



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2025-SSC BFME06-MIP02

North Pacific Fisheries Commission
6th Meeting of the Small Scientific Committee on Bottom Fish and Marine Ecosystems
8-10 December 2025
Nagoya, Japan

Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda Item 3. Overview of the outcomes of previous NPFC meetings

3.1 SSC BFME05

3.2 COM09

3.2.1 CMMs 2025-05 and 2025-06

3.2.2 Requests from COM09

Agenda Item 4. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of North Pacific armorhead (NPA)

4.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for NPA in 2024

4.2 NPA monitoring survey and Adaptive Management Procedure (AMP)

4.2.1 Review of the results from 2025 monitoring survey

4.3 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on NPA

4.3.1 Ongoing research activities on NPA

4.3.2 Future and planned research activities by Members on NPA in 2026

Agenda Item 5. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of splendid alfonsino (SA)

5.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for SA in 2024

5.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on SA

5.2.1 Ongoing research activities on SA

5.2.2 Future and planned research activities by Members on SA in 2026

Agenda Item 6. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of sablefish

6.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for sablefish in 2024

- 6.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on sablefish
 - 6.2.1 Updated stock status for sablefish (Canada and USA)
 - 6.2.2 Sablefish species summary document update and review
 - 6.2.3 Proposed method for developing harvest control rule for sablefish in CA
 - 6.2.4 Other research activities on sablefish
 - 6.2.5 Future and planned research activities by Members on sablefish in 2026

Agenda Item 7. Skilfish in the NPFC Convention Area

- 7.1 Updated catch and effort for skilfish in 2024
- 7.2 Skilfish species summary document update and review

Agenda Item 8. Progress on data-limited approaches to assessment of NPA and SA

- 8.1 Update from SWG NPA-SA
 - 8.1.1 Depletion analysis of NPA catch and update on IBM approach
 - 8.1.2 Standardized CPUE for SA
 - 8.1.3 Review of biological data collection
 - 8.1.4 Review of results of integrated model for SA
 - 8.1.5 Review of stock status for SA
 - 8.1.6 Literature review of results on the effects of climate change on SA and NPA
 - 8.1.7 NPA species summary document update and review
 - 8.1.8 SA species summary document update and review

Agenda Item 9. Summary slides for Sablefish, NPA, SA and Skilfish

- 9.1 Draft, review and discuss draft slides on priority bottom fish species for presentation to Commission

Agenda Item 10. Assessment and scientific advice on the management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

- 10.1 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on VME
 - 10.1.1 Update on surveys and modeling of VME distribution in the NE Pacific
 - 10.1.2 Surveys of VME in the Emperor Seamounts in 2025
 - 10.1.3 Other research activities on VMEs
 - 10.1.4 Future and planned research activities by Members on VMEs in 2026
- 10.2 Review of intersessional activities of the SWG VME
 - 10.2.1 Update on the development of gear and taxon specific encounter thresholds for VME indicator taxa in the NPFC Convention Area
 - 10.2.2 Update on progress on data analysis of shared VME indicator data and directions on future joint data analyses (Objectives 2b, 2c and 3)

- 10.2.3 Proposals for revisions to VME indicator species list or nomenclature
- 10.2.4 Proposals for updates to definitions of VME
- 10.2.5 Update on progress on standardizing an approach to defining SAI
- 10.2.6 Literature review of connectivity, recruitment and recovery of VME taxa
- 10.3 Management of VME and SAI
 - 10.3.1 Updated impact assessment for Japan bottom fish fisheries
 - 10.3.2 Updated impact assessment for Canada bottom fish fisheries
 - 10.3.3 Other updated impact assessments
 - 10.3.4 Proposal from USA on Emperor Seamount bottom fishery closure

Agenda Item 11. Ecosystem considerations

- 11.1. Summary of FAO Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Symposium in March 2025
- 11.2 Preliminary ecosystem indicators and framework for communication to SC

Agenda Item 12. Data collection and reporting

- 12.1 Review of the adequacy of the current observer program for the BFME
- 12.2 Review of the template for collection of scientific observer data
- 12.3 Update on the work of SWG Data as it pertains to BFME

Agenda Item 13. 5-Year (2025-2029) Rolling Work Plan

- 13.1 North Pacific armorhead
- 13.2 Splendid alfonsino
- 13.3 Sablefish
- 13.4 Vulnerable marine ecosystems
- 13.5 Other ecosystem components

Agenda Item 14. Review of CMMs 2025-05 and 2025-06 for bottom fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and CMM 2019-10 for sablefish

Agenda Item 15. Climate change impacts on bottom fisheries and VME

- 15.1 Discussion of potential impacts of climate change and potential research and advice that the SSC BFME should address

Agenda Item 16. Other matters

- 16.1 Inter-sessional work and priority issues for next meeting
- 16.2 Update on PICES WG47 Seamount Ecology and newly proposed PICES WG
- 16.3 Selection of Chair for SSC BFME

16.4 Other issues

Agenda Item 17. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee

Agenda Item 18. Next meeting

Agenda Item 19. Adoption of the Report

Agenda Item 20. Close of the Meeting