North Pacific Fisheries Commission
8th Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee

18-21 March 2025
Osaka, Japan (hybrid)

FINAL REPORT

Agenda Item 1. Opening of Meeting

1a. Welcome to Participants

1. The 8th Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) was held in a hybrid format, with participants attending in-person in Osaka, Japan, or online via WebEx, on 18-21 March 2025, and was attended by Members from Canada, China, the European Union (EU), Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, the United States of America (USA), and Vanuatu. The meeting was opened by Ms. Alisha Falberg (USA), who served as the TCC Chair.

1b. Appointment of Rapporteur

2. Mr. Jacques Chaumont was appointed as the Rapporteur.

1c. Introduction of Observers

3. The Chair introduced approved observers permitted to be present. The accredited observers were Panama, Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), the Ocean Foundation, Ocean Governance Institute, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), and the IMCS Network. The observers were admitted without objection.

1d. Adoption of Agenda

4. The provisional agenda was adopted (Annex A) with the understanding that substantive discussion on historic fishing levels would be moved from item 4 to item 15 (Other Matters). The List of Documents and List of Participants are attached (Annexes B, C).

1e. Meeting Arrangements

5. The Compliance Manager, Ms. Judy Dwyer, outlined the meeting arrangements.

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Agenda Item 2. Report from Secretariat

2a. Fisheries Overview 2024

6. The Compliance Manager presented the overview of NPFC fisheries from 2019 to 2024 (NPFC-2025-TCC08-IP01).

7. The TCC thanked the Secretariat for preparing the fisheries overview but noted several inconsistencies in the data presented, including instances where the number of active vessels appears to have exceeded the number of authorized vessels for certain Members, and issues with double-counting vessels targeting multiple species.

8. The EU requested the addition of CPUE trends from SC and graphical representations in future fisheries overviews and expressed concern about the significant increase in the number of active vessels in some NPFC fisheries, particularly for Japanese sardine and chub mackerel.

9. The TCC requested that Members work with the Secretariat throughout the meeting to reconcile the discrepancy issues raised, with the goal of producing a revised fisheries overview prior to the Commission meeting.

10. Several Members reiterated concerns about the discrepancies and inaccuracies in the numbers of their authorized vessels within the fisheries overview, and discussed the appropriateness of adding disclaimers about the data tables to the Secretariat's report or within the TCC Report. Several members expressed concern that a blanket disclaimer would be inappropriate, but individual members may provide explanations for certain information if necessary.

11. The TCC closed discussion on fisheries overview, but the Secretariat's Fisheries Overview information paper was left open for Members to provide further updates and corrections to the data through the Commission meeting.

2b. Data Management System Update and Initiatives for 2025

12. The Data Coordinator, Mr. Sungkuk Kang, presented a summary of the status of all TCC-related data management systems' update and new initiatives for further development in 2025 by the Secretariat (NPFC-2025-TCC08-IP02). Updates have been made to the Members Home, Significant Dates/Events, Meeting Page, Transshipment Map, Annual Reports, Vessel Registry, HSBI Events, e-IUU, Pacific Saury Weekly Report, Chub Mackerel Monthly/Weekly Report, and Collaboration sections. In 2025, the Secretariat intends to advance the following key initiatives: incorporating a dashboard in the Member Portal to improve user accessibility and efficiency, integration of air surveillance data, implementing

the transshipment API, improving Member account management, and regularly updating the NPFC website to ensure its data management systems align with Member requirements.

13. The TCC thanked the Secretariat for continuing to develop the NPFC data management system and improve its functionality and usability.

14. Several Members suggested potential further improvements to the data management system, including:

(a) Allowing delayed submission of transshipment reports in cases occurring due to administrative oversight;
(b) Continuing the development of the transshipment API;
(c) Enabling users to create their own accounts with administrator approval; and
(d) Adding bulk modification capabilities for the NPFC vessel registry.

Agenda Item 3. Review of MCS related issues from SC

15. The Science Manager, Dr. Aleksandr Zavolokin, provided a summary of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) matters for coordination between the Scientific Committee (SC) and the TCC (NPFC-2025-TCC08-IP03). These included proposed revisions to CMM 2024-05 for two new bottom fishing area closures to protect VMEs on Yuryaku Seamount; the SC's response to questions from the TCC Chair regarding a regional observer program; and ongoing discussion about data needs and data gaps that could be filled by a regional observer program.

16. The TCC noted the information provided by the Science Manager and welcomed the continued coordination and collaboration between the TCC and the SC.

17. The TCC Chair reported on her intersessional coordination with the SC Chair regarding potential options for a regional observer program beyond the transshipment observer program currently under development.

18. Some Members expressed concern that feedback received from the SC was insufficient, and encouraged seeking further guidance from the SC on what data would be useful to collect through an observer program to inform TCC discussions on implementation approaches.

19. Many Members expressed support for a stepwise approach to implementing observer programs, prioritizing the establishment of the transshipment observer program before considering a broader regional observer program. Some Members noted that important

scientific data could be obtained through port sampling, existing Members' observer programs, and the forthcoming transshipment observer program.

20. The Ocean Foundation and Pew emphasized the importance of at-sea monitoring to verify catch data, detect potential high-grading or discards, and identify shark species caught.

21. Regarding the regional observer program, the TCC agreed that the TCC Chair should continue discussions with the SC Chair to seek more detailed information on potential scientific data needs that could be addressed through a broader regional observer program.
Recommendation: That the TCC Chair and SC Chair continue to work intersessionally towards identifying the potential data needs for a broader regional observer program.

22. The TCC noted the SC's recommendation regarding revisions to CMM 2024-05 for new bottom fishing area closures. Several Members expressed their support for this recommendation.

