
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRAMATIC INCREASE IN 2014 SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST

Kobe, Japan (May 15, 2015)—The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) announced preliminary North Pacific-wide total salmon catches for 2014, as reported by its member countries (Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States), to be 0.86 million metric tonnes (392 million fish).

The 2014 total sockeye salmon catch was 177.0 thousand metric tonnes, mostly in Alaska (64%) and Russia (21% of the total by weight). The total catch shows a significant increase of roughly 33% over last year's sockeye salmon catch.

Chum salmon constituted the majority of the total commercial catch (38% by weight) followed by pink (36%) and sockeye salmon (21%). Coho comprised 5% of the catch, Chinook salmon was 1%, and each of cherry salmon and steelhead trout were < 1% of the catch by weight.

The member nations' portions of the total catch included 40% by the United States (345.7 thousand tonnes; Alaska—328.8 thousand tonnes), 39% by Russia (336.1 thousand tonnes), 17% by Japan (144.3 thousand tonnes), 4% by Canada (37.7 thousand tonnes), and less than 1% by Korea (437 tonnes).

The total chum salmon catch was 327.7 thousand metric tonnes, with the majority caught by Japan (43%) and Russia (41% of the total by weight). The total chum salmon catch is a decrease of approximately 5% over last year.

The total catch of pink salmon was 307.0 thousand metric tonnes, and the largest portion of the catch was shared by Alaska (49%) and Russia (48% of the total by weight). The 2014 total pink salmon catch represents a 48% decrease in the catch from 2013. The 2013 catch was a return of dominant odd-numbered year pink salmon with near-record numbers of fish caught.

Hatchery releases of salmon and steelhead from NPAFC member countries totaled approximately 5.2 billion fish in 2014. Hatcheries released 2,064 million fish (40%) in the United States, 1,903 million (37%) in Japan, 969 million (19%) in Russia, 240 million (5%) in Canada, and 28 million (< 1%) in Korea.

Hatchery releases comprised mostly chum (3,165 million, 61%) and pink salmon (1,502 million, 29%), followed by Chinook (239 million, 5%), sockeye (181 million, 4%), and coho salmon (80 million, 2%), steelhead trout (23 million, less than 1%), and cherry salmon (13 million, less than 1%).

Table 1. Preliminary 2014 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 2014 commercial catch in millions of fish.

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	9.288	4.239	0.717	0.274	0.318	-	-	14.837
Japan	-	2.397	40.882	0	0.001	-	-	43.281
Korea	-	-	0.153	-	-	-	-	0.153
Russia	14.788	108.477	43.237	5.106	0.110	0.004	-	171.722
USA	44.827	95.717	12.414	7.209	1.795	-	0.069	162.031
Alaska	44.085	95.716	11.236	6.276	0.506	-	0.001	157.820
WOC	0.741	0.001	1.178	0.933	1.288	-	0.069	4.211
Total	68.903	210.831	97.403	12.589	2.223	0.004	0.069	392.023

WOC: Washington, Oregon, and California

(b) Preliminary 2014 commercial catch in metric tons (round weight).

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	24,712	6,594	3,630	781	1,981	-	-	37,698
Japan	1	3,451	140,014	1	6	807	-	144,281
Korea	-	-	437	-	-	-	-	437
Russia	37,606	147,566	135,840	14,478	641	7	-	336,139
USA	114,647	149,366	47,745	23,908	9,819	-	188	345,673
Alaska	112,747	149,363	42,545	21,069	3,080	-	-	328,803
WOC	1,900	3	5,200	2,839	6,739	-	188	16,870
Total	176,966	306,977	327,667	39,167	12,447	814	188	864,228

WOC: Washington, Oregon, and California

Table 2. Preliminary 2014 hatchery releases in NPAFC member countries in millions of fish.

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	92.107	22.275	78.504	10.712	35.930	-	0.334	239.862
Japan	0.194	122.948	1,767.938	-	-	11.944	-	1,903.024
Korea	-	-	28.250	-	-	-	-	28.250
Russia	13.883	357.660	592.331	3.684	0.999	0.594	-	969.152
USA	74.744	999.400	698.454	65.936	202.551	-	22.491	2,063.577
Alaska	60.223	998.665	651.320	26.867	9.246	-	-	1,746.320
WOCI	14.522	0.735	47.134	39.069	193.306	-	22.491	317.257
Total	180.928	1,502.284	3,165.477	80.332	239.481	12.538	22.825	5,203.865

