chairman's decisions that must be taken between normal meetings of PICES committees; and (iv) representing PICES member countries on the Vice-Chairman's continent.

It was also noted that a major role of the Vice-Chairman of Science Board is to assist with the co-ordination of the scientific activities of PICES. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Vladimir I. Radchenko (Russia), the present Chairman of the Biological Oceanography Committee, was elected Vice-Chairman of Science Board. His term will expire at the conclusion of PICES XIII.

Communications

There was considerable discussion of the communications strategy of PICES, foremost of which is the PICES website. Science Board and Governing Council agreed that this form of communication is extremely important, and should be a priority within PICES. However, it was recognized that this website is badly out-dated and in need of a major overhaul, but that PICES Secretariat staff do not have the time or capabilities to do this task on a regular basis at present. There are three issues: immediate updating of material, ongoing updating of material, and longer-term re-design of the website. Discussion focussed on how these might be accomplished, considering the limited resources available. The Secretariat was requested to develop a plan (for discussion at PICES XII) to maintain the website which could include reallocating duties of current employees. In addition, a member of Governing Council volunteered to identify what is required to develop 2 levels of website design for PICES: a "top-level" site, and a "basic level" site. The Committees and Programs of PICES have been requested to identify what information is necessary to include on the PICES website, and how this information should be provided (i.e. the "flow" of information from Committee to web page). All of this is to be available for discussion by the standing Committees and the CCC Program prior to PICES XII.

A PICES "vision"

An issue that has not been discussed during the (rushed) Science Board meetings that take place during the PICES Annual Meetings, but that was identified by the PICES

Review Committee as important, is a long-term "vision" or Strategic Plan for the Organization. PICES does have a Strategic Plan, but it is more of an operational or implementation plan which describes the roles and responsibilities of the Committees, Programs, and "Officers" of PICES. It is mostly "backward-looking", in that it describes what has happened in the past and how the present activities derive from past activities. In contrast, ICES has recently approved a new Strategic Plan which is more encompassing. It has an overall mission statement "*to advance the scientific capacity to give advice on human activities affecting, and affected by, marine ecosystems*" and has 10 goals which are divided into 5 sections: producing the scientific advice decision-makers need; building a foundation for science; fostering partnerships; the added value of ICES; and informing the public. PICES Science Board and Governing Council recognized the value of such a plan, but also noted that there are important differences between PICES and ICES, in particular that the ICES plan emphasizes stability, while the PICES plan needs to consider the development of the Organization. Science Board and Governing Council agreed to form a Study Group on *PICES Strategic Issues*, under the Chairmanship of the PICES Chairman, to develop a Strategic Plan which has the following elements:

- A PICES vision statement;
- The purposes of PICES (including identifying the emerging issues in marine science of interest to PICES member countries);
- Long-term goals;
- Steps to implement the vision, purposes, and goals of PICES (which would consider regional as well as thematic approaches).

These tasks will be accomplished by:

- Reviewing scientific plans / vision statements of similar organizations
- Working primarily by correspondence
- Examining the existing Strategic Plans of the Scientific and Technical Committees of PICES
- Requesting input from Governing Council and Science Board members as to regional issues

The membership of this Study Group consists of Dr. Ian Perry and Dr. Vladimir Radchenko representing Science Board, and Prof. Vera Alexander (Chairman), Dr. Laura Richards (Canada), Mr. Qian-Fei Liu (China), Dr. Tokimasa Kobayashi (Japan), Dr. Hyung-Tack Huh (Korea) and Dr. George Boehlert (U.S.A.) representing Governing Council. Once the PICES Strategic Plan has been developed, the Scientific and Technical Committees of PICES will be asked to discuss and examine this plan to determine how it might be implemented by each Committee. A draft is expected to be available for discussion by the standing Committees and the CCC Program prior to PICES XII.

Aquaculture

The subject of aquaculture is an important one in the North Pacific, but one which does not have an obvious home in PICES at present. There is considerable interest in this topic, particularly in China and Korea, and the lack of a clear place for aquaculture within PICES is sometimes seen to be a disadvantage in attracting participation from these member countries. A Working Group on *Scientific Issues of Aquaculture* was suggested as a means to focus and define the scientific issues associated with aquaculture within PICES, which would include both the science of production and the science of marine environmental issues associated with aquaculture. Science Board and Governing Council recommended that the Marine Environmental Quality and Fishery Science Committees lead joint discussions about forming such a Working Group, with additional input from the Biological Oceanography Committee and possibly the Physical Oceanography and Climate Committee. They have been requested to develop the potential issues and questions that such a Working Group might address, to draft potential Terms of Reference, and to provide a report to Science Board for consideration at PICES XII.

New major programs

After almost 10 years of activity, the PICES Climate Change and Carrying Capacity Program is now considering how to synthesize and conclude many of the initial questions posed in the CCCC Science and Implementation Plans. Developing a new scientific program, or extending the CCCC Program in new directions, will take time and need considerable discussion amongst the scientists of PICES. Therefore, Science Board is now beginning to consider what types of new programs might follow the completion of this phase of the CCCC Program, and how these new programs should be discussed and developed. Dr. Makoto Kashiwai made a superb presentation at this joint Science Board/Governing Council meeting, which is published in a more complete fashion elsewhere in this issue of PICES Press. General issues for discussion of such programs include whether they are single or multiple programs, and whether they will need special funding. Procedures include:

- Convening a workshop to develop the key scientific questions for a Science Plan, criteria for prioritization and scientific strategy;
- Structuring and prioritizing the scientific questions;
- Learning from the CCCC Program experience; and
- Developing an Implementation Plan.

The Science Board and Governing Council joint meeting recommended that the Study Group on *PICES Strategic Issues* should develop its report prior to extensive work on developing new PICES programs, and that PICES standing Committees and the CCCC Program should discuss what they see as possible new issues/topics for a major PICES

program. In addition, the North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report can be expected to identify gaps in information and understanding in the North Pacific that might be good candidates for future major PICES programs.

In summary, this first-ever joint meeting of PICES Science Board and Governing Council was a success, and met its objectives of engaging both committees in discussions of broad and long-term importance to PICES. It is hoped that the initiatives taken during this meeting will provide guidance to the many activities of PICES, and will result in new directions and further involvement in PICES activities of scientists from all our member countries. A second joint meeting, held inter-sessionally between the Annual Meetings, is being considered for 2004.



Dr. Harold Batchelder (U.S.A.), Dr. Michael Foreman (Canada), Mr. Qian-Fei Liu and Mr. Si-Xi Qu (China) considering the business at hand.

Participants

Canada	Laura Richards, Douglas Bancroft, Michael Foreman
China	Qian-Fei Liu, Jin-Ping Zhao, Si-Xi Qu
Japan	Tokimasa Kobayashi, Makoto Kashiwai, Yukimasa Ishida
Korea	Hyung-Tack Huh
Russia	Vladimir Radchenko, Igor Shevchenko
U.S.A.	George Boehlert, Richard Marasco, Harold Batchelder
PICES	Vera Alexander (Chairman), R. Ian Perry (SB Chairman), Alexander Bychkov & Skip McKinnell (Secretariat)

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