



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2026-COM10-Draft Report

10th Commission Meeting REPORT

14–17 April 2026

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North Pacific Fisheries Commission
10th Commission Meeting

14–17 April 2026
Osaka, Japan

DRAFT REPORT

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1a. Welcome Address

1. The 10th Meeting of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) was held in a hybrid format, with participants attending in-person in Osaka, Japan, or online via WebEx, on 14–17 April 2026, and was attended by Members from Canada, China, the European Union (EU), Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, the United States of America (USA), and Vanuatu, and Panama as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP). The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), the Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network, the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), the Ocean Foundation, the Ocean Governance Institute (OGI), the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Greenpeace International attended as observers. The meeting was opened by Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan), who served as the Commission Chair.
2. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for organizing this series of meetings and welcomed the participants to Osaka again. The Chair noted the entry into force of the Agreement under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) in January 2026 and reiterated the importance of the NPFC adopting effective Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), particularly for bottom fishing. He also noted the progress the Commission has made by adopting interim harvest control rules (HCR) for Pacific saury, but noted that this year, the SC was unable to reach consensus on the Pacific saury stock assessment, and he emphasized the urgent need to develop a full Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process, including exceptional circumstance provisions. The Chair hoped that the Commission would be able to reach consensus on enhanced CMMs for the protection of other NPFC species as well. In addition, the Chair noted the adoption of the NPFC Transshipment Observer Program (TOP) in 2025, which, together with the NPFC Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI), should enhance the

NPFC's monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) capacity. Finally, the Chair requested Members' cooperation and flexibility and expressed his hope for a fruitful meeting. The Chair's full statement is attached as Annex A.

3. China made an opening statement. China pointed out the need, when considering the setting of catch limits, to take into consideration the extraordinary cooperation shown by the Chinese fishing industry, the heavy burden of high oil prices on fishing-related industries, and the need to take decisions based on science, including actual catch levels. China also noted the importance it places on NPFC's continued development and highlighted the extensive voluntary contributions it has made to that end. The full statement is attached as Annex B.
4. Japan made an opening statement. Japan emphasized the concerning signs in the Pacific saury, chub mackerel, and Japanese sardine stocks, the importance of these stocks to Japan as a coastal Member, and the need to ensure that NPFC measures do not undermine coastal Members' longstanding efforts to conserve NPFC stocks. The full statement is attached as Annex C.

1b. Appointment of Rapporteur

5. Mr. Alex Meyer was selected as rapporteur.

1c. Adoption of Agenda

6. The Commission adopted its agenda (Annex D). The List of Documents and List of Participants are attached (Annexes E, F).

1d. Meeting Arrangements

7. The Executive Secretary, Dr. Robert Day, outlined the meeting arrangements.

Agenda Item 2. Membership of the Commission

2a. Status of the Membership

8. The Republic of Korea, the Depositary of the NPFC, reported on the status of the Convention (NPFC-2026-COM10-IP01). Since the previous Commission meeting, the total number of Members remains at nine.

2b. CNCP applications

9. The Commission noted that no applications for CNCP status have been received.

Agenda Item 3. Report from the Secretariat

10. The Executive Secretary presented a summary of the Commission's intersessional activities and work programs carried out during the 2025/2026 period and the proposed Secretariat work

plan for the 2026 operational year (NPFC-2026-SR).

11. With regard to the ongoing work to develop a new database for scientific data, the Commission requested that the Secretariat consider how to ensure that the NPFC data management systems would be able to accommodate the data collection requirements under a new CMM for minimum standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data in NPFC, which the Commission is currently developing.

Agenda Item 4. Performance Review of the Commission – overview of progress

12. The Executive Secretary presented an update on the status of the implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations (NPFC-2026-COM10-IP09).
13. The Commission noted the ongoing work to address the recommendations from the Performance Review Panel and the progress made in the intersessional period. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to update the status of the implementation of the Performance Review Panel Recommendations based on the outcomes of this meeting. The Commission agreed to continue to review and provide updated input on the Performance Review Panel Recommendations through the intersessional process initiated in 2025–2026.

Agenda Item 5. Report of the 10th Scientific Committee meeting

5a. Review of the SC10 Report and response to COM09 taskings

14. After a brief introduction by the Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC), Dr. Janelle Curtis (Canada), the SC Vice-Chair, Dr. Jie Cao (China), presented a summary of the outcomes of the 10th SC meeting and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies (NPFC-2026-SC10-Final Report & NPFC-2026-COM10-IP12) on behalf of the SC Chair.
15. The SC Chair added some closing remarks. She expressed her confidence in the abilities of Dr. Cao, if endorsed as the new SC Chair. She also recommended that the Commission meet formally with the chairs of the SC subsidiary bodies and the SC heads of delegation during this and future Commission meetings to discuss potential tasks and activities. In the context of the BBNJ Agreement, the SC Chair noted room for biodiversity conservation, fisheries and potentially other activities on seamounts throughout the Convention Area and believed that the BBNJ Agreement provides a good incentive for the NPFC to start working on the application of spatial optimization to prioritize areas for biodiversity conservation and fisheries. Lastly, she noted that although the collection of more data through a regional observer program (ROP) would strengthen the SC's stock assessments, the SC has limited capacity to provide more input on ROP design given its many other responsibilities.
16. The Commission thanked the SC Chair for her great dedication over her three terms.

17. The Commission considered the request for clarity on whether the SC can provide “advice” while capturing the majority and minority views of Members consistent with Article 10 (3) of the NPFC Convention. Some Members believed that the SC could provide “advice” while capturing the majority and minority views, as provided for under the Convention and the Rules of Procedure. Other Members believed that the SC could not provide “advice” without consensus and could only capture the majority and minority views. The Commission noted that nevertheless, the Commission is to make decisions based on the discussions of the SC and it can take into account majority and minority views as part of that.
18. The Commission considered the request for guidance from the SC on making catch and effort data publicly available. The Commission agreed to make the information in the Annual Summary Footprint publicly available subject to the provisions of the NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol.

5b. Adoption of revised SC Terms of Reference

19. The Commission reviewed the proposed revisions to the SC Terms of Reference (SC10 report, Annex N). The Commission adopted the revised SC Terms of Reference (Annex X).

5c. Selection of SC Chair and Vice-Chair

20. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the SC to select Dr. Jie Cao (China) to serve as the SC Chair.
21. Canada nominated Dr. Mackenzie Mazur for the position of SC Vice-Chair. The Commission agreed to select Dr. Mazur (Canada) to serve as the SC Vice-Chair.

