



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2025-TCC08-IP10

SMALL WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON HISTORICAL CATCH TASKING

ABSTRACT:

North Pacific Fisheries Commission species-related measures require Members to refrain from expanding the number of authorized fishing vessels beyond a “historical existing level”.

However, it is not clear which year corresponds to the historical existing level for each Member for each species. During 2024’s annual meeting, Members agreed to share data within the SWG Operations to advance the Commission’s understanding of this matter. Although most members provided data on authorized and active fishing vessels by year for a specified timeframe, SWG Operations was unable to reach a consensus on how to determine historical existing levels for each species.

SWG Operations has prepared a table that captures Member supplied data (attached) to help advance this discussion at the upcoming Technical Compliance Committee meeting.

Attachment;

Link to the table, “Table 1. Historic Existing Level with CMM.xlsx”

<https://www.npfc.int/historic-existing-level-cmm-suppdoc>

BACKGROUND:

The table excerpt below was taken from the 2022 SWG Operations Summary Report (NPFC-2022-TCC06-IP03) and provides a status update and rationale on the progression of this tasking. As noted, earlier discussions considered whether additional effort indicators should be included when discussing historical existing levels. However, during the 2024-2025 intersessional period, SWG Operations agreed to limit their focus to the number of authorized and active by year. It was acknowledged that an exception or alternate approach might be required/desired for the Bottom Fisheries in Northwestern Pacific Ocean where paragraph 4A. includes “other parameters which reflect the level of fishing effort, fishing capacity or potential impacts on marine ecosystems” when limiting fishing effort to the “level agreed to in February 2007”.

6) Review of Effort Indicators/Identification of Historical Existing Levels for NPFC species	PENDING	SWG OPS/SC	<p>From 2023-24 report (carried over from previous years' reports): <i>The Secretariat had earlier suggested one possible option for a more robust effort indicator is the 'number of active vessels' or 'days fished' by target species by Member per year as opposed to the current indicator of the 'number of authorized fishing vessels' as these two options could provide a better idea of impact on the fish stocks. Several of these were already required by Members for their annual reports, and therefore would not create additional work for Members except for the amendments to CMMs. SWG OPS hopes to coordinate with the SC to get a better understanding of what types of information would be useful to them to collect data that feeds management decisions. Further work is needed to incorporate EI's into CMMs as applicable.</i></p> <p>2024-25 UPDATES: Members agreed to submit historical information on number of vessels by year by species. Data submissions were reviewed but consensus was not reached on exactly how to determine which year should be used when identifying a member's "Historical Existing Level" under each species CMM. A written report and request for TCC to review this issue will be submitted separately.</p>
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EXCERPT FROM NPFC-2022-TCC06-IP03 SWG OPERATIONS SUMMARY REPORT:

SWG OPERATIONS PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS:

The SWG Operations Members met throughout the intersessional period and successfully populated a table of authorized and active vessels from 2009 to 2023 for each member and each fishery (Table 1. Historical Existing Level with CMM). Members engaged in robust discussion and analysis of this tasking but were unable to reach consensus on how to overcome different perspectives. The SWG Operations requests this matter be addressed by TCC with the attached table to support discussion.