

# Preface

The development of ocean science can be told in many ways: through accounts of the lives of individual explorers and scientists, the impact of particular technologies and ideas, or the accomplishments of particular laboratories, national programs, or cooperative arrangements. In *The Journey to PICES* (2005), I described the long development and early years of a community of scientists who created the North Pacific Marine Science Organization as a forum to exchange ideas on fundamental processes of the North Pacific Ocean. That account of its founding only briefly touched upon the organization's first decade of operation. Two years before its publication, I moved a continent away from the Pacific Ocean, from Seattle, Washington, to New York City. Despite that distance, I kept in touch with Warren Wooster, one of PICES' principal founders, its first chairman, and a delightful storyteller. His career as both scientist and statesman embodied the spirit of the organization as an international forum for interdisciplinary marine research. When in 2012 PICES Executive Secretary Alex Bychkov called me to see if I would like to revisit PICES in anticipation of its 25th anniversary, I was happy to explore its activities in the intervening years.

This volume is a welcome return for me to the people and ideas that animate the organization. Scientists are the core of the organization, with aspirations to create a robust, shared vision to advance scientific knowledge about the region and use it for social good. PICES had become a unique forum to build and refine our understanding of the processes that shape our shared marine environment and a critical node for coordination of the marine interests and national programs of its six member countries. During the past quarter century, many exciting developments in ocean science have arisen from diverse organizations and partnerships cooperating over the common goal of better scientific understanding and management of marine systems from regional to global scales. Growing public attention to oceans and climate change makes the PICES mission of effective international and interdisciplinary collaboration even more important in the face of rapid changes in marine systems.

In my exchanges with PICES scientists and partners, I always asked what motivated them to contribute to an endeavor that requires a great deal of commitment. What impressed me about their responses (some of their thoughts are included below) was that they felt that they had built a scientific community which functions as a kind of family. As with many families, the avenues of communication can be sometimes strained, but they remain committed to the ultimate goal of understanding how ocean systems work. That requires constantly renewed collective effort to express and synthesize ideas across disciplines and national boundaries. My account has benefitted from scientists who conveyed their enthusiasms and expertise to an outsider on topics that ranged from climate change and the status of marine ecosystems to the intricacies of administrative procedure. The willingness of the organization to routinely assess itself bodes well for its future as it helps shape studies of climate, ocean conditions, and human impact on North Pacific ecosystems.

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Fostering Internationalism through Marine Science

The Journey with PICES

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