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# North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

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16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – 2008  
Seattle, WA, U.S.A.  
2008 November 17-21

## NEWS RELEASE

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 Seattle, U.S.A., November 17-21, 2008, for the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC).

The NPAFC brings together the world's leading salmon scientists to further understanding of Pacific salmon and is the only multilateral forum providing scientists this opportunity. The meeting also provides the opportunity for the Parties' enforcement officials to plan their efforts to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) salmon fishing on the high seas in the North Pacific (the "Convention Area" covered by the treaty).

Commercial salmon fishing occurs within each country's jurisdiction. The total 2007 catch of Pacific salmon by all producing countries was the highest on record – more than 1,000,000 metric tonnes.

Russian catches for 2007 were also the highest on record, particularly for pink salmon from eastern Sakhalin and sockeye and chinook from Kamchatka. Catches in the United States (Alaska) and Japan were also high. However, the trends for Canada, the Northwestern United States and the Republic of Korea were poor.

These regional fluctuations in abundance need further consideration by scientists from NPAFC countries. One possible explanation is that the fluctuations result from climate change impacts on salmon production. To assist in this understanding, NPAFC scientists plan to conduct winter surveys to gather information on this aspect of Pacific salmon's lifecycle.

The Parties have been successful in reducing illegal salmon fishing in the Convention Area; however, each year suspected high seas vessels are detected using large scale drift nets. The Parties reviewed enforcement efforts and activities in the Convention Area in 2008. Member countries conducted 118 ship patrol days and 371 aerial patrol hours in the Convention Area. This year's efforts also used Canadian satellite information to focus efforts in high threat areas. Eleven HSDN vessels were sighted, two were apprehended and international right of boarding were conducted on another two vessels which were believed to be Indonesian registered. It was reported that one of the vessels apprehended was fined approximately US\$7,000, the catch was seized and sold and the vessel was seized and auctioned off with the nets and other gear being destroyed.

Due to the continued threat of high seas fishing for salmon in the Convention Area, all Parties reaffirmed their commitment to maintain 2009 enforcement activities at high levels and to continue close cooperation with the Fisheries Working Group of the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum and the Technical Committee on Compliance of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) against IUU fishing in the North Pacific. Japan invited all the participants to the Enforcement Evaluation and Coordination Meeting to be held next February in Fukuoka.

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NPAFC is hosting the International Symposium on Being-Aleutian Salmon International Surveys (BASIS) in Seattle, USA immediately after this meeting (November 23-25, 2008). The purpose of the symposium is to summarize BASIS research conducted since 2002 and increase understanding of how climate change affects salmon growth and survival in the ocean. Further information is available from the NPAFC website ([www.npafc.org](http://www.npafc.org)). The NPAFC is also planning to work with the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) towards another international symposium in 2010 to further overall scientific understanding of the effect of climate change on fish, including salmon.

In 2007, the NPAFC was awarded a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in support of a long-term, integrated research and monitoring plan. This plan will synthesize past research and identify critical areas for new research to understand impacts of future climate and ocean changes on the population dynamics of Pacific salmon. The project will be finished in August 2009 and the final report will be available next year.

Finally, NPAFC has initiated a process to review the organization's performance with outside experts as recommended to all Regional Fisheries Management Organizations by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) Committee on Fisheries. A performance review report will be presented at the 2010 NPAFC Annual Meeting.

The Commission elected Dr. Suam Kim of Korea as the next President of the NPAFC.

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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 Pacific Salmon 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 Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the NPAFC is scheduled to be held in Niigata, Japan, in November 2009.

*For Information*

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