NPFC-2024-SC09-WP15

**Delegation Paper from the European Union**

**Exploring the opportunity for developing common standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data in NPFC**

Data collection standards in fisheries are essential for ensuring consistency and fostering collaboration. Standardized methods enable data comparability across spatial and temporal scales, facilitating long-term monitoring of fish stocks and ecosystems. This consistency is vital for effective fisheries management, as it supports accurate stock assessments and informed decision-making while enabling Members to work together on shared fisheries resources. Additionally, standardized data collection allows for better ecosystem-based management by addressing bycatch, habitat impacts, and biodiversity conservation, ensuring a holistic approach to sustainability.

Furthermore, quality control and validation are central benefits of standardized data, as they minimize bias, improve reliability, and enable transparency. Transparent and standardized protocols build trust among stakeholders, ensuring accountability in fisheries management while enhancing public confidence in sustainability efforts. By fostering transparency and promoting reliable data, these standards underpin the responsible management of fisheries and marine ecosystems, balancing ecological preservation with the needs of global communities.

In the context of the NPFC, Members have made great progress toward working together in a more harmonized way, showing commitment to shared goals. However, moving forward, there’s a need for greater alignment through more organized and formalized structures and processes. By setting up clearer structures and processes, Members can ensure better alignment and stronger cooperation.

The aim of this delegation paper is to seek views and suggestions from the Scientific Committee (SC) on a possible common and streamlined approach for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data in NPFC, that would contribute to strengthening the capacity of the SC to undertake conclusive and robust assessments (and other relevant scientific tasks), while facilitating the work of Members and of the Secretariat.

**DRAFT**

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON STANDARDS FOR THE  
COLLECTION, REPORTING, VERIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF DATA**

*The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC),*

*Recalling* Article 3 (g) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries resources in the North Pacific Ocean (Convention) requiring to ensure that complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities, including with respect to all target and non-target species within the Convention Area, are collected and shared in a timely and appropriate manner;

*Recalling* Article 16 of the Convention on Data Collection, Compilation and Exchange;

*Mindful* that Article 6 (j) of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 December 1995 (1995 Agreement) calls for the collection and sharing, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities;

*Noting* the requirements in Article 7 of the 1995 Agreement, which requires that conservation and management measures established for straddling fish stocks on the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction are compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of these fisheries resources in their entirety;

*Emphasising* that full and accurate data from fishing vessels is required to inform stock assessment and other scientific evaluation;

*Further noting* that operational level catch and effort data provides significant value to scientific assessment;

*Concerned* that to date no stock assessment for several of the priority species covered by the Convention has been undertaken due to the lack of accurate and standardized operational level catch and effort data;

*Desiring* to ensure consistent levels of reporting and usefulness of data for all vessels fishing in the Convention Area and in the EEZs of Coastal States;

*Adopts* the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention:

1. Commission Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) shall ensure that the master of each vessel flying its flag shall complete an accurate electronic log of every fishing day that it spends fishing for fisheries resources managed by the NPFC[[1]](#footnote-1). For days with no catches, the main activity of the day shall be entered in the log at the end of the day.
2. Commission Members and CNCPs shall ensure that data on fishing activities as defined in Article 1(i) of the Convention, including data to assess the impacts of fishing on non-target and associated or dependent species (including marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern[[2]](#footnote-2)), are collected by its vessels[[3]](#footnote-3) according to the operational characteristics of each fishing method as described in Annexes 1 to 6.
3. Commission Members and CNCPs shall require the master of each vessel referred to in paragraph 1 to provide the required information (as set out in paragraph 2) electronically to its national authority or its designated institution within 15 days:
   1. of the end of a trip; and
   2. where applicable, of the end of every transhipment event at sea
4. Commission Members and CNCPs shall require the master of each vessel flying its flag in the Convention Area to keep an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the required information pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip.
5. Commission Members and CNCPs shall ensure that data on landings from each vessel flying its flag in the Convention Area and fishing for fisheries resources managed by the NPFC are collected in accordance to Annex 7.
6. Commission Members and CNCPs fishing for fisheries resources managed by the NPFC shall ensure that for each calendar year, annual catch totals raised to “live” weight for all species/species groups caught during that year are collated, and that these are collated as described in Annex 8. Commission Members and CNCPs shall provide by the end of February, their previous year’s (January to December) annual catch totals raised to “live” weight for all species/ species groups caught.
7. Non-compliance with this measure shall be considered in accordance with Conservation and Management Measure for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMM 2024-13) or its successor.
8. Data collected and described under Annex 8 shall be stored, accessed, used and disseminated by the Secretariat of NPFC in accordance with the NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol.
9. This CMM is without prejudice to existing or additional reporting requirements.

