



# North Pacific Fisheries Commission – 2020

NPFC Secretariat  
 North Pacific Fisheries Commission  
 2F Hakuyo Hall, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology  
 4-5-7 Konan Minato-ku, Tokyo, 108-8477, Japan.  
 Web: [www.npfc.int](http://www.npfc.int); E-mail: [secretariat@npfc.int](mailto:secretariat@npfc.int)



The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) is an inter-governmental organization established by the *Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean* and entered into force on 19 July 2015.

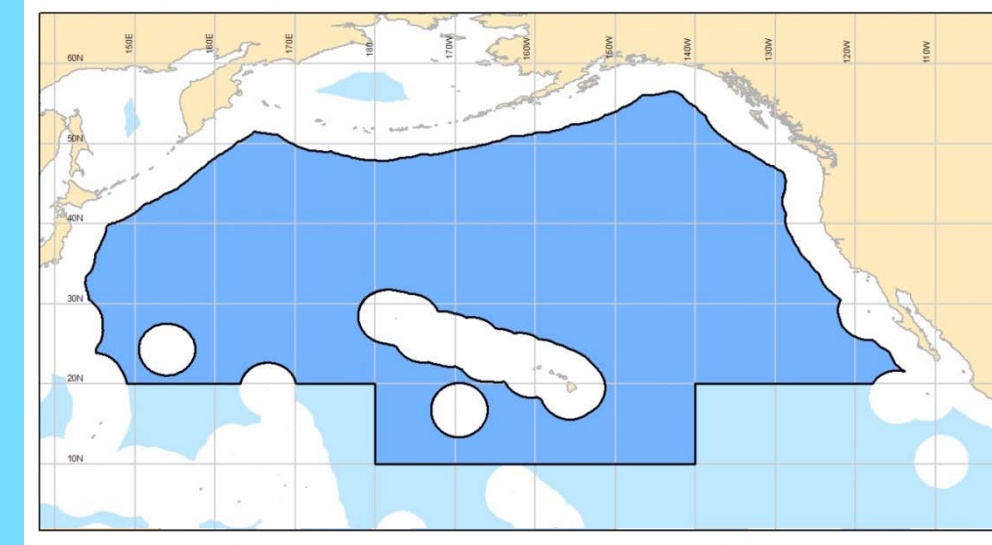
## WHO

The objective of the Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur.

The NPFC has currently 8 Members - **Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Chinese Taipei, USA and Vanuatu** - and one Cooperating non-Contracting Party – **Panama**.

**NOTE: The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the operations of NPFC Members and the Secretariat hence the activities for 2019-2020 have been severely restricted.**

## WHERE



NPFC Convention applies to the waters of the high seas area of the North Pacific Ocean (excluding the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk) and is bounded on the south by 10N and 20N parallels.

