
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KOJI IMAMURA OF JAPAN RECEIVES NPAFC INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR OCEAN SALMON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Kobe, Japan (May 15, 2015)—The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) is proud to announce that Mr. Koji Imamura, retired President of the Japan Sea-Farming Association and National Federation of Medium Trawlers (Japan) was presented with the 2015 NPAFC Award at the Commission's 23rd Annual Meeting. Mr. Imamura received the award in recognition of his long-term leadership in the area of international relations and ocean salmon fisheries management.

Well-known for his collaborative approach to international relations, it was his careful work early on that laid the foundations for NPAFC. He assisted in providing the leadership responsible for instituting a cooperative system among nations for biological research.

With his guidance during the early years of NPAFC, the Commission achieved sound, transparent, and efficient fiscal administration. He took every opportunity to strengthen international relations and provided impetus towards creating IUU (illegal, unregulated, and unreported) vessel lists for operations in the NPAFC Convention Area.

Mr. Imamura is the only individual in the entire 22-year history of NPAFC to have served two separate terms as the organization's President, in 1995-1997 and 2003-2005. As an acknowledged consensus-builder, Mr. Imamura used his leadership position as President of NPAFC to encourage all salmon-producing countries in the North Pacific to join the organization. His efforts bore fruit when the Republic of Korea decided to join NPAFC in 2003.

In addition to his NPAFC duties, Mr. Imamura's longstanding career in international fisheries negotiations included serving for many years as the head of the Japanese delegation to the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC), the predecessor organization of NPAFC.

Established in 2011, the NPAFC Award is given to recognize an individual or group whose sustained and significant contributions in scientific research, enforcement, international cooperation, or management have helped improve the conservation of anadromous salmon and steelhead stocks in the North Pacific Ocean.



Mr. Koji Imamura of Japan is the recipient of the 2015 NPAFC Award.

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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.
