

PICES contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, June 2024.

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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 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.

The period in question, September 2024 to August 2025, encompasses the PICES-2024 Annual Meeting as well as PICES participation in the One Ocean Science Congress (OOSC) and United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2025.

PICES annual meetings are an open forum for the latest research on North Pacific ecosystems to be presented and discussed and the related communities to make progress toward Sustainable Development Goals and assist member states in their contributions to International high-level Agreements (such as BBNJ). Each event also includes dedicated events for Early Career Ocean Professionals to provide mentorship and networking opportunities, a cross-cutting theme of the UNDOS. Of particular note from PICES-2024 are the following sessions (further information on each can be found here [2024-Session-Workshop-Summaries.pdf](#)) :

- Topic Session 1 Climate extremes and coastal impacts in Pacific
- Topic Session 2 Innovation in using integrated approaches to detect and manage for the effects of climate change tipping points and critical thresholds in marine ecosystems
- Topic Session 3 Advanced tools to monitor, observe, and assess small pelagic fish populations in support of ecosystem-based fisheries management and maintaining ecosystem services
- Topic Session 4 Observational frontier and new studies for understanding of ocean and ecosystem
- Topic Session 7 Social, economic and ecological implications of recoveries, range expansions and shifting distributions of marine birds, mammals and fish
- Topic Session 8 Changing ocean carbon cycle and its consequences for the ocean environment: detection, prediction and mitigation
- Topic Session 9 Recent advances in plastic pollution research in the North Pacific
- Topic Session 10 East meets West and West meets East: Past, current and future implications of Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) in the North Pacific.
- Topic Session 11 Impacts of warming-induced changes in body sizes on marine fish ecology and consequences for ecosystems and associated fisheries.
- Topic Session 12 The changes in distribution of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the North Pacific region
- Workshop 3 Exploring human network to power sustainability in North Pacific Ocean
- Workshop 5 Exploring international knowledge co-production: Lessons learned from international marine science organizations at the science-policy interface

PICES additionally supports many UNCLOS activities by nominating and/or providing support for PICES members to participate and share regional science perspectives in these high-level activities:

- PICES nominated Dr Shang Chen into the World Ocean Assessment III pool of experts, and PICES scientists are currently reviewing the draft and the Secretariat will collate and provide comments in areas that relate to our competencies.
- The ICES/PICES UNDOS Program SmartNet is convening a Town Hall at the OOSC on June 4th, 2025 entitled “*Moving towards integrated evaluation approaches in support of ocean policy*”.
- The ICES/PICES UNDOS Program SmartNet published (Bograd et al.) Advancing the climate-biodiversity-fisheries nexus in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, Volume 81, Issue 9, November **2024**, Pages 1705–1711, <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsae111> (Open Access)
- PICES is participating in the intersessional workshop of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies in June 2025 to progress regional cooperation in relation to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and BBNJ.