



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

2017 BROCHURE

WHO ARE WE ?

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) is an inter-governmental organization established by the *Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean*.

The *Objective* of the Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur.

Background

The Convention was adopted on 24th February 2012 and came into force 180 days after receipt of the 4th ratification on 19 July 2015. Dr. Dae-Yeon Moon was selected to lead the NPFC Secretariat in September 2015.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, the United States of America, and Republic of Vanuatu are Members of the Commission.

The task of the Commission is to achieve the objective and to establish management regimes to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources of the North Pacific Ocean and its sensitive marine ecosystems.

The Commission has two key areas of work, first, the scientific area which addresses status of fisheries species and impact of fishing activity on fish stocks and marine ecosystems to provide advice to the Members for sustainable management of the resources and protection of ecosystems. Second, is the compliance component, where rules and regulations (CMMs) are endorsed for approval by the Commission, and fishing vessels operating in the NPFC Convention Area are monitored and boarded at sea and in port to ensure compliance of their operations with the agreed regulations/CMMs of the Commission.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN YEAR 2 OF THE COMMISSION ?

In its efforts to achieve the objective of the Convention, the Commission held scientific committee meetings and workshops on the vulnerable marine ecosystems, bottom fisheries, Pacific saury, chub mackerel and squids. The Scientific Committee developed its 2017-2021 Research Plan and Work Plan, established new Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment and drew a list of scientific projects and activities for 2017 and 2018. The Finance and Administration Committee endorsed budgets for 2017 and 2018. The Technical and Compliance Committee met resulting in the approval by the Commission of a TCC Work Plan, IUU Vessel List and two new Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) and revision of four other CMMs to conserve and protect the marine ecosystems of the Convention Area. On 28 November 2017 there will be 9 active CMMs, including:

- CMM 2016-01 On Information Requirements for Vessel Registration
- CMM 2017-02 To Establish a List Of Vessels Presumed To Have Carried Out IUU Activities In The NPFC Convention Area
- CMM 2016-03 On the Interim Transshipment Procedures for the NPFC

- CMM 2016-04 On Vessels Without Nationality
- CMM 2017-05 For Bottom Fisheries and Protection of VMEs In the NW Pacific Ocean
- CMM 2017-06 For Bottom Fisheries and Protection of VMEs In the NE Pacific Ocean
- CMM 2017-07 For Chub Mackerel
- CMM 2017-08 For Pacific Saury
- CMM 2017-09 High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures

Day-to-day running of the Commission is through the Secretariat under the direction of the Executive Secretary. Current priority activities include developing: i) the science and compliance operations for conservation and management of fisheries resources and their ecosystems ii) the data management system essential for all our operations; and iii) internal finance and administrative systems.

WHAT IS OUR AREA OF JURISDICTION ?

The shaded area below provides a rough presentation of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area. The detailed coordinates of the Convention Area are in the Convention text, Article 4.



WHAT ARE THE KEY TARGET SPECIES FOR NPFC MANAGEMENT ?

Fisheries resources covered by the Convention include all the fish, mollusks, crustaceans and other marine species caught by fishing vessels within the Convention Area, *excluding*:

- (i) Sedentary species insofar as they are subject to the sovereign rights of coastal States: and indicator species of vulnerable marine ecosystems as listed in, or adopted pursuant to the NPFC Convention, including at the moment four families of cold water corals and sponges;
- (ii) Catadromous species;
- (iii) Marine mammals, marine reptiles and seabirds; and
- (iv) Other marine species already covered by pre-existing international fisheries management instruments within the area of competence of such instruments.

Currently the fish species targeted by the NPFC Members include bottom fish stocks and pelagic fish stocks as follows:

● Fishery for Bottom Fish Stocks ●

In the Northwestern Pacific Ocean, bottom trawl fisheries, bottom gillnet fisheries and bottom longline fisheries have been conducted over the Emperor seamounts by Japan, Korea and Russia. The primary target species of the bottom trawl fisheries have been North Pacific Armorhead (*Pentaceros wheeleri*), and splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*), and the primary target species of the bottom gillnet fisheries have been splendid alfonsino, oreo (*Allocyttus verrucosus*) and mirror dory (*Zenopsis nebulosa*).

In the Northeastern Pacific Ocean, the seamount long-line fishery began in the 1970's. Four seamount aggregations (Eickelberg Seamounts, Warwick Seamount, Cobb Seamounts, and Brown Bear Seamounts) have been fished by Canada, via longline hook and longline trap gear. Since the inception of the fishery, the target species of both the above fishing gear has been sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*).

● Fishery for Pelagic Fish Stocks ●

Pacific saury (*Cololabis saira*) has been harvested by China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Chinese Taipei and Vanuatu.

These fleets mainly use stick-held dip nets or lift nets (a similar fishing method which uses fishing lamps) to catch Pacific saury. While Japanese and Russian vessels operate mainly within their EEZs, Chinese, Korean, Chinese Taipei and Vanuatu vessels operate mainly in the high seas of the North Pacific. This fishery is undergoing an advanced stock assessment for the sustainability of the fishery.

Besides Pacific saury, neon flying squid (*Ommastrephes bartramii*) and Japanese flying squid (*Todarodes pacificus*) have been harvested by squid jigging vessels within the Convention Area.

The chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) fishery is operational in the NPFC Convention Area in the Northwestern Pacific Ocean. A TWG for chub mackerel stock assessment has been established to carry out a stock assessment and determine harvest control rules.

CONTACT US

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