



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2026-COM10-WP07

Submitted by Canada

Proposal to amend the Conservation and Management Measure for Chub Mackerel

Abstract

Canada is seeking to propose two changes to CMM 2025-07 on Chub Mackerel, shown below in red text, to:

- 1) Ensure that trawl vessel expansion limits are in place for members with significant catch; and,
- 2) Introduce a requirement to report catch on board upon entry/exit to and from the Convention Area.

Explanatory Note

- 1) This proposal would seek to ensure consistency among Members authorizing trawlers to fish for chub mackerel in the NPFC Convention Area. The rationale for this amendment is as follows:
 - Paragraph 1 of this measure requires Members to refrain from expansion of the number of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag from the historical existing level.
 - Paragraph 3 of this measure limits the European Union and China to a specific number of authorized trawlers but does not include a limit for other Members.

With this in mind, trawl vessel authorization limits for all Members with significant catch of chub mackerel based on historical existing levels, similar to those established for China and the European Union, are suggested.

- 2) This proposal would also introduce a requirement for fishing vessels to report the amount of all fisheries resources including bycatch and non-NPFC managed species onboard the vessel upon entry into and exit from the NPFC Convention Area. Vessels would be required to report this information to their FMC and retain copies of this information on board. It will also require vessels to store any catch from outside the Convention Area separately from catch caught inside the Convention Area. This information would be provided to NPFC inspectors when vessel masters are asked to produce catch records.

In following up on potential violations arising from high seas boarding and inspections and air surveillance patrols, it has come to Canada's attention that catch from outside the Convention Area may be entering NPFC waters. Should this be the case, the Commission would be unable to determine where catch on board was harvested (and therefore whether subject to NPFC CMMs). Further, NPFC inspectors are only authorized to inspect resources harvested in the NPFC Convention Area.

This proposal introduces a way to differentiate between NPFC and other fisheries resources on vessels to support effective monitoring, control and surveillance activities, including traceability of fisheries resources between jurisdictions.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR CHUB MACKEREL

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC),

Recognizing that outcomes of the small ad hoc workshop for the scientific analysis of chub mackerel stock were presented to the Scientific Committee (SC) in April 2017 and the SC recommended to establish the Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment (TWG CMSA);

Noting that CMM 2016-07 states the SC will complete the stock assessment of chub mackerel as soon as practicable, even if such assessment is provisional, and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission in accordance with Article 10, paragraph 4(b) of the Convention;

Reaffirming the General Principles provided in Article 3 of the Convention, in particular, paragraph (h) stipulating that any expansion of fishing effort does not proceed without prior assessment of the impacts of those fishing activities on the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources;

Noting paragraph 1(a) of Article 7 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 December 1995 (hereinafter, “1995 Agreement”), stipulating that the relevant coastal States and the States whose nationals fish for straddling fish stocks in the adjacent high seas area shall seek to agree upon the measures necessary for the conservation of these stocks in the adjacent high seas area;

Recognizing paragraph 2(a) of Article 7 of the 1995 Agreement stipulating that the conservation and management measures adopted and applied in accordance with article 61 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in respect of the same stocks by coastal States within areas under national jurisdiction and ensure that measures established in respect of such stocks for the high seas do not undermine the effectiveness of such measures;

Reaffirming paragraph (i) of Article 3 of the Convention, stipulating in accordance with Article 7 of the 1995 Agreement, that conservation and management measures established for straddling fish stocks on the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction are compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of these fisheries resources in their entirety;

Recalling that concern was expressed on an adverse impact on the stock of chub mackerel given the rapid increase in vessels that appear to be fishing for chub mackerel in the Convention Area, as articulated in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Report of the 1st Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee;

Noting that the NPFC Catch/Effort statistics shows a significant fall in chub mackerel catch in 2022, 2023 and 2024 from those in previous years;

Recognizing that the 9th meeting of the Scientific Committee in December 2024 recommended the current fishing mortality (average 2020-2022) leads to further constant decline of SSB and it is necessary to reduce the current fishing mortality, based on the stock assessment of chub mackerel conducted by the Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment and the advice of the Scientific Committee of NPFC.

