PICES contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, June 2026.

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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 member country scientists and partner organizations 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 2025 to August 2026, encompasses the PICES-2025 Annual Meeting. The PICES annual meeting is 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 member states contributions to International high-level Agreements (such as BBNJ). In November 2026 PICES revised its Mission Statement which places a stronger emphasis on delivering actionable information to member states, moving beyond the advancement of general scientific knowledge. The revised text underscores a commitment to multi-sector collaboration—uniting academic researchers, government scientists, and managers—with the specific aim of informing decisions that support the protection and sustainability of the North Pacific Ocean. About PICES - PICES - North Pacific Marine Science Organization

Of particular note and relevance to sustainable development and integrated understanding and management of marine ecosystems are the following activities at PICES-2025 (further information on each can be found here PICES-Press-2026-Vol34No1.pdf)

S2: Topic Session: Changing Ecosystem Structure Under Global Climate Change: Monitoring, Detecting, Modelling, and Socio-Ecological Impacts.

S5: Topic Session: Climate Extremes and Coastal Impacts in the Pacific.

S6: Incorporation of Climate and Ecosystem Impacts in Stock Assessment Advice: Discussion of Current Approaches and Challenges, and Charting a Path Forward.

S7: Topic Session: The Impact of Oceanographic Processes on Ecosystems Supporting Fisheries Production in Boundary Current Regions.

S8: Topic Session: How Can Ecosystem-Scale Information be Used to Improve Our Understanding of Climate Change Impacts, and Support Management and Conservation in the North Pacific?

S9: Topic Session: Marine Plastic and Microplastic Pollution in the North Pacific.

S10: Topic Session: Multiscale Physical, Biological and Ecosystem Dynamics Under Conventional and Carbon-Dioxide Removal Based Climate Scenarios.

S11 Topic Session: Applying Innovative and Established Approaches to Assess the Resilience of the Early life Stages of North Pacific Fishes to Changing Oceanographic Conditions.

W4: Workshop: Building Framework for Cross-Community Conversation Between Natural Carbon Cycles and Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal.

The PICES annual meeting also includes dedicated events for Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) to provide mentorship and networking opportunities, a cross-cutting theme of the UN Decade of Ocean Science. There were about 650 participants, almost half of which were ECOP. An event summary is available here PICES-2025-Briefing.pdf

Also in this period, in May 2026, PICES convened, with FAO and ICES, a global symposium (endorsed as an UNDOS activity) on *Navigating Changes in Small Pelagic Fish and Forage Communities: Climate, Ecosystems and Sustainable Fisheries*. This event brought together about 200 participants from over 30 countries. SPF-2026-Summary.pdf Overarching messages included that: cross-disciplinary collaboration is needed for actionable science, communication training would help scientists to engage with diverse audiences and stakeholder, and that socio-economic and ecological integration is needed in management frameworks. Finding the balance between the complexity of modelling tools and their usability can generate practical pathways for linking ecological knowledge to decision-making. Improving the science–policy interface will require better alignment across stakeholders, clearer communication of uncertainty, and sustained interdisciplinary collaboration.