

New Chairman for the PICES Fishery Science Committee



Dr. Mikhail A. Stepanenko was elected Chairman of the Fishery Science Committee (FIS) in October 2008, at the PICES Seventeenth Annual Meeting in Dalian, China.

Mikhail was born and raised in Primorye in the Russian Far East. During his childhood, he spent a lot of time at the local Ussuri River where he was introduced to aquatic life and sport fishing. He graduated from the Far East State University in Vladivostok in 1968 and was immediately employed by the Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (TINRO). Mikhail has been working at this institute for 40 years and has been spending several months at sea for field research every year since 1969.

In 1969, TINRO started joint programs with the two science centers of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) in La Jolla and the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFC) in Seattle, and Mikhail worked actively for these cooperative programs, including the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI), until the early 1990s. In 1978, Mikhail received his Ph.D. degree in Fisheries Science. His thesis focused on biology, population dynamics, reproduction and effect of oceanographic conditions on spawning and recruitment of northern anchovy in the California Current System. His research on fishery resources off Washington, Oregon and California also involved Pacific hake and jack mackerel.

Since the early 1990s, Mikhail has been working on reproduction, population dynamics, stock assessment and fishery management of pollock in the Bering Sea, and has been actively involved in the international regulations of research and fisheries for this species. As a consultant at sea, he participated, in organizing large-scale pollock fisheries in Alaskan waters, and for improving their management.

In the 1980s, Mikhail, as a member of the Russian delegation, participated in several meetings leading to the

establishment of PICES. Since Russia joined PICES in 1994, he has been serving on a number of expert groups, including the Technical Committee on Monitoring and FIS.

In addition to PICES, Mikhail is very active in several international organizations, such as the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Bering Sea, Intergovernmental (Russia-U.S.) Consultative Committee and several other North Pacific international (bilateral) agreements.

Mikhail uses his scientific knowledge on marine biology to teach graduate students at the Far East State University and Vladivostok's School of Fisheries.



Dr. Gordon Kruse, outgoing FIS Chairman, leading discussion at the FIS Committee meeting at PICES XVII in Dalian.

PICES thanks Dr. Gordon H. Kruse (University of Alaska Fairbanks, U.S.A.) for his service to PICES as Chairman of the Fishery Science Committee since 2005. Dr. Kruse led the Committee's activities which included, among other things, involvement in the development of the Science Plan and the Implementation Plan for the new integrative scientific program of PICES, **FUTURE (Forecasting and Understanding of Trends, Uncertainty and Responses of North Pacific Marine Ecosystems)**. He will continue to contribute to PICES as Vice-Chairman of FIS.

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