



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2025-SC10-MIP03

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

Annotated Indicative Schedule

| Date | Time | Activities | Document |
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| 16 Dec | 8:30-9:00 | Registration | |
| | 9:00-10:30 | <p>Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting</p> <p>1.1 Welcome Address and Introductions <i>The SC Chairperson, Dr. Janelle Curtis, will open the meeting. Members, observers, invited experts, and the Secretariat will introduce themselves.</i></p> <p>1.2 Appointment of Rapporteur <i>The rapporteur will be appointed.</i></p> <p>1.3 Meeting Arrangements <i>The Science Manager, Dr. Alex Zavolokin, will outline procedural matters including the meeting schedule and administrative arrangements.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 2. Adoption of Agenda <i>The provisional agenda will be reviewed, amended as appropriate, and adopted.</i></p> | MIP02, 03. |
| | 10:30-11:00 | Morning break | |
| | 11:00-12:30 | <p>Agenda Item 3. Provision of advice to the Commission</p> <p>3.1 Structure and content of the SC reports <i>The SC will consider options for streamlining SC reports to make them easier to read and to make scientific advice more easily accessible in summaries of stock assessments, species status templates, and species summary documents.</i></p> <p>3.1.1 Summary of stock assessments</p> | |

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| | | <p>3.1.2 Species status templates</p> <p>3.1.3 Species summary documents</p> <p>3.2 SC workflow and meetings</p> <p><i>The SC will consider options to make better use of limited resources by revising its workflow and meeting schedule. Revisions to the guidelines for small working groups (SWGs) will also be considered.</i></p> <p>3.2.1 Review of SC workflow</p> <p>3.2.2 Meeting schedule for SC and its subsidiary groups</p> <p>3.2.3 Review of guidelines for SC SWGs</p> <p>3.3 Standards of “best available science” (PR Recommendation 3.4.1)</p> <p><i>Dr. Libin Dai will lead SC through a discussion of standards for “best available science.”</i></p> <p>3.4 Frequency of benchmark and annual stock assessments</p> <p><i>SC will consider the appropriate frequency between benchmark and update stock assessments, based on species life history and biology, data availability, management needs and other relevant criteria, as suggested by the Commission during COM09.</i></p> <p>3.5 Fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent indicators of trend for stocks without NPFC stock assessments</p> <p><i>SC will identify indicators to allow tracking significant trends in fisheries of NPFC priority species as tasked by the Commission during COM09.</i></p> <p>3.6 Process for selection of external experts and contract renewal</p> <p><i>SC will review a policy for the selection and extension of invited experts for supporting the Scientific Committee and its expert groups.</i></p> <p>3.7 Independent reviews of scientific advice (PR</p> | <p>WP07.</p> <p>WP01.</p> <p>WP08.</p> <p>WP16.</p> <p>WP05.</p> <p>WP17, 18.</p> |
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| | | <p>Recommendation 3.4.2)</p> <p><i>The SC will consider establishing a formal peer-review process for SC's stock assessments.</i></p> <p>3.8 Advice on science-based management options for operationalizing the precautionary approach (PR Recommendation 4.1.2)</p> <p><i>The SC will consider science-based management options available for operationalizing the precautionary approach as outlined in the Convention for NPFC priority species, and as tasked by the Commission during COM09.</i></p> <p>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”</p> <p>3.8.2 Science-based management options for NPFC</p> | |
| | 12:30-14:00 | Lunch | |
| | 14:00-15:30 | Agenda Item 3. Continued | |
| | 15:30-16:00 | Afternoon break | |
| | 16:00-18:00 | <p>Agenda Item 4. Review of 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)</p> <p>4.4 Small Scientific Committee on Pacific Saury</p> <p><i>The SSC PS Chairperson, Dr. Toshihide Kitakado, will summarize the activities, tasks and recommendations of the SSC PS meetings and present a summary of the PS stock assessment for consideration by the SC.</i></p> <p>4.4.1 Summary of SSC PS activities, tasks, and recommendations</p> <p>4.4.2 Summary of PS stock assessment</p> | Report is available on the website |

