



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2026-SR

Submitted by the Secretariat

Secretariat Report for 2025/2026 and Work Plan for 2026/2027

Abstract: This paper has been developed taking into account feedback from Members at COM09 to streamline the reporting and align the Workplan with the Report. Members are asked to consider both the content and also the structure of the report to determine if it is meeting their objectives.

Secretariat Report for 2025/2026 and Work Plan for 2026/2027

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Secretariat Report for 2025/2026 and Work Plan for 2026/2027

Abstract: This paper summarizes the activities of the NPFC Secretariat since COM09 (April 2025) to February 2026 and proposes a Secretariat work plan for the 2026 operational year. The paper is presented in a new format to implement the COM09 decision to allow for a more informative reporting process. In accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure, this report highlights the Commission's intersessional activities and work programs carried out during the 2025/2026 period.

Overview: For 2025 there were a few major milestones achieved:

- 1. Development and implementation of regional Transshipment Observer Program -**
This involved the Secretariat working with Members to define the specific requirements, seeking expressions of interest from contractors, identifying a candidate service provider, developing the contract specifications and working with them to develop the implementation approach. It is anticipated that the first observer will be deployed as of 3 April 2026, shortly after the mandated implementation of the TOP. In its first partial year of implementation, this will be a major commitment in 2026 to integrating the various transshipment components along with VMS.
- 2. Development of a prototype science database –** Making use of funds provided by the European Union, the Secretariat, working with Members and our database service provider, has developed a prototype science database to support ongoing stock assessment work. This work will be further developed in 2026 to allow for greater ease in use of the database and integration within the NPFC data warehouse. It will allow for standardized collection, management and use of data.
- 3. Denial of Service attack –** the Secretariat has experienced significant issues due to a seeming malicious denial of service (DNS) attack. This has caused recipient spam filters to treat email from the Secretariat as spam as well as posing challenges to sending of email to multiple recipients (e.g., Circulars). Similar to other RFMO (e.g., WCPFC) we are further deploying a mailing system that is designed to avoid email being seen as spam using industry standard technology. This technique is already deployed on the collaboration website and will likely be further developed in 2026 as the problem of spam email seems to be an ongoing issue.

Secretariat Report for 2025/2026

I. Coordination and support to the Scientific Committee (SC)

The Secretariat coordinated scientific activities and supported the SC in the implementation of its work plan and projects as follows:

a. Implementation of the Scientific Committee rolling Five-Year Research Plan and Work Plan for each Priority Area

The Secretariat assisted SC Chairs in delivering the tasks from SC09 to SC's subsidiary groups and tracking progress in addressing them. The Secretariat also assisted in organizing intersessional work to respond to COM09 taskings.

b. Implementation of the scientific projects conducted in 2025/2026

SC09 identified 12 scientific projects for 2025. Note that there is suggestion from SC10 that these be considered as core work and not be seen as individual projects. The Secretariat provided administrative and logistical support for the projects, coordinated selection and/or extension of invited experts.

c. Organizing informal virtual meetings to facilitate intersessional work and providing rapporteur services

Intersessional work plays an important role for facilitating SC work. In 2025, the SC and its SSCs maintained seven small working groups (SWG) to conduct specific technical analyses as directed by the SC workplan. These SWGs held 18 informal meetings coordinated by the Secretariat.

d. Organizing formal meetings of SC, SSCs and TWGs to finalize outputs, formalize recommendations and develop scientific advice

In 2025, the SC had four standing subsidiary groups: SSC BF-ME, SSC PS, SSC NFS and TWG CMSA. They held 7 formal meetings, including 4 hybrid and 3 virtual meetings. In 2026 it is anticipated that an additional SSC will be created and this will create scheduling, budgetary and workload pressures for Members and the Secretariat.

e. Providing infrastructure services for data collection, sharing and dissemination

In 2025, the most important development in this area of work was creation of a new database for scientific data. The European Union (EU) provided a voluntary contribution that supported the SWG Data in the development of the database. The Secretariat coordinated integration of the new database into the NPFC data management system, tracked progress and provided a report on the implementation of the project to the EU. The Secretariat also managed data shared by Members and updated data inventories. The Secretariat compiled catch and effort statistics, updated summary footprints and made them available to Members on the website. The Secretariat assisted SWG Observer Program in identifying science related data gaps which can be fulfilled by a regional observer program.