Agenda Item 4. SWG Reports on Progress, Priorities and Recommendations

4a. SWG Planning and Development Report - Report and Recommendations

23. Ms. Amber Lindstedt (Canada), Co-Lead of the SWG on Planning and Development (SWG PD), presented a summary of the work conducted by the SWG PD in the 2024-2025 intersessional period. Six meetings were held, in addition to advancing key files through email communication. Two priority tasks were completed: developing revised rules of transparency for TCC pertaining to participation of observers, and developing a proposal for a regional observer program for transshipment. The SWG PD developed a proposal for a new standalone transshipment observer program CMM (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP13) and proposed amendments to the existing transshipment CMM (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP15). Some issues remain in square brackets in the proposed text. The SWG PD was also tasked with developing a multi-year work plan in accordance with paragraph 27 of the compliance monitoring scheme measure that was revised at COM08, but did not have the capacity to address this item this year.

24. The TCC reviewed the proposed rules of transparency for TCC (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP16) and endorsed the changes to remove the "INTERIM" designation from the title and make the proposed amendments, including those to accommodate the CMS process and to open the meetings to accredited observers as a general practice in accordance with the NPFC Rules of Procedure, and subject to NPFC's Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol.

Recommendation: That the Commission adopt the NPFC Rules of Transparency for TCC (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP16).

4b. SWG Operations Report - Report and Recommendations

25. Ms. Patricia DeMille (Canada), Co-Lead of the SWG on Operations (SWG Ops), presented a summary of the work conducted by the SWG Ops in the 2024-2025 intersessional period. The SWG Ops held six meetings and prepared amendments to the transshipment and VMS measures. The SWG Ops discussed updates on the HSBI implementation plan and archiving it on the website for historical reference and creating a living MCS resource page. The SWG Ops advanced work on historical existing levels by creating a table with data from members for 2009-2023, but was unable to reach consensus on how to identify historical existing levels. The SWG Ops did not have time to address the tasking on responsibility for vessels under charter arrangements. Discussion on the matter of historical existing levels was moved to Other Matters in the agenda.

26. The TCC discussed the SWG Ops' work on serious violations. Several Members questioned the utility of continuing to task SWG Ops with defining serious violations, noting that relevant provisions already exist in the NPFC Convention, the UN Fish Stock Agreement, and the HSBI CMM.

27. Some Members expressed the view that the CMS process and the IUU vessel listing process are different approaches, with the former focused on Members' performance and the latter on individual vessel activities.

28. Other Members noted the importance of clarifying the connection between serious violations and further actions, such as the listing of IUU vessels, and suggested that the Commission has discretion to further elaborate the list of serious violations.

29. Following discussion with interested Members in the margins, the SWG Ops Co-Lead provided an overview of possible paths forward on the serious violations tasking. She noted that SWG Ops had conducted extensive review and analysis of serious violations but was unable to identify a path to inserting this work into a measure. She outlined options including developing a guidance document to support inspectors rather than formalizing this into a measure, and developing procedures for flag state responsibilities when a serious violation is detected.

30. The TCC noted that specific concerns with serious violations could be addressed through amendments to existing measures that Members could propose to future TCC meetings.
Recommendation: That the Commission task the SWG Ops in the intersessional period with: (a) compiling a list of all serious violations and vessel-based measures into a guidance document or inspector's aid, noting that these would be guidelines only and not measures; and (b) developing a document outlining more robust actions and responsibilities for flag states when a serious violation is detected and the flag state is notified.

Agenda Item 5. Conservation and Management Measures – Amendments or new CMMs

31. Korea and the EU presented their respective proposals for minimum standards for port state measures (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP09, NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP14), explaining that the proposals aim to fill a gap in the compliance and enforcement areas of the NPFC legal framework and strengthen the capacity of the organization to combat IUU activities in the Convention Area and implement Article 14.2(a) of the Convention.

32. The TCC discussed the two proposals for port state measures. Some Members expressed support for adopting port state measures as soon as possible, while other Members indicated that more time was needed for internal coordination related to PSMA implementation. There were concerns about specific provisions, including the mandatory nature of port designation and inspection timelines. Members provided various suggestions, including changing certain mandatory provisions to non-mandatory, aligning more closely with the WCPFC model, and ensuring consistency with the FAO PSMA.

33. The EU worked with Korea and interested Members to consolidate the two proposals in the margins of the meeting, and Canada agreed to co-sponsor the proposal.

34. The TCC discussed the proposal and was unable to reach a consensus. The TCC noted several fundamental issues remained unresolved despite productive discussions on the proposal.
Recommendation: That the Commission further consider the consolidated proposal on port state measures, taking into account the discussions at TCC.

35. The EU presented its proposal for establishing minimum standards for the collection, reporting, verification, and exchange of data (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP10). The EU explained that the proposal aimed to address data-related issues by creating a more standardized approach to data collection processes in NPFC in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention.

36. The TCC discussed the proposal, noting that while there was general support for the direction of standardizing data collection, several technical concerns were raised. These included the practicality of certain data fields for different fisheries, the mandatory requirement for electronic logbooks, prescribed timelines for data submission, and the level of detail in the annexes. Members suggested that the SC and its SWG on Data should review the technical aspects of the proposal.

Recommendation: That the Commission task the TCC and SC to continue work intersessionally on the proposal for minimum standards for data collection, with the goal of adopting a measure in the near future.

37. The Co-Lead of the SWG Ops, Ms. DeMille, presented proposed amendments to CMM 2024-12 On the Vessel Monitoring System (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP12) to require Members to notify the Secretariat of their vessels' entry into and exit from the Convention Area. The initial proposal added a new paragraph 11 requiring notification to be received no later than 60 minutes of entering or exiting the Convention Area, with procedures for notification to be chosen by Members from options listed in a new Annex 2.

