



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2023-SSC BFME04-MIP03 (Rev. 2)

**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**

Annotated Indicative Schedule

Date	Time	Activities	Document
7 Dec	8:30-9:00	Registration	
	9:00-10:30	<p>Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting <i>The SSC BF-ME Chair, Dr. Chris Rooper, will open the meeting. The Science Manager, Dr. Aleksandr Zavolokin, will outline procedural matters, including the meeting schedule and administrative arrangements.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 2. Adoption of Agenda <i>The provisional agenda will be reviewed, amended, as appropriate, and adopted.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 3. Overview of the outcomes of previous NPFC meetings</p> <p>3.1 SSC BFME03 <i>The Chair will review the outcomes of previous BF-ME meetings.</i></p> <p>3.2 COM07</p> <p>3.2.1 CMMs 2023-05 and 2023-06</p> <p>3.2.2 NPFC Performance Review</p> <p>3.2.3 Resolution on Climate Change <i>The Science Manager will review the outcomes of COM07.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 4. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of North Pacific armorhead (NPA)</p> <p>4.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for NPA in 2023 <i>Participants will review their catch and effort for NPA in 2023.</i></p>	<p>MIP02, 03.</p> <p>Reports are available on the website.</p> <p>Summary tables for BF.</p>

		<p>4.2 NPA monitoring survey and Adaptive Management Procedure (AMP)</p> <p>4.2.1 Review of the results from 2023 monitoring survey</p> <p><i>Participants will review the results of 2023 and previous years monitoring surveys compiled by the Secretariat.</i></p> <p>4.3 Review of Members’ research and joint research activities on NPA</p> <p>4.3.1 NPA species summary document update and review</p> <p><i>Participants will review the updated species summary document for NPA prepared by the SWG NPA & SA and suggest revisions, if needed.</i></p> <p>4.3.2 Other research activities on NPA</p> <p><i>Participants will present and discuss any other research or joint research conducted or updated on NPA in 2023.</i></p> <p>4.3.3 Future and planned research activities by Members on NPA in 2024</p> <p><i>Participants will present and discuss plans for future research or joint research to be conducted on NPA.</i></p>	<p>IP03.</p> <p>WP07.</p>
	10:30-11:00	Morning break	
	11:00-13:00	<p>Agenda Item 5. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of splendid alfonsino (SA)</p> <p>5.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for SA in 2023</p> <p><i>Participants will review their catch and effort for SA in 2023.</i></p> <p>5.2 Review of Members’ research and joint research activities on SA</p> <p>5.2.1 SA species summary document update and review</p> <p><i>Participants will review the updated species summary document for SA prepared by the SWG NPA & SA and suggest revisions, if needed.</i></p>	<p>Summary tables for BF.</p> <p>WP08.</p>

	14:15-15:30	<p>Agenda Item 7. Skilfish in the NPFC Convention Area</p> <p>7.1 Summary of skilfish distribution, biology and life history</p> <p>7.2 Summary of skilfish longline fishery characteristics in the NPFC Convention Area</p> <p><i>Russia will present a summary of skilfish biology, ecology and their fishery history and characteristics.</i></p>	W
	15:30-16:00	Afternoon break	
	16:00-18:00	<p>Agenda Item 8. Progress on data-limited approaches to assessment of NPA and SA</p> <p>8.1 Update from SWG NPA-SA</p> <p>8.1.1 Review of joint work on life history based approach to stock assessment</p> <p>8.1.2 Other possible approaches to stock assessment, especially for NPA (IBM and depletion)</p> <p>8.1.3 Review of the effectiveness of current CMMs for NPA and SA</p> <p>8.1.4 Update on CPUE standardization work</p> <p><i>The Chair of the SWG NPA-SA will report on activities from the intersessional work to develop stock assessment approaches to NPA and SA. Participants will discuss the results and future activities and timelines for providing management advice on these two species.</i></p> <p>8.1.5 Final review and approval of Fish ID guide</p> <p><i>Participants will review and discuss the final version of the Fish ID guide for the NW Pacific bottom fish and approve for publication.</i></p>	<p>WP09.</p> <p>WP14.</p>

