NPFC-2022-SSC BFME03-WP01 (Rev. 1)

**Five-Year Work Plan of the SSC BF-ME**

Abstract: The Five-Year Work Plan of the SSC BF-ME has been updated by the SSC BF-ME Chair. Members reviewed and revised the work plan during the SSC BF-ME03 meeting.

Priority list:

1. NPA and SA: Develop catch and CPUE time series for commercial fisheries
2. NPA: Review survey
3. NPA: Conduct comprehensive stock assessment and provide management advice
4. SA: Conduct comprehensive stock assessment and provide management advice
5. NPA, SA and Sablefish: Develop and implement harvest control rule
6. Sablefish: Evaluate historical harvest relative to trip limits and update trip limits if necessary
7. Sablefish and VME: Conduct trade-off analysis between commercial fishing and VME protection
8. VME: Develop a process for establishing quantitative definitions of VMEs
9. VME: Develop standardized approach to SAI determination

| ITEM | SSC BFME03 (2022) | SSC BFME04 (2023) | SSC BFME05 (2024) | SSC BFME06 (2025) | SSC BFME07 (2026) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| North Pacific Armorhead |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assess and monitor status of stock | Update catch data and CPUE index for NPA | Update catch data and CPUE index for NPA | Update catch data and CPUE index for NPA | Update catch data and CPUE index for NPA | Update catch data and CPUE index for NPA |
|  | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys |
|  | Life history based DLM approach | Implement alternative methods for stock status | Update status of stock | Update status of stock | Update status of stock |
|  | Review acoustic survey and research | Compare CPUE and acoustic estimates |  |  |  |
|  | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA |
|  | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice |
| Conserve stock |  | Develop conservation objective(s) |  |  |  |
|  |  | Implement adaptive management |  |  |  |
|  | Refine harvest control rule if needed | Develop HCR and implement | Update data and implement HCR | Update data and implement HCR |  |
| Splendid alfonsino |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assess and monitor status of stock | Update catch data and CPUE index for SA | Update catch data and CPUE index for SA | Update catch data and CPUE index for SA | Update catch data and CPUE index for SA |  |
|  |
|  | DLM approach life history | Update comprehensive stock assessment or data limited approach, and provide management advice | Update comprehensive stock assessment or data limited approach, and provide management advice | Update comprehensive stock assessment or data limited approach, and provide management advice |  |
|  | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice |  |
| Conserve stock |  | Develop conservation objective(s);  Define and implement harvest control rule | Update data and implement HCR | Update data and implement HCR |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sablefish |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assess and monitor status of stock | Update catch data and CPUE index | Update catch data and CPUE index | Update catch data and CPUE index | Update catch data and CPUE index | Update catch data and CPUE index |
|  |
|  | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish |
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| Conserve stock | Update catch limits relative to stock status | Update catch limits relative to stock status |  |  |  |
| Other research | Conduct analysis of sablefish associations with VME (intersessional) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Conduct trade-off analysis for Sablefish fishing and VME protection (intersessional) | Update trade-off analysis for Sablefish fishing and VME protection (as new data is available) |  |  |  |
| Vulnerable marine ecosystems |  |  |  |  |  |
| Defining and Identifying VMEs | Bring together VME indicator taxa observation data from various sources and map for NPFC area | Bring together VME indicator taxa observation data from various sources and map for NPFC area |  |  |  |
|  | Determine a quantitative definition of VMEs | Review and update quantitative definition of VMEs |  |  |  |
| Identifying and defining SAI's | Determine data requirements and resolution for SAI assessment | Apply the standardized approach for SAI assessments and conduct integrated SAI assessment | Conduct integrated SAI assessment | Conduct integrated SAI assessment | Conduct integrated SAI assessment |
|  | Discuss VME indicator taxa and whether species/taxa should be added/subtracted | Review updated taxonomy for corals relative to VME indicator taxa |  |  |  |
| Quantifying interactions between fisheries and VMEs | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data |
|  | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice |
| Conserving VMEs | Develop management objectives for recovering VME sites | Develop management objectives for recovering VME sites (lower priority) | Periodic review of VME management | Periodic review of VME management | Periodic review of VME management |
|  | Literature review on impacts and impact rates by fishing gears |  |  |  |  |
| Other ecosystem components |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Publication of fish ID guide for scientific observers in the NW Pacific Ocean |  |  |  |  |