

NPFC VME Process -- Science

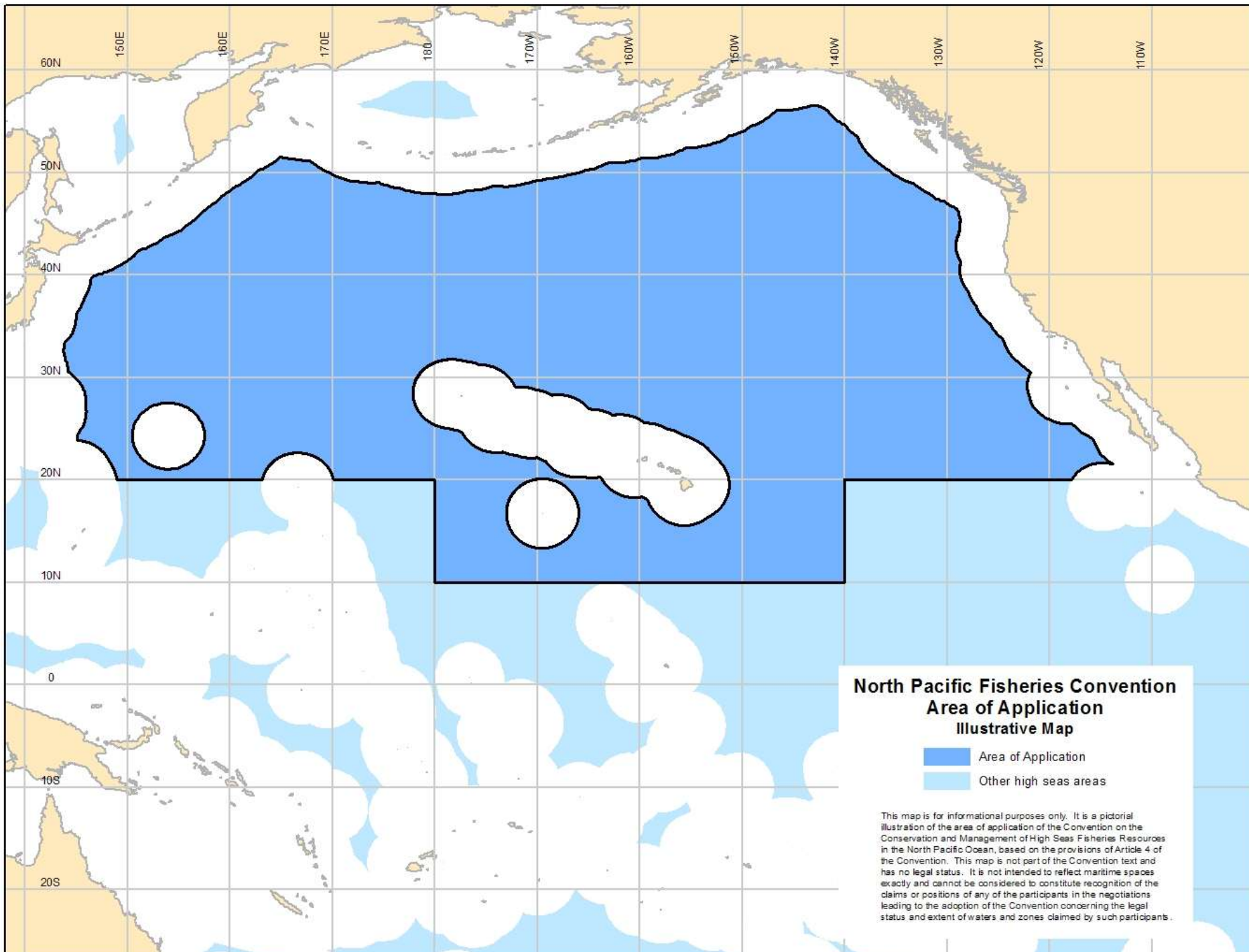
Day 1, 11 March 2014

At 1:30pm

Considerable Overlap of Subject Matter in the Agenda

So, I will try to stay on the Subject Matter

-- Process and Science --



1. The Convention that creates NPFC has the primary objective – for long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources while protecting the marine ecosystems

2. NPFC's Article 3 e reads -- "Protecting biodiversity in the marine environment, including by preventing significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, taking into account any relevant international standards or guidelines including the FAO International Guidelines"

Number of Key Phrases

1. Protecting biodiversity
2. Prevent significant adverse impacts
3. on VMEs
4. Taking into account international standards or guidelines
5. Including the FAO International Guidelines”

Science -- Structure

1. Commission Structure –

Commission

Science Committee

Workshops

Workgroups

Symposiums

2. Participating National Structures -- the Real Strengths

National Research Experts and Research Labs

Affiliate Agency Research Experts

University Experts

NGOs

Science -- Process

1. Collect Data – from Fisheries and Research
Data Forms – Korea has lead
Map encounters of corals and other VMEs
2. Science Plan -- First 5-Year Plan – (Canadian Lead)
-- Assess the impact of fisheries on VMEs and
develop encounter protocols for bottom fisheries
on the VMEs
3. Work Shops – Vary by Topics
4. Work Groups – One formed
for Encounter Protocol on Corals
Each Party has named national lead

Science – Issues on VMEs

1. NPFC is still in formation, issues are evolving
But has an Assigned Priority to protect VMEs

2. NPFC Parties has agreed to concentrate on
Protecting 4 Orders of Corals
from Impacts of Trawling
over the Emperor Seamounts

Alcyonacea, Antipatharia, Gorgonacea,
Scleractinia

Science – Workgroup considerations on VMEs

1. Develop Encounter Protocols on Corals selected based on research in the Emperor Seamounts (mainly by Japan) but also by USA, Russia, Korea, Canada, and others
2. Encounter Protocols will be subject of another presentation on Day 3

Science Issues – associated with VMEs

1. NPFC will follow the International Guidelines

What are the VMEs?

Determine Impacts (SAIs ??)

2. Practical Issues

Data – the usual lack of data

Need to map encounters

Identify VMEs

How to measure encounters?

How to assess Impacts?

How to develop standards of measurements?

How to reach agreement – by Work group, then

Science Committee and by Commission

3. We seek guides from this FAO workshop

and examples from other RFMOs and Experts