
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTH PACIFIC SALMON CATCHES REMAIN HIGH IN THE EAST BUT DECLINE IN THE WEST

Khabarovsk, Russia (May 25, 2018)—The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) announced preliminary North Pacific-wide total salmon catches for 2017, as reported by its member countries Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States. Pacific salmon abundance in the North Pacific, as indexed by aggregate commercial catches, remains at near all-time high levels, although catches have declined during the past decade. A total of 920 thousand metric tonnes (460.7 million fish) was caught in 2017, less than recent odd-numbered years. Salmon catches tend to be higher in odd than even-numbered years because the most frequent species in the catch, pink salmon, are more abundant in odd-numbered years.

The member nations' portions of the total catch included 53% by the United States (486.9 thousand metric tonnes; Alaska—476.7 thousand metric tonnes), 38% by Russia (353.1 thousand metric tonnes), 8% by Japan (70.9 thousand metric tonnes), 1% by Canada (13.8 thousand metric tonnes), and less than 1% by Korea (182 metric tonnes).

Pink salmon constituted the majority of the total commercial catch (49% by weight) followed by chum (29%) and sockeye salmon (19%). Coho comprised 3% of the catch, Chinook salmon was 1%, and each of cherry salmon and steelhead trout were < 1% of the catch by weight.

Pink and chum salmon dominate Asian catches. In general, the catch trend over the last 10 years has been declining; catches in 2017 were the lowest since 2002. The total North Pacific pink salmon catch was 449.1 thousand metric tonnes, with the majority caught by the United States (53% of the total by weight). The total catch of chum salmon was 267.0 thousand metric tonnes, and the largest portions of the catch by weight came from Russia (37%) and the United States (35%). In 2017, unusually low catches of chum salmon resulted in relatively low total catches of salmon in Asia.

In North America, the relative abundance of salmon species varies from north to south. In Alaska, pink and sockeye salmon are the primary species, followed by chum salmon. In Canada, sockeye, pink, and chum salmon have historically comprised the largest catch, while in Washington, Oregon, and California, chum, Chinook and coho salmon are the most abundant species. In 2017, reasonably high catches of pink, chum, and sockeye salmon resulted in relatively high total catches of salmon in North America.

Hatchery releases of salmon and steelhead from NPAFC member countries totaled approximately 5.1 billion fish in 2017, similar to numbers over the last three decades. Hatcheries released 1,865 million fish (37% of the total) in the United States, 1,760 million (35%) in Japan, 1,044 million (21%) in Russia, 368 million (7%) in Canada, and 18 million (< 1%) in Korea.

Hatchery releases were mostly chum (3,243 million, 64%) and pink salmon (1,248 million, 25%), followed by sockeye (246 million, 5%), Chinook (221 million, 4%), and coho salmon (68 million, 1%), steelhead trout (20 million, less than 1%), and cherry salmon (9 million, less than 1%).

Table 1. Preliminary 2017 commercial salmon catches in Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States. Commercial catches by foreign fleets in the Russian EEZ are not included. Japanese catch data are based on Fisheries Research Agency data sources, not official statistics. Commercial catch weight for Alaska is based on landed weight (Alaska Department of Fish and Game).

(a) Preliminary 2017 commercial catch in millions of fish.

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	0.174	1.651	1.413	0.371	0.205	-	-	3.813
Japan	0.001	1.802	20.361	0.001	0.002	-	-	22.166
Korea	-	-	0.057	-	-	-	-	0.057
Russia	17.057	154.390	31.388	2.810	0.069	0.002	-	205.717
USA	53.705	142.309	26.396	5.634	0.845	-	0.029	228.918
Alaska	53.682	142.177	24.982	5.292	0.280	-	0.001	226.413
WOC	0.023	0.132	1.414	0.342	0.566	-	0.028	2.505
Total	70.937	300.151	79.614	8.816	1.121	0.002	0.029	460.670

WOC: Washington, Oregon, and California

(b) Preliminary 2017 commercial catch in metric tonnes (round weight).

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	407	3,640	7,199	1,150	1,442	-	-	13,838
Japan	2	2,609	67,645	3	8	593	0	70,860
Korea	-	-	182	-	-	-	-	182
Russia	42,143	204,450	97,699	8,413	388	3	-	353,096
USA	133,287	238,368	94,279	16,735	4,108	-	93	486,870
Alaska	133,244	238,111	88,023	15,704	1,586	-	0	476,668
WOC	44	257	6,257	1,031	2,523	-	92	10,203
Total	175,839	449,067	267,004	26,300	5,947	596	93	924,847

WOC: Washington, Oregon, and California

Table 2. Preliminary 2017 hatchery releases in NPAFC member countries in millions of fish.

