



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2025-SSC BFME06-MIP03

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

Annotated Indicative Schedule

Date	Time	Activities	Document
8 Dec	8:30-9:00	Registration	
	9:00-10:30	Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting <i>The SSC BF-ME Chair, Dr. Chris Rooper, will open the meeting. The Science Manager, Dr. Alex Zavolokin, will outline procedural matters, including the meeting schedule and administrative arrangements.</i> Agenda Item 2. Adoption of Agenda <i>The provisional agenda will be reviewed, amended, as appropriate, and adopted.</i> Agenda Item 3. Overview of the outcomes of previous NPFC meetings 3.1 SSC BFME05 <i>The Chair will review the outcomes of previous BF-ME meetings.</i> 3.2 COM09 3.2.1 CMMs 2025-05 and 2025-06 3.2.2 Requests from COM09 <i>The Science Manager will review the outcomes of COM09.</i> 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 <i>Participants will review their catch and effort for NPA in 2024.</i>	MIP02, 03. Reports are available on the website.

		4.2 NPA monitoring survey and Adaptive Management Procedure (AMP) 4.2.1 Review of the results from 2025 monitoring survey <i>Participants will review the results of 2025 and previous years monitoring surveys compiled by the Secretariat.</i> 4.3 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on NPA 4.3.1 Ongoing research activities on NPA <i>Participants will present and discuss ongoing research or joint research on NPA conducted or updated in 2025.</i> 4.3.2 Future and planned research activities by Members on NPA in 2026 <i>Participants will present and discuss plans for future research or joint research to be conducted on NPA.</i>	
	10:30-11:00	Group picture Morning break	
	11:00-12:30	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 <i>Participants will review their catch and effort for SA in 2024.</i> 5.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on SA 5.2.1 Ongoing research activities on SA <i>Participants will present and discuss ongoing research or joint research on SA conducted or updated in 2025.</i> 5.2.2 Future and planned research activities by Members on SA in 2026 <i>Participants will present and discuss plans for future research or joint research to be conducted on SA.</i>	

		Agenda Item 6. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of sablefish 6.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for sablefish in 2024 <i>Participants will review their catch and effort for sablefish in 2024.</i> 6.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on sablefish 6.2.1 Updated stock status for sablefish (Canada and USA) <i>Participants will review updated stock status for sablefish.</i> 6.2.2 Sablefish species summary document update and review <i>Participants will review the updated species summary documents for sablefish and rougheye/blackspotted rockfish prepared by Canada and suggest revisions, if needed.</i> 6.2.3 Proposed method for developing harvest control rule for sablefish in CA <i>Participants will review a proposal on the method for developing harvest control rule for sablefish in CA.</i> 6.2.4 Other research activities on sablefish <i>Participants will present and discuss any other research or joint research conducted or updated on sablefish in 2025.</i> 6.2.5 Future and planned research activities by Members on sablefish in 2026 <i>Participants will present and discuss plans for future research or joint research to be conducted on sablefish.</i>	
	12:30-14:00	Lunch	
	14:00-15:30	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 <i>Russia will present a species summary for skilfish</i>	

		<i>including historical catch and effort statistics.</i>	
	15:30-16:00	Afternoon break	
	16:00-18:00	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 <i>The Lead of the SWG NPA-SA will report on activities from the intersessional work to develop stock assessment approaches to NPA and SA. Participants will review the results and provide management advice on these species. They will also discuss future activities.</i> 8.1.7 NPA species summary document update and review <i>Participants will review the updated species summary document for NPA prepared by the SWG NPA-SA and suggest revisions, if needed.</i> 8.1.8 SA species summary document update and review <i>Participants will review the updated species summary document for SA prepared by the SWG NPA-SA and suggest revisions, if needed.</i> 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 <i>Participants will review and discuss draft slides on priority bottom fish species for presentation to COM.</i>	

Date	Time	Activities	Document
9 Dec	9:00-10:30	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 <i>Canada will give an update on a survey and analysis describing modeling the distribution of VME in the NE Pacific.</i> 10.1.2 Surveys of VME in the Emperor Seamounts in 2025 <i>Members will present on their surveys conducted in the Emperor Seamounts in 2025.</i> 10.1.3 Other research activities on VMEs <i>Members will present on other research activities on VMEs, if any.</i> 10.1.4 Future and planned research activities by Members on VMEs in 2025 <i>Participants will present any plans to conduct future research on VME.</i>	
	10:30-11:00	Morning break	
	11:00-12:30	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 <i>Participants will review the development of gear and taxon specific encounter thresholds for VME indicator taxa in the NPFC Convention Area.</i> 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) <i>Participants will review progress on data analysis of shared VME indicator data and identify</i>	