5d. Adoption of the SC10 Report and Recommendations

22. The Commission considered the recommendation from the SC to develop a general framework for the application of the precautionary approach and conduct this work through a small working group that is established under the Commission, is composed of managers and scientists, and is led by managers. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of implementing the precautionary approach but believed that it should be applied on a case-by-case basis. The Commission had reservations about establishing the proposed small working group, noting the added burden of establishing another small working group and the tendency for discussions on this topic to be largely conceptual and unlikely to produce many practical outcomes.
23. The SC Chair clarified that the SC has tasked its subsidiary bodies that do not have stock assessments in place to provide science-based options for operationalizing the precautionary

approach and the scientific rationales behind those options.

24. The Commission adopted the report and the recommendations of SC10 (Annex X).

Agenda Item 6. Report of the 9th Technical and Compliance Committee meeting

6a. Review of TCC09 Report and response to COM09 taskings

25. The Chair of the TCC, Ms. Alisha Falberg (USA), summarized the outcomes of the 9th TCC meeting (NPFC-2026-TCC09-Final Report) for discussion by the Commission.

26. The Commission considered the request from the TCC for guidance on the appropriate procedure to follow when there is a lack of consensus at the TCC on whether or not to include a vessel on the Provisional IUU Vessel List. Some Members pointed out that paragraph 16 of CMM 2024-02 states the TCC shall “adopt” a Provisional IUU Vessel List and were of the view that adoption requires consensus. They believed, therefore, that a vessel cannot be included on the Provisional IUU Vessel List unless there is consensus to do so. Other Members were of the view that because this is a “provisional” list, it is less formal in nature and consensus is not needed for its adoption. They believed that a vessel could be included on the Provisional IUU Vessel List even if there is no consensus, provided the majority and minority views are captured, as stipulated in Article 11, paragraph 3 of the Convention. The Commission noted that there was no consensus interpretation among Members but that a solution could potentially be found by amending the language of the CMM and held further discussions on this matter under agenda item 8.

27. The Commission considered the request for guidance from the TCC regarding the treatment of climate change as a standing agenda item. The Commission noted the importance of discussions on climate change, while acknowledging that no papers have been submitted to the two most recent TCC meetings and that no discussions have taken place. The Commission agreed that climate change should be maintained as a standalone agenda item on an as needed basis, rather than as a standing agenda item. The Commission agreed that if climate change-related discussions and developments have occurred at the Commission or its subsidiary bodies, the Secretariat should prepare a paper with a summary thereof and submit it to the TCC for its discussions.

6b. Adoption of IUU Vessel List for 2026

28. The Commission reviewed the Provisional IUU Vessel List provided to COM10 by TCC09, which contained one Chinese vessel and one Russian vessel. The Commission noted that there had been a lack of consensus at TCC on the inclusion of the Russian vessel on the list.

29. Regarding the Chinese vessel on the Provisional IUU Vessel List, China expressed its

commitment that when a purse seine fishing vessel encounters a mixed catch of Japanese sardine and small chub mackerel, the fishing vessel will be required to conduct random sampling at least from 4 plates (later to be 4 bags) for each haul and acquire the best estimation of the mixture rate of each species. Based on the above sampling, catch amount for each species shall be recorded on its logbook on a daily basis, along with the estimated average mixture rate for chub mackerel, the total number of these mixture bags of the day. Sampled mixture bags are required to be clearly marked together with the date of catch. The fishing vessel shall ensure the consistency of data among its electronic logbook, paper logbook and transshipment reports. In the course of HSBI, upon request by inspectors, the fishing vessel is required to facilitate the inspection of these mixture bags on board. At the landing site, the Chinese authority will continue to strengthen the conducting of random landing inspections/samplings to assess the accuracy of the estimation by its fishing vessels of species mixing rates for these mixtures bags.

30. The Commission was satisfied with the commitment expressed by China and agreed not to include the vessel on the final IUU Vessel List. The Commission requested China to report at TCC10 on its follow-up actions to implement the above commitment, as well as the commitments it expressed under paragraphs 49–50 of the COM09 Report.
31. Canada highlighted its concerns regarding the Russian vessel on the Provisional IUU Vessel List. Canada pointed out that it had identified several very concerning violations through an HSBI event, specifically unrecorded incidental catch and bycatch, varying responses from Russia that indicated that the e-log system was not able to record bycatch, and the lack of bycatch reporting. China noted that Russia had indicated some of the incidental catch on board was taken outside the Convention Area but there was no reporting to document that. Canada also noted that this matter helped identify opportunities for further enhancing the NPFC's CMMs, including reporting onboard catch upon entry into the Convention Area, ensuring e-log systems on Members' vessels are set up to meet NPFC CMMs, and additional work to ensure Members understand the requirements around ensuring that mobile transmitting units (MTUs) are tamper-proof.
32. Russia pointed out that it has presented detailed materials on each identified violation, thoroughly investigated each case, and provided comprehensive explanations on them. Russia believed that it had been as constructive as possible, including in informal consultations with Canada and the USA. Russia explained that during its detailed investigations, some violations were confirmed, but these were violations that took place in the Russian EEZ. Sanctions were imposed for these violations and the fines were fully paid by the vessel owner. Russia believed that it had taken necessary and adequate measures to hold the vessel owner accountable and prevent recurrence of similar violations as the flag Member and believed the vessel should not

be included on the final IUU Vessel List. Russia emphasized that it values cooperation with the NPFC HSBI framework and expressed its openness to cooperate with all Members, including on the improvement of annual reporting and e-logbooks, to ensure full compliance with domestic regulations and NPFC CMMs.

33. Considerable discussion was held regarding the Russian Federation's flagged vessels that had been proposed to the NPFC IUU Vessel List. During these discussions, Members noted the need to further clarify the Russian Federation's responsibilities as they pertain to accurate reporting requirements.
34. The Russian Federation confirmed that improvements to the Russian Federation's electronic catch reporting system now allows for the recording of all bycatch (in particular anadromous and shark species), both retained and released/discarded. In this regard, the Russian Federation committed to reporting all bycatch in a complete manner in accordance with NPFC obligations moving forward. The Russian Federation committed to ensure all records pertaining to bycatch and discards of all species onboard of fishing vessels will be made available to Members during inspections upon request in accordance with HSBI procedures. The Commission acknowledged that the CMM 2025-07 amendments adopted this year, which will require vessels to report catch on-board trawlers upon entering the Convention Area, will help to provide clarity to inspectors on the location where species were caught.
35. Some Members noted that it would be appropriate for TCC and SC to further consider potential mechanisms to address the at-sea processing of NPFC fisheries resources to a state that makes them impossible to inspect by species and weight.
36. Based on the above discussions, the Commission agreed to not include the Russian vessel on the final IUU Vessel List.
37. As recommended by the TCC, the Commission agreed to amend the current NPFC IUU Vessel List by removing the photographs of the legitimate, authorized Chinese vessels (LU RONG YU Nos. 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 108 and 109) and tasked the Secretariat to amend any incorrect text descriptions on the current NPFC IUU Vessel List that were based on the photographs of the legitimate, authorized Chinese vessels.
38. The Commission adopted the NPFC IUU Vessel List for 2026 (Annex X).