38. The TCC discussed the proposed amendments to the VMS CMM. Several technical issues were raised by Members, including: (1) concerns about the 60-minute notification timeframe and how to account for minor technical delays; (2) the need for clarification on whether Members should notify the Secretariat about which notification option they choose; (3) issues with specific options in the annex, particularly regarding buffer zones inside EEZs; (4) questions about whether having multiple notification options would create complexity for the Secretariat's analysis; and (5) suggestions to allow for procedures beyond those listed in the annex.

39. During the TCC meeting, Japan proposed a one-year extension of paragraph 23 of CMM 2024-12 on VMS for research vessels to report position data through AIS instead of VMS. Japan noted many of its research vessels now have VMS and its understanding that this CMM does not apply to oceanographic research vessels that may incidentally capture small amounts of non-commercially exploited NPFC resources, such as plankton. With that understanding, and that the proposal was not made 30 days prior to the TCC meeting, Japan withdrew its proposal.

40. The TCC noted that while revised text in paragraph 11 did not include a date certain for notifying the Secretariat of transmission method that they will use to allow for later changes in methods, for the first time using the entry/exit notification procedure, Members committed

to notifying the Secretariat by 1 January 2026. The TCC continued discussion on revisions to Option 2 in Annex 2 relating to vessel positions.

Recommendation: That the Commission adopt the proposed amendments to CMM 2024-12.

41. The Co-Lead of the SWG PD, Ms. Lindstedt, presented the proposed Regional Transshipment Observer Program (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP13). She noted that the development of this program was defined as a priority at COM08. The SWG PD had accomplished substantial intersessional work, with a large proportion of the text agreed among Members. Outstanding issues remaining in square brackets included: the inclusion of national observer programs in the regional transshipment observer program, qualifying characteristics of independent and impartial observers, the role of observers in collection of catch data during port offloading, how to reflect expected progress on electronic monitoring, and how to address the refusal of observers to deploy to vessels where safety concerns are identified.

42. The TCC held extensive discussion on the bracketed text within the proposal, including: the definition qualifiers of "external" and "non-governmental" for observer service providers, acknowledging different situations for different Members; observer duties for offloading in port; provision of internet connectivity to observers on vessels to ensure their communication capabilities; the timing for development of electronic monitoring systems; and the timeframe of notifying observers prior to a transshipment. The TCC was unable to reach consensus on bracketed text within several paragraphs.

    Recommendation: That the Commission further consider the proposal for a new Transshipment Observer Program measure in NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP13 Rev.1, recognizing that some sections remain in square brackets.

43. Canada presented its proposal (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP08) to amend CMM 2024-03 On Transshipment to require mandatory use of the online transshipment reporting system by January 1, 2026. The proposal would add language to paragraph 7 requiring all advance notifications, modifications, cancellations, and transshipment declarations to be submitted through the online system developed by the Secretariat. Korea offered to co-sponsor this proposal.

44. The Co-Lead of SWG PD, Ms. Lindstedt, introduced proposed amendments to the transshipment measure (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP15) to align it with the proposed Regional Transshipment Observer Program, noting these amendments would streamline the text by removing sections that would be covered by the new standalone measure.

45. The Co-Lead of SWG Ops, Ms. DeMille, presented proposed amendments to CMM 2024-03 On Transshipment (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP11) to clarify requirements for reporting all marine species in transshipment reports. The amendments would add language to paragraph 9 and both annexes requiring all species, including bycatch, to be recorded by species using their FAO code.

46. The TCC accepted Canada's offer to prepare a consolidated document that would incorporate all three proposals into a single draft amendment to the transshipment CMM, while maintaining clear attribution of the source of each proposed change.

47. The TCC discussed the three proposals to amend CMM 2024-03. Several concerns were raised regarding the mandatory use of the online system, including: (1) the need for provisions to address system unavailability; (2) suggestions to maintain the 50-nautical mile and 72-hour restrictions by removing "for 2024 only" language; (3) technical challenges in connecting national systems to the NPFC system; and (4) clarifying responsibility for submission (vessel or Member). Regarding the bycatch reporting amendments, there was a suggestion to add "all species retained" to avoid confusion between target and bycatch species.

48. The TCC discussed the consolidated proposal (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP19), with paragraph 7 amendments requiring mandatory use of the online transshipment reporting system. Members extensively discussed implementation timing, with agreement to change the effective date from January 1, 2026 to April 1, 2026. The TCC also considered the linked amendments to paragraphs 15, 16, and 17 regarding notification timeframes and distances.

49. China noted that it is working actively with the Secretariat to develop an API connection that would enable direct transmission of data from its national transshipment system to the NPFC online transshipment reporting system. China indicated its understanding that such an API connection, once established, would meet the requirements in paragraph 7 regarding submission via the NPFC online transshipment reporting system. TCC noted the interpretation.

50. The TCC considered the remaining sections of the consolidated proposal.
Recommendation: That the Commission further consider the proposed amendments to CMM 2024-03, recognizing that some sections remain in square brackets.

Agenda Item 6. IUU Vessel List

6a. Recommendation for Provisional IUU Vessel List to the Commission

51. The Compliance Manager presented the draft IUU Vessel List (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP01). The draft list contained three vessels nominated for inclusion on the Provisional IUU Vessel List.

52. Japan presented information regarding the Chinese vessel it nominated, explaining that the vessel's appearance differed from its NPFC registry photo, and it delayed boarding inspection for approximately two hours. Japan considered this a potential denial of HSBI.

53. China explained that the incorrect photo resulted from a staff error and a review process was established to prevent future mistakes. China maintained that the delay was for legitimate purposes and denied that any evidence was hidden.

54. Following bilateral discussion between Japan and China in the margins and discussion in TCC, Japan as the nominating Member expressed satisfaction on the actions taken by China. Taking into account these actions, the TCC agreed to remove the vessel nominated by Japan from the Provisional IUU Vessel List, with the inclusion of the following commitment from China recorded in the TCC Report:

"It is the commitment of China to have close cooperation with other Members of NPFC, including Japan, to have smooth and timely conducted HSBIs, and China will take effective measures to ensure its fishing vessels accept HSBIs in a timely manner."

