

SC/TCC/FAC RELATED FROM PERFORMANCE REVIEW

RESPONSE

TABLE OF RECOMMENDATIONS	DETAILS OF THE RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	ROLE	SC09/TCC08/FAC07/COM09 comments
SCIENCE				
<i>Status of living marine resources</i>				
<p>Recommendation 3.1.1. The SC should ensure rigour in management procedures (MP) for Pacific saury based on a fully explicit set of age structured models responsive to provisions of data and variability in the relative vulnerability of different age/size groups of Pacific saury</p>		High	SC	<p>On-going. SWG MSE PS has been tasked to develop candidate MPs through MSE simulation framework. The SWG MSE PS's proposed interim HCR was adopted in 2024 by COM08.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.1.2. That the SC (and SSC for Pacific Saury) examine in greater detail the standardization of the data and indices used in the stock assessment and in the case of Pacific saury, the size and age composition traits over time.</p>		High	SC	<p>This recommendation applies to all stock assessments. PS, CM, NFS: Ongoing and completed. The SSC PS, TWG CMSA and SSC NFS have developed a protocol for CPUE standardization and used it in the past several meetings. In addition to the abundance indices, a template of size/age composition data, another key inputs to develop age-structured models, has been shared with Members. These resources are to be regularly updated. SSC BFME: Standardization of input into life history based approach. Data template for NPA.</p>
			SSC PS	Ongoing and completed.
<p>Recommendation 3.1.3. The Commission should agree and implement interim measures for Chub mackerel based on the work completed with respect to Chub mackerel stock assessments.</p>		High	SC	<p>Stock assessment and management advice will be available by COM09 in 2025</p>
			COM	<p>Progress on CMSA is proceeding and a SA is planned to be in place for COM09 (2025).</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.1.4. That the SC continue to support measures that provide representative data of the ratio of Chub mackerel and Blue mackerel in catches, such as port sampling or other sampling methods, and that the stock assessment model account for this in a reasonable way.</p>		Medium	SC	<p>SC08 observed Japan's domestic SA for BM. It will be updated at SC09. TWG CMSA and SWG BM regularly update data on the ratio of CM and BM in catches.</p>

<p>Recommendation 3.1.5. The SC should identify and describe standardised sampling gear for deepwater stocks in both Convention Area and EEZ fisheries to generate data on relative abundance and to address data gaps.</p>		High	SC	<p>NPFC Members do not have “sampling gear” since there are no surveys for these species.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.1.6. The SC should seek to link footprint and effort data on squids and sardines using GIS tools in order to provide improved information on the spatial extent of the stocks and assist in providing advice on effort metrics.</p>		Medium	SC	<p>This may be less relevant to SWG JFS and SWG JS because domestic stock assessments were observed by SC08 and SC09; some of this information is described in species summaries; high priority of 1-2 years for NFS SSC NFS: Secretariat was tasked to develop a GIS map for NFS for review by SC and endorsement by COM. The map shall be accessible by Members only.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.1.7. To increase the usefulness of the "footprint" data submitted by Members, measures of effort should be reconciled with vessel monitoring system (VMS) data, where possible.</p>		Medium	SC	<p>The Secretariat presented a paper on the potential use of VMS data for scientific analyses and presented it to SC09 in Dec 2024.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.1.8. The SC and TCC should coordinate formal efforts to collect standardised data and validate bycatch of associated and dependent species.</p>	<p>Para. 51 & 52 of Report: This recommendation is related to ecologically related species. While outside the scope of directed fishery “management” advice, having some indication of the levels of catch of associated and dependent species, by-catch, and activities such as shark-finning, would reflect a responsible approach to fishery management. Additionally, whether or not the current indicator taxa were sufficient for determining VME.</p>	High	SC	<p>SSCs PS, BFME, NFS and TWG CMSA responded to questions from TCC. SSC BFME: added to the workplan. SSC PS: The SSC PS noted that having Pacific saury bycatch data would ensure more reliable catch information and thus improve the Pacific saury stock assessment. The SSC PS encouraged Members to provide this information to the next SSC PS meeting. The SSC PS noted that regular reporting of species-specific bycatch information from Members’ fisheries, such as Pacific saury bycatch from chub mackerel fisheries, would be useful going forward. TWG CMSA: The TWG CMSA noted that having chub mackerel bycatch in fisheries where chub-mackerel are not targeted in the Convention Area would ensure more reliable catch information, resulting in an improvement of chub mackerel stock assessment. The TWG CMSA encouraged Members to provide this information to the future TWG CMSA meeting.</p>

