NPFC-2020-SC05-WP05 (Rev. 1)

**Scientific projects for 2017-2021**

(updated at SC04, Apr 2019, and adopted by COM05, Jul 2019)

*Abstract:* The intent of this document is to put together scientific projects for 2020-2021 fiscal years. The status of the existing projects #1 (VME id guide), #2 (GIS), #3, #4, #10 (meetings), #8 and #9 (external experts) and #11 (fish id guide) has been updated. Two new projects (#12 MSE expert and #13 SPF Symposium) have been added for consideration by the SC. The project #7 (2022 survey in the North Pacific) requires a funding decision.

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| # | Project | Time | Status | Next step:  activities, required funds |
| 1 | VME taxa identification guide | 2017-2021 | *In progress*  VME taxa ID guide has been printed out and distributed to Members. | Test the VME taxa ID guide by observers and revise if needed.  *2020: 1,1mln JPY (10,000USD).*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 2.1 | GIS database/module as a part of NPFC database management system for spatial management of bottom fisheries and VMEs | 2018- | *In progress*  Fished seamounts and closed areas have been added to the map on the website.  BF footprint data have been shared by Members. | Map bottom fishing footprint.  *2020 FY: 0,55mln JPY (5,000USD).*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 2.2 | Joint spatial/temporal map of Members’ catch and effort on Pacific saury with a spatial resolution of one-degree grids and a temporal resolution of one month | 2018- | *In progress.*  Spatial/temporal map of Members’ Pacific saury catch and effort has been deployed. | Update the map.  *2021 FY: 0,15mln JPY (1,500USD).* |
| 3 | Pacific saury stock assessment meeting (meeting costs) | Every year | *TWG PSSA meetings: Feb 2017, Dec 2017, Nov 2018, Mar 2019.*  *SSC PS meetings: Nov 2019.* | SSC PS07 meeting,  TBD 2021.  *2021 FY: 1.65mln JPY (15,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 4 | Chub mackerel stock assessment meeting (meeting costs) | Every year | *TWG CMSA meetings: Dec 2017, Mar 2019, Nov 2020.* | TWG CMSA04 meeting,  TBD 2021.  *2020 FY: 1.65mln JPY (15,000USD)*  *2021 FY: 1.65mln JPY (15,000USD)*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 5 | Expert to review Pacific saury stock assessment (consultant fee and travel costs) | TBD | Under consideration.  SSC PS: to determine time and format. | *2020-2021 FY: No funds required.* |
| 6 | Observer Program | 2018- | *In progress*  A study on the existing observer programs of Members and those of other RFMOs has been done.  Scientific data which can be collected and/or validated by at-sea observers, fishermen, electronic reporting systems and other means for Pacific saury have been reviewed. | Identify data gaps which can be fulfilled by an observer program.  *2021 FY: No funds required.* |
| 7 | Promotion of cooperation with NPAFC including macro-scale multinational survey in the North Pacific in 2022 | 2021-2022 | *In progress*.  NPAFC-PICES-NPFC workshop Developing a collaborative, integrated ecosystem survey program … has been attended by NPFC representatives (Canada, Oct 2019). | *[2020 FY: contribution to the 2022 research survey?\*]*  *Source: SC fund.*  *\*See WP04 for details* |
| 8 | Invited expert for the development of the operating model for chub mackerel stock assessment  (consultant fee and travel costs) | 2020- | External expert to be contracted. | *[2020 FY: 1,1mln JPY (10,000USD).*  *2021 FY: 1,1mln JPY (10,000USD)]*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 9 | Invited expert to stock assessment meetings of Pacific saury  (consultant fee and travel costs) | 2019- | *External expert attended TWG PSSA/SSC PS meetings in 2019 and 2020.* | *[2020 FY: 1,1mln JPY (10,000USD).*  *2021 FY: 1,1mln JPY (10,000USD)]*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 10 | International Course for NPFC observers for VME indicator taxa identification  (consultant fees and travel costs for two lecturers, meeting costs) | 2021 | *In preparation.*  *PICES committed to 15,000USD to support the meeting logistics, travel support for 1-2 experts and travel support for ~10 students (subject to the format of the meeting).* | Time and location: [3-4 days.  Russia, Vladivostok?].  *2021 FY: 1,65mln JPY (15,000USD).*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 11 | Standardization of bycatch species list and fish species identification guides  (translation of the existing fish ID guide from Japanese to additional languages) | 2019-2020 | *In progress.* | *2020 FY: 1.1mln JPY (10,000USD).*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 12 | Invited expert to initiate the development of MSE for chub mackerel  (consultant fee) | 2020- | *Proposed.* | *2020 FY: 0.55mln JPY (5,000USD).*  *2021 FY: 0.55mln JPY (5,000USD).*  *Source: SC fund.* |
| 13 | PICES-ICES Small Pelagic Fish Symposium, February 21–24, 2022, Lisbon, Portugal. | 2022 | *Proposed.* | *[2021 FY: 1.65mln JPY (15,000USD) to the organizers for the symposium logistics and 0.9mln JPY (8,000USD) for travel support for two NPFC experts to attend the symposium.]* |
|  | Total |  |  | *2020 FY: 7.15mln JPY (+ #7)*  *2021 FY: 10.4mln JPY* |

**Past projects**

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| # | Project | Time | Status | Next step:  activities, required funds |
| 1 | NPFC/FAO VME workshop | 2018-2019 | *Concluded.*  *FAO report is in press.* | The FAO report has been finalized by the co-chairs and shall be published as FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture report. |
| 2 | Workshop to address data requirements and data sharing for SAI assessment and other tasks identified in the Work Plan by SSC VME and SSC BF | 2018 | *Concluded.* |  |
| 3 | Workshop on biological reference points (BRP), harvest control rule (HCR) and management strategy evaluation (MSE) (meeting costs and invited experts) | 2019 | *Concluded.* |  |
| 4 | Literature review of target and limit reference points used in pelagic species fisheries by other general RFMOs and other fishery management bodies | 2018 | *Done.*  *Available on the NPFC website.* |  |
| 5 | Joint PICES-NPFC workshop (W11) on *The influence of environmental changes on the potential for species distributional shifts and subsequent consequences for estimating abundance of Pacific saury* | 2019 | *Concluded.* |  |