



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

## 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee

### REPORT

18-20 February 2021  
Video conference

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**This paper may be cited in the following manner:**

Technical and Compliance Committee. 2021. 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting Report. NPFC-2021-TCC05 Final Report. 36 pp. (Available at [www.npfc.int](http://www.npfc.int))

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**North Pacific Fisheries Commission**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee**

**18-20 February 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**REPORT**

Agenda Item 1. Opening of Meeting

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) took place as a virtual meeting via WebEx, on 18-20 February 2021, and was attended by Members from Canada, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, the United States of America, and Vanuatu. The meeting was opened by Dr. Robert Day (Canada), who served as the TCC Chair.

Agenda Item 2. Appointment of Rapporteur

2. Mr. Alexander Meyer was appointed as the Rapporteur.

Agenda Item 3. Introduction of Observers

3. The Chair introduced approved observers permitted to be present. The meeting was attended by Panama, the European Union, the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), Global Fishing Watch (GFW), the Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), and the Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies of Waseda University of Japan (ORIS). The observers were admitted without objection. Pew provided opening remarks related to its working paper for the Commission meeting (NPFC-2021-COM06-OP02) related to transparency and Panama on its application for cooperating non-contracting party (CNCP) status.

#### Agenda Item 4. Adoption of Agenda

4. The provisional agenda was adopted (Annex A). The List of Documents and Participants List are attached (Annexes B, C).

#### Agenda Item 5. Fisheries Overview

5. The overview of North Pacific fisheries and issues in 2019 (NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP01) was taken as read.

#### Agenda Item 6. Review of MCS related Issues from SC

6. The Science Manager, Dr. Aleksandr Zavolokin, provided a summary of MCS matters for coordination between the Scientific Committee (SC) and the TCC (NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP06). These included proposed revisions to CMM 2019-05 and CMM 2019-06 for bottom fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the northwestern and northeastern Pacific Ocean, proposed revisions to pelagic species bycatch reporting requirements for Convention Area chub mackerel fisheries, proposed inclusion of the Regulations for Management of Scientific Data and Information in the NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocols, and a request to the Commission to give guidance on the management strategy evaluation (MSE) process for chub mackerel.
7. Japan noted that it had proposed further amendments to CMM 2019-05 which would be discussed as document NPFC-2021-COM06-WP01 (Rev 1) at the Commission meeting.
8. The TCC discussed the importance of beginning discussions to develop an MSE process and endorsed the way forward proposed by the SC. However, the TCC noted that the NPFC has not yet completed a stock assessment for chub mackerel but has completed stock assessments for Pacific saury and noted the declining trend of the stock. The TCC suggested that it may therefore be more appropriate to develop an MSE process that would include harvest control rules and Management Procedure for Pacific saury before doing so for chub mackerel. Based on the discussion, and NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP06-Annex C, the TCC provides some recommendations for consideration by the Commission:

**Recommendation:** That the Commission establish a joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group to steer the MSE process, set objectives, and provide considerations for a timeline.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission direct the Secretariat to contract an external expert to support the development of the MSE process.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission focus on Pacific saury when initiating this MSE process in NPFC in lieu of the original planned focus on chub mackerel.

#### *6.1 EU Application to Accede to the NPFC Convention*

#### *6.2 NPAFC Memorandum of Cooperation Work Plan*

#### *6.3 NPFC and VMS Data Sharing and Data Security Protocols*

9. The TCC noted SC05's discussions of the scientific aspects of the EU Application to accede to the NPFC Convention, the draft NPAFC Memorandum of Cooperation Work Plan, and the proposed NPFC and VMS Data Sharing and Data Security Protocols. The TCC discussed the MCS-related aspects thereof under Agenda Items 7.1 to 7.3, respectively.

### Agenda Item 7. Other MCS Issues

#### *7.1 EU Application to Accede to the NPFC Convention*

10. The EU reminded the TCC that it had submitted an updated application to accede to the NPFC Convention at the COM05 meeting, including all information requested by Members at the COM04 meeting, but the Commission was not able to reach a consensus on the application. COM05 requested the EU to resubmit its application with an updated fisheries operation plan that included additional information requested by Members. The EU has since submitted further updated versions of its fisheries operation plans with the requested information to the third Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment meeting (TWG CMSA03) and the SC05 meeting, updating the plan each time based on the comments received. The latest application and fisheries operation plan are as described in NPFC-2021-TCC05-OP01.
11. The EU reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate fully in the implementation of NPFC CMMs, to ensure compliance by its fishing vessels and nationals with the provisions of the Convention and

the CMMs, to accept HSBI in accordance with the relevant NPFC procedures, and to provide the required financial contribution to the NPFC budget.

12. Some Members expressed concern about how to accommodate the EU's fishing interests with those of existing Members of the NPFC who have historically fished for chub mackerel in the Convention Area, and with the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of chub mackerel, as well as over bycatch mitigation of species other than fish.
13. The EU stated that it shares Members' concerns about the long-term sustainability of species under the purview of the NPFC. It considered that its application should be assessed on the basis of the information presently available to the NPFC and the methodology currently used to assess the impacts of Members' fishing activities. The EU suggested that its accession to the NPFC and the potential impact on any fishery by its vessels in the Convention Area, though interlinked, can be treated as separate issues, and that any fishing opportunities for EU vessels could be determined after accession. The EU reiterated that it has repeatedly expressed its interest in fishing in the Convention Area and submitted all information requested by Members.
14. The TCC considered the EU's application and noted the EU's efforts to provide all information requested by Members, as well as Members' concerns about the EU's accession.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission review the EU's application while taking into consideration the EU's efforts to provide all information requested by Members and Members' concerns about the EU's accession.

