
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

18th Annual Meeting – 2010
Busan, Republic of Korea
2010 November 1-5

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 Busan, Korea on November 1-5, 2010, for the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The meeting was chaired by Dr. Vladimir Belyaev of Russia, Vice-President of the NPAFC.

Catches of Pacific salmon remain near historic high levels. The total commercial catch by all producing countries in 2009 was the highest on record - over 1.1 million tons. The high catches were due to an increase of pink and chum salmon production, representing 85% of the total catch. At the same time the abundance of Chinook and coho salmon is decreasing.

The world's leading scientists who study Pacific salmon met in Busan to further their understanding on the factors that affect salmon abundance. The NPAFC provides the only forum in the world for these scientists to share and discuss research results. The meeting also provides the opportunity for the Parties' enforcement officials to assess recent experience and to plan their efforts to fight Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) salmon fishing in the North Pacific.

The Parties reviewed and reflected on enforcement efforts and activities in the Convention Area in 2010. In addition, 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 2011.

Member countries conducted 147 ship patrol days and 183 aerial patrol hours in the Convention Area. The U.S. Coast Guard aircraft sighted a Cambodian flagged vessel *ARVID* suspected of illegal fishing with 4.8 nautical miles drift net in the Convention Area. The Commission's concern was conveyed in a letter from the NPAFC President to the Government of Cambodia. In response to this letter, the Cambodian Government revoked the registration of the vessel from its international ship registry. In addition, Korean authorities investigated and confiscated illegal catch of Pacific salmon unloaded from Panamanian flag vessel *BELLATRIX*. A joint schedule for aircraft and surface patrols will be developed and implemented during the high threat season 2011.

The new NPAFC five year Science Plan (2011-2015) focuses on forecast of Pacific salmon production in the ocean ecosystems affected by climate change. In association with the new Science Plan, several workshops and symposia are planned in 2011-2015.

NPAFC will host the "*International Workshop on the High Abundance of Pink and Chum Salmon in the North Pacific Ocean*" in Nanaimo, Canada, following the 19th NPAFC Annual Meeting in 2011. The workshop's objectives are to: 1) understand long-term production trends of pink and chum salmon by region; 2) identify the survival strategies of pink and chum salmon; 3) identify factors causing high production of pink and chum salmon (and low production of other salmon species); 4) predict the future production of pink and chum salmon

for proper population managements; and 5) identify the key areas of future research.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the NPAFC in 2012, a scientific salmon book entitled “*Life Histories of Pacific Salmon and Steelhead Trout in the Ocean Ecosystems*” is scheduled for publication by the NPAFC and American Fisheries Society.

Taiwanese authorities, participating as official NPAFC observers, reported that they will continue to cooperate with the Commission to ensure Taiwanese vessels and nationals do not fish for salmon in the NPAFC Convention Area.

Due to the continuing threat of high seas fishing for salmon in the Convention Area, all Parties reaffirmed their commitment to maintain 2011 enforcement efforts at high levels as a deterrent to the threat of illegal fishing activities in the North Pacific. The United States will host the Enforcement Evaluation and Coordination Meeting next February in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Commission received high praise for many of its activities and conservation efforts in an independent Performance Review Report. The Commission agreed to a thorough process to respond to the report’s recommendations by the 19th Annual Meeting.

The Memorandum of Cooperation with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission was approved for signing. This document will help ensure cooperation on research, policy, and law enforcement efforts in both organizations.

The Commission also approved selection of the new NPAFC Deputy Director, Dr. Nancy Davis of the United States.

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.

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the NPAFC is scheduled to be held in Nanaimo, Canada in October 2011.

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>