			TCC	Need to establish observer program first - can coordinate with SC while developing observer program to ensure standard data collection efforts. TCC took steps to start observer program exploration at TCC07. TCC PD developed Transshipment Observer Program in 2024/2025. Chair and SC Chair worked together on needs for broader observer program; SC decided it did not need more scientific information at this time; all science needs/objectives are essentially met through other programs.
<i>Quality and provision of scientific advice</i>				
Recommendation 3.2.1. The SC should provide the Commission meeting with annual summaries of the status of the stocks and these should be made public.		High	SC	SSC PS and TWG CMSA complete annual stock assessments which have executive summaries with these details. Species summaries for all priority species are complete. SSC BFME: Stock summary slides for NPA, SA and sablefish.
Recommendation 3.2.2. The Commission should commit to a schedule for the development of full MSE, including MPs and HCRs for all priority stocks.		High	SC	SSC PS: SWG MSE PS has been tasked to develop candidate MPs through MSE simulation framework. TWG CMSA and SSC NFS: MSE has been added to the workplan. SSC BMFE: MSE can be added to workplan in the future
			COM	Progress on PS MSE and CM SA is proceeding and a plan is under development for the other priority species.
Recommendation 3.2.3. If it occurs, the SC should communicate to the Commission the reasons for lack of consensus within the SC together with an identification of research needs to bridge gaps in the scientific understanding.		High	SC	The SC and subsidiary groups already do this in meeting reports.
			COM	
<i>Long-term planning and research</i>				
Recommendation 3.3.1. The SC should annually summarize progress taken towards each element in the Five Year Work Plan.		High	SC	SC and its subsidiary groups: column added to workplan.

Best available science				
<p>Recommendation 3.4.1. That the SC develop guidelines for providing advice to the Commission that reflects standards of ‘best available science’: specifically, whether advice passes defensible tests against identified criteria for ‘best available science’ (data, statistical rigor, documentation, and peer review).</p>		High	SC	To be discussed at SC09 (SWG Milestones report).
<p>Recommendation 3.4.2. That the SC pursue independent reviews of scientific advice to a greater extent.</p>		High	SC	SC recognized the importance of independent review of scientific advice, especially stock assessments.
			SC	<p>The SC reaffirmed the scientific value of having a regional observer program. At the same time, some Members noted that the establishment of a regional observer program could be challenging and take a significant amount of time and suggested that Members’ domestic observer programs could fill many of the data needs and gaps that have been identified.</p> <p>TWG CMSA: identified data needs and data gaps. SSC NFS: noted the importance of collecting age and size composition data for more accurately separating the two cohorts of NFS. Size data can be collected by onboard observers or by port sampling.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.4.3. The Commission should develop a regional observer program to contribute to addressing science demands, resolve data gaps, improve data collection on bycatch, and monitor the implementation of measures.</p>	<p>Para. 65 & 66 of Report: NPFC needs a) having standardized methods for collecting data; b) applying sound logic and statistical rigor for interpreting results; c) having clear documentation of methods applied (including results and conclusions); and d), supporting adequate peer review. An observer program would help facilitate this.</p>	High	TCC	<p>Stated goal in Transshipment CMM was to have this by 2025 COM meeting, starting with transshipment observer program for 2024 meeting. Transshipment observer program to be established for 2024 meeting. Larger observer program to be created in the intersession between 2024 and 2025 meeting. TCC took steps to start observer program exploration at TCC07. TCC PD developed Transshipment Observer Program in 2024/2025. Chair and SC Chair worked together on needs for broader observer program; SC decided it did not need more scientific information at this time; all science needs/objectives are essentially met through other programs.</p>

			COM	TCC and SC approaches are noted.
			SC	SC08 noted guidance was needed from COM09
Recommendation 3.4.4. The Commission should develop a program of work to examine the feasibility of introducing electronic monitoring (EM) in the NPFC Convention Area.	Para. 65 & 66 of Report: NPFC needs a) having standardized methods for collecting data; b) applying sound logic and statistical rigor for interpreting results; c) having clear documentation of methods applied (including results and conclusions); and d), supporting adequate peer review. An observer program would help facilitate this.	High	COM	
Recommendation 3.4.5. The Commission should endeavour to engage available expertise in science issues available to other institutions and organizations (such as PICES) and seek to foster collaboration on cooperative research projects.		High	SC	International cooperation with FAO and PICES is already in place. NPFC- PICES Framework for Enhanced Scientific Collaboration in the North Pacific (three mutual priorities are 3.1 Support for Stock Assessments for priority species; 3.2 Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs); and 3.3 Ecosystem Approach to fisheries); PICES and SC09 endorsed a renewed collaborative framework. ICES- PICES WG53 on Sustainable Pelagic Forage Communities (WG53SPF); WG47 on Ecology of Seamounts; PICES and NPFC share similar convention area SSC BFME: Already in place, could reach out to other scientists to attend BFME (FIS committee, BIO and climate changes issues). TWG CMSA: Chair is one of the NPFC representatives in ICES-PICES WGSPF. SSC PS: Chair is one of the NPFC representatives in ICES-PICES WG53SPF
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT				
<i>Conservation and Management Measures</i>				
Recommendation 4.1.1. That the Commission and Scientific Committee increase efforts to acquire the requisite data and conclude stock assessments for all NPFC fishery resources with particular attention to the priority stocks: North Pacific armorhead, Splendid alfonsino, Pacific saury, Chub mackerel, Blue (Spotted) mackerel, Japanese sardine, Japanese flying squid and Neon flying squid. These assessments should provide		High	SC	Have NPFC stock assessments for PS and CM , and assessments for NPA, SA, and NFS are anticipated in the next 2-5 years . SC08 observed domestic stock assessment for NFS, JFS, JS, and BM. SC09 observed domestic stock assessments of JFS, JS, BM, and sablefish. SSC BFME: concluded life history based assessment for SA.