55. Canada presented information regarding the two Chinese vessels (No. 2 and No. 3) it nominated. Both vessels were found with Pacific saury on board after closure of the fishery, with evidence of misreporting catch on board. For vessel No. 2, China reported that the investigation was concluded, that fines were imposed and paid, and that the illegal catch was confiscated. For vessel No. 3, China reported that the investigation was concluded, but the sanction process was still underway as the violation report was only received in late December.

56. The TCC discussed issues including China's domestic prohibition on retention of Pacific saury by purse seiners and its potential inconsistency with CMM 2024-08 to retain all catch of Pacific saury, and the adequacy of sanctions imposed against the master of the vessel. There were differing views on whether vessels should be listed when flag state action had been taken or was in progress.

57. Some Members expressed the view that China had taken effective action in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, as required under paragraph 17(b) of CMM 2024-02,

including sanctions and confirmation of payment of the fines imposed for one of the two fishing vessels, and therefore that fishing vessel nominated by Canada should not be included on the provisional IUU Vessel List.

58. Other Members expressed the view that these were serious violations directly related to the conservation objectives of the Commission, and that further consideration of these cases was warranted at the Commission meeting. These Members raised concerns about whether the sanctions imposed were specifically for violations of NPFC CMMs or for violations of domestic measures that may be inconsistent with NPFC CMMs.

59. Following further discussions, China proposed retaining only the third vessel on the provisional IUU Vessel List while removing the second vessel.

60. China provided further information indicating the measures it took as a flag state related to non-compliance with misreporting and measures to address fishing without a quota. China stated it will commit to monitor purse seiners and providing guidance to ensure vessels are not directed fishing for Pacific saury and are retaining and reporting catch consistent with NPFC measures, and if they were found to do such directed fishing, China provided additional assurances that they would carry out punishment such as considering to force the responsible company to scrap the offending vessels. The TCC agreed to remove the second vessel nominated from the Provisional IUU Vessel List.
Recommendation: That the Commission consider the Provisional NPFC IUU Vessel List containing one vessel proposed by Canada (Annex X).

6b. Recommendations for amendments to current NPFC IUU Vessel List to Commission

61. The Compliance Manager presented information regarding the NPFC IUU listed fishing vessel AN TON (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP04). The Secretariat had received information from Bangladeshi authorities and China that the vessel had been scrapped. China provided further explanation on the vessel in IP07.

62. The TCC discussed the sufficiency of evidence for the scrapping, and the appropriate procedure for removing a vessel from the IUU Vessel List. Several Members noted that according to CMM 2024-02 (paragraph 19), removal can only be initiated by the flag State (Comoros) of the vessel.

63. Some Members expressed their concern about the transshipment activities undertaken by Chinese fishing vessels with the An Ton in 2023 (then named Wan Ton) while the vessel was

still on the NPFC IUU List regardless of China's interpretation that the vessel was no longer an IUU Vessel as it had changed its flag and ownership, and considered these activities are inconsistent with the NPFC Convention and CMM 2024-02.

64. The TCC could not reach consensus on recommending removal of the vessel from the NPFC IUU Vessel List, and requested that the Secretariat continue to seek confirmation from the last flag of the vessel (Comoros) and gather additional evidence.

65. The Secretariat reported that it had contacted authorities in Comoros, who acknowledged receipt of the request for information and advised they were consulting and would provide more information when available. The TCC noted that it lacked sufficient information at this time to consider removal of the vessel from the NPFC IUU Vessel List.
Recommendation: That the Commission note that the TCC did not propose any changes to the current NPFC IUU Vessel List.

Agenda Item 7. Compliance Monitoring Scheme

7a. Draft Compliance Reports for 2024

66. The Compliance Manager presented the Draft Compliance Report, which contained data retrieved from various sources on compliance with the 78 obligations listed in Annex 2 of CMM 2024-13. The sources included the implementation reports submitted by Members, annual reports, HSBI reports including aerial surveillance, and reviews of VMS and transshipment data. The draft report highlighted seven instances of potential non-compliance for three Members regarding obligations under five CMMs. The main instance of potential non-compliance related to the vessel registry and vessel marking (CMM 2023-01, paragraph 5), with 13 incidents recorded for three Members. Other instances of potential non-compliance were found in obligations under the transshipment measure, the Pacific saury measure CMM 2024-08, HSBI CMM 2024-09 (related to the submission of an annual report), and CMM 2024-15 on marine pollution.

7b. Develop Provisional Compliance Report

67. The TCC extensively discussed the format and methodology of the draft compliance report and this first implementation of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS). Several suggestions for improvement were made, including consideration of:

(a) Providing more detailed information within the draft report about compliance status for all obligations, not just highlighting potential non-compliance;

(b) More clearly defining "Priority Non-Compliant" status in cases besides repeated non-compliance;

(c) Clarifying the methodology used for assessing compliance, especially for quantitative obligations;
(d) Creating audit points for each obligation to guide future assessments;
(e) Focusing on Members' actions in response to violations rather than individual vessel compliance;
(f) Define a more clear process for assessing Members' actions in response to violations of individual vessels.

68. The Secretariat explained they considered all available data sources when assessing the obligations, with most identified issues coming from HSBI reports. They noted a targeted approach was taken with VMS data gaps to avoid flagging thousands of minor issues.

69. The TCC agreed to proceed based on the following process for developing the Provisional Compliance Report: (1) examine the seven highlighted areas indicating potential non-compliance identified by the Secretariat; (2) consider any other areas of potential non-compliance identified by Members; and (3) review the list in Annex 2 of obligations to be assessed. The section of the report containing detailed information on specific cases would serve as background rather than each case being individually assessed.

