NPFC-2023-SC08-OP03 (Rev. 1)

**Five-year Work Plan to implement NPAFC/NPFC Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC).**

(endorsed by NPFC and NPAFC in 2023)

*Exchange of data and information in accordance with the information-sharing and data confidentiality policies of each Commission;*

* Create a SharePoint inter-commission communication system to share news, reports, guideline documents, and other information relevant to the management of the mutual area of interest in an easily accessible form.

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| Timeline | Deliverables | Milestones |
| August 2023–June 2024 | NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint Terms of Reference to describe structure, capabilities, access rights, and control issues  NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint service in a test mode  NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint service in full operational mode | Terms of Reference (ToR) agreed by both commissions – September 15, 2023  Test mode – December 31, 2023  Full operational mode – June 30, 2024 |

***NPAFC Commentary:***

***NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint Terms of Reference (ToR) has not been agreed yet. There has been no discussion yet between the two organizations.***

* Establish a mechanism of general information exchange (e.g., MCS activity information, fleet activity information, map of catch and fishing efforts).

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| Timeline | Deliverables | Milestones |
| August 2022–December 2023 | NPAFC/NPFC communication and information exchange plan  Regular mutual email conferences to exchange MCS and enforcement activities information | A plan agreed by the commissions – First half of 2023  Summer–autumn of 2023 |
| 2022–2025 | NPFC historical footprint (catch and fishing efforts) of the fisheries  Annual data reporting/sharing of Pacific salmon as by-catch by NPFC fishing vessels (voluntary)  Interactive Mapping System (IMS) for the INPFC/NPAFC High-Seas Salmonid Tag-Recovery Database | Pacific saury, Japanese sardine, chub and blue mackerels, Japanese flying squid, neon flying squid, North Pacific armorhead, splendid alfonsino – available on the [NPFC website](https://www.npfc.int/statistics)  IMS in a test mode with limited access – May 2023.  IMS in full operational mode – May 2024 |

***NPAFC Commentary:***

***Regular email conferences are conducted to exchange (among NPAFC Contracting Parties) enforcement activities information. The outcomes of the conferences remain confidential.***

***Regarding the Interactive Mapping System (IMS), the final testing phase is in place. It is expected to be in full operational mode in 2024.***

* Establish a practice of sharing information on suspicious fishing vessels identified in overlapping convention area including stateless vessels and unregistered vessels.

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| Timeline | Deliverables | Milestones |
| August 2023–June 2024 | Vessel of Interest folder which has been treated as confidential at the NPAFC/NPFC Sharepoint | Vessel of Interest folder description is included in the ToR agreed by the commissions – September 15, 2023  Vessel of Interest information is included in the folder – June 30, 2024 |

***NPAFC Commentary: NPAFC maintains the List of Detected and Apprehended High Seas Drift Net (HSDN) Vessels. NPAFC member countries continued practice of sharing information on suspicious fishing vessels identified in overlapping convention area for this season through biweekly e-mail conferences.***

*Collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including stock assessments;*

* Implement Pan-Pacific research survey plans in winter 2022, organize a comprehensive study of its outcome at the special session of the IYS Synthesis Symposium.

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| Timeline | Deliverables | Milestones |
| August 2021–February 2022 | NPFC suggestions to the NPAFC Pan-Pacific High Seas Research Expedition cruise plans.  NPFC participation in the country leads meetings to coordinate/contribute to the Expedition plans | NPFC proposal submitted to the NPAFC – November 2021  NPFC Science Manager / Scientific Committee Chairperson participates in the country leads meetings in August 2021–February 2022  NPAFC presented a report on the expedition finding after its completion in 2022 |

***NPAFC Commentary:***

***Results of the International Year of the Salmon Expedition cruises are documented in NPAFC Technical Report 18 (2022) and in NPAFC Technical Report 20 (2023). More results are anticipated to be published in 2024 – Technical Report 22 and Bulletin 7.***

* Coordinate research activities identified in the NPFC/PICES and NPAFC/PICES Frameworks for Enhanced Scientific Cooperation in the North Pacific Ocean.

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| Timeline | Deliverables | Milestones |
| October 2023–May 2025 | Coordination of research activities identified in the NPFC/PICES and NPAFC/PICES Frameworks |  |

***NPAFC Commentary:***

***NPAFC is a major partner with PICES in the multi-year initiative Basin-Scale Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI). The progress of this collaboration is documented in NPAFC Newsletter 55.***

*Implementation of conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest;*

* Establish a mechanism to share the IUU vessel list of each Commission and its related information.

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| Timeline | Deliverables | Milestones |
| August 2021–May 2023 | Accessible links to the NPAFC and NPFC IUU vessel list on both Commissions’ website | NPAFC is developing the IUU vessel listing process with a study group, and the NPAFC IUU vessel list is expected to be established for the first time – May 2023 |

***NPAFC Commentary:***

***In May 2023, it adopted launching the NPAFC IUU Vessel List.***

* Expand cooperation to collect and share information relating to species of special interest for each Commission.

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| Timeline | Deliverables | Milestones |
| August 2021–December 2025 | Information exchange on research cruise plans that can collect information on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species  Mutual scientific documents and publications on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species distribution, relationships, and potential impact | Lists of scientific cruise plans are exchanged – May 2022  NPAFC/NPFC/PICES Topic Session (or Workshop) on this issue is proposed for October 2023 at the PICES Annual Meeting  Mutual scientific documents and publications on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species are published in 2023–2025 |

***NPAFC Commentary:***

***Annual research cruise plans of NPAFC Contracting Parties are compiled by the Secretariat at its Annual Meetings.***

* Develop, publish, and distribute public information about conservation on the high seas and consequences of IUU activity.

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| Timeline | Deliverables | Milestones |
| 2021–2025 | News releases and journal articles on the Commissions activities related to high seas resources conservation, MCS, and law enforcement | Secretariats annually exchange information on the relevant publications |

***NPAFC Commentary:***

***Press Releases of the Annual Meetings are prepared and disseminated. In addition, NPAFC newsletters are regularly published with two issues annually.***

***General comment:***

* ***The current workplan focuses on information sharing between NPAFC and NPFC. SharePoint, which ToR have yet to be developed, would provide the platform and mechanism for such information sharing.***
* ***In May 2023, the NPAFC recommended the Secretariat contact the NPFC Secretariat to seek an agreement to organize and host a joint workshop(s) on transshipment management and Pacific salmon bycatch.***