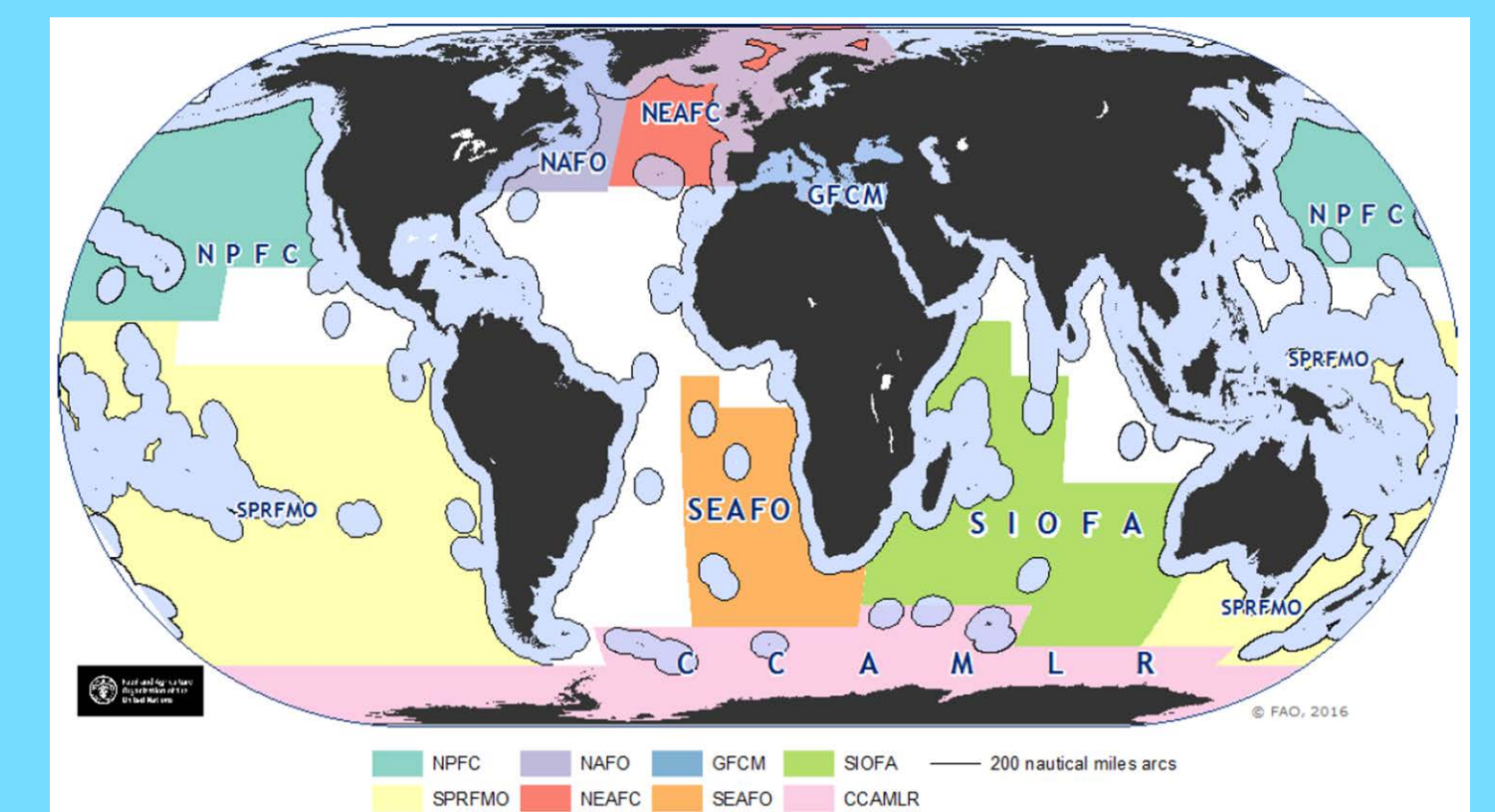
## WHY

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission was formed to **bridge the gap in the management of fisheries resources and ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean.**

### FISHERIES RESOURCES COVERED BY THE CONVENTION

**All fish, mollusks, crustaceans and other marine species caught by fishing vessels within the Convention Area, excluding:**

- (i) sedentary species insofar as they are subject to the sovereign rights of coastal States; and indicator species of vulnerable marine ecosystems as listed in, or adopted pursuant to the NPFC Convention;
- (ii) catadromous species;
- (iii) marine mammals, marine reptiles and seabirds; and
- (iv) other marine species already covered by pre-existing international fisheries management instruments within the area of competence of such instruments.



## SCIENCE

The Scientific Committee (SC) provides a forum for consultation and cooperation among Members with respect to the evaluation and exchange of scientific information relating to the fisheries of the Convention Area and offers advice and recommendations on any issues pertaining to the scientific basis for the decisions of the Commission.

In 2017, the NPFC adopted the SC 2017-2021 Research Plan.

The SC **priority research areas** are:

- Stock assessments for target fisheries and bycatch species
- Ecosystem approach to fisheries
- Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
- Data collection, management and security

### SC ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

- Intersessional scientific meetings  
 27 May - 4 Jun 2020  
 Objective: to check the progress of the implementation of the Work Plan and plan intersessional activities
- Meetings of TWG CMSA, SSC BF-ME, SSC PS and SC  
 11-27 Nov 2020  
 Objective: to provide scientific advice on the management of the priority species and protection of marine ecosystems in the NPFC Convention Area
- NPFC project: Observer Program  
 Objective: to develop a NPFC Observer Program for improvement of quality and quantity of information collected from fisheries and filling data gaps
- NPFC project: Mapping catch and effort  
 Objective: to publicize catch and effort statistics of Pacific saury and bottom fish and analyze their spatial patterns and temporal trends
- NPFC projects: VME Taxa Identification Guide and Fish Identification Guide (in publication)  
 Objective: to produce a common NPFC field guides for identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems and fish species

## Data-driven Fisheries Management

Effective fisheries management is data-driven. Decision-making based on hard facts and data has become an essential part of any successful program. The Commission bases its management approach on scientific analyses of data and evaluates compliance schemes according to the data provided by Members. Clear, verifiable and complete data will provide the platform from which the Commission will succeed in meeting its sustainable management objectives.

