
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

20th Annual Meeting – 2012
St. Petersburg, Russia
2012 October 7-12

NORTH PACIFIC SALMON CATCHES AT ALL-TIME HIGHS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation (October 12, 2012) – Pacific salmon abundance in the North Pacific is at record high levels according to data compiled by members of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) during its 20th anniversary meeting.

The NPAFC is an international organization that promotes the conservation of salmon 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 vast majority of salmon catches in the North Pacific originate from member countries, which include Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States.

The total commercial catch by Commission members in 2011 was over 1 million tonnes. Sixty-two percent of the total 2011 salmon catch was from countries in Asia (Russia, Japan, and Korea) and 38% was caught in countries in North America (United States and Canada). Pink and chum salmon made up the majority (83%) of the total catch.

The total number of hatchery fish released from NPAFC member countries in 2011 was 4.5 billion fish, while the number of annual releases has been relatively stable at around 5 billion fish since 1993. Decline in numbers of salmon released in 2011 is due to incomplete estimates for Japan, a consequence of the March 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and resulting tsunami. (See attachment for more detailed information.)

Although the northern North Pacific Ocean continues to produce large quantities of Pacific salmon, abundance patterns vary among species, often from year-to-year. Currently, pink and chum salmon are very abundant. Coho and chinook salmon are less abundant than they were previously, while sockeye salmon abundance is highly variable among regions from year-to-year.

During the Commission's meeting, leading salmon researchers from member countries brought forward research and discussed factors that may be contributing to variability in abundance patterns among species and potential changes in abundance that may occur in the next several years. These factors include potential impacts of ocean conditions on stocks, particularly migration and survival of juvenile salmon in ocean ecosystems.

In 2012, Commission members also continued their successful enforcement collaboration on the high seas to deter and eliminate illegal salmon fishing. Patrol efforts included a combined 153 ship patrol days, over 370 aerial patrol hours, and the use of radar satellite surveillance. (See attachment for more detailed information.) This year, collaborative enforcement led to the apprehension of a stateless vessel with a Chinese crew engaged in illegal driftnet fishing in the Convention Area. The vessel was caught with over 30 metric tons of illegal product onboard, and was transferred to the custody of China for follow-up action. Overall sightings of illegal fishing activity in the North Pacific have decreased in recent years, demonstrating the effectiveness of the Commission's model enforcement cooperation.

For More 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>

Additional Information:

The Commission selected Dr. Vladimir Radchenko of Russia as the new Executive Director of the NPAFC. His term of office will start on July 1, 2013.

In an effort to increase access to information on the effectiveness of its at-sea monitoring and surveillance of suspected IUU vessels, the NPAFC has created a 5-minute video highlighting NPAFC enforcement activities. Available in English, Korean, Japanese, and Russian, the video will be accessible on the NPAFC website.

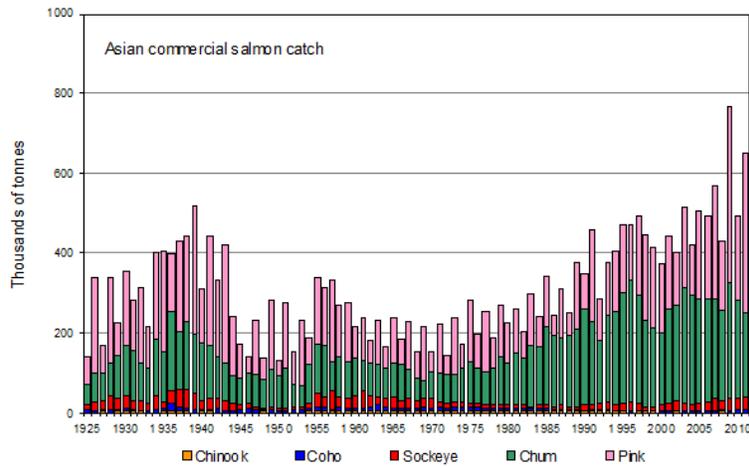
The 2012 NPAFC Award. Established in 2011, the NPAFC Award is presented to groups or individuals whose sustained, significant contributions have helped improve the conservation of anadromous salmon and steelhead stocks in the North Pacific Ocean. These contributions can be from dedicated efforts in the fields of scientific research, enforcement, international cooperation, or management.