WOCI: Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho

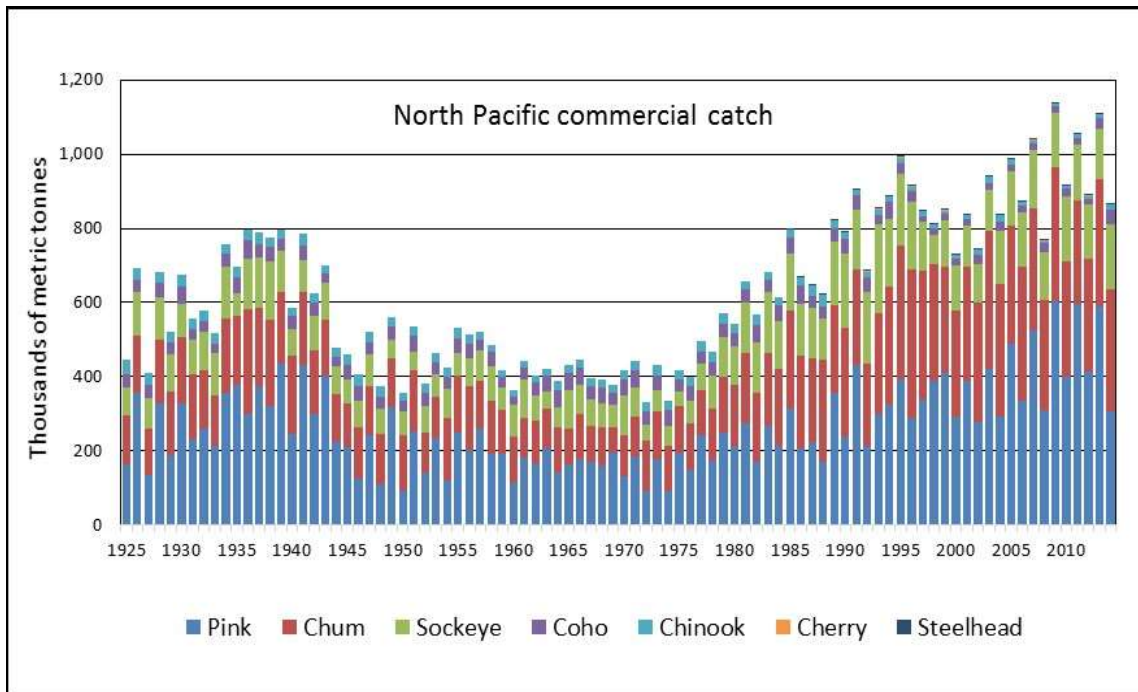


Figure 1. North Pacific commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2014 (2014 catches are preliminary).

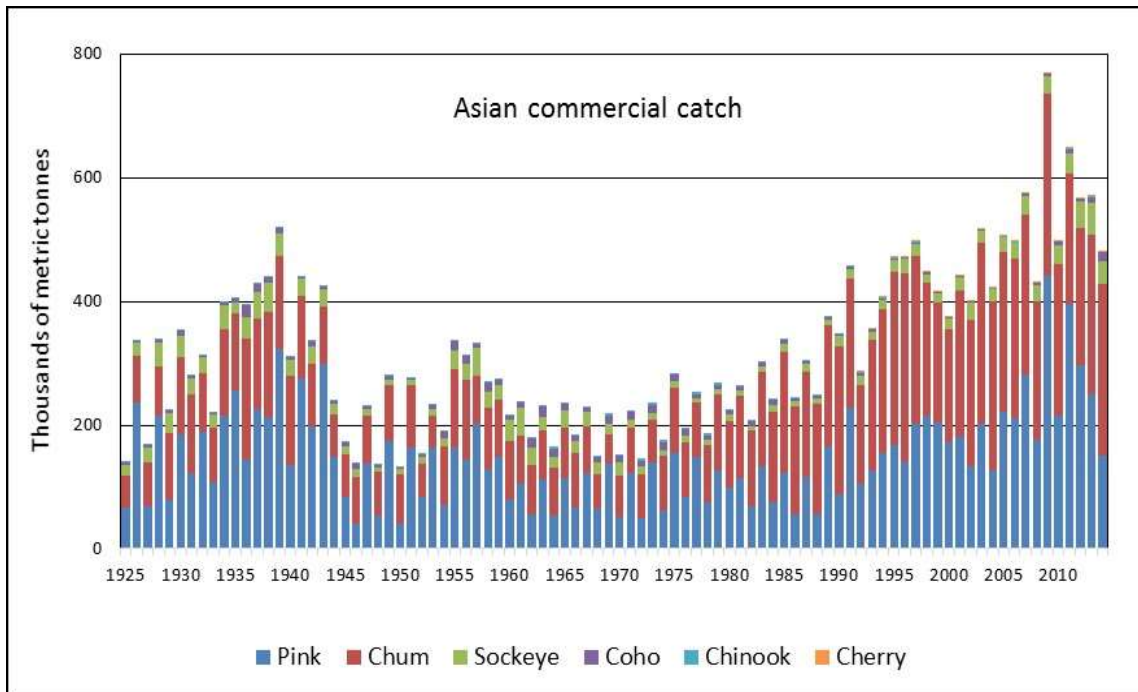


Figure 2. Asian commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2014 (2014 catches are preliminary).

