NPFC-2023-SC08-WP03 (Rev. 1)

**Five-Year Work Plan of the Scientific Committee**

**Scientific Committee (SC)**

Priority list

As stipulated in the Convention, Article 10, the Scientific Committee shall provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Commission which is considered the highest priority task of the SC. The following priority areas have been identified for SC:

1. Priority species summaries and stock assessments for management advice
2. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for priority species
3. Ecosystem approach to fisheries management: understand ecological interactions among species and impacts of fishing on fisheries resources and their ecosystem components
4. Collaboration with other organizations
5. Regular review of the research plan and work plan
6. Data collection, management, and security

| **ITEM** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **Progress** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Species** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Summaries of priority species | Draft summary sheets | Update summary sheets as needed | Update summary sheets as needed | Update summary sheets as needed | Update summary sheets as needed | Summary sheets are complete for all 8 priority species |
| Assessment of Blue (Spotted) Mackerel and associated bycatch | Collate data on Blue Mackerel  Compile data on the catch composition of Chub Mackerel and Blue Mackerel and provide information to TWG CMSA  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Blue Mackerel  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed. | Update data on Blue Mackerel  Compile data on the catch composition of Chub Mackerel and Blue Mackerel and provide information to TWG CMSA  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Blue Mackerel  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed.  Develop data collection templates | Update data on Blue Mackerel  Compile data on the catch composition of Chub Mackerel and Blue Mackerel and provide information to TWG CMSA  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Blue Mackerel  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed. | Update data on Blue Mackerel  Compile data on the catch composition of Chub Mackerel and Blue Mackerel and provide information to TWG CMSA  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Blue Mackerel  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed.  Collate data on associated bycatch species | Update data on Blue Mackerel  Compile data on the catch composition of Chub Mackerel and Blue Mackerel and provide information to TWG CMSA  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Blue Mackerel  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed.  Assess impacts of fishery on dependent or associated species | Data on Blue Mackerel have been collated  Data on catch composition are compiled] [and were provided to TWG CMSA  The SC observed Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Blue Mackerel  Stock assessment results were communicated to the Commission |
| Assessment of Japanese Sardine and associated bycatch | Collate data on Japanese Sardine  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese sardine  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed. | Update data on Japanese Sardine  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese sardine  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed. | Update data on Japanese Sardine  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese sardine.  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed. | Update data on Japanese Sardine  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese sardine.  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed.  Collate data on associated bycatch species | Update data on Japanese Sardine  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese sardine.  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed.  Assess impacts of fishery on dependent or associated species | Data on Japanese Sardine have been collated  The SC observed Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese Sardine  Stock assessment results were communicated to the Commission |
| Assessment of Neon Flying Squid and associated bycatch | Collate data on Neon Flying Squid  Develop data collection templates  Determine spatial structure of stocks  Observe Members’ domestic stock assessment of Neon Flying Squid  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed. | N/A: SSC NFS | N/A: SSC NFS | N/A: SSC NFS | N/A: SSC NFS | Data on Neon Flying Squid have been collated  A new formal subsidiary body of SC was formed to undertake stock assessment of neon flying squid – The Small Scientific Committee on neon flying squid (SSC NFS)  The SC observed China’s domestic stock assessment of Neon Flying Squid  Stock assessment results were communicated to the Commission |
| Assessment of Japanese Flying Squid and associated bycatch | Collate data on Japanese Flying Squid  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese Flying Squid  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed.  Develop data collection templates | Update data on Japanese Flying Squid  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese Flying Squid  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed. | Update data on Japanese Flying Squid  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese Flying Squid  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed.  Collate data on associated bycatch species | Update data on Japanese Flying Squid  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese Flying Squid  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed.  Collate data on associated bycatch species | Update data on Japanese Flying Squid  Observe Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese Flying Squid  Provide management advice to the Commission as needed.  Assess impacts of fishery on dependent or associated species | Data on Japanese Flying Squid have been collated  The SC observed Japan’s domestic stock assessment of Japanese Flying Squid  Stock assessment results were communicated to the Commission |
