



## North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2020-SSC BFME01-IP02 (Rev. 1)

### **NPFC SC Project #10: International Course for NPFC Observers for VME Indicator Taxa Identification**

***Abstract:** As endorsed by the Commission, the SC planned to hold an international course/workshop on VME indicator taxa identification in 2020 and suggested to invite PICES to take part in it. The proposal for a joint course was accepted by PICES pending more details from NPFC. The SCint01 meeting suggested to postpone the course to 2021. Russia expressed interest in hosting the course.*

As endorsed by the Commission, the SC planned to hold an international course/workshop on VME indicator taxa identification in 2020. It has been agreed that the SC will further elaborate on the details of the course including the aim, intended participants, course content, estimated duration, number of lecturers, estimated costs and others after the SC04 meeting in April 2019. The SC also considered the possibility of conducting this course in collaboration with the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), which has extensive experience in holding such courses, or other organizations.

Following the suggestion from the SC, the Secretariat presented a proposal on the VME course at the PICES Annual meeting in October 2019 and the SC Chair further worked with the PICES Secretariat towards the development of a joint course. The proposal was met positively by PICES as it fits the priority areas for cooperation identified by NPFC and PICES in the framework for scientific collaboration in the North Pacific. However, PICES requested more detailed information about the course before it takes the decision on the co-sponsorship of this joint activity.

As proposed by Russia at the SSC VME04 in April 2019 and discussed intersessionally, the course details are as follows:

**Aim:** to share knowledge on the identification of the VME Indicator taxa (including potential groups which can be included in nearest future into the List of VME indicators).

**Lecturers/teachers:** two specialists on corals, hydrocorals and/or sponges.

**For whom:** observers and students who specialize in fishery observing or science.

**Content:**

- 1) Lectures on the taxonomy, physiology and geographical distribution of the VME indicator taxa including potential taxa which may be included in nearest future
- 2) Practical seminars/training to teach observers and students how to identify specimens in the laboratory and also in the field and how to use the VME taxa ID Guide.

**Certification:** final examination and certification of successful students. NPFC Certificate can be designed and arranged based on the NAFO experience.

**Required funds:** 1.65 mln JPY (~15,000USD) as adopted by the Commission.

**Dates:** fall 2021, about 4 days.

**Venue:** Russia expressed interest in hosting the course.

**Principal coordinator:** Dr. Tatiana Dautova.

**Expected participants:** NPFC observers, NPFC coral experts, PICES coral experts (up to 20?).

**Co-sponsorship by PICES:** up to \$15,000 [Meeting costs ~\$5000; 2. Travel costs for 1 or 2 coral experts (Les Watling, Bob Stone) ~\$5000; 3. Travel support for ~10 students: \$5000]  
(decision is pending)

**Potential participants from PICES:** Les Watling, Bob Stone.

**Steering Committee:** Dr. Tatiana Dautova, Dr. Chris Rooper, Dr. Alex Zavolokin, Dr. Dae Yeon Moon, Dr. Janelle Curtis...and two others involved with PICES (Dr. Hye-Won Moon (Korea)? Dr. Mai Miyamoto (Japan)?) Other thoughts or suggestions?

**Proposed Instructors:** Two instructors.

Potential candidates: Dr. Tatiana Dautova, Les Watling (USA)?; Bob Stone (USA)?; Amy Baco-Taylor (USA)? Ellen Kenchington? Other thoughts or suggestions?

**Synopsis:** TBD

**Proposed schedule:** TBD

**Guidelines for application and acceptance:** TBD