f. Liaising with TCC on issues of common interest

The Secretariat presented to TCC08 on the matters of common interest, in particular SC proposed revisions to CMMs on bottom fisheries and marine ecosystems and responses from SC to the TCC questions on an observer program. The Secretariat coordinated standardization of FAO 3-alpha species codes and vessel type nomenclature across SC and TCC databases to ensure data integrity of the NPFC data management system.

g. Secretariat initiatives

The Secretariat, in consultation with SC Chairs, came up with several initiatives to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the SC work.

Streamlined SC workflow: In response to the substantial increase of the SC workload and growing budgetary pressure, the Secretariat reviewed SC structure and workflow that have been developed over the past ten years, identified potential issues and proposed improvements to SC workflow for consideration by Members. SC10 reviewed the proposal, made amendments and endorsed the streamlined SC workflow.

Revised SC SWG Guidelines: In relation to the changes in the SC workflow, the Secretariat proposed revisions to the Guidelines for Scientific Committee's Small Working Groups. SC10 reviewed and endorsed the revised Guidelines.

SC meeting report format: Following up with feedback from SC Members, the Secretariat improved the readability of SC reports including adding a table of contents, re-organizing the report text and removing some annexes that are now available on the NPFC website.

New meeting schedule: The Secretariat developed options for a new meeting schedule of science meetings with the goal to reduce the time lag between data used in stock assessments and management actions in place. As a result, SC10 recommended to COM to move SC stock assessment meetings from December to January and hold data preparation meetings for PS and CM at the end of the year.

Scientific Activities and Projects: In consultation with the Chairs of SC and FAC, the Secretariat revised the format of scientific projects that SC annually submits to COM for endorsement. The new format separates core scientific activities (i.e. assessments of priority stocks and VMEs) from other projects.

II. Coordination and support to the joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury (SWG MSE PS)

The Secretariat supported the SWG MSE PS by coordinating its meeting schedule, organizing its meetings, posting meeting documents and formatting and circulating meeting reports. The Secretariat also assisted Members in selecting a new invited expert for the SWG MSE PS, arranging a contract with the selected expert and paying a consultancy fee. It is anticipated that the activity level in 2026 will be increased, including potentially 2 hybrid meetings prior to COM11.

III. Coordination and support to the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

The Secretariat coordinates compliance activities of the Commission including:

- a. *Support to TCC SWGs:* The Secretariat provided support to three TCC small working groups, organizing 15 online meetings throughout the intersession. Following are some of the areas in which the Secretariat compliance team (Compliance manager and Seconded) contributed to deliverables to support the TCC and improve the compliance monitoring program in NPFC.
- b. *Transshipment Observer Program:* The contract for the provision of observer services on carrier vessels operating in the Convention Area has been finalized and will take effect in April 2026. Following the signing of the contract on 2 December 2025, ongoing coordination with the Observer Service Provider supported the development of training materials, procurement of necessary equipment, and organization of training sessions to prepare 40 observers for deployment in April. In parallel, work continues with the NPFC web and database service provider to ensure that all systems are ready to integrate observer reports seamlessly into our data infrastructure.
- c. *Transshipment API:* In 2025, an application programming interface (API) data-transfer process was finalized to enable automated transmission of transshipment reports from a Member's server to the NPFC transshipment database. The Secretariat played a coordinating and testing role throughout the project, working with the database service provider and the Member to facilitate the implementation of the system, which was completed in August. This approach has shifted the transshipment reporting program from a situation in 2023 where approximately 40,000 report forms were being emailed to the Secretariat in PDF format for manual entry to today when 98% of forms are being automatically transferred via this API, significantly reducing administrative workload and improving data accuracy and timeliness.
- d. *MCS Program:* The Secretariat provides support to Members conducting MCS activities in the Convention Area in a number of ways, including organizing access to VMS data for surveillance missions, maintaining the inspection vessel registry, processing reports and tracking responses and correspondence. In 2025 a new page was added to the secure website for Members to allow Members to input results when potential non-compliance is detected through aerial surveillance (**as directed by TCC08**). These events are visualized on an interactive map and provided in a tabulated list, with full data export capabilities (CSV) for Member analysis. In 2025, the Secretariat also hosted an online HSBI workshop with Members with an inspection presence to review technical issues with the HSBI Events page and inform future updates.
- e. *Vessel Registry:* In 2025, several significant anomalies were identified in the vessel registry that were affecting the accuracy of data extraction and analysis. In response, a

project has been initiated to determine the root causes of these anomalies and to develop solutions to restore the integrity and reliability of the registry data.

