



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2025-TCC8-WP10

**PROPOSAL FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR A
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE
FOR MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE COLLECTION,
REPORTING, VERIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF DATA IN NPFC**

European Union

Explanatory memorandum

The aim of this proposal is to pave the way to a more efficient, consistent and streamlined approach for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data in NPFC, that would contribute to strengthening the capacity of the SC to undertake conclusive and robust assessments (and other relevant scientific tasks), while facilitating the work of Members and of the Secretariat.

Data collection standards in fisheries are essential for ensuring consistency and fostering collaboration. Standardized methods enable data comparability across spatial and temporal scales, facilitating long-term monitoring of fish stocks and ecosystems. This consistency is vital for effective fisheries management, as it supports accurate stock assessments and informed decision-making while enabling Members to work together on shared fisheries resources. Additionally, standardized data collection allows for better ecosystem-based management by addressing bycatch, habitat impacts, and biodiversity conservation, ensuring a holistic approach to sustainability.

Furthermore, quality control and validation are central benefits of standardized data, as they minimize bias, improve reliability, and enable transparency. Transparent and standardized protocols build trust among stakeholders, ensuring accountability in fisheries management while enhancing public confidence in sustainability efforts. By fostering transparency and promoting reliable data, these standards underpin the responsible management of fisheries and marine ecosystems, balancing ecological preservation with the needs of global communities.

In the context of the NPFC, Members have made great progress in terms of data collection and management. However, moving forward, there's a need for improvement through more organized and formalized structures and processes. By agreeing on minimum standards for data collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data, Members will achieve an important and necessary step towards the systematic collection of accurate data that will support more robust and reliable scientific processes, while reducing uncertainties in scientific outputs and advice, which are prerequisites for the long-term conservation and sustainable management of NPFC fisheries resources.

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE
ON MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE
COLLECTION, REPORTING, VERIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF DATA**

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC),

Recalling Article 3 (g) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries resources in the North Pacific Ocean (Convention) requiring to ensure that complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities, including with respect to all target and non-target species within the Convention Area, are collected and shared in a timely and appropriate manner;

Recalling Article 16 of the Convention on Data Collection, Compilation and Exchange;

Mindful that Articles 5 (j) and 6 (3d) of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 December 1995 (1995 Agreement) call for the collection and sharing, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities, including for assessing impacts of fishing on non-target species and the ecosystem;

Noting the requirements in Article 7 of the 1995 Agreement, which requires that conservation and management measures established for straddling fish stocks on the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction are compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of these fisheries resources in their entirety;

Emphasising that full and accurate data from fishing vessels is required to inform stock assessment and other scientific evaluation;

Further noting that operational level catch and effort data provides significant value to scientific assessments;

Concerned that to date no stock assessment for several of the priority species covered by the Convention has been undertaken, including due to the lack of accurate and standardized operational level catch and effort data and lack of capacity;

Adopts the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention:

1. Commission Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) shall ensure that the master of each vessel flying its flag in the Convention Area shall:
 - a. complete an accurate electronic log of every fishing day that it spends fishing for fisheries resources managed by the NPFC;
 - b. include in the electronic log the information required on interactions with non-target and associated or dependent species, in accordance with relevant CMMs;
 - c. enter in the electronic log at the end of the day the main activity of the day, including for days with no catches.
2. Commission Members and CNCs shall ensure that data are collected by its vessels referred to in paragraph 1 according to the operational characteristics of each fishing

method as described in Annexes 1 to 6 as minimum standards and made timely available to NPFC Scientific Committee for scientific purposes, in accordance with applicable confidentiality requirements.

3. Commission Members and CNCPs shall require the master of each vessel referred to in paragraph 1 to provide the required information (as set out in paragraph 2) to its national authority or its designated institution in accordance with their laws and regulations but at least within 15 days:
 - a. of the end of a trip; and
 - b. where applicable, of the end of every transshipment event at sea
4. Commission Members and CNCPs shall require the master of each vessel referred to in paragraph 1 to keep an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the required information pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip.
5. Commission Members and CNCPs fishing for fisheries resources managed by the NPFC shall ensure that for each calendar year, annual catch totals raised to “live” weight for all species/species groups caught in the Convention Area during that year are collated, and that these are collated as described in Annex 7. Commission Members and CNCPs shall provide by 15th February, their previous year’s (January to December) annual catch totals raised to “live” weight for all species/ species groups caught.
6. Commission Members and CNCPs are encouraged to provide annual catch for all the NPFC species caught in the area under their jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area as described in Annex 7.
7. Non-compliance with this measure shall be considered in accordance with Conservation and Management Measure for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMM 2024-13) or its successor.
8. Data collected and described under Annex 7 shall be stored, accessed, used and disseminated by the Secretariat of NPFC in accordance with the NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol.
9. The Scientific Committee will regularly advice the Commission regarding existing and/or emerging need for further improving NPFC data collection, verification, reporting and exchange processes, in view to strengthening the robustness of scientific assessments and reducing uncertainties in scientific advice for NPFC stocks.
10. This CMM is without prejudice to existing or additional reporting requirements.

