

# PICES-ICES WG53 (WGSPF)

## *Sustainable Pelagic Forage Communities*

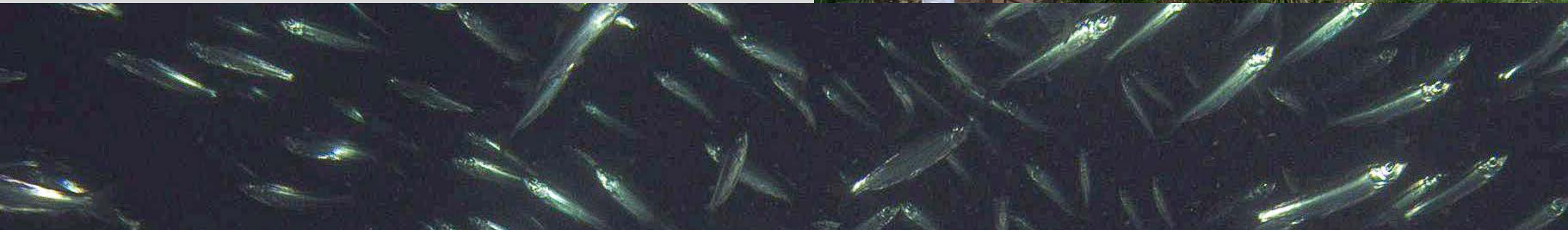
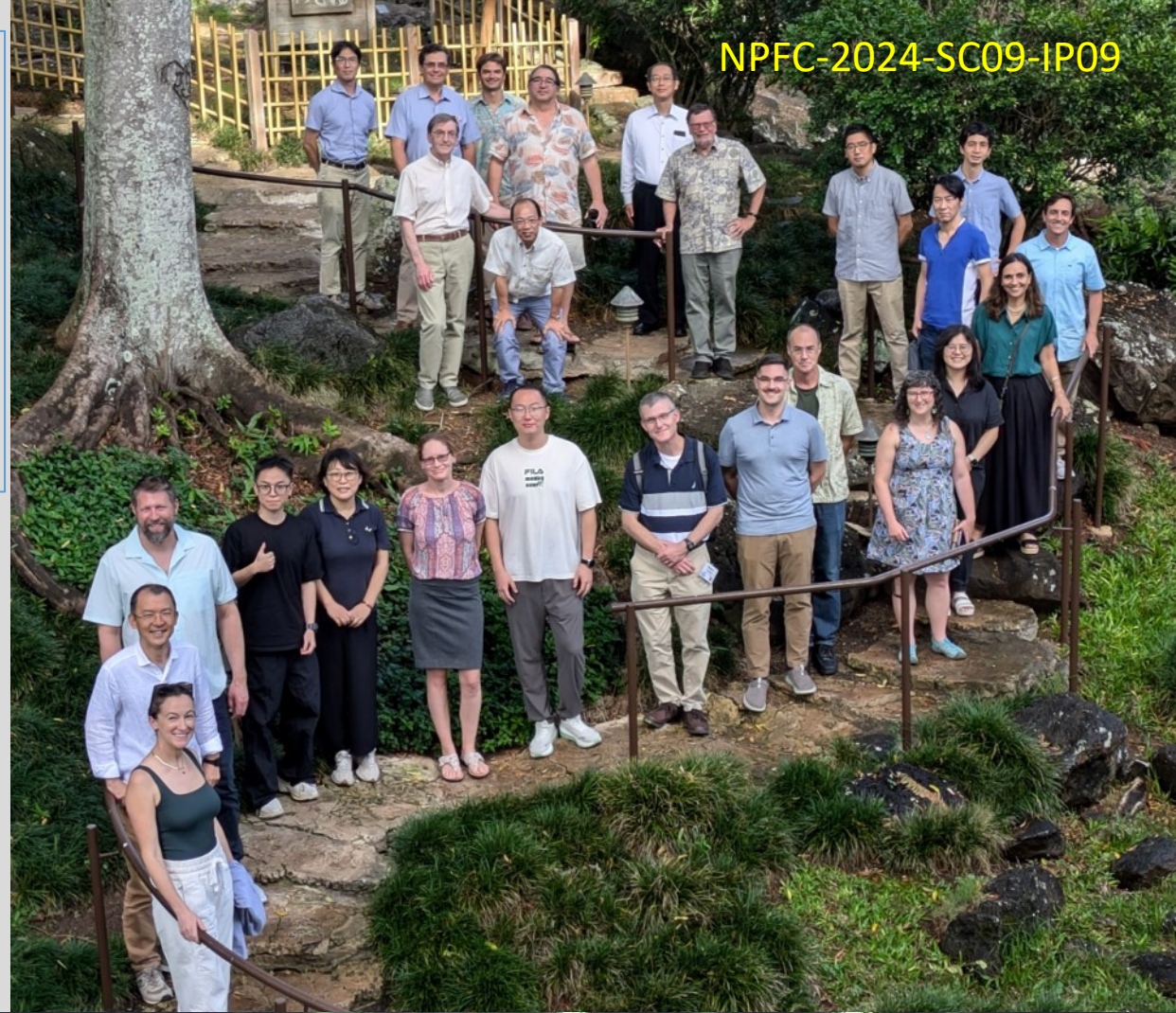
**PICES Co-Chairs:** M Takahashi, C Rooper

