

# An Overview of Recent Progress by Selected RFMOs Towards Climate- Informed Governance

Observer Paper NPFC - 2025 - SC10 - OP03b

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Pew

# Today's presentation:

- (1) Overview of approach and main findings
- (2) Recommendations for NPFC consideration

Ocean sensitivity for living marine resources within FAO regions and projected average fishing resource shifts in location:

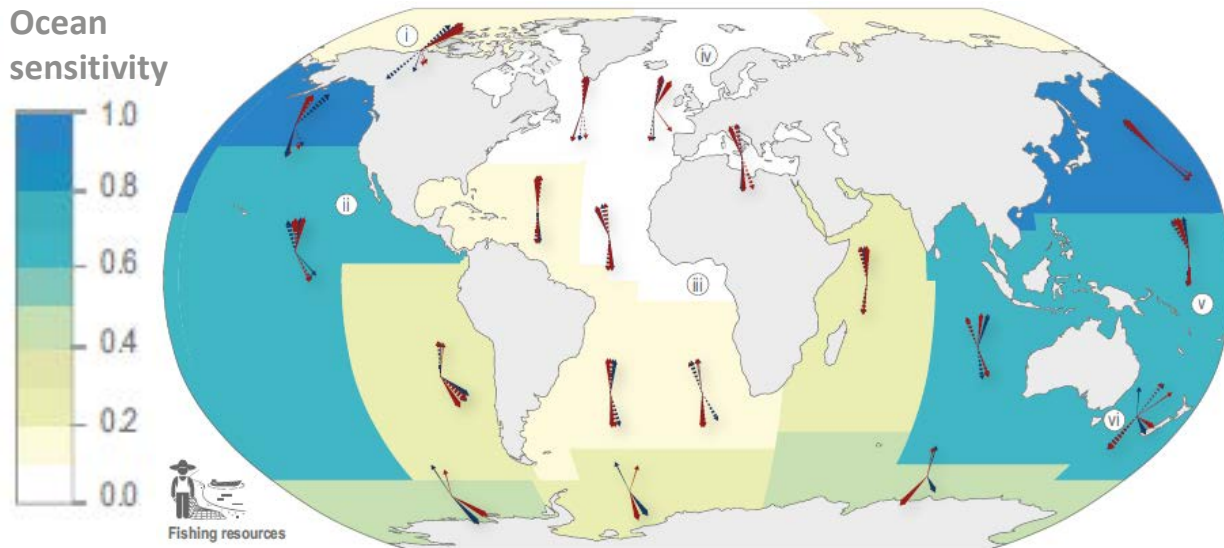


Figure from: [IPCC AR6 WGI](#) Global to Regional Atlas, Figure AI.32b.

	Projected shifts by 2100		
	Small-scale fisheries	Industrial fisheries	Catch proportion
<b>RCP2.6</b>	----->	—————>	<40%
<b>RCP8.5</b>	.....>	—————>	40-70%
	.....>	—————>	>70%

QR code to the observer paper



Percentage change in exploitable fish biomass:

