North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC's implementation of the 2008 DSF Guidelines

Fish stocks (bottom fisheries)

	Para	Yes/No	NPFC
Vessel registry	56	Y	List of authorized vessels and list of active vessels provided by Members
Catch statistics	34,40,71	Y	Annual catch statistics aggregated by Members and gears
Effort	40,71	Y	Annual effort statistics (number of fishing vessels and fishing days) aggregated by Members and gears
Vessel position VMS	35	Y	Regional VMS was launched in 2021.
Biological information on stocks		Y	
Independent surveys	32	Y (Can, Jpn, Rus)	Japan (acoustic survey from 2014) Russia (ROV) Canada (ROV)
Log-books	31	Y	
Electronic logbooks (real time reporting)	35	Y	Korea Russia
Port Sampling		N	However, 100% dockside monitoring in Canada for their fishery on sablefish.
Socio-economic surveys/value chain	33	Yes (for Canada)	Canada: Landings value
Stock assessment	40,41	Y	Life history based approach for North Pacific armorhead and splendid alfonsino is ongoing.
Catch control		Y (TAC EDR) N (BYX)	Seasonal bottom fisheries closure (Nov-Dec). Adaptive management process. Mesh size limit.

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Bycatch data from commercial vessels

	Para	Yes/No	NPFC
Data collection programme (at sea)		Y	
Observers	55	Y	National. Data are collected in accordance with the agreed standard.
Training programmes (for observers)	36	Y	National. Observers are trained by Members.
ID Guides	36	Y	VME indicator taxa ID guides have been developed for northwestern and northeastern Pacific Ocean. Fish ID guide will be completed in 2022.

Benthic habitat

	Para	Yes/No	NPFC
Bathymetry multibeam data	37	Y	National. Not shared.
Habitat mapping	44	Y (Can, Jpn)	Canada and Japan.
Predictive models	37,45	Y (national)	Predictive models done by Japan, Canada and US to support scientific decisions making.

DSF/VMEs

	Para	Yes/No	NPFC
Historical fishing information	18i	Y (on-going)	Fishing footprints have been identified at the seamount scale. Compilation of more detailed information is in progress as a part of the combined SAI assessment.
Existing bottom fishing area (by effort / gear)	23	Y	Bottom fishery footprint maps in the spatial resolution of 30”x30” and temporal resolution of 10 years.
Outside of Existing	23	Y	Fishing prohibited in north of 45N and >1500 m.

bottom fishing area			Any new attempts of fishing in the prohibited areas are subject to the exploratory fishing protocol.
Exploratory fishing protocol	61	Y	Applies to both unfished and closed areas.
Encounter protocol	67,74	Y	Regularly reviewed.
Report when encounters are less than threshold	67,69,74ii	Y (national)	Observers report all of the encounter data.
VME criteria (understood)	47	Y	
VMEs identified	21ii	Y	
VMEs managed (closures)	22	Y	2 closed areas and 2 areas where fishing activities are limited.
VME indicators	38	Y	Currently 4 coral taxa. Addition of sponges and hydrocorals as indicator taxa are under consideration.
VME indicator thresholds	38	Y	50 kg, not taxon-specific.
Gear control/modifications	21v	Y	Gillnets > 70 cm above bottom
SAI identified/mitigated	81-83	Y	First SAI assessment by Members in 2009 and updated assessment in 2018. But combined assessment is on-going.
VMEs monitored (compliance)	81-83	Y	