| **Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pacific Saury | Support NPFC’s SWG MSE PS in achieving its goals | Support NPFC’s SWG MSE PS in achieving its goals | Support NPFC’s SWG MSE PS in achieving its goals | Support NPFC’s SWG MSE PS in achieving its goals | Support NPFC’s SWG MSE PS in achieving its goals | The SC/SSC PS supported NPFC’s SWG MSE PS by providing options for management objectives and reference points, made progress on developing operating models and conducting simulation for candidate harvest control rules |
| **Ecosystem approach to fisheries management** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ecological Interactions | Understand ecological interactions among species in the North Pacific Ocean | Understand ecological interactions among species in the North Pacific Ocean | Understand ecological interactions among species in the North Pacific Ocean | Understand ecological interactions among species in the North Pacific Ocean | Understand ecological interactions among species in the North Pacific Ocean | Canada reported a positive relationship between the density of NPFC’s VME indicator taxa and the species richness of benthic taxa. |
| Impacts of fishing on ecosystem components | Evaluate impacts of fishing on fisheries resources and their ecosystem components, including bycatch species and discards | Evaluate impacts of fishing on fisheries resources and their ecosystem components, including bycatch species and discards | Evaluate impacts of fishing on fisheries resources and their ecosystem components, including bycatch species and discards | Evaluate impacts of fishing on fisheries resources and their ecosystem components, including bycatch species and discards | Evaluate impacts of fishing on fisheries resources and their ecosystem components, including bycatch species and discards | SSC BFME endorsed a flow chart for assessing the risk of SAI in the eastern and western parts of the NPFC Convention Area |
| Climate change | Consider possible key vulnerabilities and management implications of changing oceanographic conditions resulting from climate change on NPFC fisheries resources and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with target stocks.  Make recommendations to help adapt to climate  change and promote resilience in NPFC fisheries | Consider possible key vulnerabilities and management implications of changing oceanographic conditions resulting from climate change on NPFC fisheries resources and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with target stocks.  Make recommendations to help adapt to climate  change and promote resilience in NPFC fisheries | Consider possible key vulnerabilities and management implications of changing oceanographic conditions resulting from climate change on NPFC fisheries resources and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with target stocks.  Make recommendations to help adapt to climate  change and promote resilience in NPFC fisheries | Consider possible key vulnerabilities and management implications of changing oceanographic conditions resulting from climate change on NPFC fisheries resources and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with target stocks.  Make recommendations to help adapt to climate  change and promote resilience in NPFC fisheries | Consider possible key vulnerabilities and management implications of changing oceanographic conditions resulting from climate change on NPFC fisheries resources and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with target stocks.  Make recommendations to help adapt to climate  change and promote resilience in NPFC fisheries | SC discussed climate change. |
| **Collaboration with other Organizations** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PICES | Review implementation of NPFC-PICES Framework for Collaboration  Review ICES-PICES WGSPF activities (PICES WG43) | Review implementation of NPFC-PICES Framework for Collaboration  Review ICES-PICES WGSPF activities (PICES WG43)  Identify other opportunities for collaboration with PICES. Consider renewing the NPFC-PICES Framework for Enhanced Scientific Collaboration in the North Pacific | Review implementation of NPFC-PICES Framework for Collaboration  Identify other opportunities for collaboration with PICES | Review implementation of NPFC-PICES Framework for Collaboration  Identify other opportunities for collaboration with PICES | Review implementation of NPFC-PICES Framework for Collaboration  Identify other opportunities for collaboration with PICES | SC reviewed implementation of NPFC-PICES Framework for Collaboration  SC reviewed ICES-PICES WGSPF activities (PICES WG43) |
