
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2015 NORTH PACIFIC SALMON HARVEST UP 20% OVER 2014

Busan, Republic of Korea (May 20, 2016)—The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) announced preliminary North Pacific-wide total salmon catches for 2015, as reported by its member countries (Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and United States). A total of 1.04 million metric tonnes (507 million fish) was caught in 2015. This represents a 20% increase over the 2014 harvest.

The member nations' portions of the total catch included 50% by the United States (514.6 thousand metric tonnes; Alaska—503.0 thousand metric tonnes), 35% by Russia (368.6 thousand metric tonnes), 13% by Japan (137.6 thousand metric tonnes), 2% by Canada (17.5 thousand metric tonnes), and less than 1% by Korea (488 metric tonnes).

Pink salmon constituted the majority of the total commercial catch (44% by weight) followed by chum (34%) and sockeye salmon (18%). Coho comprised 3% of the catch, Chinook salmon was 1%, and each of cherry salmon and steelhead trout were < 1% of the catch by weight.

The total pink salmon catch was 461.6 thousand metric tonnes, with the majority caught by United States; mostly in Alaska (63% of the total) and Russia (35% of the total by weight). The total pink salmon catch is an increase of approximately 50% over 2014. The 2015 catch represented a return of dominant odd-numbered year pink salmon.

The total catch of chum salmon was 355.9 thousand metric tonnes, and the largest portion of the catch was shared by Russia (40%) and Japan (38% of the total by weight). The 2015 total chum salmon catch represents a 4% increase in the catch from 2014.

The total sockeye salmon catch was 182.5 thousand metric tonnes, mostly in Alaska (73%) and Russia (26% of the total by weight). The 2015 total sockeye catch shows a small increase of roughly 4% over the sockeye salmon harvest in 2014.

Hatchery releases of salmon and steelhead from NPAFC member countries totaled approximately 5.2 billion fish in 2015. Hatcheries released 1,942 million fish (38% of the total) in the United States, 1,874 million (36%) in Japan, 1,023 million (20%) in Russia, 295 million (6%) in Canada, and 28 million (< 1%) in Korea.

Hatchery releases were mostly chum (3,203 million, 62%) and pink salmon (1,365 million, 26%), followed by sockeye (268 million, 5%), Chinook (224 million, 4%), and coho salmon (72 million, 1%), steelhead trout (21 million, less than 1%), and cherry salmon (9 million, less than 1%).

Table 1. Preliminary 2015 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 2015 commercial catch in millions of fish.

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	1.215	1.437	2.292	0.298	0.188	-	-	5.432
Japan	0.000	1.868	39.707	0.008	0.002	-	0.000	41.585
Korea	-	-	0.155	-	-	-	-	0.156
Russia	18.195	118.272	46.515	4.725	0.159	0.005	-	187.872
USA	54.868	191.623	19.527	4.024	1.655	-	0.062	271.759
Alaska	54.756	190.721	18.397	3.892	0.547	-	0.000	268.312
WOC	0.112	0.902	1.130	0.132	1.109	-	0.062	3.447
Total	74.278	313.200	108.197	9.055	2.004	0.005	0.063	506.804

WOC: Washington, Oregon, and California

(b) Preliminary 2015 commercial catch in metric tonnes (round weight).

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	2,686	2,247	10,674	784	1,154	-	-	17,545
Japan	2	3,348	133,660	22	10	571	<0.5	137,613
Korea	-	-	498	-	-	-	-	488
Russia	46,591	162,800	143,679	14,589	900	8	-	368,568
USA	133,175	293,162	67,371	12,418	8,295	-	212	514,634
Alaska	132,981	291,923	63,054	12,071	3,018	-	0	503,047
WOC	194	1,239	4,317	347	5,277	-	212	11,587
Total	182,455	461,557	355,882	27,814	10,358	579	212	1,038,848

WOC: Washington, Oregon, and California

Table 2. Preliminary 2015 hatchery releases in NPAFC member countries in millions of fish.

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	182.494	8.060	59.173	9.261	35.518	-	0.253	294.758
Japan	0.218	116.639	1,748.570	-	-	8.912	-	1,874.339
Korea	-	-	27.650	-	-	-	-	27.650
Russia	14.464	292.153	712.723	2.882	0.894	0.218	-	1,023.334
USA	70.486	947.676	654.732	60.327	187.861	-	21.239	1,942.321
Alaska	58.617	947.676	607.912	25.829	8.959	-	-	1,648.993
WOCI	11.869	-	46.820	34.498	178.902	-	21.239	293.328
Total	267.662	1,364.527	3,202.848	72.471	224.273	9.130	21.491	5,162.402

