



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2025-COM09-WP12 (Rev. 1)

Notes from SC Chair to the European Union proposal on the COM09 tasks for the Scientific Committee

Abstract: The intent of this paper is to provide responses from the SC Chair to the EU proposal on the COM09 tasks for the Scientific Committee and seek Commission guidance on SC's priority areas of work.

European Union proposal on the COM09 tasks for the Scientific Committee

- 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/independent indicators allowing tracking significant trends in fisheries of NPFC priority species **Response: Potentially can be done by SC, depending on Commission's priorities**
 - Science-based management options available for operationalizing the precautionary approach as outlined in the Convention for NPFC priority species **Response: 1. Requires clarification; 2. Ideally, would be done in cooperation with managers**
 - 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 **Response: SC is in the process of learning about how to do this. Development of a detailed work plan may take significant time.**
 - 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 **Response: Potentially can be done by SC, depending on Commission's priorities.**
- Direction from COM09: by COM10 in 2026

SC Work Plan: high level tasks for the 2025/2026 operational year

1. Stock assessments, including updates and new developments
 - a. Pacific saury
 - b. Chub mackerel

- c. Neon flying squid
 - d. Japanese sardine
 - e. Splendid alfonsino
 - f. North Pacific armorhead
- 2. Technical input to the Pacific saury MSE work
- 3. VME identification
- 4. Update of the assessment of the potential significant adverse impact (SAI) of bottom fisheries on VMEs
- 5. Species summaries (best available scientific information)
- 6. Data collection and management
 - a. Developing standardized data provision templates
 - b. Developing a database for scientific data
 - c. Sharing data for stock assessment and other assessments
 - d. Identifying data needs and ways to address them (ROP, EM, national sampling schemes)
- 7. Climate change impact