Session S
Joint ICES/PICES Theme Session on "Climate variability: responses and comparison of northern hemisphere marine ecosystems"

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The climate of northern regions is changing and marine ecosystems are heavily impacted by climate variability. Relevant questions related to external forcing functions that link global and regional climate processes to the physical oceanography are *inter alia*:

- how does the climate vary and what changes do we see in the physical conditions
- how does variability in the physical aspects of the marine systems affect ecosystem structure and processes?
- how can we integrate across spatial and temporal scales to permit forecasting how changes in climate may affect the productivity and sustainability of the marine ecosystems?

Climate impact studies have been made within single ecosystems or between different systems of the same region. However, comparisons between ecosystems of different regions or even of different ocean basins are rare. Such comparisons are vital in order to better understand responses of ecosystems to climate forcing, particularly with a view to large-scale climate forcing and teleconnection patterns.

The Theme Sessions invite contributions which compare the development in physical and biological oceanography in different regions of the north. Comparisons of climate variability impact between Atlantic and Pacific ecosystems are particularly welcomed.

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