**ANNEX 1**

**Standardized data to be recorded for all fishing activities regardless the fishing gear**

**Data to be collected on a fishing trip basis.**

1. Year
2. Trip number this year
3. Name of vessel
4. Current vessel flag
5. Unique Vessel Identifier / IMO number
6. Registration number of vessel
7. External identification
8. International radio call sign
9. Fishing permit or licence number(s)
10. Name of master
11. Address of master
12. Port of departure
13. Date and time of departure
14. Port of arrival
15. Date and time of arrival
16. Port of landing (if different from port of arrival)
17. Date and time of landing
18. Species (FAO 3-alpha code)
19. Amount of fish onboard at start of trip (mt)
20. Amount of fish onboard after unloading (mt)
21. Total amount of fish kept (mt)
22. Total amount of fish discarded (mt)

**ANNEX 2**

**Standardized data to be recorded for trawl fishing activities**

**Data to be collected on an un-aggregated (tow by tow) basis.**

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Type of trawl
4. Mesh size
5. Height of net opening
6. Width of net opening
7. Gear depth at start of fishing
8. Bottom depth at start of fishing
9. Tow start date and time (UTC format)
10. Tow end date and time (UTC format)
11. Tow start position (1/100th degree resolution for bottom fishing, 1/10th degree resolution for pelagic trawl- decimal format), latitude and longitude
12. Tow end position (1/100th degree resolution for bottom fishing, 1/10th degree resolution for pelagic trawl – decimal format), latitude and longitude
13. Type of trawl: single (S), double (D) or triple (T)
14. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
15. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
16. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)
17. Estimation of the amount[[4]](#footnote-4) of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code)

ANNEX 3

**Standardized data to be recorded for purse seine fishing activities**

**Data to be collected on an un-aggregated (set-by-set) basis.**

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Mesh size
4. Net length
5. Net height
6. Set start date and time (UTC format)
7. Set end date time (UTC format)
8. Set start position (1/10th degree resolution - decimal format), latitude and longitude
9. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
10. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
11. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)
12. Estimation of the amount[[5]](#footnote-5) of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code)

**ANNEX 4**

**Standardized data to be recorded for jigging fishing activities**

**Data to be collected on a daily basis.**

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Number of crew
4. Number of single jig machines
5. Number of double jig machines
6. Number of jigs per line
7. Maximum Operating depth
8. Total deck light power (kW)
9. Total hours fished (h)
10. Position at start of drift (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude
11. Position at end of drift (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude
12. Echo Sounder (Yes/No)
13. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
14. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
15. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)
16. Estimation of the amount[[6]](#footnote-6) of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code)

**ANNEX 5**

**Standardized data to be recorded for stick-held dip net fishing activities**

**Data to be collected on an un-aggregated (haul by haul) basis.**

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Number of crew
4. Mesh size
5. Net length
6. Net height
7. Total deck light power (kW)
8. Total hours fished (h)
9. Haul start date and time (UTC format);
10. Haul end date and time (UTC format);
11. Haul start position (1/100th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
12. Haul end position (1/100th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
13. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
14. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern[[7]](#footnote-7)) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
15. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)
16. Estimation of the amount [[8]](#footnote-8)of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code)

**ANNEX 6**

**Standardized data to be recorded for bottom gillnets fishing activities**

**Data to be collected on an un-aggregated (haul by haul) basis.**

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Total net length
4. Total length of net lost
5. Net height
6. Mesh size
7. Minimum and maximum depth of the set
8. Haul start date and time (UTC format)
9. Haul end date and time (UTC format)
10. Haul start position (1/100th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude
11. Haul end position (1/100th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude
12. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
13. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
14. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)
15. Estimation of the amount of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code)

**ANNEX 7**

**Standard for Landings Data**

**Data to be collected on an individual landing basis from vessels fishing for fisheries resources managed by the NPFC**.

1. Name of vessel
2. Current vessel flag
3. Unique Vessel Identifier / IMO number
4. Registration number of vessel
5. External identification
6. International radio call sign (if any)
7. Fishing permit or licence number(s)
8. Date entered Convention Area
9. Date exited Convention Area
10. ***General information on the unloading (landing)***
11. Landing date
12. Area catch taken (FAO area)
13. CPC of landing
14. Port / point of landing
15. Port of previous landing
16. Date of arrival at previous port

***Landing description split by species, for each species***

1. Landed state (not processed, headed and gutted, filleted, etc) by species (FAO 3-alpha code)
2. Landed (live) weight by species
3. Containers – Type (if applicable)
4. Containers – Number (if applicable)
5. Containers – Total Content weight for all containers (if applicable)

***Verification (if applicable)***

1. Name of observer
2. Port Authority

**ANNEX 8**

**Standard for Annual Catch Data**

Annual catch summaries should list all priority species caught in the Convention Area during the Calendar year.

For a calendar year and for each distinct combination of Sea Type, FAO statistical area, and priority species (FAO 3-alpha code) provide the following data:

1. Calendar year
2. Month
3. Sea Type (either “HS” – High Seas - or “EEZ” – Exclusive Economic Zone)
4. FAO Statistical Area
5. Species (FAO 3-alpha code)
6. Fishing method (use appropriate ISSCFG code)
7. Annual catch total – tonnes raised to “live” weight
8. Number of vessels
9. Number of days fished

1. Notwithstanding with this paragraph, a fishing vessel shall keep a daily written log if its electronic log is malfunctioning. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. To be identified by the Scientific Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Fishing vessels less than XX meters in length may keep a daily written log until 1 January 2026, by which time they shall keep a daily electronic log [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. In weight for fish and benthic material; numbers for marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. In weight for fish and benthic material; numbers for marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. In weight for fish and benthic material; numbers for marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. In weight for fish and benthic material; numbers for marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern [↑](#footnote-ref-8)