



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2026-TCC-IP05

Submitted by the Secretariat

NPFC 2025 Transshipment Overview

Abstract:

This report provides a summary of transshipment activities in 2025 as reported by Members through the submission of annual reports and the data extracted from the online database to identify details about fish transshipment and other transfer activities in 2025.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Transshipment Statistics 2025
3. Other Transshipment Activities
4. Timing of Transshipment Events 2025
5. Spatial Distribution of Transshipment Activity in 2025
6. Observer Report
7. Force Majeure
8. Online Submission of Transshipment Reports
9. Summary

1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of transshipment activities in 2025 as reported by Members and extracted from the online database. During the 2025 transshipment season, reporting to the Secretariat underwent a major transition. Beginning in August, approximately 98% of reports were submitted through a new operational API, significantly improving the data-transfer process. A number of glitches and bugs had to be resolved during initial implementation, but most of these issues have now been addressed.

However, reports submitted prior to August—sent by email—required a separate processing solution. That solution was not fully implemented until mid-March 2026, which contributed to delays in finalizing the 2025 analysis. Looking ahead, the requirement for full electronic submission for transshipment reporting beginning 1 April 2026 is expected to streamline the workflow and support a more efficient and timely reporting process.

NPFC Members reported a total catch of 528,130 MT for 2025 in the NPFC Convention Area, which represents a slight decline from the 530,843 MT reported in 2024. Two thousand four hundred and seventy-seven (2,477) transshipments of fish products were reported for the same period totaling 383,699 MT, or 72.7% of the total 2025 harvest. This represents an almost 25% increase over the amount of fish transshipped in 2024 (306,503 MT in 2,082 events), when 57.8% of the fish harvested was transshipped. In addition, 2,902 OTA events were reported in 2025, also higher than the 2,513 events reported in 2024. The majority of transshipment events occurred within the Convention Area, with only a limited number (14) reported as having taken place in National Waters.

2. Transshipment Statistics 2025

Table 1 below identifies the number of transshipment events along with the number of unique offloading and receiving vessels involved, and the total volume of fish products transshipped by each Member in 2025. Please note that the transshipment volume was rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table 1. The number of transshipment events and unique vessels in 2025 by Member

	# of Events (Offloading / Receiving)	# of Unique Vessels (Offloading / Receiving)	Total Transshipped Amounts (MT)
China	2,398/ 2,431	164 / 43	350,577
Korea	31 / 0	5 / 0	4,970
Chinese Taipei	34 / 0	27 / 0	6,022
Vanuatu	0/ 32	0/ 1	0
Russia¹	14/14	4/9	22,131
Total	2,477/ 2,477	200 / 53	383,699

Table 2 below provides some details on the amounts of fish products transshipped in 2025 by Member. Unlike 2024, when just over 3 MT of OTHER species (Atlantic pomfret, Humboldt squid, Alaska pollock, and Pacific herring) were transshipped, the only species recorded in 2025 transshipment documents were the four species in Table 2.

¹ All Russian transshipment events were reported from National Waters

Table 2. Total transshipment by Species (MT) and Member in 2025

Member	Pacific saury	Chub mackerel	Japanese sardine	Neon flying squid
China	9,459	40,532	285,848	14,737
Korea	4,970	0	0	0
Chinese Taipei	6,022	0	0	0
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0
Russia	0	753	21,378	0
Total	20,451	41,285	307,226	14,737

Figure 1 represents the histogram of events showing the transshipment volumes per event. An average of 155 MT of fish product was transshipped per event in 2025(CA and NW), with the smallest amount transshipped being 6 MT and the largest volume being 2,960 MT in a single event.

