

NPFC 2024 Transshipment Overview

Abstract:

This report provides a summary of transshipment activities in 2024 as reported by Members through the submission of annual reports and questionnaires for 2024 and the data extracted from the online database to identify the level of transshipment activity and the amounts of NPFC species transshipped by Members in the Convention Area in 2024.

Secretariat Note:

Report Updated to revise the numbers 10 March 2025

Report Updated to revise the numbers 14 March 2025

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1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of transshipment activities in 2024 as reported by Members and extracted from the online database. 2024 is the first full year for which there is data available on each individual transshipment event.

NPFC Members reported a total catch of 530,843 MT for the 2024 calendar year in the NPFC Convention Area. Two thousand and eighty-two (2082) transshipments of fish products were reported for the same period totaling 306,503 MT, or 58% of the total harvested. This closely aligns with the 2,000 events that were estimated to have occurred in 2023 and the total volume reported of 292,878 MT for that year. In 2024, a slightly larger number of non-fish transshipment events were reported 2,513 compared with the estimated 2,370 such events estimated for 2023.

All reported transshipments of fish products occurred within the Convention Area. Most other transshipment activities were also reported as having taken place within the Convention Area, with only a limited number of events (5) occurring outside the Convention Area.

An average of 147 MT of fish product was transshipped per event in 2024, with the smallest amount transshipped being 4 Tonnes and the largest volume being 1,784 Tonnes in a single event. In Table 1 below, the number of transshipment events is presented by Member, along with the numbers of unique vessels involved, and the volume of fish products transshipped by Member.

2. Transshipment Statistics 2024

Table 1 below identifies the number of transshipment events by Member along with the number of unique offloading and receiving vessels involved in the events, as well as the total volume of fish products transshipped by each in 2024.

Table 1. The number of transshipment events and unique vessels in 2024 by Member

	# of Events (Offloading / Receiving)	# of Unique Vessels (Offloading / Receiving)	Total Transshipped Amounts (Metric ton)
China	2,030 / 2,057	209 / 42	294,365
Korea	21 / 0	5 / 0	3,409
Chinese Taipei	28 / 0	25 / 0	7,762
Vanuatu	3 / 25	2 / 1	967
Total	2,082 / 2,082	241 / 43	306,503

Table 2 below provides some details on the amounts of pelagic fish products transshipped in 2024. In addition to NPFC priority species, approximately one percent (3,194 MT) of other species (Atlantic pomfret, Humboldt squid, Alaska pollock, and Pacific herring) were reported, and are reflected as ‘Others’ in the table below.

Table 2. Total transshipments of priority (and other) species in 2024 by Member (metric Tonnes)

Member	Pacific saury	Chub mackerel	Japanese sardine	Neon flying squid	Others
China	12,280	53,790	211,591	13,510	3,194
Korea	3,405	0	0	3	0
Chinese	7,762	0	0	0	0

Taipei					
Vanuatu	967	0	0	0	0
Total	24,414	53,790	211,591	13,513	3,194

3. Reporting of “Others”

Prior to the implementation of CMM 2023-03 in July 2023, some Members voluntarily provided detailed information on transshipment events, including vessel details, event times, and species composition. While most species were reported as distinct individual species, approximately 7% of fish transshipped included mixed-species categories, such as "Chub mackerel and Pacific saury," or illegible species names, making it difficult to determine the exact transshipped amounts for each species. As a result, the previous transshipment information paper (NPFC-2024-TCC06-IP05 Rev.3) classified these events under "Others." With the implementation of the new measure, the Secretariat has been able to analyze transshipment amounts with greater specificity. This improvement enables more precise reporting of transshipped quantities, not only for priority species but also for other species such as Atlantic pomfret, Humboldt squid, Alaska pollock, and Pacific herring. A proposal for additional clarification on the requirement to report fish products by species codes will be presented at TCC08 from the Small Working Group on Operations (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP11).