Adopts the following conservation and management measure in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention:

1. Members of the Commission and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) with substantial harvest of chub mackerel in the Convention Area shall refrain from expansion, in the Convention Area, of the number of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish for chub mackerel from the historical existing level.
2. Members of the Commission and CNCs without substantial harvest of chub mackerel in the Convention Area are encouraged to refrain from expansion, in the Convention Area, of the number of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish for chub mackerel from the historical existing level.

3. As a provisional measure, Members shall take necessary measures to ensure that the fishing activities for chub mackerel in the Convention Area shall be undertaken in accordance with the fishing season defined in paragraph 17 and the following provisions:
- (a) The annual total allowable catch of chub mackerel in the Convention Area, excluding the amount in paragraph 11, shall be set at 66,740 tonnes for the 2025 fishing season.
 - (b) Of this annual total allowable catch, the catch for trawlers shall not exceed 7,940 tonnes for the 2025 fishing season.
 - (c) Of this annual total allowable catch, the catch for purse seiners shall not exceed 58,800 tonnes for the 2025 fishing season.
 - (d) China shall not authorize more than 3 trawlers to conduct fishing operations at the same time.
 - (e) The EU shall not authorize more than 1 trawler to conduct fishing operations at the same time.
 - (f) The Russian Federation shall not authorize more than [X] trawlers to conduct fishing operations at the same time.
4. Members of the Commission participating in chub mackerel fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area are requested to take compatible measures in paragraph 1 and 3. Such Members¹ may divert part of their catch limit for areas under their jurisdiction to their own catch of chub mackerel in the Convention Area by vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish for chub mackerel, provided that: (i) the Member has established a catch limit for chub mackerel in its jurisdiction; (ii) the Member has notified the Commission of the catch limit; and (iii) the total catch of the Member in the Convention Area

¹ Paragraph 4 applies to Russia and Japan.

and the areas under their jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area will not exceed the Member's total catch limit for its jurisdiction.

5. Members of the Commission and CNCPs shall prohibit fishing vessels over 10,000 Gross Tonnage that are flying their flag and authorized to fish for chub mackerel, from fishing in the Convention Area.
6. Members of the Commission and CNCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag that fish for chub mackerel in the Convention Area record their catches, including incidental catches of other NPFC species, and any discards and report them to the relevant flag state authorities in accordance with their national data recording and reporting requirements.
- 6 bis. Members and CNCPs shall take necessary measures to ensure that their fishing vessels transmit electronically to its FMC and keep on board the vessel and available for inspection, an accurate and unaltered original copy of the following reports in accordance with the content prescribed for each type of report in Annexes 1 and 2:
 - a. catch on entry (COE): quantity of all catch and bycatch, including non-NPFC regulated species, on board or contained by a vessel's fishing gear, by species FAO code upon entry into the Convention Area, transmitted before or at the time of the vessel's entry.
 - b. catch on exit (COX): quantity of all catch and bycatch onboard by species, including non-NPFC regulated species, on board or contained by a vessel's fishing gear, by species FAO code upon exit from the Convention Area transmitted before or at the time of the vessel's exit.
7. Members and CNCPs shall take necessary measures to ensure that each vessel, with due regard for safety and navigational responsibilities of the master, stows all catch taken in the Convention Area separately from all catch taken outside the Convention Area, and ensures that such separation is clearly demarcated using plastic, plywood or netting.
8. To comply with the provisional measure stipulated in paragraph 3, Members of the Commission shall report to the Executive Secretary, in electronic format, monthly catches of chub mackerel in the Convention Area by fishing vessels flying their flags, as follows:
 - a) For trawlers: By the 10th of the next month, until the total accumulated catch by Members in a fishing season reaches 60% of the catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (b). After the total

accumulated catch by Members in a fishing season reaches 60% of the annual catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (b), Members of the Commission shall report to the Executive Secretary, in electronic format, weekly catches of chub mackerel in the Convention Area by trawlers flying their flags, by Wednesday of the next week.

b) For purse seiners: By the 10th of the next month, until the total accumulated catch by Members in a fishing season reaches 60% of the catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (c). After the total accumulated catch by Members in a fishing season reaches 60% of the annual catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (c), Members of the Commission shall report to the Executive Secretary, in electronic format, weekly catches of chub mackerel in the Convention Area by purse seiners flying their flags, by Wednesday of the next week.

