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# LETTERS

Muriel Cole's article on multinational oceanographic cooperation in a recent *Oceanography* points out the two levels, intergovernmental and nongovernmental, at which such cooperation can be organized. She goes on to give the impression that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is the only forum for intergovernmental activity. Actually, there are a variety of such organizations that deal with one or another aspect of scientific cooperation, two of which are of particular importance, namely the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, ICES, and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization, PICES. ICES has been functioning with great success since 1902, and, although its major emphasis is on living marine resources, anyone who has attended one of its Annual Science Conferences can attest to the breadth and depth of scientific cooperation that has been sponsored by that organization. PICES has little more than four years of experience, but already has shown its interest in both physical and biological cooperative efforts (two recent publications are on "The Okhotsk Sea and Oyashio Region" and "Monitoring Subarctic North Pacific Variability"). A major effort is now being launched to study the effects of climate variations on marine ecosystems of the subarctic Pacific, the so-called "Climate Change and Carrying Capacity" Program. Your readers are surely aware of ICES and should begin to learn about PICES, two organizations that are major elements in intergovernmental oceanographic cooperation.

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