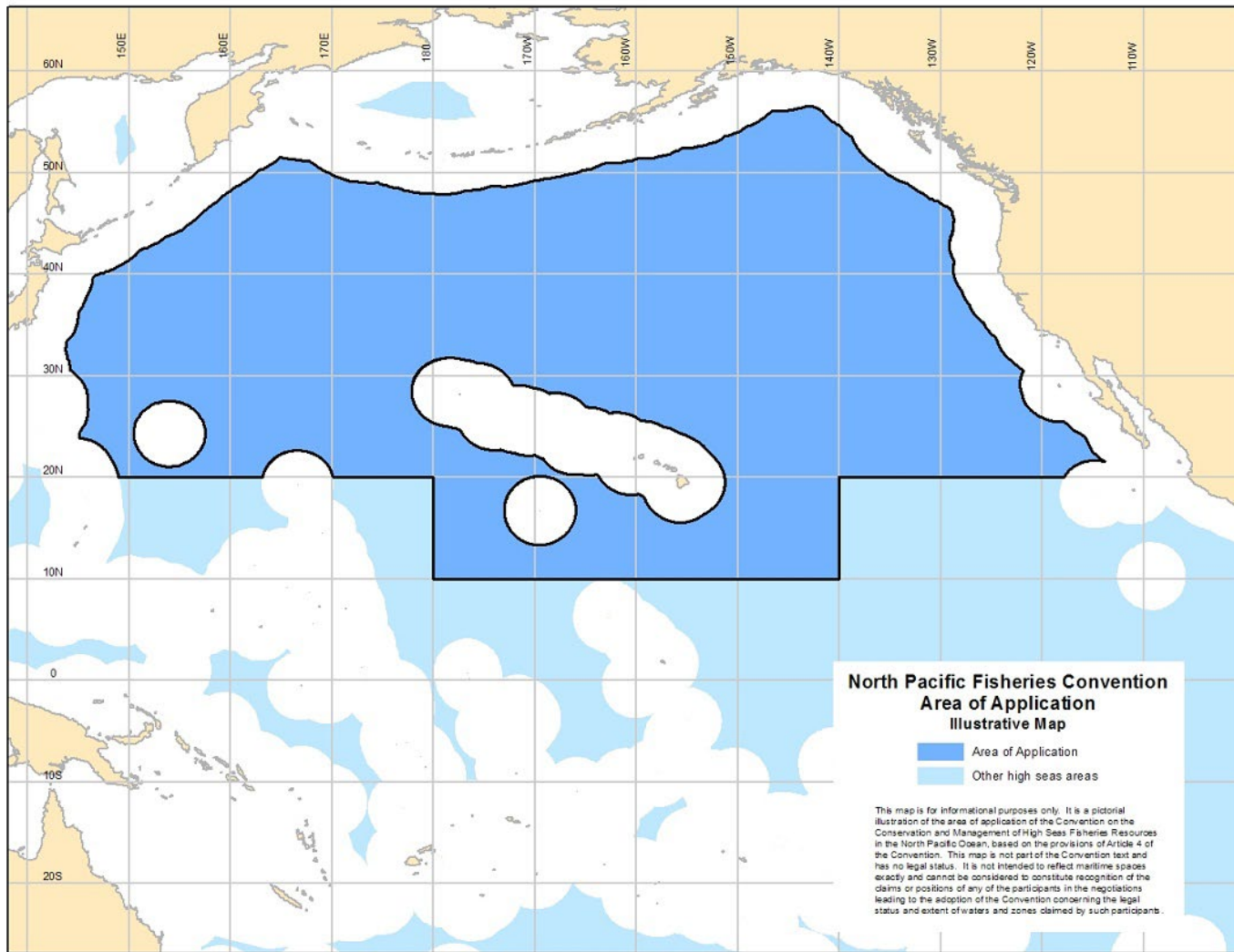


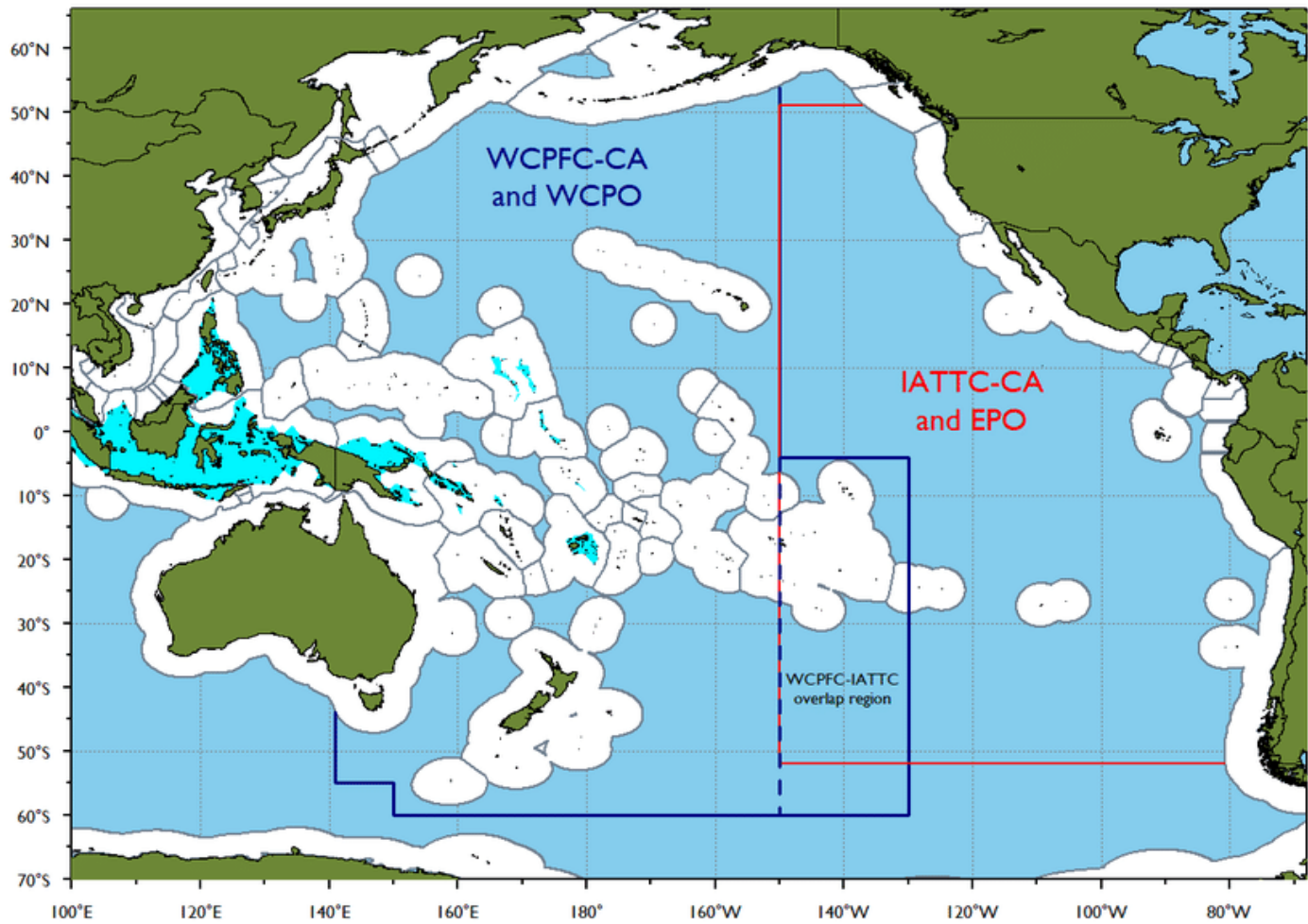


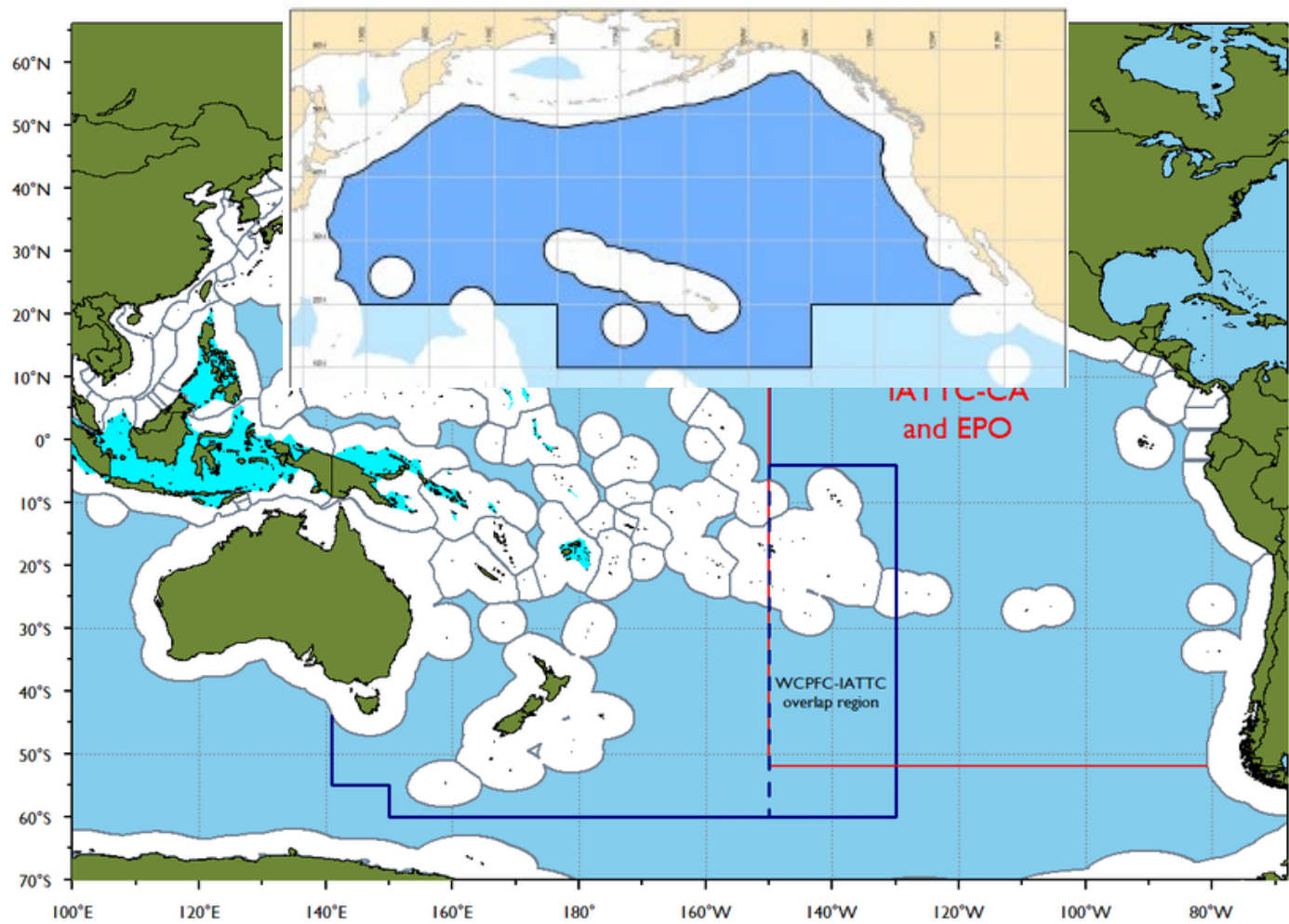
North Pacific Fisheries Commission Update



Rich Lincoln
