



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

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**Submitted by the Secretariat.**

## **NPFC 2025 Fisheries Overview**

### **Abstract:**

This report presents a summary of fishing catch and effort in the NPFC Convention Area and National Waters for all NPFC species, for 2025. Data for this report is drawn from Members' 2026 annual reports.



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## 2025 Fisheries Overview

### 1. Introduction:

This report provides a summary of fishing activities for 2025 as reported by Members, through the submission of annual reports. For a more detailed look at the NPFC's annual fishery reports, please visit the website at <https://www.npfc.int/statistics>.

In 2025, NPFC Members reported a total of 386 vessels actively operating in the Convention Area. A total catch of 528,125 MT of fish was reported from 39,772 fishing days. An additional 687,408 MT of NPFC species (straddling stocks) were reported as harvested in the National Waters of Japan and Russia in 2025. Details of 2025 catch and effort from National Waters are provided in Annex 1.

Tables 1 and 2 provide detailed information by Member on the 2025 catch and effort by species in the Convention Area. Active vessels, Fishing Days and Total Catch were taken from annual reports. All figures—except those for Sharks and Anadromous Species—are rounded to metric tons or one decimal place.

**Table 1. Active Vessels with Total Catch in 2025 in the Convention Area by Member**

	Active Vessels [Unique]	Fishing Days	Total Catch (MT)
<b>China</b>	179	32,359	381,524
<b>Japan</b>	98	3,170	30,193
<b>Korea</b>	6	413	5,937
<b>Russia</b>	23	358	45,886
<b>Chinese Taipei</b>	76	3,269	61,374
<b>Vanuatu</b>	4	203	3,211
<b>Total</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>39,772</b>	<b>528,125</b>

**Table 2. Total Catch (MT) by Species in 2025 in the Convention Area by Member**

	<b>Pacific Saury</b>	<b>Chub Mackerel</b>	<b>Japanese Sardine</b>	<b>Neon Flying Squid</b>	<b>Bottom Fisheries</b>	<b>Sharks and Anadromous Species</b>
<b>China</b>	30,523	43,229	295,315	12,457	-	Chum Salmon (1.015) Blue shark (1.05) Bigeye thresher (0.42)
<b>Japan</b>	21,970	-	-	5,747	2,476	Sharks nei (14.6) Chimera ns (2.1)
<b>Korea</b>	5,909	-	-	28	-	-
<b>Russia</b>	592	793	44,501	-	-	-
<b>Chinese Taipei</b>	61,292	-	-	82	-	-
<b>Vanuatu</b>	3,211	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,497</b>	<b>44,022</b>	<b>339,816</b>	<b>18,314</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>19.185</b>

## 2. Bottom Fisheries

The 2025 bottom fishery was conducted by 2 Japanese vessels over 314 days with a total catch of 2,476 MT. This compares to 2,096 MT harvested in 2024 over 304 days. Tables 3 presents the breakdown of species caught in the 2025 NPFC Bottom Fishery.

**Table 3. Catch of Bottom Fisheries by Species in 2025**

	<b>North Pacific armorhead</b>	<b>Splendid alfonsino</b>	<b>Mirror dory</b>	<b>Butterfish</b>	<b>Rockfishes</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Japan</b>	26.4	1,938.6	22.6	38.5	13.1	437.4

## 3. Pelagic Fisheries

In 2025, pelagic fisheries within the Convention Area totaled 525,649 MT of Chub mackerel, Pacific saury, Japanese sardines, Neon flying squid and Japanese flying Squid. For data from previous years, please refer to the Annual Footprint, where records from 2019 to the present are documented. <https://www.npfc.int/npfc-2020-ar-annual-summary-footprint>

### 3.1 Pacific saury

In 2025, Pacific saury catches in the NPFC Convention Area decreased from 2024, totaling 123,497 MT, down from 145,044 MT in the previous year. In 2025, 206 vessels fished over 8,298 days compared with 2024, when 222 vessels fished 11,576 days. An additional 42,995 MT was harvested in the National Waters of Japan and Russia. Further details are provided in Annex 1.

In 2025, a total allowable catch of 121,000 MT of Pacific saury was established for the Convention Area (135,000 MT in 2024). As per paragraph 13 of the CMM 2025-08, Japan and Russia indicated their intention to divert some of their domestic allocation inside their National Waters to the Convention Area; however, only Japan diverted 5,806.3 MT. Table 4 below outlines the utilization of Member catch limits and the TAC for 2025.

**Table 4. 2025 Catch Limit and TAC Utilization for Pacific saury**

	China	Japan	Korea	Russia	Chinese Taipei	Vanuatu	Total
<b>2025 Catch Limit<sup>1</sup></b>	31,175.9	16,166.4	9,341.6	2,456.6	62,260.8	3,703.9	125,105.2
<b>2025 Catch</b>	30,523.0	21,970.0	5,909.0	599.0	61,292.0	3,211.0	117,400.4
<b>Utilization of catch limit (%)</b>	97.9	135.9 <sup>2</sup>	63.3	24.4	98.4	86.7	94.1

### 3.2 Chub mackerel

Although vessels are registered separately for Chub mackerel and Blue mackerel, catches of both species are reported collectively as Chub mackerel in Members' Annual Reports. In 2025,

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<sup>1</sup> In 2025, catch reductions (from 2018 reported catch), as described in CMM 2025-08, were applied by Members as follows:

- Korea, Russia, and Vanuatu applied a 55% reduction (para.9)
- China, Japan and Chinese Taipei applied 65.5% as per para. 10 (c)

<sup>2</sup> Japan's diversion of 5,806.3 MT of Pacific saury from their domestic jurisdiction covered the CA quota overrun.

