



NPFC-2023-SC08-OP05

# NPFC-ISC\* MOU Status Update

Sarah Hawkshaw for John Holmes, ISC Chair  
NPFC Scientific Committee Meeting  
Dec 15-19, 2023  
Nanaimo, Canada

\*ISC – International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species  
in the North Pacific Ocean



# Progress to Date

- Draft MOU developed by Executive Secretary presented for discussion at ISC23 Plenary meeting, July 2023 in Kanazawa, Japan
- MOU focuses on mutual interests (greatly paraphrased):
  - i. exchange meeting reports, information, documents and publications regarding matters of mutual interest;
  - ii. exchange data and scientific information exchange in support of the work and objectives of both Organisations including, but not limited to, information on:
    - a. relevant stocks and species;
    - b. effects of climate changes on marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean.
  - iii. collaborate on research efforts relating to species and stocks of mutual interest, including non-target, associated and dependent species;
  - iv. exchange on expertise gained, lessons learned and use of best practices in their areas of activity;
  - v. grant reciprocal observer status to representatives of the respective Organisations in relevant meetings of each Organisation, including those of each Organisation's subsidiary bodies.



# ISC Plenary Response

- ISC Plenary consists of members from Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Chinese-Taipei and the United States (so much overlap with NPFC Parties)
- ISC Plenary supportive of MOU in general (helps with formalization of the organization) but sought to address some concerns related to:
  - Correcting the preamble to better reflect the ISC reality;
  - Questions about the need for item i – exchanging reports & information since all ISC documents and information, including WG reports, are posted publicly on the ISC website;
  - Minor modifications to the collaboration clause to focus on species/stocks of mutual interest; and
  - Correcting Consultative Clause to reflect the fact that the ISC does not have Secretariat (or budget for that matter).



# Next Steps

- ISC Plenary tasked the Chair (Holmes) with developing proposed changes based on their input (Chair is currently doing so); feedback to date is mostly minor wording changes for clarity
- ISC Chair and NPFC Executive Director work together to put in place language acceptable to both (expected to be complete by April)
- Revised MOU presented for approval by each organization at next available opportunity (April – NPFC; June – ISC).