



*11th Meeting of the
International Scientific Committee
for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
San Francisco, California, USA
20-25 July 2011*

Report from PICES¹

PICES

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**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ON TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN**

**Eleventh Annual Meeting
July 20-25, 2011, San Francisco, California, USA**

We appreciate your invitation for PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organization) to be present as an observer at the 2011 ISC Plenary Session in San Francisco. Unfortunately, PICES is unable to send a representative to this year's meeting, but we offer the following contribution at this time.

PICES is an intergovernmental scientific organization established by the international convention in 1992 in order to promote and coordinate marine research in the North Pacific and adjacent seas. Our current member countries are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the United States of America. Our goals are to (1) advance scientific knowledge and capacity available for the member countries, including information on human activities affecting, and affected by marine ecosystems, and (2) provide a mechanism for collaboration among scientists in addressing timely and critical scientific questions. In less than 20 years since its establishment, PICES became a major forum for marine science in the North Pacific.

ISC and PICES are natural partners: we both are regional intergovernmental organizations, we share five countries as members, we have overlapping geographical areas of interest, and we even have three words in common in the names of our organizations indicating their nature – “Scientific” and “North Pacific”. ISC' focus on conservation and rational utilization of tuna and tuna-like fishes, combined with the broad scientific mandate of PICES, provides the two organizations with a great potential for cooperation. I would like to share with you some thoughts in this regard.

PICES is currently moving forward with full implementation of a new ambitious integrative science program called FUTURE (**F**orecasting and **U**nderstanding Trends, **U**ncertainty and **R**esponses of North Pacific Marine **E**cosystems), to be undertaken to understand how marine ecosystems in the North Pacific respond to climate change and human activities, to forecast ecosystem status based on a contemporary understanding of how nature functions, and to communicate new insights to its members, governments, stakeholders and the public (http://www.pices.int/members/scientific_programs/FUTURE/FUTURE-main.aspx). FUTURE will be the highest priority activities of PICES for the next decade. Multidisciplinary and large-scale research activities of FUTURE meld well with activities of ISC directed toward establishing scientific groundwork for conservation and rational utilization of tuna and tuna-like species, and both organizations will benefit from such collaboration.

Realizing that many of the scientific and capacity building issues addressed by the Organization are not unique, PICES has been expanding relationships with other international organizations and non-member countries. Now, our *Rules of Procedure* allow experts from international organizations and non-member countries to serve as *ex-officio* members on PICES Technical Committees and subsidiary bodies of PICES Scientific Committees. Using this approach, interested parties can become involved directly in the activities of our expert groups that are responsible for delivering on FUTURE's objectives. We encourage you to consider participation of ISC scientists as *ex-officio* members in activities of PICES expert groups.

The 2nd PICES/ICES/IOC Symposium on “*Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans*” will be held from May 14–18, 2012, in Yeosu (Korea), as one of the official events related to the World Ocean Expo-2012. Several theme sessions of interest to ISC, including the session on “*Climate change effects on living marine resources: From physics to fish, marine mammals, and seabirds, to fishermen and fishery-dependent communities*” will be convened during the symposium, and we invite ISC to join the symposium as a co-sponsor.

The PICES 2011 Annual Meeting will be held October 14–23, 2011, in Khabarovsk, Russia, under the theme “*Mechanisms of Marine Ecosystem Reorganization in the North Pacific Ocean.*” A number of topic sessions in the program are directly relevant to various activities of ISC, especially such sessions as “*Mechanisms of*

physical-biological coupling forcing biological 'hotspots'", "*Recent changes of North Pacific climate and marine ecosystems: Implications for dynamics of the dominant species*", and "*Linking migratory fish behavior to End-to-End models*". A formal letter inviting ISC to be present as an observer at PICES-2011 and, if you wish, address PICES on collaborative issues was sent to your Chairman in mid June. I would like to use this opportunity to re-state our invitation. Dr. Gerard DiNardo represented ISC at PICES-2009 and Dr. Jaebong Lee represented ISC at PICES-2010, and we hope that ISC will be able to be present at our Annual Meeting. Through discussions at ISC-2011 and PICES-2011, we can explore feasibility of convening joint topic sessions at PICES Annual Meetings, *e.g.*, a sessions on tuna and tuna-like fishes at PICES-2012 in Hiroshima, Japan (a draft proposal has to be submitted by September 6) and on shark bycatch at PICES-2013 in Nanaimo, Canada.

We are pleased with the progress in relations between the two our organizations, but we certainly could do more in the future.

I wish you all very fruitful and enjoyable meeting in San Francisco.



Alexander Bychkov
Executive Secretary
North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)