Chub mackerel catches in the Convention Area decreased by more than 59.7% from the previous year, with a total 2025 reported catch of 44,022 MT (73,799 MT in 2024). In 2025, 115 vessels fished over 24,034 days. This compares with 118 vessels that fished 19,063 days in 2024. Chub mackerel were also fished in the National Waters of Japan and Russia, where an additional 59,912 MT was harvested. Details of the Chub mackerel fishery in National Waters may be found in Annex 1.

At COM09, the overall TAC for Chub mackerel in the Convention Area was set at 66,740 MT with the purse seiner fleet restricted to 58,800 MT and the remaining 7,940 MT allocated for trawlers. Table 5 shows the reported 2025 catch against the catch limits for the fleet sectors as well as the overall TAC.

The fishing season for Chub mackerel is defined in paragraph 17 of the CMM 2025-07 as from 1 June to 31 May, therefore, the season that began on 1 June 2025 does not end until 31 May 2026. This means that it is possible that additional mackerel catches may be reported for the current season before it closes. This is unlikely, however, given the 2025 season did not begin until July 2025.

**Table 5 – Chub mackerel Catch Limit and TAC utilization (to March 2026)**

	<b>Trawl</b>			<b>Purse Seiners</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2025/6 Catch Limit</b>	7,940			58,800	66,740
<b>2025/6 Catch (MT)</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>Russia</b>	<b>EU</b>	<b>China</b>	
	1988.2	792.2	0	41,241.4	44,022
<b>Utilization of fleet catch limit and TAC (%)</b>	35.0%			70.1%	67.0%

### **3.3 Japanese sardine**

In 2025, the largest single-species harvested in the Convention Area was Japanese sardine, with a catch of 339,816 MT, accounting for more than 64.3% of all species caught in the Convention Area. The Japanese sardine was harvested by 115 vessels over 23,914 fishing days. This represents an increase from the 2024 catch of 290,610 MT by the same number of vessels, but over fewer days (115 vessels over 18,907 days). Japanese sardine was also fished

in the National Waters of Japan and Russia, where an additional 557,523 MT was harvested. Details are provided in Annex 1.

### **3.4 Squids: Neon Flying Squid and Japanese Flying Squid**

In 2025, the reported catch of Neon flying squid in the Convention Area was 18,314 MT, representing 94.9% of the 19,306 MT harvested in 2024. During this period, the number of active vessels decreased from 157 in 2024 to 109 in 2025, and total fishing days also declined from 10,353 to 6,916 days. Please note that the counts of active vessels across Western and Eastern fishing areas are combined and may not reflect unique vessels.

In addition, a total of 26,990 MT of Japanese flying squid was reported as caught in the National Waters of Japan and Russia. Further details are available in Annex 1.

### **3.5 Bycatch (Salmon, Sharks and Chimera)**

Small amounts of salmon, sharks and chimera were reported from the Convention Area in 2025 by China and Japan. China reported 1.015 MT of “Chum Salmon”, 1.05 MT of “Blue Shark” and 0.42 MT of “Bigeye thresher” while Japan reported 14.6 MT for “Sharks nei” and 2.1 MT for “Chimera ns”.

## **4. SUMMARY**

Total catches from the NPFC Convention Area in 2025 reached 528,125 MT, a slight decrease from the 2024 total of 530,855 MT. The number of active vessels also declined compared with 2024, and total fishing days decreased overall.

At the species level, reported 2025 catches of Pacific saury, Chub mackerel, and Squids all fell below 2024 harvest levels, accompanied by decreases in the number of active vessels. Fishing days likewise declined for Pacific saury and squids.

In 2025, the Chub mackerel fishery witnessed a sharp decline in catch over 2024, dropping by nearly 60% from the 2024 level with slightly fewer vessels but with almost 5,000 additional fishing days. However, the 2025 catch was consistent with the 2023 reported catch of 48,850 MT, which was fished over a similar number of days (23,735).

The only fishery to show an increase in catch in the Convention area from 2024 to 2025 was Japanese sardine. Although fewer vessels participated, the number of fishing days increased, resulting in a catch increase of almost 17% (from 290,610 MT in 2024 to 339,816 MT in 2025).

## Annex 1. Overview of 2025 Fisheries in National Waters

Annex 1 provides information on fisheries in National Waters reported by relevant Members in their annual reports. It shows reported fishery data from Japan and Russia, from their National Waters. Tables 6 and 7 show the active vessels and catches from pelagic fisheries in 2025.

**Table 6. Active vessels and Total Catch (MT) in 2025 in National Waters by Member**

	Active vessels	Fishing Days	Total Catch
<b>Japan</b>	183	7,939	665,636
<b>Russia</b>	37	302	21,785
<b>Total</b>	N/A	N/A	687,420

**Table 7. Total Catch (MT) by species in 2025 in National Waters by Member**

	Pacific Saury	Chub Mackerel	Japanese Sardine	Japanese Flying Squid
<b>Japan</b>	42,861	51,307	544,478	26,989
<b>Russia</b>	134	8,605	13,045	0
<b>Total</b>	42,995	59,912	557,523	26,989