At the Annual Meeting, the Commission announced the recipients of the 2012 NPAFC Award: Dr. Richard J. Beamish, (Emeritus Scientist) Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nanaimo, Canada, and Professor Vyacheslav P. Shuntov, (Principal Research Scientist) Pacific Research Fisheries Center (TINRO-Center), Vladivostok, Russia, for their sustained commitment to understanding the mechanisms controlling abundance and factors affecting the biology of anadromous stocks in marine ecosystems. (See attachment for more detailed information.)

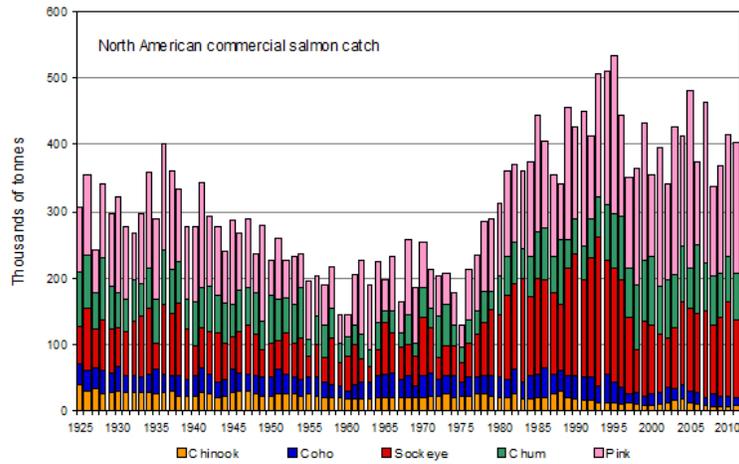
The Commission is pleased to recognize the leadership and sustained dedication of these renowned scientists for their contribution to the knowledge and conservation of anadromous stocks in the North Pacific.

Upcoming events: In recognition of the importance of understanding juvenile salmonid production in ocean environments, the NPAFC will host the 3rd International Workshop titled, "Migration and Survival Mechanisms of Juvenile Salmon and Steelhead in Ocean Ecosystems," on April 25-26, 2013 in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. This workshop will be open to the public (with registration fee) and will give researchers the opportunity to share and review current information on juvenile salmon and steelhead in marine environments. (See attachment for more detailed information.)

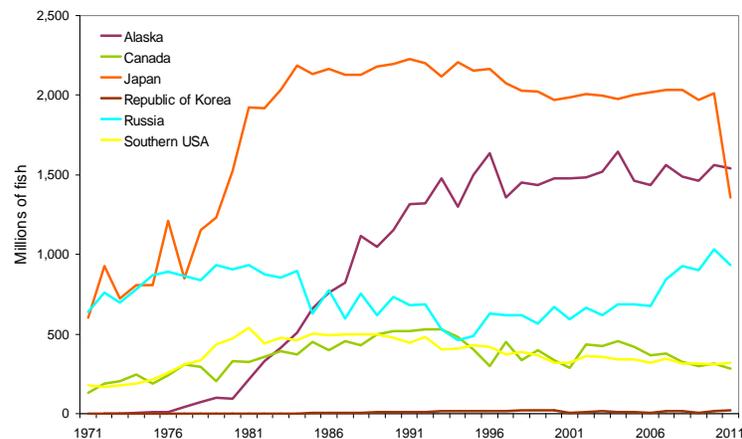
Attachments



Asian commercial catch of Pacific salmon by species, thousand metric tonnes, 1925 to 2011 (2011 catch is preliminary).



North American commercial catch of Pacific salmon, thousand metric tonnes, 1925 to 2011 (2011 catch is preliminary).



Annual North Pacific hatchery releases of Pacific salmon, millions of fish, by member countries, 1971-2011. The apparent drop in releases by Japan in 2011 is due to incomplete estimates resulting from damage to facilities caused by the earthquake and tsunami of March 2011.