### Current Data Management System

- NPFC Web page, including collaboration site and meeting management system
- Online vessel registry
- High Seas Boarding and Inspection Portal
- Geospatial Mapping
- Electronic Annual Report
- Electronic IUU Vessel List
- Datawarehouse

### Future Developments

- CMS and VMS Tools
- Observer Program
- Stock Assessment Tools
- Harvest Control Rules

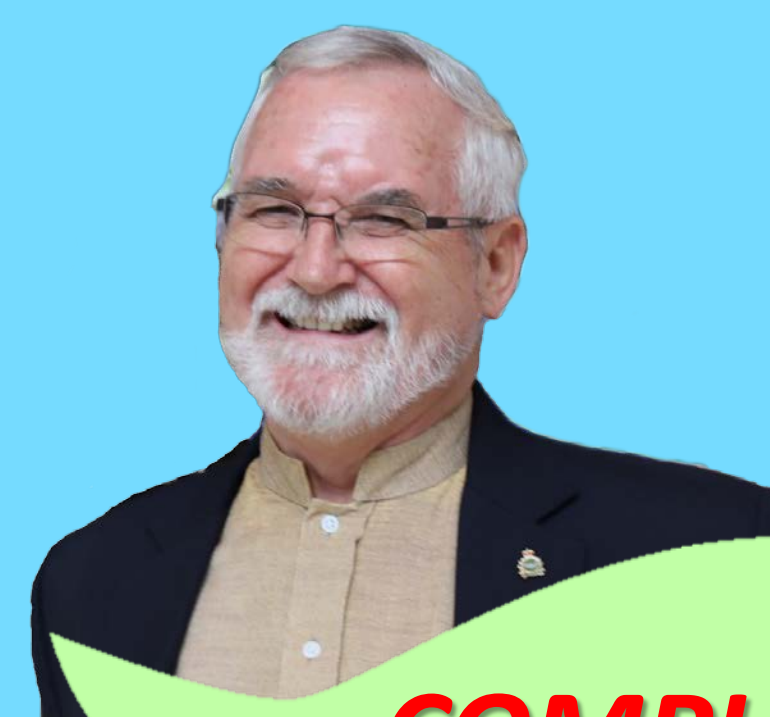
### Bottom fisheries

SPECIES	WHO FISHERIES	2019 EFFORT and CATCH
North Pacific armorhead & Splendid alfonsino 	JAPAN, KOREA, RUSSIA	6 vessels on Emperor Seamounts (2.1k mt)
Sablefish 	CANADA	2017-2018: 1 vessel operated

### Pelagic fisheries

SPECIES	WHO FISHERIES	2019 EFFORT and CATCH
SQUIDS 	CHINA, JAPAN, RUSSIA, CHINESE TAIPEI, VANUATU	~288 vessels in CA (~72.7k mt)
PACIFIC SAURY 	CHINA, JAPAN, KOREA, RUSSIA, CHINESE TAIPEI, VANUATU	~361 vessels (191.5k mt)
CHUB MACKEREL 	CHINA, JAPAN, RUSSIA	100+ vessels (+Jap) (460.4k mt)
SARDINE 	CHINA, JAPAN, RUSSIA	90+ vessels (+Jap) (704.1K mt)

## COMPLIANCE



### 7 CMMs are general for all fisheries:

- CMM on Vessel Registry
- CMM on IUU Vessels
- CMM on Transshipment
- CMM on Vessels without Nationality
- CMM on High Seas Boarding and Inspection
- CMM on Compliance Monitoring Scheme
- CMM on Vessel Monitoring System

