
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH SEAS PACIFIC SALMON RESEARCH REVIEWED AND PLANNED AT NPAFC ANNUAL MEETING

Khabarovsk, Russia (May 25, 2018)—International scientific experts of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) member countries (Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States) completed a five-day meeting in Khabarovsk, Russia, to review current information related to salmon abundance and biology at the Commission's 26th Annual Meeting.

In addition to presenting salmon catch and hatchery statistics, scientists planned, reviewed, and coordinated exchanges of scientific data and samples, and assessed scientific studies of Pacific salmon and steelhead in international waters and adjacent areas of the North Pacific.

Salmon research cruise plans for 2018 were discussed. These will include salmon surveys in the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea, the southern Chukchi Sea, the northwestern and central North Pacific, and the southern Sea of Okhotsk. Research cruises will employ survey vessels from a variety of sources including government, university, and chartered fishing boats. Research survey objectives vary by season and location, and include data-gathering on topics such as, migration timing, abundance, distribution, survival, marine ecology, run size forecasting, stock identification, and salmon growth and body condition.

The Commission discussed plans for the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) which will have a focal year in 2019 with research and outreach projects and events already occurring and continuing through 2022. In the coming months, core partners will be working with the NPAFC to plan and announce details of a North Pacific opening event in Vancouver, B.C., Canada in October 2018, a Signature Project winter expedition to the Gulf of Alaska in March 2019 and detailed research plans. Organizations and individuals concerned with salmon and interested in participating in this exciting initiative are encouraged to contact the NPAFC.

The current 2016–2020 NPAFC Science Plan, supports the NPAFC's primary objective of promoting the conservation of anadromous populations of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout within the Convention Area, and is integrated with the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative. To review the research progress for the NPAFC Science Plan, and to promote IYS activities and outreach in member countries, it was agreed the second NPAFC-IYS Workshop on "*Salmon Ocean Ecology in a Changing Climate*" will be held in Portland, Oregon, the United States on May 18–20, 2019, following the 27th NPAFC Annual Meeting. The objectives of the workshop will be to: (1) improve current knowledge of the migration, distribution, growth and survival of salmon and their environment in the ocean; (2) increase understanding of the causes of variations in salmon production; (3) anticipate future changes in the distribution and abundance of salmon and their marine ecosystems; and (4) promote IYS activities and outreach in salmon homing countries. Improved understanding of the mechanisms that regulate the distribution and abundance of salmon will promote the conservation of anadromous populations, allow for better forecasts of salmon production trends in the future, and enhance sustainable fisheries management, food security, and economic security.

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About NPAFC

The NPAFC is an international organization that promotes the conservation of salmon (chum, coho, pink, sockeye, Chinook, and cherry salmon) and steelhead trout 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 NPAFC Convention Area is located in international waters north of 33°N latitude in the North Pacific, Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. NPAFC member countries include Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.