6c. Adoption of Final Compliance Monitoring Report

39. The TCC Chair presented the Provisional Compliance Report which assessed each Member's compliance with all obligations in Annex II of CMM 2025-13, and attached an executive

summary that summarized outstanding issues, general feedback on the process, and identified data gaps. She explained that the TCC assessed 23 areas of potential non-compliance highlighted by the Secretariat and that all other areas were assumed to be compliant. She further explained that the TCC could not reach consensus on 9 areas of potential non-compliance.

40. Regarding Vanuatu's vessel marking issue (CMM 2023-01, paragraph 5), Vanuatu followed up on the verbal explanation it provided at TCC09 and submitted a written explanation on the actions it has taken in response to the potential non-compliance issue. Based on the information provided, the Commission determined this case to be "Compliant."
41. Regarding China's potential non-compliance with CMM 2025-03, paragraph 9, and CMM 2025-07, paragraph 6, the Commission noted that China has fulfilled its duty as a flag Member to impose sanctions on the vessel and has committed to implementing improved measures for recording mixed bags of chub mackerel and Japanese sardine catch. The Commission determined this case to be "Compliant."
42. Regarding Russia's potential non-compliance with CMM 2025-03, paragraph 9, and CMM 2025-07, paragraph 6, the Commission noted Russia's explanation of the improvements it has made subsequently to its electronic catch reporting system and welcomed the future commitments it made regarding the reporting of bycatch and the provision of these records during inspections. Nevertheless, the Commission determined that for the compliance assessment period, these cases should be assessed as "Non-Compliant."
43. Regarding Russia's potential non-compliance issue related to transshipment observer obligations (CMM 2025-03, paragraphs 26, 29, 31), the Commission determined these cases to be "Unable to be assessed," which was the majority view, as it had been supported by four Members. These Members believed that there were ambiguities in the CMM drafting and that it was unclear whether these obligations apply only to the Convention Area or also to Members' EEZs. Three Members had supported a status of "Non-compliant." They believed that these obligations clearly applied to both the Convention Area and Members' EEZs and had serious concerns with other Members' interpretations to the contrary. One Member had supported a status of "Compliant." This Member noted that there was ambiguity in the definition of "an observer" in the CMM and noted Russia's explanation that it had deployed independent inspectors who were equivalent to observers.
44. Regarding Russia's potential non-compliance issues related to the recording and reporting of shark catches (CMM 2023-14, paragraphs 9 and 10), the Commission noted the corrective actions Russia has taken and the improvements it is making to its e-logbook system and

determined these cases to be “Compliant.”

45. Regarding Russia’s potential non-compliance issues related to anadromous fish (CMM 2024-16, paragraphs 5 and 11), the Commission noted the additional written explanations and documentation that Russia had provided, including that the violations took place in the Russian EEZ and that sanctions had been imposed on the vessel owner and paid. The Commission determined these cases to be “Compliant.”
46. The Commission added revisions to the Provisional Monitoring Report based on the above discussions and adopted the Compliance Monitoring Report (Annex X).
47. Some Members emphasized when a Member has been notified of cases of its potential non-compliance, it is important for the Member to take timely actions and provide follow-up information in writing by the requisite deadlines in accordance with the procedures set out in 2025-13 For The CMS. Such information is essential for ensuring an effective assessment process.
48. The Commission noted that in accordance with CMM 2025-13, the Final Compliance Report shall include all responses taken and to be taken to address areas of non-compliance, as well as an Executive Summary with recommendations or observations from the TCC. The Commission agreed to conduct a more thorough review of these aspects when developing the Final Compliance Report at its next meeting.

6d. Adoption of the TCC09 Report and Recommendations

49. The Commission adopted the report and the recommendations of TCC09 (Annex X) with the understanding that the definition of historical existing levels and the draft CMMs discussed at TCC09 would be discussed under Agenda Item 8.

6e. Consideration of other TCC issues identified during TCC09 or by COM10 meeting

50. The Commission reviewed proposed updates, based on the discussions at TCC09, to the list of obligations to be assessed as part of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) in Annex II of CMM 2025-13 (NPFC-2026-TCC09-IP10).
51. The Commission agreed to add paragraphs 34 and 37 of CMM 2024-09 to the list of obligations to be assessed as part of the CMS in Annex II of CMM 2025-13.
52. Members were unable to reach consensus on the other potential additions and deletions that were considered at TCC.

53. Members reiterated the different interpretations they expressed at TCC regarding the applicability of some of the provisions of CMM 2025-17 On NPFC Transshipment Observer Program to Members' EEZs. Some Members were of the view that the CMM contained ambiguities in this regard, and considered that the reporting requirements under the CMM applied to both the Convention Area and Members' EEZs, but that the observer deployment requirements only applied to the Convention Area. These Members were of the view that the CMM needed to be amended to address these issues and that in the meantime, the related provisions under the CMM should not be included in the list of obligations to be assessed as part of the CMS. Other Members were of the view that the CMM did not contain ambiguities in its scope and that all provisions applied to both the Convention Area and Members' EEZs. These Members emphasized that the CMM had been agreed to and adopted by consensus and were concerned about the suggestion of excluding certain obligations from the CMS simply because they are challenging for Members to implement.
54. Some Members pointed out that they would face legal and technical challenges in permitting regional observers to conduct MCS-related activities in their areas of jurisdiction.
55. The Commission noted the legal and technical challenges some Members would face in implementing CMM 2025-17 On NPFC Transshipment Observer Program. The Commission agreed to task the TCC Small Working Groups (SWGs) to work intersessionally to review CMM 2025-17 and CMM 2025-03 On Transshipments to consider potential implementation of the TOP, while avoiding the creation of MCS loopholes.
56. The USA nominated Mr. Connor Sullivan for the vacant SWG Ops Co-Lead position. The Commission agreed to select Mr. Sullivan (USA) to serve as the SWG Ops Co-Lead.
57. The Secretariat updated the TCC Work Plan based on the Commission's discussions (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP10 (Rev.3)).
58. The Commission reviewed the TCC Work Plan and added minor amendments. The Commission adopted the revised TCC Work Plan (Annex X).

Agenda Item 7. Report of the 8th Finance and Administration Committee meeting

7a. Review of FAC Report

59. The Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), Mr. Haruo Tominaga (Japan), summarized the outcomes of the 8th FAC meeting (NPFC-2026-FAC08-Final Report) for discussion by the Commission.

7b. Adoption of the proposed budget for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028

60. The Commission adopted the proposed budgets for 2026/2027 (Annex X) and 2027/2028 (Annex X) as submitted by the FAC08 (NPFC-2026-FAC08-WP01 Rev.1) along with the associated assessed contributions, noting that the assessed contribution amounts for 2027/2028 would be updated based on GDP and catch history at that time. The Commission confirmed that the budget for 2027/2028 could be subject to review at the 2027 annual meeting.