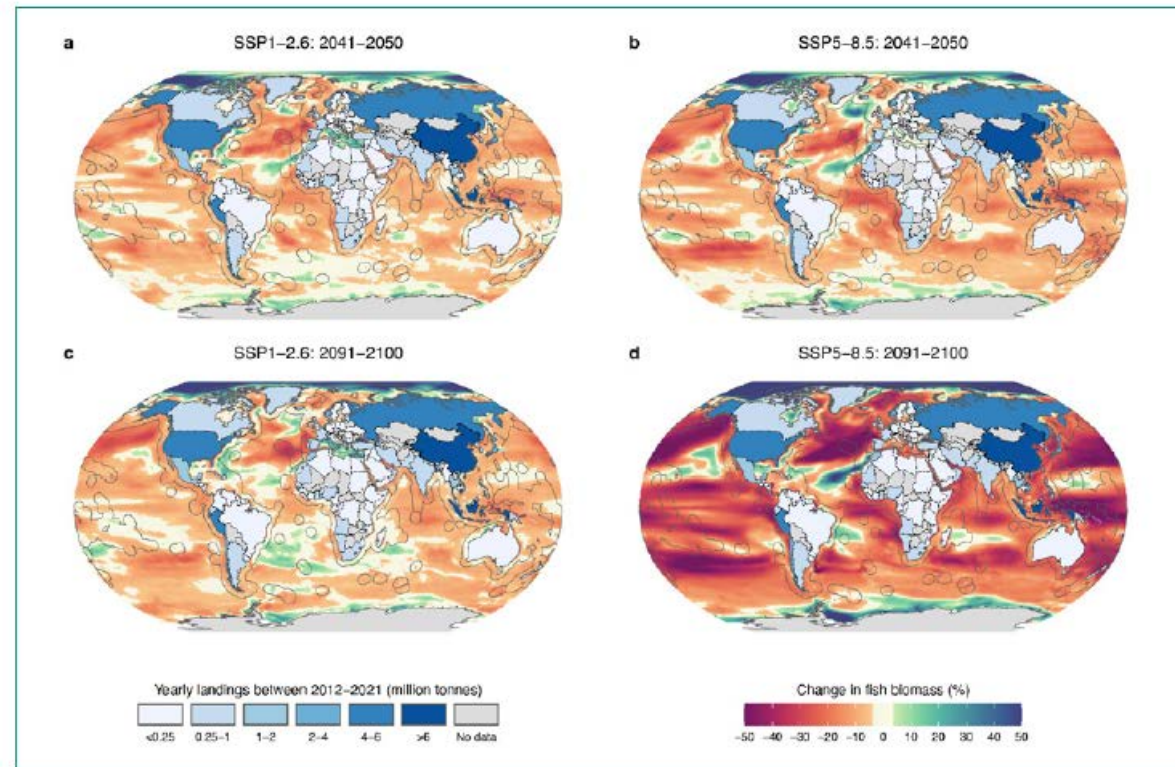


Figure from: [Blanchard and Novaglio, FAO \(2024\)](#).

# How are RFMOs around the world addressing the challenge of climate change impacts in their Convention Areas?



22-13

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

GEN

*RECOGNISING* international initiatives to address the climate change and its effects, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and the Glasgow Climate Pact;

*NOTING* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with specific reference to its Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (2019) and the Sixth Assessment Report (2022);

*AWARE* that, in September 2022, at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (COWFA) meeting, the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (ICCAT) adopted a resolution on climate change, including:



**North Pacific Fisheries Commission**

**Resolution on Climate Change**

*The North Pacific Fisheries Commission,*

Noting that several regional fisheries management organizations have taken recent steps to recognize the importance of preparing for the emerging impacts of climate change on fisheries under their jurisdiction, including the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission,

***A resolution on climate change considerations for the attention of the NEAFC Permanent Committee on Management and Science***

ACKNOWLEDGING that climate change poses both short and long-term significant challenges for Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), including the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), and given the widespread and lasting effects of climate change on the ocean environment and ecosystems, it also affects the individuals and communities that depend upon the fisheries and other resources within the Convention Area;

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**COMMISSION**  
**SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
 Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea  
 5 – 11 December 2019

**RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AS IT RELATES TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**Resolution 2019-01**

