

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (NPFC) UPDATE

The Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, establishing the NPFC, came into effect in 2015, with U.S. participation codified into U.S. law in late 2016. Its purpose, generally, is to address conservation and management of marine species (with some exceptions) in the North Pacific not already covered by pre-existing international fisheries management instruments. Management currently is focused on eight priority species and their exploitation by trawl, gillnet, and longline fisheries. These include fisheries targeting North Pacific armorhead (*Pentaceros wheeleri*) and splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*) on North Pacific seamounts as well as fisheries exploiting six priority pelagic species (Pacific saury, *Cololabis saira*; neon flying squid, *Ommastrephes bartramii*; Japanese flying squid, *Todarodes pacificus*; chub mackerel, *Scomber japonicus*; Pacific saury, *Cololabis saira*; Blue (spotted) mackerel, *Scomber australasicus*; and Japanese sardine, *Sardinops melanostictus*). Canadian longline pot vessels harvest a modest amount of sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) on seamounts in the Gulf of Alaska. In the past decade effort has been limited to three vessels permitted by lottery, with harvests in last 20 years typically being in the 10-20+ mt range with two exceptional years at ± 60 mt. The Commission also has a stated priority to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems associated with gear-habitat interactions around various seamounts. Current members include: Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, U.S., and Republic of Vanuatu. Panama has Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status.

Enacting law for U.S. participation in the NPFC is found at [16 USC Ch. 96](#). The law allocates one U.S. Commissioner seat to the chairman of the Pacific Fishery Management Council or a designee of such chairperson. Mr. Rich Lincoln has served in this capacity since 2018, when he was appointed by the Council Chair. The NPFC held its Seventh Meeting March 22-24, 2023, in Sapporo, Japan. Mr. Lincoln will brief the Council on the role and activities of the NPFC and the outcomes of its most recent meeting.

Council Action:

Council Discussion and Guidance, as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

F.3 North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) Update

- a. Report of the NPFC
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Council Discussion and Guidance, as Appropriate

Kit Dahl
Rich Lincoln