ANNEX 1

Minimum Standards for data to be recorded for all fishing activities regardless the fishing gear

Data to be collected on a fishing trip basis.

1. Year
2. Trip number this year
3. Name of vessel
4. Current vessel flag
5. Unique Vessel Identifier / IMO number
6. Registration number of vessel
7. External identification
8. International radio call sign
9. Fishing permit or licence number(s)
10. Name of master
11. Address of master
12. Port of departure
13. Date and time of departure
14. Port of arrival
15. Date and time of arrival
16. Port of landing (if different from port of arrival)
17. Date and time of landing
18. Species (FAO 3-alpha code)
19. Amount of fish onboard at start of trip (mt)
20. Amount of fish onboard after unloading (mt)
21. Total amount of fish kept (mt)
22. Total amount of fish discarded (mt)

ANNEX 2

Minimum standards for data to be recorded for trawl fishing activities

Data to be collected on an un-aggregated (tow by tow) basis.

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Type of trawl
4. Mesh size
5. Height of net opening
6. Width of net opening
7. Gear depth at start of fishing
8. Bottom depth at start of fishing
9. Tow start date and time (UTC format)
10. Tow end date and time (UTC format)
11. Tow start position (1/100th degree resolution for bottom fishing, 1/10th degree resolution for pelagic trawl- decimal format), latitude and longitude
12. Tow end position (1/100th degree resolution for bottom fishing, 1/10th degree resolution for pelagic trawl – decimal format), latitude and longitude
13. Type of trawl: single (S), double (D) or triple (T)
14. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
15. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
16. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)

17. Estimation of the amount¹ of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code).

ANNEX 3

Minimum standards for data to be recorded for purse seine fishing activities

Data to be collected on an un-aggregated (set-by-set) basis.

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Mesh size
4. Net length
5. Net height
6. Set start date and time (UTC format)
7. Set end date time (UTC format)
8. Set start position (1/10th degree resolution - decimal format), latitude and longitude
9. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
10. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
11. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)
12. Estimation of the amount² of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code)

ANNEX 4

Minimum standards for data to be recorded for jigging fishing activities

Data to be collected on a daily basis.

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Number of crew
4. Number of single jig machines
5. Number of double jig machines
6. Number of jigs per line
7. Maximum Operating depth
8. Total deck light power (kW)
9. Total hours fished (h)
10. Position at start of drift (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude
11. Position at end of drift (1/10th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude
12. Echo Sounder (Yes/No)
13. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
14. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
15. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)

¹ In weight for fish and benthic material; numbers for marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern

² In weight for fish and benthic material; numbers for marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern

16. Estimation of the amount³ of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code)

ANNEX 5

Minimum standards for data to be recorded for stick-held dip net fishing activities

Data to be collected on an un-aggregated (haul by haul) basis.

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Number of crew
4. Mesh size
5. Net length
6. Net height
7. Total deck light power (kW)
8. Total hours fished (h)
9. Haul start date and time (UTC format);
10. Haul end date and time (UTC format);
11. Haul start position (1/100th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
12. Haul end position (1/100th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude;
13. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
14. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern⁴) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
15. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)
16. Estimation of the amount⁵ of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code)

ANNEX 6

Minimum standards for data to be recorded for bottom gillnets fishing activities

Data to be collected on an un-aggregated (haul by haul) basis.

1. Date of fishing activity (UTC date)
2. Fishing gear
3. Total net length
4. Total length of net lost
5. Net height
6. Mesh size
7. Minimum and maximum depth of the set
8. Haul start date and time (UTC format)
9. Haul end date and time (UTC format)
10. Haul start position (1/100th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude
11. Haul end position (1/100th degree resolution – decimal format), latitude and longitude
12. Intended target species (FAO 3-alpha code)
13. Incidental captures of species of concern (marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern) or benthic taxa (Yes/No/Unknown)
14. Estimated live weight of catch retained on board for all species caught by the tow including target, bycatch and species of concern (FAO 3-alpha code)

³ In weight for fish and benthic material; numbers for marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern

⁵ In weight for fish and benthic material; numbers for marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and other species of concern

15. Estimation of the amount of all living marine resources discarded by species, to the extent practicable, including any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, other species of concern, and benthic taxa (FAO 3-alpha code)

ANNEX 7

Minimum standards for Annual Catch Data reporting

Annual catch summaries should list all NPFC species caught in the Convention Area during the Calendar year.

For a calendar year and for each distinct combination of Sea Type, FAO statistical area, and priority species (FAO 3-alpha code) provide the following data:

1. Calendar year
2. Sea Type (either “HS” – High Seas - or “EEZ” – Exclusive Economic Zone)
3. FAO Statistical Area
4. Species (FAO 3-alpha code)
5. Fishing method (use appropriate ISSCFG code)
6. Annual catch total – tonnes raised to “live” weight
7. Number of vessels
8. Number of days fished