

**Theme for PICES XV (Japan)**  
**“Boundary Current Ecosystems”**

The North Pacific is surrounded by boundary currents (e.g., Kuroshio, Tsushima, Oyashio, California, Alaska, Bering Slope) that support a diversity of ecosystems. These ecosystems are highly variable in space and time due to combinations of climate change, decadal “regime” shifts, ENSO and other interannual variability, seasonal and event mesoscale dynamics. This variability has led to dramatic changes at both low and high trophic levels, including productivity, range extensions, and species dominance. This theme will provide opportunities to address questions such as 1) How will climate variation and projected climate change influence the dynamics and variability of boundary currents? 2) How will boundary current ecosystems respond to these physical property and transport changes? 3) How does human activity (e.g., fishing, hatcheries) alter the sensitivity of boundary current ecosystems to natural environmental forcing?, and 4) What are appropriate management strategies to maintain healthy, sustainable living marine resources in boundary current systems that experience large environmental variations? Presentations that describe, compare and/or contrast biology, fisheries, physics, geochemistry of boundary currents and the ecosystems they support are encouraged.