70. The TCC reviewed each area of potential non-compliance highlighted by the Secretariat.

71. Regarding China's vessel marking issues (CMM 2024-01, paragraph 5), eight incidents were identified through HSBI events. For two vessels, China clarified that the small boats in question were rescue boats required by Chinese regulations, not fishing skiffs, and therefore were not subject to marking requirements. For other vessels, China reported that sanctions had been imposed. China provided additional evidence of sanctions imposed. Based on the information provided by China, the TCC determined this case to be "Compliant."

72. Regarding Russia's vessel marking issues (CMM 2024-01, paragraph 5), five vessels were identified through aerial surveillance as having inadequate markings. Russia explained that sanctions had been applied and the completeness of markings was verified. Members disagreed on whether additional alphanumeric identifiers on the hull constituted a violation of paragraph 4 of Annex 2, with Russia maintaining these were boarding numbers required by national regulations. Based on the information provided by Russia to verify the sanctions issued the TCC determined this case to be "Compliant," noting that the CMM would require minor amendment to prevent similar cases in the future for Members requiring domestic and other markings.

73. Regarding Chinese Taipei's vessel marking potential non-compliance issue (CMM 2024-01, paragraph 5), Chinese Taipei explained that when the inspection was conducted, the vessel's radio call sign was temporarily obscured by boxes, which were immediately removed upon detection. The vessel had been sanctioned in accordance with domestic law. Based on the information provided by Chinese Taipei, including a link to verify the sanctions issued, the TCC determined this case to be "Compliant." Japan pointed out many cardboard boxes were placed on the deck together with an awning over these boxes.

74. Regarding transshipment reporting potential non-compliance issues related to China (CMM 2024-03, paragraph 8), the Secretariat noted this case was also being considered under the draft IUU vessel list. Several Members suggested that cases discussed under the IUU agenda item should not be duplicated in the CMS process to avoid inconsistent outcomes. The TCC determined the case to be "Flag State Action Ongoing" pending the completion of sanctions procedures by China.

75. Regarding China's Pacific saury potential non-compliance issue (CMM 2024-08, paragraph 10), questions were raised about whether China had exceeded its catch limit following closure of its fishery. China clarified that even with confiscated illegal catch added to their reported catch, they remained below their total catch limit. The TCC determined the case to be "Unable to be Assessed at this time" as there was an issue of differences in interpretation of the CMM. Further clarity and possible amendment of the measure would be needed to clarify whether or how it applies to only targeted fishing or includes bycatch.

76. Regarding Russia's delayed submission of its final annual report (CMM 2024-09, paragraph 2), which was received on March 14, 2025, after the February 15 deadline, the TCC determined this to be a case of "Delayed Submission."

77. Regarding Chinese Taipei's identified marine pollution potential non-compliance issue (CMM 2024-15, paragraph 8) concerning the discharge of incinerator ashes from plastic products into the sea, Chinese Taipei reported that the vessel had been sanctioned and required to further improve its recycling procedures. Upon reviewing the sanction information provided, the TCC determined this case to be "Compliant."

78. The TCC also considered additional potential non-compliance issues raised by Members:

79. Some Members raised concerns about China's compliance with CMM 2024-02 paragraphs 24(b) and 24(f), citing information in IP07 indicating that Chinese vessels had engaged in transshipment activities with a vessel (WAN TONG) on the NPFC IUU Vessel List during October to December 2023. China responded that this was part of a settlement strategy to persuade the vessel's new owner to scrap the vessel. The TCC determined these cases to be "Non-Compliant."

80. The EU expressed concern that the commitment to freeze fishing effort in some fisheries, including chub mackerel, had not been fulfilled by some Members. The EU noted that based on data provided by Members, current effort levels appeared to exceed those from historical years before 2019 when the measure was adopted.

81. The US and the EU also raised concerns about possible non-compliance with effort limits in CMM 2024-07 for Chub mackerel and CMM 2024-11 for Japanese sardine, suggesting significant growth in authorized vessels by China and Russia. China responded that they had frozen their fleet at 109 vessels since 2018, and Russia stated they had not increased beyond historical levels. As the TCC was still discussing how to define historical existing levels, the TCC determined these cases to be "Unable to be Assessed at this time." The US noted that it concurred with that assessment at this stage of the compliance monitoring scheme and related work, but that if there is not adequate progress on defining historical existing level, it may be necessary to reconsider non-compliance assessments in the future based on the information available.

7c. List of obligations for consideration for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2025

82. Following discussion on the process for identifying obligations to be assessed, the TCC agreed to add the following to the list of obligations for consideration for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2025:

(a) Paragraph 16 of CMM 2024-08 for Pacific saury regarding retention requirements;
(b) Paragraph 31 of CMM 2024-09 regarding timely submission of High Seas Boarding and Inspection reports; and
(c) Paragraphs 5, 7, 9, and 11 of CMM 2024-16 on anadromous species.
(d) Paragraph 2 of CMM 2023-01 on the vessel registry, though there was not agreement from all Members on adding this to the list of obligations.

83. Considering that some CMMs may become effective before others, the paragraph numbers and contents may change following decisions at the Commission meeting. The TCC agreed

that the final review of obligations to be assessed under Annex 2 of the CMS CMM should occur at the Commission meeting.

84. The TCC adopted the Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report including the Executive Summary.
Recommendation: That the Commission consider the Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report adopted by the TCC, along with the attached Executive Summary.
Recommendation: That the Commission consider the TCC's list of obligations for consideration for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2025.

