
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANNING UNDERWAY IN EARNEST FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON (IYS)

Khabarovsk, Russia (May 25, 2018)—Agreement was reached at the 26th Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) to continue implementation of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) with full force. A commitment of resources has been made to support collaboration with partners across the Northern Hemisphere to host a series of Ministerial announcements and events to launch the initiative in October 2018 and to develop outreach and research plans, including a Signature Project winter expedition to the Gulf of Alaska in March 2019.

Environmental change and human impacts across the Northern Hemisphere are placing salmon at risk. With increasingly variable aquatic conditions, we need more responsive and efficient approaches to understand and respond to the changes. While the challenges we face across the Northern Hemisphere are shared, there are limited connections between us. The IYS aspires to protect salmon by bringing people together to share and develop knowledge, raise public awareness and take action.

The IYS initiative will establish partnerships and investments to kick-start research and public action in Europe, North America and Asia to give salmon the best chance to survive and thrive. We strive to leave a legacy of knowledge, data information systems, tools and a new generation of scientists and decision-makers empowered to sustain salmon and the ecosystems they depend on.

The year 2019 will be the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon with research and outreach projects and events beginning before 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, the Gulf of Alaska Signature Project 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 planning phase of the IYS was officially launched in 2016 following the approval of a proposal prepared by the NPAFC and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), at the respective Annual Meetings of both Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. An IYS Coordinating Committee, involving members from both organisations, established terms of reference for Regional Steering Committees to oversee activities in the Pacific and Atlantic regions.

On February 6–7 2018, NPAFC hosted the second meeting of the North Pacific Steering Committee in Vancouver, with participants comprising a wide spectrum of interests. Participants discussed options to launch the IYS, confirmed approaches to complete the website and draft key messages, developed a social media strategy and considered a plan to conduct outreach and research planning across the “salmosphere”. A North Pacific IYS Facebook page and Twitter account have since been launched and the IYS website is set to go live in June 2018. Stay tuned and this exciting initiative unfolds!



Representatives of intergovernmental and regional fisheries management organizations, governmental, non-profit, First Nations, and scientific organizations who participated in the IYS North Pacific Steering Committee Meeting held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, February 6–7, 2018.

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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.