April 2023 PFMC MTG







NPFC OVERVIEW

Primary focus: Management and conservation of marine resources and vulnerable marine ecosystems not addressed in other conventions

Members: Canada, China, EU, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, U.S., and Republic of Vanuatu

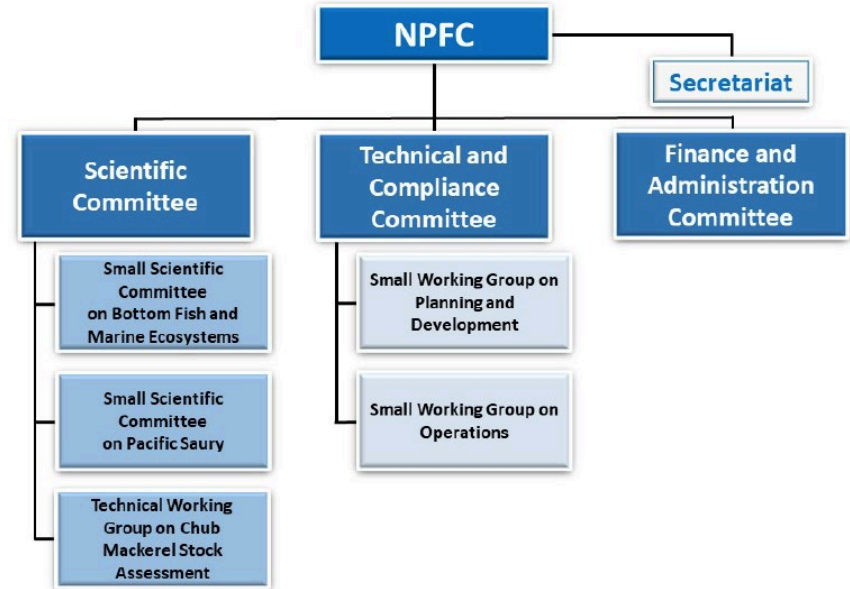
Cooperating non-Contracting Parties: Panama