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| | | <p>Agenda Item 5. Update from the Joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury (SWG MSE PS)</p> <p><i>The SWG MSE PS Co-Chairperson, Dr. Toshihide Kitakado, will update SC on the SWG MSE PS.</i></p> | |
| | 18:30-20:30 | Reception | |

| Date | Time | Activities | Document |
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| 17 Dec | 9:00-10:30 | <p>Agenda Item 4. Continued</p> <p>4.1 Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment</p> <p><i>The TWG CMSA Chairperson, Dr. Kazuhiro Oshima, will summarize the activities, tasks and recommendations of the TWG CMSA meetings and present a summary of the CM stock assessment for consideration by the SC.</i></p> <p>4.1.1 Summary of TWG CMSA activities, tasks, and recommendations</p> <p>4.1.2 Summary of CM stock assessment</p> <p>4.2 Small Scientific Committee on Bottom Fish and Marine Ecosystems</p> <p><i>The SSC BF-ME Chairperson, Dr. Chris Rooper, will summarize the activities, tasks and recommendations of the SSC BF-ME meetings and present a summary of the bottom fish stock assessments for consideration by the SC.</i></p> <p>4.2.1 Summary of SSC BF-ME activities, tasks, and recommendations</p> <p>4.2.2 Summary of stock assessments for bottom fish</p> | <p>Reports are available on the website</p> <p>WP10.</p> <p>SSC BFME06-OP02-04.</p> |
| | 10:30-11:00 | Morning break | |

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| | 11:00-12:30 | <p>4.3 Small Scientific Committee on Neon Flying Squid</p> <p><i>The SSC NFS Chairperson, Dr. Luoliang Xu, will summarize the activities, tasks and recommendations of the SSC NFS meeting and present a summary of the NFS stock assessment activities for consideration by the SC.</i></p> <p>4.3.1 Summary of SSC NFS activities, tasks, and recommendations</p> <p>4.3.2 Summary of NFS stock assessment</p> <p>Agenda Item 6. Summary of progress on the remaining three priority species</p> <p>6.1 Blue mackerel</p> <p><i>The Small Working Group on BM Lead, Dr. Kazunari Higashiguchi, will update participants on intersessional work, Japan's stock assessment, and the species summary.</i></p> <p>6.1.1 Review of tasks and recommendations</p> <p>6.1.2 Observation of domestic stock assessment</p> <p>6.1.3 Review of species summary</p> <p>6.2 Japanese flying squid</p> <p><i>The Small Working Group on JFS Lead, Dr. Hajime Matsui, will update participants on intersessional work, Japan's stock assessment, and the species summary.</i></p> <p>6.2.1 Review of tasks and recommendations</p> <p>6.2.2 Observation of domestic stock assessment</p> <p>6.2.3 Review of species summary</p> | <p>RP02, 03.</p> <p>WP21.</p> <p>IP05. WP14.</p> |
| | 12:30-14:00 | Lunch | |
| | 14:00-15:30 | <p>6.3 Japanese sardine</p> <p><i>The Small Working Group on JS Lead, Dr. Shuya Nakatsuka, will update participants on intersessional work, Japan's stock assessment, and the species summary. The SC will consider establishing a new Small Scientific Committee on</i></p> | |

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| | | <p><i>Japanese sardine (SSC JS) to focus on developing an NPFC stock assessment. The SC will also consider a draft Terms of Reference for the SSC JS.</i></p> <p>6.3.1 Review of tasks and recommendations</p> <p>6.3.2 Observation of domestic stock assessment</p> <p>6.3.3 Review of species summary</p> <p>6.3.4 Potential establishment of a new formal SC subsidiary body to focus on collaborative NPFC stock assessment of JS</p> | <p>WP11.</p> <p>WP22.</p> <p>WP09.</p> |
| | 15:30-16:00 | Afternoon break | |
| | 16:00-18:00 | <p>Agenda Item 7. Climate change effects on NPFC's priority species and associated ecosystems</p> <p>7.1 Tools for incorporating climate change considerations into scientific advice</p> <p><i>Pew Charitable Trusts will provide an overview of recent progress by selected RFMOs towards climate-informed governance.</i></p> <p>7.2 Current knowledge</p> <p>7.3 Ongoing research activities</p> <p>7.3.1 PICES' Basin-scale Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI) project</p> <p><i>The Science Director of the BECI project, Dr. Kathryn Berry, will update participants on the developments made by BECI.</i></p> <p>7.4 Detailed work plan to produce climate-resilient scientific advice</p> <p><i>SC will begin developing a detailed work plan for integrating climate information into its analyses and provision of science advice.</i></p> <p>7.5 Research priorities and potential scientific projects</p> <p><i>Participants will identify research priorities and recommend scientific projects and activities to address climate change effects on NPFC's priority species and associated ecosystems.</i></p> | <p>OP03.</p> <p>OP05.</p> |