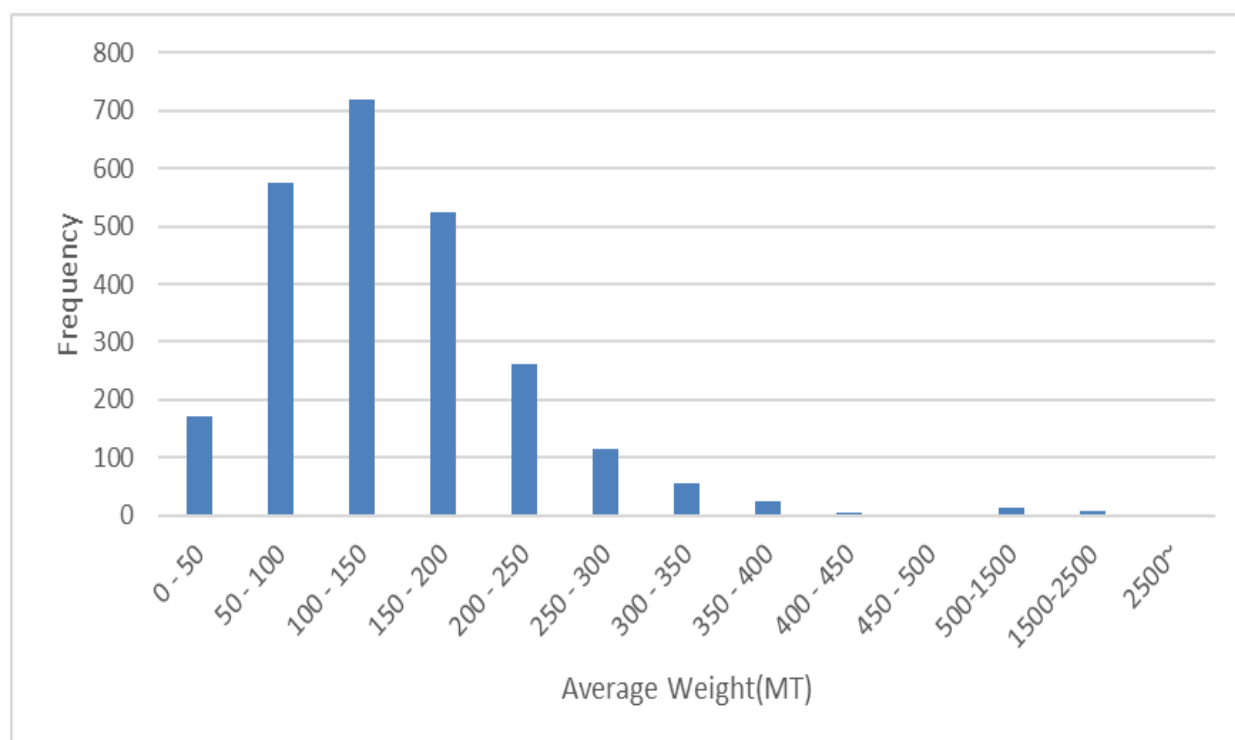


Figure 1. The transshipment weight per event

Ninety-nine percent of events in 2025 transshipped 500 MT of fish products or less. There were 23 events with volumes less than 500 MT, accounting for or less than 1% of the total events. Twenty-two of these were offloaded by trawlers, the other one was from a purse seiner. Transshipments occurring outside the Convention Area averaged nearly 1,581 MT per event, compared with an average of 147 MT per transshipment event inside the Convention Area in 2025.

In addition to notifications, amendments and declarations, almost 18,000 reports of cancelled events were received. A slight majority (9,305) reported the cancellation of fish transshipment events, while 8,456 related to OTA events. The reasons for these cancellations are not provided, so no detailed analysis is possible.

3. Other Transfer Activity

During the reporting period from January to December 2025, a total of 2,902 "Other Transfer Activities" (OTA) events—defined as the transfer of personnel or non-fishery products at sea—were documented. This represents an increase in the number of non-fish product transshipment events from 2024, when a total of 2,513 such events were reported. The increase in events compared to 2024, with 389 more non-fish transfers, continues an annual trend of more OTA than fish transshipment events.

4. Timing of Transshipment Events 2025

The attached chart illustrates the weekly breakdown of transshipment events involving fishery products and OTA events in 2025.