4. Other Transfer Activity

During the reporting period from January to December 2024, a total of 2,082 transshipment events involving fishery products were recorded. In addition, 2,513 "Other Transfer Activities" (OTAs)—defined as the transfer of personnel or non-fishery products at sea—were documented. However, China reported discrepancies in OTA records, indicating inconsistencies with historical data. Specifically, China submitted 8,864 OTA cases for

2024, of which 7,213 cases were later canceled, suggesting that some OTAs were not appropriately removed from the NPFC Transshipment Application. To address this issue, the Secretariat and China are collaborating to enhance data accuracy by integrating the API of the Transshipment Application to ensure proper reporting and cancellation of OTA events.

This represents a slight increase in the number of non-fish product transshipment events from 2023, when a total of 1,185 such events were reported during the July- December period. The 2024 report extrapolated that a similar number of OTA events occurred in the January-June 2023 period (prior to the implementation of reporting requirements) and concluded that it was likely that the number of OTA events surpassed that of actual fish transshipments over the course of the year. While the number of fish transshipments appears to be relatively consistent from 2023 (~2,000) to 2024 (2,082), the 2024 data suggests that the number of OTA events reported for 2024 (2,513) is slightly higher than the 2023 estimate (~2,370).

The attached chart illustrates the weekly breakdown of transshipment events involving fishery products, based on fiscal weeks.

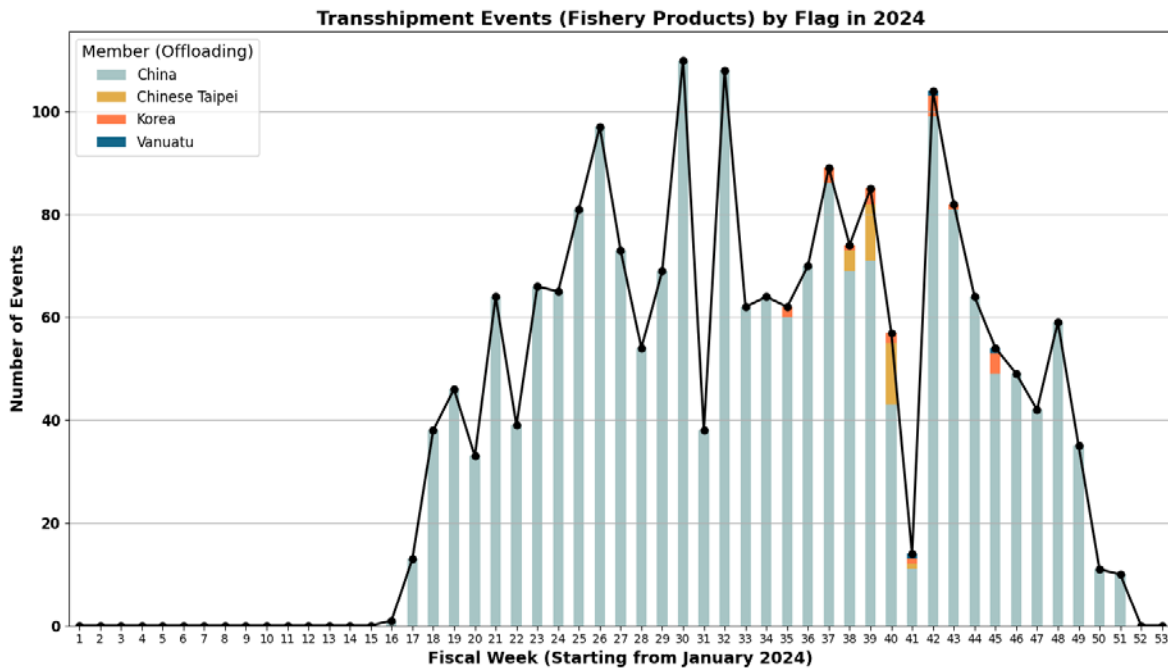


Figure 1. The number of transshipments for fishery products by Member for each fiscal week in 2024 based on offloading vessel flag

China exhibited the highest frequency of transshipment events, starting from week 17 (April 22–28) and consistently maintaining dominance throughout the year. The activity peaked around week 30 (July 22–28) with over 100 events. China's transshipment activities were sustained from weeks 17 (April 22–28) to 35 (August 26–September 1), with significant contributions. Chinese Taipei showed transshipment activities between weeks 38 (September 16–22) and 40 (September 30–October 6), peaking during week 39 (September 23–29), although the number of events was relatively minor compared to China's. Korea's transshipment activity was minimal, with a few events occurring primarily in week 40 (September 30–October 6). Vanuatu displayed limited activity as well, with a small number of events concentrated around week 39 (September 23–29). Overall, China accounted for the majority of transshipment events in 2024, while other Members contributed sporadically, mainly in the later weeks of the year.