## *7.2 NPAFC Memorandum of Cooperation Work Plan*

15. The Compliance Manager, Mr. Peter Flewwelling, presented the MCS-related aspects of the draft Work plan to implement the NPAFC/NPFC Memorandum of Cooperation, 2021-2025 (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP03 (Rev 1)).

16. The TCC reviewed and revised the draft work plan (Annex D). The TCC recognized the benefits of cooperation between the NPFC and other RFMOs, such as NPAFC, with which its jurisdiction overlaps. The TCC noted the need to further revise the MCS-aspects of the draft work plan, including through joint work between the NPFC and the NPAFC.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission adopt Annex D as the TCC's contribution to the NPAFC Memorandum of Cooperation Work Plan and direct the Secretariat to liaise with NPAFC to continue work to finalize the plan.

### *7.3 NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol for VMS*

17. The Co-lead of the Small Working Group for Planning and Development (SWG PD), Ms. Amber Lindstedt (Canada), presented a proposal for the development of an NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol for the Vessel Monitoring System (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP04).

18. The TCC reviewed and revised the proposal. Members showed flexibility in removing square brackets related to VMS data being available for search and rescue activities. The TCC held significant discussions related to how data would be shared for use while undertaking HSBI operations but was unable to reach a consensus on how to resolve one remaining issue contained in paragraph 14.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission take into consideration the discussions by the TCC on the development of an NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol for the Vessel Monitoring System and provide guidance on resolving the outstanding issue of how data would be shared for use while undertaking HSBI operations in paragraph 14, recognizing the range of perspectives that were presented and without prejudice of further discussions.

19. The Compliance Manager provided an update on the work by the consultant, CLS, to develop the regional NPFC VMS. The system is almost complete and CLS is currently testing the transmission of data among Members. CLS and the Secretariat have also drafted Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that would govern how the Secretariat operates the system

(NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP07). Members recognized that this was an internal working document for the Secretariat and were interested in providing input. The SOPs will continue to be amended based on the outcomes of the TCC05 and COM06 meetings, and feedback from Members.

#### *7.4 Review of Applications for CNCP Status*

20. The Compliance Manager explained the status of Panama's application for renewal of CNCP status (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP02).
  
21. Panama explained that it is seeking CNCP status to be able to operate cargo reefer vessels in the Convention Area and that it has no intention to operate any fishing vessels there. Panama reiterated its commitment to combat and eliminate IUU fishing, to cooperate fully with the NPFC, to ensure all vessels flagged to Panama comply with all NPFC CMMs, and to accept HSBIs.
  
22. The TCC considered Panama's application but was unable to reach a consensus. Some Members supported the application, recognizing Panama's efforts to address Members' concerns and to combat IUU fishing. However, other Members expressed concern over Panama's flag state control, the gaps in the fisheries data it has submitted to the NPFC, and the fact that it has yet to fulfil its commitment to providing a voluntary contribution to the NPFC.  
**Recommendation:** That the Commission further review Panama's application for CNCP status.
  
23. Regarding its commitment to providing a voluntary contribution to the NPFC, Panama explained that, in order to comply with its domestic processes, it is unable to fulfil this commitment until the NPFC specifies the amount of the contribution. The TCC noted Panama's explanation and recalled paragraph 10.5 of the NPFC Rules of Procedure: "A non-Contracting Party seeking the status of CNCP is encouraged to make a contribution commensurate with what it would be assessed should it become a Contracting Party."

**Recommendation:** Should the Commission accept Panama’s application, that the Commission support the Executive Secretary in providing a letter to Panama allowing it to make a contribution and specifying an amount commensurate with what it would be assessed should it become a Contracting Party as outlined in the Rules of Procedure.

## Agenda Item 8. SWG Reports on Progress, Priorities and Recommendations

### 8.1 SWG Planning and Development Report

24. Ms. Lindstedt presented a summary of the work of the SWG PD since 2019 (NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP05).

**Recommendation:** That the Commission direct TCC to finalize its work that contributes to the general NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol in line with the progress made by the SC.

25. Ms. Lindstedt presented a proposal for the development of an NPFC Sustainable Use and Conservation Handbook (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP05). The TCC reviewed and endorsed the proposal.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission adopt the NPFC Sustainable Use and Conservation Handbook (Annex E).

26. The TCC discussed the work of the SWG PD and noted the need to prioritize work to design and implement a monitoring and control system for at-sea transshipment activities, recognizing the growing global focus on transshipment issues and the fact that the NPFC is behind other RFMOs in this regard. The TCC also discussed the heavy workload of the SWG PD and noted the need to develop a work plan that balances making progress on the relevant tasks and not overburdening participants.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission reemphasize the importance, agreed at the last Commission meeting, to have TCC advance the review and update to the interim transshipment measure, including monitoring and observer coverage.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission direct TCC to ensure that intersessional workload is adapted to competing work demands and that virtual meetings are held at judicious intervals.

### *8.2 SWG Operations Report*

27. The Co-Lead, Ms. Kristen Caldwell (United States), presented a summary of the work of the Small Working Group for Operations (SWG Ops) since 2019 (NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP04).

