

Progress on the Five-year Work Plan to implement NPAFC/NPFC Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) (endorsed by NPFC and NPAFC in 2023)

March, 2025  
NPAFC Secretariat

Exchange of data and information in accordance with the information-sharing and data confidentiality policies of each Commission;

- Create a SharePoint inter-commission communication system to share news, reports, guideline documents, and other information relevant to the management of the mutual area of interest in an easily accessible form.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of March 2025)
August 2023– June 2024	NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint Terms of Reference to describe structure, capabilities, access rights, and control issues	Terms of Reference (ToR) agreed by both commissions – September 15, 2023	In August 2024, NPAFC/NPFC Secretariats met and discussed the modality of the SharePoint service and realized that necessary data and information have been exchanged taking appropriate confidentiality measures by each Secretariat even without the Sharepoint service. The Secretariats also recognized that confidential data like bycatch and transshipment data of anadromous species would not be available as the newly endorsed NPFC CMM related to anadromous species prohibits retention of anadromous fish. In December 2024, the NPAFC Secretariat presented a draft Terms of Reference of the NPAFC/NPFC data sharing platform, as appended as Appendix 1, to NPFC Secretariat.
	NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint service in a test mode	Test mode – December 31, 2023	
	NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint service in full operational mode	Full operational mode – June 30, 2024	

- Establish a mechanism of general information exchange (e.g., MCS activity information, fleet activity information, map of catch and fishing efforts).

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of March 2025)
August 2022– December 2023	NPAFC/NPFC communication and information exchange plan	A plan agreed by the commissions – First half of 2023	The NPAFC/NPFC Secretariats exchange relevant information by e-mail as necessary.
	Regular mutual email conferences to exchange MCS and enforcement activities information	Summer–autumn of 2023	Potential contents for the regular mutual email conferences have not been identified.
2022–2025	NPFC historical footprint (catch and fishing efforts) of the fisheries	Pacific saury, Japanese sardine, chub and blue mackerels, Japanese flying squid, neon flying squid, North Pacific armorhead, splendid alfonsino – available on the NPFC website	Completed/Ongoing (as written on the left column)
	Annual data reporting/sharing of Pacific salmon as by-catch by NPFC fishing vessels (voluntary)		No data of Pacific salmon bycatch and transshipment has been reported in the NPFC so far. Data of released bycatch Pacific salmon might be reported in the NPFC in future and it has been recognized that this data should be included in the NPAFC/NPFC data sharing platform.
	Interactive Mapping System (IMS) for the INPFC/NPAFC High-Seas Salmonid Tag- Recovery Database	IMS in a test mode with limited access – May 2023. IMS in full operational mode – May 2024	Completed/Ongoing (The IMS is in full operation since June 2024.)

- Establish a practice of sharing information on suspicious fishing vessels identified in overlapping convention area including stateless vessels and unregistered vessels.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of March 2025)
August 2023– June 2024	Vessel of Interest folder which has been treated as confidential at the NPAFC/NPFC Sharepoint	Vessel of Interest folder description is included in the ToR agreed by the commissions – September 15, 2023 Vessel of Interest information is included in the folder – June 30, 2024	In December 2024, the NPAFC List of Vessel of Interest are included as a content of the NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint in its draft Terms of Reference, and will be uploaded to the SharePoint folder after the ToR agreed by the Commissions.

Collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including stock assessments;

- Implement Pan-Pacific research survey plans in winter 2022, organize a comprehensive study of its outcome at the special session of the IYS Synthesis Symposium.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of March 2025)
	NPFC suggestions to the NPAFC Pan-Pacific High Seas Research Expedition cruise plans.	NPFC proposal submitted to the NPAFC – November 2021	Completed (as written on the left column)

August 2021– February 2022	NPFC participation in the country leads meetings to coordinate/contribute to the Expedition plans.	NPFC Science Manager / Scientific Committee Chairperson participates in the country leads meetings in August 2021–February 2022	Completed (as written on the left column)
		NPAFC presented a report on the expedition finding after its completion in 2022	Completed (as written on the left, and NPAFC published the report as NPAFC Technical Report Nos. 20 and 22 in 2023.)

- Coordinate research activities identified in the NPFC/PICES and NPAFC/PICES Frameworks for Enhanced Scientific Cooperation in the North Pacific Ocean.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of March 2025)
October 2023– May 2025	Coordination of research activities identified in the NPFC/PICES and NPAFC/PICES Frameworks		A multi-year initiative Basin-Scale Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI) has been identified as one of the potential coordinations of research activities among NPFC/NPAFC/PICES. Details will be discussed by the commissions.

***Implementation of conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest;***

- Establish a mechanism to share the IUU vessel list of each Commission and its related information.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of March 2025)
August 2021– May 2023	Accessible links to the NPAFC and NPFC IUU vessel list on both Commissions’ website	NPAFC is developing the IUU vessel listing process with a study group, and the NPAFC IUU vessel list is expected to be established for the first time – May 2023	NPFC IUU vessel list has been linked on NPAFC website. In May 2023, launching of the NPAFC IUU Vessel List was adopted at its 30th Annual Meeting. Draft NPAFC IUU Vessel List will be discussed at the 32nd NPAFC Annual Meeting in May 2025. Once the NPAFC IUU Vessel List will be adopted, the List will be linked on the NPFC website.

- Expand cooperation to collect and share information relating to species of special interest for each Commission.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of March 2025)
August 2021– December 2025	Information exchange on research cruise plans that can collect information on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species	Lists of scientific cruise plans are exchanged – May 2022 NPAFC/NPFC/PICES Topic Session (or Workshop) on this issue is proposed for October 2023 at the PICES Annual Meeting	NPAFC/NPFC/PICES Topic Session (or Workshop) on the issue has not been held at the PICES Annual Meeting. NPAFC member countries' research cruise plan in 2024 was delivered to NPFC Secretariat in August 2024.
	Mutual scientific documents and publications on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species distribution, relationships, and potential impact	Mutual scientific documents and publications on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species are published in 2023–2025	A report of the potential joint workshop, which NPAFC Secretariat has been consulting with NPFC Secretariat, would be the scientific publication of mutual interests. <b>A proposal of the joint workshop was proposed at NPFC SC09 as shown in Working Paper NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP17. After having discussion in NPAFC just before this TCC meeting, NPAFC would like to have an NPAFC workshop related to transshipment etc. in May 2026 first (subject to funding approval at NPAFC Annual Meeting in May 2025) and then come back to this joint workshop proposal.</b>

- Develop, publish, and distribute public information about conservation on the high seas and consequences of IUU activity.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of March 2025)
2021–2025	News releases and journal articles on the Commissions activities related to high seas resources conservation, MCS, and law enforcement	Secretariats annually exchange information on the relevant publications	Ongoing (as written on the left column)