**ICES Co-Chairs:** R Asch, S Garrido

**NPFC Representatives**

- K. Oshima & T. Kitakado

NPFC-2024-SC09-IP09



# Terms of Reference - WGSPF

- Foster international and interdisciplinary collaboration to establish similar study frameworks and comparative analyses of forage species, their ecology, and fisheries.
- Assess recent progress on understanding fluctuations of forage species (abundance, distribution, diversity, and characteristics) and their impacts on the structure and function of ecosystems, particularly upper trophic levels including marine birds and mammals.
- Identify, prioritize, and recommend research most needed to advance our knowledge and capacity to forecast ecosystem responses to changes in forage species.
- Recommend strategies for studying and monitoring socio-ecological systems to improve ecosystem-based management for the sustainable harvest of forage species.
- Describe how climate change and other anthropogenic factors impact forage species and examine how these factors will affect economies, nutrition of human communities, aquaculture, fishery portfolios, and/or transboundary management among countries with different levels of development in fisheries, and recommend options for adaptation.
- Organize a joint ICES/PICES/FAO symposium on Small Pelagic Fishes tentatively scheduled for April 2026 (La Paz, Mexico)



# Draft Task Forces and Activities for SPF (proposed for 2024-2028)

## Task Force 1- Ecological Process Knowledge

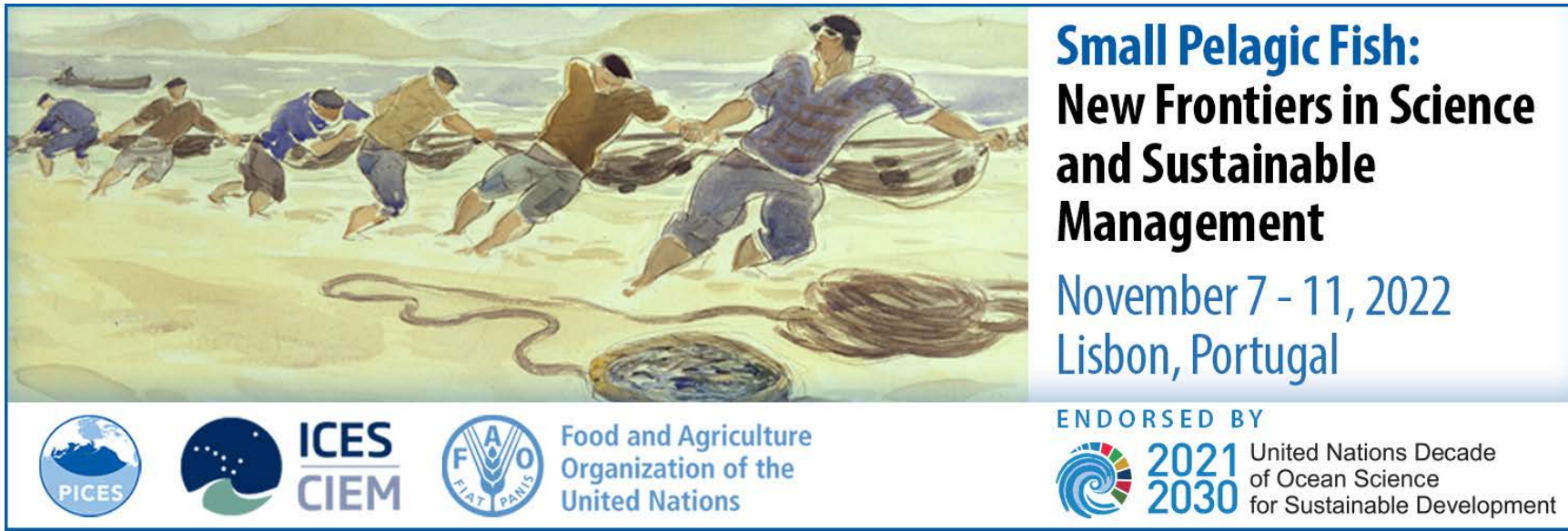
- **Activity 1:** *Critical review, evaluation and testing of SPF hypotheses*
- **Activity 2:** *Life cycle Closures-Bottlenecks and gaps in knowledge*
- **Activity 3:** *Drivers of spatial distribution and phenology*
- **Activity 4:** *Food-web Dynamics*
- **Activity 5:** *Internal and external drivers of growth, reproduction, and survival*

## Task Force 2 Translating Process Knowledge

- **Activity 6:** *Advancing technologies and methodologies for assessing SPF*
- **Activity 7:** *Improving short-term forecasts and/or long-term projections*
- **Activity 8:** *Improvements to management*
- **Activity 9:** *Social-ecological analysis*

# Small Pelagic Fishes Symposium

- April 2026, La Paz, Mexico
- Topic Sessions & Workshops (Submissions in Late Winter 2025)
- **Request for Co-Sponsorship from NPFC (as in 2022 ~ \$15,000 USD)**



# How can NPFC scientists be involved?

- Planning participation (next meeting Feb 24-26, Lisbon)
- Submit session/workshop/abstract to symposium
- Join one of the activity groups
  - Example – *Improvements to management* Activity using simulation tools, MSE, environmental variables to address difficult issues across regions
    - Isaac Kaplan, Carryn De Moor, Stefan Koenigstein
- Contribute to review papers/analyses