Commission: Meets annually

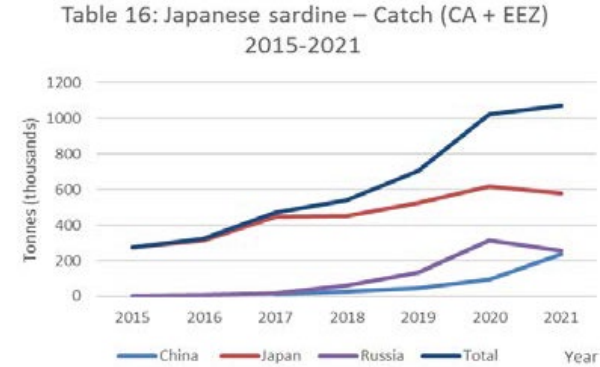
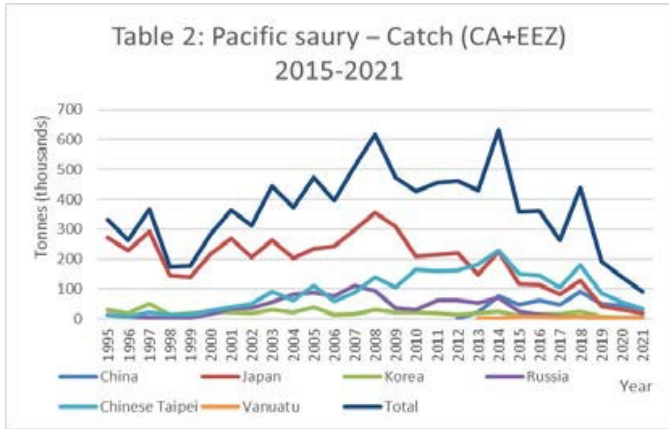
Technical and Compliance Committee: Meets annually in conjunction w/ Commission mtg; plus intercessionally

Science Committee: Meets in the fall and intercessionally

2024 Annual Commission & TCC meetings: April 9-19, 2024, Japan; U.S. delegation calls periodically throughout the year

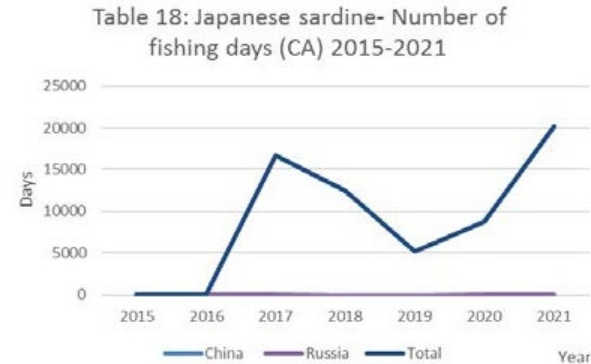
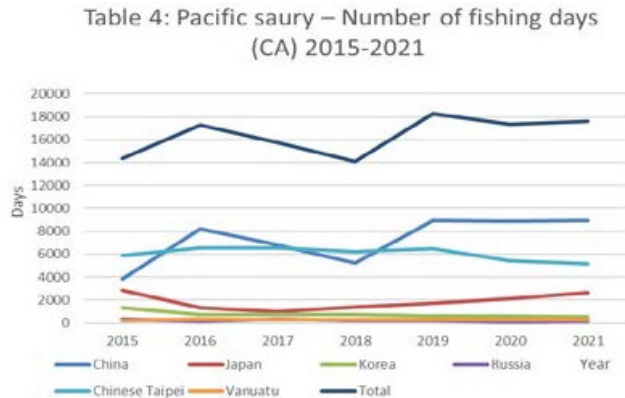


PELAGIC CATCH & EFFORT TREND HIGHLIGHTS



Pacific saury catch (above) and effort (below)

Japanese sardine (above) and effort (below)



