

PICES TCODE Data-Sharing Project to Federate Metadata on North Pacific Ecosystems

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Informal discussions between the Korea Oceanographic Data Center (KODC) and the North Pacific Ecosystem Metadatabase (NPEM) have taken place over the past year. The goal of these discussions ultimately is to connect PICES member nations' metadatabase systems into one integrated resource. In this way, a user of any one metadata inventory will have the ability to search for data catalogued by any and all other participating system with a single search request. Using modern data management techniques to cross-search separate metadatabases provides the advantages of shared metadata without compromising national ownership, data integrity, or security of national metadata products.

Our informal discussions indicated that this project is feasible and worthy of immediate pursuit. TCODE has adopted a pilot KODC-NPEM federation as part of its 2005 work plan. We plan to initiate a series of meetings, open to all PICES member nations, to discuss the required technical details. During the process of outlining and discovering the technical hurdles and the means to address and solve problems with KODC and other participants, we intend to document our findings in a report, to be published during 2006, that can be used by other PICES countries wishing to join the federation. In this way, success with this project should easily scale up to similar efforts with other PICES countries with a nominal investment of time and planning.

We believe this project is compatible with the PICES strategic plan and PICES scientific interests. It accomplishes capacity sharing because all subscribing systems will possess the ability to virtually expand their holdings to those of the complete network. Data sharing between PICES countries helps to advance PICES science.

We ask PICES to support this project on a shared-cost basis. Korea and USA will contribute ~37% of the total cost for two meetings of four persons from each organization. TCODE requests that PICES pay 25%. Other participants are welcome to join the meetings, as possible.

Budget: Two ~2-day meetings, 4 people from each country (2 managers, 2 technical staff) at \$US2,000/person/trip.

Total cost:	\$US16,000
USA Contribution:	\$US 6,000
Korea Contribution:	\$US 6,000
PICES Contribution:	\$US 4,000