- f. *Port State Measures:* The Secretariat has been supporting Members in making an informed decision on the implementation method for a potential CMM by researching existing electronic data-reporting and management systems, including those that could be adapted for NPFC use. This analysis will continue in anticipation of ongoing discussions in the Commission regarding possible approaches.

IV. Data management and security and Information technology

The NPFC Data Management System (DMS) supports the storage and analysis of scientific and compliance data to facilitate the Commission's decision-making process. The NPFC relational database is designed to provide a secure, user-friendly, accessible, and reliable platform for compiling information to meet the Commission's evolving needs. This section highlights the updates made to the DMS by the Secretariat working with Members since the COM09.

During the 2025–2026 period, significant progress in data management has occurred by releasing and upgrading various online systems. The key updates are as follows:

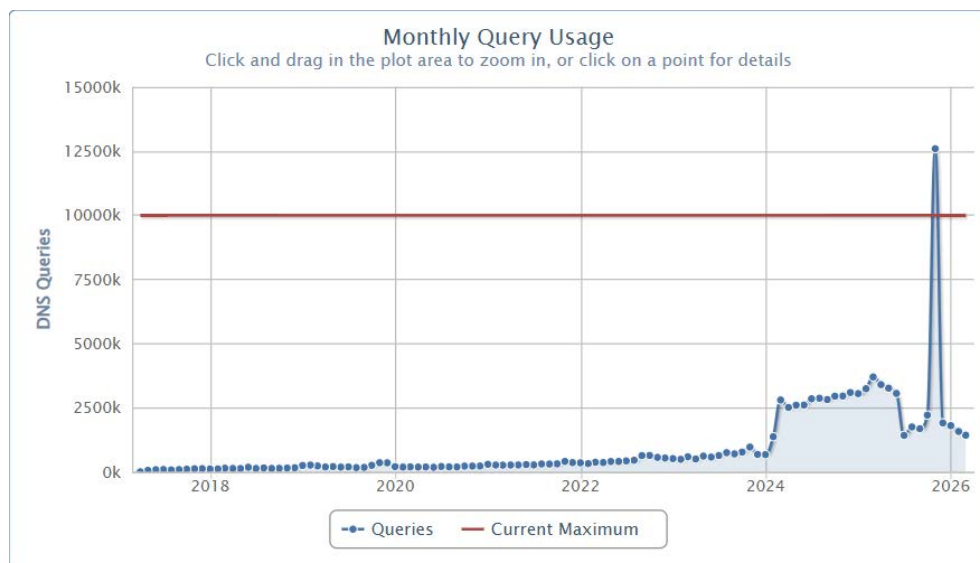
- a. *Website Updates:* Regular maintenance and updates are made to the NPFC website. These efforts aim to enhance public transparency and ensure Members have seamless access to the essential digital tools required for Commission operations.
- b. *Member Account Management:* The Secretariat has updated the NPFC Contact List interface by integrating it with the upgraded Member Account Management System. This update introduces enhanced search filters and a self-service administrative environment, enabling Group Administrators to manage and update user roles within their respective groups directly. The Secretariat remains committed to further optimization and welcomes Member feedback to guide future enhancements.
- c. *Member Reporting Dashboard:* The Secretariat has recently launched an NPFC Reporting Dashboard to streamline Members' submission procedure and tracking records. The dashboard displays tailored requirements for each Member, highlighting pending requirements and confirming completed ones with specific dates. This provides Members with real-time visibility into their reporting status and outstanding obligations. The dashboard can also be configured to track other obligations triggered by specific events, such as VMS data deletion following completion of MCS activities in the Convention Area.
- d. *Annual Reporting System:* The Secretariat successfully received annual reports from most Members through the e-Annual Reporting System. To ensure full participation, the Secretariat provided tailored technical guidance and training to Members, facilitating their

successful submission. Moving forward, the Secretariat will continuously update the system to align with newly adopted Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and develop the Implementation Questionnaires as a web-based tool as well.

