



North Pacific

Informational Report 8

Fisheries November 2024

Commission Update

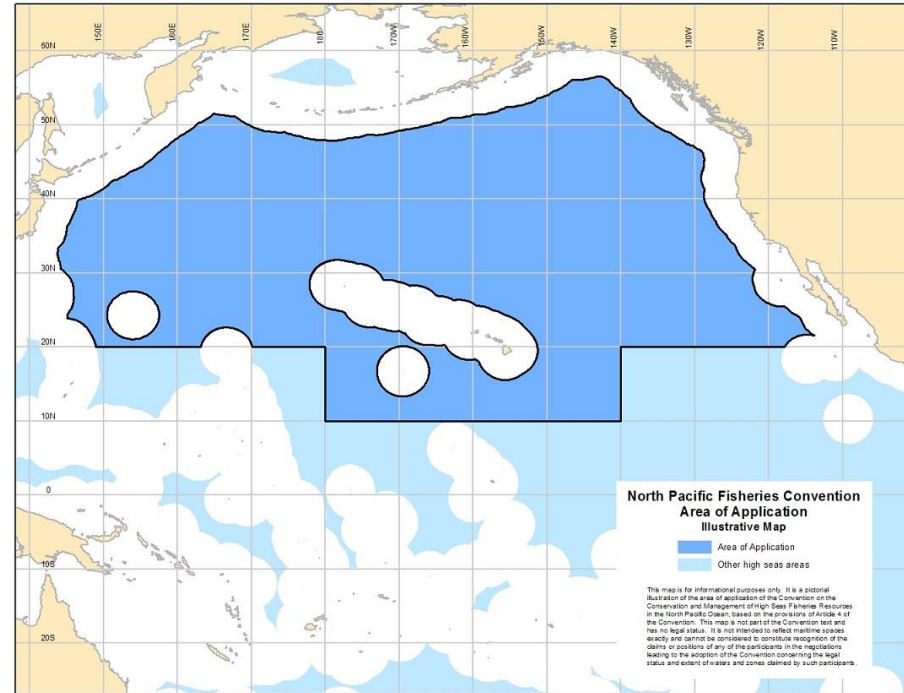


Rich Lincoln

November 2024 PFMC Meeting

NPFC BACKGROUND

- **Entity:** RFMO established by international convention: 2015; US became party: 2017
- **Objective:** Long-term conservation and sustainable use 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
- **Authority:** Commission has the authority to adopt Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) to meet Convention objectives - legally binding on all members



NPFC PROCESS OVERVIEW – Commission & Committee Structure and Meetings

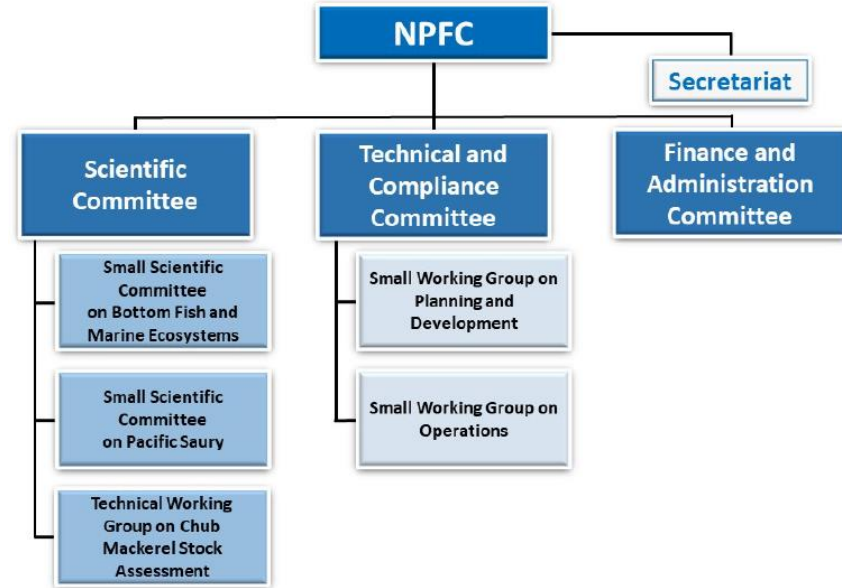
Commission: Meets annually – reviews progress toward objectives; takes actions on CMMs