The following chart (Figure 2) depicts the number of OTA events on a weekly basis, demonstrating a pattern that parallels the fishery product transshipment events.

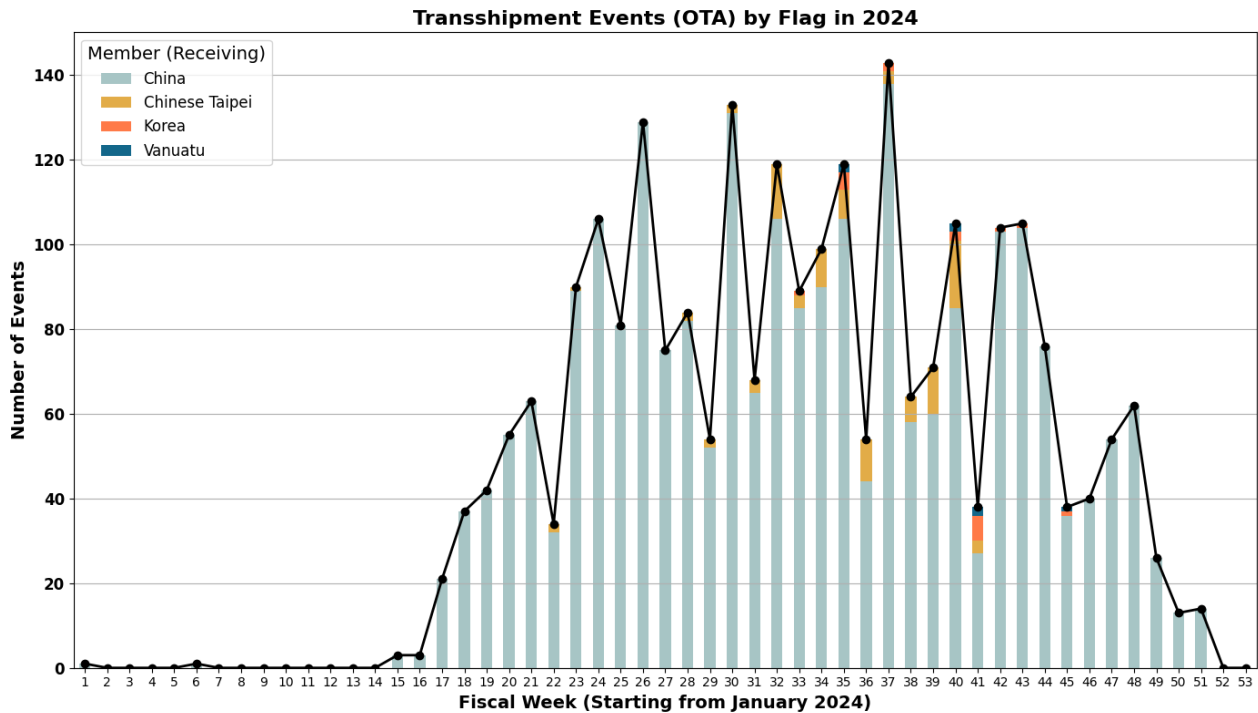


Figure 2. The number of transshipments for OTA by Member for each fiscal week in 2024 based on receiving vessel flag