e. *Transition to Microsoft 365* - With the Secretariat's successful transition to Microsoft 365, the organization can now fully leverage the Microsoft Teams environment to enhance internal and external collaboration. This includes streamlined document management and secure real-time sharing through SharePoint Online, significantly improving operational efficiency.

f. *NPFC Email Delivery and Domain Reputation Issue*

- **The Issue:** Since November 2025, the Secretariat's domain (npfc.int) has faced persistent email delivery problems. Many official emails have been incorrectly flagged as spam or held in quarantine by major providers like Microsoft 365 and Google.
- **The Cause:** This situation was triggered by an unusual surge in external DNS traffic toward our domain in late 2025, coinciding with a significant increase in the sensitivity of security filters implemented by major service providers like Microsoft and Google. These automated systems temporarily adjusted the "trust rating" of our domain as a defensive measure. It is important to clarify that this is a global filtering issue and not a breach of the NPFC internal network or security.
- **Current Status & Solution:** The Secretariat has updated the domain's security authentication protocols (SPF and DMARC) to the latest industry standards. Additionally, Members' domains have been added to our Tenant Allow List to ensure reliable communication. The Secretariat will continue to monitor delivery rates and coordinate with major service providers to maintain a high trust rating for the npfc.int domain.



V. Finance and Administration

Some aspects to highlight are the ongoing implementation of effective oversight of the financial resources of the Commission, providing administrative support through engaged staff, and coordinating corporate activities such as communication to Members via Circulars, and collating Member perspectives such as for the NPFC Performance Review.

Provision of financial services

- a. The Secretariat continues to develop its ability to manage the financial resources using professional accounting software (QuickBooks). All funds received are tracked and managed in separate funds depending on their purpose. The most significant update in 2025 was the development and implementation of the Transshipment Observer Program and its related funding considerations. Currently all of these funds are held in and expended in USD.
- b. Time was spent working with the FAC Chair on range of FAC related issues including the FAC Chair’s process for staff pay, development of options related to the Working Capital Fund, and consideration of updates to the Financial Regulations.

Provision of administrative services

- a. An ongoing and expanding activity is supporting the range of hybrid meetings that are occurring. As well, the number of virtual meetings is also increasing.
- b. The Secretariat integrated data from Members into a spreadsheet for the NPFC performance review and this is attached as an excel spreadsheet. During this iterative process with Members, a heat map was developed to provide an overview. Details are provided in NPFC-2026-COM10-IP09. Some areas for ongoing consideration are identified.

Italics indicates a new proposed priority for an issue that has been modified from the existing priority identified with strikethrough

Priority ↑	LOW	<i>7.3.2</i>		5.2.7		<i>5.2.9</i> <i>7.4.1</i> <i>8.1.3</i> <i>8.2.1</i>	COMPLETE Issue has been satisfactorily addressed.	FURTHER CONSIDERATION NEEDED Additional guidance needed from Members
	MEDIUM	4.2.3 5.2.3 <i>5.2.4</i> <i>5.2.11</i> 7.1.1	<i>7.2.1</i> <i>7.3.1</i> 7.3.2 7.4.1 <i>8.1.1</i>	3.1.4 3.1.6 3.1.7 <i>3.4.5</i> <i>4.3.1</i> 4.5.1 <i>5.2.7</i>	<i>5.2.8</i> 5.2.10 <i>5.2.12</i> 5.3.1 <i>7.1.1</i> <i>8.1.4</i> 8.2.1	<i>3.4.1</i> 3.4.2 4.1.4 4.4.1 5.2.5 5.2.12 5.5.1	ONGOING Issue has been satisfactorily addressed and work is ongoing	
	HIGH	3.1.1 3.1.2 <i>3.1.3</i> <i>3.1.5</i> 3.1.8 <i>3.2.1</i> <i>3.2.2</i> 3.2.3 <i>3.3.1</i> 3.4.3 <i>4.1.1</i>	4.1.2 4.2.2 4.2.5 4.2.6 4.2.7 4.3.1 <i>4.5.1</i> 4.5.4 <i>4.5.5</i> 5.2.2 <i>5.2.6</i>	<i>5.3.2</i> <i>5.3.3</i> <i>5.4.1</i> 6.1.1 <i>7.2.2</i> <i>7.2.3</i> 7.3.1 <i>7.5.1</i> <i>7.5.2</i> 8.1.2 8.1.3 <i>8.2.2</i>	3.1.5 3.4.1 3.4.2 <i>3.4.3</i> 3.4.4 4.1.1 4.2.1	4.2.4 4.5.2 4.5.3 <i>5.2.1</i> <i>5.2.5</i> <i>5.2.10</i> 5.4.1	4.1.3 4.4.1	IN PROGRESS Work is underway to advance the issue
	Time frame →	SHORT		MEDIUM		LONG		