the knowledge and understanding required to adopt more enduring and scientifically validated CMMs to achieve sustainable levels of fishing mortality.			COM	
Recommendation 4.1.2. That pending the results of stock assessments and where information is lacking, the Commission adopt a precautionary approach (taking account of the risk of overfishing and whether stocks are overfished) to the setting of catch limits.		High	SC	This is a recommendation for the Commission (with some input from SC). SC seeks a volunteer to draft guidelines for a precautionary approach.
			COM	
Recommendation 4.1.3. That the Commission undertake a comprehensive review of existing CMMs to include verifiable objectives, address potential issues associated with interpretation by reducing the use of subjective terms and adopt baselines and measures of performance. This should be repeated regularly not less than every 5 years.		High	COM	This is a recommendation for the Commission (with some input from SC).
Recommendation 4.1.4. That stand alone CMMs be dedicated to a single NPFC fishery resource and that multi-species CMMs be phased out as the results of stock assessments and Management Procedures become available.		Medium	COM	Current proposals for COM09 are increasing number of single species CMM,
<i>Data collection and sharing</i>				

<p>Recommendation 4.2.1. That the Commission increase efforts to characterise NPFC fisheries by expanding and harmonizing data collection formats for all species encounters, including bycatch, discards and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks.</p>	<p>Para. 131: good progress has been made in relation to the sharing of standardized data to support the work of the SC's SCCs and TWGs and positive developments continue in the TCC. Although more remains to be done, and efforts are on-going, NPFC is to be commended for the progress achieved to date.</p> <p>Para. 133: the harmonization of data collection formats and associated gains in efficiency in data processing at the Secretariat, including through automated data quality assurance routines, could result in revisions to data submission deadlines. This would result in more complete quality data being available in a timely manner to support analysis and decisionmaking. The Commission is encouraged to take advantage of such developments. Expanding and harmonizing data collection will i) improve data administration and processing, including through opportunities to support the introduction of e-reporting, and ii) improve the timeliness and quality of data available to support analysis and decision-making for all species, including bycatch, discards and associate and dependent species</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>Note from TCC: COM direction needed (with TCC and SC). TCC will probably be able to facilitate data collection formatting and compliance reporting. Noted that Recommendation 4.2.2 is for the COM to task the Secretariat with hiring an expert to do a review of data collection and ID gaps --> TCC work ideally follow the expert review.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4.2.2. That the Commission task the Secretariat to contract a data management expert to undertake an intersessional review to assess data reporting formats for SC and TCC purposes and advise on opportunities for further standardization, undertake a comprehensive inventory of NPFC data, evaluate uncertainties associated with that data, identify data gaps and propose a schedule of data-related priority tasks and associated responsibilities to be annually reported to the Commission.</p>		<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>This is part of the Secretariat 2025 workplan</p>

<p>Recommendation 4.3.1. That the Commission prioritize the development of Terms of Reference to contract appropriate technical expertise to assist with developing advice on effort indicators for fishing capacity for all fisheries harvesting NPFC fishery resources.</p>		High	COM	
<p><i>Fishing allocations and opportunities</i></p>				
<p>Recommendation 4.4.1. An agreed process for the allocation of fishing opportunities should be a long-term goal of the Commission.</p>		Medium	COM	
<p><i>Ecosystem approach to fisheries</i></p>				
<p>Recommendation 4.5.1. The implementation of the CMMs relating to bottom fishing and the protection of VMEs should be strengthened by requesting the:</p>			COM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · SC to undertake a review of the scientific aspects of the 50kg VME encounter threshold (including practices in other RFMOs) for possible revision; 			SC	<p>This is partially complete. SSC BFME: Complete although with some further analysis and revisitation of these thresholds in the coming year (SWG-VME)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · SC to re-visit the recommendations of SC03 and SSC VME03 and provide a transparent assessment of the value of including sponges and hydrocorals as VME indicator taxa in conjunction with supporting an initiative to develop a quantitative method for the identification of VMEs; and 			SC	<p>This is partially complete: glass sponge and demosponges were added in 2023; a quantitative method for VME identification was endorsed by the commission in 2023; a second non-quantitative VME identification method was endorsed by the Commission in 2024; SWG VME/SSC BFME did not recommend adding hydrocorals to the list of VME indicator taxa</p>