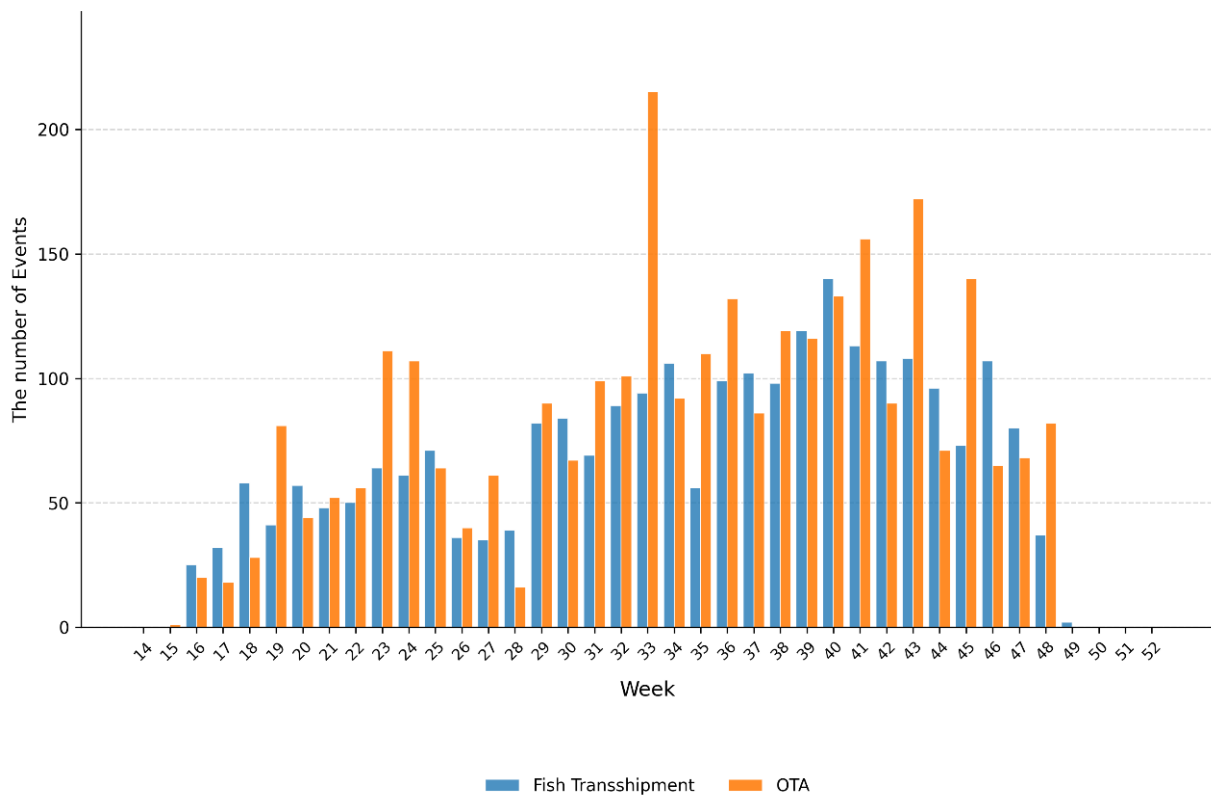


Figure 2. Weekly counts of Fish Transshipment and OTA Events in 2025

Figure 2 illustrates the counts of Transshipment and OTA events using a bar chart. Transshipment commenced in April, with the number of events increasing through Week 24. Although activity slowed from late June to early July (Weeks 26–28), it subsequently resumed an upward trend, with Fish Transshipment reaching a peak in early October (Week 40). While OTA events showed a similar fluctuation pattern, there were distinct differences, including a high count of OTA events in Week 33, as well as high activity sustained from October through early November (Weeks 41–45), resulting in a slightly delayed peak compared to Fish Transshipment. Nevertheless, the overall correlation remains high at 0.86 (0.88 when excluding Week 33), confirming that the progression in the counts of Fish Transshipment and OTA events is similar.

