NPFC-2023-SSC BFME04-WP01 (Rev. 1)

**Five-Year Work Plan of the SSC BF-ME**

Abstract: The Five-Year Work Plan of the SSC BF-ME was updated by the SSC BF-ME Chair and submitted to the SSC BFME04 meeting. Members reviewed and revised the work plan during the meeting.

Priority list:

1. NPA: Review monitoring survey
2. NPA: Conduct stock assessment and provide management advice
3. SA: Conduct stock assessment and provide management advice
4. NPA, SA and Sablefish: Develop and implement harvest control rule
5. Sablefish: Evaluate historical harvest relative to trip limits and update trip limits if necessary
6. Sablefish and VME: Conduct trade-off analysis between commercial fishing and VME protection
7. VME: Assess the relative risk of SAI for VME as a step towards standardize approach to SAI

| ITEM | SSC BFME05 (2023) | SSC BFME06 (2024) | SSC BFME07 (2025) | SSC BFME08 (2026) | SSC BFME09 (2027) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| North Pacific Armorhead |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assess and monitor status of stock | Update catch data and CPUE index for NPA | Update catch data for NPA | Update catch data for NPA | Update catch data for NPA | Update catch data for NPA |
|  | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys | Review results of NPA monitoring surveys |
|  | Implement alternative methods for stock status | Implement alternative methods for stock status | Implement alternative methods for stock status | Implement alternative methods for stock status | Update status of stock |
|  | Compare CPUE and acoustic estimates | Evaluate trend in directed effort relative to NPA catch |  | Compare CPUE and acoustic estimates |  |
|  | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA | Identify and conduct additional research on NPA |
|  | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice |
| Conserve stock | Develop conservation objective(s) | Develop conservation objective(s) |  |  |  |
|  | Implement adaptive management | Implement adaptive management |  |  |  |
|  | Develop HCR and implement | Develop HCR and implement | Update data and implement HCR | Update data and implement HCR |  |
| Splendid alfonsino |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assess and monitor status of stock | Update catch data and CPUE index for SA | Update catch data and CPUE index for SA | Update catch data and CPUE index for SA | Update catch data and CPUE index for SA | Update catch data and CPUE index for SA |
|  | Update comprehensive stock assessment or data limited approach, and provide management advice | Implement life history based approach, and provide management advice | Update life history based approach, and provide management advice | Update life history based approach, and provide management advice | Update life history based approach, and provide management advice |
|  | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice |
| Conserve stock | Develop conservation objective(s);  Define and implement harvest control rule | Develop conservation objective(s);  Define and implement harvest control rule | Update data and implement HCR | Update data and implement HCR | Update data and implement HCR |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sablefish |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assess and monitor status of stock | Update catch data and CPUE index | Update catch data and CPUE index | Update catch data and CPUE index | Update catch data and CPUE index | Update catch data and CPUE index |
|  |
|  | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish | Provide an update on USA-Canada stock assessment models for Sablefish and joint research on Sablefish |
|  | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice |
| Conserve stock | Update data and implement HCR | Design HCR specific to NPFC Sablefish (joint intersessional work with Canada and USA assessment authors | Update data and implement HCR | Update data and implement HCR | Update data and implement HCR |
| Other research | Update trade-off analysis for Sablefish fishing and VME protection (as new data is available) | Update trade-off analysis for Sablefish fishing and VME protection (as new data is available) |  |  |  |
| Vulnerable marine ecosystems |  |  |  |  |  |
| Defining and Identifying VMEs | Bring together VME indicator taxa observation data from various sources and map for NPFC area | Summarize VME indicator taxa observation data from various sources and map for NPFC area | Consolidate other potential data sources and clarify gaps and deficiencies in VME data |  |  |
|  | Review and update quantitative definition of VMEs | Review and update quantitative definition of VMEs as needed | Review and update quantitative definition of VMEs as needed | Review and update quantitative definition of VMEs as needed | Review and update quantitative definition of VMEs as needed |
|  | Review updated taxonomy for corals relative to VME indicator taxa | Review updated taxonomy for corals and VME indicator taxa as needed (Hydrocorals) | Review updated taxonomy for corals and VME indicator taxa as needed | Review updated taxonomy for corals and VME indicator taxa as needed | Review updated taxonomy for corals and VME indicator taxa as needed |
| Identifying and defining SAI's | Apply the standardized approach for SAI assessments and conduct integrated SAI assessment | Determine data requirements and spatial/temporal resolution for SAI assessment and continue developing risk assessment for SAI | Assess risk of SAI for bottom fisheries | Conduct integrated SAI assessment | Conduct integrated SAI assessment |
|  |  |  | Develop standardized and measureable metrics to assess cumulative impacts of fisheries on VME | Assess other threats to VME, such as climate change and lost fishing gear |  |
| Quantifying interactions between fisheries and VMEs | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data | Update spatially explicit fishing effort data |
|  |  | Use data-based methods applied to Japan and Korea’s indicator taxa bycatch to further refine encounter thresholds |  |  |  |
|  | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice | Review fisheries observer program data collection for adequacy to produce data streams to support management advice |
| Conserving VMEs | Develop management objectives for recovering VME sites (lower priority) | Refine framework for future monitoring of recovering VMEs | Periodic review of VME management | Periodic review of VME management | Periodic review of VME management |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other ecosystem components |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assess the impact of fisheries on other ecosystem components |  | Examine discards over time (species composition, weight of discards) for bottom fisheries in CA |  | Work towards assessment of fishing impacts on other (non-target) ecosystem components |  |