<p>· TCC to develop compliance-related reporting provisions for the Scientific Observer Program related to VME encounters, accompanied by a mechanism to deter non-compliance.</p>	<p>Para. 260-272: Relevant to the recommendation to TCC, the Report notes without an independent and impartial observer program, in combination with the absence of deterrents to non-compliance,³⁷⁶ the current VME encounter reporting procedure appears ineffective and potentially undermines the objective of the Measures. There is little evidence that ecosystem considerations in NPFC fisheries are receiving strategic attention either at the national, or Commission, level. There should be efforts to focus on data collection procedures and obligations so that ecosystem-related interactions in NPFC pelagic fisheries can be characterized and assessed. Additional effort is also required to encourage Members to ensure compatible initiatives are supported and implemented in areas under national jurisdiction, with outcomes reported to the Commission. Consider an annex for the Scientific Observer Program - may provide a sound foundation for eventual extension of the observer program to all NPFC fisheries.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>TCC</p>	<p>To be done in conjunction with development of regional observer program. See above re: SC and ROP.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4.5.2. That the Commission and the SC develop strategies that address the lack of information needed to take ecosystem considerations into account for NPFC pelagic fisheries in the Convention Area, and include these in the SC's Research Plan, data collection procedures and obligations to better take into account ecosystem-related interactions, and how they might compare with compatible initiatives in areas under national jurisdiction.</p>		<p>High</p>	<p>SC COM</p>	<p>NPFC could implement a pelagic fishery regional observer program and/or EM program? Members could report time series of bycatch species for all priority species?</p>
			<p>SC</p>	<p>This is partially complete but more of a task for the Commission.</p>

<p>Recommendation 4.5.3. That the Commission, at an early opportunity, develop and adopt CMMs addressing lost and discarded fishing gear, marine pollution and waste from fishing vessels, interactions with marine mammals, seabirds or sharks (particularly a prohibition on shark finning), and a prohibition on fishing with long driftnets in the NPFC Convention Area.</p>	<p>Para. 270: the Commission has no CMMs relating to general environmental protection³⁸⁴, including measures associated with i) pollution and waste, ii) lost and discarded fishing gear³⁸⁵, or iii) interactions with marine mammals, seabirds or sharks (particularly in relation to shark finning).</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>TCC comments: CMM on Marine Pollution and CMM on Sharks adopted in 2023. Others still TBD and Member driven.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4.5.4. That the Commission recognize the importance of taking into account the known and anticipated impacts of climate change on the North Pacific Ocean ecosystem, including with respect to changes in the geographic and temporal distribution of stocks, notably Pacific saury.</p>		<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>SC Comments: SSC PS: A new task to explore the impact of climate change on Pacific saury stock assessment and fishery performance was added to SSC PS TOR. SSC PS14: Members presented analyses on climate change effects on PS. TWG CMSA and SSC NFS: Consideration of the potential impact of climate changes on the CM stock has been added to the Stock Assessment Protocol. SSC BFME: added to workplan SC09 reviewed the FAO DSF project-funded consultancy report on climate change effects on NPFC stocks and fisheries.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4.5.5. That the SC make appropriate provision in its current Research Plan to address current deficiencies associated with addressing the impacts of climate change on NPFC ocean ecosystems and associated fisheries.</p>		<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>SC Comments: SC revised its Research Plan to address climate change issue and tasked its subsidiary bodies to include the potential impacts of climate change in future discussions and work.</p>
<p>COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT</p>				
<p><i>Monitoring, control and surveillance measures</i></p>				

