



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2026-TCC09-OP02 Rev.1

Submitted by NPAFC Secretariat

NPAFC Update

Rev.1: Table has been reformatted for ease of reading

Abstract: The NPAFC (North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission) has provided the attached document outlining progress on the Memorandum of Cooperation and joint workplan.

Progress on the Five-year Work Plan to implement NPAFC/NPFC Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) (endorsed by NPFC and NPAFC in 2023)

April, 2026
NPAFC Secretariat

Exchange of data and information in accordance with the information-sharing and data confidentiality policies of each Commission;

- Create a SharePoint inter-commission communication system to share news, reports, guideline documents, and other information relevant to the management of the mutual area of interest in an easily accessible form.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of April 2026)
August 2023– June 2024	NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint Terms of Reference to describe structure, capabilities, access rights, and control issues	Terms of Reference (ToR) agreed by both commissions – September 15, 2023	Terms of Reference of the NPAFC/NPFC data sharing platform (Appendix 1) was approved by the NPFC at its COM09 in March 2025, and by NPAFC at its 32nd Annual Meeting in May 2025. In July 2025, both Secretariat met and discussed operation of the data sharing platform, and recognized that the contents to be shared through the platform need to be more clearly identified.
	NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint service in a test mode	Test mode – December 31, 2023	
	NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint service in full operational mode	Full operational mode – June 30, 2024	

- Establish a mechanism of general information exchange (e.g., MCS activity information, fleet activity information, map of catch and fishing efforts).

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of April 2026)
August 2022– December 2023	NPAFC/NPFC communication and information exchange plan	A plan agreed by the commissions – First half of 2023	The NPAFC/NPFC Secretariats exchange relevant information by e-mail as necessary.
	Regular mutual email conferences to exchange MCS and enforcement activities information	Summer–autumn of 2023	Potential contents for the regular mutual email conferences have not been identified.
2022–2025	NPFC historical footprint (catch and fishing efforts) of the fisheries	Pacific saury, Japanese sardine, chub and blue mackerels, Japanese flying squid, neon flying squid, North Pacific armorhead, splendid alfonso – available on the NPFC website	Completed/Ongoing (as written on the left column)
	Annual data reporting/sharing of Pacific salmon as by-catch by NPFC fishing vessels (voluntary)		So far, no Pacific salmon bycatch data has been shared. Pacific salmon bycatch data to be reported in NPFC may be shared voluntarily in the NPAFC/NPFC data sharing platform or through other general information exchange considering data security policies of the Commissions.
	Interactive Mapping System (IMS) for the INPFC/NPAFC High-Seas Salmonid Tag- Recovery Database	IMS in a test mode with limited access – May 2023. IMS in full operational mode – May 2024	Completed/Ongoing (The IMS is in full operation since June 2024.)

- Establish a practice of sharing information on suspicious fishing vessels identified in overlapping convention area including stateless vessels and unregistered vessels.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of April 2026)
August 2022	Vessel of Interest folder which has been created	Vessel of Interest folder description is included in the ToR agreed by the commissions – September 15, 2023	The NPAFC List of Vessel of Interest are included as a content of the

August 2023– June 2024	Vessel of interest folder which has been treated as confidential at the NPAFC/NPFC Sharepoint	Vessel of Interest information is included in the folder – June 30, 2024	NPAFC/NPFC SharePoint in its Terms of Reference. However, the contents of the SharePoint folder needs to be more clearly identified.
---------------------------	---	--	--

Collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including stock assessments;

- Implement Pan-Pacific research survey plans in winter 2022, organize a comprehensive study of its outcome at the special session of the IYS Synthesis Symposium.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of April 2026)
August 2021– February 2022	NPFC suggestions to the NPAFC Pan-Pacific High Seas Research Expedition cruise plans.	NPFC proposal submitted to the NPAFC – November 2021	Completed (as written on the left column)
	NPFC participation in the country leads meetings to coordinate/contribute to the Expedition plans.	NPFC Science Manager / Scientific Committee Chairperson participates in the country leads meetings in August 2021–February 2022	Completed (as written on the left column)
		NPAFC presented a report on the expedition findings after its completion in 2022	Completed (as written on the left, and NPAFC published the report as NPAFC Technical Report Nos. 20 and 22 in 2023.)

- Coordinate research activities identified in the NPFC/PICES and NPAFC/PICES Frameworks for Enhanced Scientific Cooperation in the North Pacific Ocean.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of April 2026)
October 2023– May 2025	Coordination of research activities identified in the NPFC/PICES and NPAFC/PICES Frameworks		A multi-year initiative Basin-Scale Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI) has been identified as one of the potential coordinations of research activities among NPFC/NPAFC/PICES. Details will be discussed by the commissions.