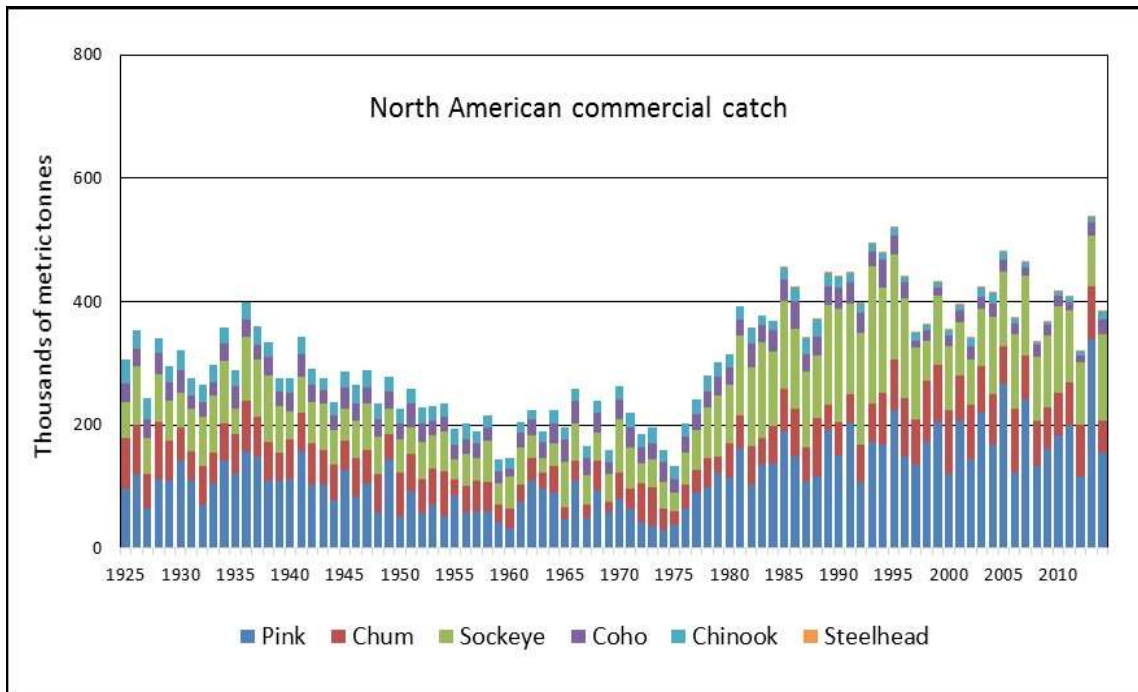


Figure 3. North American commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2014 (2014 catches are preliminary).

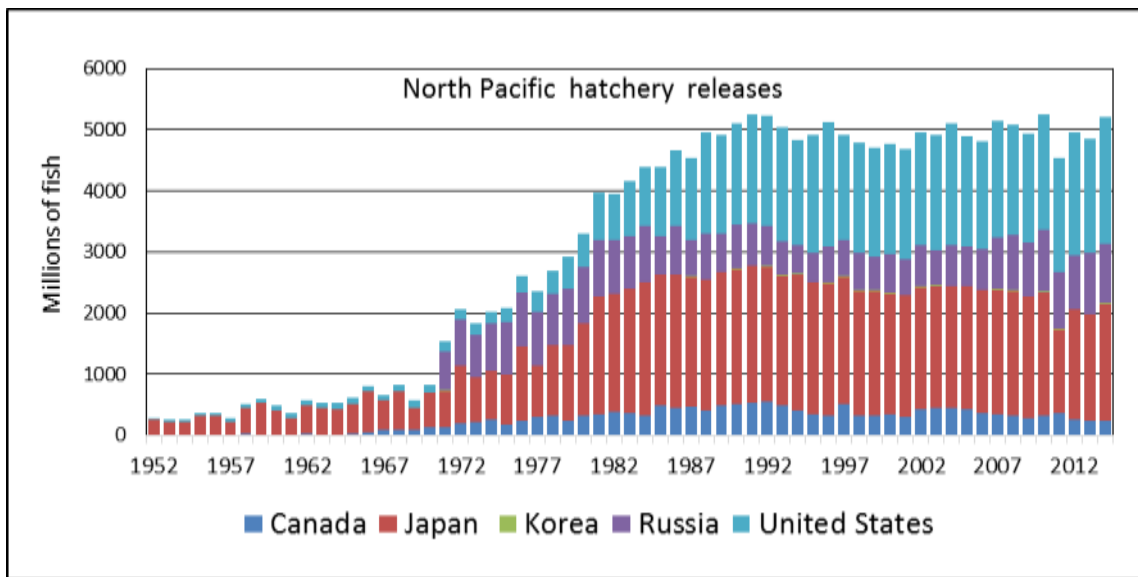


Figure 4. Annual North Pacific hatchery releases (millions of fish) of Pacific salmon by member countries from 1952 to 2014.

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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.