NPFC-2024-SC09-WP09 (Rev. 2)

**Scientific projects**

*Abstract:* The intent of this document is to put together scientific projects which will be funded by the SC fund and other sources in the current and following fiscal years. Four new projects were added to the 2024 project list (#3, 7, 10 and 11).

Project #3 allocates funds for an intersessional meeting of the SSC NFS in summer 2025.

Project #8 is proposed to continue the work of SWG NPA-SA on the assessments of SA and NPA stocks. It was previously covered by the Special Project Fund.

PICES invited NPFC to co-sponsor the Small Pelagic Fish Symposium scheduled for 4-8 May 2026 (Project #11). It is suggested to provide $10,000 USD and split this contribution between 2025 and 2026.

Project #12 is a proposal to develop a database for scientific data, including conceptual modelling in 2025 and database development in 2026. This project will be funded by a voluntary contribution from the EU and Members’ in kind contributions.

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| # | Project | Time | Status | Next step:  activities, required funds |
| 1 | Pacific saury stock assessment meetings (meeting costs) | Every year | *TWG PSSA meetings: Feb 2017, Dec 2017, Nov 2018, Mar 2019.*  *SSC PS meetings: Nov 2019, Aug 2023.* | WG NSAM meeting.  Jul 2025.  *2025 FY: 2mil JPY*  *Source: China’s Voluntary Contribution Fund (VCF)*  SSC PS15 meeting.  Sep 2025.  *2025 FY: virtual, no funds required.* |
| 2 | Chub mackerel stock assessment meeting (meeting costs) | Every year | *TWG CMSA meetings: Dec 2017, Mar 2019, Sep 2023, Jul 2024.* | TWG CMSA11 meeting.  Jul 2025.  *2025 FY: 1.5mil JPY (10,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.*  TWG CMSA12.  Early 2026.  *2025 FY: virtual, no funds required.* |
| 3 | Neon flying squid stock assessment meeting (meeting costs) | Every year |  | SSC NFS02 meeting.  Jul 2025.  *2025 FY: 1.5mil JPY (10,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 4 | Invited expert to support TWG CMSA  (consultancy fee and travel costs for one in-person meeting) | 2020- current | An external expert has been contracted to support TWG CMSA. | *2025 FY:*  *0.6mil JPY - SC fund, and 0.8mil JPY - US VCF.* |
| 5 | Invited expert to support SSC PS  (consultancy fee and travel costs for two in-person meeting) | 2019- current | An external expert has been contracted to support SSC PS and its subsidiary WG NSAM. | *2025 FY: 2.4mil JPY*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 6 | Invited expert to support WG NSAM  (consultancy fee and travel costs for one in-person meeting) | 2024- |  | *2025 FY: 3.3mil JPY*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 7 | Invited expert to support SSC NFS  (consultancy fee and travel costs for two in-person meetings) | 2024- current | An external expert has been contracted to support SSC NFS. | *2025 FY: 2.2mil JPY*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 8 | Invited expert to support SA and NPA stock assessments | 2024- current | Two external experts were contracted in 2024 as a separate project covered by the Special Project Fund. | *2025 FY: 2.2mil JPY*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 9 | PICES Annual meeting | Every year | Travel support to a participant of the SC or its subsidiary bodies to attend PICES Annual meeting. | *2025 FY: 0.75mil JPY*  *(5,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 10 | Other science meetings / capacity development | 2024 | Training for capacity building or travel support to attend other relevant science meetings. | *2026 FY: 0.75mil JPY*  *(5,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 11 | PICES/ICES/FAO Small Pelagic Fish Symposium.  4-8 May 2026, La Paz, Mexico | 2025&2026 | An invitation from PICES for co-sponsorship and participation in the symposium. | *2025 FY: 0.75mil JPY*  *(5,000USD)*  *2026 FY: 0.75mil JPY*  *(5,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 12 | Database for scientific data | 2025-2026 | A proposal to develop a database for scientific data. | *2025 FY: 10,000 EUR*  *2026 FY: 20,000 EUR*  *Source: EU’s VCF and Members’ in kind contribution* |
|  | Total |  |  | *2025 FY: 15.2mil JPY*  *Source: SC fund.* |

*\* The recurrent projects should be funded annually from the SC Fund allocated by the Commission. If total costs exceed the SC Fund, the SC may make a proposal for the Special Project Fund or other funds subject to the decision by the Commission.*

**Past projects**

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| # | Project | Time | Status |
| P1 | NPFC/FAO VME workshop | 2018-2019 | *Concluded.* |
| P2 | Workshop to address data requirements and data sharing for SAI assessment and other tasks identified in the Work Plan by SSC VME and SSC BF | 2018 | *Concluded.* |
| P3 | Workshop on biological reference points (BRP), harvest control rule (HCR) and management strategy evaluation (MSE) | 2019 | *Concluded.* |
| P4 | Literature review of target and limit reference points used in pelagic species fisheries by other general RFMOs and other fishery management bodies | 2018 | *Done.*  *Available on the NPFC website.* |
| P5 | Joint PICES-NPFC workshop (W11) on *The influence of environmental changes on the potential for species distributional shifts and subsequent consequences for estimating abundance of Pacific saury* | 2019 | *Concluded.* |
| P6 | VME taxa identification guide | 2017-2022 | *Concluded.*  VME taxa ID guide has been printed out and distributed to Members. |
| P7 | International Course for NPFC observers for VME indicator taxa identification  (consultant fees and travel costs for two lecturers, meeting costs) | 2022 | *Postponed until further notice.* |
| P8 | PICES-ICES-FAO Small Pelagic Fish Symposium, 7-11 November 2022, Lisbon, Portugal. | 2022 | *Concluded.*  NPFC contributed 15,000USD to the organizers for the symposium logistics. |
| P9 | GIS database/module as a part of NPFC database management system for spatial management of bottom fisheries and VMEs | 2018- | *Regular update.*  *Fund source: Database management.* |
| P10 | Joint spatial/temporal map of Members’ catch and effort on Pacific saury with a spatial resolution of one-degree grids and a temporal resolution of one month. | 2018- | *Regular update.*  *Fund source: Database management.* |
| P11 | Expert to review Pacific saury stock assessment (consultant fee and travel costs) | TBD | *Removed. May be revisited in future.* |
| P12 | Observer Program | 2018- | *Removed. May be revisited in future.* |
| P13 | Promotion of cooperation with NPAFC including macro-scale multinational survey in the North Pacific in 2022 | 2021- | *Completed*.  The NPAFC reported on the [2022 IYS Winter High Seas Research Expedition](https://www.npfc.int/system/files/2022-11/NPFC-2022-SC07-OP01%202022%20Expedition%20progress%20report%20to%20NPFC.pdf) which was co-sponsored by NPFC. |
| P14 | Standardization of bycatch species list and fish species identification guides  (translation of the existing fish ID guide from Japanese to additional languages) | 2019-2023 | *Completed.* |
| P15 | PICES 2023 session on Seamount Ecology and VME Identification | 2023 | *Completed.* |
| P16 | Understanding the basis by which other RFMOs’ VME encounter thresholds were determined by taxa and gear-type | 2023 | *Completed.* |