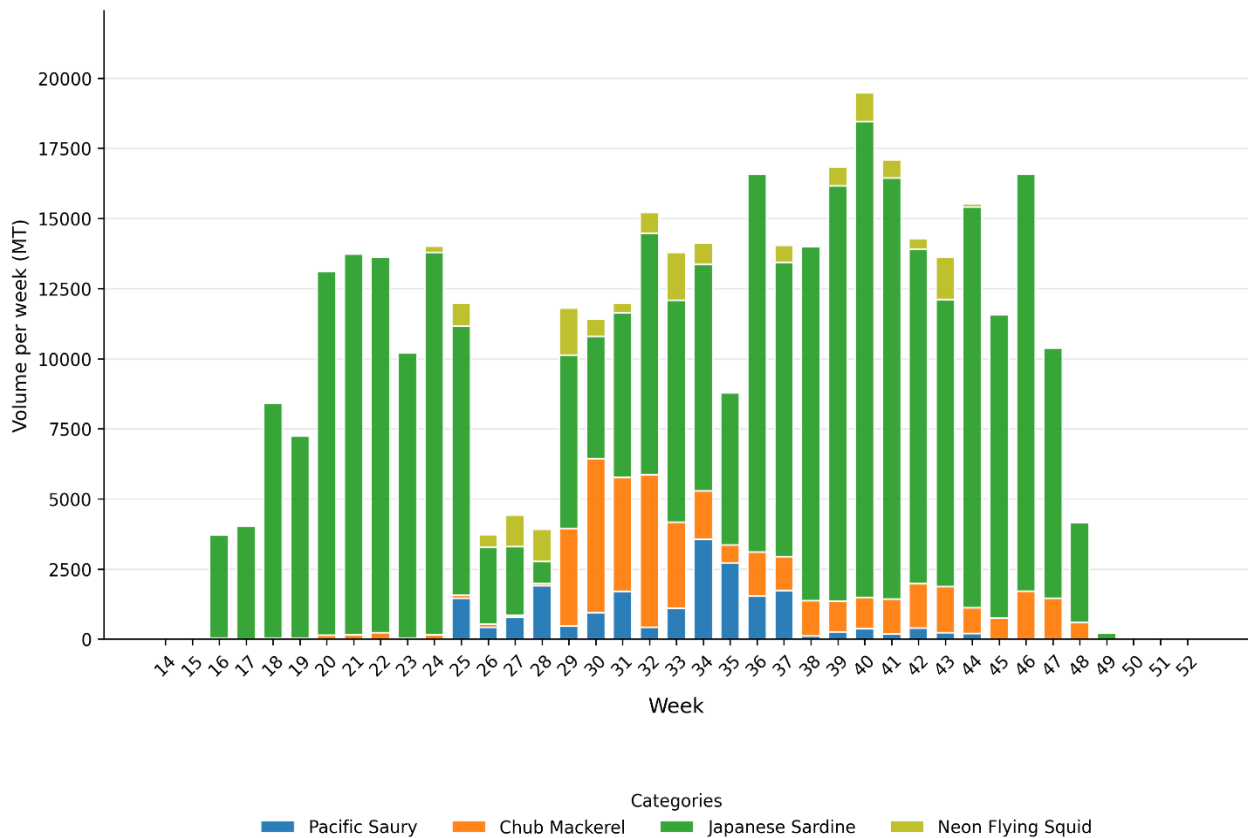


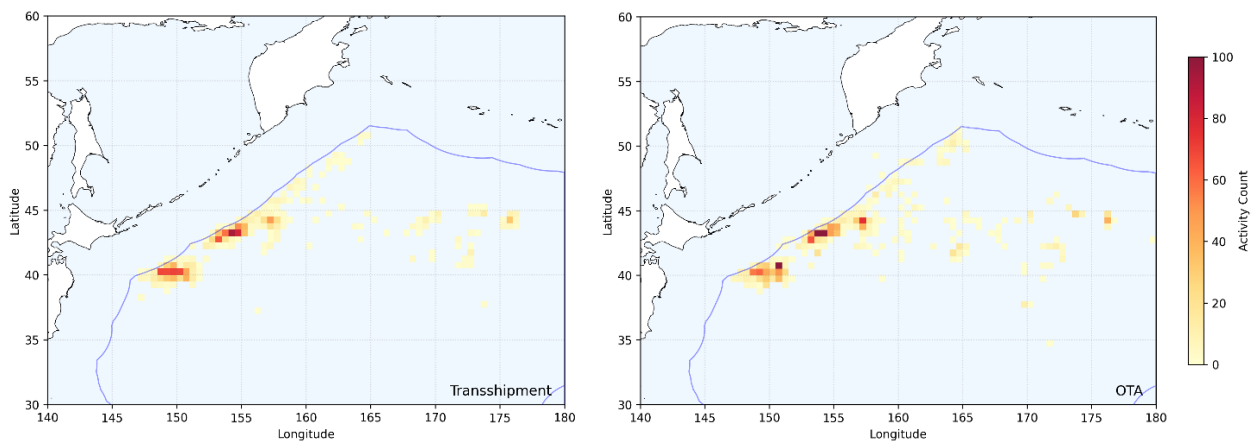
Figure 3. The volume of 2025 fishery products transshipped by species