<p>Recommendation 5.2.1. That, as a priority, the Commission adopt a new comprehensive conservation and management measure to regulate and monitor transshipments.</p>	<p>Para. 294: there is as yet no comprehensive transshipment measure in place in the NPFC. This loophole is particularly worrying because most fish caught in the Convention Area are transhipped.⁴⁰⁰ The Review Panel believes that the Commission should adopt an appropriate CMM as a matter of priority. Such a scheme should take into account the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipments and the best practices already in place in other RFMOs. This should include alignment with the minimum standards offered by the FAO Guidelines, and appropriate coverage of all NPFC species caught in the Convention Area, regardless of where the transshipment occurs.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>SC</p>	<p>TCC Comment: CMM on Transshipment Adopted in 2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.2. That the Commission adopts, as a matter of priority, a Regional Observer Program that includes all fisheries and is based on a common understanding of the role and function of observers and common templates for the collection of scientific fisheries data and monitoring compliance with CMMs.</p>	<p>Para. 283: NPFC lacks, for example, comprehensive measures to regulate transshipments, a regional Observer Program and common minimum standards for port State measures.</p> <p>Para. 299-301: There is no fully developed regional observer program in NPFC. The SC has reviewed the existing NPFC observer programs and those of other RFMOs to prompt a discussion on the matter,⁴⁰² but Members have been unable to develop a full proposal for debate. Given the central role that observers perform in gathering scientific data and supporting the implementation and compliance with RFMOs' management measures, the Review Panel urges the Commission to establish a comprehensive NPFC Observer Program for all NPFC fisheries. Paragraphs 300 and 301 provide further detail of considerations NPFC should take in establishing an observer program.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>TCC</p> <p>SC</p> <p>COM</p>	<p>Stated goal in Transshipment CMM was to have this by COM09, starting with transshipment observer program for 2024 meeting. Transshipment observer program to be established for 2024 meeting. Larger observer program to be created in the intersession between 2024 and 2025 meeting. TCC07 decided to work on transshipment observer program in 2024/2025 intersession and begin preliminary work on ROP by asking SC questions. TCC PD developed Transshipment Observer Program in 2024/2025. Chair and SC Chair worked together on needs for broader observer program; SC decided it did not need more scientific information at this time; all science needs/objectives are essentially met through other programs.</p> <p>SC09 reviewed an updated report on existing observer programs of Members and other RFMOs and provided feedback to the TCC on data needs.</p>

<p>Recommendation 5.2.3. That the Commission adopt procedures to implement Article 17(4) of the Convention and clarify the circumstances in which fishing is to cease and vessels ordered to port for 'serious violations'.</p>	<p>Para. 308: The remedial actions in this provision are challenging to reconcile with a formal TCC or Commission decision on whether the incident amounts to a serious violation. The Commission should consider how to give Article 17(4) a practical application that still serves the purpose of deterring such infringements from occurring, including by, for example, tasking the TCC with outlining the appropriate circumstances in which fishing is to cease and a vessel ordered to return to port.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>TCC</p>	<p>Part of 2023-2024 intersessional work plan, but may need to continue into following intersession. OPS will work on in 2024-2025 intersession. OPS will work on in 2025-2026 intersession.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.4. That information from high seas boarding and inspections be used, subject to data management rules, to inform assessments under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme and the preparation of the Draft IUU Vessel List.</p>		<p>Medium</p>	<p>COM Sec</p>	<p>TCC Comment: HSBI information is being used to inform the Compliance review and IUU List preparation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.5. That the Commission adopts a long-term strategy to address the problem of vessels without nationality engaged in IUU fishing, with specific steps for finding and collecting information about each vessel, including on beneficiaries of their fishing activities and their operational aspects.</p>	<p>Para. 318: The Commission should consider ways to find out more about these vessels, their activities and the ports they frequent by using all the MCS tools available. If NPFC is genuinely determined to address this worrying issue effectively, it must deploy political will and all the means available, to develop intelligence and encourage individual actions by all Commission Members.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>TCC</p>	<p>TCC focus on IUU will continue including assesment of range of IUU activities that undermine NPFC conservation objectives.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.6. That the Commission make full use of the information arising from at-sea inspections, including the possibility of vessels being included on the Draft IUU Vessel List.</p>	<p>Para. 319: it appears that possible violations by vessels flagged to Commission Members, as described by inspectors, do not lead to the inclusion of such vessels on the Draft IUU Vessel List</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>TCC</p>	<p>TCC focus on IUU will continue including assesment of range of IUU activities that undermine NPFC conservation objectives.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.7. That the Commission develop processes for the reciprocal recognition of the IUU Vessel Lists of other RFMOs.</p>	<p>Para. 320: The Review Panel considers that the IUU listing process would benefit from the Secretariat performing a supporting role by identifying possible vessels for the Draft List that the TCC and the Commission would later discuss.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>TCC</p>	<p>TCC will consider crosslisting as opposed to the current publication on the NPFC website of all RFMO lists and the global aggregation sites.</p>

