

Working Paper submitted by EU

European Union Proposal on the COM09 Tasks for the Scientific Committee

Abstract: This document presents the European Union's proposal regarding the tasks assigned to the Scientific Committee (SC) during the 9th Meeting of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (COM09). The proposal outlines recommendations and guidance for addressing the tasks mandated by the Commission.

COM09 tasked the SC with the following:

1. For stocks for which a NPFC assessment has been developed by the SC, advice on the appropriate frequency between benchmark and update stock assessments, based-on species life history and biology, data availability management needs and other relevant criteria. For stocks for which no NPFC assessment is available, develop fisheries dependent indicators allowing tracking significant trends in fisheries of key NPFC stocks.
2. Provide advice on science-based management options available for operationalizing the precautionary approach as outlined in the Convention for key NPFC stocks.
3. Develop a detailed work plan, including indicative timelines, to advise on how climate change considerations can be included in the scientific processes of NPFC, to capture effects of climate change on fisheries and allow the development of climate resilient management frameworks for NPFC species.
4. Develop stock status templates in view to ensuring consistency in the presentation to the Commission of the conservation status and management advice for NPFC stocks.