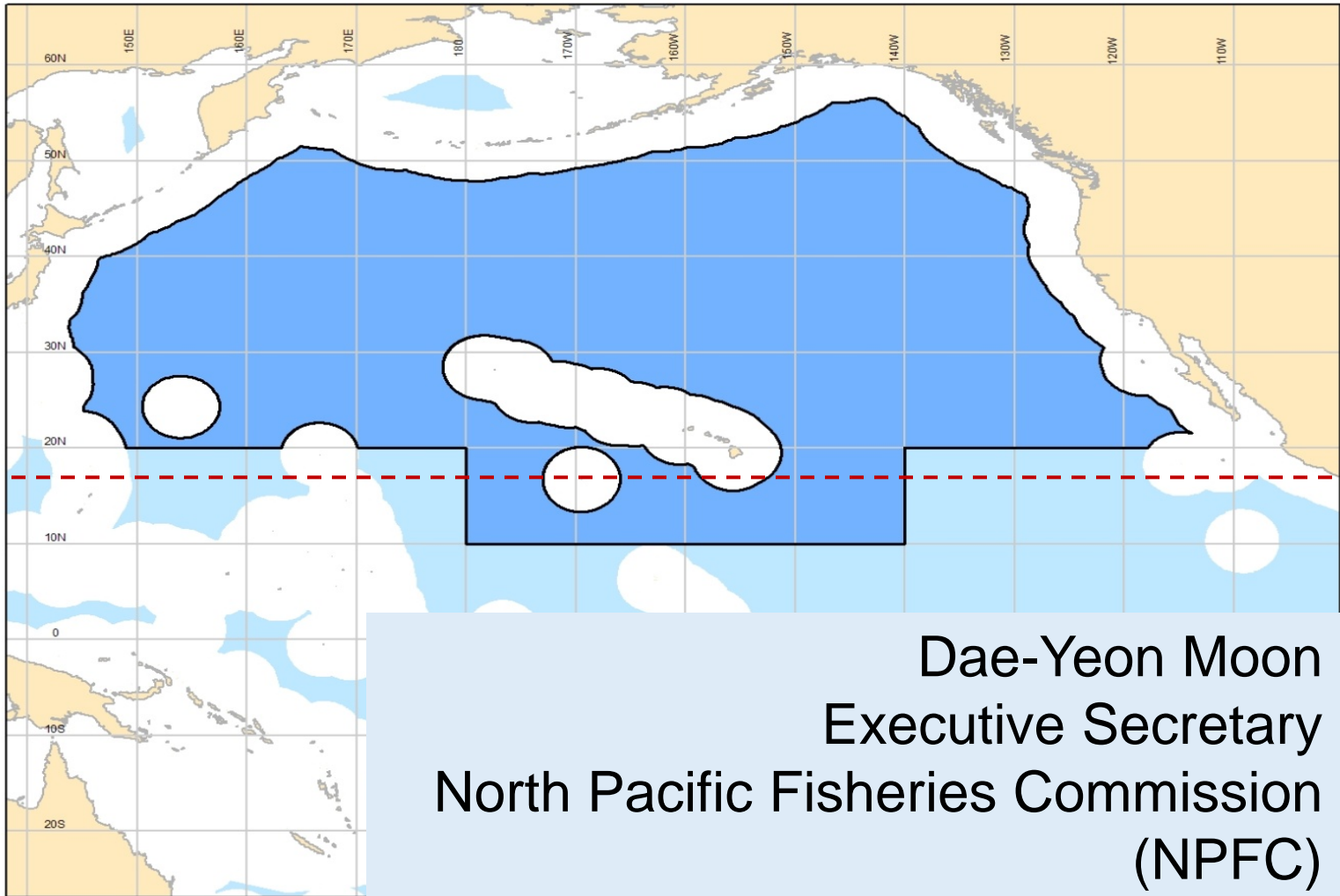


Progress in the Management of North Pacific Bottom Fisheries in conjunction with establishment of the NPFC