			COM	
Recommendation 5.2.8. That the Commission consider adopting arrangements to prevent tampering with mobile transmitting units for accessing VMS data held by the Secretariat and to make VMS data available to support decisions of Members regarding the planning and when to conduct of high seas boarding and inspection.	Para. 325: the current CMM does not elaborate on measures to prevent tampering with units. Equally, there are no rules to access VMS data to support high seas boarding and inspections, a central element for planning these operations.	Medium	TCC COM	VMS CMM amended to require MTUs to be tamper-proof in 2023. VMS data is currently made available to Members with an inspection presence in the Convention Area
Recommendation 5.2.9. That the Commission focus on developing, improving and implementing other, more urgent MCS tools and postpone the development of regional market-related measures at this time.	Para. 328-329: It is therefore fair to conclude that adopting trade-related measures is either not necessary yet or that these measures are not as urgent as other MCS measures. The records of discussion in the TCC and Commission reports suggest that other MCS measures have more urgency for the Commission. Referencing Art. 7(2)(g) of the Convention.	Low	TCC COM	Intersessional work on refining CMS/CMR was tasked to TCC at COM07 for COM08. New CMS/CMR developed and implemented; allows for on-going work to improve process.
Recommendation 5.2.10. That the Commission continue to implement and improve its CMS, including by integrating, in the best possible way, all the MCS instruments at its disposal in order to supplement self-reporting by Members and CNCPs with verifiable data and information.	Para. 285: the Commission's set of MCS measures needs more development to serve the overarching goal of detecting violations and ensuring compliance with the Convention and existing CMMs. The Review Panel finds that some of the tools established or currently in development must be further developed or improved. The Commission should also add other mechanisms to deter violations and ensure compliance. The Review Panel recommends that Members and CNCPs continue to develop a holistic system of MCS measures. See also, para. 340-348 for a comprehensive review of CMS and suggestions for how to improve.	Medium	TCC COM	Intersessional work on refining CMS/CMR was tasked to TCC at COM07 for COM08. TCC07 and COM08 passed new CMS CMM, along with implementation questionnaire. Work will be on-going to review and improve CMS/CMR.
Recommendation 5.2.11. That the Commission migrate from manual to automated reporting to gather compliance and enforcement data, in order to facilitate the CMS process.	Para. 347: the Commission would benefit from reducing manual reporting and transit to e-reporting where possible. Such a development would significantly facilitate and streamline the CMS process and other compliance tasks.	Medium	TCC	This can be suggested within the work being done on CMS/CMR during the intersession, but will need help from Sec and support of the Commission. This is continuing to be done and encouraged.

			COM	
<p>Recommendation 5.2.12. That the Commission establish criteria and mechanisms to address instances of persistent, repeated or serious non-compliance and apply measures accordingly, such as demanding specific action plans from States involved and a specified schedule of appropriate penalties or sanctions.</p>	<p>Para. 285: the Commission's set of MCS measures needs more development to serve the overarching goal of detecting violations and ensuring compliance with the Convention and existing CMMs. The Review Panel finds that some of the tools established or currently in development must be further developed or improved. The Commission should also add other mechanisms to deter violations and ensure compliance. The Review Panel recommends that Members and CNCPs continue to develop a holistic system of MCS measures.</p> <p>See also, para. 340-348 for a comprehensive review of CMS and suggestions for how to improve.</p>	Medium	TCC	TCC focus on non-compliance will continue including assessment of response to persistent, serious non-compliance that undermine NPFC conservation objectives. New CMS/CMR should help address this.
			COM	
<i>Flag State Duties and the requirements for Vessel Registration</i>				
<p>Recommendation 5.3.1. That the Commission review the requirements for vessel registration to avoid demanding unnecessary information and to improve the registration process to prevent duplication and confusion.</p>	<p>Para. 357: the Commission would benefit from clarifying and considering some improvements to the requirements for vessel registration. First, on the conditions themselves: not all conditions appear equally relevant, and some may be redundant. the Member can edit the data, and there is no requirement to advise the Secretariat. This loophole may create confusion and duplicate information.</p>	Medium	TCC	For TCC consideration
			COM	
<p>Recommendation 5.3.2. That the Commission clarify that all vessels undertaking support activities in the Convention Area, including bunkering, should comply with vessel registration requirements.</p>	<p>Para. 357: the Commission should clarify the registration requirements for the vessels undertaking bunkering activities in the Convention Area. As bunkering supports fishing activities, it falls into the definition of "fishing" under Article 1(h) of the Convention ("any operation at sea in direct support of, or in preparation for, any activity" regarded as fishing). Therefore, there is no reason to exclude bunkering from the general obligations applicable to vessel registration.</p>	High	COM	All vessels must be in the NPFC Vessel Registry to operate in the Convention Area.