BOTTOMFISH CATCH & EFFORT TREND HIGHLIGHTS

Table 20: North Pacific armorhead – Catch 2015-2021

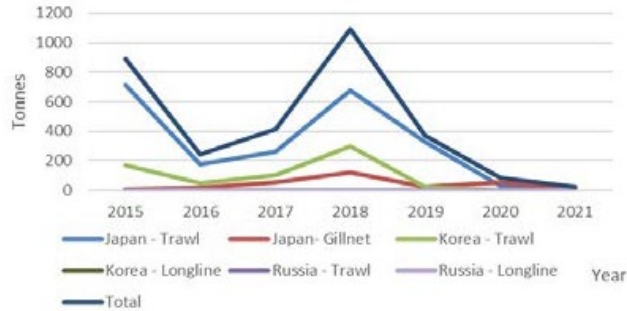
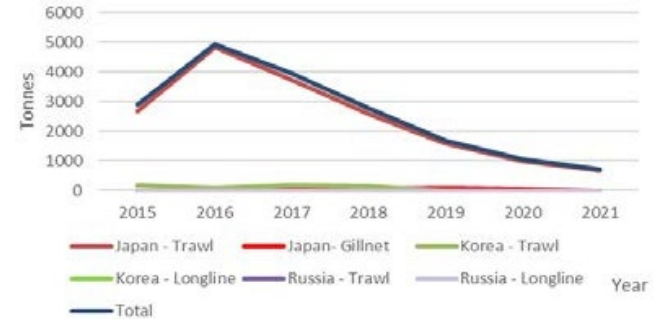
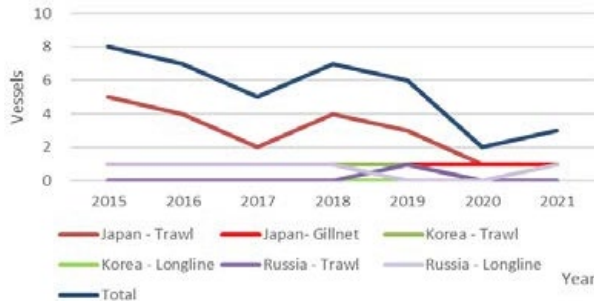


Table 24: Splendid alfonsino – Catch 2015-2021



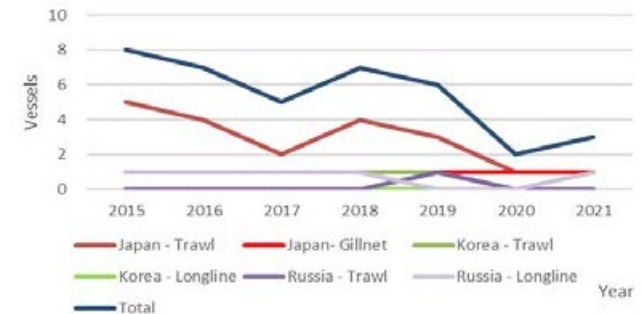
Pacific armorhead catch (above) and effort (below)

Table 21: Bottom Fisheries – Number of Active Vessels 2015-2021



Splendid alfonsino (above) and effort (below)

Table 21: Bottom Fisheries – Number of Active Vessels 2015-2021



CURRENT STATUS ON KEY TOPICS Species and Ecosystems

Pacific saury

- Record low stock size
- Better alignment of TAC and effort controls w/ scientific information but insufficient
- Priority: agree on stock assessment & complete MSE to establish a harvest strategy & control rules

Chub mackerel

- Concern about effort increases and no stock assessment
- Science Committee (SC) assignment to advance stock assessment

Bottomfish and vulnerable marine ecosystems

- Concern about likely overfishing risks even w/ little effort – closures likely needed
- Concern on impact on corals and sponges – 2023 CMM establishes maximum impacts and vessel move-on but likely insufficient ... SC assignment to review

Climate change

- Commission adopted resolution to consider best scientific information climate uncertainties & impacts in its relevant deliberations

CURRENT STATUS ON KEY TOPICS Monitoring, Compliance and Surveillance

High Seas Boarding Inspections

- 2021-2022 w/ significant non-compliance – China in particular not allowing inspections citing COVID
- Significant concerns related to associated IUU activity - addressed in amended 2023 CMM

Transshipment

- Significant IUU concerns related to significant transshipment (2 M tons of catch transshipped)
- 2023 CMM tightened up notification requirements to allow inspection opportunities, but no on-water monitoring program in place

On-Water Observation

- No observer or EM requirements established for fishing or transshipment activities
- Priority need

Compliance Monitoring

- Current compliance reporting requirements for member obligations under existing CMMs insufficient
- Little associated consequence for non-compliance w/ insufficient reporting

FUTURE PFMC CONSIDERATIONS

Important indirect Council interests

- No direct U.S. fishing activity for species under NPFC management but NPFC species management has potential ecosystem importance in overlapping convention areas
- Negotiation, agreement and compliance with CMMs for basic MCS inconsistent and less fit for purpose than similar CMMs in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and other RFMOs ... potential to disrupt established fishery management technical requirements in other RFMOs.

Value added contribution from PFMC engagement

- NPFC focus on foundational MCS needs and CMMs well covered in US delegation currently
- Priorities for adequate science based species CMMs is a potentially significant PFMC contribution

Trade-offs

- Does current PFMC engagement create lost opportunities for addressing higher priority needs in its own fishery and ecosystem plans. Future interest if any interest in sablefish fishing
- Future possibility of one or more members proposing new sablefish fishing activities – may be low

Thank you



<https://www.npfc.int/>