

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

25th Annual Meeting—2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH SEAS PACIFIC SALMON RESEARCH REVIEWED AND PLANNED AT NPAFC ANNUAL MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada (May 19, 2017)—International scientific experts of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) member countries (Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and United States) completed a five-day meeting in Victoria, Canada, to review current information related to salmon abundance and biology at the Commission’s 25th Annual Meeting.

In addition to presenting salmon catch and hatchery statistics, scientists planned, reviewed, and coordinated exchanges of scientific data and samples, and assessed scientific studies of Pacific salmon and steelhead in international waters and adjacent areas of the North Pacific.

Salmon research cruise plans for 2017 were discussed. These will include salmon surveys in the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea, the northwestern and central North Pacific, and the southern Okhotsk Sea. Research cruises will employ survey vessels from a variety of sources including government, university, and chartered fishing boats. Research survey objectives vary by season and location, and include data-gathering on topics such as, migration timing, abundance, distribution, survival, marine ecology, run size forecasting, stock identification, and salmon growth and body condition.

Corresponding to the 2016–2020 NPAFC Science Plan and the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative, a preliminary proposal of Interactive Mapping System (IMS) for the high-seas salmonid tag-recovery database was examined, and Parties agreed to develop IMS as part of the NPAFC website. By providing a dynamic display of information, the IMS will help users visualize and understand the ocean distribution and movement patterns of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout through graphical representation of tag recovery data. Users will be able to employ online drop down boxes to search and display data associated with tag recoveries by species, age class, maturity, origin, and season.

As a proposal of Signature project to the International Year of the Salmon (IYS), large scale winter and summer expeditions, utilizing up to five research vessels deployed simultaneously across the North Pacific Ocean, was discussed. It is expected that NPAFC member countries will have the opportunity to make significant progress in understanding the marine life history period of Pacific salmon through a year of intensive coordinated research in the North Pacific Ocean.

The current 2016–2020 NPAFC Science Plan, which is relevant to the NPAFC’s primary objective of promoting the conservation of anadromous populations of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout within the Convention Area, is integrated with the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative. To review the research progress for the NPAFC Science Plan, and to promote IYS activities and outreaches in member countries, it was agreed that a series of NPAFC-IYS workshops are planned in association with the NPAFC annual meetings. The first NPAFC-IYS Workshop on “*Pacific Salmon Production in a Changing Climate*” will be held in Khabarovsk, Russia on May 26–27, 2018, following the 26th NPAFC Annual Meeting. The objectives of the workshop are to: (1) improve knowledge of the distribution, growth and survival of Pacific salmon in the ocean (current status); (2) increase understanding of the causes of variations in Pacific salmon production (mechanisms); (3) anticipate future changes in the

production of Pacific salmon and the marine ecosystems producing them (e.g. modelling), and; (4) promote IYS activities. Improved understanding of the mechanisms that regulate the distribution and abundance of Pacific salmon will promote the conservation of anadromous populations in the North Pacific Ocean, allow for better forecasts of salmon production trends in the future, and enhance sustainable fisheries management, food security, and economic security in member nations.

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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.
