

Bridging the gap in management of fisheries resources and ecosystems in the North Pacific ABNJ: progress and challenges



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Establishment of NPFC

In accordance with UNGA Resolutions, consultations to establish long-term management mechanisms for the North Pacific began in 2006.

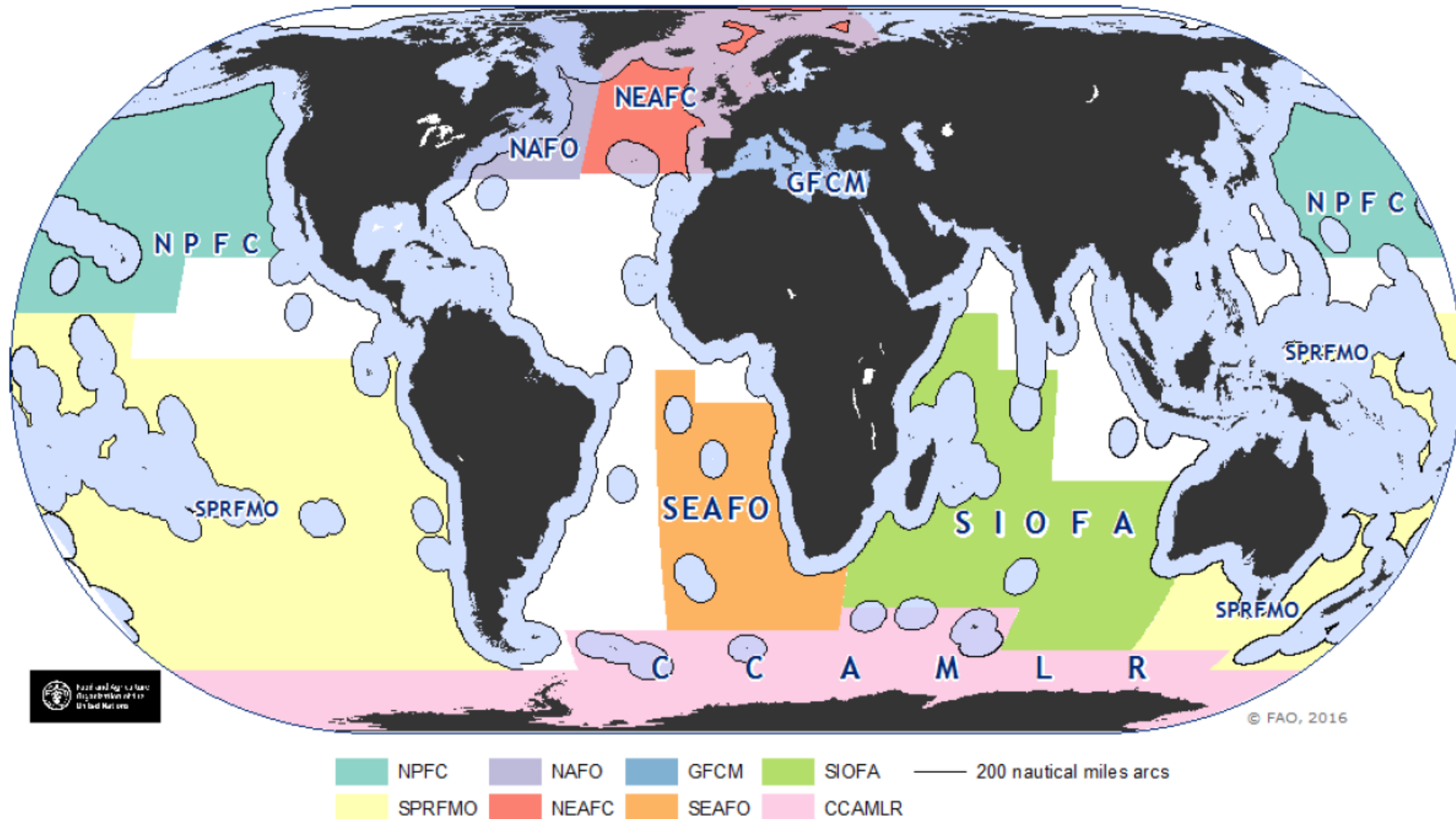
After 9 years of negotiation processes the NPFC Convention entered into force on 19 July 2015.