China exhibits substantial transshipment activity starting in week 17 (April 22–28) and continuing consistently until week 47 (November 18–24). The number of events starts at approximately 20 per week in week 17 (April 22–28) and increases steadily, with fluctuations, peaking at over 140 events around week 37 (September 9–15) before a decline. Chinese Taipei's contribution is relatively limited, appearing primarily between week 30 (July 22–28) and week 40 (September 30–October 6), peaking around week 40. Korea's activity remains minimal, with a small number of events peaking in week 41 (October 7–13). Vanuatu also demonstrates limited transshipment activity, with a few events occurring sporadically around weeks 39 (September 23–29) and 41 (October 7–13). Overall, China's transshipment events overwhelmingly dominate the total activity in 2024, with other Members contributing smaller numbers of events in the later weeks of the year. The integrated transshipment activities are illustrated in Figure 3 below and illustrate the significant number of OTA events compared to fish transshipments.

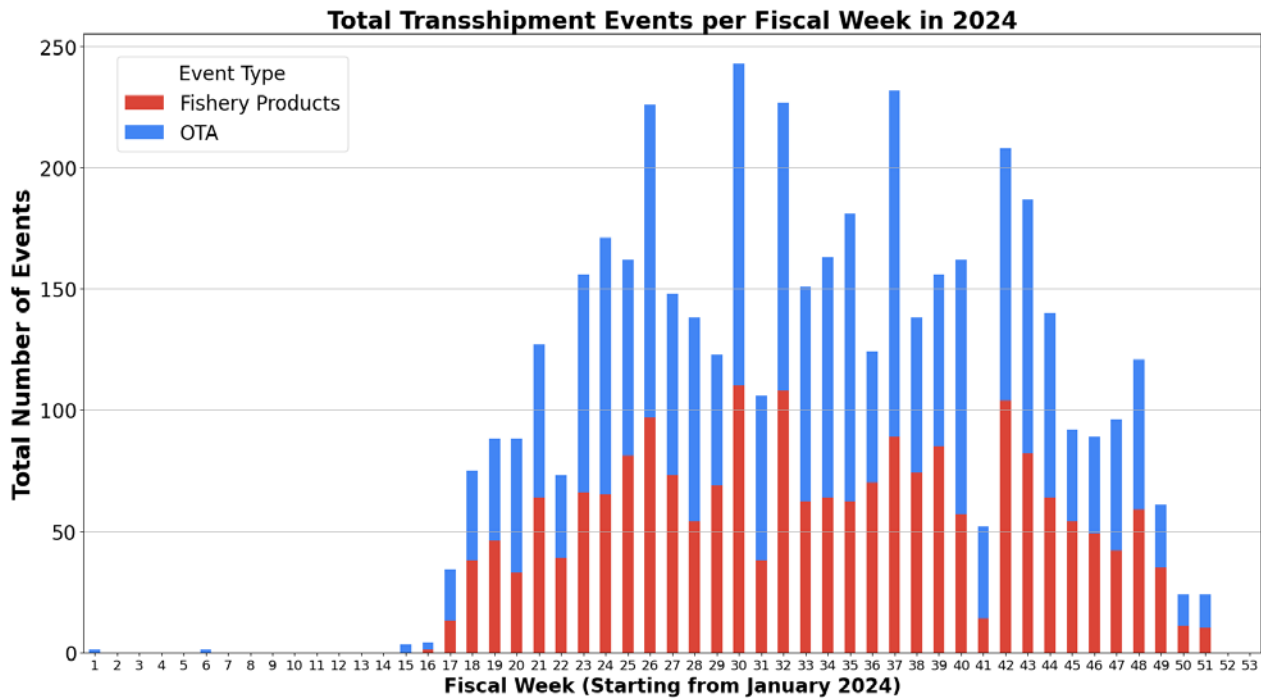


Figure 3. The number of cumulative transshipments events for fishery products and OTA by Member for each fiscal week in 2024

The transshipment activity for both fishery products and OTAs remained low in the early weeks of 2024, with a gradual increase starting around week 17 (April 22–28). The number of events continued to rise, with OTA transshipments (blue bars) consistently exceeding fishery product transshipments (red bars). Transshipment activity reached its peak in week 30 (July 22–28), when the total number of events exceeded 240, the highest recorded in 2024. During this peak, OTA transshipments alone surpassed 140 events, while fishery product transshipments accounted for over 100 events. The intense activity persisted through week 43 (October 21–27), after which transshipment events declined sharply. By the final weeks of the year, activity had dropped to minimal levels. This seasonal pattern suggests a concentrated period of transshipment operations in the latter half of the year, with the most significant surge occurring in early October.