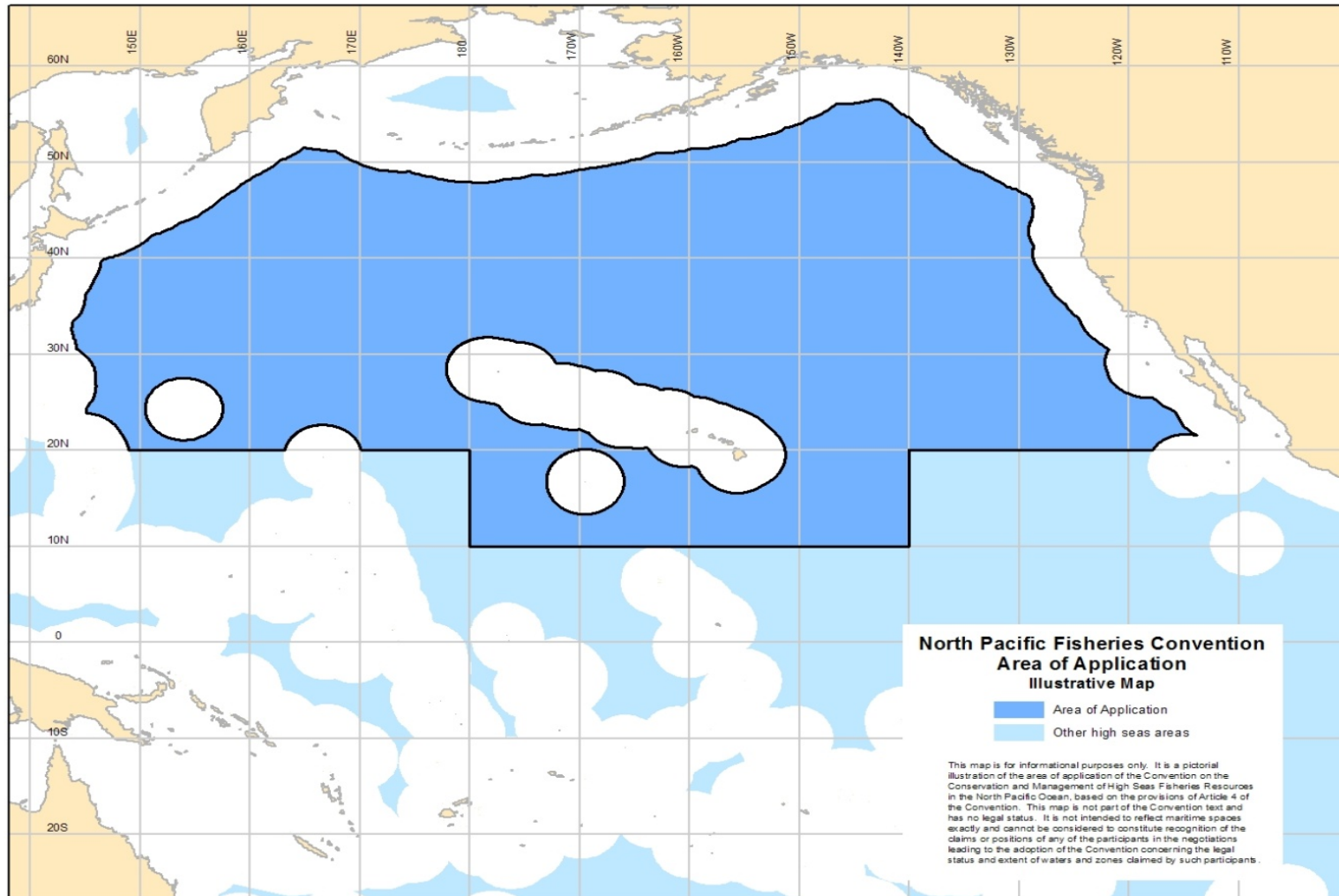
Birth of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

- 1. In accordance with UNGA Resolution 59/25 (2004), 60/31 (2005), 61/105 (2006), consultations to establish long-term management mechanism began in 2006.**
 - 2. It took 9 years of negation processes, 10 multilateral meetings, 7 Preparatory Conferences, 13 Scientific Working Groups, and a Technical Compliance WG to reach this point.**
 - 3. The NPFC Convention entered into force on 19 July 2015**
 - 4. First formal meeting of the Commission took place in Tokyo on 3 September 2015.**
- Members (6): Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Chinese Taipei**

Objectives of the Convention

- **Long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area**
- **Protection of the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur.**

Area of Competence



Species covered by the NPFC

Species

all fish, mollusks, crustaceans and other marine species caught by fishing vessels within the Convention Area,

excluding: sedentary species, indicator species of VME, catadromous species, and other marine species already covered by pre-existing RFMOs in NPO.