28. The TCC reviewed a recommended set of best practices for COVID-19 mitigation measures applicable to HSBI compiled by SWG Ops (NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP10).

**Recommendation:** That the Commission adopt the best practices for COVID-19 mitigation measures applicable to HSBI and that they be publicly available (Annex F).

### *8.3 IT Initiatives for 2021 Fiscal Year*

29. The Data Coordinator, Mr. Mervin Ogawa, and the Compliance Manager presented a summary of the status of all compliance-related information technology and data management systems completed or currently under development by the Secretariat (NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP02). Completed systems include the direct entry Vessel Registration System, Meeting Management, Calendar, e-Annual Report, Pacific Saury Weekly Report, Collaboration site, e-IUU, e-HSBI, HSBI Events, CMM Chart of Accounts and Data Warehouse Dashboard. Currently under development are a VMS and an Electronic Compliance Monitoring System (e-CMS).

### *Agenda Item 9. Review of Current CMMs*

30. Canada presented proposed amendments to CMM 2017-09 for High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures for the NPFC to implement a boarding ladder requirement for inspector safety (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP06 Rev 1).

31. The TCC noted the usefulness of the proposed approach, but some Members indicated that further discussion was needed.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission consider the proposed amendments to CMM 2017-09 for High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures for the NPFC further, recognizing that no consensus was reached at the TCC.

32. Canada presented proposed amendments to CMM 2019-01 on Information Requirements for Vessel Registration (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP07 Rev 2). After discussion and updates to the proposal, the TCC endorsed the proposed amendments.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission adopt revisions to the CMM on Information Requirements for Vessel Registration (Annex G).

33. In addition, the TCC discussed, but was unable to determine, how to include provisions in the CMM on Information Requirements for Vessel Registration to address the issue of vessels falsifying or misrepresenting their identity.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission direct the TCC to further discuss the issue of vessels falsifying or misrepresenting their identity and provide advice to COM07.

34. Canada presented proposed amendments to CMM 2019-12 on the Vessel Monitoring System (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP11 Rev 1). After discussion and updates to the proposal, the TCC endorsed the proposed amendments.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission adopt the revisions to the CMM on the Vessel Monitoring System (Annex H).

**Recommendation:** That the TCC Chair provide appropriate advance notification to Members on the timing at which the VMS would go live.

## Agenda Item 10. IUU Vessel List

### *10.1 Recommendation for Provisional IUU Vessel List to the Commission*

35. The TCC reviewed the current NPFC IUU vessel list (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP08) and recommended no deletions.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission retain all vessels on the current NPFC IUU vessel list.

36. It was recognized by Members that five Chinese vessels, with no markings, present a fundamental challenge to the NPFC's compliance scheme. China agreed, expressed its commitment to preventing recurrence, and indicated that it has taken action to do so.
37. One Member noted the importance of timely notification of alleged infractions. Members agreed to ensure more timely notification of alleged infractions.
38. Japan identified six Chinese vessels that engaged in fishing activities in the Convention Area without being registered on the NPFC Vessel Registry. China explained that this was the result of an internal process error and that all vessels were legally authorized to engage in fishing activities in the Convention Area. China indicated that it has established new working procedures to prevent recurrence and expressed its commitment to ensure on-time registration of vessels. However, one Member expressed concern, pointing out that this is a serious violation that has occurred several times over two years. One Member expressed satisfaction about China's explanation on this issue.
39. Japan identified one Chinese vessel whose appearance was inconsistent with its photo in the NPFC Vessel Registry. China explained that the photo in the NPFC Vessel Registry was an old one and that the vessel has undergone a number of modifications for safety at sea without changing the main parameters of the vessel since the photo was taken.
40. China also noted that for the seven vessels noted above, significant administrative penalties are being applied that are around 100,000-200,000 USD each, as well as implementation of a new internal process for compliance assessment.

41. After extensive discussion, the TCC noted the views expressed by Members concerning these seven vessels and the need for further discussion and consideration by the Commission.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission consider the TCC provisional NPFC IUU vessel list and whether to retain these seven vessels on the NPFC IUU vessel list, recognizing that no consensus was reached by the TCC.

42. Three stateless vessels were identified in NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP09 and the TCC concurred that these vessels be entered into the provisional IUU vessel list with the recognition that the data associated with the legal vessels would be removed and they would be registered as “unknown” and “no nationality.”

**Recommendation:** That the Commission consider the endorsement of the three stateless vessels to the NPFC IUU vessel list.

43. Japan identified one Panamanian carrier vessel as having no IRCS and subsequently determined data reporting gaps. The TCC noted the extensive correspondence between Panama, the Secretariat, and Japan. Some Members recognized the actions that Panama has taken to address the situation and expressed their satisfaction with removing the vessel from the draft NPFC IUU vessel list.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission consider the TCC provisional NPFC IUU vessel list (Annex I) and whether to retain the Panamanian carrier vessel on the NPFC IUU vessel list, recognizing that no consensus was reached by the TCC.

44. The provisional NPFC IUU vessel list is included as Annex I.

## Agenda Item 11. Compliance Monitoring Scheme

### *11.1 Provisional Compliance Report*

45. The Compliance Manager presented the NPFC Draft Compliance Report – 2019 (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP09 (Rev. 3)). No potential compliance issues were identified. The TCC reviewed and endorsed the report as the Provisional Compliance Report with the deletion of vessel data for 2016 and 2017 due to challenges in importing data into the direct entry vessel registry.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission adopt the Provisional Compliance Report (Annex J).