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| 18 Dec | 9:00-10:30 | <p>Agenda Item 9. Potential roles of a regional observer program</p> <p>9.1 Scientific objectives of an observer program <i>The SC will consider other potential scientific objectives of an observer program.</i></p> <p>9.2 Review and revision of SC responses to five TCC questions <i>The SC will review its preliminary answers to five questions from the TCC Chair about the potential scientific components of an NPFC at-sea regional observer program.</i></p> <p>9.3 Tools for observers/fishers to distinguish between CM and BM</p> <p>9.4 Future intersessional work of SWG Observer Program (SWG OP) <i>The SC will consider potential intersessional work of SWG OP for the coming year and election of a chair.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 8. Data Collection and Management</p> <p>8.3 Data needs, data gaps, and strategies to fill gaps</p> <p>8.3.1 Information about species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent/associated with target stocks <i>Pew Charitable Trusts will make a presentation on ecological objectives in fisheries management. China will also update SC on its 2025 survey with the fishery research vessel "Song Hang" in the NPFC Convention Area.</i></p> | <p>WP03. RP01.</p> <p>WP20. OP04.</p> |
| | 10:30-11:00 | Morning break | |
| | 11:00-12:30 | <p>Agenda Item 8. Continued</p> <p>8.1 Data Management System</p> <p>8.1.1 Update on NPFC data management system <i>The Data Coordinator, Mr. Sungkuk Kang, will brief participants on any new developments of the NPFC data management system.</i></p> | IP01. |

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| | | <p>8.1.2 Update on Data inventory <i>The Data Coordinator, Mr. Sungkuk Kang, will brief participants on the data inventory.</i></p> <p>8.1.3 Data submission deadlines for stock assessment analyses <i>The SC will discuss the establishment of a centralized request for data to coordinate data specifications and submission deadlines.</i></p> <p>8.1.4 SWG Data <i>The Lead of SWG Data, Ms. Karolina Molla-Gazi will update SC on the work of SWG Data and lead a discussion of a new database for scientific data, the proposed CMM on Minimum Standards for NPFC Data, and the potential renewal of SWG Data's term.</i></p> <p>8.1.4.1 Establishment of a new database to manage and archive scientific data</p> <p>8.1.4.2 Review of the proposed CMM on Minimum Standards for NPFC Data</p> <p>8.1.4.3 Potential renewal of term for SWG Data</p> | <p>IP03.</p> <p>WP15.</p> <p>WP12.</p> |
| | 12:30-14:00 | Lunch | |
| | 14:00-15:30 | <p>8.2 NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol <i>Japan will present a proposal that footprint information by Member, species, area, and gear type, be made available for analysis on the public domain of the NPFC website.</i></p> <p>8.2.1 Revision of Regulations for Management of Scientific Data and Information</p> <p>Agenda Item 10. Scientific projects for 2026 and 2027 <i>The Science Manager and Members will report on the status of the current projects, discuss their implementation and propose new projects to be carried out in 2026 and 2027.</i></p> <p>10.1 Ongoing/planned projects</p> <p>10.2 New Projects</p> | <p>WP13.</p> <p>WP04.</p> |

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| | | <p><i>Participants will discuss and recommend potential SC scientific projects for PS, CM, NPA, SA, NFS, and JS as well as any other projects that would support provision of scientific advice to the Commission. They will also consider an independent review of stock assessments.</i></p> <p>10.2.1 Potential project(s) for NPFC priority species</p> <p>10.2.2 Independent review of stock assessments</p> <p>10.2.3 Other potential projects – capacity building, cooperation with organizations</p> <p>10.3 Review, prioritization, and funding of projects <i>If needed, an Informal Small Group will compile the projects, review and prioritize them, suggest a source of funds (SC fund or Special Project Fund) and make recommendations to the plenary of SC. Projects shall be submitted in accordance with the Guidelines for Projects.</i></p> | |
| 15:30-16:00 | Afternoon break | | |
| 16:00-18:00 | <p>Agenda Item 11. Cooperation with other organizations</p> <p>11.1 Reports on the joint NPFC-PICES activities since the SC09 meeting, including a report from the PICES Secretariat</p> <p><i>The PICES Executive Secretary will present a report on PICES-NPFC collaborative activities.</i></p> <p>11.2 SC Representation at scientific meetings <i>SC Representatives who participated in PICES 2025 will update participants on their activities.</i></p> <p>11.2.1 Yang Zi representation at PICES 2025</p> <p>11.2.2 Chris Rooper representation at PICES 2025</p> <p>11.3 Report on Cooperation between NPFC and NPAFC</p> <p><i>The NPAFC Executive Secretary, Dr. Yoshikiyo Kondo, will update participants on the</i></p> | | |

