



August 14, 2009

Dr. Edward R. Urban
Executive Director
Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research
College of Marine and Earth Studies
Robinson Hall
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716, USA

Dear Dr. Urban,

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) would like to offer its strong support to a proposed SCOR Working Group on “*Global Patterns of Phytoplankton Dynamics in Coastal Ecosystems: Comparative Analysis of Time-Series Observations*”.

Analysis of long-term data sets has provided the basis for many important insights into the changes occurring in marine systems and, as the proposal indicates, there are many phytoplankton data sets from diverse parts of the globe that warrant a comparative examination. This examination will undoubtedly supply important information on teleconnections and other complex mechanisms operating in today’s changing ocean climate. The 2007 Chapman Conference has provided an excellent background for this Working Group, and it is clear that the suggested analyses will greatly improve our understanding of marine responses to climate change, natural or anthropogenic.

PICES was a strong supporter of the establishment of SCOR Working Group 125 on “*Global Comparisons of Zooplankton Time Series*”, and we are very satisfied with its achievements. We consider the new Working Group as a logical methodological continuation of Working Group 125 and would be pleased to be involved in its activities. If the proposed Working Group is approved, PICES will nominate and support an Associate Member to serve on the group – Dr. Sinjae Yoo from the Climate Change Research Division of the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI), Republic of Korea (sjyoo@kordi.re.kr). Dr. Yoo has worked extensively on coastal and oceanic phytoplankton of the NW Pacific Ocean, and we believe he will bring valuable information to the proposed Working Group from a region that is currently not well represented in your data sets.

Secretariat
P.O. Box 6000,
Sidney, B.C.,
Canada, V8L 4B2
Phone: (250) 363-6366
Fax: (250) 363-6827
E-Mail: secretariat@pices.int
Internet: www.pices.int

Chairman
Tokio Wada

Vice-Chairman
Lev. N. Bocharov

Executive Secretary
Alexander S. Bychkov

Sincerely yours,



Alexander Bychkov
Executive Secretary, PICES