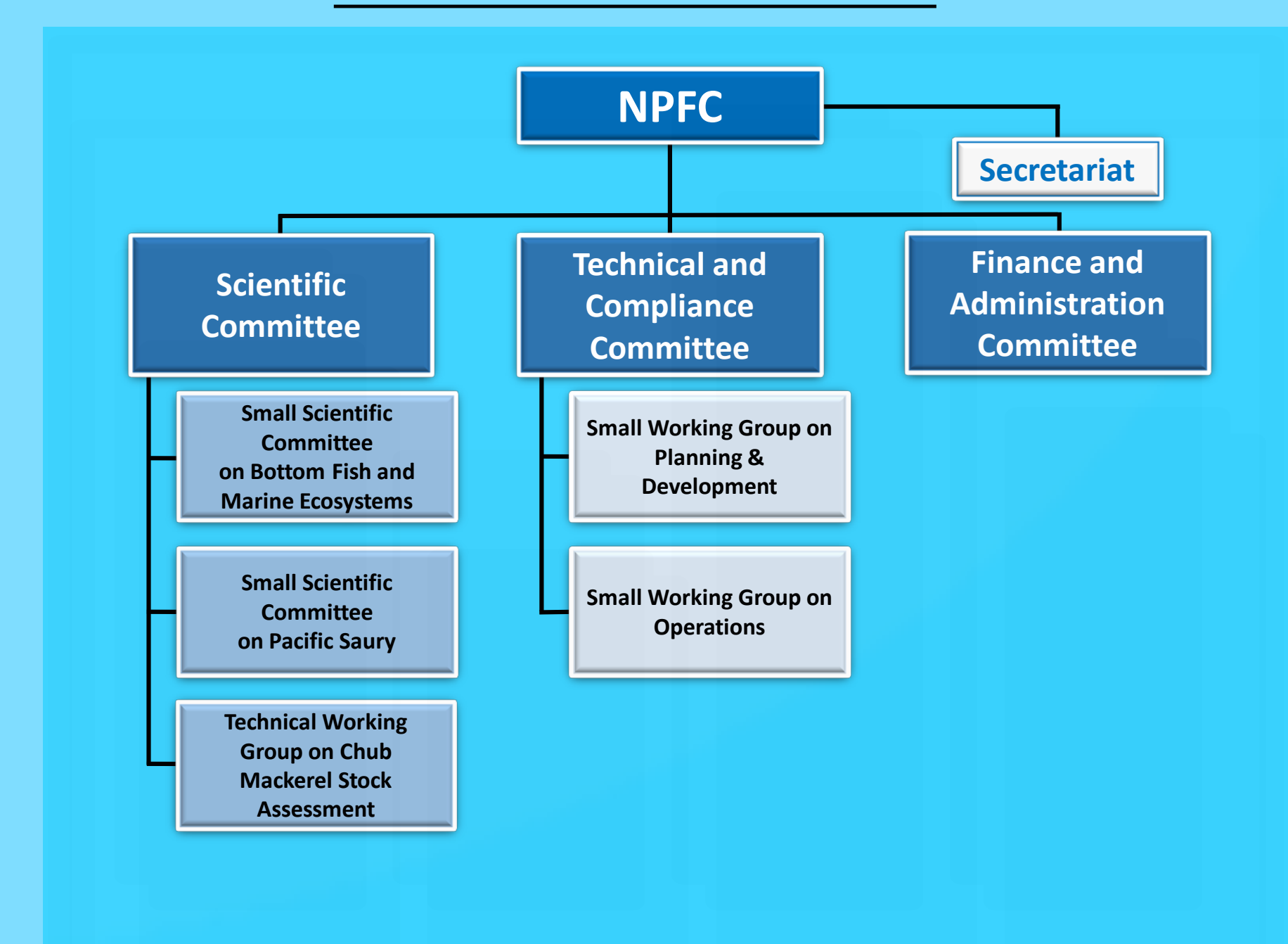
### 6 CMMs deal with species/group of species:

- CMM on Bottom Fisheries and VME Protection in NW Pacific
- CMM on Bottom Fisheries and VME Protection in NE Pacific
- CMM on Chub Mackerel
- CMM on Pacific Saury
- CMM on Sablefish
- CMM on Japanese Sardine and Japanese Flying Squid

During the past four years of operations, the Commission has adopted 13 legally binding **conservation and management measures (CMM)** to sustainably use the fisheries resources in the Convention Area and protect its ecosystems.

In 2019, the Technical and Compliance Committee updated its Work Plan to move towards the establishment of a Fisheries Monitoring Center and a Regional VMS as part of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System to ensure compliance of Members with the NPFC regulations. As of July 2020, there are a total of 26 NPFC authorized patrol vessels, 14 USA, 3 Japanese, 3 Chinese Taipei, 2 Russian, and 4 authorized by China. There are currently 33 vessels on the NPFC IUU Vessel List.

### CURRENT NPFC STRUCTURE



Visit [www.npfc.int](http://www.npfc.int) for more information