NPFC-2023-SC08-WP01 (Rev. 1)

**Scientific projects**

*Abstract:* The intent of this document is to put together scientific projects which will be funded by the SC fund in the current and following fiscal years. Eight projects were removed from the list as they had been completed (P12-16) or does not require funding from the SC (P9, P10, P11 and P12). A new project for neon flying squid (NFS) is proposed following the outcomes of the intersessional meetings of the SWG NFS and SC08 meeting. In addition, another new project for capacity development was proposed.

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| # | Project | Time | Status | Next step:  activities, required funds |
| 1 | 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, Aug 2023.* | SSC PS13 meeting.  Aug 2024.  *2024 FY: virtual, no funds required.* |
| 2 | Chub mackerel stock assessment meeting (meeting costs) | Every year | *TWG CMSA meetings: Dec 2017, Mar 2019, Sep 2023.* | TWG CMSA09 meeting. Jul 2024.  *2024 FY: 1.5mil JPY (10,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.*  TWG CMSA10.  Early 2025.  *2024 FY: virtual or hosted by members, no funds required.* |
| 3 | Invited expert to support TWG CMSA  (consultant fee and travel costs) | 2020- | An external expert has been contracted for TWG CMSA08 and 09 meetings using the voluntary contribution from the USA. The proposed project covers TWG CMSA10 and 11. | *2024 FY: 2,25mil JPY (15,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 4 | Invited expert to support SSC PS  (consultant fee and travel costs) | 2019- | An external expert has been contracted to support SSC PS and its subsidiary WG NSAM. | *2024 FY: 3mil JPY (20,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 5 | Invited expert to support SSC NFS | 2024- | An external expert will be contracted to support SSC NFS. | *2024 FY: 2.25mil JPY (15,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 6 | PICES Annual meeting | Every year | Travel support to a participant of the SC or its subsidiary bodies to attend PICES Annual meeting. | *2024 FY: 1mil JPY*  *(7,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 7 | Other science meetings / capacity development | 2024 | Training for capacity building or travel support to attend other relevant science meetings. | *2024 FY: 1.5mil JPY*  *(10,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
|  | Total |  |  | *2024 FY: 11.5mil JPY*  *Source: SC fund.* |

*\* 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 |
| P1 | NPFC/FAO VME workshop | 2018-2019 | *Concluded.* |
| P2 | 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.* |
| P3 | Workshop on biological reference points (BRP), harvest control rule (HCR) and management strategy evaluation (MSE) | 2019 | *Concluded.* |
| P4 | 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.* |
| P5 | 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.* |
| P6 | VME taxa identification guide | 2017-2022 | *Concluded.*  VME taxa ID guide has been printed out and distributed to Members. |
| P7 | 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.* |
| P8 | 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. |
| P9 | GIS database/module as a part of NPFC database management system for spatial management of bottom fisheries and VMEs | 2018- | *Regular update.*  *Fund source: Database management.* |
| P10 | 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- | *Regular update.*  *Fund source: Database management.* |
| P11 | Expert to review Pacific saury stock assessment (consultant fee and travel costs) | TBD | *Removed. May be revisited in future.* |
| P12 | Observer Program | 2018- | *Removed. May be revisited in future.* |
| P13 | Promotion of cooperation with NPAFC including macro-scale multinational survey in the North Pacific in 2022 | 2021- | *Completed*.  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. |
| P14 | Standardization of bycatch species list and fish species identification guides  (translation of the existing fish ID guide from Japanese to additional languages) | 2019-2023 | *Completed.* |
| P15 | PICES 2023 session on Seamount Ecology and VME Identification | 2023 | *Completed.* |
| P16 | Understanding the basis by which other RFMOs’ VME encounter thresholds were determined by taxa and gear-type | 2023 | *Completed.* |