

NW Pacific and Arctic biodiversity

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Research efforts and accordingly our knowledge about the deep NW Pacific and the Arctic Ocean biodiversity and ecosystems have increased significantly over the last decades. In times of rapid climate change and increasing anthropogenic impact, a compilation of life in the deep sea, where environmental parameters resemble those of the Arctic Ocean, is urgently needed. Based on such urgent needs, a handful deep-sea expeditions and recently deep-sea data digitization have been significantly conducted by the marine scientists worldwide. This special session will be thus a significant compilation of the past achievements and new advances in the NW Pacific and Arctic deep-sea society and a timely discussion of its future directions and ways forward. This session will provide opportunities for taxonomists, ecologists, and biogeographers, not only to share their insights on deep-sea biodiversity community composition and patterns, but also form a fundamental regional overview of the NW Pacific and the Arctic Ocean. There is an immediate requirement for understanding the ecosystem services and decision-making assessments, in order to prioritize conservation criteria across multiple biodiversity conservation initiatives and groups. The discussions and outcomes of this session will thus represent an important backbone structure and conceptual framework for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development assessment (2021–2030), which aims to support nations' activities to sustainably manage the oceans and reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.