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North Pacific Fisheries Commission Report

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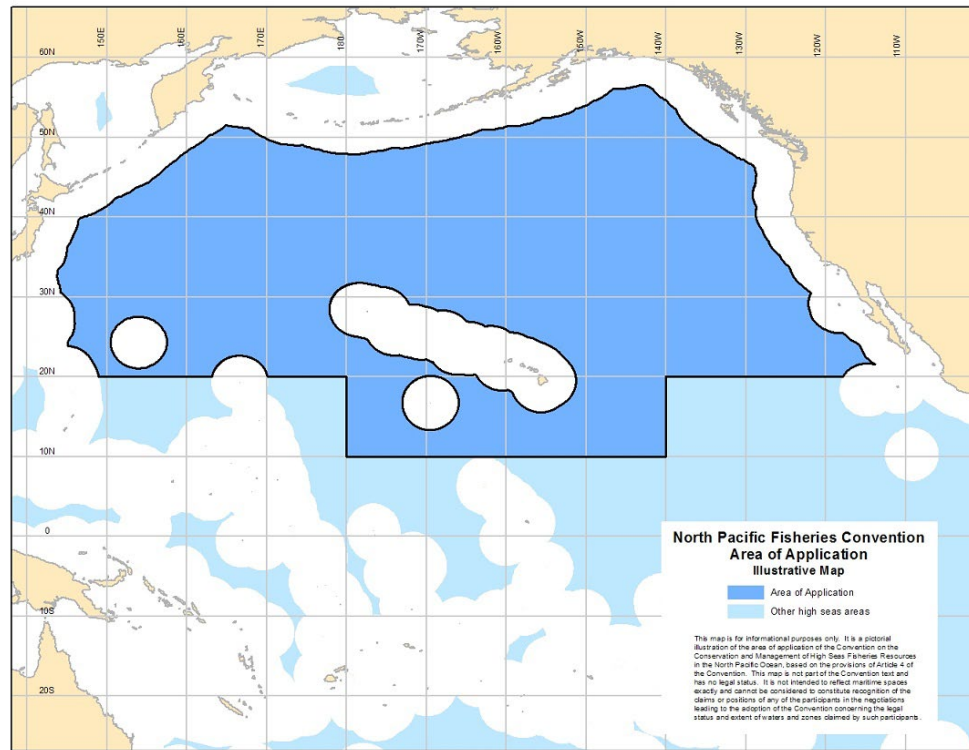
U.S. HOD and Alternate Commissioner (Federal) to NPFC
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U.S. Alternate Commissioner to NPFC (Non-Federal)

NPFC Background

- Convention area covers high seas in the North Pacific
- Management of fisheries resources other than those covered by other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs)



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NPFC Background

- Treaty-based RFMO with authority to adopt legally binding measures
- Objective is sustainable management of fisheries resources and protection of related marine ecosystems
- Entered into force 2015, USA became party in 2017
- Members meet regularly (usually annually) in a Commission meeting to make decisions
- Subsidiary work occurs through Technical and Compliance Committee, Scientific Committee, and Finance and Administration Committee
- Nine members: Canada, China, EU, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Taiwan (participates as Chinese Taipei), USA, and Vanuatu
- One cooperating non-contracting party: Panama



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NPFC Priorities

- Management of pelagic species: Pacific saury, chub mackerel, spotted mackerel, Japanese sardine, neon flying squid, and Japanese flying squid
- Bottom fisheries (North Pacific armorhead and splendid alfonsino) and prevention of significant adverse impacts on deep-sea vulnerable marine ecosystems
- Development of monitoring, control, and surveillance tools and robust compliance processes to combat IUU fishing
- Improved stock assessments and scientific advice



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Recent Challenges (2019-2022)

- NPFC meetings and operations (including high seas boardings and inspection) significantly affected by COVID-19
- Russian chair of the organization – further affected ability to meet following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine
- Secretariat turnover and obstacles to remotely hiring a new Executive Secretariat
- Vacancies in officers (subsidiary chair/vice chair positions)
- No in-person meetings between July 2019 and March 2023
- Organizational atrophy due to inability to make progress for several years in science, management, or compliance and few members investing in improving NPFC process, transparency, and governance



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More Recent Developments (2022-2023)

- Significant U.S. and NPFC accomplishments over the past year to address concerns about the direction of the organization
- New Executive Secretary from Canada selected and onboarded in late 2022 through virtual meetings, despite roadblocks from Russia
- Changes to U.S. delegation leadership and engagement, as well as increased presence from among from U.S. delegation in subsidiary body leadership roles: Alisha Falberg (TCC Chair) and Dan Hull (FAC Chair)
- In-person annual meeting in Sapporo, Japan in March 2023 delivered on many longstanding priorities



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March 2023 Annual Meeting Highlights

- USA achieved its major priorities in the negotiations
- Adopted measure to enhance monitoring and management of transshipment
- Secured significant improvements in rules related to transparency of organization
- Resolved COVID-related concerns that had affected ability to conduct HSBI on Chinese vessels
- Adopted U.S. proposal on consideration of climate change in the work of the Commission
- Adopted measure to help rebuild overfished Pacific saury
- Worked closely with Canada to adopt new measures on sharks and marine pollution
- Replaced Russian chair with highly qualified chair from Japan and vice-chair from Korea



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U.S. Interests and Priorities

- Improve NPFC MCS tools (e.g., HSBI, observers, VMS), compliance, and enforcement in the North Pacific to combat IUU fishing and support broader maritime security interests
- Contribute to growth in NPFC scientific capacities to support science-based management
- Consider opportunities to strengthen management of bottom fisheries and protect VMEs, including on Emperor Seamounts and for overlapping fisheries interests in U.S. EEZ
- Further improve transparency and effective governance of NPFC



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Thank you

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