46. The TCC discussed the potential inaccuracies in the recording of Members' authorized fishing vessels for 2016 and 2017 and recognized the need to examine this issue further.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission direct the TCC to conduct a review to ascertain a more accurate understanding of the number of authorized fishing vessels in 2016, 2017 and additional years.

#### *11.2 List of obligations for consideration for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2021*

47. The United States presented a list of reporting obligations from the NPFC Convention and CMMs to be considered for inclusion in the future Compliance Monitoring Scheme (NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP10 Rev 1). This list expanded the current number of reporting obligations that would be assessed and focused on Member-level reporting requirements. One Member provided additional input for this proposal that was not provided during the intersessional consultation due to insufficient time for discussion.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission consider adopting the list of future reporting obligations following appropriate discussion among Members.

#### Agenda Item 12. Other Matters

48. The Chair noted that the TCC Vice-Chair position was vacant.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission take appropriate action to appoint a TCC Vice-Chair.

49. The Compliance Manager presented an invitation from the International MCS Network for NPFC to officially support the Network (NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP03).

50. Japan presented the results of a basic analysis of NPFC Transshipment data, in reference to NPFC Catch Statistics and NPFC Member/CNCP Flagged Vessels Register in 2018 and 2019 (NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP08) and interest was noted.

51. On behalf of other observers, Pew requested that, in the interest of transparency, observer organizations be permitted access to all TCC meetings, including informal sessions and meetings of small working groups, that all meeting documents, including the terms of reference of small working groups, be made publicly available on the NPFC website, and that compliance reports be made available to accredited observer organizations.
52. Some Members noted the importance of transparency and supported the intentions of the Pew paper (NPFC-2021-COM06-OP02).

**Recommendation:** That the Commission, based on the TCC review of pertinent elements to TCC, give consideration to the observations by Pew and other NGOs.

Agenda Item 13. Recommendations to the Commission.

53. The TCC recommended the following to the Commission:

(Agenda Item 6)

- (a) That the Commission establish a joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group to steer the MSE process, set objectives, and provide considerations for a timeline.
- (b) That the Commission direct the Secretariat to contract an external expert to support the development of the MSE process.
- (c) That the Commission focus on Pacific saury when initiating this MSE process in NPFC in lieu of the original planned focus on chub mackerel.

(Agenda Item 7)

- (d) That the Commission review the EU's application to accede to the NPFC while taking into consideration the EU's efforts to provide all information requested by Members and Members' concerns about the EU's accession.
- (e) That the Commission adopt Annex D as the TCC's contribution to the NPAFC Memorandum of Cooperation Work Plan and direct the Secretariat to liaise with NPAFC to continue work to finalize the plan.
- (f) That the Commission take into consideration the discussions by the TCC on the development of an NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol for the Vessel Monitoring System and provide guidance on resolving the outstanding issue of how

data would be shared for use while undertaking HSBI operations in paragraph 14, recognizing the range of perspectives that were presented and without prejudice of further discussions.

- (g) That the Commission further review Panama's application for CNCP status.
- (h) Should the Commission accept Panama's application, that the Commission support the Executive Secretary in providing a letter to Panama allowing it to make a contribution and specifying an amount commensurate with what it would be assessed should it become a Contracting Party as outlined in the Rules of Procedure.

(Agenda 8)

- (i) That the Commission direct TCC to finalize its work that contributes to the general NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol in line with the progress made by the SC.
- (j) That the Commission adopt the NPFC Sustainable Use and Conservation Handbook (Annex E).
- (k) That the Commission reemphasize the importance, agreed at the last Commission meeting, to have TCC advance the review and update to the interim transshipment measure, including monitoring and observer coverage.
- (l) That the Commission direct TCC to ensure that intersessional workload is adapted to competing work demands and that virtual meetings are held at judicious intervals.
- (m) That the Commission adopt the best practices for COVID-19 mitigation measures applicable to HSBI and that they be publicly available (Annex F)

(Agenda 9)

- (n) That the Commission consider the proposed amendments to CMM 2017-09 for High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures for the NPFC further, recognizing that no consensus was reached at the TCC.
- (o) That the Commission adopt revisions to the CMM on Information Requirements for Vessel Registration (Annex G).
- (p) That the Commission direct the TCC to further discuss the issue of vessels falsifying or misrepresenting their identity and provide advice to COM07.

(q) That the Commission adopt the revisions to the CMM on the Vessel Monitoring System (Annex H).

(r) That the TCC Chair provide appropriate advance notification to Members on the timing at which the VMS would go live.

(Agenda 10)

(s) That the Commission retain all vessels on the current NPFC IUU vessel list.

(t) That the Commission consider the TCC provisional NPFC IUU vessel list and whether to retain these seven vessels on the NPFC IUU vessel list, recognizing that no consensus was reached by the TCC.

(u) That the Commission consider the endorsement of the three stateless vessels to the NPFC IUU vessel list.

(v) That the Commission consider the TCC provisional NPFC IUU vessel list (Annex I) and whether to retain the Panamanian carrier vessel on the NPFC IUU vessel list, recognizing that no consensus was reached by the TCC.

(Agenda 11)

(w) That the Commission adopt the Provisional Compliance Report (Annex J).