		<i>directions on future joint data analyses.</i> 10.2.3 Proposals for revisions to VME indicator species list or nomenclature <i>Any proposed revisions to VME indicator taxa will be discussed.</i> 10.2.4 Proposals for updates to definitions of VME <i>Any proposed updates to VME definitions will be discussed.</i> 10.2.5 Update on progress on standardizing an approach to defining SAI <i>Any updates on progress on standardizing an approach to defining SAI will be brought forward and discussed.</i> 10.3 Management of VME and SAI 10.3.1 Updated impact assessment for Japan bottom fish fisheries <i>Japan will present an updated impact assessment for its bottom fish fisheries.</i> 10.3.2 Updated impact assessment for Canada bottom fish fisheries <i>Canada will present an updated impact assessment for its bottom fish fisheries.</i> 10.3.3 Other updated impact assessments <i>Other Members will report on their plans for updating impact assessment.</i> 10.3.4 Proposal from USA on Emperor Seamount bottom fishery closure <i>The USA will present an updated proposal on Emperor Seamount bottom fishery closure.</i>	
	12:30-14:00	Lunch	
	14:00-15:30	Agenda Item 11. Ecosystem considerations 11.1. Summary of FAO Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Symposium in March 2025 <i>Participants will review a summary of FAO Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Symposium.</i> 11.2 Preliminary ecosystem indicators and	

		framework for communication to SC <i>Participants will discuss preliminary ecosystem indicators and framework for communication to SC.</i> Agenda Item 12. Data collection and reporting 12.1 Review of the adequacy of the current observer program for the BFME <i>Participants will review the current scientific observer program for adequacy.</i> 12.2 Review of the template for collection of scientific observer data <i>Participants will review the template for collection of scientific observer data.</i> 12.3 Update on the work of SWG Data as it pertains to BFME <i>The SWG Data Lead, Ms. Karolina Molla-Gazi, will give an update on the intersessional work of the SWG Data related to BFME.</i> Agenda Item 13. 5-Year (2025-2029) Rolling Work Plan and NPFC Performance Review recommendations 13.1 North Pacific armorhead 13.2 Splendid alfonsino 13.3 Sablefish 13.4 Vulnerable marine ecosystems 13.5 Other ecosystem components <i>Participants will review and revise the Work Plan of the SSC BF-ME drafted intersessionally.</i>	
	15:30-16:00	Afternoon break	
	16:00-18:00	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 <i>Participants will review CMMs for bottom fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and for sablefish and revise them, if necessary.</i>	

		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 <i>Participants will review the reports from Members, if any, and discuss potential research and advice that the SSC BFME should address.</i>	
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Date	Time	Activities	Document
10 Dec	9:00-10:30	Agenda Item 16. Other matters 16.1 Inter-sessional work and priority issues for next meeting <i>Participants will identify the tasks for intersessional work and priority issues for the next meeting.</i> 16.2 Update on PICES WG47 Seamount Ecology and newly proposed PICES WG <i>Participants will be updated on the outcomes of WG47 Seamount Ecology and progress in establishing a new PICES WG on Seamount Connectivity.</i> 16.3 Selection of Chair for SSC BFME <i>The SSC BF-ME will elect a Chair.</i> 16.4 Other issues <i>Participants will discuss any other issues raised.</i> Agenda Item 17. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee <i>SSC BF-ME will make recommendations to the Scientific Committee.</i> Agenda Item 18. Next meeting <i>Participants will discuss the dates and place of the next meeting.</i>	
	10:30-11:00	Morning break	
	11:00-12:30	Agenda Item 19. Adoption of the Report <i>The report of the meeting will be prepared, reviewed and adopted by consensus.</i> Agenda Item 20. Close of the Meeting <i>The Chair will make concluding remarks and close the meeting.</i>	
	12:30-14:00	Lunch	
	14:00-18:00	(PA workshop)	
	18:30-20:30	Reception	