WOCI: Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho

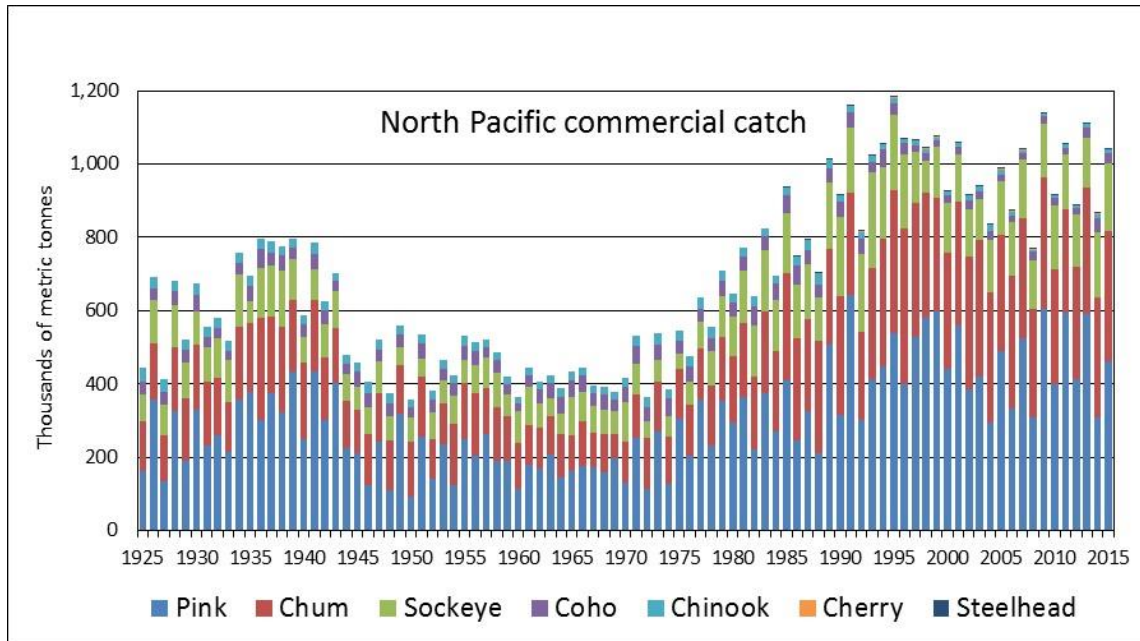


Figure 1. North Pacific commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2015 (2015 catches are preliminary).

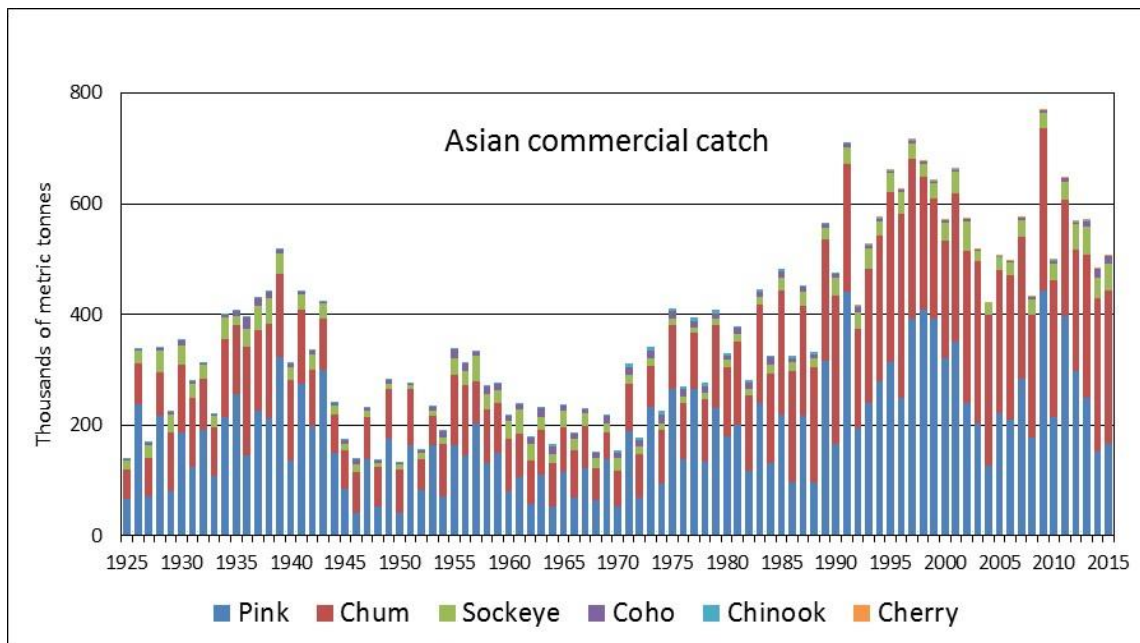


Figure 2. Asian commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2015 (2015 catches are preliminary).