7c. Adoption of the FAC08 Report and Recommendations

61. The Commission adopted the report and the recommendations of FAC08 (Annex X).

7d. Consideration of other FAC issues identified during FAC08 or by COM10 meeting

62. As requested by the FAC, the Commission considered potential amendments to the Financial Regulations to address the lack of clarity regarding the treatment and execution of payments to cover costs such as those for the operation of the TOP. One Member noted the need for more time to consider potential amendments to the Financial Regulations to address this issue, expressing concern that such amendments could be interpreted as being linked to Member contributions, which would have wide-ranging implications.
63. The Commission noted the lack of consensus among Members and agreed to defer discussions on this issue to FAC09.

Agenda Item 8. Conservation and Management Measures

8a. Review of the amendments to existing CMM's and any new CMMs

64. The USA presented a proposal to amend CMM 2025-05 for Bottom Fisheries and Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Northwestern Pacific Ocean (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP01). The USA explained that the best available scientific information for North Pacific armorhead (NPA) and splendid alfonsino (SA) in the Convention Area indicates that both stocks are currently subject to unsustainable exploitation rates and depleted biomass levels. The USA has therefore recommended the establishment of temporary measures to ensure that vessels refrain from targeting NPA and SA until the SC recommends catch and effort limits consistent with long-term sustainable use objectives.
65. Japan pointed out that NPA has unique biological characteristics unlike other bottom fish and has tended to show high recruitment every 10–20 years. Furthermore, the Commission has adopted adaptive management measures for NPA in 2017. As for SA, Japan pointed out that, to address concerns of overfishing, the Commission has adopted mesh size regulations to reduce catches of juvenile fish and implemented total fisheries closures from November to January each year.

66. Japan suggested to reduce Members' catch of SA to 50% of its annual highest catch recorded since the establishment of the NPFC as a provisional and precautionary measure until the SC completes an assessment of the SA stock.
67. Some Members shared the concerns raised by the USA regarding the NPA and SA stocks but expressed their preference for the Japanese proposal, as they considered a complete temporary closure of the fisheries to be disproportionate. Other Members expressed support for the US proposal, believing it to be measured and precautionary, and questioning the effectiveness of the measures proposed by Japan.
68. The DSCC, the NRDC, and Pew reiterated their longstanding concerns of overfishing of SA and NPA, and continued degradation of biodiversity by these bottom trawl fisheries. They believed that these fisheries were inconsistent with the Convention, the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, and the BBNJ Agreement, and contrary to the commitments made by NPFC Members to manage bottom fisheries under UNGA Resolutions. They welcomed the support expressed by some Members for the US proposals and hoped that it would be adopted. In addition, they drew the Commission's attention to NPFC-2026-COM10-OP02, a letter submitted on behalf of 122 scientists that calls on the Commission to take steps toward stronger protection of the Emperor Seamount Chain, based on the best available science and current understanding of the long-term impacts of bottom fishing in the region. The letter has since garnered more than double the number of signatories since it was presented at COM09, underscoring the growing scientific consensus on the need for urgent and effective measures in this area.
69. The FAO Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) Project noted that discussion of this issue centered on the application of the precautionary approach and the balancing of scientific advice and socioeconomic considerations. The FAO DSF Project expressed support for the SC's recommendation for the development of a general framework for the application of the precautionary approach and establishment of a small working group to that end, and believed that this would facilitate discussion and adoption of appropriate measures for stocks facing conditions like those of SA and NPA.
70. Korea indicated its preference to target the recovery of the NPA and SA stocks by focusing on the active fishery and suggested a two-year closure of these fisheries that would expire after COM12 unless otherwise decided by the Commission.
71. The Commission considered the various proposals but could not reach consensus on amending CMM 2025-05 for Bottom Fisheries and Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the

Northwestern Pacific Ocean.

72. The Commission tasked the SC with the following:
- (a) Drawing on the preliminary analyses already done in the SSC BF-ME on the stock dynamics of NPA and SA, as well CPUE indices which were recommended to COM10 by the SC as trend indicators, provide precautionary advice on catch levels that would be sufficient to address the current scientific concerns identified for NPA and SA. The preliminary analyses might include: Depletion model analysis for North Pacific armorhead in the Southern Emperor-Northern Hawaiian Ridge seamounts, NPFC-2025-SSC BFME06-WP18; Yield per recruit and spawning biomass per recruit analyses for splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*) in the North Pacific, NPFC-2024-SSC BFME05-WP09.
 - (b) Complete the stock assessments for North Pacific armorhead and splendid alfonsino according to the work plan, by 2027 if possible. The SC should provide advice on management measures, including the measures outlined in paragraph 3, in the absence of a stock assessment, consistent with the precautionary approach.
 - (c) Recommend any management measures other than catch limits that may be beneficial to the NPA and SA populations, particularly management options aimed at reducing the capture of splendid alfonsino before maturity, including through selectivity-related or operational measures or additional seasonal / area closures.
 - (d) Provide a summary analysis of the relationship between NPA monitoring survey results and other stock status metrics such as per recruit metrics, fishing mortality, or biomass trend indicators to help the commission in understanding the efficacy of the high recruitment identification as a management tool and further explore potential contribution to management advice provided by the NPA monitoring surveys.
 - (e) Review the updated impact assessments of Members' bottomfish fisheries, which should be prepared taking into account input from SSC BF-ME on improvements to the draft assessments, and provide a concise summary to the Commission on whether the current fisheries present a risk to the ongoing recovery of seamount fish stocks or benthic marine ecosystems.
73. The DSCC, Pew and NRDC drew the Commission's attention to its observer paper, NPFC-2026-COM10-OP03, which provided recommendations for the updated bottom fisheries impacts that relevant Members have committed to deliver to SC11. In particular, they highlighted the recommendations that the impact assessments should include comprehensive mapping of the areas where bottom fishing is permitted combined with predictive modeling, habitat-suitability modeling, and/or species distribution modeling; identification of areas where deep-water species and vulnerable marine ecosystems are likely to better survive the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification; and application of the precautionary

approach and reverse burden of proof in assessing the risk of significant adverse impacts. They emphasized that all of these recommendations are consistent the NPFC Convention, Annex 2 of CMM 2025-05, and the UNGA resolutions related to bottom fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

74. The USA supported the recommendations in NPFC-2026-COM10-OP03.
75. Japan presented a proposal, co-sponsored by Korea, to amend CMM 2025-07 For Chub Mackerel (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP02 (Rev.1)). Japan explained that the proposed amendments are intended to update the CMM with 2026 catch limits that are based on the advice of SC10 and the NPFC chub mackerel stock assessment. The catch limits are aimed at achieving the 70th percentile of spawning stock biomass (SSB) in 2036 with a probability of at least 50% and preventing fishing operations in the Convention Area from undermining the conservation efforts by coastal Members.
76. Canada presented a proposal to amend CMM 2025-07 For Chub Mackerel (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP07). Canada explained that the proposed amendments are intended to firstly ensure that trawl vessel expansion limits are in place for Members with significant catch, pointing out that the current measure limits the EU and China to a specific number of authorized trawlers but does not include a limit for other Members. Secondly, Canada noted that catch from outside the Convention Area may be intermingled with catch from NPFC waters and explained that the proposed amendments would introduce a requirement to report catch on board upon entry/exit to and from the Convention Area, making it possible to differentiate between NPFC and other fisheries resources on vessels to support effective MCS activities.
77. Pew expressed support for the Japanese and Canadian proposals to amend CMM 2025-07 and suggested that they be merged. Pew suggested the addition of the following as the penultimate paragraph “The Scientific Committee shall endeavor to consider the establishment of a management procedure to be formulated through an MSE process by the 13th Commission meeting in 2029. The Commission shall fund an external expert to support the process.” Pew also welcomed the completion of an NPFC chub mackerel stock assessment in 2025 but noted that work to develop a Management Procedure for chub mackerel has stalled as Members have concerns about personnel and funding capacity while the Pacific saury MSE process is still ongoing. Pew suggested that, to alleviate some of those concerns, the Commission could consider turning the Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury (SWG MSE PS) into a more general MSE working group addressing multiple species.
78. Canada worked with Members in the margins to provide an updated proposal that only sought

to add a requirement for catch on entry reporting (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP07 (Rev.2)). The Commission added some editorial changes (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP07 (Rev.3)) and endorsed the proposed amendments.

79. Japan presented an updated proposal (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP02 (Rev.2)) that it had worked with Members in the margins to develop. The updated proposal added blue mackerel to the scope of the measure, changed the management period from fishing season to calendar year, and added provisions for the carry-over and transfer of unused catch limits.
80. The Commission noted that there is no NPFC stock assessment for blue mackerel and that the scope of this CMM should continue to be limited to chub mackerel. The Commission also recognized that harvests of chub mackerel are often mixed with that of blue mackerel and that the mixing rate between the two species should be taken into account when determining catch limits for chub mackerel. The Commission agreed that references to blue mackerel could be included for provisions on the determination of the chub mackerel catch limits.
81. Japan presented a revised proposal (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP02 (Rev.3)) that reflected the above discussion and incorporated the proposed amendments in the Canadian proposal to the same CMM.
82. The Commission reviewed the proposal and added further changes (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP02 (Rev.4)). The Commission adopted the proposed amendments to CMM 2025-07 For Chub Mackerel (Annex X). The Commission noted that the CMM is intended to apply to fisheries targeting chub mackerel.
83. The Commission endorsed the recommendation from SC10 to require Members to submit gear specific catch-at-age / catch-at-length data by all Members including accessory devices used for fishing purposes for both the Convention Area and EEZs, so that the TWG CMSA can complete Task 1 from the Commission in Annex T of the COM09 Report. The Commission requested that the Chair of TWG CMSA circulate a letter explaining how such data from the 2025/2026 fishing season should be submitted to TWG CMSA12.
84. Canada expressed concerns about the condition of the chub mackerel stock and the ability of the adopted CMM to deliver sustainable outcomes. Canada expressed its intention to submit a proposal to COM11 for establishing an MSE process for chub mackerel.
85. Canada presented a proposal to introduce bycatch exclusion strategies for NPFC pelagic trawl fisheries under CMM 2025-07 For Chub Mackerel, 2025-08 For Pacific Saury and 2025-11 For Japanese Sardine, Neon Flying Squid and Japanese Flying Squid (NPFC-2026-COM10-

WP08 (Rev.2)). Canada explained that NPFC trawl fisheries targeting pelagic species are at risk of intercepting sharks, marine mammals, and other vulnerable, large non-target species (collectively “megafauna”) and that such incidents have in fact been increasing. The proposed amendments would implement gear modification requirements to reduce the number of incidentally caught megafauna and require mandatory reporting on all incidental megafauna bycatch and interactions.

86. Pew expressed support for the Canadian proposal.
87. Canada worked with Members in the margins to update the proposal (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP08 (Rev.3)).
88. The Commission noted that there was general agreement with the likely benefit from use of the proposed devices but that some Members would need to change their domestic law to enable use of those devices. Therefore, Canada agreed to withdraw its proposal and present it again at COM11.
89. Japan presented a proposal to amend CMM 2025-08 For Pacific Saury (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP03). Japan explained that the proposed amendments update the CMM with the 2026 catch level based on the adopted interim harvest control rule (HCR) for Pacific saury and require Members to promptly notify the Executive Secretary of the starting date of any diversion of part of their catch limit for areas under their jurisdiction to their own catch of Pacific saury in the Convention Area.
90. Korea presented a proposal to amend CMM 2025-08 For Pacific Saury (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP05). Korea explained that the proposed amendments update the CMM with the 2026 catch level based on the adopted interim HCR for Pacific saury and add preambular text that reflects the ongoing work by the SC and the SWG MSE PS and the need to maintain an effective, predictable and practicable interim management framework pending further development of the management procedure and related scientific work.
91. Chinese Taipei presented a proposal to amend CMM 2025-08 For Pacific Saury (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP06). Chinese Taipei explained that substantial uncertainties persist in the current BSSPM stock assessments for Pacific saury stemming from a variety of factors and that the omission of these factors from the current assessment model may have resulted in an overly pessimistic and unrealistic view of the stock status. Chinese Taipei believed that achieving a full recovery to B_{tar} within a five-year timeframe may therefore be practically unfeasible and explained that it had proposed amendments to the interim HCR in Annex I of the CMM to reflect this.

92. Several Members expressed concern with the proposal to amend one of the management objectives in the agreed interim HCR, noting that the potential impact of such a change had not been assessed at the SC or the SWG, and that work to develop a full-fledged MSE is ongoing.
93. Japan worked with Members in the margins to develop an updated proposal (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP03 (Rev.1)). The updated proposal incorporated aspects of the Korean proposal. It also sought to accommodate strong socio-economic concerns raised by some Members through a temporary deviation from the interim HCR and the setting of a total allowable catch (TAC) that is based on a 5% reduction from the 2026 level.
94. Chinese Taipei expressed the need for further consideration for its socio-economic difficulties and proposed the inclusion of a provision for the carry-over of 10% of the unused portion of the 2026 catch. Some Members expressed concern with the inclusion of such a provision and believed that there was no scientific justification for it. Noting the lack of support from other Members, Chinese Taipei withdrew its proposal.
95. The Commission reviewed the proposal and added further changes (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP03 (Rev.2)). The Commission adopted the proposed amendments to CMM 2025-08 For Pacific Saury (Annex X).
96. Canada and the USA expressed concern with the deviation from the interim HCR given the state of the Pacific saury stock. They reminded other Members that when the interim HCR was adopted, the selection of a 10% maximum allowable change (MAC) rather than a larger MAC was done as a part of a compromise to address Members' socio-economic concerns. They also pointed out that the adopted TAC would be much higher than the unconstrained annual catch level for 2026 estimated by the latest stock assessment.
97. Japan presented a proposal to amend CMM 2025-11 For Japanese Sardine, Neon Flying Squid and Japanese Flying Squid (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP04). Japan explained that its domestic stock assessment for Japanese sardine indicates that the stock biomass has declined and the fishing mortality ratio has increased, resulting in a sharp increase in the exploitation rate since 2022, while the recruitment indices in the recent three years also indicate sharp declines. Furthermore, although Japan has reduced its domestic TAC for Japanese sardine, the limits on the number of authorized vessels under CMM 2025-11 have not been effective in controlling fishing pressure on Japanese sardine in the Convention Area. Japan has therefore proposed to 1) separate sardines and squid, 2) create a stand-alone CMM for sardine and introduce a catch limit for sardines, and 3) create a stand-alone squid CMM with the text essentially unchanged