Management of human resources

- a. The contract for the Data Coordinator was renewed.
- b. Planning was undertaken to repatriate the current Compliance Manager to their home country and a process was undertaken to recruit a new Compliance Manager. This individual will start in June 2026 and overlap for two weeks with the incumbent.

VI. Cooperation and outreach

The Secretariat currently liaises with other organizations including RFMOs by attending their meetings for information sharing and for developing other joint or reciprocal activities of mutual interest as well as specific outreach:

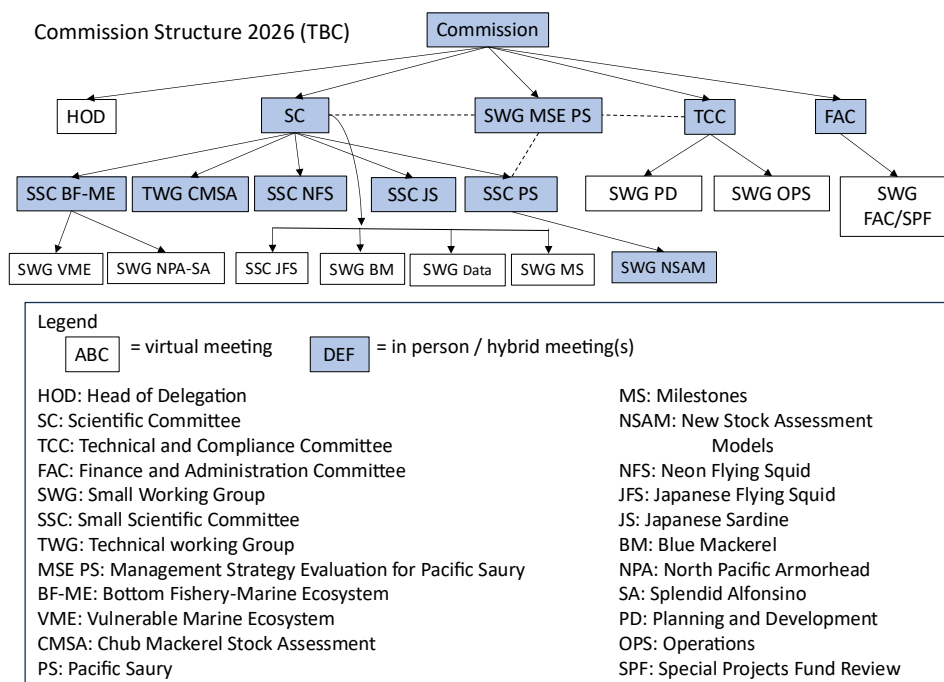
- a. Outreach was undertaken throughout the year with the IATTC to develop draft language for an MOU based on direction from COM09. Revised text is provided to COM10.
- b. In May 2025 the Executive Secretary attended the NPAFC Annual Meeting, the open component of the Committee on Enforcement (ENFO) and the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics. Meetings with the Secretariat allowed for discussion of joint interests including the MOC and joint workplan.
- c. In June 2025 the Secretariat hosted a joint meeting of the Tuna Compliance Network and the Pan Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (TCN/PPFCN) at the NPFC office in Tokyo. This meeting brought together the compliance managers from around the Pacific and all the tuna RFMOs to discuss areas of common concern and identified a number of areas for potential collaboration, such as data sharing arrangements for transshipments, development of electronic monitoring standards, and development of the Combined Vessel Registry.
- d. In November the Secretariat (ES and SM) attended the PICES annual meeting in Yokohama, Japan in November 2025, presented an update on NPFC-PICES joint activities at the Science Board meeting and took part in business meetings of the Fishery Science Committee, Biological Oceanography Committee and Governing Council in accordance with the NPFC-PICES Framework for Enhanced Scientific Collaboration in the North Pacific.
- e. The Secretariat continued to cooperate with the FAO's Deep-sea fisheries project, including hosting a joint NPFC-FAO workshop on science-based management options available for operationalizing the precautionary approach (Nagoya, Japan), participating in the FAO workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, contributing to data-limited stock assessments methods development, reviewing the report on climate change impacts on BF stocks and developing a shark ID guide.