Date	Time	Activities	Document
8 Dec	9:00-10:30	<p>Agenda Item 9. Assessment and scientific advice on the management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)</p> <p>9.1 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on VME</p> <p>9.1.1 Review of progress towards developing a definition of VMEs <i>Canada will present a draft document on quantitative definition of VMEs.</i></p> <p>9.1.2 Modeling VME distribution in the NE Convention Area <i>Canada will present an analysis describing modeling the distribution of VME in the NE Pacific.</i></p> <p>9.1.3 Update on progress on standardizing an approach to defining SAI <i>Canada and Japan will update participants on progress on SAI.</i></p> <p>9.1.4 Other research activities on VMEs <i>Japan will present the preliminary results of the visual survey in the Emperor Seamounts in 2023.</i></p> <p>9.1.5 Future and planned research activities by Members on VMEs in 2024 <i>Participants will present any other research conducted on VME and any plans to conduct future research on VME for discussion.</i></p>	<p>WP15, 16.</p> <p>WP11, 13. IP01.</p> <p>WP12.</p> <p>IP02.</p>
	10:30-11:00	Morning break	
	11:00-13:00	<p>9.2 Review of intersessional activities of the SWG VME</p> <p>9.2.1 Review of the development and implementation of gear specific and taxon specific encounter thresholds in other RFMOs</p> <p>9.2.2 Recommendations on gear and taxon specific encounter thresholds for VME indicator taxa in the NPFC Convention Area</p>	<p>WP06.</p> <p>WP04.</p>

		<p><i>The Consultant will present a review conducted to determine how encounter thresholds were developed and put in place for other RFMOs.</i></p> <p><i>Canada will present the results of data analysis that resulted in recommendations of gear and taxa specific encounter thresholds applicable to the NPFC Convention Area.</i></p> <p><i>The results of both of these items will be considered and discussed and a decision made on setting gear and taxon specific encounter thresholds.</i></p>	
	13:00-14:15	Lunch	
	14:15-15:30	<p>9.2.3 Objectives for data analysis of shared VME indicator data and directions on future joint data analyses</p> <p><i>The terms of reference and objectives for data analysis will be discussed and work to be conducted intersessionally will be outlined that addresses the terms of reference for analysis of shared VME data.</i></p> <p>9.2.4 Proposals for revisions to VME indicator species list or nomenclature</p> <p><i>Any proposed revisions to VME indicator taxa will be discussed.</i></p> <p>9.2.5 Review of potential refinements to quantitative definitions of VME</p> <p><i>Any proposed refinements to VME definitions will be discussed.</i></p> <p>9.2.6 Framework for future monitoring for recovering VMEs</p> <p><i>The Chair will present a draft framework for monitoring recovering VME.</i></p> <p>9.2.7 Other topics on measuring cumulative impacts and SAI</p> <p><i>Any further topics on SAI will be brought forward and discussed.</i></p>	WP05.

	15:30-16:00	Afternoon break	
	16:00-18:00	<p>Agenda Item 10. Data collection and reporting</p> <p>10.1 Review of the adequacy of the current observer program for the BFME</p> <p><i>Participants will review the current scientific observer program for adequacy.</i></p> <p>10.2 Review of the template for collection of scientific observer data</p> <p><i>Participants will review the template for collection of scientific observer data.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 11. 5-Year (2023-2027) Rolling Work Plan and NPFC Performance Review recommendations</p> <p>11.1 North Pacific armorhead</p> <p>11.2 Splendid alfonsino</p> <p>11.3 Sablefish</p> <p>11.4 Vulnerable marine ecosystems</p> <p>11.5 Other ecosystem components</p> <p>11.6 NPFC Performance Review recommendations</p> <p><i>Participants will review and revise the Work Plan of the SSC BF-ME drafted intersessionally.</i></p>	<p>Available on the website.</p> <p>WP01.</p>

Date	Time	Activities	Document
9 Dec	9:00-10:30	<p>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</p> <p><i>Participants will review CMMs for bottom fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and for sablefish and revise them, if necessary.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 13. Other matters</p> <p>13.1 Inter-sessional work and priority issues for next meeting</p> <p><i>Participants will identify the tasks for intersessional work and priority issues for the next meeting.</i></p> <p>13.2 Update on PICES WG47 Seamount Ecology</p> <p><i>The co-Chairs of PICES WG47 will update participants on the working group progress and milestones.</i></p> <p>13.3 Selection of Chair and vice-Chair for SSC BFME</p> <p><i>Participants will select a new Chair and vice-Chair.</i></p> <p>13.4 Other issues</p> <p><i>Participants will discuss any other issues raised.</i></p>	
	10:30-11:00	Morning break	
	11:00-13:00	<p>Agenda Item 14. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee</p> <p><i>SSC BF-ME will make recommendations to the Scientific Committee.</i></p> <p>Agenda Item 15. Next meeting</p> <p><i>Participants will discuss the dates and place of the next meeting.</i></p>	

	13:00-14:15	Lunch	
	14:15-15:30	Agenda Item 16. Adoption of the Report <i>The report of the meeting will be prepared, reviewed and adopted by consensus.</i>	
	15:30-16:00	Afternoon break	
	16:00-18:00	Agenda Item 16. Continued Agenda Item 17. Close of the Meeting <i>The Chair will make concluding remarks and close the meeting.</i>	
	18:30-20:30	Reception	