Major Fisheries occurred in the NPFC area

Bottom fisheries:

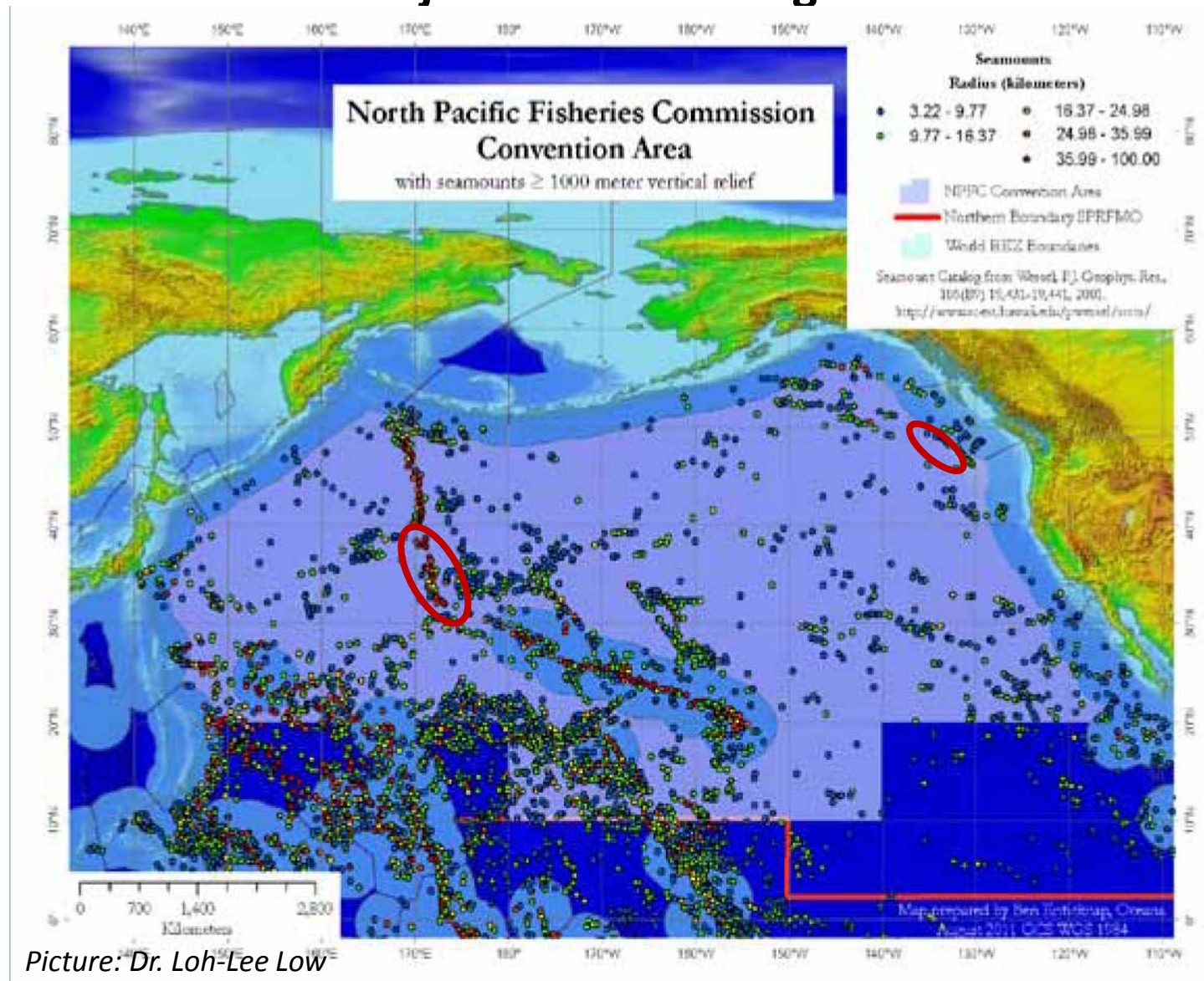
**bottom trawl fisheries, bottom gillnet fisheries and
bottom longline fisheries**

Pelagic fisheries:

**stick-held-dip net fishery, squid jigging fishery, chub
mackerel purse seine fishery**

North Pacific Seamounts

: major bottom fishing area



Bottom Fisheries of the North Pacific (FAO Statistical Area 61 and 67) in 2015

Gears	Grounds	Flag States and Number of Vessels	Target Species
Bottom trawl	Southern Emperor Seamounts	Japan (6), Republic of Korea (1)	North Pacific armorhead, Splendid alfonso, Mirror dory, Oreo
Gillnet	Southern Emperor Seamounts	Japan (1)	North Pacific armorhead, Splendid alfonso, Mirror dory, Rockfishes, Oreo
Longline	Southern Emperor Seamounts	Russia (1)	Rockfishes, Splendid alfonso, North Pacific armorhead
Pot	Southern Emperor Seamounts	0 (Russia (2002-2003))	Tanner crab, red crab, snow crab
Bottom longline trap, bottom longline hook	Eickelberg, Warwick, Cobb, Brown Bear	Canada (1)	Sablefish