- f. In March 2026 the FAO Deep Sea Fisheries Project Steering Committee met at the Secretariat office. This meeting helped shape the final stage of the project and also identified approaches to consider for a potential next phase. NPFC is one of the partner organizations with commitment of an in-kind contribution to the project
- g. The Secretariat provided updated fisheries inventories and marine resources inventories to the FAO FIRMS in accordance with the Partnership Arrangement between NPFC and FIRMS.
- h. The Secretariat liaised with Basin-Scale Events & Coastal Impacts (BECI) to support the implementation of the NPFC Resolution on Climate Change.
- i. A draft Memorandum of Cooperation is being reviewed by the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology to support exchanges with staff and students as well as administrative engagement.
- j. Regular communication occurs with comparable RFMO to exchange best practices (e.g., WCPFC, SPRFMO).

Secretariat Work Plan for 2026/2027

The function of the NPFC Secretariat is the provision of services to, and representation of, the Commission as determined by its Members in accordance with the Convention and relevant rules and regulations. As identified by the Secretariat and shared with Members, six key areas highlighted below provide the Secretariat and the Commission guidance with regard to the Commission’s activities in 2026/2027 operational year. The structure of Commission related entities is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Commission related entities supported by the Secretariat



Some key aspects for 2026 will carry over from 2025 as priority areas of focus on incremental activities. The implementation of the Transshipment Observer Program will coincide with the next fiscal year and the period between COM10 and COM11. This will occur as we transition to a new Compliance Manager. The development and implementation of the science database will conclude and thus should be fully operational in support of the range of stock assessment processes underway by COM11. The Secretariat will also be more engaged in the logistical arrangements for science meetings as no Member has identified an interest in hosting SC11. This requirement is also reflected in COM10-WP11. The SWG MSE PS is also expected to be more active in 2026 and draw upon Secretariat resources more significantly than in the past. The Secretariat will be supporting Members through further development of its website/database in general as well as considering means to employ artificial intelligence in the work of the Commission while

respecting confidentiality requirements. The NPFC performance review process will continue to be updated and circulated to Members periodically as outlined at COM09.

I. Coordination and support to the Scientific Committee (SC)

The Secretariat will coordinate scientific activities and support the SC in the implementation of its work plan and projects. A key aspect will be the further development of the SC database and have it more easily accessible and integrated within the NPFC data warehouse. This will benefit from an anticipated voluntary contribution from the European Union. Other areas of focus include:

- a. *Implementation of the Scientific Committee rolling Five-Year Research Plan and Work Plan for each Priority Area*
 - *Stock assessments for target fisheries and bycatch species*
 - *Ecosystem approach to fisheries management*
 - *Data collection, management, and security*
 - *Climate change impact*
- b. *Implementation of the scientific projects to be conducted in 2026/2027*
- c. *Organizing informal virtual meetings to facilitate intersessional work and providing rapporteur services*
- d. *Organizing formal meetings of SC, SSCs and TWGs to finalize outputs, formalize recommendations and develop scientific advice, including optimizing SC meeting schedule*
- e. *Providing infrastructure services for data collection, sharing and dissemination, including SC data call*
 - *Continuing developing SC database for scientific data, including documentation and transparency, visualization and reporting, system integration, traceability and version control and accessibility enhancements*
 - *Developing/updating data collection standards and data provision templates*
 - *Developing/updating data sharing and security policies*
- f. *Conducting data analyses: NPA monitoring survey, PS weekly catch, annual catch and effort trends for NPFC priority species, etc.*
- g. *Liaising with TCC on issues of common interest*
- h. *Secretariat initiatives: user-friendly webpages with key documents by SC expert group, tables of activities and timelines of SC expert groups, other initiatives developed in consultation with SC Chairs*