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

Current Members (8):

Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Chinese Taipei, USA, Vanuatu

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



The geographic coverage of General RFMOs. The map was prepared by the FAO.



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.

NPFC FISHERIES

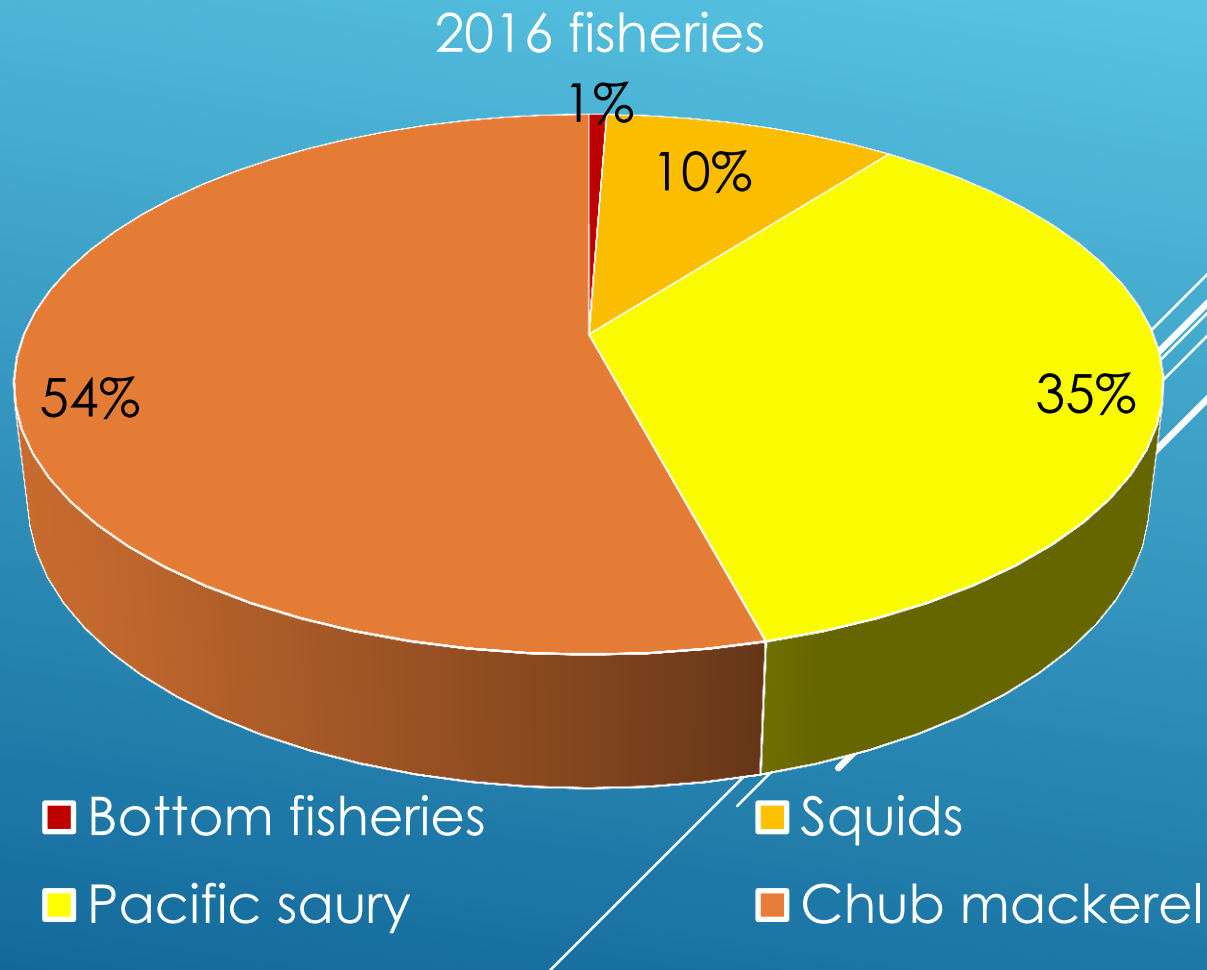
Bottom fisheries

SPECIES	WHO FISHES	2016 EFFORT and CATCH
<p>North Pacific armorhead and splendid alfonsino</p>  <p>Sablefish</p> 	<p>JAPAN, KOREA, RUSSIA</p> <p>CANADA</p>	<p>7 vessels on Emperor Seamounts (~6k mt)</p> <p>1/mo on Cobb seamount (0.02k mt)</p>