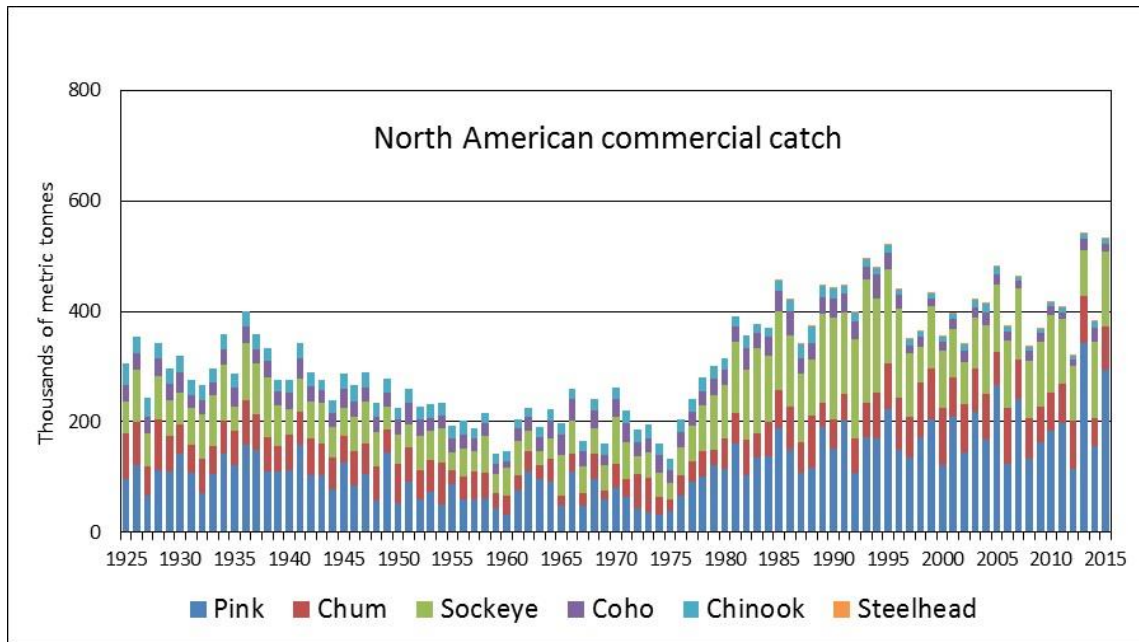


Figure 3. North American commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2015 (2015 catches are preliminary).

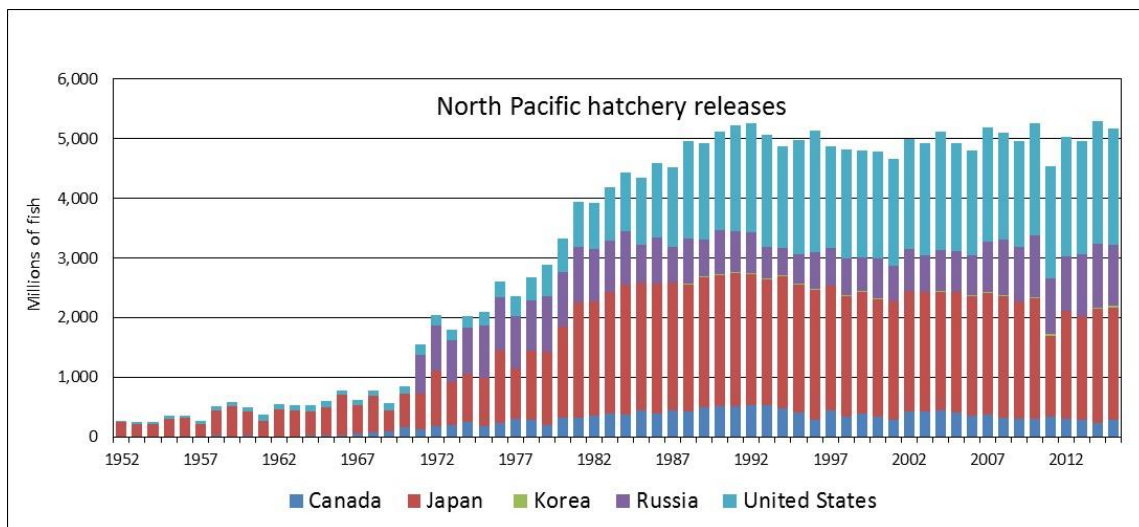


Figure 4. Annual North Pacific hatchery releases (millions of fish) of Pacific salmon by member countries from 1952 to 2015.

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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.