9. The Executive Secretary shall make publicly available the compiled catch of chub mackerel in the Convention Area on the Commission's website, as well as each Member's catch of chub mackerel in the Convention Area, on the Member's page of Commission website without delay.
10. In the event that the total accumulated catch by Members in a fishing season reaches 95% of the annual catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (b) or (c), the Executive Secretary shall notify Members of that fact without delay, and each Member participating in the chub mackerel fishery shall close the fishery for its flagged vessels within 2 days from the above notification by the Secretariat until the end of the fishing season.
11. Development of new fishing activity for the chub mackerel fishery in the Convention Area by Members of the Commission without documented historical catch for chub mackerel in the Convention Area shall be determined in accordance with relevant provisions, including but not limited to, as appropriate, Article 3, paragraph (h) and Article 7, subparagraphs 1(g) and (h) of the Convention.
12. In accordance with paragraph 10, and in addition to the fishing opportunities under paragraph 3 (b), once the annual total allowable catch under 3 (b) has been exhausted the EU shall be entitled to fish an additional 4,260 tonnes of chub mackerel for 2025 fishing season, without prejudice to future discussions on chub mackerel allocation in the Convention Area. In case the EU does not harvest any chub mackerel in the Convention Area in the 2024 fishing season, 1,740 tons shall be carried over to the catch limit in this paragraph.

13. Members of the Commission and CNCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag operating in the Convention Area to fish chub mackerel are to be equipped with an operational vessel monitoring system that is activated at all times.
14. Members of the Commission and CNCPs shall provide their data on chub mackerel separated by the Convention Area and the areas under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area in accordance with the data requirements adopted by the Commission in the Annual Report every year. The Commission shall review such information at the annual meeting every year.
15. Members of the Commission and CNCPs shall cooperate to take necessary measures including sharing information, in order to accurately understand the situation and eliminate IUU fishing for chub mackerel.
16. After the chub mackerel stock assessment has been completed, the provisions in Paragraph 1, 3 and 11 shall be reviewed by the Commission and those provisions shall not be a precedent to hinder those Members who are not harvesting substantial amounts of chub mackerel in the Convention Area to develop their own chub mackerel fisheries in the Convention Area, noting the Commission shall regularly review chub mackerel harvests in the Convention Area by all Members.
17. This management measure enters into force on 1 June 2025 (aligned with the start of the fishing season for chub mackerel). The Commission shall review and revise, as appropriate, this CMM based on the advice and recommendations from the SC, but no later than at the 10th Commission meeting.
18. For the purpose of this measure the ‘fishing season’ starts on 1 June and ends on 31 May.
19. This CMM is an amendment of the NPFC CMM 2024-07.

ANNEX 1

Minimum standards for Catch on Entry (COE) Report

#	Fishing Information	Format / Notes	Details
1	Date of entry into Convention Area	YYYY-MM-DD	
2	Time of entry into the Convention Area	HH:MM UTC (24 hour clock)	
3	Area where reported catch was harvested	National waters/other jurisdiction	

3- List all species, including bycatch, onboard at time of entry into the Convention Area					
FAO Code	State of fish (whole/ processed, fresh/frozen)	Type of units (e.g., box)	Weight per unit (kg)	Number of units	Total weight (kg)

ANNEX 2

Minimum standards for Catch on Exit (COX) Report

#	Fishing Information	Format / Notes	Details
1	Date of exit from the Convention Area	YYYY-MM-DD	
2	Time of exit from the Convention Area	HH:MM UTC (24 hour clock)	

3- List all species, including bycatch, onboard at time of exit from the Convention Area

FAO Code	State of fish (whole/ processed, fresh/frozen)	Type of units (e.g., box)	Weight per unit (kg)	Number of units	Total weight (kg)