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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 NATIONS COLLABORATE TO CURB IUU SALMON FISHING ON THE HIGH SEAS**

*Portland, Oregon, USA (May 16, 2014)*—Fisheries enforcement agencies of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) member countries (Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and United States) reviewed collaborative monitoring and surveillance programs at the Commission's Annual Meeting.

An outcome of the continued strong commitment by NPAFC member countries to such enforcement efforts is that no vessel was observed or apprehended for illegal salmon fishing in the NPAFC Convention Area in 2013. This overall reduction in sightings of vessels engaged in illegal fishing activity in the North Pacific testifies to the effectiveness of the Commission's cooperative model of enforcement.

The NPAFC provides member countries a unique forum for collaboration in curbing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) salmon fishing in international waters of the North Pacific.

To accomplish this task, enforcement agencies of NPAFC member countries use a variety of approaches, such as obtaining surveillance information from ship patrols, aerial patrols, and satellite, and then sharing that data in an effective and highly collaborative way so as to maximize cross-platform information gathering and joint support operations. The provision of this real-time information to ships ensures timely inspections when suspicious activity is observed.

The combined monitoring activities in 2013 by NPAFC-related enforcement agencies included over 120 ship patrol days, more than 498 aerial patrol hours, and satellite support. Members collaborated through joint ship patrols, participation of personnel in the air and ship patrols of other member countries and regular conference calls.

Continued vigilance is crucial to the ongoing curtailment of the large-scale high seas driftnet threat and is a requirement for sustainable fisheries management and conservation of salmon in the North Pacific. Numerous patrolling and high level collaborative efforts among enforcement agencies are planned for 2014.

This year for the first time in its 21-year history, the NPAFC enforcement committee convened a joint session with the Commission's scientific committee. Together they explored ways to incorporate scientific data into the enforcement planning process to further increase enforcement effectiveness.

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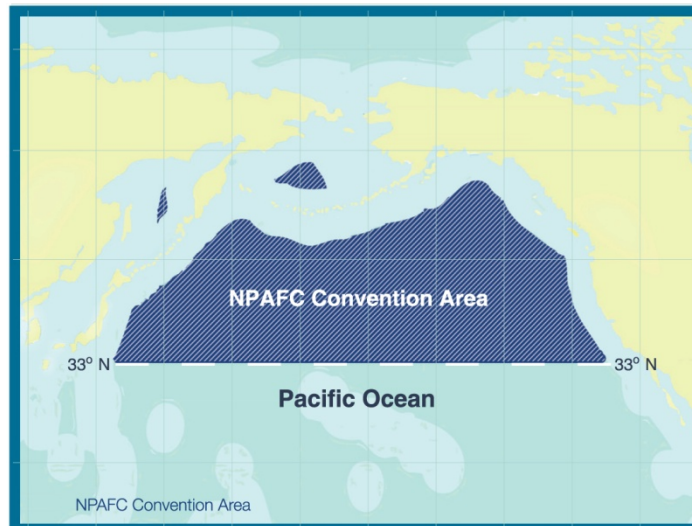
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## About NPAFC

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 the United States of America.



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