Bottom fisheries in the North Pacific



North Pacific Armorhead



Splendid Alfonsino



Rockfish



Sablefish

- North Pacific Armorhead
Unique life history and fishery characteristics. Very sporadic recruitment occurs with significant year-to-year fluctuations in catches from less than 1000 to 25000 tons . After 1977, NPA catches sharply decreased and remained low. Recent years observes more frequent high recruitment (2004, 2010, 2012) but low recruitment since 2013.
- Splendid Alfonsino
Secondary target species in bottom trawl fisheries
In 2002-2015, catches varied from 800 to 5600 tons, without any obvious trends
- Rockfish
Relatively small catch and never exceeded 1000 ton.
- Sable fish
Sablefish fishery exists over 4 SMs near EEZs of Canada and USA. Canadian catch varied from 6 to 27 tons. Only 1-2 vessels per year operated in that region.

Progress in Bottom Fishing Measures in NPO

- 1. Interim Measures**
- 2. Voluntary Measures**
- 3. Impact Assessments**
- 4. Others**

1. Interim Measures

(122 of Resolution 64/72)

Northwest Pacific Ocean

1) Developed by 4 original participating states – Japan, Korea, Russia and USA

2) Management target – Bottom fisheries in high seas

3) Key Measures

(approved by SC to be adopted by the Commission in August)

- a. Limit fishing effort to existing levels, # vessels and fishing impacts**
- b. Not allow fishing in seamounts north of 45 N, and C-H and southern part of Koko Emperor Seamounts and deeper than 1500m**
- c. Move more than 2miles in case of encounter and over the threshold for VME - Indicator species (Alcyonacea, Antipatharia, Gorgonacea, and Scleractinia)**
- d. Not allows fisheries in new areas unless it follows Exploratory Fishing Protocols and reviewed by the SC to ensure that it does not have SAI**
- e. Collect and share data, all vessels have VMS, use observer data**

Northeast Pacific Ocean

1) Developed by 7 participating members– Japan, Korea, Russia, USA, Canada, China, and Chinese Taipei as a fishing entity

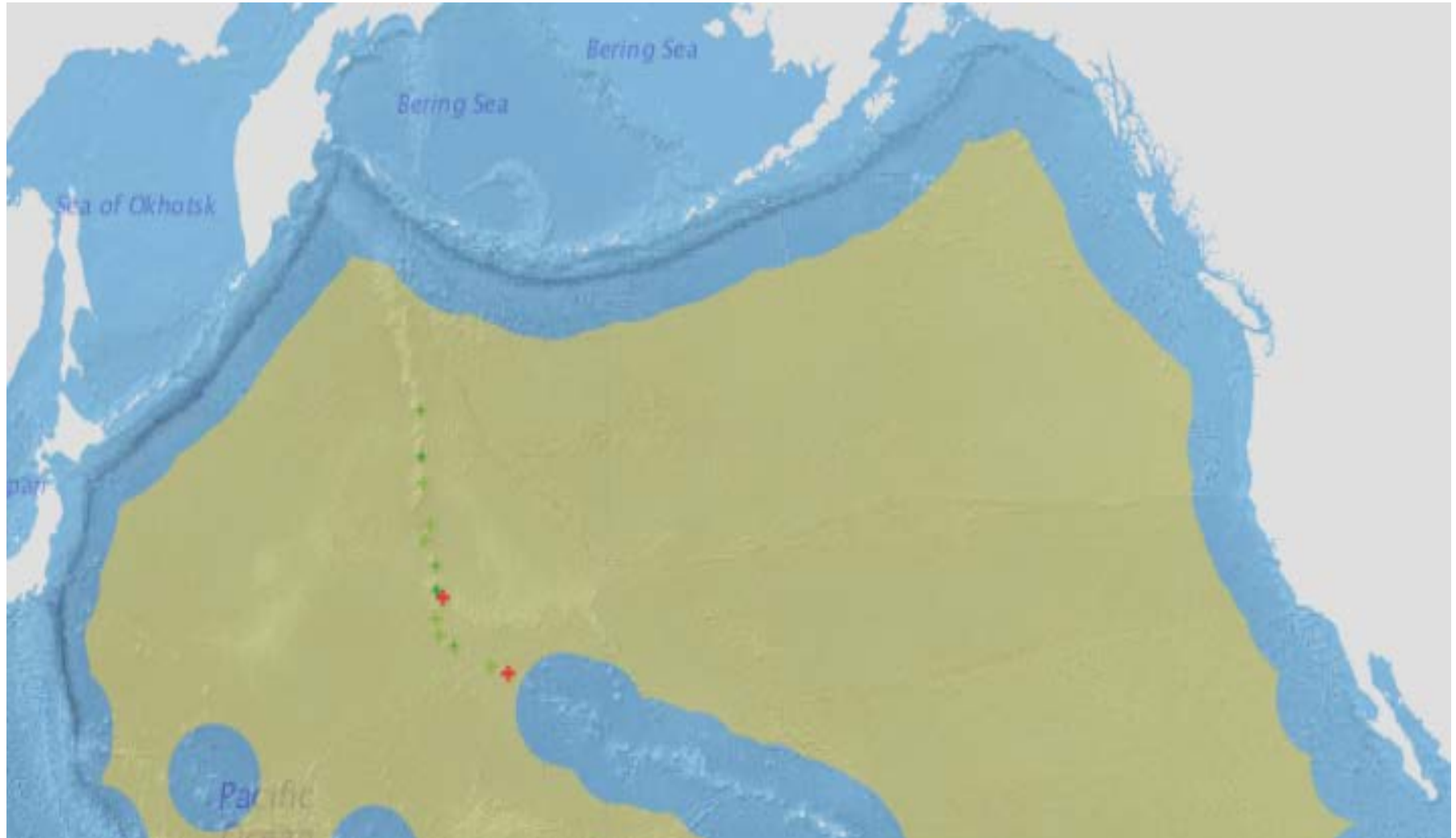
2) Area – East of 175 W in Convention Area