Agenda Item 8. Transshipment

8a. Secretariat Report on 2024 Activity

85. The Fisheries and Data Analysis Consultant, Dr. Jihwan Kim, presented the 2024 Transshipment Overview (NPFC-2025-TCC08-IP08 Rev.1). In 2024, 52% of total catch was transshipped, with the number of events exceeding 2,000, similar to 2023. Other Transshipment Activities (OTAs) exceeded 2,500 events, a slight increase from 2023. Most transshipments occurred within the Convention Area, with only five events occurring outside. The volume per transshipment event averaged 147 metric tons, ranging from 4 to 1,784 metric tons. An online application launched in 2023 for document submission had seen increased usage following system improvements and a workshop in 2024. An API was developed in late 2024 to enable automated submission, with one Member currently integrating their system with the NPFC API, which should eliminate manual entry by the 2024 fishing season. The updated transshipment data visualization tools now include a geographic map allowing users to filter events by time and region. The map displays planned fish transshipments, completed transshipments, and planned OTAs.

86. One Member inquired about reported discrepancies in OTA records, the transshipment of Alaska pollock, and the lack of information regarding implementation and reporting from existing observer requirements. The Secretariat explained that inconsistencies in OTA numbers occurred because many events were submitted via email, requiring manual alignment with notification reports, creating challenges in tracking cancellations effectively. Regarding the observer reports, the Secretariat noted that while the current observer form does not contain extensive information, a sample review of 100 reports from approximately 3,000 had not identified any violations.

87. Several Members emphasized the importance of analyzing observer information as a source of data to support compliance processes, and one Member requested that future reports include sections summarizing information on observers.

88. The TCC noted the uncertainties and inaccuracies in some figures presented in the transshipment overview, and the Secretariat prepared a further revision to the report (NPFC-2025-TCC08-IP08 Rev.3) to address these issues.

Agenda Item 9. Vessel Monitoring System

9a. Secretariat Report on Implementation

89. The Fisheries and Data Analysis Consultant presented the 2024 VMS Overview (NPFC-2025-TCC08-IP09 Rev.1) as required by paragraph 24 of CMM 2024-12. The system had demonstrated robust performance during its three years of operation from 2022 to 2024, with technical issues such as SSL certificate management and data interruption promptly addressed. The Secretariat actively collaborated with Member FMCs to address data discrepancies and enhance overall VMS data quality. Data was shared on unique vessels present in the Convention Area during 2024.

90. The Secretariat identified vessels operating under expired authorization status, noting that this does not necessarily signal unauthorized fishing activities as investigation into previous cases determined that the vessels were typically WCPFC carrier vessels or squid vessels steaming to the SPRFMO Convention Area. The Secretariat also outlined three proposed options for notifying vessel entry and exit to and from the Convention Area. The presentation included a comparison of positions recorded in transshipment documents with VMS data, revealing a higher rate of location discrepancy for OTA events compared to fish transshipment. On investigation of AIS data as a supplementary data source as instructed by TCC07, the Secretariat found that free AIS data available via public websites was found to be labor intensive for large-scale use, while overlaying AIS data on the VMS platform would cost approximately $5,000 per year for real-time and historical data access.

91. Several Members expressed concerns about using AIS data, citing its unreliability and potential for manipulation. Members did not support spending budget on purchasing AIS data, preferring to rely on more accurate and reliable VMS data.

92. The Secretariat confirmed that it had sent relevant data regarding vessels with expired authorization status and location discrepancies to the concerned Members for their review.

Agenda Item 10. High Seas Boarding and Inspection

10a. Secretariat Report

93. The Compliance Assistant, Mr. Jumpei Hinata, presented the HSBI summary for 2024. In the past year, 53 inspections were conducted by four inspection Members, twice the number conducted in 2023. No violations were noted in 42 reports, while violations were noted in 11 reports, with three classified as serious violations. Over 11% of active vessels were inspected, with approximately 72% of inspected vessels being either purse seiners, jigging vessels, or carrier vessels. The most common violations related to vessel marking infringements. Three serious violations were reported: obscuring vessel marking, Pacific saury fishing during a closed time, and unauthorized fishing. Two of these cases resulted in nominations to the 2025 draft IUU list. The Secretariat highlighted that 2024 saw a record number of at-sea inspections, although the number of identified violations remained consistent with the previous three years. Initiatives planned for 2025 include improving data collection and analysis, harmonizing boarding remarks and violation classifications, updating the implementation plan to make the HSBI webpage more user-friendly, and developing a feature for reporting aerial surveillance results within the HSBI system at an estimated cost of $7,200.

94. The Secretariat prepared and distributed a revised version of the HSBI report (Rev.1) based on comments from several Members who noted that updates had not been transferred from the Fisheries Overview into this paper.

95. One Member suggested the addition of a column including the total number of fishing days to provide a more informative basis for comparing inspection coverage in future Secretariat reports. Another Member requested for “Violations identified in HSBI” to be renamed to “Potential non-compliance” and maintaining email as an option for HSBI notifications and reports alongside the online entry system. Some Members suggested more balanced inspection coverage across Members.

10b. Members Reports

96. Noting that more information on HSBI is provided in Members’ Annual Reports, China, Canada, the USA, and Japan presented brief reports of their HSBI activities for 2024.

Agenda Item 11. Review of Applications for CNCP Status

97. TCC noted the lateness of the application for CNCP Status of Panama and highlighted the importance of meeting submission deadlines established within the Rules of Procedure.

98. Panama explained that it is seeking CNCP status, emphasizing its commitment to sustainable management of fisheries resources in the North Pacific and to complying with the Convention and CMMs of NPFC. Panama outlined steps taken to strengthen its monitoring and control mechanisms, including the adoption of five resolutions in 2024-2025 related to observer programs, transshipment regulation, port controls, electronic monitoring, and vessel registration procedures. Panama noted their fleet consists primarily of carrier vessels that may engage in transshipment activities, and explained that their national observer program had been implement since October 2024, with both Panamanian and foreign observers.