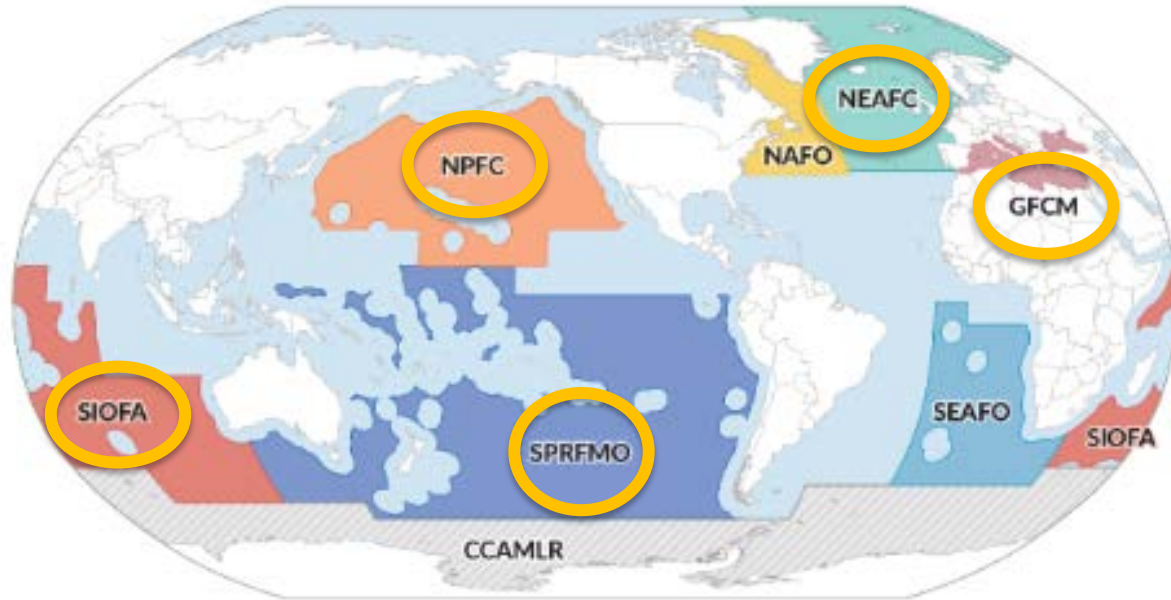
*The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks*

