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# North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

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6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting –  
1998  
Moscow, Russia  
1998 November 1-6

## 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 Moscow, Russia, on November 1-6, 1998, for the Sixth Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). Observers from the Republic of Korea, the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) were also in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Mr. David Bevan, 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 entered into force 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, Finance and Administration, and Scientific Research and Statistics met to consider activities of the Parties in support of the objectives of the Convention.

The Committee on Enforcement reviewed unauthorized salmon fishing activities in the Convention Area in 1998 on the basis of information provided by the Parties. The cooperative enforcement efforts of the Parties resulted in the detection of seven vessels conducting illegal fishing operations in or near the Convention Area. Of those seven vessels, the U.S. apprehended two and referred another two vessels to Russia for prosecution. Due to the continued threat of high seas fishing for salmon in the Convention Area, all Parties pledged to maintain 1999 enforcement activities at levels similar to those of 1998, as a deterrent to the threat of potential unauthorized fishing activity. The Commission decided to conduct a joint enforcement workshop in Kodiak, Alaska, in early spring, 1999.

The Parties concurred that the *Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas*, approved by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1993 and open for acceptance, could serve as a mechanism to obligate non-member States to support and cooperate with the objectives and principles of the Convention. A country's acceptance of the FAO Agreement would, *inter alia*, obligate it to ensure that its fishing vessels do not undermine the effectiveness

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of conservation and measures adopted by such regional fisheries organizations as the NPAFC. The Parties decided, as appropriate, to encourage States or entities not party to the Convention to whom the FAO Agreement is open, to adopt the FAO Agreement as soon as possible.

In continuation of discussions at the two-day workshop in Vancouver (March 1998), the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics reviewed and discussed new evidence of climate changes and biological phenomena that may have caused the very low returns of some economically important stocks in 1998. Scientists are addressing questions with new technologies that can directly measure ocean conditions for salmon. NPAFC scientists are continuing to gather data on climate and salmon runs from around the Pacific Rim. Scientists will meet in November 1999 in Juneau, Alaska, for a 2-day symposium entitled "Recent Changes in Ocean Production of Pacific Salmon."

Total commercial salmon catch in 1997 was 838,802 metric tons. Nearly 4.9 billion juvenile hatchery salmon were released in the North Pacific in 1997.

The NPAFC approved a cooperative arrangement with the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) to enhance cooperation between the two bodies on marine scientific research.

The Committee on Finance and Administration considered and adopted the 1998/99 budget. Administrative topics were discussed and approved.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the NPAFC is scheduled to be held in Juneau, Alaska during October 24-29, 1999.

The NPAFC is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Vladimir Fedorenko as its new Executive Director. Mr. Fedorenko will assume the office on April 1, 1999.

*For Information*

Dr. Irina Shestakova  
Executive Director  
NPAFC Secretariat  
Suite 502, 889 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3B2, Canada

Tel: (604) 775-5550  
Fax: (604) 775-5577  
e-mail: [wmorris@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:wmorris@interchange.ubc.ca)

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