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| | | <p><i>implementation of the NPFC-NPAFC Work plan.</i></p> <p>11.4 FAO ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries Project</p> <p><i>Dr. Anthony Thompson will update participants on the ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries Project as well as related FAO initiatives.</i></p> <p>11.4.1 Report from the NPFC Representative at the FAO Workshop on Cross-Sectoral Interactions with Deep-Sea Fisheries</p> <p><i>The SC Chair, Dr. Janelle Curtis, will report on her participation in the workshop on cross-sectoral interaction.</i></p> <p>11.5 Partnership with the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System of FAO (FIRMS)</p> <p><i>Dr. Aureliano Gentile update participants on NPFC content published in FIRMS and the progress of the FAO SoSI Index.</i></p> <p>11.6 Partnership with WCPFC, SPRFMO, and ISC</p> <p>11.7 Cooperation with other organizations</p> <p><i>Participants will discuss cooperation with other regional and global organizations.</i></p> | OP01, 02. |
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| 19 Dec | 9:00-10:30 | <p>Agenda Item 12. SC Terms of Reference (TOR) and 2025-2029 Research Plan and Work Plan</p> <p><i>Members will review proposed revisions to the SC Terms of Reference (TOR). Members will also review progress and revise the current SC Research Plan and Work Plan based on the recommendations from the SSCs and TWG and develop 5-year rolling research and work plans from 2025 onwards. The work plan will be based on priorities identified in the research plan.</i></p> <p>12.1 Review of the Scientific Committee TOR</p> <p>12.2 Five-year research plan</p> <p>12.3 Five-year work plan</p> <p>12.4 Progress on address NPFC PR</p> | <p>WP02.</p> <p>WP19.</p> <p>WP06.</p> <p>Updated PR.</p> |

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| | | <p>recommendations for SC</p> <p>Agenda Item 13. Other Matters</p> <p>13.1 Coordination between SC and TCC</p> <p><i>The Compliance Manager, Ms. Judy Dwyer, will update participants on SC-related issues from TCC. Participants will discuss matters that involve coordination between SC and TCC.</i></p> <p>13.2 Other issues</p> <p><i>Participants will discuss other issues raised under Agenda Item 2, if any.</i></p> | IP02. |
| | 10:30-11:00 | Morning break | |
| | 11:00-12:30 | <p>Agenda Item 14. Advice and recommendations to the Commission</p> <p><i>Members will agree on advice and recommendations to be submitted to the 10th Commission meeting for endorsement.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 15. Next meeting of SC and its subsidiary bodies</p> <p>15.1 Meeting schedule for 2026/2027</p> <p><i>Members will review the proposed dates of the next meetings.</i></p> <p>15.2 Meeting format and venue</p> <p><i>Members will suggest a location of the next SC meeting and recommend the format and location of meetings of SC's other subsidiary groups. Members will be invited to host the meetings.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 16. Selection of SC chairs, vice-chairs, and leads</p> <p>16.1 SC Chair and SC Vice-Chair</p> <p><i>Members will elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee.</i></p> <p>16.2 Chairs, Vice-Chairs and leads of SC subsidiary bodies</p> <p><i>Participants will be updated on any changes in</i></p> | |

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| | | <i>leadership of SC's subsidiary groups.</i> Agenda Item 17. Press release <i>Members will agree on the content and wording of a press release that describes key achievements of SC10.</i> | |
| | 12:30-14:00 | Lunch | |
| | 14:00-15:30 | Agenda Item 18. Adoption of the Report <i>The report of the meeting will be prepared, reviewed and adopted by consensus.</i> | |
| | 15:30-16:00 | Afternoon break | |
| | 16:00-18:00 | Agenda Item 18. Continued Agenda Item 19. Close of the Meeting <i>The Chairperson will make concluding remarks and close the meeting.</i> | |