

**North Pacific Fisheries Commission
9th Scientific Committee Meeting
17-20 December 2024
Tokyo, Japan**

Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 Welcome Address and Introductions
- 1.2 Appointment of Rapporteur
- 1.3 Meeting Arrangements

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda Item 3. Key milestones to achieve for NPFC stock assessment of priority species and provision of management advice

- 3.1 A process for reviewing and possibly endorsing domestic stock assessments for priority species

Agenda Item 4. Review of reports and recommendations from the Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment (TWG CMSA) and the Small Scientific Committees (SSC BF-ME, SSC NFS, and SSC PS)

- 4.1 Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment
- 4.2 Small Scientific Committee on Bottom Fish and Marine Ecosystems
- 4.3 Small Scientific Committee on Neon Flying Squid
- 4.4 Small Scientific Committee on Pacific Saury

Agenda Item 5. Update from the Joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury (SWG MSE PS)

Agenda Item 6. Other pelagic priority species

- 6.1 Summary of progress on the remaining three priority species
 - 6.1.1 Blue mackerel (BM)
 - 6.1.2 Japanese flying squid (JFS)
 - 6.1.3 Japanese sardine (JS)

6.2 Review of species summaries

6.3 Domestic stock assessments of BM, JFS, and JS

6.4 Future roles and activities of SWG BM, SWG JFS, and SWG JS

Agenda Item 7. Climate change effects on NPFC's priority species and associated ecosystems

7.1 Tools for incorporating climate change considerations into scientific advice

7.2 Current knowledge

7.2.1 FAO consultancy report on climate change in the North Pacific

7.3 Ongoing research activities

7.3.1 PICES' Basin-scale Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI) project

7.4 Research priorities and potential scientific projects

Agenda Item 8. Data Collection and Management

8.1 Data Management System

8.1.1 Update on GitHub Plan for NPFC

8.1.2 Evaluation of biological data provision templates

8.1.3 Data inventory

8.1.4 Establishment of a new database to manage and archive scientific data

8.1.5 Potential establishment of a new Small Working Group on Data (SWG Data)

8.1.6 Review of need of GIS maps with catch and effort data for NFS and JS

8.2 NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol

8.2.1 Revision of Regulations for Management of Scientific Data and Information

8.3 Data needs, data gaps and strategies to fill gaps

8.3.1 Information about species belonging to same ecosystem or dependent/associated with target stocks

8.3.1.1 Historical information about species captured in surveys and/or discarded bycatch from fisheries in the Convention Area

8.3.1.2 Potential impacts on species belonging to same ecosystem or dependent/associated with target stocks

8.3.1.3 Status of current non-target catch, definitions of bycatch applied in other RFMOs, and options for defining bycatch within NPFC

8.3.2 Potential roles of a regional observer program

8.3.2.1 Summary of scientific objectives of an observer program

8.3.2.2 Summary of the kinds of data that would need to be collected and the level of observer coverage that would be needed on fishing vessels to achieve those scientific objectives by gear type

8.3.2.3 Review of template for collecting qualitative information about Members' sampling programs

- 8.3.2.4 Summary of SC responses to six questions from the TCC Chair
- 8.3.3 Potential use of NPFC Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data for scientific purposes

Agenda Item 9. Scientific projects for 2025 and 2026

- 9.1 Report on capacity building project
- 9.2 Ongoing/planned projects
- 9.3 New projects
 - 9.3.1 Potential project(s) for PS, CM, NPA, SA, and NFS
 - 9.3.2 Independent review of stock assessments
 - 9.3.3 Other potential projects
- 9.4 Review, prioritization and funding of projects

Agenda Item 10. Cooperation with other organizations

- 10.1 Reports on the joint NPFC-PICES activities since the SC08 meeting, including a report from the PICES Secretariat
- 10.2 SC representation at scientific meetings
 - 10.2.1 SC representation in the joint ICES-PICES Working Group on Sustainable Pelagic Forage Communities (WG SPF) and SPF symposium in 2026
 - 10.2.2 Report on renewal of the NPFC – PICES Framework for Enhanced Scientific Collaboration in the North Pacific
- 10.3 Report on cooperation between NPFC and NPAFC
- 10.4 FAO ABNJ Deep-sea fisheries project
- 10.5 Partnership with the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System of FAO (FIRMS)
- 10.6 Partnership with WCPFC and ISC
- 10.7 Partnership with SPRFMO
- 10.8 Cooperation with other organizations

Agenda Item 11. SC Terms of Reference (TOR) and 2024-2028 Research Plan and Work Plan

- 11.1 Review of the Scientific Committee TOR
- 11.2 Five-year Research Plan
- 11.3 Five-year Work Plan
- 11.4 Progress on addressing NPFC PR recommendations for SC

Agenda Item 12. Other matters

- 12.1 Coordination between SC and TCC
- 12.2 Other issues

Agenda Item 13. Advice and recommendations to the Commission

Agenda Item 14. Next meetings of SC and its subsidiary bodies

14.1 Meeting schedule for 2025/2026

14.2 Meeting format and location

Agenda Item 15. Press release

Agenda Item 16. Adoption of the Report

Agenda Item 17. Close of the Meeting