NPFC-2022-SC07-WP04 (Rev. 1)

**Scientific projects**

*Abstract:* The intent of this document is to put together scientific projects for the current and following fiscal years. The status of the existing recurrent projects #1 (GIS), #2 and #3 (meetings), #7 and #8 (external experts), #9 (fish id guide) and #6 and #10 (cooperation with NPAFC and PICES) has been updated. An International Course for NPFC observers for VME indicator taxa identification has been postponed until further notice. The NPFC supported the PICES-ICES-FAO Small Pelagic Fish Symposium which was held in Lisbon, Portugal from 7-11 November 2022. Proposed travel grants for invited experts to the PICES’s workshop on seamount ecology and topic session on small pelagic fish have not been endorsed by the Commission due to the postponement of its 2022 annual session. Tree new projects (#11 SWG MSE PS meeting, #12 PICES session and #13 VME encounter thresholds) which require a funding decision have been added for consideration by the SC.

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| # | Project | Time | Status | Next step:  activities, required funds |
| 1.1 | GIS database/module as a part of NPFC database management system for spatial management of bottom fisheries and VMEs | 2018- | *In progress*  A map of bottom fishing footprint has been deployed on the NPFC website. | Further development of the map.  *2023 FY: 0,7mil JPY (5,000USD).*  *Source: Database management.* |
| 1.2 | Joint spatial/temporal map of Members’ catch and effort on Pacific saury with a spatial resolution of one-degree grids and a temporal resolution of one month. | 2018- | *In progress.*  Spatial/temporal map of Members’ Pacific saury catch and effort has been updated up to 2021. | Update the map up to 2022.  *2023 FY: 0,2mil JPY (1,500USD).*  *Source: Database management.* |
| 2 | Pacific saury stock assessment meeting (meeting costs) | Every year | *TWG PSSA meetings: Feb 2017, Dec 2017, Nov 2018, Mar 2019.*  *SSC PS meetings: Nov 2019, Nov 2020, Oct 2021.* | SSC PS11 meeting.  Dates TBD.  *2023 FY: 1.4mil JPY (10,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 3 | Chub mackerel stock assessment meeting (meeting costs) | Every year | *TWG CMSA meetings: Dec 2017, Mar 2019, Nov 2020, Jun 2021.* | TWG CMSA07 and 08 meetings. Dates TBD.  *2023 FY: 4.2mil JPY (15,000USD x 2 mtngs)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 4 | Expert to review Pacific saury stock assessment (consultant fee and travel costs) | TBD | *Under consideration.*  SSC PS: to determine time and format. | *2023 FY: No funds required.* |
| 5 | Observer Program | 2018- | *In progress*  A [study on the existing observer programs of Members and those of other RFMOs](https://www.npfc.int/system/files/2018-04/NPFC-2018-SC03-WP03%28Rev%201%29%20Report%20on%20existing%20Observer%20Programs.pdf) has been done.  Scientific data which can be collected and/or validated by at-sea observers, fishermen, electronic reporting systems and other means for Pacific saury have been reviewed ([SSC PS04 report](https://www.npfc.int/system/files/2020-01/SSC%20PS04%20report.pdf), Annex E). | Identify data gaps which can be fulfilled by an observer program.  *2023 FY: No funds required.* |
| 6 | Promotion of cooperation with NPAFC including macro-scale multinational survey in the North Pacific in 2022 | 2021- | *In progress*.  The SC provided suggestions to the work plan to implement the MOC between the NPFC and NPAFC.  The NPAFC reported on the [2022 IYS Winter High Seas Research Expedition](https://www.npfc.int/system/files/2022-11/NPFC-2022-SC07-OP01%202022%20Expedition%20progress%20report%20to%20NPFC.pdf) which was co-sponsored by NPFC. | *2023 FY: No funds required.* |
| 7 | Invited expert to support TWG CMSA  (consultant fee and travel costs) | 2020- | An external expert has been contracted to support the TWG CMSA in testing candidate stock assessment models. | *2023 FY: 1,4mil JPY (10,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 8 | Invited expert to support SSC PS  (consultant fee and travel costs) | 2019- | An external expert has been contracted to support SSC PS during its meetings. | *2023 FY: 2.1mil JPY (15,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 9 | Standardization of bycatch species list and fish species identification guides  (translation of the existing fish ID guide from Japanese to additional languages) | 2019-2022 | *In progress.*  Bycatch species list has been compiled. The fish ID guide has been submitted to SSC BF-ME for review. | Printing costs.  *2022 FY: 1.4mil JPY (10,000USD).*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 10 | PICES Annual meeting | Every year |  | *Travel support to a participant of the SC or its subsidiary bodies.*  *2023 FY: 1mil JPY*  *(7,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 11 | SWG MSE PS (meeting costs) | 2022- | *Proposed.* | SWG MSE PS04.  Dates TBD.  *2023 FY: 1.4mil JPY (10,000USD)*  *Source: Special Project fund.* |
| 12 | PICES 2023 session on Seamount Ecology and VME Identification | 2023 | *Proposed.*  This session will be co-convened by SC participants, and WG47 co-chairs and members. | *2023 FY: 0.7mil JPY*  *(5,000USD)*  *Source: SC Fund* |
| 13 | Understanding the basis by which other RFMOs’ VME encounter thresholds were determined by taxa and gear-type | 2023 | *Proposed.* | *2023 FY: 0.7mil JPY*  *(5,000USD)*  *Source: SC Fund* |
|  | Total |  |  | *2022 FY: SC Fund 1.4mil JPY.*  *2023 FY: SC Fund 11,5mil.*  *Database management 0.9mil.*  *2023 FY: Special Project Fund 1.4mil JPY.* |

*\* The recurrent projects should be funded annually from the SC Fund allocated by the Commission. If total costs exceed the SC Fund, the SC may propose to use the Special Project Fund subject to the decision by the Commission.*

**Past projects**

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| # | Project | Time | Status | Next step:  activities, required funds |
| 1 | NPFC/FAO VME workshop | 2018-2019 | *Concluded.* |  |
| 2 | Workshop to address data requirements and data sharing for SAI assessment and other tasks identified in the Work Plan by SSC VME and SSC BF | 2018 | *Concluded.* |  |
| 3 | Workshop on biological reference points (BRP), harvest control rule (HCR) and management strategy evaluation (MSE) | 2019 | *Concluded.* |  |
| 4 | Literature review of target and limit reference points used in pelagic species fisheries by other general RFMOs and other fishery management bodies | 2018 | *Done.*  *Available on the NPFC website.* |  |
| 5 | Joint PICES-NPFC workshop (W11) on *The influence of environmental changes on the potential for species distributional shifts and subsequent consequences for estimating abundance of Pacific saury* | 2019 | *Concluded.* |  |
| 6 | VME taxa identification guide | 2017-2022 | *Concluded.*  VME taxa ID guide has been printed out and distributed to Members. | Test the VME taxa ID guide by observers and revise if needed. |
| 7 | International Course for NPFC observers for VME indicator taxa identification  (consultant fees and travel costs for two lecturers, meeting costs) | 2022 | *Postponed until further notice.* |  |
| 8 | PICES-ICES-FAO Small Pelagic Fish Symposium, 7-11 November 2022, Lisbon, Portugal. | 2022 | *Concluded.*  NPFC contributed 15,000USD to the organizers for the symposium logistics. |  |