NPFC-2024-SSC BFME05-WP10

**Translation table of VME indicator corals**

**between common and scientific names**

by Motoomi Yamaguchi1, Yumiko Osawa1, Mai Miyamoto2 & Chris Rooper3

1Oceanic Ecosystem Group, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries,

Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, Japan

2Sustainable Society Design Unit, Environmental Consulting Department,

JAPAN NUS CO., LTD.

3Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**This paper may be cited in the following manner:**

Yamaguchi, M., Osawa, Y., Miyamoto, M., and Rooper, C., 2024. Translation table of VME indicator corals between common and scientific names. NPFC-2024-SSC BFME05-WP10. 5 pp.

**Translation table of VME indicator corals between common and scientific names**

by Motoomi Yamaguchi1, Yumiko Osawa1, Mai Miyamoto2 & Chris Rooper3

1Oceanic Ecosystem Group, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries,

Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, Japan

2Sustainable Society Design Unit, Environmental Consulting Department,

JAPAN NUS CO., LTD.

3Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Due to the recent extensive classification modification in the Octocorallia, NPFC SWG-VME agreed that the notation of “Gorgonacea” and “Alcyonacea”, which are no longer taxonomically valid, in the list of VME indicator taxa will be changed into “gorgonians” and “soft corals” using their common names (NPFC-2023-SSC BFME04-WP15). However, in the revision of CMM 2024-05 and CMM 2024-06, it was pointed out that the combination of common and taxonomic names lacks scientific consistency, and it was agreed that the SWG VME should be tasked with addressing this point (Small Scientific Committee on Bottom Fish and Marine Ecosystems, 2023). Moreover, as Pennatulaceans was endorsed as one of the new VME indicator taxa of NPFC in SC08 (NPFC-2023-SC08-Final Report), some sort of all-inclusive information organizational tool is required to share the common knowledge on the complex taxonomic trends in the cold-water corals among NPFC Members.

This document briefly introduces a translation table (“NPFC-2024-SSC BFME05-WP10 Corallist\_NENW\_Appendix.xlsx”, reference figure on p.5) of cold-water corals among the VME indicator taxa, including both common and taxonomic names in accordance with the latest taxonomy, for sake of the usage of discussion and research within the NPFC in the future. All taxa, which were found by the NPFC members during their surveys and/or recorded in fishing-bycatch data, in the NPFC Convention area to date (~October 2024) are listed.

Table contents:

* Information with taxonomic names based on [WoRMS](https://www.marinespecies.org/index.php) (World Register of Marine Species):
* Subphylum
* Class
* Order
* Superfamily
* Family
* Genus/Subgenus
* Common (nominal) subgroup names used in NPFC before/after 2024:
* NPFC\_~2023: See McFadden in Daly et al. (2007) for the former octocorallian taxonomic classification.
* NPFC\_2024~: See McFadden et al. (2022) for the present octocorallian taxonomic classification.
* Notation of coral morphology categories in "NPFC VME taxa identification guide: Western North Pacific Ocean" (NPFC, 2020):
* Guide Cat.:

Notes: Most taxa are identifiable to their Family. For taxa/genus/subgenus, whose original family name was removed from the current taxonomic clades, its former name is still identifiable from the table with its current taxonomic name in the form of “former name >> current name” in the Family/Genus/Subgenus column. Taxa written in Genus/Subgenus are:

1. Taxon *incertae sedis*, in which its broader relationships are unknown/undefined (e.g. *Pseudocladochonus*, *Calcigorgia*, etc.)
2. Individual taxa, from a family that is mostly classified as gorgonians (or “Gorgonacea” in NPFC\_~2023), but meet the criteria to be classified as soft corals (“Alcyonacea” in NPFC\_~2023) based on their morphological/biological/ecological features (e.g. *Briareum*, *Anthomastus*, *Paraminabea*)

**Recommendation**

* Adding the translation table (“NPFC-2024-SSC BFME05-WP10 Corallist\_NENW\_Appendix.xlsx”) as one of Annexes of CMM 2024-05/CMM 2024-06.

**Reference**

* CMM 2024-05. Conservation and Management Measure for Bottom Fisheries and Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Northwestern Pacific Ocean (Entered into force 1 January 2025).
* CMM 2024-06. Conservation and Management Measure for Bottom Fisheries and Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean (Entered into force 24 July 2024).
* Daly, M., M. R. Brugler, P. Cartwright, A. G. Collins, M. N. Dawson, D. G. Fautin, S. C. France, C. S. McFadden, D. M. Opresko, E. Rodriguez, S. L. Romano and J. L. Stake (2007) The phylum Cnidaria: A review of phylogenetic patterns and diversity 300 years after Linnaeus. Zootaxa, 1668: 127–182.
* McFadden, C.S., Ofwegen, L.P. & Quattrini, A.M. 2022. Revisionary systematics of Octocorallia (Cnidaria: Anthozoa) guided by phylogenomics. Bulletin of the Society of Systematic Biologists, 1: 1–79.
* NPFC. 2020. VME taxa identification guide: Western North Pacific Ocean. Tokyo, NPFC. 88 pp.
* Scientific Committee. 2023. 8th Meeting Report. NPFC-2023-SC08-Final Report. 291 pp. (Available at [www.npfc.int](http://www.npfc.int))
* Small Scientific Committee on Bottom Fish and Marine Ecosystems. 2023. 4th Meeting Report. NPFC-2023-SSC BF-ME04-Final Report. 135 pp. (Available at [www.npfc.int](http://www.npfc.int))
* Summary of the 1st SWG VME meeting in 2023. NPFC-2023-SSC BFME04-WP15.

