



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2026-COM10-WP11

Submitted by the Secretariat

Timing and Location of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies meetings in 2027 and 2028

Abstract: This paper supports discussion and decision by Members of meeting times and locations in 2027 and 2028. The approach is supported by expenditures in the proposed budgets as well as elements highlighted in the SC10 report regarding meeting timings as well as a recognition that no Member host has been identified to host SC11. A list of historical and agreed meeting times of other related organizations is provided to facilitate the discussion of dates and location for the next meeting of the Commission (Appendix 1) and its subsidiary bodies (SC, FAC, TCC and SWG MSE PS). COM09 decided that COM11 meetings dates were 6-15 April 2027 and later agreed to meet in Fukuoka, Japan (Circular 026-2025 and Circular 031-2025).

Background: The timing and location of NPFC Commission and associated subsidiary body meetings are determined by Members. The requirement is outlined in the NPFC Convention:

Article 5.3 The Commission shall hold a regular meeting at least once every two years at a time and location to be decided by the Commission and may hold such other meetings as may be necessary to carry out its functions under this Convention.

The current approach, based on the COM08 decision, is that the Secretariat organize COM meetings in a location other than Tokyo using resources allocated by Members if no Member agrees to host the meetings.

A discussion on the use of the Working Capital Fund is being undertaken and options are presented in FAC08-WP05. The Working Capital Fund is the current source of funding for the related meeting costs and has implications for future budgets and the ongoing ability to host the in-person component of meetings.

In addition, in 2027 no Member has offered to host the SC11 (and related meetings) so it is currently anticipated that the Secretariat will organize this meeting with funding provided from the proposed budget. These costs have been identified in the proposed budget and a venue (Kobe) identified in order to secure a location for the duration needed.

Due to the duration of the SC meetings, it is requested, if possible, to discuss and decide on the dates for 2028, or for COM to provide direction to SC on preferences related to timing of SC and SSC/TWG discussions that rely in part on data availability. The alternative is to defer this to COM11.

The Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury is also planning in-person/hybrid meetings in 2026/2027. COM10 is also being asked by that SWG to consider their workplan and the funding has been identified in the proposed budget.

Appendix 1 provides a list of meetings planned for related RFMOs and organizations. The proposed timing for NPFC meetings in Appendix 2 takes into account public holidays such as Orthodox Christmas, Lunar New Year Spring festival and Easter, competing fisheries meetings as well as fisheries operations (notably Pacific saury). It is noted that for 2028, there is limited time available in January before the Lunar New Year and the dates in yellow reflect only the official public holiday and not the traditional additional vacation periods typically used during this time.

It must be noted that finding a meeting location that can provide meeting space for the duration of long meetings (when compared with typical meeting durations), and with access to effective WiFi, benefits from advance planning.

COM10 Decision:

1. COM12 dates (2028): Proposed dates are in April as for recent COM meetings.

TCC11: Tuesday to Friday, 4-7 April 2028

FAC10: Saturday 8 April 2028

COM12: Monday to Thursday 10-13 April 2028

2. COM12 location:

City	Facility	Room estimates (JPY)	Link
Hiroshima, Japan	International Conference Center Hiroshima	6,385,170	https://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/icch/index.html

3. SC11 dates (2027): as outlined in SC10 report, the proposed dates for SC and related SSC/TWG meetings are January 2027.
 - a. TWG CMSA13 11-14 January 2027
 - b. SSC BFME07 15-17 January 2027
 - c. SSC PS18 19-22 January 2027
 - d. SC11 23-26 January 2027
4. SC11 location is planned for Kobe, Japan.

5. SC12 dates (2028) (see Appendix 2 for summary): Proposed dates are in January based on COM interest in having most recent data available. A challenge is that there is limited time between major public holidays in January 2028. This is premised on SC12 being organized along with three other meetings now held in conjunction with SC itself.
 - a. TWG CMSA 10-13 January 2028 (Monday-Thursday)
 - b. SSC BFME 14-16 January 2028 (Friday-Sunday)
 - c. SSC PS 18-21 January 2028 (Tuesday-Friday)
 - d. SC12 22-25 January 2028 (Saturday-Tuesday)

6. SC12 location – none has been tentatively booked but locations being assessed include Niigata, Kanazawa, Shizuoka, and Hiroshima/Sendai (depending on the COM decision).

7. SWG MSE PS - no dates or locations have been determined but as a shorter meeting, there is greater ease to accommodate its planning. COM10 will make two decisions that provide Secretariat direction – adoption of the SWG MSE PS report and the proposed budget. These approvals will identify this as a Member priority with associated funding.