Regarding the species-specific transshipment volumes, Japanese sardine accounted for the vast majority of the total weight transshipped throughout the entire reporting period. While minor reports of Chub mackerel were observed in Week 16, increasing volumes appear from mid-May (Week 20), with nearly half of the total weight (52%) for this species concentrated within the four-week window between late July and mid-August (Weeks 29–33). Pacific saury reporting commenced in mid-June (Week 25), showing consistent transshipment activity that reached a peak around Week 34 and persisted until early November (Week 44). While the volumes for Neon Flying Squid were relatively small, reports first appeared in mid-May (Week 20), with transshipment activities continuing through to early December (Week 48).

5. Spatial Distribution of Transshipment Activity in 2025

Figure 6 illustrates the spatial distribution of transshipment activity within the NPFC Convention Area in 2025, comparing transshipment of fishery products (left panel) with transshipment of OTAs (right panel). Both panels use a heat map to represent the frequency of transshipment events whose location was reported as “High Seas, In Convention Area”, with colors ranging from yellow (low frequency) to dark red (high frequency), as indicated by the scale on the right.

Figure 6. Spatial distributions of transshipment activity in 2025



The two maps show similarities in the spatial distribution of transshipment activities for fish products and OTA events. Both types of transshipment show two high concentrations in the western part of the Convention Area. One is the area enclosed by 43-44°N, and 153-155°E and another is near the position of 40°N and 150°E. While the first concentration was formed between August and September, the latter was primarily formed around October.

6. Observer reports

In accordance with paragraph 34 of CMM 2025-03, the observer is required to provide an

observer transshipment report within 10 days of disembarkation from the vessel. Currently, reports are received via the online system or email; however, as most are submitted in PDF format, the data has not yet been fully digitized. Consequently, instead of 100% verification, the Secretariat conducted a sampling check. The results of a manual review of 100 reports showed zero cases of suspected violations.

With the implementation of the CMM (2025-17) on the Transshipment Observer Program in April 2026, it is anticipated that observer reports, like other transshipment documents, will be input directly into the NPFC transshipment database. This will enable more expansive analyses of observer reported data in future.

7. Force Majeure

Paragraph 47 of the transshipment measure requires the Secretariat to inform the Commission of each force majeure incident:

47. The Secretariat shall inform the Commission of each incident of force majeure upon receiving notification from the fishing vessel, Commission Member, or Cooperating non-Contracting Party.

In 2025, NPFC Members reported 226 cases of force majeure events from April to November. All force majeure activities involved other transfer activities (OTAs), and no fish products were reported as transshipped during force majeure events. Of the 226 cases, more than half (167) reported force majeure because the vessel was under a severe mechanical failure or serious threat to human life, a further 55 because a crew member was requiring immediate medical attention, and in an additional two cases, both severe mechanical failure and a crew member requiring medical attention were checked as relevant. Other reported cases included one vessel sinking due

to a severe accident or extreme weather (requiring crew evacuation), and one instance of a crane failure was reported.

Figure 7 shows the monthly number of reported force majeure events in 2025. The events began in April, with the number of reports peaking in July and August. The figures then declined steadily through November.