5. Spatial Distribution of Transshipment Activity in 2024

Figure 4 illustrates the spatial distribution of transshipment activity within the NPFC Convention Area in 2024, comparing transshipment of fishery products (left panel) with transshipment of OTAs (right panel). Both panels use a heat map to represent the frequency of transshipment events, with colors ranging from white (low frequency) to black (high frequency), as indicated by the scale on the right.

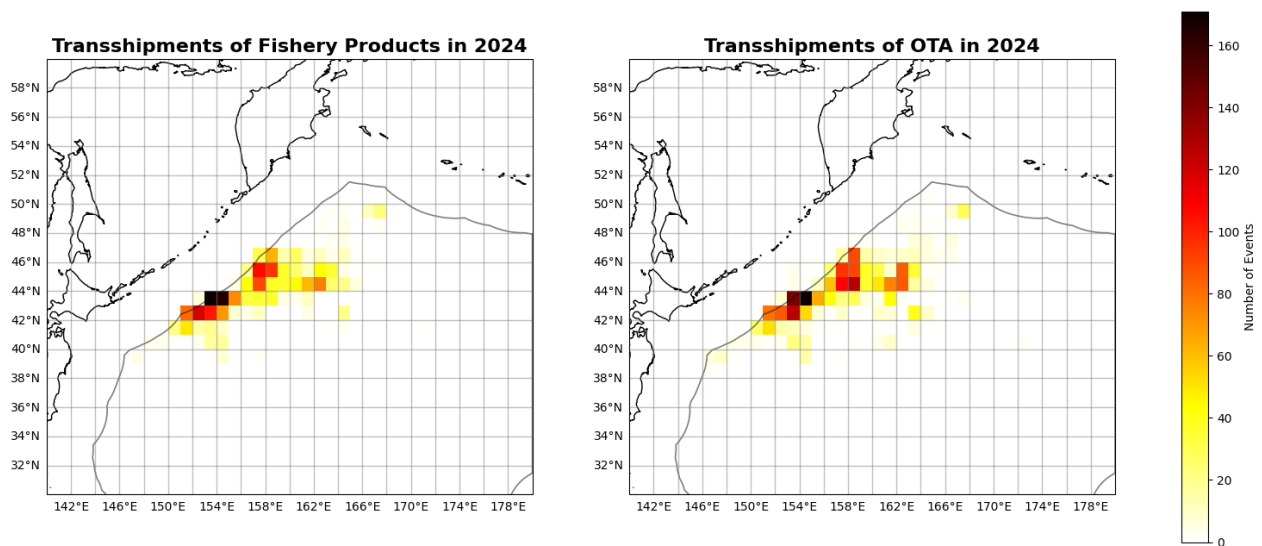


Figure 4. Spatial distributions of transshipment activity in 2024

The two maps show both similarities and differences in the spatial distribution of transshipment activities. Both types of transshipment show high concentrations in the western part of the Convention Area and indicate that, given their distribution, the activities may occur simultaneously. However, while the transshipment of fishery products is mainly concentrated between 42°N and 47°N latitude and 148°E to 164°E longitude, the transshipment of OTAs is more concentrated between 40°N and 46°N latitude and 152°E to 162°E longitude, with a slight southeastward shift. This difference suggests that the operational areas for OTAs may be somewhat different from those for fisheries transshipments, possibly due to different logistical factors.

6. Transshipment Map

The transshipment page was updated in 2025 to include a geographical map to visualize anticipated and actual transshipment events. Authorized users can customize the display by selecting a specific period and spatial region.