**Attachment X\***

# Climate change actions were identified across 5 general and 5 tuna RFMOs

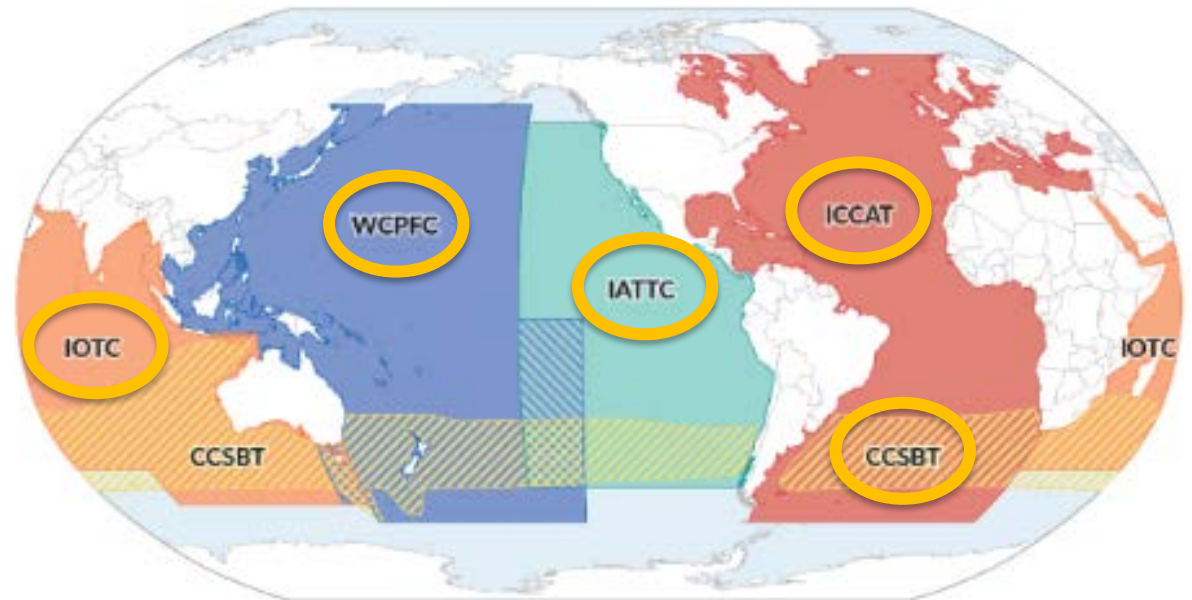


Areas overseen by each of 8 general RFMOs



- **GFCM** – General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
- **NEAFC** – North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
- **NPFC** – North Pacific Fisheries Commission
- **SIOFA** – Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
- **SPRFMO** – South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization

Areas overseen by each of the 5 tuna RFMOs



- **CCSBT** – Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
- **IATTC** – Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
- **ICCAT** – International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
- **IOTC** – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
- **WCPFC** – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

# For each RFMO, six categories of action were considered



	Actions					
RFMO	Standing Agenda Item	Resolution or Commission Decision (e.g. CMM)	Performance Review Recommendation(s)	Working Group, Task Team, or Experts' Meeting	SC or Commission Strategy, Workplan or Action Plan	Additional initiatives incl. collaborations

Status of Action:


- Underway/completed
- Not underway


# Efforts to address climate change impacts show some consistency across regional bodies as well as divergences




RFMO	Actions					
	Standing Agenda Item	Resolution or Commission Decision (e.g. CMM)	Performance Review Recommendation(s)	Working Group, Task Team, or Experts' Meeting	SC or Commission Strategy, Workplan or Action Plan	Additional initiatives incl. collaborations
<i>General</i>						
GFCM	Not underway	Not underway	Not underway	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Underway/completed
NEAFC	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Not underway	Not underway	Underway/completed
NPFC	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Not underway	Underway/completed	Underway/completed
SIOFA	Underway/completed	Not underway	Not underway	Not underway	Not underway	Underway/completed
SPRFMO	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Not underway
<i>Tuna</i>						
CCSBT	Underway/completed	Not underway	Underway/completed	Not underway	Not underway	Not underway
IATTC	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Not underway	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Not underway
ICCAT	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Not underway	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Underway/completed
IOTC	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Not underway	Not underway	Not underway	Not underway
WCPFC	Underway/completed	Underway/completed	Not underway	Not underway	Underway/completed	Underway/completed

Status of Action:

 Underway/completed

 Not underway

 **Note:** Links to many of the relevant files for each RFMO are available in the paper

# NPFC-specific recommendation 1) Develop a dedicated and more detailed work plan, indicative of timelines



- Work plan would integrate climate change considerations in NPFC scientific processes and develop climate-informed management approaches for NPFC species.
  - Consider relevant tools and frameworks for climate-resilient fisheries including use of management strategy evaluation and harvest strategies.
  - [NPFC-2024-SC09-OP04](#) for a review of the scientific literature on harvest strategies and climate change.

- Example from cross-RFMO comparison:
- **IATTC Climate change workplan** ([SAC-15-12](#)) proposed workplan activities on page 21:

Phase	Activities	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1) Planning	Review of and share available frameworks and tools																								
	Develop white paper of review and workplan proposal																								
	SAC/Commission Meeting: Share climate change resources and proposal with members																								
	Establish Terms of Reference (TOR) for climate change workshops																								
2) Decide on scope and goals	Workshop to develop scope																								
	SAC/Commission Meeting: Share/adopt scope																								
3) Develop framework	Workshop to develop framework																								
	SAC/Commission Meeting: Share/adopt framework																								
4) Creating tools	Strategic tool development																								
	Workshop for sharing and developing strategic tools																								
	Tactical tool development																								
	SAC/Commission Meeting: Share newly developed strategic tools																								
	Workshop for sharing and developing strategic and tactical tools																								
	SAC/Commission Meeting: Share newly developed strategic and tactical tools																								
Tool Implementation & Action	Workshop to identify tactical tools and management action																								
	SAC/Commission Meeting: Recommend tool implementation/ management action																								

TABLE 1. Timetable of activities for the proposed workplan. The timeframe is flexible, often iterative, and subject to change.



