

Working Paper from Secretariat

Proposal from the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission for a
Joint Workshop on interactions between anadromous fish and NPFC fisheries

Abstract:

The attached draft concept paper, originally presented at NPFC SC09, proposes a joint workshop between NPFC and NPAFC on transshipment management and Pacific salmon bycatch. The Secretariat requests that Members consider the paper and specifically the request noted in NPFC-2025-COM09- IP07 Rev.1 regarding a co-chair from NPFC to develop the initiative.

Explanatory Memorandum

The attached draft concept paper was presented at SC09 by NPAFC in December 2024 as “NPFC-2024-SC09-App2 Draft Joint Workshop concept paper”. It proposes the development of a joint workshop(s) to be co-hosted by NPAFC and NPFC on transshipment management and Pacific salmon bycatch. The workshop is proposed for Spring 2026 in Japan in conjunction with the NPFC COM10.

The SC09 report, (paragraph 123) reflected “*SC reviewed the concept paper on a Joint NPAFC/NPFC workshop on interactions between fisheries and anadromous fish in the North Pacific high seas. The SC endorsed the scientific elements of the paper, while noting that most of the workshop topics concern matters of compliance, and recommended that the NPAFC also present the concept paper to the TCC.*”

The attached concept paper was developed by NPAFC for consideration by NPFC.

(Draft) Concept paper on
Joint Workshop on
“Interactions between fisheries and anadromous fish in the North Pacific high seas”
to be held by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)
and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

1. Background

The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission was established in 1992 under the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean to promote the conservation of anadromous stocks (Pacific salmon and steelhead trout) in the Convention Area. This area includes the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, north of 33 degrees North Latitude beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. In the Convention Area, direct fishing for anadromous fish is prohibited, incidental taking of anadromous fish shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable, and the retention of anadromous fish caught incidentally in fisheries targeting non-anadromous fish shall be prohibited.

At the 2023 NPAFC Committee on Enforcement (ENFO), one Party suggested holding a joint workshop(s) with NPFC on transshipment management and Pacific salmon bycatch. The NPAFC Secretariat contacted the NPFC Secretariat to discuss the possibility of co-hosting a workshop on transshipment and the implications of salmon bycatch. Both Secretariats agreed a later workshop would be beneficial but should be scheduled at a later date since the NPFC was in an early phase of the implementation of NPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2022-03 on Transshipments.

At the NPFC 8th Commission Meeting (COM08) in April 2024, the NPFC adopted CMM 2024-16 to protect anadromous fish in the NPFC Convention Area, which prohibits directed fishing for anadromous fish, prohibits retention of anadromous fish, encourages parties to minimize or avoid the incidental capture of anadromous fish, requests parties maintain records of incidentally caught and released anadromous fish, and requests annual reporting and sharing of these data.

At the 2024 NPAFC ENFO meeting, while parties were considering the adoption of the NPFC CMM 2024-16, the topic of the joint workshop was modified from “transshipment” to “interactions between fisheries and anadromous fish.” The NPAFC Secretariat contacted the NPFC Secretariat to begin discussions regarding the details of the joint workshop, but it was determined that the details of the joint workshop, including topics,

moderators, guest speakers, could not be prepared by neither Secretariats.

Thus, this concept paper, which describes the details of the joint workshop, was prepared by the NPAFC Secretariat asking advices from Co-Chairpersons of the NPAFC ENFO/CSRS Working Group on Inter-committee Coordination (WGIC), to be presented at the NPFC Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, and Commission Meeting.

2. Objectives

The Joint Workshop on “Interactions between fisheries and anadromous fish in the North Pacific high seas” aims to do the following:

- For NPAFC and its member countries—facilitate sophisticated enforcement activities in the NPAFC Convention Area.
- For NPFC and its member countries—facilitate implementation of CMM 2024-16 and protect anadromous fish in the NPFC Convention Area.