from CMM 2025-11 except with references to sardine removed.

98. Japan worked with Members in the margins to develop an updated proposal (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP04 (Rev.1)).
99. The Commission added some further changes (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP04 (Rev.2)). The CMM endorsed the proposed amendments to CMM 2025-11 For Japanese Sardine, Neon Flying Squid and Japanese Flying Squid and adopted a standalone CMM for Japanese sardine (Annex X) and another standalone CMM for neon flying squid and Japanese flying squid (Annex X). The Commission noted that the Japanese sardine CMM is intended to apply to fisheries targeting Japanese sardine and not Japanese sardine bycatch.
100. The EU expressed its view that as a principle, it is not a good practice for an RFMO to set catch limits for a stock without having first conducted scientific assessments of the stock.
101. The Commission reviewed the TCC09-endorsed amendments to CMM 2024-02 (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP05 (Rev.2)). The Commission adopted the proposed amendments (Annex X).
102. The Commission also considered amendments to paragraph 16a) of CMM 2024-02 to provide greater clarification around the procedure for the Provisional IUU Vessel List, as discussed under agenda item 6, but could not reach consensus.
103. Some Members also expressed concerns about the low threshold at the NPFC for the nomination of vessels to the draft IUU vessel list compared to other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) due to the wording of the CMM and pointed out that discussions related to potential IUU vessel listings have taken up a disproportionate amount of time at TCC meetings.
104. The Commission tasked the TCC SWG Ops to review the entirety of the CMM To Establish A List Of Vessels Presumed To Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated Fishing Activities In The Convention Area Of The North Pacific Fisheries Commission and consider whether it is fit for purpose.
105. The Commission reviewed the TCC-endorsed amendments to CMM 2023-01 On Information Requirements for Vessel Registration (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP07). The Commission adopted the proposed amendments (Annex X).
106. The USA and Korea presented a joint proposal for the establishment of a CMM on Scientific Research Activities (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP04 (Rev.2)). They explained that they had

presented the proposal at TCC09 and updated the proposal following the meeting based on Members' comments.

107. Some Members believed that the definition of “fisheries-related scientific research activities” under paragraph 2 of the proposed CMM was overly broad and expressed concern that under the current wording a wide range of non-fisheries-related research could be included in the CMM’s scope. They also believed that several provisions in the proposed CMM would create undue burdens that would disincentivize Members from conducting research.
108. Noting Members’ reservations, the Commission agreed to defer discussion of the proposal for the establishment of a CMM on Scientific Research Activities. The Commission tasked the SC with developing a definition for “fisheries-related research activities.”
109. The EU presented a proposal for the establishment of a CMM On Minimum Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification, and Exchange of Data (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP06 (Rev.3)). The EU explained that it had presented the proposal at TCC09 and that the TCC had reviewed and updated the proposal but that several substantive issues remained unresolved despite productive discussions.
110. The EU worked with Members in the margins to provide an updated proposal (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP06 (Rev.4)).
111. The Commission reviewed the proposal and added further revisions (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP06 (Rev.5)). Members shared the understanding that the language “shall, as appropriate” in paragraph 1 reflects the fact that some data collection fields are mandatory and some are optional. They agreed that the collection of data in fields marked as “Mandatory” in the Annexes of the CMM are obligatory, while collection of data in fields marked as “Optional” is not obligatory.
112. The Commission adopted the CMM On Minimum Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification, and Exchange of Data (Annex X).
113. The TCC Chair presented a proposal for a CMM on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures, which had been drafted by the TCC Small Working Group on Planning and Development (SWG PD) and was further developed by the TCC but contained a number of issues that remained unresolved (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP08 (Rev.2)).
114. The Commission considered the potential technological solutions for collecting and managing the data required under the proposed measure and noted that a hybrid solution, whereby

Members could use either the Global Information Exchange System (GIES) or electronic Port State Measures (e-PSM) system adapted to NPFC, could accommodate all Members' needs.

115. The TCC Chair worked with Members in the margins to develop an updated proposal (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP08 (Rev.3)).
116. The Commission reviewed the proposal and added further changes (NPFC-2026-TCC09-WP08 (Rev.4)).
117. The Commission adopted a CMM on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures (Annex X).
118. The Commission discussed the definition of historical existing level and the options considered at the TCC. The Commission recalled the preferences expressed by Members at the TCC, including one Member that had suggested that a three-year timeframe for defining historical existing levels was too short.
119. The Commission considered a new option, whereby historical existing level would be defined as the maximum number of vessels authorized to fish for each species by a flag Member between the year when the NPFC was established (2015) and the year when the provision to restrict the expansion in the number of authorized vessels was adopted in the relevant CMM.
120. One Member expressed continued reservation over the proposed options and expressed concern about potential implications for other wide-ranging issues, such as potential allocation discussions in the future. This Member proposed another option, whereby the historical existing level is defined as "The maximum number of vessels authorized to fish for each species by a flag Member between the year when the catch history firstly started, supported by catch data for the flag Member in the area to which the Convention applies, and the year when the provision to restrict the expansion in the number of authorized vessels was adopted in the relevant CMM."
121. The Commission could not reach consensus on defining historical existing level. The Commission agreed to hold further discussions intersessionally through the TCC SWG Ops. The Commission tasked the TCC SWG Ops to consider all options presented at TCC09 and COM10 (NPFC-2026-TCC09-IP11, NPFC-2026-COM10-IP14, NPFC-2026-COM10-IP15) and to provide the outcomes of its discussions to TCC10 and COM11. The Commission requested that Members submit their historical data regarding their vessel authorizations, in accordance with the requisite Excel template, no later than one week before the next meeting of the SWG Ops. The Commission agreed that Members that had already submitted these data need not submit them again. The Commission agreed that Members may also submit

additional data if they wish.