II. Coordination and support to the joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury (SWG MSE PS)

It is anticipated that the SWG MSE PS will be active in 2026 and potentially seek to have two hybrid meetings before COM11 in order to advance its work. Some expected elements are:

- a. Organizing joint SC-TCC-COM SWG MSE PS meetings to develop an MSE for Pacific saury: 1-2 meetings per year
- b. Assisting Members in selection, contracting and managing an invited expert
- c. Supporting SWG MSE PS's intersessional activities including informal virtual meetings and liaison with SSC PS

III. Coordination and support to the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

The Secretariat will continue to support the TCC by providing administrative support (agendas, meeting notes, Webex) for TCC's Small Working Groups and will advance ongoing initiatives and launch some new projects to improve compliance monitoring and reporting in 2026. Key elements include:

- a. *Transshipment Observer program - With the implementation of the Transshipment Observer program in April, the Secretariat will be providing support in a variety of ways, such as reviewing and processing invoices, maintaining the list of authorized observers, acting as liaison and providing advice on technical matters. The contract requires a review after the first year of operation and the Secretariat will ensure that Members are updated throughout the year on the program's progress.*
- b. *MCS program - an ongoing project to update the NPFC website with a new "MCS" page will be completed in the coming year and should provide MCS practitioners with a more efficient and secure space to locate supporting materials.*
- c. *Vessel Registry - the Vessel Registry project will be completed in 2026 to identify and correct outstanding issues that are impacting the integrity of the data (inconsistent use of vessel and gear codes and systemic issues that are generating multiple authorizations).*
- d. *Port Inspection – the Secretariat will continue to support Members work on considering a CMM for port inspection including options and related costings to allow for implementation of an electronic data reporting and management system in a timely and efficient manner.*

IV. Data management and security and Information Technology

The data management system supports the storing and analysis of scientific and compliance data for the Commission's decision-making process. The NPFC relational database is designed to provide a secure, user-friendly, accessible, and reliable platform for compiling information to meet the Commission's scientific and compliance needs. The database is structured to integrate all data modules within the Commission, ensuring a streamlined, efficient decision-making process for Members. In addition, enhancing the efficiency of electronic services provided by the Secretariat to Members and other stakeholders is a key priority. To this end, the Secretariat is

continuously working on database improvements and will undertake several initiatives to further develop the Commission's data management system, including:

- a. *Annual Report Template - The need for changes to the annual report template has been identified by multiple Members as they struggle to complete the electronic template each year. With the introduction of the annual questionnaire in 2025—currently collected through an Excel spreadsheet—it is hoped that a joint project to update the annual reporting template and transition this questionnaire to an online reporting portal will make the entire process more efficient, user-friendly, and streamlined*
- b. *The Secretariat will continue to find ways to render our email system more trustworthy and avoid being considered as spam.*
- c. *The Secretariat will evaluate ways to make use of artificial intelligence in delivering projects. This assessment will take into account the need to manage confidential aspects of our work. The Secretariat plans to further advance the development of email SendGrid solution to Spam*
- d. *The transition to a new Compliance Manager will allow for a review of compliance related processes but also the functioning of the data warehouse more generally.*
- e. *Support to the science and compliance programs in delivering their data intensive work including ensuring maintenance and updates are made in a timely way to our data infrastructure.*

V. Finance and Administration

Ongoing implementation of effective oversight of the financial resources of the Commission, providing administrative support through engaged staff, and coordinating corporate activities such as communication to Members via Circulars, and collating Member perspectives such as for the NPFC Performance Review.

Provision of financial services

- a. Maintaining effective oversight of an increasingly complex financial system with multiple funds, significant new programs (i.e., TOP) and more expansive Commission work program (e.g., additional stock assessment processes) is key and is a major focus for the ES and EA.