3. Potential Workshop Topics

(1) Fishing methods which may catch anadromous fish directly or incidentally.

- Implementation of the NPFC Transshipment measure, training for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) practitioners in the analysis of transshipment data, and a special focus on the transshipment of bycatch including anadromous species.
- Implementation of the NPFC CMM on anadromous fish.
- Review of fishing methods which may catch anadromous fish directly or incidentally in the ocean but not limited to the high seas area.

(2) Historical direct fishing activities for anadromous fish in the North Pacific high seas

- Review of historical direct fishing activities for anadromous fish in the North Pacific high seas analyzed as a part of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS).

(3) Impact of climate change on migration patterns of anadromous fish in the North Pacific high seas

- Review of areas of potential incidental taking of anadromous fish in fishing activities directed for non-anadromous fish.

(4) Contribution of enforcement activities to scientific research

- Review of physical vessel inspection processes to identify potential opportunities for scientific research sampling etc.

(5) Other issues

4. Potential Time and Place

The Workshop is expected to be held in conjunction with the NPFC Commission Meeting (COM10) in March 2026 in Japan. If not, it will be held in association with the NPFC Commission Meeting (COM11) in March 2027 or with the NPAFC Annual Meeting in 2027 (most likely in May). There may be other options.

5. Format, Duration, Language, and Openness of the Workshop

- The Workshop will be held in hybrid format.
- Duration of the Workshop is one day.
- The Workshop will be held in English with no interpretation service.
- The Workshop will be closed to public because it deals with sensitive information regarding incidental taking of anadromous fish unless otherwise decided by the Science Committee.

6. Organization for the Workshop

(1) Secretariat of the Workshop

The Secretariats of NPAFC and NPFC will cooperatively serve as the Secretariat of the Workshop, although the NPAFC Secretariat will serve as the first point of contact. The NPAFC Secretariat will support the Science Committee's preparation of the announcements for the Workshop, call for papers, and workshop booklet with abstracts.

(2) Local Secretariat

The Local Secretariat will be responsible for securing a venue and logistics for the organization of the event, including preparation of AV equipment for the hybrid format of the Workshop. The Local Secretariat will be the Secretariat of the NPFC when the Workshop will be held in Japan.

(3) Science Committee

The Science Committee of the Workshop is formed with members nominated by NPAFC

or NPFC, who will be responsible for the following tasks.

- Nomination of invited keynote speaker(s), if necessary.
- Formulation of contents/program of the Workshop.
- Nomination of the moderator of each session.
- Preparation of announcements for the Workshop, call for papers.
- Selection of papers.
- Preparation of workshop booklet with abstracts.
- Chairing the Workshop.
- Review of extended abstracts.
- Selection of recordings of the presentations which may be open to the public on NPAFC webpage
- Decision on the necessity of, and timeline and possible locations for the second workshop.

7. Speakers

The speakers will be selected among scientists and administrative/enforcement officers from the Parties of the NPAFC and NPFC, as well as any other relevant academies and enforcement agencies.

8. Press

The Workshop will not be announced to the press and the press will not be invited to the Workshop.

The Workshop is announced only on the websites of the NPAFC and the NPFC, and directly to the relevant persons/parties from the Science Committee.

9. Participation Fee

Workshop will be free of charge.

10. Hotel Accommodation for the Participants

No hotel accommodations will be provided to participants, including discounted room rates or blocking of rooms.

11. Publications

Extended abstracts of the presentations, which may be open to the public, will be

compiled and published online as an NPAFC Technical Report.

The recordings of the presentations, which may be open to the public, will also be uploaded to the NPAFC webpage.

12. Costs

The cost necessary to hold the Joint Workshop will be equally divided by the Secretariats of NPAFC and NPFC.

The necessary cost may include the following:

- meeting venue of the Workshop
- hybrid format AV equipment
- recording of the meeting
- travel and accommodation costs related to invited keynote speaker(s)
- coffee breaks; once in the morning and once in the afternoon