



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 “*Coupled climate-to-fish-to-fishers models for understanding mechanisms underlying low-frequency fluctuations in small pelagic fish*”.

The activities of the proposed SCOR Working Group will complement the effort of the joint PICES/ICES Working Group on “*Forecasting Climate Change Impacts on Fish and Shellfish*” (WG-FCCIFS) established in 2008 (http://www.pices.int/members/working_groups/WG-FCCIFS/). WG FCCIFS is taking a global view of assessing the impacts of climate change on fish and shellfish. The focused efforts of the new SCOR Working Group will provide valuable information on the mechanisms underlying the response of small pelagic fish to changing climatic and oceanographic conditions. Knowledge of these mechanisms will form a basis for forecasting responses of these valuable fish resources to global warming. It will be important to have strong links between SCOR Working Group on small pelagics and WG-FCCIFS.

As evidence of our support, PICES is prepared to finance an Associate Member to be, most likely, selected from the list of recommended Associate Members included in the Working Group proposal. We hope that this Associate Member will act as a liaison between the new SCOR Working Group and WG-FCCIFS.

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Sincerely yours,



Alexander Bychkov
Executive Secretary, PICES