Figure 5 presents transshipment events recorded from October 1 to October 14 in 2024, representing a two-week period. Fish transshipments that are planned but not yet completed are shown as red dots and the green dots reflect transshipments for which declarations have been received during the period. Since OTA events are reported through an Advance Notification form only, the blue dots on the map show OTA events that have been planned and for which no cancellation notification has been received. Below the map on the transshipment page, a detailed list of transshipment activities during the selected period is provided.

Transshipments Map

Transshipment Date After

10/01/2024



Transshipment Date Before

10/14/2024



☐ Include Cancelled

Apply

Reset

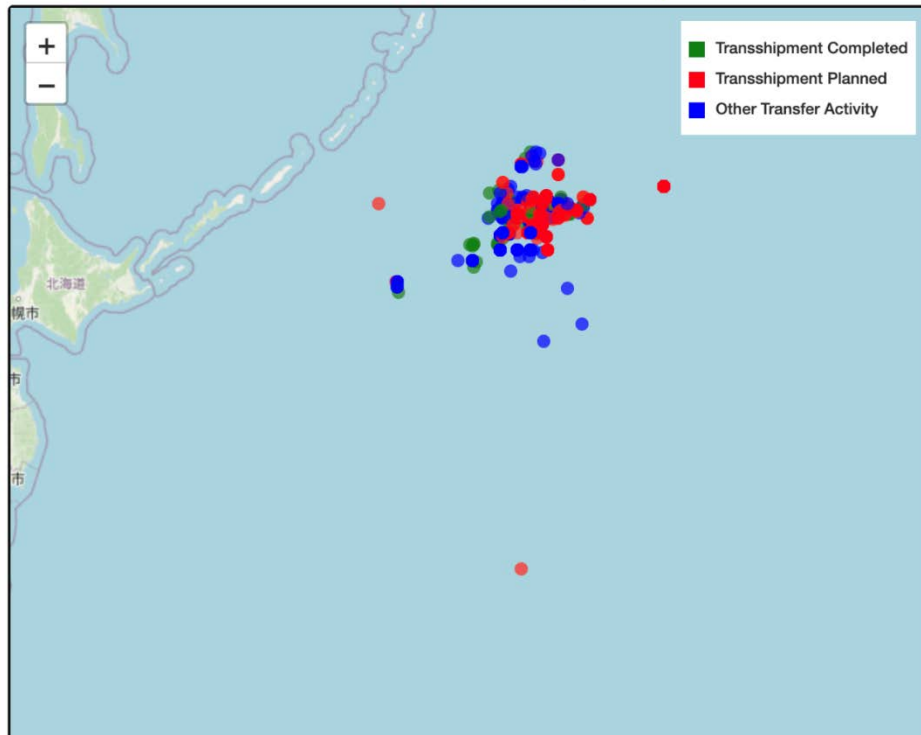


Figure 5. Transshipment events recorded between October 1 and October 14, 2024.

7. Online Submission of Transshipment Reports

An online application was developed in 2023 to provide Members with a more accessible and accurate method for submitting their documentation. The application was not well utilized in 2023 due to technical and language issues; however, in 2024, usage improved following a series of online workshops and enhancements to the system.

Some Members requested the Secretariat to consider an Application Programming Interface (API) that would enable automated submission of transshipment documents, eliminating the need for manual data entry. An API to connect the NPFC transshipment database was completed in late 2024 and one Member is developing their API system to interface with the NPFC. It is hoped that the electronic data transfer will be operational in time for the 2025 transshipment season, and the combination of the online application and the API development will eliminate the need to input data manually in 2025.

8. Summary

The transshipment of fish products in the NPFC Convention Area in 2024 appears to be aligned with the number of events in 2023 with 2,082 reported in 2024 and an estimated 2,000 for the previous year. The volume of fish transshipped in 2024 (306,503 MT) also closely corresponded to the amount estimated for 2023 (292,878 MT). In 2024, the number of events related to “Other Transshipment Activities” (2,513) was slightly higher than the number of events estimated for 2023 (~2,370).

The Secretariat continued in 2024 to engage data entry technicians to enter details from the transshipment reporting forms into the NPFC Database. However, most Members have begun to utilize the online reporting application, and an API is almost complete that should eliminate the need for manual data entry in 2025.