

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

25th Annual Meeting—2017
Victoria, B.C., Canada
2017 May 15–19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANNING UNDERWAY IN EARNEST FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON (IYS)

Victoria, BC, Canada (May 19, 2017)—Based on agreement reached at the 25th Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), implementation of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) continues in full force with a commitment of resources to support collaboration with partners across the northern hemisphere to plan a kick-off Symposium event and to develop outreach and research plans, including a Signature Project winter expedition to the Gulf of Alaska.

While its focal year will be 2019, the IYS is in fact a bold 7-year outreach and research initiative. The IYS will create a hemispheric partnership to facilitate an intense burst of outreach and research that will fill knowledge gaps and catalyze new ways to generate and share knowledge necessary for the resilience of salmon and people in an uncertain future.

Salmon are an important biological and economic resource throughout their range, yet despite decades of significant management and research effort, the survival of salmon is challenged by intense social and environmental change. An effort beyond the capacity of any one group or country is required to protect this unique resource, which generated the momentum for organizing the IYS.

The planning phase of the IYS was officially launched in 2016 following the approval of a proposal prepared by the NPAFC and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), at the respective Annual Meetings of both Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. An IYS Coordinating Committee, involving members from both organisations, established terms of reference for Steering Committees to oversee activities in the Pacific and Atlantic regions.

On February 28 and March 1, 2017, the NPAFC hosted the first meeting of the North Pacific Steering Committee in Richmond, BC, Canada, with participants comprising a wide spectrum of interests. Participants considered proposed governance arrangements as well as approaches to engagement of partners in planning, communications, and fund development.

In the coming months, core partners will be working with the NPAFC to plan and announce details of the opening symposium, the Gulf of Alaska Signature Project and detailed research plans. Organizations and individuals concerned with salmon, and interested in participating in this exciting initiative are encouraged to contact the NPAFC.



Representatives of intergovernmental and regional fisheries management organizations, governmental, non-profit, First Nations, and scientific organizations who participated in the IYS North Pacific Steering Committee Meeting held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, February 28 and March 1, 2017.

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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.