8b. Review of measures with specified review provisions

122. The Commission reviewed a table listing the review provisions of existing NPFC CMMs (NPFC-2026-COM10-IP11). The Commission noted that most of the necessary reviews have been undertaken at TCC09 and COM10. Due to time constraints, the Commission had no opportunity to review CMM 2024-15 but agreed to review this CMM at the 2027 annual meeting. The Commission also agreed to defer the review in paragraph 10 of CMM 2024-16 to the 2027 annual meeting.

8c. Review of existing resolutions and any new Resolutions

123. The Commission did not review any existing or new Resolutions.

Agenda Item 9. Report of the 7th Meeting of the joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury (SWG MSE PS)

124. The Science Co-Chair of the joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury (SWG MSE PS), Dr. Toshihide Kitakado (Japan), summarized the outcomes of the 7th SWG MSE PS meeting (NPFC-2026-SWG MSE PS07-Final Report).

125. The Commission noted the annual catch level calculated for the 2026 fishing year using the interim HCR for Pacific saury under CMM 2025, while noting that there had been a lack of endorsement from China at SWG MSE PS07.

126. The Commission agreed that invited experts would continue to be invited to the next SWG MSE PS.

127. The Commission agreed to a new schedule for completing the full MSE development one year later than originally planned in light of the workload involved and capacity constraints. The Commission endorsed the corresponding meeting schedule.

128. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of participation by scientists, managers, and stakeholders in future SWG MS PS meetings.

129. Pew expressed the view that there would not be time to revise the interim HCR and develop a full MSE process at the same time, noting that when the interim HCR was adopted it was intended to be a short-term strategy and there was an understanding that the SWG MSE PS would develop a full-fledged MSE. Pew believed that many of the concerns raised by Members about the stock assessment and the interim HCR could be addressed through the

MSE process. Pew also pointed out that observations of increased catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) in a certain area did not necessarily mean the improved health of the stock, and that this could be due to hyperstability resulting from factors such as a change in the species range or improving fisher skill in finding fish.

130. WWF expressed deep concern regarding the decline not only in the Pacific saury stock but also the chub mackerel and Japanese sardine stocks. WWF noted that while there was no consensus on Pacific saury stock assessment results, the results from the individual assessments conducted by China, Japan, and Chinese Taipei indicated that stock levels are very low and below B_{MSY} . WWF emphasized that the current HCR is based on agreement among Members, including managers, and pointed out that if there is the possibility that, under the HCR's 10% maximum allowable reduction in the TAC, the target cannot be achieved, then a reduction of more than 10% should be considered. WWF emphasized that the NPFC must take responsible action to demonstrate that it is an RFMO that can manage fisheries sustainably.
131. Chinese Taipei emphasized that the Pacific saury stock has not worsened and is in the process of recovering. Chinese Taipei pointed out that whether the current TAC is maintained or reduced would determine the speed of recovery, not whether the stock would or would not continue to recover.

Agenda Item 10. Cooperation with Other Organizations

132. The Executive Secretary presented a summary of the Commission's efforts and progress in liaising with other relevant international organizations during 2025/2026 (NPFC-2026-COM10-IP08). Further details are provided in the sub-agenda items below.

10a. PICES

133. The Executive Secretary highlighted the extensive engagement by NPFC scientists in PICES processes, the regular interaction between the NPFC and PICES secretariats, support in SC10 and FAC08 for NPFC co-sponsorship of the upcoming Small Pelagic Fish symposium, and support expressed by the Commission previously for the project Basin Scale Events and Coastal Impacts (BECI).
134. The Commission noted that an update on recent and upcoming planned joint activities between NPFC and PICES from the Executive Secretary of PICES, Dr. Sonia Batten, had been submitted to the meeting (NPFC-2026-COM10-OP05).

10b. NPAFC

135. The NPAFC Executive Director, Mr. Yoshikiyo Kondo, thanked the NPFC for its adoption of

CMM 2024-16 On Anadromous Fish at COM08, the implementation of which has been of great support to the NPAFC. He also provided an update on NPFC-NPAFC cooperation (NPFC-2026-COM10-OP10). Many items in the five-year NPFC-NPAFC Work Plan are completed or ongoing. Key remaining items are the exchange of data and information between the two organizations through a data sharing platform and the voluntary sharing of Pacific salmon bycatch data from NPFC fishing vessels. Terms of Reference for the NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint have been agreed. NPAFC has also updated its IUU vessel list and will discuss it further at its annual meeting in May. In addition, NPAFC is holding two upcoming workshops of potential interest to the NPFC: a Workshop on Interactions between Fisheries and Anadromous Fish in the North Pacific High Seas and a Workshop on Interactions Between Salmon, Ecosystems, and Climate: From Mechanisms to Predictive Models. NPAFC remains committed to continuing its close cooperation with NPFC, which is essential to the NPAFC's efforts to fulfil its purpose.

10c. FAO: Deep Sea Fisheries project and FIRMS

136. Ms. Eszter Hidas (FAO, DSF Project) provided an update on the Common Oceans Deep Sea Fisheries Project (NPFC-2026-COM10-OP06). In 2022–2026, the DSF Project reviewed the implementation of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (DSF Guidelines), produced an introductory e-learning course on the management of DSF in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), and established the Deep-sea Fisheries Technical Forum. It also held various workshops and symposia, including the Workshop on the Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Management of DSF stocks, the Symposium on Applying the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in ABNJ, workshops with the DSF industry, a global workshop on deepwater sharks, a workshop on cross-sectoral interactions with DSF, and a workshop on incorporating climate change in RFMO considerations. In addition, the DSF Project has advanced work on development of a shark identification key for the NPFC Convention Area, supporting and improving data-limited stock assessments, and mapping of DSF in the ABNJ. A notable activity was the holding of the NPFC/FAO workshop on the operationalization of the precautionary approach. Key messages from the workshop are that operationalizing the precautionary approach is most effective when taken on as a joint SC-Commission responsibility, a working group dedicated to the operationalization of the precautionary approach is highly effective in allowing informal scientist-manager exchanges and fostering common understanding, the DSF Project is available to provide support until the end of May 2027, and a guidance document, targeting primarily managers, is under development, with publication expected by September 2026. Looking ahead, the DSF Project will hold a workshop on developing guidance for RFMOs and a workshop on RFMO communication and outreach.

137. The Executive Secretary added that NPFC has been cooperating with FAO and its ABNJ

project since the beginning of the Commission and has contributed as one of the project partners. Furthermore, the Project Steering Committee met at the NPFC headquarters in March 2026. The NPFC headquarters will also host an FAO/ICES workshop on data-limited stock assessments on 20–24 April 2026. In addition, the NPFC and FIRMS signed a Partnership Arrangement in 2023 and the Secretariat has provided the necessary information for the FIRMS databases on stocks and fisheries and will continue to update it annually.