	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Cherry	Steelhead	Total
Canada	177.209	11.044	133.571	7.562	38.353	-	0.336	368.075
Japan	0.082	120.690	1,630.445	-	-	8.986	-	1,760.203
Korea	-	-	18.157	-	-	-	-	18.157
Russia	5.940	275.539	760.261	1.275	0.907	0.017	-	1,043.939
USA	63.255	841.114	700.276	59.295	181.481	-	20.028	1,865.449
Alaska	50.110	841.114	655.213	29.642	9.723	-	-	1,585.802
WOCI	13.145	-	45.063	29.653	171.758	-	20.028	279.647
Total	246.487	1,248.388	3,242.710	68.132	220.741	9.003	20.364	5,055.823

WOCI: Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho

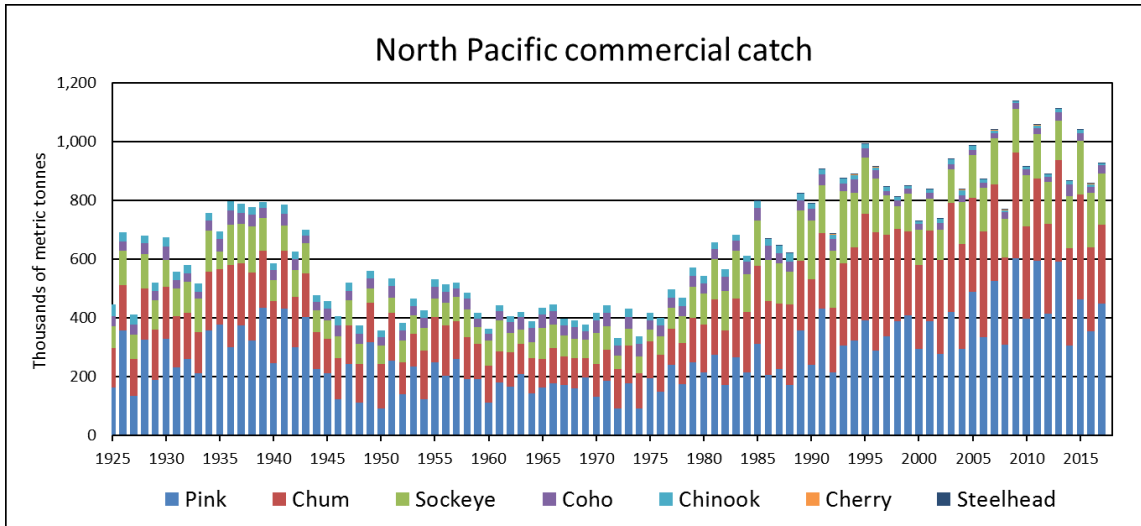


Figure 1. North Pacific commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2017 (2017 catches are preliminary).

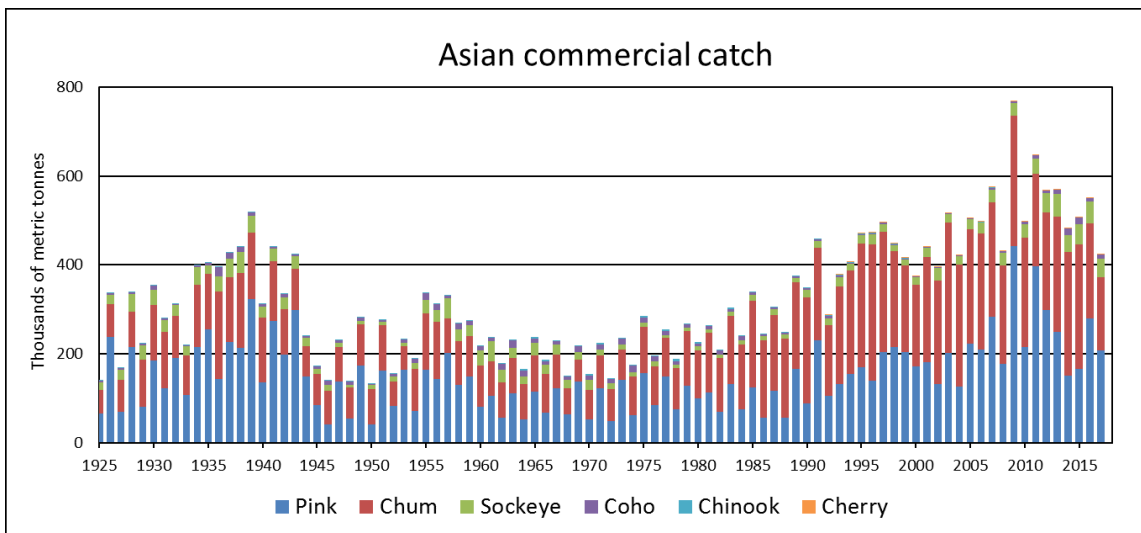


Figure 2. Asian commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2017 (2017 catches are preliminary).

