
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

7th Annual Meeting – 1999
Juneau, Alaska
1999 October 24-29

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 Juneau, Alaska, U.S.A. on October 24-29, 1999, for the Seventh Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). Observers from 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 1999 on the basis of information provided by the Parties. The cooperative enforcement efforts of the Parties resulted in the detection of twelve vessels conducting illegal fishing operations in or near the Convention Area. Of those twelve vessels, the U.S. apprehended three and referred two of them to Russia for prosecution. Due to the continued threat of high seas fishing for salmon in the Convention Area, all Parties pledged to maintain 2000 enforcement activities at levels similar to those of 1999, as a deterrent to the threat of potential unauthorized fishing activity. The Commission decided also to hold an Enforcement Planning and Coordinating Meeting before the 2000 fishing season.

The Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics reviewed and discussed scientific research on a broad range of issues concerning Pacific salmonid stocks including the relationship between changes in abundance and in ocean and atmospheric conditions and other biological and ecological dynamics of salmonid production. NPAFC scientists are continuing to gather data on climate and salmon runs from around the Pacific Rim. Scientists will meet on November 1-2, 1999 in Juneau, Alaska, for a 2-day symposium entitled "Recent Changes in Ocean Production of Pacific Salmon." A juvenile salmon workshop will be held together with PICES in October 2000 in Tokyo, Japan which will analyse factors affecting production of juvenile salmon. In addition, NPAFC is jointly sponsoring with PICES a scientific conference on "Beyond El Niño", in La Jolla in March 2000.

Total commercial salmon catch in 1998 was 808,593 metric tons. Nearly 4.5 billion juvenile hatchery salmon were released in the North Pacific in 1998.

The NPAFC approved a proposal to hold a joint meeting with North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) in 2001 on the common challenges facing Pacific and Atlantic salmon.

The Committee on Finance and Administration considered and adopted the 1999/2000 budget. Administrative topics were discussed and approved.

Ms. Fran Ulmer, of the United States, was elected as new President of the NPAFC.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the NPAFC is scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan during late October – early November, 2000.

For Information

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