North Pacific Fisheries Commission



# NPFC-specific recommendation 2) Evaluate data requirements for climate-related monitoring as part of EBFM implementation



- Potential added value of:
  - Comprehensive ocean observation systems
  - Robust fisheries-dependent and -independent data programming
  - Regional observer program
- Recommendations from [NPFC-2024-SC09-OP01](#)



Image source: Science



Image source: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

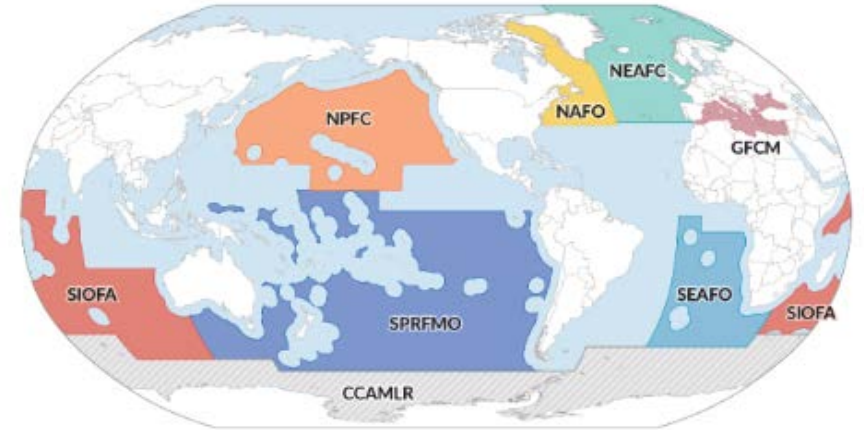


# NPFC-specific recommendation 3) **Enhance RFMO cooperation**

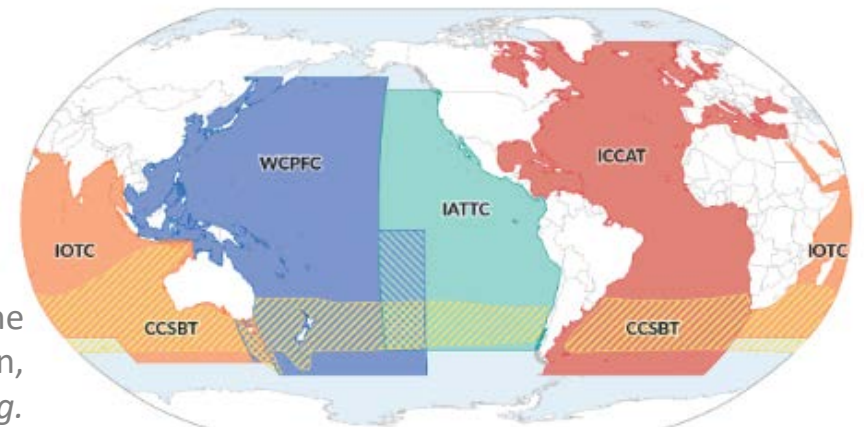


- **Build on good progress made** in cooperation with PICES, and capacity building with FAO and BECI
- **Deepen cooperation with other relevant RFMOs in the Pacific Ocean** regarding climate-ready management approaches, research and advice for transboundary species whose distribution or migrations are likely to be affected by climate change
- Palacios-Abrantes et al., Science Advances ([2025](#)).

Areas overseen by each of 8 general RFMOs



Areas overseen by each of the 5 tuna RFMOs



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

Image source: Pew, adapted from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, *FAO Map Catalog*.

# Thank You!

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