

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

9th Annual Meeting – 2001
Victoria, Canada
2001 October 28-November 2

NEWS RELEASE

Representatives of Canada, Japan, Russia, and the United States, the primary states of origin for salmon stocks in the North Pacific, met in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada from October 28-November 2, 2001, for the Ninth Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). Observers from the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC), the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC), the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), and the Republic of Korea were also in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Fran Ulmer, Lieutenant Governor of Alaska and President of the NPAFC.

The NPAFC was established by the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean (the Convention) which became effective on February 16, 1993. The Convention prohibits directed fishing for salmonids on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean and includes provisions to minimize the number of salmonids taken in other fisheries. The NPAFC promotes the conservation of salmonids in the North Pacific and its adjacent seas and serves as a venue for cooperation in and coordination of enforcement activities and scientific research.

The NPAFC's Committees on Enforcement, Scientific Research and Statistics, and Finance and Administration met to consider activities of the Parties in support of the objectives of the Convention.

The Committee on Enforcement reviewed enforcement efforts and activities in the Convention Area in 2001. All of the agencies directly responsible for the planning and execution of enforcement activities within the Convention Area attended, including representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, the State Fisheries Committee of the Russian Federation and the Russian Federal Border Service, the United States National Marine Fisheries Service, and the United States Coast Guard. The cooperative enforcement efforts of the Parties did not detect any illegal fishing operations within this Convention Area. However, the level of international cooperation was highlighted by the first ever enforcement patrol of the Convention Area by a US Coast Guard C-130 patrol aircraft staged out of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia with representatives from each Party. The flight did not detect any illegal activity within the Convention Area, however, it did detect a vessel illegally driftnet fishing about 15 nautical miles inside the Russian Exclusive Economic Zone. The Federal Border Service ship *DZERZHINSKY*, which was on patrol within the

Convention Area, intercepted and boarded the vessel and determined that it was in violation of Russian Law. The vessel, which was later identified as the fishing vessel *SAKHFRAKHT-3*, was directed to recover driftnets left in the water and escorted to port for further action by Russian authorities. Due to the continued threat of high seas fishing for salmon in the Convention Area, all Parties agreed to maintain 2002 enforcement activities at high levels as a deterrent to the threat of potential unauthorized fishing activities. Canada and the United States invited all the participants to an enforcement coordination meeting in 2002 which will be held either in Vancouver/Comox, Canada or in Kodiak, Alaska.

The Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics reviewed and discussed research on a broad range of issues concerning Pacific salmonid stocks on interrelationships of changes in abundance, ocean and atmospheric conditions, and other biological and ecological dynamics of salmonid production. A new Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Survey Plan (BASIS) was broadly discussed and adopted. BASIS directly addresses the key elements of the 2001-2005 NPAFC Science Plan and provides the first ever synoptic seasonal information on distribution, abundance and stock origins of all species, age, and maturing groups of salmon in the Bering Sea. It provides the basis for international cooperative research on salmon in NPAFC. Workplans will be further refined at the Research Planning and Coordinating Meeting (RPCM) in Vancouver in March 2002.

The NPAFC discussed ways to increase cooperation with NASCO, IBSFC, and other relevant international organizations to examine research and data needed to meet the common challenges facing salmon. A joint international symposium on the Causes of Marine Mortality of Salmon in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea will be held in Vancouver, Canada, on March 14-15, 2002.

Nearly 4.75 billion juvenile hatchery salmon were released in the North Pacific in 2000 and total commercial salmon catch was 712,056 metric tons.

The Committee on Finance and Administration considered and adopted the 2001/2002 budget. Administrative and financial topics were discussed and approved, including the creation of NPAFC Special Fund, for the purpose of supporting joint scientific research projects recommended by the Commission.

Dr. Anatoly Makoedov, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Fisheries of the Russian Federation, was elected as new President of the NPAFC.

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the NPAFC is scheduled to be held in Vladivostok, Russia in October 2002.

For Information

NPAFC Secretariat
Suite 502, 889 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3B2, Canada

Tel: (604) 775-5550
Fax: (604) 775-5577
E-mail: secretariat@npafc.org
Website: <http://www.npafc.org>
