



Memorandum of Understanding between the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (hereafter NPFC) and the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (hereafter ISC):

Acknowledging the objective of the Convention on the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (hereafter NPFC Convention) is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur;

Recognising that Article 21 of the NPFC Convention requires to cooperate, as appropriate, on matters of mutual interest with relevant regional organizations or arrangements, especially with those regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with responsibility for fisheries in marine areas near or adjacent to the NPFC Convention Area;

Acknowledging that the ISC was established in 1995 to enhance scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which inhabit the North Pacific Ocean during a part or all of their life cycle;

Recognising that the ISC maintains a central database to support the scientific research on tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean;

Conscious of the fact that there is a geographical area overlap within the Convention Area of the NPFC and the area in which the ISC conducts research and stock assessments;

Noting that both the NPFC and the ISC address non-target, associated or dependent species which belong to the same ecosystem as the target species;

Desiring to put in place a mechanism to promote and facilitate cooperation between NPFC and ISC; intend to enter into the following Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM

The objective of this MOU is to facilitate, where appropriate, consultation, cooperation and collaboration between NPFC and ISC ('the Organisations') in order to advance their respective objectives particularly with respect to stocks or species which are within the competence or mutual interest of both Organisations.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Organisations should establish and maintain consultation and cooperation in respect of matters of common interest. In particular, the Organisations intend to:

- i. exchange data and scientific information in support of the work and objectives of both Organisations, consistent with the confidentiality rules, information sharing policies and internal data security procedures of each Organisation including, but not limited to, information on:
 - a) relevant stocks and species consistent with data use, access and confidentiality rules of each Organisation;
 - b) effects of climate changes on marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean.
- ii. collaborate, where appropriate, on research efforts relating to species and stocks of mutual interest;
- iii. exchange on expertise gained, lessons learned and use of best practices in their areas of activity;
- iv. consistent with each Organisation's rules of procedure, grant reciprocal observer status to representatives of the respective Organisations in relevant meetings of each Organisation,.

3. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

To facilitate effective development, implementation and enhancement of cooperation, the Organisations may establish a consultative process between their respective officers that includes telephone, email and any other means of communication. The consultative process may also proceed in the margins of meetings at which both Organisations are represented by appropriate staff or officers.

4. MODIFICATION

This MoU may be modified at any time with the mutual written consent of both Organisations.

5. LEGAL STATUS

This MoU does not create legally binding rights or obligations. Each Organisation should cover their own costs related to the implementation of this MoU.

6. OTHERS

This MoU should commence on the date of the second signature.

Either Organisation may discontinue this MoU by giving six months' prior written notice to the other Organisation.

7. SIGNATURES

Signed on behalf of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission and the International Scientific Committee.

FOR THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES
COMMISSION (NPFC)

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE (ISC)

Original Signed

Shingo Ota
NPFC Chair

Place: Tokyo, Japan

Date: 05 September 2024

Original Signed

John Holmes
ISC Chair

Place: Nanaimo, Canada

Date: 04 September 2024