Pelagic fisheries

SPECIES	WHO FISHES	2016 EFFORT and CATCH
<p>SQUIDS</p> 	CHINA, JAPAN, RUSSIA, CHINESE TAIPEI	~340 vessels (~100k mt)
<p>PACIFIC SAURY</p> 	CHINA, JAPAN, KOREA, RUSSIA, CHINESE TAIPEI, VANUATU	~480 vessels (~360k mt)
<p>CHUB MACKEREL</p> 	CHINA, JAPAN, RUSSIA	~135+ vessels (+Jap) (~550k mt)

STATUS OF FISHERIES RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



During the past two years of operations, the Commission has adopted nine legally binding conservation and management measures (CMMs) which are now in force to sustainably use the fisheries resources in the Convention Area and protect their ecosystems

- ✓ CMM on Vessel Registry
- ✓ CMM on IUU Vessels → *IUU vessel list*
- ✓ CMM on Transshipment
- ✓ CMM on Vessels without Nationality
- ✓ CMM on High Seas Boarding and Inspection
- ✓ 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

Species-specific regulations for fisheries are based on the precautionary approach; ecosystem component for bottom fisheries is well developed

- ✓ CMM on Bottom Fisheries and VME Protection in NW Pacific
- ✓ CMM on Bottom Fisheries and VME Protection in NE Pacific
- ✓ CMM on Chub Mackerel
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FISHERIES:

Limit fishing efforts or refrain from expansion of fishing activities

MARINE ECOSYSTEMS:

Bottom fishing footprints, VME id, Encounter Protocol, Exploratory Fishing Protocol, SAI assessment, closed areas, fished and unfished areas

PROGRESS IN SCIENTIFIC AREA

1st SC Research Plan and Work Plan for 2017-2021

(<https://www.npfc.int/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**

Scientific meetings – 3 times per year, 7 meetings

Current and near future science-related activities

- Pacific saury stock assessment
- Chub mackerel stock assessment
- Assessment of SAI on VMEs
- Spatial management of bottom fisheries and VMEs
- Adaptive management for bottom fisheries
- Data collection, sharing and security
- Observer Program
- External review of stock assessments
- Management Strategy Evaluation



BUILDING PARTNERSHIP



FAO

“Pre-NPFC” stage: – VME workshop; – Interim and voluntary measures for management of bottom fisheries and protection of VMEs

Recent and Current:

- contributions to World Wide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas and FAO VME database
- NPFC/FAO VME workshop (Mar 2018)

PICES

- Joint Study Group on Scientific Cooperation in the North Pacific
- Participation in and cosponsorship of each other’s symposia and workshops (VME workshop)

NPAFC

- Development of Memorandum of Understanding
- Consideration of participation in NPAFC’s multinational survey in the North Pacific planned under International Year of Salmon

Any initiatives from other organizations are welcome!

CHALLENGES

DATA

- ☐ collection - collected and stored by Members
- ☐ sharing - only aggregated catch and effort
- ☐ security - interim guidance for science
- ☐ management - DMS in progress

SCIENCE

- ☐ stock assessments for key species - national assessments
- ☐ VME - well on the road, adaptation to NP high seas
- ☐ EAF - ecological component

REGULATIONS

- ☐ precautionary approach
- ☐ adaptive management for NPA under consideration

MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE

- ☐ early stage of development
- ☐ few tools to examine for compliance with regulations

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SUMMARY

- **Significant progress for two years of operation**
- **On the way to establish science-based regulations**
- **Building partnership**
- **Focus on data and MCS**

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Thank you