



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

North Pacific Fisheries Commission Technical and Compliance Committee Work Plan

Background

Recognizing the overall objective of the NPFC 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;

Recognizing the Convention sets forth the requirement for the Commission to implement various compliance and enforcement measures, and the work of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) to date in establishing an overview and framework to guide these efforts as referenced by Annexes D and E from Circular 030-2017 TCC Preparatory WebEx meeting;

Acknowledging concerns shared by members to date with respect to managing and conserving priority species, identifying and reducing potential IUU activities, and the need to implement monitoring, control and surveillance measures to support the overall objectives of the Commission;

Assessing that these concerns pose risks within the TCC framework's three pillars¹; and,

Determining the need to prioritize the implementation of compliance and enforcement measures, as informed by evidence brought forth by members and associated risks that can undermine Commission objectives, TCC proposes the following as TCC priorities over the period 2017-2020:

1. Targeting the conservation and management of Pacific Saury and Chub Mackerel

Rationale: Under Pillar 1, there is a need to reinforce the conservation and management measures related to Pacific Saury (CMM 15-02) and Chub Mackerel (CMM 2016-07), identified as key species of interest over the time period.

Proposed Actions: Confirm priority of species with Members. Determine rules² and consequences of non-compliance.

Tools: Determine the tools that are needed to enforce these CMMs (e.g. VMS, catch reporting, effort)

2. Developing a CMS

To reinforce all pillars of the framework, and overall member accountability, there is a need to develop an overall Compliance Monitoring System (CMS). At the outset, this includes clarifying the rules and respective sanctions of breaking them, and the ability to validate non-compliance. These components of the CMS are outlined below.

¹ TCC Framework Pillars:

- i) CMMs for Priority Species;
- ii) CMMs for Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) or other ecosystem elements; and,
- iii) CMMs for Science and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures.

² Note: Japan has put forth two proposals for Commission consideration at its Annual meeting regarding Pacific Saury and Chub Mackerel.

i) Assessing Compliance

Rationale: Without clear rules and consequences of breaking them, incentives to comply are minimized.

Proposed Actions: Determine the consequences of breaking the rules and the related procedures for determining non-compliance, updating CMMs as required with priority focus on Pacific Saury and Chub Mackerel, vessel identification and over the planning horizon. Compiling all rules and sanctions into a compendium structured under the pillars of the TCC framework is also recommended.

Tools: Compendium of rules, procedures and respective consequences of non-compliance, structured in a single, accessible document.

ii) Developing vessel marking and identification standards

Rationale: Under pillar 3 of the framework, there is a need for vessel marking and identification standards. Ensuring that all member vessels adhere to these standards, this will address risks associated with ambiguously marked vessel sightings in the Convention Area. This, in turn, will support answering questions related to what activities they may be engaged in vis-à-vis pillars 1 and 2.

Proposed Action: Changes to the rules could be reflected in updates to CMM 2016-01 (Vessel Registration Requirements) or in a new CMM.

Tools: Update online vessel registry to accommodate new marking and standards. Update online registry to minimize work load, data entry requirements and have authorized users who can update the data.

iii) Developing a VMS

Rationale: Further to being able to accurately identify vessels through a standardized marking and identification scheme, there is a need for a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). This will enable the NPFC to track and report movements of registered vessels. This is vital to supporting all pillars of the TCC framework.

Proposed Actions: Continue to advance work initiated on the VMS. Determine what data needs to be collected and at what intervals (i.e. to support target species such as Chub Mackerel and Pacific Saury), ensuring system can grow over time. Update Information Security Guidelines in conjunction with the types of data required. Members to confirm their vessels are equipped with compatible VMS transmitters that will communicate with an eventual NPFC VMS.

Tools: To be developed in conjunction with VMS work initiated.

iv) Finalizing a High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Scheme

Rationale: A HSBI scheme is critical to being able to validate and enforce compliance.

Proposed Actions: Finalize NPFC HSBI scheme before July 19, 2018.

#	Action	Description	Start Date	End Date	Resources	Budget	Lead	Notes	Time (Quarter/Calendar Year)											
									2017		2018				2019				2020	
									Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Developing a Compliance Monitoring System (CMS)																				
3	Develop Vessel Marking and Identification Standards								August 2017 – March 2018											
3.1	Confirm risks	Define and confirm risks of not having a standardized identification and vessel marking scheme (including a discussion on the limitations of such a scheme)	08.2017	08.2017					→											
3.2	Review existing vessel marking schemes	Review existing schemes in other RFMOs, including international guidelines and standards	08.2017	09.2017	Potential Third-party support	TBD	TBD, Members		→											
3.3		Determine vessel marking and identification standards for NPFC Convention Area	09.2017	11.2017		TBD	TBD, Members		→											
3.4		Determine consequences of non-compliance with established vessel marking scheme	11.2017	12.2017		TBD	TBD, Members		→											
3.5		Update rules in CMM 2016-01 (Vessel Registration Requirements) as required	12.2017	01.2018		TBD	TBD, Members		→											
3.6	Update tools	Update online vessel registry to accommodate new marking and standards	12.2017	03.2018	Third-party support	TBD	Secretariat		→											
4	Develop a VMS								August 2017 – January 2019											
4.1	Phase II of VMS Study	Determine what data needs to be collected from Members to support priority species (e.g. Pacific Saury and Chub Mackerel, bottom fisheries)	08.2017	11.2017	Third-party support	TBD	Secretariat, Members	Collaboration with SC required to determine science data needs	→											
4.2		Determine scale, scope, timeline and budget for Phase II building upon overview of VMS systems established in Phase I	02.2018	05.2018	Third-party support	TBD	Secretariat, Members	Scale and scope to be determined for priority species as well as a system to enable modular compatible add-ons to the VMS over time.	→											
4.3	Determine VMS needs and design	Phase II of VMS study (to determine recommended VMS system)	05.2018	08.2018	Third-party support	TBD	Secretariat, Members		→											
4.4	Develop and test VMS	Phase III of VMS work – Design, develop and test VMS	08.2018	12.2018	Third-party support	TBD	Secretariat, Members		→											
	Implement VMS	Implement VMS system, monitor, assess vis-à-vis priority species	01.2019	-	All Members	TBD	Secretariat and Members		→											
4.5		Update Information Security Guidelines (note: to be updated on an ongoing basis)	11.2017	12.2017	TBD (e.g. SC/TCC Corresponding Group)		Members		→											
5	Finalize a High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme																			
5.1	Finalize HSBI scheme	Determine HSBI scheme for the NPFC	-	07.2018					→											
5.2	Develop implementation plan	Develop an implementation plan for the HSBI scheme to come into force	11.2017	06.2018					→											
5.3	Implementation	Implement HSBI as per procedures in force	07.2018	-					→											