99. The TCC considered Panama's application but was unable to reach a consensus on recommending approval. While several Members expressed general support for Panama's application for CNCP status, several Members also raised several questions regarding Panama's ability to effectively monitor and control its flagged vessels, referencing past issues with Panamanian-flagged vessels in the NPFC Convention Area. Some Members suggested that if Panama were granted CNCP status, their vessels should only begin transshipment activities in the Convention Area following the implementation of the NPFC regional observer program, which would begin on April 1, 2026. Panama expressed willingness to wait before commencing transshipment activities in the Convention Area should that be a condition of their granting of CNCP status. The EU requested that Panama provide ahead of the annual meeting of the Commission additional written information including concrete improvements in its operational capacity to monitor their flag fishing vessels in complement to the explanations made on the floor in support of its application.

Recommendation: That the Commission further review Panama's application for CNCP status for 2025-2027, noting that Panama was requested to provide more information in writing about their monitoring capabilities ahead of the Commission meeting to address the concerns raised by the TCC.

Agenda Item 12. Climate Change

100. The TCC Chair noted this is a standing agenda item and there was no further discussion.

Agenda Item 13. Cooperation with Other Organizations (Cont'd)

13a. MoU with SPRFMO

101. The Secretariat informed the TCC that NPFC and SPRFMO had finalized an MoU, allowing for enhanced cooperation on best practices and technical work related to shared ecosystems and similar species coverage in the Pacific.

13b. MoU with WCPFC

102. The Secretariat informed the TCC that NPFC had finalized an MoU with WCPFC in summer 2024, enabling collaborative work on technical systems and data sharing. It was noted that WCPFC had agreed to share their document management system coding with NPFC, creating opportunities for cost savings and increased efficiency in database operations.

13c. NPFC-NPAFC Workplan

103. The NPAFC Executive Director, Mr. Yoshikiyo Kondo, provided a verbal update on cooperation with NPFC. He expressed appreciation for the adoption of the CMM 2024-16 on Anadromous Species and NPFC's contribution to the IYS North Pacific high seas expedition in 2022. He noted NPAFC is continuing to implement the five-year work plan endorsed by both organizations' Commissions in 2023. Mr. Kondo highlighted several areas of cooperation from an enforcement perspective, including exchange of information on suspicious fishing vessels, IUU vessel lists, and bycatch data of Pacific salmon. NPAFC prepared a draft Terms of Reference for a secure SharePoint to facilitate this information exchange, respecting NPFC's data confidentiality policy. Mr. Kondo informed the TCC that NPAFC had been seeking an opportunity to hold a joint workshop with NPFC and prepared a concept paper, but decided to first hold an NPAFC workshop on transshipment in May 2026 in conjunction with their annual meeting before revisiting the potential joint workshop. He expressed NPAFC's strong willingness to continue cooperation with NPFC.

104. Members expressed various views on cooperation with NPAFC. Some Members expressed support for NPAFC's approach to hosting a workshop within NPAFC's purview focusing on interactions between NPFC fisheries and anadromous catch. It was noted that all NPAFC members are also NPFC members and suggestions could be raised directly in NPFC or NPAFC meetings. One Member, not being a member of NPAFC, raised considerations related to budget implications, the appropriate organizational level for cooperation discussions, and a request for equal participation opportunities for NPFC members wishing to participate in NPAFC meetings.

105. Several Members sought clarification on NPAFC's intentions regarding the joint workshop and noted concerns for future consideration including budgetary implications, process issues around joint workshops between international bodies, clarity of goals and outcomes, and consistency with NPFC's rules of transparency. Mr. Kondo confirmed that NPAFC was suspending the joint workshop discussions and would work towards organizing an NPAFC workshop in 2026 focused on fisheries interactions with anadromous species and would provide opportunity for NPFC input.

13d. IMCS Network

106. As the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network was not present, the Secretariat provided a verbal update on collaborative activities between NPFC and the IMCS Network. The Secretariat highlighted that NPFC had benefited significantly from involvement with the network since joining. IMCS had sponsored a visit by NPFC's web database service provider to Tokyo in 2024, helping planning purposes. Two initiatives were underway: an IUU vessel list hub that would allow RFMO secretariats easier access to up-to-date information when cross-listing vessels, and a combined registry of authorized vessels using publicly available information with a search feature.

107. One Member suggested that NPFC consider developing an MoU with IATTC, noting that the two organizations have overlapping Convention Areas, and the relevant recommendation from the Performance Review, and the FAO transshipment guidelines highlight the importance of data sharing between overlapping RFMOs.

108. Several Members agreed with this suggestion, and the TCC discussed the procedure in terms of timeline and who would be responsible in producing the draft MoU.
Recommendation: That the Commission task the Secretariat with drafting an MoU with IATTC, to be circulated to members via electronic correspondence for input before being submitted as an information paper to the IATTC meeting in August 2025.

Agenda Item 14. Performance Review Recommendations Relevant to TCC

109. The TCC Chair presented an update (IP06) on the status of the Performance Review Recommendations relevant to TCC.

110. One Member recognized the helpful progress made by the Commission on the performance review recommendations and the table with status updates from the Secretariat and TCC Chair. However, they noted that the tasking from COMM08 for the Secretariat to work with chairs to update the table and then solicit intersessional feedback from Members was not followed and there is not adequate time to discuss the details at this meeting. The Member requested the TCC Chair work with the Secretariat to update the table and send it to Members for intersessional input via email so there is a member-driven process on Commission priorities taking into account the performance review recommendations.
Recommendation: That the Commission task the TCC Chair and Secretariat to continue working on tracking the performance review recommendations relevant to TCC and seeking Member input intersessionally consistent with COM08 tasking.

Agenda Item 15. Other Matters

15a. Consideration of Recommendations for TCC Chair/Vice Chair

111. The TCC noted that the terms of the current TCC Chair, Ms. Alisha Falberg (USA), and Vice Chair, Ms. Amber Lindstedt (Canada), were ending at the conclusion of TCC08.

