



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2023-SSC BFME04-MIP02

North Pacific Fisheries Commission
4th Meeting of the Small Scientific Committee on Bottom Fish and Marine Ecosystems
7-9 December 2023
Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada

Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda Item 3. Overview of the outcomes of previous NPFC meetings

3.1 SSC BFME03

3.2 COM07

3.2.1 CMMs 2023-05 and 2023-06

3.2.2 NPFC Performance Review

3.2.3 Resolution on Climate Change

Agenda Item 4. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of North Pacific armorhead (NPA)

4.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for NPA in 2023

4.2 NPA monitoring survey and Adaptive Management Procedure (AMP)

4.2.1 Review of the results from 2023 monitoring survey

4.3 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on NPA

4.3.1 NPA species summary document update and review

4.3.2 Other research activities on NPA

4.3.3 Future and planned research activities by Members on NPA in 2024

Agenda Item 5. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of splendid alfonsino (SA)

5.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for SA in 2023

5.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on SA

5.2.1 SA species summary document update and review

5.2.2 Other research activities on SA

5.2.3 Future and planned research activities by Members on SA in 2024

Agenda Item 6. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of sablefish

6.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for sablefish in 2023

6.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on sablefish

6.2.1 Updated stock status for sablefish (Canada and USA)

6.2.2 Sablefish species summary document update and review

6.2.3 Other research activities on sablefish

6.2.4 Future and planned research activities by Members on sablefish in 2024

Agenda Item 7. Skilfish in the NPFC Convention Area

7.1 Summary of skilfish distribution, biology and life history

7.2 Summary of skilfish longline fishery characteristics in the NPFC Convention Area

Agenda Item 8. Progress on data-limited approaches to assessment of NPA and SA

8.1 Update from SWG NPA-SA

8.1.1 Review of joint work on life history based approach to stock assessment

8.1.2 Other possible approaches to stock assessment, especially for NPA (IBM and depletion)

8.1.3 Review of the effectiveness of current CMMs for NPA and SA

8.1.4 Update on CPUE standardization work

8.1.5 Final review and approval of Fish ID guide

Agenda Item 9. Assessment and scientific advice on the management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

9.1 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on VME

9.1.1 Review of progress towards developing a definition of VMEs

9.1.2 Modeling VME distribution in the NE Convention Area

9.1.3 Update on progress on standardizing an approach to defining SAI

9.1.4 Other research activities on VMEs

9.1.5 Future and planned research activities by Members on VMEs in 2024

9.2 Review of intersessional activities of the SWG VME

9.2.1 Review of the development and implementation of gear specific and taxon specific encounter thresholds in other RFMOs

9.2.2 Recommendations on gear and taxon specific encounter thresholds for VME indicator taxa in the NPFC Convention Area

9.2.3 Objectives for data analysis of shared VME indicator data and directions on future joint data analyses

9.2.4 Proposals for revisions to VME indicator species list or nomenclature

- 9.2.5 Review of potential refinements to quantitative definitions of VME
- 9.2.6 Framework for future monitoring for recovering VMEs
- 9.2.7 Other topics on measuring cumulative impacts and SAI

Agenda Item 10. Data collection and reporting

- 10.1 Review of the adequacy of the current observer program for the BFME
- 10.2 Review of the template for collection of scientific observer data

Agenda Item 11. 5-Year (2023-2027) Rolling Work Plan and NPFC Performance Review recommendations

- 11.1 North Pacific armorhead
- 11.2 Splendid alfonsino
- 11.3 Sablefish
- 11.4 Vulnerable marine ecosystems
- 11.5 Other ecosystem components
- 11.6 NPFC Performance Review recommendations

Agenda Item 12. Review of CMMs 2023-05 and 2023-06 for bottom fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and CMM 2019-10 for sablefish

Agenda Item 13. Other matters

- 13.1 Inter-sessional work and priority issues for next meeting
- 13.2 Update on PICES WG47 Seamount Ecology
- 13.3 Selection of Chair and vice-Chair for SSC BFME
- 13.4 Other issues

Agenda Item 14. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee

Agenda Item 15. Next meeting

Agenda Item 16. Adoption of the Report

Agenda Item 17. Close of the Meeting