



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 the fisheries under their jurisdiction, including International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, and South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization;

Noting also that the UN General Assembly's Sustainable Fisheries Resolution (A/RES/77/118) calls upon States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to assess the risks and potential adverse impacts of climate change with respect to fish stocks and consider them when establishing conservation and management measures and identifying options to reduce risks and adverse impacts with respect to fisheries management and the health and resilience of marine ecosystems;

Emphasizing that climate change is leading to potential shifts in the distribution and abundance of global fisheries, altering ecosystems, and affecting livelihoods and food systems worldwide;

Acknowledging that the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) does not currently have provisions to analyze and address the potential impacts from climate change on the fisheries under its jurisdiction through the Commission or its subsidiary bodies;

Recalling the NPFC–PICES Framework for Enhanced Scientific Collaboration in the North Pacific, which prioritizes climate change and suggests its integration into work on stock assessments for priority species, the conservation of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and an ecosystem approach to fisheries;

Recognizing the need to develop a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change on fishery resources in the Convention Area,

NPFC resolves to:

1. Consider where appropriate the potential impacts of climate change on NPFC fisheries resources and related ecosystems in the Convention Area, related fishing activities, as well as any related socio-economic impacts.
2. Take into account in relevant deliberations, including in the development of conservation and management measures to the extent possible, the best available scientific information and advice, particularly from the Scientific Committee (SC), on the potential impacts of climate change on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent on or associated with target stocks, with a view to adapting to changing conditions and improving the resilience of these stocks, species, related ecosystems, and fisheries.
3. Task the SC to identify relevant data availability and needs and integrate analyses of climate change relevant to NPFC fisheries into its work plan. The SC will consider to the extent possible key vulnerabilities and management implications of changing oceanographic conditions resulting from climate change on NPFC fisheries resources and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with target stocks, including the impacts on overfished stocks and vulnerable marine ecosystems. The SC will discuss how best to incorporate existing climate change data and analyses in its work as well as other information that may be needed to assess the impact of climate change on the fisheries managed by NPFC.
4. Include climate change as a standing agenda item of meetings of the Commission, SC, and TCC.