| FAO |  | Review NPFC’s involvement with the ABNJ Deep-sea fisheries project  Review NPFC’s partnership with the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System of FAO (FIRMS) | Review NPFC’s involvement with the ABNJ Deep-sea fisheries project  Review NPFC’s partnership with the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System of FAO (FIRMS) | Review NPFC’s involvement with the ABNJ Deep-sea fisheries project  Review NPFC’s partnership with the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System of FAO (FIRMS) | Review NPFC’s involvement with the ABNJ Deep-sea fisheries project  Review NPFC’s partnership with the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System of FAO (FIRMS) | SC reviewed its collaboration with the ABNJ Deep-sea fisheries project  SC reviewed its partnership with the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System of FAO (FIRMS) |
| NPAFC | Undertake scientific activities to achieve relevant deliverables of the NPFC/NPAFC work plan | Undertake scientific activities to achieve relevant deliverables of the NPFC/NPAFC work plan | Undertake scientific activities to achieve relevant deliverables of the NPFC/NPAFC work plan | Undertake scientific activities to achieve relevant deliverables of the NPFC/NPAFC work plan | Undertake scientific activities to achieve relevant deliverables of the NPFC/NPAFC work plan | SC reviewed NPFC/NPAFC activities |
| Other organizations | Review collaborations with other organizations | Review collaborations with other organizations | Review collaborations with other organizations | Review collaborations with other organizations | Review collaborations with other organizations | SC was informed about the MOU with SPRFMO and progress on collaboration with ISC and WCPFC |
| **Research and Work Plans** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Terms of Reference | Review SC’s Terms of Reference, as needed | Review SC’s Terms of Reference, as needed | Review SC’s Terms of Reference, as needed | Review SC’s Terms of Reference, as needed | Review SC’s Terms of Reference, as needed | SC reviewed its TOR and agreed it did not need to be revised |
| Research Plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year research plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year research plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year research plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year research plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year research plan | SC updated its rolling 5-year research plan |
| Work Plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year work plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year work plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year work plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year work plan | Update SC’s rolling 5-year work plan | SC updated its rolling 5-year work plan |
| Projects | Review completed and ongoing projects  Identify and prioritize new projects and recommend sources of funding | Review completed and ongoing projects  Identify and prioritize new projects and recommend sources of funding | Review completed and ongoing projects  Identify and prioritize new projects and recommend sources of funding | Review completed and ongoing projects  Identify and prioritize new projects and recommend sources of funding | Review completed and ongoing projects  Identify and prioritize new projects and recommend sources of funding | SC reviewed its completed and ongoing projects, and recommended new projects and sources of funding |
| **Data Management** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Review data inventories and the status of data gaps  Review data standards in relation to stock assessment of priority species  Discuss need for additional sources of data for scientific analyses and associated data management policy | Review data inventories and the status of data gaps  Review data standards in relation to stock assessment of priority species  Discuss need for additional sources of data for scientific analyses and associated data management policy | Review data inventories and the status of data gaps  Review data standards in relation to stock assessment of priority species  Discuss need for additional sources of data for scientific analyses and associated data management policy | Review data inventories and the status of data gaps  Review data standards in relation to stock assessment of priority species  Discuss need for additional sources of data for scientific analyses and associated data management policy | Review data inventories and the status of data gaps  Review data standards in relation to stock assessment of priority species  Discuss need for additional sources of data for scientific analyses and associated data management policy | SC discussed data needs, data gaps, and strategies to fill gaps  SC discussed data standards in relation to stock assessment of priority species.  SC discussed the need for additional sources of data for scientific analyses and associated data management policy |
| **Recommendations** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Advice | Develop recommendations for the Commission, TCC, and FAC | Develop recommendations for the Commission, TCC, and FAC | Develop recommendations for the Commission, TCC, and FAC | Develop recommendations for the Commission, TCC, and FAC | Develop recommendations for the Commission, TCC, and FAC | SC made recommendations for the Commission, TCC, and FAC |
| **Media Communication** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Press Release | Prepare and publish a press release about SC activities during its meeting | Prepare and publish a press release about SC activities during its meeting | Prepare and publish a press release about SC activities during its meeting | Prepare and publish a press release about SC activities during its meeting | Prepare and publish a press release about SC activities during its meeting | SC drafted and endorsed a press release about SC activities during its SC08 meeting |