NPFC-2024-SC09-WP14

**Summary of progress by the Japanese Sardine SSC in 2024**

Two joint meetings of Small Working Groups on Other priority species were held in July and November of 2024. Dr. Chris Rooper led discussions of the SWG JS. The reports and presentation from these meetings are available on the Collaboration website under SC / [Japanese Sardine](https://collaboration.npfc.int/node/80).

The main accomplishments of this SWG in 2024 were:

* Sharing of catch, effort (and some CPUE), size frequency (age), l-w relationships and other relevant data from fisheries by China and Russia (both inside National Waters and the Convention Area).
* Incorporation of data from China and Russia into the Japanese Sardine stock assessment conducted by Japan.
* Data sharing was completed by all members using a common template.
* Sharing of code for VPA assessment model used for JS via github.
* Presentation of CPUE standardization by Japan and workplan to conduct similar standardization for other Members fisheries for JS in 2025.
* Updated JS species summary
* Agreed that there is a large body of work showing links between JS and climate. The group proposed a joint work (review paper) to examine climate change impacts on JS.

The workplan for this group in 2025 will include:

1. Update shared data (monthly catch and effort, biological data) among members
2. Project to complete initial CPUE standardization by all Members
3. Start on joint review paper of impacts of climate change on JS
4. Update species summary document
5. Japan: provide a summary of its 2024 stock assessment at SC10
6. Chairs and Leads: provide slide(s) to SC Chair for presentation to COM

The JS SWG concluded that given the current levels of data collection and sharing among Members, a regional observer program to support stock assessment of JS was probably not required at this time. However, the JS SWG did note that a discussion of whether or not the NPFC needs an observer program to monitor impacts of fisheries (including JS fisheries) on other ecosystem components would be discussed among the broader group at SC09.

The JS SWG recognized the high value of Members data on JS catch characteristics and also recognized that permissions are often needed from other internal agencies to share these data. So the JS SWG recommended that:

* **SC09 make a recommendation to the Commission requesting Members to provide data on JS for the stock assessment conducted by Japan.**