

**North Pacific Fisheries Commission**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Small Scientific Committee on Bottom Fish and Marine Ecosystems**  
**9-11 December 2024**  
**Tokyo, Japan**

**Provisional Agenda**

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda Item 3. Overview of the outcomes of previous NPFC meetings

3.1 SSC BFME04

3.2 COM07

3.2.1 CMMs 2024-05 and 2024-06

3.2.2 Requests from COM07

Agenda Item 4. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of North Pacific armorhead (NPA)

4.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for NPA in 2023

4.2 NPA monitoring survey and Adaptive Management Procedure (AMP)

4.2.1 Review of the results from 2024 monitoring survey

4.3 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on NPA

4.3.1 NPA species summary document update and review

4.3.2 Other research activities on NPA

4.3.3 Future and planned research activities by Members on NPA in 2025

Agenda Item 5. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of splendid alfonsino (SA)

5.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for SA in 2023

5.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on SA

5.2.1 SA species summary document update and review

5.2.2 Other research activities on SA

5.2.3 Future and planned research activities by Members on SA in 2025

Agenda Item 6. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of sablefish

6.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for sablefish in 2023

6.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on sablefish

6.2.1 Updated stock status for sablefish (Canada and USA)

6.2.2 Sablefish species summary document update and review

6.2.3 Other research activities on sablefish

6.2.4 Future and planned research activities by Members on sablefish in 2025

Agenda Item 7. Skilfish in the NPFC Convention Area

7.1 Updated catch and effort for skilfish in 2023

7.2 Skilfish species summary document update and review

Agenda Item 8. Progress on data-limited approaches to assessment of NPA and SA

8.1 Update from SWG NPA-SA

8.1.1 Review of joint work on life history based approach to stock assessment

8.1.2 Review of stock status for SA

8.1.3 Review of alternative approaches to NPA assessment

8.1.4 Review of the effectiveness of current CMMs for NPA and SA

Agenda Item 9. Discussion of other proposals on bottom fish management

9.1 Proposal from USA on Emperor Seamount bottom fishery closure

Agenda Item 10. Assessment and scientific advice on the management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

10.1 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on VME

10.1.1 Review of progress towards developing a definition of VMEs

10.1.2 Modeling VME distribution in the NE Convention Area

10.1.3 Update on progress on standardizing an approach to defining SAI

10.1.4 Other research activities on VMEs

10.1.5 Future and planned research activities by Members on VMEs in 2025

10.2 Review of intersessional activities of the SWG VME

10.2.1 Review of the development of gear and taxon specific encounter thresholds for VME indicator taxa in the NPFC Convention Area

10.2.2 Review of progress on data analysis of shared VME indicator data and directions on future joint data analyses

10.2.3 Proposals for revisions to VME indicator species list or nomenclature

10.2.4 Review of potential refinements to quantitative definitions of VME

10.2.5 Other topics on measuring cumulative impacts and SAI

Agenda Item 11. Ecosystem considerations

11.1. Summaries of historical discarded bycatch by Members (Canada, Japan, Korea)

Agenda Item 12. Data collection and reporting

12.1 Review of the adequacy of the current observer program for the BFME

12.2 Review of the template for collection of scientific observer data

Agenda Item 13. 5-Year (2024-2028) Rolling Work Plan and NPFC Performance Review  
recommendations

13.1 North Pacific armorhead

13.2 Splendid alfonsino

13.3 Sablefish

13.4 Vulnerable marine ecosystems

13.5 Other ecosystem components

13.6 NPFC Performance Review recommendations

Agenda Item 14. Review of CMMs 2024-05 and 2024-06 for bottom fisheries and protection of  
vulnerable marine ecosystems and CMM 2019-10 for sablefish

Agenda Item 15. Climate change impacts on bottom fisheries and VME

15.1 Discussion of potential impacts of climate change and potential research and advice  
that the BFME should address

Agenda Item 16. Other matters

16.1 Inter-sessional work and priority issues for next meeting

16.2 Update on PICES WG47 Seamount Ecology

16.3 Other issues

Agenda Item 17. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee

Agenda Item 18. Next meeting

Agenda Item 19. Adoption of the Report

Agenda Item 20. Close of the Meeting