<p>Recommendation 5.3.3. That the Commission confirm the duty to have an IMO number for vessel registration by amending Annex I of CMM 2021-01.</p>	<p>Para. 357: the Commission should, as a matter of priority, confirm the duty to have an IMO number for vessel registration by deleting the words "pending" in CMM 2021-01, Annex I, field "i".</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>Amended CMM to remove "pending" in 2023.</p>
<p><i>Port State duties and minimum standards</i></p>				
<p>Recommendation 5.4.1. That the Commission adopt, as a matter of priority, a conservation and management measure specifying minimum standards for port inspections, consistent with the FAO 2009 Port State Measures Agreement.</p>	<p>Para. 361-363: Despite the text of Article 14 of the Convention, the fact that all NPFC Contracting Parties except one are also parties to the FAO 2009 PSM Agreement, and the extensive practice of RFMOs worldwide, NPFC has yet to adopt a common scheme defining the minimum standards for PSM. the lack of common standards prevents Members from having a valuable tool to combat IUU fishing. The Commission should consider adopting a PSM scheme which establishes minimum standards for port inspections. That CMM should promote consistency with the FAO 2009 PSM Agreement and notification and inspection regimes across the Convention Area. The future NPFC PSM scheme should also consider a robust mechanism for the exchange of information on possible IUU vessels seeking access to NPFC ports so that Members can adequately deny such vessels the benefits of IUU fishing.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>While this is a high priority, it is a large program that will need a lot of time/effort. Currently, TCC SWGs have other large programs that will take precedent (CMS, observer program), so this may have to wait. On TCC workplan.</p>
<p><i>Measures to deter nationals from engaging in IUU fishing</i></p>				
<p>Recommendation 5.5.1. That the Commission consider the development of a specific scheme to implement the obligations under Article 17(7) so that Members and CNCPs take adequate measures to prevent their nationals from engaging in IUU fishing activities.</p>	<p>Para. 366: No standard approach to implementing the obligations under Article 17(7) appears in sight for NPFC. Neither the TCC nor the Commission has discussed any proposal in this regard.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>For TCC Consideration</p>
<p>DECISION-MAKING AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT</p>				
<p><i>Decision-making</i></p>				

<p>Recommendation 6.1.1. That the work of the TCC SWGs be facilitated by having clear work programs and timetables for completion of intersessional work, reporting against work programs in annual reports to TCC, and meetings are held where feasible in person in order to expedite progress on difficult issues in the work program.</p>	<p>Para. 379: The Report notes that progress in TCC SWG is slow. The Review Panel encourages the continued use of these mechanisms, together with others such as the use of facilitators to make progress in TCC SWG.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>TCC</p>	<p>TCC and SWG Chairs will action this. SWG's continue to refine their workplans and meetings, and have consistent reports on progress to both TCC and COM, but have not explored the possibility of an interession in-person meeting.</p>
<p>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</p>				
<p><i>Relationship to co-operating non-Members</i></p>				
<p>Recommendation 7.1.1. That the Commission decide whether to grant CNCP status on a biannual or an annual basis and apply a consistent approach to the granting of CNCP status.</p>		<p>Medium</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><i>Relationship to non-cooperating non-Members</i></p>				
<p>Recommendation 7.2.1. That the Commission task the Secretariat to contact the flag States of fishing vessels and carrier vessels that are not authorized to fish in the Convention Area and those known to have an interest in fishing in the Convention Area and encourage them to seek CNCP status in NPFC and for the Secretariat to provide the Commission with an annual report on such outreach and on non-cooperating non-Member activities.</p>		<p>Medium</p>	<p>Sec COM</p>	<p>Ongoing Ongoing</p>

Recommendation 7.2.2. That the Commission revise CMM 2016-03 to require Members to prohibit vessels flying their flag from utilising the services, including transshipment services, of vessels that are flagged to non-contracting parties that are not CNCPs in the Convention Area.

Para. 393: Although the problem of IUU fishing in NPFC appears to be significant, there is a lack of serious efforts to encourage the flag States of vessels that undertake fishing or transshipment activities in the Convention Area to seek CNCP status. Given the role that transshipment plays in the NPFC Convention Area, this should be addressed by the Commission. Efforts could include tasking the Secretariat to re-new efforts to contact all non-Contracting Parties whose vessels fish or tranship in the Convention Area and those known to have an interest in fishing in the Convention Area, to request them to become a Contracting Party or attain CNCP status. If the flag States do not do so, the vessels concerned should be included on the NPFC IUU Vessel List. Members whose flag vessels utilise the services of vessels that are flagged to nonContracting Parties should take appropriate domestic action to prohibit the utilisation of those services.

High

TCC

Addressed with the implementation of 2023-03 *On Transshipments*.

