



Memorandum of Understanding between the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (hereafter NPFC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (hereafter WCPFC):

Acknowledging that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (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

Acknowledging also that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific ocean;

Recognising that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant intergovernmental organizations;

Recognising further that Article 21 of the NPFC Convention calls upon the NPFC to take into account the conservation and management measures or recommendations adopted by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant intergovernmental organizations that have competence in relation to areas adjacent to the NPFC Convention;

Conscious of the fact that there is a geographical area overlap within the Convention Areas of both the NPFC and the WCPFC;

Noting that provisions of both the NPFC and the WCPFC Conventions address the conservation of 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 WCPFC and NPFC;

Therefore NPFC and WCPFC record the following understandings:

1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM

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

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Organisations will establish and maintain consultation, cooperation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to both organisations, including but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange meeting reports, information, documents and publications regarding matters of mutual interest, consistent with the information sharing policies of each organization;
- ii. 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) vessels authorised to fish in accordance with conservation and management measures adopted under the NPFC and WCPFC Conventions;
 - b) at the specific request of one of the Organisations, transshipment activities of those vessels authorised to conduct transshipment in accordance with conservation and management measures adopted under the NPFC and WCPFC Conventions, on a necessity basis; and,
 - c) vessels identified as having engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity and the IUU Vessel Lists established by each Organisation.
- iii. collaborate, where appropriate, on research efforts relating to species and stocks of mutual interest, including non-target, associated and dependent species;
- iv. cooperate where appropriate, on the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted under the NPFC Convention and under the WCPFC Convention;
- v. share best practices in areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to:
 - a) monitoring, control and surveillance policies and systems, including with respect to Vessel Monitoring Systems;
 - b) administration, auditing, training and structure of observer programmes; and
 - c) Compliance Monitoring Schemes, and information management systems.
- vi. exchange on expertise gained, lessons learned and use of best practices between the Organisations' Secretariats in their areas of activity.
- vii. consistent with each Organisation's rules of procedure, grant reciprocal observer status to representatives of the respective Organisations in relevant meetings of each Organisation, including those of each Organisation's subsidiary bodies;

3. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

To facilitate effective development, implementation and enhancement of cooperation, the Organisations may establish a consultative process between their respective Secretariats 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' Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff.

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.

This MoU does not alter the obligations of members of either Organisation to comply with the conservation and management measures adopted under their respective Conventions.

6. OTHER PROVISIONS

This MoU will 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 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission:

FOR THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES
COMMISSION (NPFC)

Original Signed

Shingo Ota
Chair

FOR THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC
FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC)

Original Signed

Josie Tamate
Chair

Place: Tokyo, Japan

Date: 5 September 2024

Place: Melbourne, Australia

Date: 5 September 2024