



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2023-SSC BFME04-WP11

Recommendation of Japanese method of identification
of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VMEs) in the Emperor
Seamount region
to NPFC Standard

by

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Recommendation of Japanese method of identification
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Japan proposed an approach for identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and assessment of the potential impacts of bottom fisheries on VMEs, and applied it using data from Japanese surveys and fisheries in the Emperor Seamounts region, as reported by NPFC-2017-SSC VME02-WP03 (Rev. 1) and NPFC-2019-SSC VME04-WP02. This approach provided a scientific basis for the prohibition of bottom contact by trawl nets in two potential VME sites by NPFC Conservation and Management Measures (CMM 2023-05 4.S).

Therefore, we recommend that the SSC BFME and the SC endorse the process described in NPFC-2019-SSC VME04-WP02 as one of the NPFC's processes for identifying VMEs.

Acknowledgement

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References

Miyamoto M. and Kiyota M. 2017. An assessment of the potential impacts of Japanese bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) within fished seamounts of the Emperor Seamounts region [NPFC-2017-SSC VME02-WP03](#) (Rev. 1). 47 pp.

Miyamoto, M. and Yonezaki. S. 2019. Updating assessment of the potential impacts of Japanese bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the Emperor Seamounts region. [NPFC-2019-SSC VME04-WP02](#). 17 pp.