112. Following nominations from Members, the TCC recommended to the Commission that Ms. Alisha Falberg (USA) serve as TCC Chair and Ms. Amber Lindstedt (Canada) serve as TCC Vice Chair for another two-year term.

Recommendation: That the Commission renew the terms of Alisha Falberg (USA) to serve as TCC Chair and Amber Lindstedt (Canada) to serve as TCC Vice-Chair.

15b. Historical Catch Level

113. The SWG Ops Co-Lead, Ms. Patricia DeMille, reported on intersessional work of the SWG to compile data on historic fishing levels into a standard format, covering 2009 to 2023 by target species with a breakdown by gear type. The SWG Ops was unable to reach consensus on how to identify the specific year or years that would constitute the historical existing level.

114. The EU noted the long lasting and inconclusive discussions on the definition of historical levels of authorized vessels in NPFC and questioned the relevance of this metric both in terms of monitoring compliance and effectively restricting fishing effort in line with the spirit and intent of the NPFC CMMs that include this metric. Japan pointed out Members have been implementing historical existing effort provisions based on their interpretation which could be different among Members, and further discussion is needed to define a uniform interpretation on this matter.

115. Following extensive discussion, the TCC agreed to recommend that the Commission consider the following: (a) Continue work on this issue, considering options discussed at TCC; (b) compile in one document when each CMM mentioning historical level was first adopted; (c) Seek clarity on data sources from Members for the compiled table; (d) Work to reconcile Member data with Secretariat records; (e) Consider amending CMMs that reference historical fishing level to provide greater clarity; and (f) Further consider criteria proposed by Members for defining historical fishing level, including: (i) a period from CMM adoption year minus one through adoption year minus three; (ii) A three-year period from the CMM adoption year going back three years; (iii) A timeframe reflecting the development of the fishery; or (iv) Other appropriate timeframes from one to multiple years.

Recommendation: That the Commission consider and carry forward work on historical fishing levels, taking into account the criteria, options and considerations identified by the TTC.

Agenda Item 16. Review and Endorsement of TCC Work Plan for 2025/2026

116. The TCC reviewed the TCC/SWG Work Plan for 2025/2026 (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP06) against the progress made to date and in consideration of new items of work arising from TCC08.

Recommendation: That the Commission revise the draft Work Plan developed by the Secretariat, including work completed, and consider further revisions, then task TCC and relevant SWGs with the activities in the revised Work Plan (Annex X).

Agenda Item 17. Recommendations to the Commission

117. The TCC recommended the following to the Commission:

(Agenda Item 3)

(a) That the TCC Chair and SC Chair continue to work intersessionally towards identifying the potential data needs for a broader regional observer program.

(Agenda Item 4)

(b) That the Commission adopt the NPFC Rules of Transparency for TCC (NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP16).

(c) That the Commission task the SWG Ops in the intersessional period with: (a) compiling a list of all serious violations and vessel-based measures into a guidance document or inspector's aid, noting that these would be guidelines only and not measures; and (b) developing a document outlining more robust actions and responsibilities for flag states when a serious violation is detected and the flag state is notified.

(Agenda Item 5)

(d) That the Commission further consider the consolidated proposal on port state measures, taking into account the discussions at TCC.

(e) That the Commission task the TCC and SC to continue work intersessionally on the proposal for minimum standards for data collection, with the goal of adopting a measure in the near future.

(f) That the Commission adopt the proposed amendments to CMM 2024-12.

(g) That the Commission further consider the proposal for a new Transshipment Observer Program measure in NPFC-2025-TCC08-WP13 Rev.1, recognizing that some sections remain in square brackets.

(h) That the Commission further consider the proposed amendments to CMM 2024-03, recognizing that some sections remain in square brackets.

(Agenda Item 6)

(i) That the Commission consider the Provisional NPFC IUU Vessel List containing one vessel proposed by Canada (Annex X).

(j) That the Commission note that the TCC did not propose any changes to the current NPFC IUU Vessel List.

(Agenda Item 7 (CMS))

(k) That the Commission consider the Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report adopted by the TCC, along with the attached TCC Chair's Executive Summary.

(l) That the Commission consider the TCC's list of obligations for consideration for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2025.

(Agenda Item 11)

(m) That the Commission further review Panama's application for CNCP status for 2025-2027, noting that Panama was requested to provide more information in writing about their monitoring capabilities ahead of the Commission meeting to address the concerns raised by the TCC.

(Agenda Item 13)

(n) That the Commission task the Secretariat with drafting an MoU with IATTC, to be circulated to members via electronic correspondence for input before being submitted as an information paper to the IATTC meeting in August 2025.

(Agenda Item 14)

(o) That the Commission task the TCC Chair and Secretariat to continue working on tracking the performance review recommendations relevant to TCC and seeking Member input intersessionally consistent with COM08 tasking.

(Agenda Item 15)

(p) That the Commission renew the terms of Alisha Falberg (USA) to serve as TCC Chair and Amber Lindstedt (Canada) to serve as TCC Vice-Chair.

(q) That the Commission consider and carry forward work on historical fishing levels, taking into account the criteria options and considerations identified by the TTC.

(Agenda Item 16)

(r) That the Commission revise the draft Work Plan developed by the Secretariat, including work completed, and consider further revisions, then task TCC and relevant SWGs with the activities in the revised Work Plan (Annex X).

Agenda Item 18. Next Meeting

118. ***Recommendation:*** That the Commission hold the next TCC meeting in conjunction with the next Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 19. Adoption of the Report

119. The report was adopted by consensus.

Agenda Item 20. Close of the Meeting

120. The TCC meeting was closed at 20:36, Osaka time, on 21 March 2025.