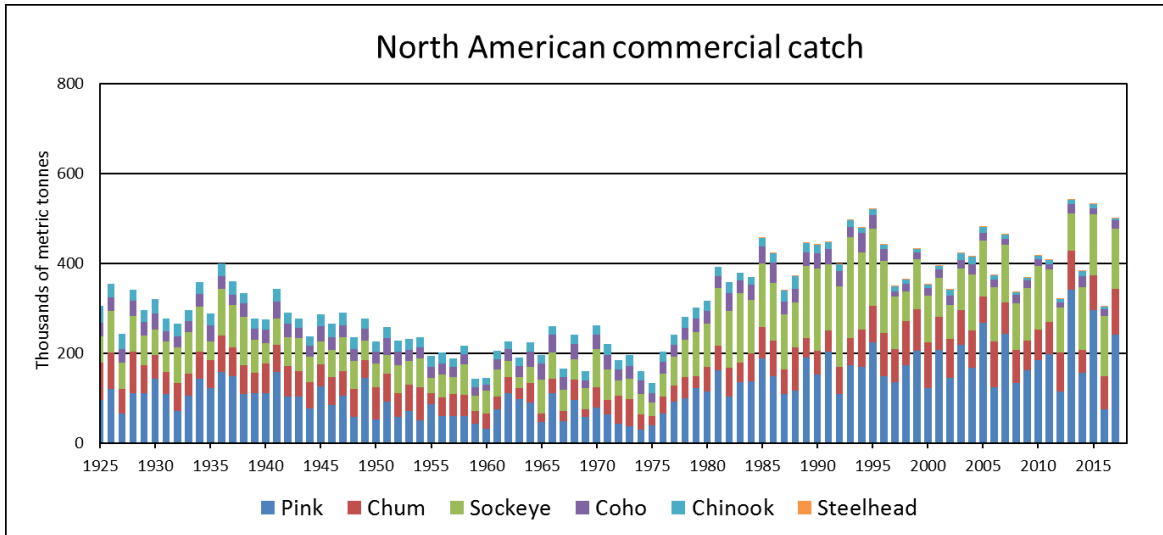


Figure 3. North American commercial catch (thousands of metric tonnes) of Pacific salmon by species from 1925 to 2017 (2017 catches are preliminary).

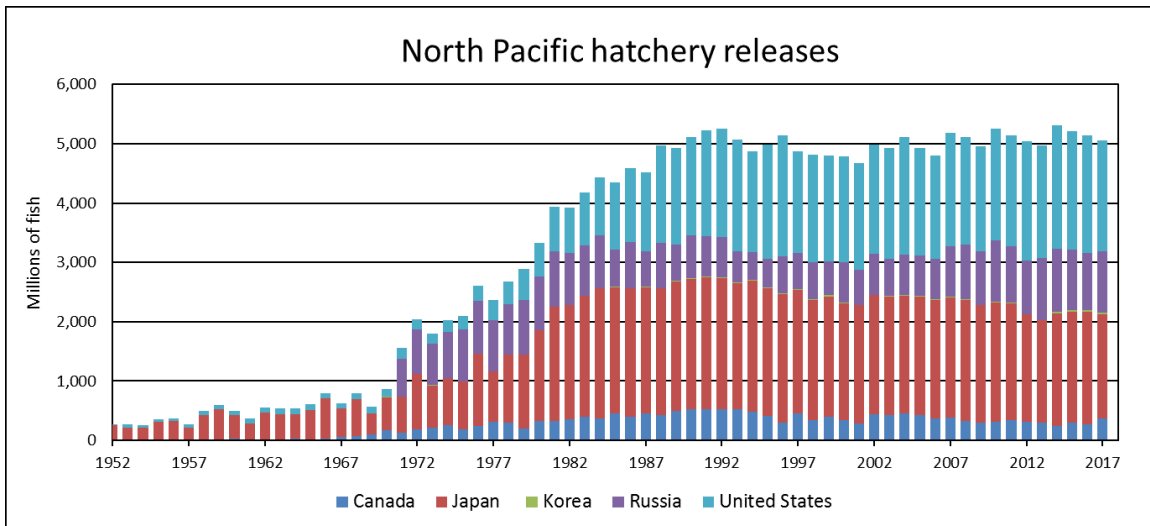


Figure 4. Annual North Pacific hatchery releases (millions of fish) of Pacific salmon by member countries from 1952 to 2017.

-END-

Contact: Vladimir Radchenko
NPAFC Executive Director
Phone: +1-604-775-5550
Email: secretariat@npafc.org
Website www.npafc.org

About NPAFC

The NPAFC is an international organization that promotes the conservation of Pacific 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.