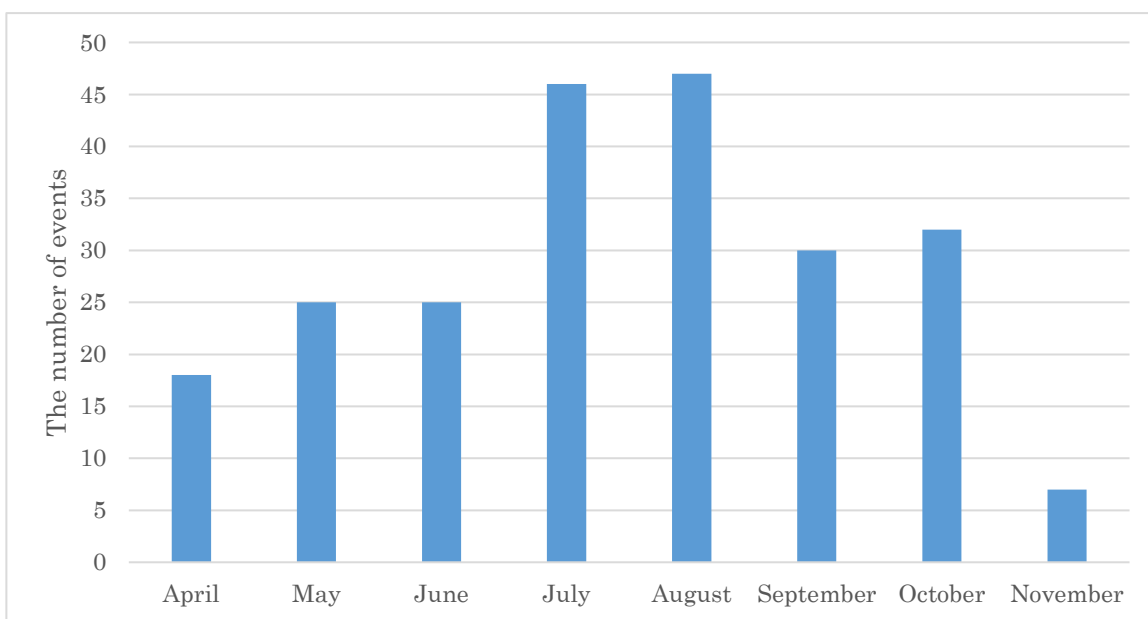


Figure 7. Force measure event per month

9. Online Submission of Transshipment Reports

An API to connect the NPFC transshipment database was completed in late 2024 and one Member completed their configuration to begin automated data transfer from 1 August 2025. Since that time, the data feed has been operating smoothly, with the only major problem encountered being the inclusion of force majeure events, which is expected to be addressed for the 2026 transshipment season.

Although the data transfer for events from August to December 2025 was relatively seamless, there were a number of problems and delays associated with the input of the data for the April to July period. Problems with the transfer of this backlog of data persisted throughout the fall and winter and have impacted the preparation of 2025 transshipment analysis. However, the transfer is now complete, and it is hoped that the new provision in paragraph 7 of the transshipment measure mandating the use of online reporting as of April 2026, will facilitate an enhanced environment for the 2026 transshipment analysis.

10. Summary

The number of transshipment events of fish products from the Convention Area in 2025 increased from 2024 with 2,477 reported in 2025 and 2,082 for the previous year. The volume of fish transshipped in 2025 (383,699 MT) also showed a corresponding increase over 2024 (306,503 MT). Although the overall catch in the Convention Area was down slightly in 2025, the percentage that was transshipped increased from 57.8% in 2024 to 72.7% in 2025, and the average amount of fish products transshipped per event increased from 147 MT in 2024 to 155 MT in 2025.

In 2025, there were 389 more OTA events (at 2,902) in the Convention Area than the previous year (2,513 in 2024). Fish transshipment and OTA events showed similar trends in both seasonal event counts and spatial distribution. Two hundred and twenty-two OTA events were reported in 2025 as Force Majeure activities.

No potential non-compliance issues were reported in 100 random samples of observer reports, and with the implementation of the transshipment observer program in April, it is expected that enhanced analysis will be available for the 2026 season.