



*17th Meeting of the
International Scientific Committee
for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
Vancouver, Canada
12-17 July 2017*

**PICES INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PACIFIC
TRANSITIONAL AREAS**

July 2017

International Symposium on Pacific Transitional Areas

Symposium title

International Symposium on “*Understanding changes in transitional areas of the Pacific*”

Venue

La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

Dates

April 24–26, 2018

Symposium scope

Transitional areas (TAs) are characterized by strong gradients in the physical environment that challenge biological communities, many of which are already exposed to their physiological limits. Because of their nature, TAs are expected to reflect the impacts of climate variability and change more dramatically and sooner than other more homogeneous areas, making them regions of particular concern. There is also great interest in the potential of TAs as regions of early detection of these changes.

Within the Pacific, large TAs include the convergence between the Oyashio and Kuroshio currents in the western North Pacific; the divergence of the North Pacific Current into the Alaska and California Currents in the eastern North Pacific; the convergences between the Equatorial Countercurrent and the California and Peru Currents in the eastern Central Pacific; the divergence of the North and South Equatorial Currents into the Equatorial, Kuroshio, and East Australia Currents in the western Central Pacific; and also the basin-wide borders between the North and South Pacific Gyres with equatorial and subpolar systems. At the meso- and local scales, the number of regions that can be considered TAs is much higher, and some of them are of great regional relevance.

In April 2002, the international PICES symposium on “*North Pacific Transitional Areas*” was held in La Paz, Mexico. After that meeting, the study of these systems became part of the scientific agenda of many research groups. However, there has been no integrative symposium on TAs for the last 15 years. The goal of the 2018 symposium is to update and expand our understanding of Pacific TAs. The symposium will focus on questions surrounding natural and anthropogenic climate variability and change in Pacific TAs and discuss evidence of climate-driven changes in the position and physical structure of TAs and their biological communities. The symposium will examine the impacts changing TAs have or may have on fisheries, including examples from individual systems and projections for the future. Effective monitoring is essential for detecting changes in TAs. Therefore, the symposium will discuss the major challenges in adequately observing these highly dynamic and heterogeneous systems as well as what should be monitored. We expect to tackle questions on whether current observations and models are informative enough to predict future changes, and whether we can design simple and inexpensive ways to maintain basin-scale observational systems in TAs. The symposium will also address socioeconomic questions related to the challenges of managing the highly migratory and transboundary resources in TAs

Outcome/Publication

The symposium organisers will strive to publish a special issue in a peer-review journal.

Symposium organizers

- PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organization)
- CIBNOR (Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste, S.C), Mexico
- CICIMAR (Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas), Mexico

Symposium convenors

- Sachihiko Itoh (PICES), AORI, University of Tokyo, Japan
- Phoebe Woodworth-Jefcoats (PICES), PIFSC, NOAA-Fisheries, USA
- Salvador Lluch-Cota, CIBNOR, Mexico

Symposium Scientific Steering Committee

- Shingo Kimura (PICES), AORI, University of Tokyo, Japan
- Minling Pan (PICES), PIFSC, NOAA-Fisheries, USA
- Angelica Peña (PICES), IOS, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
- Alejandro Pares Sierra, CICESE, Mexico
- Rubén Rodríguez Sánchez, CICIMAR, Mexico
- Cesar Salinas Zavala, CIBNOR, Mexico
- Up to three scientists from co-sponsoring organizations [[to be nominated](#)]

Symposium coordinator

- Alexander Bychkov (PICES)

Potential co-sponsoring organizations

- CONACYT (Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología), Mexico
[[Support for Mexican scientists to attend the symposium; proposal to be submitted in late 2017](#)]
- InaPesca (Federal Fisheries Research Agency), Mexico
- FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)
- Japanese academic societies (Japanese Society of Fisheries Oceanography, Japanese Society of Fisheries Science, Oceanographic Society of Japan)
- IFFO (The Marine Ingredient Organization)
- IMBER (Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research)
- IATTC (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission)
- ISC (International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean)
- NOAA-Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service), USA
- NPFC (North Pacific Fisheries Commission)
- NPRB (North Pacific Research Board), USA