

# North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

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

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SALMON CONSERVATION**

*Victoria, B.C., Canada (May 19, 2017)*—The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) was held from May 15–19, 2017, in Victoria, B.C., Canada. The annual meeting marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NPAFC that was established in 1993. A historic celebration event, held on Monday, May 15, at the Victoria Conference Centre, included 120 policy makers, scientists, and enforcement personnel from the five member countries and special invited speakers who recounted NPAFC’s many successes in salmon conservation through international cooperation on science and enforcement as well as future perspectives on protection and sustainable management of salmon in the NPAFC convention area.

The celebration event included an inspiring First Nations welcome and dance by Le-la-la Dancers, and welcoming messages by the Lt. Governor of B.C., the Honourable Judith Guichon, and by Ms. Sylvie Lapointe, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister within Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This was followed by welcoming addresses from NPAFC President Dr. Carmel Lowe, Representatives from the member countries, and Dr. Vladimir Radchenko, Executive Director of the NPAFC.

Additional presentations by keynote speakers marked the special occasion, including the first NPAFC President (1993–1995), Dr. Vyacheslav Zilanov; Ms. Fran Ulmer, Chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and past NPAFC President; renowned fisheries scientist and past NPAFC Science Panel Chair Dr. Richard Beamish; and, Captain Vincent O’Shea, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Retired and past NPAFC Enforcement Committee Chair. These speakers provided powerful testimony as to the importance and promise of international cooperation on enforcement and scientific research.

This year the Commission presented Dr. Loh-Lee Low with the prestigious NPAFC Award for his significant contributions to the NPAFC since its inception. Dr. Low, who recently retired from a long and distinguished career at the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service’s Alaska Fisheries Science Center, was given the NPAFC Award in recognition of his sustained scientific contributions to the Commission’s mission to conserve and manage anadromous salmon and steelhead stocks in the North Pacific Ocean.

At the Commission’s enforcement meetings, multilateral cooperative enforcement operations and regular information exchanges between NPAFC-member enforcement agencies were reviewed. Patrols by Canadian and U.S. fisheries enforcement aircraft from airports in Japan helped maximize operational effectiveness. In a bilateral arrangement, the USCG hosted People’s Republic of China Coast Guard law enforcement officers aboard a USCG cutter to further increase the effectiveness of ship patrols.

At the Commission’s scientific meetings, leading salmon researchers from member countries reviewed and compiled commercial catch statistics, reviewed the research progress for the NPAFC 2016–2020 Science Plan, and continued their efforts to promote and implement the International Year of the Salmon - an important, seven-year research, education, and outreach initiative that draws support from the NPAFC parties, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, as well as State, private, and non-governmental organizations concerned with the sustainable use and protection of salmon.

---

---

The five-day NPAFC Annual Meeting closed with an invitation from the Russian Party to host the 2018 Annual Meeting in Khabarovsk, the Russian Federation.

-END-

Contact: Vladimir Radchenko  
NPAFC Executive Director  
Phone: +1-604-775-5550  
Email: [secretariat@npafc.org](mailto:secretariat@npafc.org)  
Website [www.npafc.org](http://www.npafc.org)

### **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.