COM

<p>Recommendation 7.2.3. That where carrier vessels of non-contracting Parties and non-CNCPs are confirmed to have undertaken transshipment in the NPFC Convention Area of fisheries resources managed by NPFC, the vessels concerned should be placed on the NPFC IUU Vessel List in accordance with IUU vessel listing procedures.</p>	<p>Para. 393: Although the problem of IUU fishing in NPFC appears to be significant, there is a lack of serious efforts to encourage the flag States of vessels that undertake fishing or transshipment activities in the Convention Area to seek CNCP status. Given the role that transshipment plays in the NPFC Convention Area, this should be addressed by the Commission. Efforts could include tasking the Secretariat to re-new efforts to contact all non-Contracting Parties whose vessels fish or tranship in the Convention Area and those known to have an interest in fishing in the Convention Area, to request them to become a Contracting Party or attain CNCP status. If the flag States do not do so, the vessels concerned should be included on the NPFC IUU Vessel List. Members whose flag vessels utilise the services of vessels that are flagged to nonContracting Parties should take appropriate domestic action to prohibit the utilisation of those services.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>TCC</p> <p>COM</p>	<p>Addressed through various CMMs (e.g. Transshipments/IUU)</p>
<p><i>Cooperation with other international organizations</i></p>				
<p>Recommendation 7.3.1. That the Commission task the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Members, to develop a prioritized program of work to strengthen practical cooperation with other organizations, including on data sharing and data management. This should include collaboration with WCPFC and IATTC as a priority</p>		<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>MOU with WCPFC and ISC concluded in 2024.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7.3.2. That in addition to the development of any necessary formal linkages through MOUs, the Secretariat be encouraged to engage informally with staff in other RFMOs, including through the IMCS Network, to learn and share experiences of operational activities.</p>		<p>Medium</p>	<p>Sec</p>	<p>Ongoing through MOU and Regional Secretariats Network (RSN).</p>
<p><i>Special requirements of Developing States</i></p>				

<p>Recommendation 7.4.1. That the Commission demonstrate consideration of the special requirements of developing States, in particular SIDS, in its decision-making.</p>		<p>Medium</p>	<p>COM</p>	
<i>Transparency</i>				
<p>Recommendation 7.5.1. That Commission adopt, on advice of TCC, data security protocols which would enable observers, on signing of confidentiality agreements, to have access to data and information and access to meetings where such data and information is discussed.</p>		<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>Already allowed for in NPFC DSDS protocol, NPFC documents policy, and transparency policy.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7.5.2. That the Commission agree to the principle that meetings, including subsidiary body meetings, will be open to observers subject to rules of procedure which support that principle and are closed to observers only when strictly necessary.</p>	<p>Para. 415: Transparency is less of an issue for SC than for TCC. TCC's small working groups, which discuss new or amended measures and the implementation of existing measures, are not open to observers. The lack of transparency is sometimes justified on confidentiality grounds. However, concerns over confidentiality of data can be resolved through open and transparent data security protocols. The signing of confidentiality agreements by observers prior to receipt of confidential documents would address such concerns.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>COM07 passed an interim transparency measure for TCC SWGs at 2023 meeting. This expires in 2024 and will be reviewed at TCC07. SWG PD working on revising in 2024-2025 intersession. Will complete at COM09.</p>
FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES				
<i>Availability of resources for NPFC activities</i>				
<p>Recommendation 8.1.1. That the Commission encourage the SC and TCC to develop proposals for funding consideration from funds set aside in the Special Projects Fund.</p>		<p>Medium</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>SC08 request for a special project to assess SA and NPA stocks was approved by COM08.</p>
			<p>COM</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Recommendation 8.1.2. That the Commission, through NPFC Members, increase efforts to advance the Commission’s work, in particular the development of Management Procedures (MPs) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for NPFC priority stocks, and the adoption and implementation of priority MCS measures.</p>		High	Members	
<p>Recommendation 8.1.3. That proposals for new or revised conservation and management measures be accompanied by costings associated with additional responsibilities for the Secretariat to provide the support necessary for the implementation of the CMM and that this be endorsed by the Commission for inclusion in the budget at the time of the CMM’s adoption.</p>		High	COM	Ongoing - for example in discussions for new CMM such as the transshipment observer program.
<p>Recommendation 8.1.4. That the new Executive Secretary undertake a review of staffing levels in the Secretariat, capabilities, and needs of the organization, with a view to presenting comprehensive proposals on staffing to the Commission in 2024.</p>		Medium	Sec/FAC	Ongoing, FAC07-WP04 provides proposed way forward.
<p><i>Efficiency and cost effectiveness</i></p>				
<p>Recommendation 8.2.1. That the Commission task the Secretariat to develop a Corporate Plan to better inform the work of the NPFC Secretariat, to assist in ensuring financial and staff resources are appropriate in relation to expectations and to assist with the monitoring of the Secretariat’s performance.</p>		Medium	Sec/FAC COM	Secretariat would benefit from guidance from FAC or COM

<p>Recommendation 8.2.2. That the Commission review the NPFC Document Rules with a view to ensuring that the website contains all information on past meetings, including the documents submitted, on the outcomes of intersessional decision-making and all other relevant information for Members, observers and the public.</p>		High	COM	Ongoing
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