



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

CMM 2019-10

(Entered into force 29 November 2019)

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE
FOR SABLEFISH IN THE NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC),

Recalling relevant international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 December 1995 and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 24 November 1993 and taking into account the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO”) at its 28th session on 31 October 1995 as well as the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas adopted by FAO on 29 August 2008;

Seeking to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources of the Northeastern Pacific Ocean and, in so doing, protect the vulnerable marine ecosystems that occur there, in accordance with the Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) including, in particular, paragraphs 66 to 71 of the UNGA59/25 in 2004, paragraphs 69 to 74 of UNGA60/31 in 2005, paragraphs 69 and 80 to 91 of UNGA61/105 in 2006, and paragraphs 113 to 124 of UNGA64/72 in 2009;

Reaffirming the General Principles, Article 3 of the Convention, in particular, paragraph (b) stipulating that measures are adopted, based on the best scientific information available, to ensure that fisheries resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, and paragraph (f) stipulating that preventing or eliminating overfishing and excess fishing capacity and ensuring that levels of fishing effort or harvest levels are based on the best scientific information available and do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of the fisheries resources;

Noting that the existing high seas seamount Sablefish fishery is being conducted by Canada following a precautionary approach with set effort controls in accordance with the conservation and management measure (CMM) 2023-06 for Bottom Fisheries and Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean;

Reaffirming the General Principles provided in Article 3 of the Convention, in particular, paragraph (h) stipulating that any expansion of fishing effort does not proceed without prior assessment of the impacts of those fishing activities on the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources and a determination that those activities would not have significant adverse impacts (SAI) on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME), or ensuring that those activities are managed to prevent those impacts or are not authorized to proceed;

Conscious of the need to adopt permanent measures for the Northeastern Pacific Ocean to ensure that this area is not left as the only major area of the Pacific Ocean where no such measures are in place;

Recognizing that the scope of management measures outlined in CMM 2023-06 applies to the management of bottom fisheries in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean;

Recognizing the documented historical catch in NPFC Annual Reports of Sablefish in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean by Canada, managed in accordance with CMM 2023-06 and compatible domestic management measures;

Recognizing the need expressed in CMM 2023-06 to develop and implement other permanent management arrangements to govern these and other fisheries in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean;

Recognizing that the Commission is to strive to adopt conservation and management measures to prevent SAI on marine species or any VME;

Recognizing the detrimental impacts of lost, abandoned and otherwise discarded fishing gear on the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries and the ecosystems they depend on, and the need for global action to address this issue;

Adopts the following conservation and management measure in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention:

1. This CMM shall apply to the eastern part of the Convention Area as defined in CMM 2023-06.
2. Members of the Commission with current harvest of sablefish in the eastern part of the Convention Area shall refrain from expansion of their fishery in this area from the existing historical level.
3. Members with historical but no current harvest of sablefish in the eastern part of the Convention Area may only expand their fishery in this area in the context of the relevant NPFC Convention provisions, as appropriate including but not limited to Article 3, paragraph (h).

4. Development of new fishing activity for the sablefish fishery in the eastern part of the Convention Area by Members not referenced in paragraph 5 without documented historical catch for sablefish in this area shall be determined in accordance with, but not limited to, as appropriate, Article 3, paragraph (h) and Article 7, subparagraphs 1(g) and (h) of the Convention.
5. Members referenced in paragraph 2 and Members fishing for Sablefish in areas of their jurisdiction that are adjacent to the eastern part of the Convention Area shall adhere to the exploratory fishing protocol as set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2023-06 for Bottom Fisheries and Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean when considering new and exploratory bottom fishing activities in the Convention Area.

Fishing Gear

6. Longline gear and longline trap gear are permitted to be used.
7. Members of the Commission shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag operating in the eastern part of the Convention Area to fish sablefish are to be equipped with an operational vessel monitoring system that is activated at all times.
8. All vessels authorized to fish sablefish in the eastern part of the Convention Area shall have 100% observer coverage.
9. Recognizing ongoing processes to address marine pollution in other fora, including at the International Maritime Organization, Members are encouraged to report lost fishing gear as soon as possible to the Secretariat, and retrieve any lost gear encountered by their vessels if safety is not compromised.
10. Proposed fishing activities involving the use of trawl fishing gear or other gear types not in use at the time of the adoption of this CMM in the eastern part of the Convention Area will be subject to the requirements of the Convention and relevant CMMs, as appropriate, including for new and exploratory fishery protocol in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean as per CMM 2023-06.
11. This CMM shall not be a precedent to hinder Members referenced in paragraph 2, at the time of the adoption of this CMM, to develop new or exploratory Sablefish fisheries in the eastern part of the Convention Area subject to the requirements of CMM on Bottom Fisheries and Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean.