
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2013 NORTH PACIFIC SALMON CATCH IS SECOND HIGHEST IN HISTORY

Portland, Oregon, USA (May 16, 2014)—The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) announced the North Pacific-wide total catch of salmon reported by NPAFC member countries to be 1.11 million metric tonnes (586 million fish) in 2013. This is the second highest on record (post-1925) and was exceeded only the catch in 2009, when 1.14 million metric tonnes were caught. In both 2009 and 2013, over 50% of the catch (by weight) was pink salmon. The vast majority of Pacific salmon originate in these five countries.

The 2013 species composition (by weight) of the North Pacific-wide catch was 53% pink, 31% chum, 12% sockeye, 3% coho and less than 1% for each of Chinook and cherry salmon and steelhead trout.

The member nations' portions of the total catch included 46% by the United States (509.2 thousand tonnes; Alaska—483.4 thousand tonnes), 37% by Russia (405.9 thousand tonnes), 15% by Japan (164.5 thousand tonnes), 2% by Canada (27.8 thousand tonnes), and less than 1% by Korea (219 tonnes).

The North Pacific-wide catch of sockeye salmon was of 133.2 thousand metric tonnes in 2013, mostly in Alaska (61% of the total by weight) and Russia (38% of the total). This is approximately 7% less than the total sockeye catch in 2012.

Even as the northern North Pacific Ocean continues to produce large quantities of Pacific salmon, abundance patterns vary among species, often from year-to-year. Currently, pink and chum salmon are very abundant. Coho and Chinook salmon are less abundant than they were previously, while sockeye salmon abundance is highly variable among regions from year-to-year.

The total quantity of hatchery fish released from NPAFC member countries in 2013 was 5.0 billion fish, a number that has remained stable since 1993. In 2013, hatcheries released 1,881 million fish (38%) in the United States, 1,729 million (35%) in Japan, 1,039 million (21%) in Russia, 293 million (6%) in Canada, and 10 million (< 1%) in Korea. Hatchery releases comprised mostly chum (3,112 million, 63%) and pink salmon (1,254 million, 25%), followed by Chinook (240 million, 5%), sockeye (231 million, 5%), and coho salmon (80 million, 2%), steelhead trout (21 million, less than 1%), and cherry salmon (12 million, less than 1%).

Table 1. Preliminary 2013 commercial salmon catches in Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States. Commercial catches by foreign fleets in the Russian EEZ are not included. Japanese catch data are based on Fisheries Research Agency data sources, not official statistics. Commercial catch weight for Alaska is based on landed weight (Alaska Department of Fish and Game).

(a) Preliminary 2013 commercial catch in millions of fish.

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	0.260	12.200	1.410	0.456	0.123	-	-	14.448
Japan	0.001	4.849	47.474	0.001	0.001	-	-	52.326
Korea	-	-	0.097	-	-	-	-	0.097
Russia	19.678	169.071	34.410	3.330	0.078	0.007	-	226.573
USA	29.618	232.154	23.019	6.317	1.433	-	0.039	292.578
Alaska	29.578	226.296	21.275	5.791	0.330	-	-	283.251
WOC	0.040	5.858	1.744	0.526	1.103	-	0.039	9.310
Total	49.557	418.273	106.408	10.103	1.634	0.007	0.039	586.023

WOC: Washington, Oregon, and California

(b) Preliminary 2013 commercial catch in metric tons (round weight).

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	621	18,565	6,415	1,515	666	-	-	27,782
Japan	3	7,310	155,841	3	9	1,292	-	164,458
Korea	-	-	219	-	-	-	-	219
Russia	50,940	241,421	103,148	9,853	513	10	-	405,884
USA	81,644	321,147	79,637	18,422	8,187	-	155	509,192
Alaska	81,533	310,241	72,937	16,829	1,884	-	-	483,424
WOC	111	10,906	6,700	1,593	6,303	-	155	25,768
Total	133,208	588,443	345,260	29,793	9,374	1,302	155	1,107,535

WOC: Washington, Oregon, and California

Table 2. Preliminary 2013 hatchery releases in NPAFC member countries in millions of fish.

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	135.600	13.826	94.092	10.700	39.154	-	0.103	293.475
Japan	0.192	101.622	1,614.781	-	-	11.926	-	1,728.521
Korea	-	-	9.71	-	-	-	-	9.710
Russia	13.432	341.656	678.666	4.046	0.910	0.349	-	1,039.059
USA	82.174	797.089	714.908	65.644	200.293	-	20.983	1,881.090
Alaska	57.319	797.089	668.681	29.818	9.012	-	-	1,561.918
WOCI	24.855	-	46.227	35.826	191.281	-	20.983	319.172
Total	231.397	1,254.192	3,112.158	80.390	240.357	12.275	21.086	4,951.855

WOCI: Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho

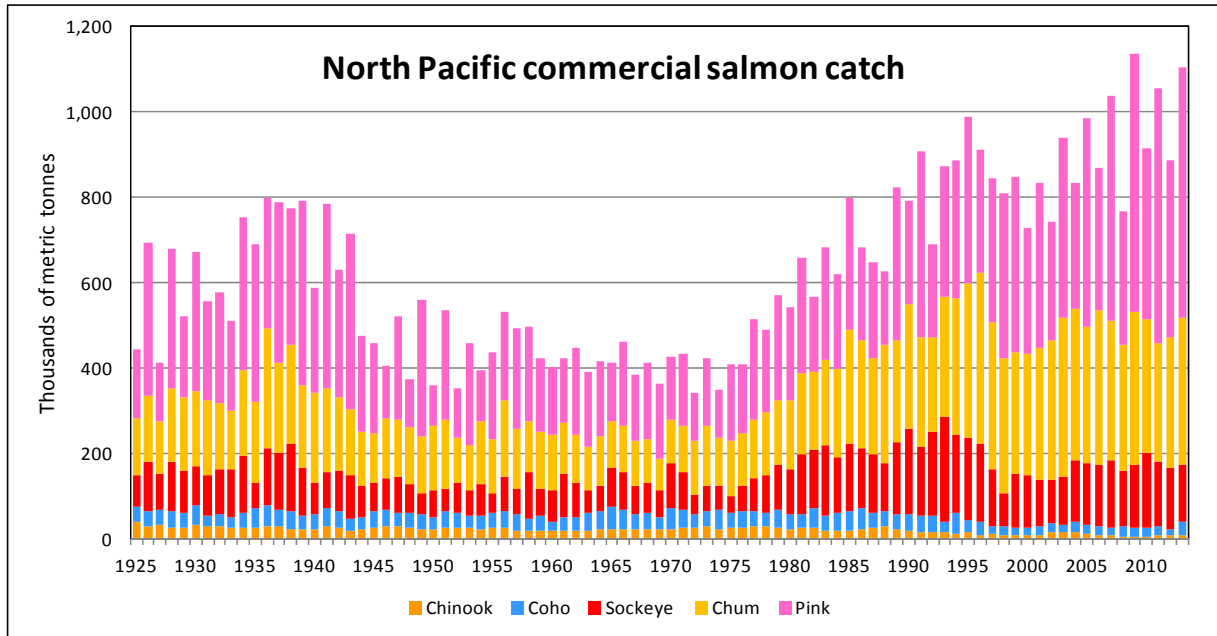


Figure 1. North Pacific commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2013 (2013 catches are preliminary).

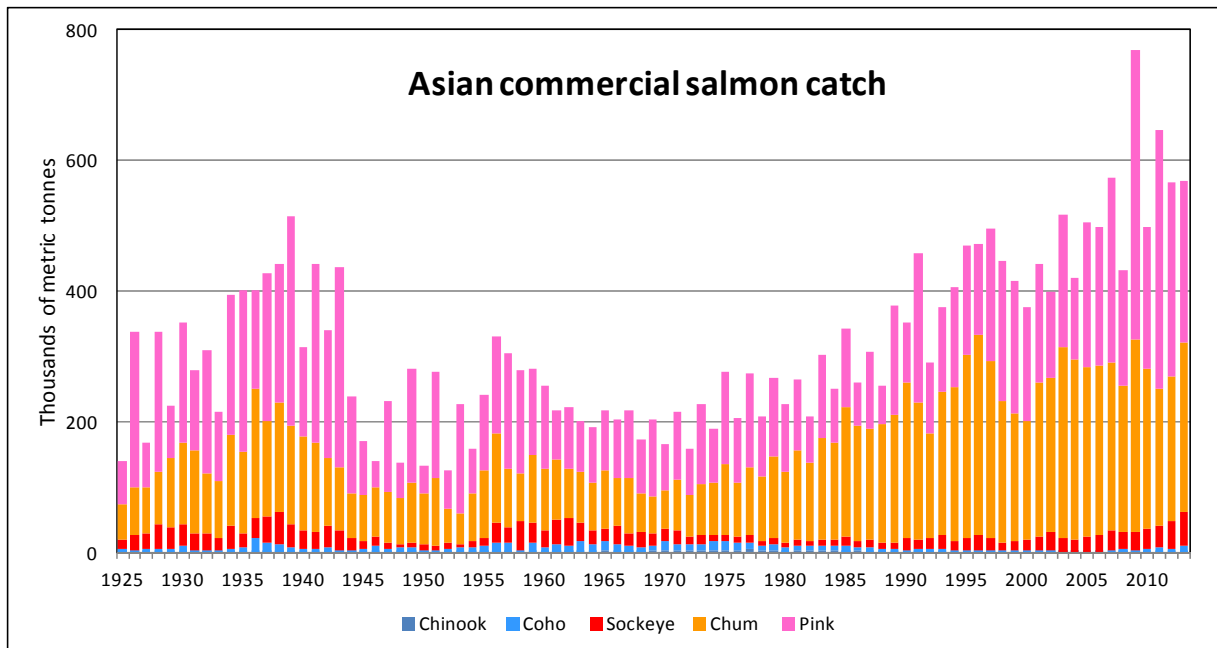


Figure 2. Asian commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2013 (2013 catches are preliminary).

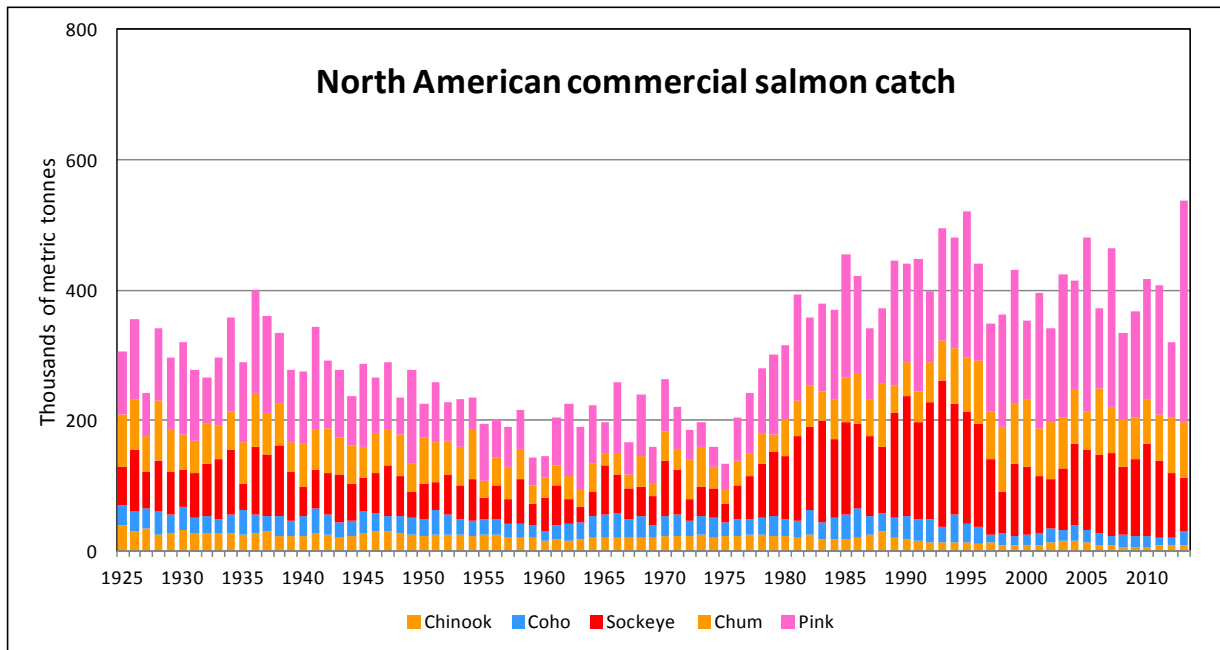


Figure 3. North American commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2013 (2013 catches are preliminary).

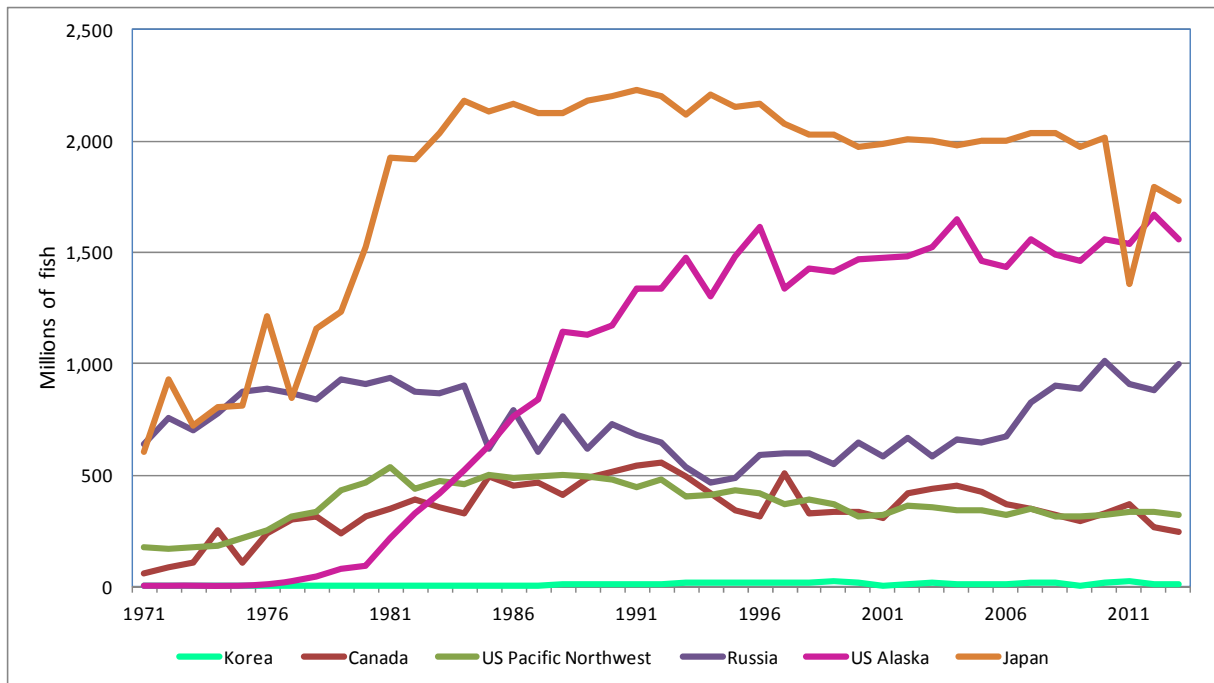


Figure 4. Annual North Pacific hatchery releases (millions of fish) of Pacific salmon by member countries from 1971 to 2013.

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About NPAFC

The NPAFC is an international organization that promotes the conservation of Pacific 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.