



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2023-SSC PS12-WP04

4th intersessional meeting of the Small Scientific Committee on Pacific Saury

21 November 2023 (9 am – 12 pm Tokyo time)

WebEx

Summary

Agenda Item 1. Introductory items (incl. adoption of the agenda and drafting meeting summary)

The 4th intersessional meeting of the Small Scientific Committee on Pacific Saury commenced at 9am on 21 November 2023, Tokyo time in the format of video conferencing via WebEx. The meeting was attended by Members from Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Chinese Taipei and Vanuatu as well as Secretariat. Dr. Larry Jacobson participated in the meeting as invited expert. The list of participants is attached (Annex). The meeting was opened by Dr. Toshihide Kitakado (Japan) who served as the SSC PS Chair.

Agenda Item 2. Quick overview of the SSC PS11 and SWG MSE PS04

The Chair gave a brief overview of the outcomes of SSC PS11 and SWG MSE PS04 held in Vanuatu from 28 August to 2 September 2023.

Agenda Item 3. Progress on BSSPM

3.1 Prior assumptions

The Chair reminded participants that SSC PS11 noted that there continues to be differences in scale among the three Members' preliminary results and agreed to continue to explore the reasons behind it. SSC PS11 agreed to test the code of Members' BSSPM models in the intersessional period prior to SSC PS12 by running all of them with the same priors and input data and comparing the results.

Chinese Taipei reported that it started analysis on the comparison of model runs using the prior assumptions from China and Japan. The model which used the priors from Japan did not converge. The comparison of posterior distributions between Chinese Taipei and China showed that, for some quantities (r , process error etc) posterior distributions base on China's priors demonstrated longer tails.

Japan commented that there were some scale differences in its early document, and this may be the reason why the model using Japan's priors did not converge. Japan will share the correct data with Chinese Taipei.

China commented that it will conduct the same analyses using its model and share the results with SSC PS members.

The invited expert suggested to also analyze posterior distribution for biomass estimates.

Participants discussed the results presented by Chinese Taipei, noted similar patterns of posterior

distributions between China and Chinese Taipei for management quantities (MSY, Bmsy and Fmsy) and concluded that differences in scale among the three Members' stock assessment results seems to be related to different prior assumptions rather than different coding.

SSC PS agreed to continue to use the current specifications and re-affirmed using the stock assessment results from the meeting in Vanuatu for conditioning of operating models.

3.2 Other issues

China presented a paper on the simulation of climate indices for process error in Pacific Saury assessment conducted in cooperation with Canada. The paper was submitted to SSC PS12 and is available on the website ([NPFC-2023-SSC PS12-WP03](#)).

Agenda Item 4. Progress on new assessment models

4.1 SS3

4.2 Others

Japan informed participants that it had submitted one paper to SSC PS12 and plans to submit another one on age-structured models.

SSC PS will continue to develop age-structured models in the collaborative manner through the Technical Working Group on New Stock Assessment Models established by SSC PS11.

Agenda Item 5. Progress on HCRs

5.1 OM specification -climate change scenarios-

5.2 HCRs

5.3 Others

The Chair presented a progress report on the simulation work for an interim HCR. Analyses have been conducted based on the specifications agreed at SSC PS11 in Vanuatu. The presentation is available on the Collaboration website under [SSC PS intersessional meetings](#).

The Chair presented the Shiny application and explained options for configuration of parameters and settings for an HCR. He presented some outcomes based on the combination of different specifications and demonstrated how they meet the management objectives.

Participants noted the large number of graphs and options for an interim HCR resulted from the combination of different assumptions and expressed a concern about how they will be delivered to the Commission.

Participants agreed to discuss at SSC PS12 in Nanaimo about which assumptions will be used for the final set of outputs to be presented to COM. It was suggested that the options which do not meet the criteria and options with similar results may be removed.

The invited expert suggested, for accounting estimation uncertainty in the simulation analyses, to use the highest posteriors instead of all MCMC outcomes (use the set of parameters with the highest posterior generated by MCMC). The Chair will compare median and mode of posterior distributions

to see similarity/dissimilarity.

Agenda Item 6. Others

6.1 Time allocation in SSC PS12 in Nanaimo

The Chair presented an annotated indicative schedule for SSC PS12 and explained the tasks to be addressed at SSC PS12.

6.2 Others

The Chair informed participants about the request from the Commission Chair to Members calling for participation of managers in SWG MSE PS05 in Niigata.

The Chair proposed that the 13th SSC PS meeting will be held virtually in August 2024.

Agenda Item 7. Close of the meeting

The meeting closed at 10:30am on 21 November 2023, Tokyo time.

List of Participants**CHAIR**

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