New Leadership in PICES

Governing Council
At PICES-2012, Dr. Laura Richards (Canada) was elected Chairman and Dr. Chul Park (Korea) was elected Vice-Chairman of PICES. PICES is grateful to Dr. Lev Bocharov (Russia) for this dedicated service as Chairman of the Organization since October 2010. He will continue serving PICES as the Russian national delegate.

Laura Richards was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the east coast of Canada. As a child, she spent her summers around water – swimming in lakes and beachcombing along the seashore. She became fascinated by marine life. By the age of 12, she decided to make marine biology her career. She completed a B.Sc. in Biology at Dalhousie University and then went on to complete M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Zoology at the University of British Columbia. Laura managed to combine her love of beaches with science. Her Ph.D. research focused on a sandy beach amphipod and its beetle predator. All the action was nocturnal, and she became locally known for wandering along beaches at night.

Laura was fortunate to find a post-doctoral position at the Pacific Biological Station (PBS) in Nanaimo, British Columbia, where she was hired by Dr. Glen Jamieson (former Chairman of the PICES Marine Environmental Quality Committee) to work on Dungeness crabs. A year later in 1983, she started her career as a groundfish scientist for Fisheries and Oceans Canada at PBS. She was tasked with conducting assessments of various species of rockfish (Sebastes), groundfish and salmon. Much of her research focused on the development of quantitative methods for stock assessment.

In 1998, Laura shifted to managing research when she was appointed as the Acting Regional Director Science for Fisheries and Oceans Canada in British Columbia and the Yukon. She was confirmed as Regional Director Science in 2002 and continues to hold that position.

Laura was Vice-Chairman of PICES for one term (2010 to 2012). She has been a Canadian delegate to the PICES Governing Council since 2000, and a member of the Fisheries Science Committee and the Finance and Administration Committee (F&A). She held two terms as Chairman of F&A (2004 to 2008) and participated in several study groups. Laura also plays lead roles in other international organizations. Since 2001, she has been the Chairman or Co-Chairman of the Committee on Scientific Cooperation under the Pacific Salmon Commission (Chairman/Co-Chairman alternates annually between Canada and the United States). In addition, from 2005 to 2012, she was Canada’s lead Commissioner at the International Pacific Halibut Commission. In that role, she worked with different harvest sectors to apply science advice to make decisions on fishery quotas.

Laura enjoys keeping physically active through walking, hiking and nature watching (when it is not raining in British Columbia). Yoga and pilates also help her stay focused. Whenever possible, she travels to see research in action, and was fortunate to transit the Northwest Passage in both 2008 and 2011.

Chul Park was born in a small town in the southern part of the Korean peninsula in 1956, as the youngest child of a relatively big family with five sisters and one brother. When he was a child, his mom kept him away from wheels and water. He had never been at the beach until the age of 19. He lived in a rural area until the age of 12 with his parents. Then, he moved to Seoul with his youngest sister to obtain a better education.
In 1974, Chul entered Seoul National University (SNU) where he began to study Oceanography. Completing his compulsory service in the army for 27 months, Chul received his B.Sc. degree in 1980, and began to study Fisheries Oceanography in graduate school, SNU. However, his mentor emigrated from Korea to the United States one year after, so Chul switched his major to zooplankton ecology. Getting a M.Sc. degree in 1982, he moved to Texas A&M University in 1983 and graduated in 1987 with a Ph.D., under the supervision of Dr. John Wormuth. His thesis was on the fine scale patchiness of zooplankton. It was a more or less statistical approach.

Chul was fortunate to find a job right after graduation at Chungnam National University (CNU), where he is now. During his early career, he participated in the Antarctic Cruise in 1988, 1989 and 1990 for the Antarctic Marine Living Resources program of the National Marine Fisheries Services (USA). He spent one year as a post-doctoral student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, in 1991, studying egg production and feeding of copepods under the guidance of Dr. Michael Landry. Since then, he has been working on zooplankton ecology in relatively small bays in the western part of the Korean peninsula.

In 2004, Chul was invited to work as the Head of the Marine Environment Division at the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, which made him get involved with PICES as a Korean national delegate to Governing Council (GC) and the Finance and Administration Committee (F&A). But he returned to CNU just one year after and stepped down from GC and F&A. From February 2006 till January 2008, he served as Dean of College of Natural Sciences at CNU, which was composed of 11 departments. During this time he learned a lot on how to compromise and intervene. In 2009, Chul joined GC and F&A again. He also served as the President of the Korean Society of Oceanography for two years, 2010–2011. Now he is also a member of Group of Experts for UN World Ocean Assessment.

In his private life, Chul is a devoted and happy family man. His wife Hyunsoon provides support to her beloved husband. They have two sons, Juweon who is a Dentist and Jaehyun who is a Neurosurgeon (both married), and are waiting to become grandparents.

Finance and Administration Committee

At PICES-2012, Dr. John Stein (USA) was elected Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee (F&A). PICES is grateful to Ms. Patricia Livingston (USA) for her dedicated service as Chairman of F&A since October 2008. She will continue serving PICES as a member of F&A.

John Stein is the Science and Research Director of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), NOAA Fisheries Service, USA. He also serves as the Lead for NOAA’s Western Regional Collaboration Team and as a member of the Science Panel for the Puget Sound Partnership, a state agency leading an ecosystem approach to the recovery of Puget Sound. Previously, John served as the NWFSC’s Deputy Science and Research Director, Pacific Salmon Science Coordinator and Director of the Environmental Conservation Division, and as current Program Manager for NOAA Fisheries Seafood Safety Program in response to the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico. He recently completed his term as the Chairman of the Science Board of PICES, and was then appointed US national delegate to Governing Council.

John is an Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. Throughout his science career in NOAA Fisheries, John has focused on the impacts of anthropogenic and natural toxic compounds (e.g., chemical contaminants and marine biotoxins) on fishery resources and protected marine species, the development and application of biological markers of chemical contaminant exposure and effects in fishes and marine mammals, and the application of these techniques in delineating relationships between chemical contaminant exposure and effects in fishes and marine mammals. In addition, he served as Director for NOAA’s West Coast Center for Oceans and Human Health at NWFSC, leading research on the effects of the state of the ocean on the health of humans, health benefits and disease risk, and as a member of a NOAA team developing and implementing a science plan on ocean acidification.

John is married and has three wonderful children; girl, boy, girl; and three beautiful grandchildren. His wife Christie runs her own organic farm and a 50-member CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). During the summer, John’s hobby is manual farm labor helping Christie on the weekends; a good change of pace from NOAA duties, and a good exercise program. When he is not working to stay ahead of prolific and tenacious weeds, John enjoys fishing on Pacific Northwest rivers.
Chuanlin Huo is a research scientist with the National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center (NMEMC) of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) and is based in Dalian, China, where the 2008 PICES Annual Meeting was held. Chuanlin has both scientific background and experience in administrative affairs and in international collaboration, and knows PICES well, as he used to be a PICES intern from 2003–2004.

Chuanlin received his B.Sc. in Biochemistry from the Jilin University, and his M.Sc. in Environmental Science and Engineering from Dalian University of Technology. His scientific interests include marine environmental toxicology, marine environmental monitoring and evaluation, operational oceanography, carbon dioxide storage and ocean dumping. He has authored more than 20 scientific publications, including research papers and books, and serves on the Advisory Committee for the SOA Science and Engineering Foundation.

Chuanlin has been involved in many research projects, national and sectional (departmental), fundamental and high-tech, bilateral and regional, including the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project. Being a Chinese member of the YSLME Regional Working Group-Pollution, he participated in the compilation of the document titled “Environmental State of the Yellow Sea”.

Since 2005, Chuanlin has been serving as a Chinese member of the Scientific Groups under the London Convention and London Protocol. In this capacity, he has attended numerous scientific and technical meetings, participating in discussions of the Risk Assessment and Management Framework and compilation of the draft Specific Guidelines for the Assessment of Carbon Dioxide Streams for Disposal into Sub-seabed Geological Formations. He also represents China on the experts’ pool on ocean dumping and marine environmental protection for International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Chuanlin is a member of the Technical Panel responsible for organizing marine environmental monitoring and assessment in Chinese waters, training courses, and quality control and quality assurance. In addition, he serves as the executive editor/author of a crucial white-paper “Bulletin of Marine Environmental Status of China” (former “Bulletin of Marine Environmental Quality of China”) from SOA, since he started as Chief of Planning and management Department of NMEMC in 2007.