Implementation of conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest;

- Establish a mechanism to share the IUU vessel list of each Commission and its related information.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of April 2026)
August 2021– May 2023	Accessible links to the NPAFC and NPFC IUU vessel list on both Commissions' website	NPAFC is developing the IUU vessel listing process with a study group, and the NPAFC IUU vessel list is expected to be established for the first time – May 2023	NPFC IUU vessel list has been linked on NPAFC website. NPAFC approved NPAFC IUU Vessel List for 2025, which is empty, in May 2025. Draft NPAFC IUU Vessel List for 2026 will be discussed at the 32nd NPAFC Annual Meeting in May 2026. Once the NPAFC IUU Vessel List will be adopted, the List will be linked on the NPFC website.

- Expand cooperation to collect and share information relating to species of special interest for each Commission.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of April 2026)
	Information exchange on research cruise plans that can collect information on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species	Lists of scientific cruise plans are exchanged – May 2022 NPAFC/NPFC/PICES Topic Session (or Workshop) on this issue is proposed for October 2023 at the PICES Annual Meeting	NPAFC/NPFC/PICES Topic Session (or Workshop) on the issue has not been held at the PICES Annual Meeting. NPAFC member countries' research cruise plan in 2026 will be delivered to NPFC Secretariat after the NPAFC Annual Meeting in May 2026.

August 2021– December 2025	Mutual scientific documents and publications on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species distribution, relationships, and potential impact	Mutual scientific documents and publications on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species are published in 2023–2025	A report of the potential joint workshop, which NPAFC Secretariat has been consulting with NPFC Secretariat, would be the scientific publication of mutual interests. NPAFC Workshop on Interactions Between Fisheries and Anadromous Fish in the Pacific High Seas and NPAFC Workshop on Interactions Between Salmon, Ecosystems, and Climate: From Mechanisms to Predictive Models will be held in May 2026. These workshops may lead to a concept of scientific publication of mutual interests.
-------------------------------	--	---	---

- Develop, publish, and distribute public information about conservation on the high seas and consequences of IUU activity.

Timeline	Deliverables	Milestones (as of May 2023)	Progress (as of April 2026)
2021–2025	News releases and journal articles on the Commissions activities related to high seas resources conservation, MCS, and law enforcement	Secretariats annually exchange information on the relevant publications	Ongoing (as written on the left column)

(Appendix 1)

Terms of Reference for the NPAFC/NPFC Data Sharing Platform

This is the Terms of Reference for a secure data sharing platform to be established between the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) to exchange confidential information of mutual interests related to enforcement and scientific activities.

Structure

1. The data sharing platform will be either: (1) a SharePoint site created and hosted through an NPAFC Office 365 subscription, or (2) a secure subdomain of npafc.org hosted on the NPAFC webserver. The platform will have limited access with authentication for authorized users only.

Capabilities

2. The data sharing platform includes the following information and data:
 - (a) NPFC and NPAFC List of IUU Vessels (link to each Secretariat's webpage)
 - (b) NPAFC List of Vessels of Interest
 - (c) Released Pacific salmon by-catch data (voluntary data from NPFC)
 - (d) NPFC historical footprint (catch and fishing efforts) of fisheries (link to NPFC webpage)
 - (e) Interactive Mapping System (IMS) for the INPFC/NPAFC High-seas Salmonid Tag-Recovery Database (link to NPAFC webpage)
 - (f) Information on research cruise plans that can collect information on Pacific salmon and NPFC priority species (if available)
 - (g) Information on enhanced scientific cooperation in the North Pacific Ocean, namely BECI (link to the BECI website) and potential NPAFC/NPFC joint workshops (general information and link to the workshop website, when available)

Access rights

3. Access to the data sharing platform is restricted to the users who are authorized by either NPAFC or NPFC Secretariats.
4. The authorized user may enter the data sharing platform using individually allocated user or organizational IDs and passwords.
5. The information in the data sharing platform shall not be open to the public unless written permissions by both NPAFC and NPFC Secretariats are obtained.

Control

6. The data sharing platform is hosted by the NPAFC.
7. Any information/data is uploaded/deleted by the NPAFC Secretariat upon request by the Secretariat which provides/provided the information/data.
8. The cost for hosting the data sharing platform is provided by the NPAFC.
9. Any other issues related to the data sharing platform and, when necessary, updates of these Terms of Reference will be discussed and fixed by the NPAFC and NPFC Secretariats.