

PICES contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea.

Sonia Batten, PICES Executive Secretary, Sonia.Batten@pices.int

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) is an intergovernmental science organization comprising six member countries that border the North Pacific (Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the United States of America). PICES has continued to implement the vision of its strategic plan in striving to engage scientists in trans-disciplinary multi-national collaborations to further our collective understanding of the North Pacific's natural systems and enhance ecological and social resilience of our coasts and oceans. Although revised in 2016 many of the goals of the strategic plan align closely with the challenges outlined in the recent UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and in June 2021 a joint PICES/ICES (International Council for Exploration of the Seas) UNDOS program was endorsed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. The latter part of 2021 and first half of 2022 has seen a focus on the implementation plan for the program SmartNet; Sustainability of Marine Ecosystems through global knowledge networks. A joint PICES Advisory Panel/ICES Council Strategic Initiative to plan participation in the UN Decade of Ocean Science (ICES-PICES Ocean Decade) was approved in May 2022 to provide guidance. The program will establish a global knowledge network for ocean science by strengthening and expanding the collaboration of ICES/PICES and partner organizations. It will support and leverage ICES/PICES member countries' activities related to UNDOS, by emphasizing areas of mutual research interest including climate change, fisheries and ecosystem-based management, social, ecological and environmental dynamics of marine systems, coastal communities and human dimensions, and communication and capacity development. It also incorporates strategies to facilitate UNDOS cross-cutting inclusivity themes relating to gender equality, early career engagement, and involvement of indigenous communities and developing nations in the planning and implementation of joint activities. Early activities are the convening, by ICES and PICES, of an UNDOS-endorsed conference for approximately 150 early career scientists from 29 countries, to be held (in person) July 17-21, 2022 (<https://www.ices.dk/events/symposia/ecsc4/Pages/default.aspx>) and an Ocean Decade Productive Ocean Laboratory satellite activity (online) held on June 1, 2022.

PICES has convened new expert groups in the past year which address topics that further the mission of PICES and address the challenges of the UNDOS, such as a Working Group on Climate Extremes and Coastal Impacts in the Pacific and an Advisory Panel on Early Career Ocean Professionals. Full details of all past and active expert groups can be found here [Members - PICES - North Pacific Marine Science Organization](#). PICES is also engaged in planning, with partner organisations, international symposia that will be held in November 2022 (Small Pelagic Fish Symposium, Lisbon, Portugal) and in April 2023 (Effects of Climate Change on the World's Ocean, Bergen, Norway). Full and updated details of these Symposia can be found via the PICES website here [Home - PICES - North Pacific Marine Science Organization](#)