10d. WCPFC

10e. ISC

138. The Executive Secretary highlighted the ongoing collaboration between the NPFC and WCPFC Secretariats and his own virtual attendance of the WCPFC Regular Commission Meeting.

10f. IATTC

139. The Executive Secretary presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the NPFC and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC; NPFC-2026-COM10-WP10). He explained that the draft MoU has been reviewed by IATTC and Members and that the current draft incorporates comments from both.

140. The Commission reviewed and endorsed the draft MoU. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to forward the draft MoU to IATTC for its further consideration (Annex XX).

10g. SPRFMO

141. The Executive Secretary explained that NPFC and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) are similarly sized RFMOs and that their two Secretariats are in regular contact regarding best practices and approaches.

142. The Executive Secretary explained that the SPRFMO Commission has recently endorsed the renewal of its MoU with NPFC, which expires on 12 July 2026, and indicated its preference for maintaining the three-year review mechanism. He presented the proposed renewed MoU for the Commission's consideration (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP09).

143. The Commission agreed to renew its MoU with SPRFMO (Annex XX).

10h. IMCS Network

144. Ms. Kate Chung (IMCS Network) provided an update on IMCS Network activities and highlighted tools offered by the IMCS Network (NPFC-2026-COM10-OP08). The IMCS Network has launched the IUU Vessel List Hub, a secure, RFMO-restricted platform designed

for RFMO secretariat staff for the management of IUU vessel lists and sharing of information. It has also launched the Combined Regional Authorized Vessel Tool (CRAVT), a publicly available tool for searching for specific vessels, as well as vessel companies, owners, and operators, and compare records for the same vessel on different RFMO registries. In addition, the Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (PPFCN) is a network hosted by the IMCS Network for those responsible for compliance in the RFMO secretariats and the NPFC has been part of the PPFCN since its inception. In March 2027, the IMCS Network will hold the 8th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW 8) in Bali, Indonesia. The IMCS Network also hosts Wavemakers, a nine-month professional development programme.

145. The Executive Secretary added that the Secretariat work plan includes plans for the incoming Compliance Manager to attend GFETW 8.

10i. UN BBNJ

146. The Executive Secretary explained that the Secretariat has not attended BBNJ sessions other than following virtually. He also noted that the PICES BECI Project has been identified as having a potential role in a future clearing house mechanism.
147. The EU presented a discussion paper on interaction between RFMOs and the BBNJ Agreement (NPFC-2026-COM10-IP02). The EU pointed out that the BBNJ Agreement recognizes the role of RFMOs and should be interpreted and applied in a way that does not undermine RFMOs, but rather promotes coherence and coordination with these frameworks. The EU highlighted four key lines of questioning that the NPFC should consider so as to proactively prepare itself for potential future interactions with the BBNJ Agreement: Are the relevant timelines and procedures applicable in the NPFC sufficiently well known by the negotiators who are finalizing the procedures for the functioning of the BBNJ Agreement? Does NPFC have a clear and comprehensive overview of its activities and achievements? Should NPFC work with other RFMOs to ensure coherence in any potential contributions or information flowing between RFMOs? Is NPFC sufficiently prepared and equipped to deal with future requests for consultation or cooperation from BBNJ?
148. The Commission tasked the Executive Secretary to attend the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) in September, collect and share information with other RFMOs about how they are preparing for interactions with the BBNJ, and submit a paper summarizing his findings to COM11.
149. The Commission agreed to hold further discussions on potential interactions with the BBNJ Agreement at COM11 based on the paper from the Executive Secretary. The Commission welcomed any other proposals or papers from Members on this matter.

150. The Commission encouraged Members to send their fisheries officials to attend BBNJ-related meetings so as to share perspectives from fisheries bodies and support their incorporation into the BBNJ process.
151. The DSCC, NRDC, and Pew expressed support for the EU proposal to urge the Commission to proactively consider engagement in the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement and believed that the NPFC should examine whether it is sufficiently prepared and equipped to deal with future requests for consultation or cooperation from BBNJ and determine if there are processes that need to be reinforced, for example, in the assessment of environmental impacts. They also highlighted the valuable contributions of accredited observers and the importance of their participation in such discussions, as well as the importance of Members playing a more active role in helping facilitate information-sharing between the NPFC and the BBNJ Agreement.

10j. Other Organizations

152. The Executive Secretary noted the upcoming Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) Technical Working Group on Information Exchange to be held on 8–12 June 2026 in Korea. He explained that due to the transition of Compliance Managers, no members of the Secretariat are planning to attend. He requested Members who are attending to share information from the meeting with the Commission.

Agenda Item 11. Other matters

11a. Secondment and Intern for 2026

153. The Commission endorsed the FAC's recommendation and agreed to accept the secondment application from Ms. Yume Kawai (Japan) for a 12-month period commencing in June 2026.
154. The Commission noted that there were no candidates for internship positions this year.

11b. Other business

155. No other business was raised.

11c. Press Release

156. The Commission noted that it is not a common practice among RFMOs to issue press releases of the outcomes of their annual meetings. The Commission agreed to not issue such press releases going forward.

Agenda Item 12. Date and Place of next meeting of the Commission and its Committees

157. The Executive Secretary presented a document with information on the potential timing and location of meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in 2027 and 2028 (NPFC-2026-COM10-WP11).
158. The Commission agreed to tentatively hold the next meetings of the TCC, the FAC, and the Commission in Fukuoka, Japan, on the following dates:
- (a) TCC10: 6–9 April 2027
 - (b) FAC09: 10 April 2027
 - (c) COM11:12–15 April 2027
159. The Commission agreed to tentatively hold the 2028 meetings of the TCC, the FAC, and the Commission, in Hiroshima, Japan, on the following dates:
- (a) TCC11: 5–8 April 2028
 - (b) FAC10: 9 April 2028
 - (c) COM12: 11–14 April 2028
160. The Commission agreed to tentatively hold the next meetings of the SC and related SSC/TWG meetings in Kobe, Japan, on the following dates:
- (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
161. The Commission agreed to tentatively hold the 2027-2028 meetings of the SC and related SSC/TWG meetings on the following dates, with SSC BFME potentially being hosted in Canada with the rest envisioned to be held in Japan:
- (a) SSC BFME: December 2027 (ending before December 18)
 - (b) TWG CMSA: 10–13 January 2028
 - (c) SSC PS: 13–16 January 2028
 - (d) SC12: 18–20 January 2028
162. The Commission agreed to tentatively hold the next meetings of the SWG MSE PS in a virtual format:
- (a) SWG MSE PS08: 8–10 October 2026
 - (b) SWG MSE PS09: 22–24 February 2027

Agenda Item 13 Adoption of the report

163. [The report was adopted by consensus.]

Agenda Item 14. Close of the Meeting

164. [The meeting closed at XX:XX on 11 April 2026, Osaka time.]

LIST OF ANNEXES

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Annex A:
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