Provision of administrative services

- a. The Secretariat will provide logistical support to the Commission and subsidiary bodies. This includes a more intensive schedule for the SSC meetings, SWG MSE PS and SC11.
- b. The Secretariat will continue to track the implementation of the 2022 NPFC Performance Review using the existing approach of outreach via Circulars on a more regular basis.

Management of human resources

- a. Ensuring effective repatriation of existing and transition of the new Compliance Manager will be a key activity including knowledge transfer and ensuring ongoing implementation of ongoing projects.

VI. Cooperation with other organizations

The Secretariat currently liaises with other organizations including RFMOs by attending their meetings for information sharing and for developing other joint or reciprocal activities of mutual interest. In 2025/2026, the meetings scheduled to be represented by Secretariat staff are as follows:

Meeting	Date and place	Purpose	Expected outcomes
ICES Workshop on the Development of Methodologies based on life-history traits, exploitation characteristics, and other relevant parameters for deep-sea data-limited stocks	20-24 April 2026 NPFC Secretariat office	Range of pelagic species will be considered. Secretariat is providing meeting space.	NPFC Members will attend and have ability to discuss species of interest and access range of relevant technical expertise.
33rd NPAFC Annual Meeting	11-15 May 2026 Vancouver, Canada	Secretariat to virtually attend workshops on the margins of the annual meeting of NPAFC	Facilitation of cooperation with NPAFC based on the work plan to be agreed by both Commissions to implement MOC established in 2019
FAO RSN and COFI	4-5 and 11 September 7-11 September 2026	Ability to meet with other RFMO Secretariats and discuss shared issues and priorities. Secretariat to attend and understand roles for Secretariats in supporting Members objectives.	Global recommendations and policy advice to governments, other regional fishery bodies, civil society organizations, and actors from the private sector and international community

PICES Annual meeting	November 2026, Nanaimo, Canada	Secretariat to attend annual meeting of PICES and intersessional meetings of its committees and working groups (virtually or in-person)	Enhancing scientific cooperation between NPFC and PICES as specified in the Framework for cooperation, including such key areas as Stock assessment support, VMEs and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.
PPFCN	31 July – 1 August, Bali	The Pan Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (PPFCN) will meet immediately prior to the GFETW in Bali	The PPFCN was established in 2020 to promote communication and cooperation between the RFMOs that have overlapping waters in the Pacific Ocean region. The PPFCN is an informal forum to share information about MCS processes and compliance best practice.
GFETW 8	3-7 August, Bali, Indonesia	Secretariat to attend the Global Fisheries Enforcement Workshop 8 (GFETW), hosted by IMCS Network, planned for 3-7 August, 2026 in Bali.	The GFETW is a biennial workshop that brings together the global fisheries community to discuss priority and emerging MCS challenges and opportunities to exchange information and share lessons learned.

Other cooperation with organizations includes:

- a. *PICES: PICES-ICES SPF Working Group, new PICES Working Group on Seamount Connectivity, guest editor for the special issue of the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences for the PICES SPF symposium*
- b. *NPAFC: discuss updates to five-year Work Plan to implement the NPAFC/NPFC Memorandum of Cooperation*
- c. *BECI: following up with the developments of the Basin Scale Events and Coastal Impacts (BECI) project*

- d. FAO DSF project: collaborative activities on climate change impact, data-limited stock assessment, shark ID guide, and ecosystem approach to fisheries management, hosting DSF project steering committee meeting*
- e. FAO FIRMS: providing stock and fisheries information in accordance with the partnership agreement*
- f. SPRFMO, ISC/WCPFC: participate virtually in meetings and implementation of MOUs*
- g. IMCS Network: continue to work with them on best practices and vessel registry – CRAVT*

Further representation will be determined at TCC, FAC and the Commission Meetings.

2) Enhancing public awareness

The Secretariat will enhance public awareness through various means:

- a. Finalize a cooperative mechanism with the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (the location of the NPFC Secretariat) to allow for increased engagement (e.g., lectures and outreach, education opportunities for TUMSAT students, administrative cooperation).
- b. If feasible, host small meetings in Secretariat offices with related organizations.
- c. Publish the NPFC Yearbook to entail activities of the Commission for 2025.
- d. Receive visitors from international organizations, local government, embassies, and universities