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# North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting – 2014  
Portland, OR, USA  
2014 May 12-16

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION HOLDS 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

*Portland, Oregon, USA (May 16, 2014)*—The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) was held from May 12 to 16, 2014, in Portland, Oregon, USA. The NPAFC is an international organization that promotes the conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead in the North Pacific and its adjacent seas, and serves as a venue for cooperation in and coordination of scientific research and enforcement activities. The vast majority of salmon catches in the North Pacific originate from NPAFC member countries, which are Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States. At the Commission's Annual Meeting, Plenary Sessions and the Commission's three standing committees, Enforcement, Scientific Research and Statistics, and Finance and Administration, were convened.

Commission members continued their successful enforcement collaboration on the high seas to eliminate illegal salmon fishing in the international waters of the North Pacific. Representatives from fisheries enforcement agencies of NPAFC member countries discussed and planned detailed coordination and sharing of information aimed at increasing effectiveness and efficiency in patrols. Patrol and surveillance efforts in 2013 showed there were no vessels observed or apprehended for illegal salmon fishing in the NPAFC Convention Area—a testament to the effectiveness of the Commission's cooperative model of enforcement.

During the Commission's meeting, leading salmon researchers from member countries reviewed new scientific studies of Pacific salmon and steelhead in international waters and areas adjacent to it. Salmon research survey plans for the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Northwest Pacific and Okhotsk Sea were presented and research plans were coordinated among the member countries.

The Commission presented Dr. Katherine Myers, University of Washington (retired), with the 2014 NPAFC Award in recognition of her leadership and sustained contribution to the knowledge and conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead in the North Pacific.

To encourage the return of high-seas salmon and steelhead tags to the NPAFC, the Commission held a tag drawing for those members of the public who returned tags. A total of seven entries were submitted from Japan, Russia, and the United States. First prize of C\$500 went to Chris Bourgeois of Alaska, USA. Second prize of C\$300 went to Alexey Taibulatov of Sakhalin, Russia, and third prize of C\$200 was awarded to Kazuo Hasegawa of Hokkaido, Japan.

At the meeting, outgoing officers including President Vladimir Belyaev (Russia), Vice-President Junichiro Okamoto (Japan), and committee chairpersons, Gary Smith (USA), Jeongseok Park (Korea), and Mark Saunders (Canada) were thanked for their dedicated service to NPAFC.

NPAFC welcomed the incoming officers for two-year terms: President Junichiro Okamoto (Japan), Vice-President Robin Brown (Canada), and committee chairpersons, Jeongseok Park (Korea), Alexey Monakhov (Russia), and Loh-Lee Low (USA).

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### **About NPAFC**

The NPAFC is an international organization that promotes the conservation of salmon (chum, coho, pink, sockeye, Chinook, and cherry salmon) and steelhead trout in the North Pacific and its adjacent seas, and serves as a venue for cooperation in and coordination of scientific research and enforcement activities. The NPAFC Convention Area is located in international waters north of 33°N latitude in the North Pacific, Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. NPAFC member countries include Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and United States of America.

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