3) Key Measures

(approved by SC to be adopted by the Commission in August)

- a. Not allows fisheries in new areas unless it follows Exploratory Fishing Protocols and reviewed by the SC to ensure that it does not have SAI**
- b. Prohibit direct fishing on Alcyonacea, Antipatharia, Gorgonacea, and Scleractinia (as stipulated in the Convention, thus also prohibited in the Northwestern Pacific) as well as any other indicator VME species**

More than 90% of NPFC area is practically in closure
(Red: potential VME closure, Yellow: Requires Exploratory Fisheries Protocol)



2. Voluntary Measures

(122 of Resolution 64/72)

Japan, Korea, Russia (all bottom fishing states)

- 1) 100% scientific observer coverage (Japan, Korea, Russia)**
- 2) Area closure (Japan, Russia, Korea)(C-H, southern part of Koko)**
- 3) Time closure (November and December) (Japan, Korea, Russia)**
- 4) Distance between gill net and sea floor is from 70-100cm**
- 5) Catch limit of North Pacific armorhead (Japan)**

3. Impact Assessment

(para 83 and 85 of Res. 61/105)

- 1) impact assessment was conducted in 2008 by Japan, Korea, Russia and USA and in 2013 by Canada**
- 2) Workshop and Assigned Subgroup Activities**
 - a) Stocks assessment workshops on:**
 - North Pacific Armorhead**
 - Pacific saury (2 workshops)**
 - b) Intersessional working group on VME encounter protocols**
 - c) Korea to develop Data Collection System**
 - d) Japan to lead stock assessments**
- 3) Future Impact assessments will be fully functioned by the SC and Commission**
 - 1st Scientific meetings: 14-28 April 2016 – Small Scientific Committees on VME, Armorhead, and Pacific saury, Scientific Committee**

4. Other efforts

- 1) Reports to the United Nations Secretary General on the development of a new RFMO competent to regulate bottom fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean (2014, 2016)**
- 2) Formalization of Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) to protect VME and sustainably manage marine species is underway**
 - intersessional activities by Corresponding Group**
 - to adopt in NPFC annual meetings in 22-26 August 2016**
- 3) Improvement of the Encounter Protocols**
 - intersessional activities by Contact Group to draft protocol under SSC-VME**
 - The intersessional activities will be continued for further improvement after the adoption of CMM in August**

Conclusion

Northwestern Pacific

1. Bottom fishing area is limited
 - a. Area – South of 45 N and no deeper than 1500m
 - b. No seamount fishing in US EEZ in Emperor Seamounts area
 - c. Existing fishing areas are very limited
2. Number of Fishing Vessels has been Limited
 - a. Actual Vessel Number in 2015 : 6 (Japan), 1 (Korea), 1 (Russia)

Northeastern Pacific

1. Bottom fishing area is limited – Eickelberg, Warwic, Cobb, and Brown Bear Seamounts
2. Actual Vessel Number in 2015 : 1 (Canada)

Establishment of the NPFC will enhance its commitment to implement the requirements in Resolution 61/105, 64/72 and 66/68

Thank You

