



**North Pacific Fisheries Commission**

NPFC-2021-SSC BFME02-MIP02

**North Pacific Fisheries Commission**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Small Scientific Committee on Bottom Fish and Marine Ecosystems**  
**7-9 December 2021**  
**WebEx**

**Provisional Agenda**

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda Item 3. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of North Pacific armorhead (NPA)

3.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for NPA in 2021

3.2 NPA monitoring survey and Adaptive Management Procedure (AMP)

3.2.1 Review of the results from 2021 monitoring survey

3.3 Update on analyses or progress on biomass estimates from the NPA 2021 acoustic survey

3.4 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on NPA

3.4.1 Analysis of recruitment relationships to oceanography

3.4.2 Species summary document for NPA

3.4.3 Update on Japan's maturity data

Agenda Item 4. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of splendid alfonsino (SA)

4.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for SA in 2021

4.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on SA

4.2.1 Yield per recruit analysis update of SA

4.2.2 Species summary document for SA

4.3 Adaptive management strategy for SA

4.3.1 Intersessional work to develop TOR for SA adaptive management plan

Agenda Item 5. Stock assessment and scientific advice on the management of sablefish

5.1 Review of Members fishing statistics for sablefish in 2021

5.2 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on sablefish

5.2.1 Tagging studies – Joint USA-Canada research

- 5.2.2 Sablefish Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
- 5.2.3 Species summary document for sablefish
- 5.2.4 Evaluation of historical harvest relative to trip limits

Agenda Item 6. Data-limited management tools and approach to assessment of NPA and SA

- 6.1 Discussion of next steps in identification of data limited approaches to stock assessment for NPA and SA
  - 6.1.1 Review of data available and data quality for stock assessment of NPA and SA (compiled by SWG)
  - 6.1.2 Discussion of data availability and sharing
  - 6.1.3 Review and recommendation of data limited tools available to use with existing data for NPA and/or SA
  - 6.1.4 Recommendations for plans to determine stock status and potentially rebuilding stocks
  - 6.1.5 Formulate TOR for stock assessment for NPA and SA
  - 6.1.6 Update on plans to hold workshop on managing NPA, SA and other species with other RFMO's
  - 6.1.7 Review CPUE time series for NPA and SA commercial fisheries

Agenda Item 7. Assessment and scientific advice on the management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

- 7.1 Review of Members' research and joint research activities on VME
  - 7.1.1 Update on developing a quantitative definition of VMEs
  - 7.1.2 Review of Members available VME related data
- 7.2 VME identification
  - 7.2.1 Update on VME indicator taxa identification course
  - 7.2.2 Review and recommendation of data used to identify VME (the flow chart from SWG VME)
- 7.3 Encounter protocol
  - 7.3.1 Review and recommendation of post-encounter measures
  - 7.3.2 Consider gear-specific thresholds and gear-specific closures for encounter protocol
  - 7.3.3 Reports from Members on analyses of the impacts of different fishing gears on VME from their own data or literature
- 7.4 Significant and adverse impacts (SAI) assessment
  - 7.4.1 Update on small working group progress on standardizing an approach to defining SAI
  - 7.4.2 Update on analysis of the potential impact of current fishing activities on

known and potential VME sites in the Emperor Seamount area

Agenda Item 8. Data collection and reporting

8.1 Review of the template for collection of scientific observer data

8.2 Update on Japan's fish ID guide, translation into English and translation costs

8.3 Review and discussion of other RFMOs' practices regarding developing maps of combined fishing footprint

Agenda Item 9. 5-Year Rolling Work Plan

9.1 North Pacific armorhead

9.2 Splendid alfonsino

9.3 Sablefish

9.4 Vulnerable marine ecosystems

9.5 Other ecosystem components

Agenda Item 10. Review and revision of CMMs 2021-05 and 2019-06 for bottom fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and CMM 2019-10 for sablefish

Agenda Item 11. Other matters

11.1 Inter-sessional work and priority issues for next meeting

11.2 Election of SSC BF-ME Chair and vice-Chair

11.3 Update on PICES WG47 Seamount Ecology

11.4 Other issues

Agenda Item 12. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee

Agenda Item 13. Next meeting

Agenda Item 14. Adoption of the Report

Agenda Item 15. Close of the Meeting