(x) That the Commission direct the TCC to conduct a review to ascertain a more accurate understanding of the number of authorized fishing vessels in 2016, 2017 and additional years.

(y) That the Commission consider adopting the list of future reporting obligations following appropriate discussion among Members.

(Agenda 12)

(z) That the Commission take appropriate action to appoint a TCC Vice-Chair.

(aa) That the Commission, based on the TCC review of pertinent elements to TCC, give consideration to the observations by Pew and other NGOs.

(Agenda 14)

(bb) That the Commission provide appropriate direction on the timing and location of the next TCC meeting.

Agenda Item 14. Next Meeting

54. The Chair noted that the tradition for the TCC is to meet adjacent to the Commission meeting.

**Recommendation:** That the Commission provide appropriate direction on the timing and location of the next TCC meeting.

Agenda Item 15. Adoption of the Report

55. The report was adopted by consensus.

Agenda Item 16. Close of the Meeting

56. The TCC meeting closed at 14:00 on 20 February 2021, Tokyo time.

## **ANNEXES**

**Annex A** Agenda

**Annex B** List of Documents

**Annex C** List of Participants

**Annex D** Cooperation between NPFC and NPAFC

**Annex E** Sustainable Use and Conservation Handbook

**Annex F** NPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection in a COVID-19 Environment - Best Practices

**Annex G** CMM 2021-01 On Information Requirements for Vessel Registration

**Annex H** CMM 2021-12 On the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

**Annex I** Provisional NPFC IUU Vessel List

**Annex J** NPFC Draft Compliance Report - 2019

## Agenda

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Agenda Item 3. Introduction of Observers

Agenda Item 4. Adoption of Agenda

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE MCS**

Agenda Item 5. Fisheries Overview

Agenda Item 6. Review of MCS related issues from SC

6.1 EU Application to Accede to the NPFC Convention

6.2 NPAFC Memorandum of Cooperation Work Plan

6.3 NPFC and VMS Data Sharing and Data Security Protocols

Agenda Item 7. Other MCS Issues

7.1 EU Application to Accede to the NPFC Convention

7.2 NPAFC Memorandum of Cooperation Work Plan

7.3 NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol for VMS

7.4 Review of Applications for CNCP Status

Agenda Item 8. SWG Reports on Progress, Priorities and Recommendations

8.1 SWG Planning and Development Report

8.2 SWG Operations Report

8.3 IT Initiatives for 2021 Fiscal Year

Agenda Item 9. CMM Amendments or new CMMs

Agenda Item 10. IUU Vessel List

10.1 Recommendation for Provisional IUU Vessel List to the Commission

Agenda Item 11. Compliance Monitoring Scheme

11.1 Provisional Compliance Report

11.2 List of obligations for consideration for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2021

Agenda Item 12. Other Matters

Agenda Item 13. Recommendations to the Commission

Agenda Item 14. Next Meeting

Agenda Item 15. Adoption of the Report

Agenda Item 16. Close of the Meeting

## List of Documents

### MEETING INFORMATION PAPERS

Document Number	Title
NPFC-2021-COM06-MIP01	Details for the 5th Technical and Compliance Committee, 4th Finance and Administration Committee and 6th Commission Meetings
NPFC-2021-TCC05-MIP02 (Rev 2)	Provisional Agenda
NPFC-2021-TCC05-MIP03 (Rev 2)	Annotated Provisional Agenda
NPFC-2021-TCC05-MIP04 (Rev 5)	Indicative Schedule

### WORKING PAPERS

Document Number	Title
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP01 (Rev. 2)	NPFC Draft IUU Vessel Listing 2020 10 Feb 2021  Circular 062-2020 Panama Response to Draft IUU Vessel_List for MV DA FENG MARINER  Circular 001-2021 Draft IUU Vessel List for FV ZHAN HAI 001 – Canadian Decision  Circular 004-2021 Annex No. 3 - DAFENG MARINER Technical Report  Circular 004-2021 Annex No. 5 - Additional Report
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP02	Panama Application for Renewal of CNCP Status
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP03 (Rev 1)	Cooperation Between NPFC and NPAFC
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP04 (Rev 1)	NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol for VMS
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP05	Sustainable Use and Conservation Handbook
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP06 (Rev 1)	CMM HSBI Boarding Ladder Annex
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP07 (Rev 2)	Amendments to CMM 2019-01 (TC)
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP08	NPFC Current IUU Vessel List
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP09 (Rev 3)	Draft Compliance Report - 2019
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP10 (Rev. 1)	CMR List of Obligations for Consideration
NPFC-2021-TCC05-WP11 (Rev 2)	Amendment to CMM for VMS

## **INFORMATION PAPERS**

<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP01(Rev 1)	Fisheries Overview
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP02	IT Initiatives for 2020 and 2021
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP03	Invitation to Support the IMCS Network
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP04	SWG Operations Summary
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP05	SWG Planning and Development
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP06	Matters for coordination between SC and TCC
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP07	VMS Standard Operating Procedures
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP08	Transshipment Analysis
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP09	AIS Tracks for Three Stateless Vessels
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP10	NPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection in a COVID-19 Environment – Best Practices
NPFC-2021-TCC05-IP11	Comparison of Photos of ZHOU YU 807

## **OBSERVER PAPERS**

<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
NPFC-2021-TCC05-OP01	EU Application to Accede to the NPFC Convention