Chuanlin has a beautiful wife and similarly beautiful daughter who make his heart swell with pride. His daughter, 4-years old, is a lovely kid, and the most favourite thing the little girl likes is to walk holding his father and mother’s hands.

Darlene Smith was born and raised in Nova Scotia, Canada, and has always had an affinity for the sea which has not been dampened by her 25 years in Ottawa working for Fisheries and Oceans Canada. She received her B.Sc. degree in Biology and Geology and a M.Sc. of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University. Her graduate research focused on post-glacial paleoecology of Maritime lakes.

Following graduation in 1984, Darlene worked for the Geological Survey of Canada on Arctic diatoms prior to joining Fisheries and Oceans Canada where she has been involved in fisheries management, habitat management and science, with focus on biodiversity, aquatic invasive species and aquaculture. Currently, Darlene is the Director of the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat.
Darlene’s association with PICES began at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Vladivostok, Russia. Since 2006, she has served as a member of MEQ and the Co-Chairman of Working Group on Non-indigenous Aquatic Species (WG 21), and subsequently as an advisor to the Canadian members of the Finance and Administration Committee and Governing Council. Darlene looks forward to her continued involvement with MEQ.

FUTURE Advisory Panel on Status, Outlooks, Forecasts, and Engagement
At PICES-2012, Dr. Phillip Mundy (USA) was appointed as Chairman of the FUTURE Advisory Panel on Status, Outlooks, Forecasts, and Engagement (AP-SOFE). In this capacity, he will also serve as a member of Science Board. PICES is grateful to Mr. Robin Brown (Canada) for his dedicated service as Chairman of AP-SOFE since October 2009. Robin will continue serving PICES as a member of this expert group and as a member of TCODE (Technical Committee on Data Exchange).

Phil grew up in the eastern United States, including Florida, where many hours of snorkeling and diving turned him toward his life-long avocation. Trawling for hogchokers with Dr. Eugenia Clark in the Chesapeake Bay provided an inspiring start for fish studies (B.Sc. UMD 1970). Helping build and curate the University of Alabama Ichthyologic Collection (M.Sc. Biology 1973) taught him the necessity of taking computer science. Solving the educational equation, fish plus computers equals where, put him in Seattle (Ph.D. UW 1979). At the University of Washington, Dr. Ole A. Mathisen entrained him in the salmon vortex which led to Iceland, then Alaska, and then Puget Sound, where Phil wrote the first salmon fishing regulations on Hood Canal for the treaty fishing tribes in 1976. At Old Dominion University, Phil was fortunate to be major professor to Dr. Anne Hollowed, among other oceanography graduates who later came to the North Pacific. At the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (1999), Phil led the development of the Gulf [of Alaska] Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) program, now known as GulfWatch.

During this time, as a member of the U.S. Steering Committee of the U.S. Global Ocean Observing System, Phil helped start the Alaska Ocean Observing System and U.S. IOOS, and served as a charter member of the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB). Ocean observing led Phil to PICES (the first Annual Meeting he attended was PICES-2000 in Hakodate, Japan), where he later became a member (now Co-Chairman) of the Technical Committee on Monitoring (MONITOR), and a member (now Chairman) of the Advisory Panel on Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey in the North Pacific (AP-CPR).

In 2009, following the adoption of the Implementation Plan for the second PICES integrative science program on “Forecasting and Understanding Trends, Uncertainty and Responses of North Pacific Marine Ecosystems” (FUTURE), three Advisory Panels were established to provide continuing direction, leadership, coordination, and synthesis within PICES toward attaining the FUTURE goal. Phil became a member (now Chairman) for one of these Advisory Panels on Status, Outlooks, Forecasts, and Engagement (AP-SOFE), which is focused on identifying major sources of uncertainty and impediments to improving the skill of assessments and forecasts, suggesting research areas for priority development, providing coordination of potential PICES products, and engaging potential users of North Pacific ecosystem and climate information.

Phil has been the director of the Auke Bay Laboratories (ABL) Division, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Juneau, since 2005. ABL is home base for observing programs in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea and the Arctic, including the BASIS fisheries oceanography survey, the Gulf of Alaska Integrated Ecosystem Research Program, and the Alaska longline survey.

Juneau’s outdoor habitat provides Phil ample opportunities for hiking and whale watching, and the weather often sends him indoors for music and books.