



**North Pacific Fisheries Commission**

NPFC-2022-SSC BFME03-WP20

## **Terms of Reference for Data Sharing for Visual Data on the Distribution and Abundance of VME Indicator Taxa**

(draft July 26, 2022)

1. To manage the impacts of bottom contact fisheries on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) it is important to assess the distribution of VME and areas likely to be VME using observational data on the occurrence of VME indicator taxa.
2. Currently Members have limited visual survey data that includes spatially explicit observations of the presence, absence and/or abundance of VME indicator taxa in the NPFC Convention Area. The amount of data available continues to increase each year as Members conduct additional surveys.
3. All members with visual survey data will contribute any available observations on the presence, absence and/or abundance of VME indicator taxa. Shared data should also include information on the latitude and longitude of observation, and depth and size information (if available) in accordance with the NPFC data sharing protocols and in the format provided in the accompanying tables
4. The SWG VME members will collaborate on any analyses of these data
5. The provided data will be used for the purposes of determining the distribution of VME indicator taxa and will not be shared, distributed or used for other purposes without the consent of the data provider