
NPAFC 13th Annual Meeting

News Release

**Jeju Island, Korea
October 24-28, 2005**

Representatives of Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States, the primary states of origin for salmon stocks in the North Pacific, met in Seogwipo, Jeju Island, Korea on October 24-28, 2005, for the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Koji Imamura, President of the NPAFC.

The NPAFC was established by the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean (the Convention) in 1993. 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.

Catches of Pacific salmon remain near historic high levels. The total 2004 commercial salmon catch was over 820,000 metric tons. This is a decrease from the 2003 commercial catch of 955,000 metric tons. This decrease largely reflects natural cycles in abundance of Russian pink salmon.

The Parties reviewed enforcement efforts and activities in the Convention Area in 2005. All agencies responsible for the planning and execution of enforcement activities within the Convention Area met to coordinate their enforcement efforts to detect and deter illegal fishing in the Convention Area. Joint long range aircraft patrols and coordination with each Parties enforcement vessels are used to detect illegal fishing in the Convention Area. The Parties have been successful in reducing illegal salmon fishing in the Convention Area. However, each year suspected high sea drift net vessels are detected in the Convention Area. To build on the successes of this coordinated effort the Commission have developed a new Integrated Information System on enforcement. This allows the Parties to keep information about illegal or suspected vessels in the Convention Area on a closed website. Recommendations on the enforcement procedure towards the illegal/suspected vessels of non-member countries were also approved.

As an example of the positive results of the Commission's efforts Taiwanese authorities are cooperating with the Commission to ensure Taiwanese vessels and nationals do not fish salmon in the NPAFC Convention Area.

Due to the continued threat of high seas fishing for salmon in the Convention Area, all Parties reaffirmed their commitment to maintain 2006 enforcement activities at high levels as a deterrent to the threat of potential unauthorized fishing activities. The United States invited all the participants to the Enforcement Evaluation and Coordination Meeting and Enforcement Symposium to be held next March in Juneau, Alaska.

Once again the world's leading scientists met to further their understanding on Pacific salmon. The NPAFC provides the only forum in the world for scientists with this opportunity.

The NPAFC's five year Science Plan (2006-2010) focuses on trends in marine production of salmon stocks, their population structure and diversity in marine ecosystems of the North Pacific, and climate change impacts.

A review of the results of international cooperation in salmon research over the past year covered a broad range of issues concerning Pacific salmonid stocks. This exchange helps answer many perplexing questions about salmon abundance. Scientists are now able to determine where specific stocks of juvenile salmon are feeding in the ocean. The NPAFC's cooperative research program, Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Survey (BASIS), is documenting ocean and atmospheric changes and other biological and ecological dynamics affecting salmonid production. New genetic and otolith marking techniques have been developed by the Parties and are being used to identify the origins of salmon and intermixing of the stocks in the Pacific Ocean. In addition, new high tech tags are being used to track the migratory behaviour of salmon on the high seas.

The Second NPAFC International Workshop on "Factors Affecting Production of Juvenile Salmon" and the Research Planning and Coordinating Meeting will be held during April 24-27, 2006 in Sapporo under the invitation of Japan.

The NPAFC integrates its scientific initiatives with other international organization's research and data needs to meet the common challenges facing salmon. The NPAFC-PICES Joint International Symposium "The Status of Pacific Salmon and Their Role in North Pacific Ecosystem" will be held following this meeting.

Mr. Guy Beaupré of Canada was elected the new President of the NPAFC.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the NPAFC is scheduled to be held in Vancouver, Canada in October 2006.

For Information

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