



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2025-SC10-MIP02

**North Pacific Fisheries Commission
10th Scientific Committee Meeting
16-19 December 2025
Nagoya, Japan**

Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 Welcome address and introductions
- 1.2 Appointment of rapporteur
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of agenda

Agenda Item 3. Provision of advice to the Commission

- 3.1 Structure and content of the SC reports
 - 3.1.1 Summary of stock assessments
 - 3.1.2 Species status templates
 - 3.1.3 Species summary documents
- 3.2 SC workflow and meetings
 - 3.2.1 Review of SC workflow
 - 3.2.2 Meeting schedule for SC and its subsidiary groups
 - 3.2.3 Review of guidelines for SC SWGs
- 3.3 Standards of 'best available science' (PR Recommendation 3.4.1)
- 3.4 Frequency of benchmark and annual stock assessments
- 3.5 Fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent indicators of trend for stocks without NPFC stock assessments
- 3.6 Process for selection of external experts and contract renewal
- 3.7 Independent reviews of scientific advice (PR Recommendation 3.4.2.)
- 3.8 Advice on science-based management options for operationalizing the precautionary approach (PR Recommendation 4.1.2)
 - 3.8.1 Summary of NPFC workshop on "Science-based management options available for operationalizing the precautionary approach as outlined in the Convention for NPFC priority species"
 - 3.8.2 Science-based management options for NPFC

Agenda Item 4. Review of stock assessments, reports, and recommendations from the Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment (TWG CMSA) and the Small Scientific Committees (SSC BF-ME, SSC NFS, and SSC PS)

- 4.1 Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment
 - 4.1.1 Summary of TWG CMSA activities, tasks, and recommendations
 - 4.1.2 Summary of CM stock assessment
- 4.2 Small Scientific Committee on Bottom Fish and Marine Ecosystems
 - 4.2.1 Summary of SSC BF-ME activities, tasks, and recommendations
 - 4.2.2 Summary of stock assessments for bottom fish
- 4.3 Small Scientific Committee on Neon Flying Squid
 - 4.3.1 Summary of SSC NFS activities, tasks, and recommendations
 - 4.3.2 Summary of NFS stock assessment
- 4.4 Small Scientific Committee on Pacific Saury
 - 4.4.1 Summary of SSC PS activities, tasks, and recommendations
 - 4.4.2 Summary of PS stock assessment

Agenda Item 5. Update from the Joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury (SWG MSE PS)

Agenda Item 6. Summary of progress on the remaining three priority species

- 6.1 Blue mackerel (BM)
 - 6.1.1 Review of tasks and recommendations
 - 6.1.2 Observation of domestic stock assessment
 - 6.1.3 Review of species summary
- 6.2 Japanese flying squid (JFS)
 - 6.2.1 Review of tasks and recommendations
 - 6.2.2 Observation of domestic stock assessment
 - 6.2.3 Review of species summary
- 6.3 Japanese sardine (JS)
 - 6.3.1 Review of tasks and recommendations
 - 6.3.2 Observation of domestic stock assessment
 - 6.3.3 Review of species summary
 - 6.3.4 Potential establishment of a new formal SC subsidiary body to focus on collaborative NPFC stock assessment of JS

Agenda Item 7. Climate change effects on NPFC's priority species and associated ecosystems

- 7.1 Tools for incorporating climate change considerations into scientific advice

- 7.2 Current knowledge
- 7.3 Ongoing research activities
 - 7.3.1 PICES' Basin-scale Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI) project
- 7.4 Detailed work plan to produce climate-resilient scientific advice
- 7.5 Research priorities and potential scientific projects

Agenda Item 8. Data Collection and Management

- 8.1 Data Management System
 - 8.1.1 Update for NPFC
 - 8.1.2 Data inventory update
 - 8.1.3 Data submission deadlines for stock assessment analyses
 - 8.1.4 SWG Data
 - 8.1.4.1 Establishment of a new database to manage and archive scientific data
 - 8.1.4.2 Review of the proposed CMM on Minimum Standards for NPFC Data
 - 8.1.4.3 Potential renewal of term for SWG Data
- 8.2 NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol
 - 8.2.1 Revision of Regulations for Management of Scientific Data and Information
- 8.3 Data needs, data gaps and strategies to fill gaps
 - 8.3.1 Information about species belonging to same ecosystem or dependent/associated with target stocks

Agenda Item 9. Potential roles of a regional observer program

- 9.1 Scientific objectives of an observer program
- 9.2 Review and revision of SC responses to five TCC questions
- 9.3 Tool for observers/fishers to distinguish between CM and BM
- 9.4 Future intersessional work of SWG Observer Program (SWG OP)

Agenda Item 10. Scientific projects for 2026 and 2027

- 10.1 Ongoing/planned projects
- 10.2 New projects
 - 10.2.1 Potential project(s) for NPFC priority species
 - 10.2.2 Independent review of stock assessments
 - 10.2.3 Other potential projects – capacity building, cooperation with other organizations
- 10.3 Review, prioritization and funding of projects

Agenda Item 11. Cooperation with other organizations

- 11.1 Reports on the joint NPFC-PICES activities since the SC09 meeting, including a report

from the PICES Secretariat

11.2 SC representation at scientific meetings

11.2.1 Yang Zi SC representation at PICES 2025

11.2.2 Chris Rooper representation at PICES 2025

11.3 Report on cooperation between NPFC and NPAFC

11.4 FAO ABNJ Deep-sea fisheries project

11.4.1 Report from the NPFC Representative at the FAO Workshop on Cross-Sectoral Interactions with Deep-Sea Fisheries

11.5 Partnership with the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System of FAO (FIRMS)

11.6 Partnership with WCPFC, SPRFMO and ISC

11.7 Cooperation with other organizations

Agenda Item 12. SC Terms of Reference (TOR) and 2025-2029 Research Plan and Work Plan

12.1 Review of the Scientific Committee TOR

12.2 Five-year Research Plan

12.3 Five-year Work Plan

12.4 Progress on addressing NPFC PR recommendations for SC

Agenda Item 13. Other matters

13.1 Coordination between SC and TCC

13.2 Other issues

Agenda Item 14. Advice and recommendations to the Commission

Agenda Item 15. Next meetings of SC and its subsidiary bodies

15.1 Meeting schedule for 2026/2027

15.2 Meeting format and location

Agenda Item 16. Selection of SC chairs, vice-chairs and leads

16.1 SC Chair and SC Vice-Chair

16.2 Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and leads of SC subsidiary bodies

Agenda Item 17. Press release

Agenda Item 18. Adoption of the Report

Agenda Item 19. Close of the Meeting