## List of Participants

### TCC Chair

Robert DAY  
Robert.Day@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Sean WHEELER  
Advisor  
Sean.Wheeler@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

### Canada

Amber LINDSTEDT  
Head of Delegation  
Amber.Lindstedt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Janelle CURTIS  
Chair, Scientific Committee  
Janelle.Curtis@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Will HARRIS  
Advisor  
william.harris@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Nick HORSCROFT  
Advisor  
Nick.Horscroft@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Daniel TOWNSEND  
Advisor  
daniel.townsend@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Jerry WALSH  
Advisor  
Jerry.Walsh@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

### China

Haiwen SUN  
Head of Delegation  
bofdwf@126.com

Libin DAI  
Advisor  
644318716@qq.com

Fenghua TANG  
Advisor  
f-h-tang@163.com

Lei JU  
Advisor  
ju\_lei@mfa.gov.cn

Ce LIU  
Advisor  
admin1@tuna.org.cn

Yongchuang SHI  
Advisor  
1024731143@qq.com

Siquan TIAN  
Advisor  
sqtian@shou.edu.cn

Luoliang XU  
Advisor  
luoliang.xu@maine.edu

Heng ZHANG  
Advisor  
zhangh1@ecsf.ac.cn

Yunbo ZHANG  
Advisor  
admin1@tuna.org.cn

Gang ZHAO  
Advisor  
admin1@tuna.org.cn

Zijun ZHOU  
Advisor  
zhouzijun0128@126.com

### **Japan**

Takumi FUKUDA  
Head of Delegation  
takumi\_fukuda720@maff.go.jp

Yoshioki OOZEKI  
Advisor  
oozeki@affrc.go.jp

Kazuhiro OSHIMA  
Advisor  
oshimaka@affrc.go.jp

Kento OTSUYAMA  
Advisor  
kento\_otsuyama940@maff.go.jp

Rui SAITO  
Advisor  
rui@affrc.go.jp

Kenji TAKASAKI  
Advisor  
ztakasaki@affrc.go.jp

Miwako TAKASE  
Advisor  
miwako\_takase170@maff.go.jp

Shinji UEHARA  
Advisor  
ueshin@affrc.go.jp

Takaaki UMEDA  
Advisor  
takaaki\_umeda470@maff.go.jp

### **Korea**

Jung-re Riley KIM  
Head of Delegation  
riley1126@korea.kr

Minju JANG  
Advisor  
minju122122@korea.kr

Seong-Ju CHO  
Advisor  
csj@kosfa.org

Donghwan Alfie CHOE  
Advisor  
dhchoe@kosfa.org

Seok-Gwan CHOI  
Advisor  
sgchoi@korea.kr

Taerin KIM  
Advisor  
shararak@korea.kr

Suyong PARK  
Advisor  
Paul.Park@hsep.com

Tae-hoon WON  
Advisor  
4indamorning@kofci.org

### **Russia**

Dmitry KREMENYUK  
Head of Delegation  
d.kremenyuk@fishcom.ru

Alexey BAKHTOV  
Advisor  
abakhtov@cfmc.ru

Elena TROSHINA  
Advisor  
etroshina.vlf@cfmc.ru

Oleg KATUGIN  
Advisor  
okatugin@mail.ru

Vladimir KULIK  
Advisor  
vladimir.kulik@tinro-center.ru

### **Chinese Taipei**

Shih-Chin CHOU  
Head of Delegation  
shihcin@msl.f.a.gov.tw

Wen-Bin HUANG  
Advisor  
bruce@gms.ndhu.edu.tw

Yen-Kai CHEN  
Advisor  
ykchen@mofa.gov.tw

Huang-Chih CHIANG  
Advisor  
hcchiang@ntu.edu.tw

Ting CHEN  
Advisor  
tingstravel25@gmail.com

Ying- Yueh CHIN  
Advisor  
yingyueh0130@msl.f.a.gov.tw

Min San HSIEH  
Advisor  
mshsieh@mofa.gov.tw

Tse-Yung HSU  
Advisor  
R08A21088@ntu.edu.tw

Fang-Chia HSU  
Advisor  
melody0555@ofdc.org.tw

Tang-Huei LEE  
Advisor  
nancy@squid.org.tw

Guann-Der LEE  
Advisor  
gdlee@mofa.gov.tw

### **United States of America**

Glenn MERRILL  
Head of Delegation  
glenn.merrill@noaa.gov

Kristen CALDWELL  
Advisor  
Kristen.B.Caldwell@uscg.mil

Benjamin CHEESEMAN  
Advisor  
benjamin.cheeseman@noaa.gov

Alisha FALBERG  
Advisor  
alisha.falberg@noaa.gov

Kari FENSKE  
Advisor  
kari.fenske@noaa.gov

Dan HULL  
Advisor  
danhullak@gmail.com

Kent LABORDE  
Advisor  
kent.laborde@noaa.gov

Richard H LINCOLN  
Advisor  
rlincolnabroad@hotmail.com

Staci MACCORKLE  
Advisor  
MacCorkleSK@state.gov

Brian MCTAGUE  
Advisor  
brian.mctague@noaa.gov

### **Vanuatu**

Mei-Chin JUAN  
meichin.mdfc@gmail.com

Kevin LIN  
kevin.mdfc@msa.hinet.net

### **OBSERVERS**

#### **Panama**

Raul DELGADO  
rdelgado@arap.gob.pa

Georgette CONSTANTINO  
gconstantino@mire.gob.pa

Mario AGUILAR  
meaguilar@arap.gob.pa

Samuel Isaac GUEVARA  
sguevara@panaconsul-tokyo.com

Rudick KANT  
rkant@arap.gob.pa

Vivian QUIROS  
vquiros@arap.gob.pa

### **European Union**

Fiona HARFORD  
Fiona.HARFORD@ec.europa.eu

### **South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

Randy JENKINS  
rjenkins@sprfmo.int

### **Global Fishing Watch**

Gunther ERRHALT  
gunther@globalfishingwatch.org

Nate MILLER  
nate@globalfishingwatch.org

Masaki TSUDA  
masaki@globalfishingwatch.org

### **Organization for Regional and Inter- regional Studies**

Mari KOYANO  
koyano@juris.hokudai.ac.jp

Yasuhiro SANADA  
y-sanada@aoni.waseda.jp

**The Pew Charitable Trusts**

Dave GERSHMAN  
dgershman@oceanfdn.org

Jamie GIBBON  
jgibbon@pewtrusts.org

Janelle HANGEN  
jhangen@pewtrusts.org

Raiana MCKINNEY  
rmckinney@pewtrusts.org

**Rapporteur**

Alex MEYER  
meyer@urbanconnections.jp

**Secretariat**

Dae-Yeon MOON  
dymoon@npfc.int

Peter FLEWWELLING  
pflewwelling@npfc.int

Alex ZAVOLOKIN  
azavolokin@npfc.int

Yuko YOSHIMURA-TAKAMIYA  
ytakamiya@npfc.int

Mervin OGAWA  
mogawa@npfc.int

## COOPERATION BETWEEN NPFC AND NPAFC

### Abstract:

The Chair of NPFC and President of NPAFC signed the MOC between NPFC and NPAFC on 13 May 2019 during the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NPAFC held in Portland, USA during 13-17 May 2019 (<https://www.npfc.int/system/files/2019-05/MOC-NPFC-NPFAC.pdf>). The area of cooperation focused on the matters of common interest including exchange of data and information, collaboration on research efforts on species of mutual interest and implementation of conservation and management measures.