NPAFC

NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION

3rd International Workshop on
**Migration and Survival Mechanisms
of Juvenile Salmon and Steelhead in
Ocean Ecosystems**

April 25-26, 2013
*Sheraton Princess Kaiulani
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA*

ABSTRACTS DUE **NOVEMBER 16, 2012**
Email abstracts to secretariat@npafc.org
More information www.npafc.org

Objectives

- Identify ecological mechanisms regulating production
- Integrate information on environment and production during critical life history stages
- Relate variation in abundance, growth, and survival to climate-induced changes in habitat

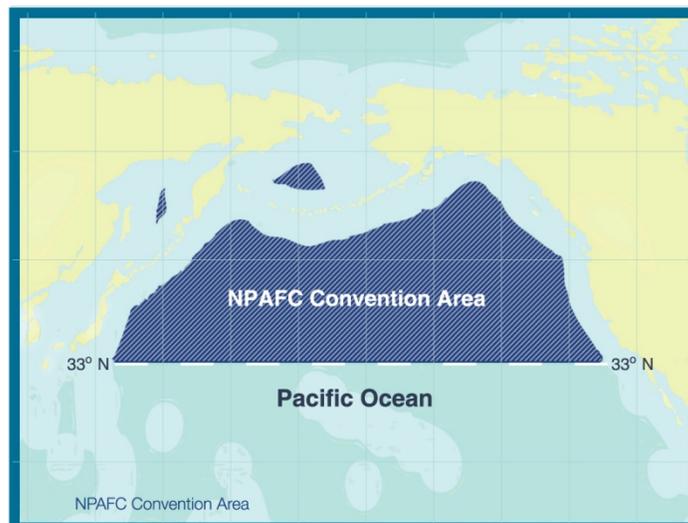
Topics

1. Seasonal distribution and migration route/timing
2. Hydrological characteristics, primary production, and prey resources
3. Trophic linkages, growth rates, and predation rates
4. Ecological interactions among species and populations
5. Survival rate and survival mechanisms
6. Population size and carrying capacity
7. Survival and salmonid ecology during the first winter at sea

Organizing Committee

Joseph Orsi (Auke Bay Laboratories, USA; Organizing Committee Chairperson); Ki Baik Seong (Inland Aquaculture Research Center, Korea); Marc Trudel (Pacific Biological Station, Canada); Shigehiko Urawa (Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Japan); Alexander Zavolokin (Pacific Scientific Research Fisheries Center; Russia); Nancy D. Davis (NPAFC Secretariat)

3rd International Workshop on juvenile salmon and steelhead will be held in April 2013.



The NPAFC Convention Area is located in international waters north of 33°N in the North Pacific, Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk.



Dr. Richard J. Beamish, (O.B.C., C.M., Emeritus Scientist, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada) is a recipient of the 2012 NPAFC Award.

Dr. Beamish is an internationally recognized scientist who, for over 30 years, has been involved with international organizations dedicated to scientific research and international cooperation relating to the conservation of salmon in the marine phase of their life history. He lead research at the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission and then at NPAFC as a member of the Canadian delegation and chair of scientific research committees. Dr. Beamish has provided leadership through an extensive body of published literature including early recognition of the linkage between climate and Pacific salmon abundance, effects of climate change, and influential works on investigations of salmon parasites, juvenile salmon survival, fish ageing techniques, and fish taxonomy. He has been dedicated to leading scientific initiatives in local, national, and international arenas. He has applied his leadership skills to numerous organizational committees and editorial boards of conferences and workshops for NPAFC and many other organizations, and he has been recognized for his exemplary teaching and mentoring of future fisheries scientists.



Professor Vyacheslav P. Shuntov (Principal Research Scientist, Pacific Research Fisheries Center, Vladivostok, Russia) is a recipient of the 2012 NPAFC award.

Professor Shuntov is an internationally known scientist in the field of marine biology. He was founder of the ecosystem approach in the study of biological resources in the Russian Far Eastern Seas. Today, the approach and methods used for ecosystem studies developed under his leadership are the foundation for monitoring the state and dynamics of large-scale ecosystems in Russian studies of the North Pacific Ocean. Major outcomes of ecosystem studies conducted under the leadership of Professor Shuntov include:

- re-evaluation of production rates and fish productivity in Russian Far Eastern Seas;
- discovery of the trends and large-scale changes in pelagic and sea-bottom communities and the factors determining these changes;
- 30-year record of synthesis and publication of atlases and catalogues that quantify the composition, abundance, and distribution of pelagic marine organisms in the Northwest North Pacific.

Throughout his career, Professor Shuntov has advocated both for scientific knowledge on the nature of the sea and its inhabitants and for the protection and rational use of the environment.