Finance and Administration Committee (FAC): Meets annually in conjunction w/ Commission mtg

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

Science Committee (SC): Meets in the fall and intercessionally

US Delegation: Weekly or monthly calls throughout the year to support US role in process



Note: 2025 Annual Commission, FAC & TCC meetings: March 18-27, 2025, Japan; U.S. delegation calls periodically throughout the year

NPFC PRIORITIES

- Management of pelagic species: Pacific saury, chub mackerel, Blue mackerel, spotted mackerel, Japanese sardine, neon flying squid, and Japanese flying squid
- Management of bottom fisheries (North Pacific armorhead, splendid alfonsino, and skilfish) and prevention of significant and adverse impacts (SAI) on deep-sea vulnerable marine ecosystems
- Development of monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) tools and robust compliance processes to combat IUU fishing
- Improved stock assessments and scientific advice

APRIL 2024 NPFC ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (1)

- U.S. delegation successfully advanced major U.S. priorities through strong collaboration with like-minded members
- Bottom Fishing and VMEs: Adopted U.S.-proposed measures to increase protection of deep-sea vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Emperor seamount chain and push for improved management of North Pacific armorhead and splendid alfonsino, including by extending seasonal closure, clearly defining binding catch limits, and reducing the encounter threshold for VME indicator species
- Salmon bycatch CMM: Adopted measures (U.S. co-sponsored proposal led by Canada) to prohibit directed fishing of anadromous species, ban the retention of incidentally caught anadromous fish, and require reporting of incidental of anadromous fish
- Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) CMM: Adopted revisions to make the Compliance Monitoring Review process more robust and to enable adequate discussion and assessment of Members' compliance to ensure accountability with the obligations under NPFC CMMs.

APRIL 2024 NPFC ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (2 – cont'd)

- Adopted U.S.-proposed resolution for Core Principles on Labor Standards that encourages Members to establish and strengthen labor standards in the fisheries sector, ensure a safe working environment, and promote fair terms of employment for fishers
- Adopted U.S.-proposed revisions to the IUU Vessel List CMM that improve the intersessional process for updating vessel information on the IUU Vessel List (vessel name, flag state, owner, call sign or IMO number) to assist in surveillance and enforcement
- Adopted an interim HCR for Pacific saury that reduces the 2024 TAC by 10% and sets up automatic changes in catch limits to address concerns about the stock status
- Adopted revisions to the chub mackerel CMM to include reporting requirements and catch limits by vessel type, establish the first binding TAC of 100,000 mt, and address entry to the fishery by the EU. The measure also bans super trawlers (>10,000 gross tons) from fishing for chub mackerel in the Convention Area

APRIL 2024 NPFC ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (3 - cont'd)

- Improved transparency of NPFC operations by allowing public access to meeting documents in advance of meetings, and ensuring TCC meetings would be open to Observers as a default
- Received the first year of reporting from the SC on incorporating climate change into their work, including:
 - Impacts on chub mackerel and Pacific Saury;
 - Support for development and implementation of Basin-scale Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI) project;
 - Working with the FAO's DSF Project on climate change related work; and
 - Reviewing Members' climate change related work

INTEREST/CONSIDERATIONS FOR PFMC INVOLVEMENT in NPFC

NOTE: PFMC has a US legislatively authorized role to provide one US Commissioner to NPFC's US delegation (same for NPFMC and WPFMC); Rich Lincoln currently serves in this PFMC capacity via PFMC Council chair alternate designation and State Department approval

Important indirect PFMC interests

- No U.S. fishing activity under NPFC management, but NPFC species management has potential ecosystem importance in overlapping convention areas, e.g. pelagic species (Pacific saury)
- Helping ensure negotiation, agreement and compliance with CMMs for basic MCS are fit for purpose and appropriately aligned with CMMs in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and other RFMOs. This helps ensure consistency and robustness, while advancing and supporting national capacity development and management performance, for which PFMC has a direct interest (e.g., highly migratory species)

Value added contribution from PFMC engagement

- NPFC focus on foundational MCS needs and CMMs well covered in US delegation currently, but priorities for adequate science-based species CMMs is a potentially significant PFMC contribution
- Future possibility of one or more members proposing new sablefish fishing activities – vested PFMC interest in appropriate development of any new fishing activity on a high value PFMC species

Thank you



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