NPAFC sent a request dated 27 May 2019 for NPFC's TCC to amend their boarding inspection forms to capture the presence of salmon bycatch or retention of salmon as urgent area of cooperation in compliance area. This request for cooperation in the recording of salmon by-catch was discussed at TCC04 and it was agreed that Members could voluntarily take such action and report the results to NPAFC.

A draft Work Plan to implement the MOC between NPFC and NPAFC for 2021-2025 was sent to NPFC on 25 March 2020 (Ref. NPFC Circular 016-2020 Draft Work Plan to implement the MOC between NPFC and NPAFC). The Scientific Committee reviewed the draft Work Plan during SC05 and agreed with the proposed scientific activities noted in NPFC-2020-SC05-WP04.

TCC 05 has also been asked to review and input to the Draft Work Plan attached hereto as [Annex A](#).

**Work plan**  
**to implement NPAFC/NPFC Memorandum of Cooperation, 2021–2025**

*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 management of the mutual area of interest in easily accessible form.
- Establish a mechanism of general information exchange (e.g., MCS activity information, fleet activity information, map of catch and fishing efforts).
- Establish a practice of sharing information on suspicious fishing vessels identified in overlapping convention area including stateless vessels and unregistered vessels.

*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 concluding symposium.
- Harmonize the NPFC/PICES and NPAFC/PICES Frameworks for Enhanced Scientific Cooperation in the North Pacific Ocean.

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

- Establish mechanism to share IUU vessel list of each Commission and its related information.
- Expand cooperation to collect and share information relating to species of special interest for each Commission.
- Develop, publish and distribute public information about conservation on the high seas and consequences of IUU activity.

For each agreed item a timeline, milestones, and deliverables will be mutually developed. Work plan will be discussed by the commissions and mutually agreed before July 2021.

Note: As this handbook is 145 pages in length, it is being embedded as an icon here and the title page and table of contents is attached. This handbook was updated after COM06.



Sustainable Use  
and Conservation H

# **SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION HANDBOOK**

**Updated: (DD/MO/YEAR) and coming into force on (DD/MO/YEAR)**

## Table of Contents

<b>SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION HANDBOOK .....</b>	<b>1</b>
(Updated: (DD/MO/YEAR) and coming into force on (DD/MO/YEAR) .....	1
FOREWORD .....	3
ACRONYMS .....	4
<b>CHAPTER I: VESSEL REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Article 1 – CMM NPFC Vessel Registry/Vessel Markings/ General .....	6
Article 2 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	45
<b>CHAPTER II: MEASURES FOR PRIORITY SPECIES .....</b>	<b>46</b>
Article 3 – CMM Chub Mackerel .....	46
Article 4 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	48
Article 5 – CMM Pacific Saury.....	49
Article 6 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	51
Article 7 – CMM for Sablefish.....	52
Article 8 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	54
Article 9 – CMM Japanese Sardine, Neon Flying Squid and Japanese Flying Squid .....	55
Article 10 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	56
<b>CHAPTER III: PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS FROM BOTTOM FISHING ACTIVITIES.....</b>	<b>57</b>
Article 11 – CMM Bottom Fisheries and Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Northwestern Pacific Ocean .....	57
Article 12 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	84
Article 13 – CMM Bottom Fisheries and Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean.....	85
Article 14 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	107
<b>CHAPTER IV: MONITORING OF FISHERIES.....</b>	<b>108</b>
Article 15 – CMM Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) .....	108
Article 16 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	112
Article 17 – CMM Compliance Monitoring Scheme .....	113
Article 18 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	118
Article 19 – CMM Interim Transshipment.....	119
Article 20 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	121
<b>CHAPTER V: AT-SEA INSPECTION AND SURVEILLANCE SCHEME .....</b>	<b>122</b>
Article 21 – CMM High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures .....	122
Article 22 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	132
<b>CHAPTER VI: NON-CONTRACTING PARTY SCHEME .....</b>	<b>133</b>
Article 23 – CMM Vessels without Nationality.....	133
Article 24 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	134
Article 25 – CMM Identification of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Activities.....	135
Article 26 – Enhancements and Clarifications from the Commission .....	145

## **NPFC HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTION IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT – BEST PRACTICES**

### **SUBJECT:**

Sharing of domestic COVID-19 Mitigation Measures applicable to High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI)

### **BACKGROUND:**

On 31 August, the TCC Chair circulated a letter to TCC Focal Points and the co-leads for the Small Working Group for Operations requesting the collation and comparison of domestic COVID-19 mitigation strategies and policies as they relate to High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI).

### **SUMMARY:**

This summary outlines baseline standards for Authorized Inspection Vessels and Authorized Inspectors derived from aligned requirements and best practices of all Members. Any protocols drafted by the NPFC should not unduly burden Members by creating additional requirements, monetary obligations, or contravene domestic policy or procedures. Any protocols should also be time bound to ensure they are revisited, modified, or cancelled as the COVID-19 situation changes.

Overall, mitigation measures currently in place by Members follow similar standards and are all in alignment with WHO guidelines, keeping the crews of Authorized Inspection Vessels and Fishing Vessels safe to the greatest extent possible. The following categories were the most widely similar and could be considered as minimal HSBI COVID-19 mitigation measures:

- Protective gear/equipment: All members have specifications for Authorized Inspectors performing HSBI to wear, at a minimum:
  - Masks
  - Gloves
  - Protective Clothing
  - Eye/Face Protection
- Health screening procedures:
  - There are variances on timing, quarantine periods, and number of tests; however, most Members have assurances in place to medically clear crews prior to embarking or departure as well as the duration of the patrol period.
  - All members have provisions for consistent health checks/monitoring of crew while underway.
- Inspection vessel disinfection:
  - All members have stringent requirements for disinfection of the Inspection Vessel on a daily basis.
- Equipment and gear disinfection:
  - Post-HSBI, all members have detailed procedures to disinfect gear and equipment used during HSBI.

Areas of variances include:

- Detailed provisions and requirements for fishing vessels and their crews subject to the NPFC HSBI CMM.
- Directing fishing vessel masters to subject Authorized Inspectors to medical inspections prior to embarking for HSBI.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Based on the consolidated review of all mitigation strategies and policies in place by Members, the following methods could be used as baseline procedures and considerations by all Members when executing HSBI and for masters of Authorized Fishing Vessels while operating within the NPFC Convention Area.

Pre-Patrol	During Patrol	During HSBI	Post HSBI/Patrol	For Fishing Vessels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-monitoring of symptoms, and daily health checks for defined period prior to getting underway.</li> <li>• COVID-19 training for crew.</li> <li>• Stocking up on PPE/Supplies.</li> <li>• COVID-19 testing if available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-monitoring of symptoms, and daily health checks</li> <li>• Increased sanitation protocols onboard ship.</li> <li>• Increase social distancing as able amongst crew.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory use of PPE to include masks, gloves, protective clothing, and eye protection.</li> <li>• Pre-boarding questions to ascertain health of crew and Authorized Inspectors.</li> <li>• Maximize social distancing and contact of surfaces while on HSBI.</li> <li>• Minimum number of inspectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanitation of gear, equipment, and Authorized Inspectors prior to contact with Authorized Inspection Vessel crew.</li> <li>• Self-monitoring of symptoms, and daily health checks post HSBI.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-monitoring of symptoms, and daily health checks for defined period prior to getting underway.</li> <li>• Vessel is required to carry masks, gloves, glasses, disinfectant and medicine.</li> <li>• Avoid direct contact with non-crew during operations or port calls</li> <li>• Increase social distancing as able amongst crew.</li> </ul>

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON INFORMATION  
REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSEL REGISTRATION**

This document was submitted by the 5th TCC to the 6th Commission Meeting for consideration.

The final version of this CMM is Annex N of the Commission Report.

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON THE VESSEL MONITORING  
SYSTEM (VMS)**

This document was submitted by the 5th TCC to the 6th Commission Meeting for consideration.

The final version of this CMM is Annex P of the Commission Report.

**PROVISIONAL NPFC IUU VESSEL LIST**

The link to the TCC document "Provisional NPFC IUU Vessel List" is **here**.

This document was submitted by the 5th TCC to the 6th Commission Meeting for consideration.

The final version ("NPFC IUU Vessel List for 2021") is Annex I of the Commission Report.

**NPFC Provisional Compliance Report - 2019**

The link to the TCC document "NPFC Provisional Compliance Report - 2019" is **here**.

The final version ("NPFC Compliance Report - 2019") is Annex K of the Commission Report.