
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IS KEY ELEMENT FOR SUCCESS IN COMBATTING ILLEGAL FISHING IN THE NORTH PACIFIC

Portland, Oregon, USA (May 17, 2019)—At the Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), fisheries enforcement representatives from member countries (Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States) reported on the successful 2018 efforts to combat IUU (illegal, unreported, and unregulated) fishing on the high seas of the North Pacific.

Prior to the 2019 Committee on Enforcement (ENFO) regular meeting, a one-day ENFO workshop on “Combating IUU Fishing and New Technologies” was held. At the workshop, there were presentations from six invited global enforcement and commercial experts. Presentations focused on overviews of contemporary approaches to Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) development, including collaborative organizations and new technologies in combating IUU fishing that could potentially be applied within the NPAFC Convention Area.

Vessels fishing on the high seas historically used large-scale high seas driftnets (HSDN)—a gear that is now internationally banned due to the high rates of bycatch of non-target species, including salmon. The Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean further prohibits fishing for salmon within the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean. The NPAFC member countries have achieved a unique forum for successful and efficient enforcement of these conservation measures within the NPAFC Convention Area. These efforts have brought pressure on fishing vessels and their flag States and drastically reduced high seas driftnet and salmon fishing within the North Pacific.

The coordinated enforcement efforts of the NPAFC member countries in 2018 covered significant portions of the NPAFC Convention Area with over 400 hours of aircraft patrols, and more than 100 ship-days, to deter and interrupt IUU activity. These combined multilateral efforts identified multiple possible instances of IUU fishing in 2018. A Chinese flagged fishing vessel, *Run Da*, conducting HSDN fishing was intercepted by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Cutter *Alex Haley* in June. After a joint boarding and inspection on June 16 by the USCG and the People’s Republic of China (PRC) Coast Guard shipriders, custody of the vessel was transferred from the USCG Cutter *Alex Haley* to the PRC Coast Guard Vessel 2301 on June 21, 2018, for prosecution. The joint boarding team discovered 80 tons of frozen salmon and one ton of squid on board. This vessel was added to the list of apprehended illegal salmon fishing vessels in the NPAFC Convention Area.

Member countries also discussed the status of acceptance of the Food and Agriculture Organization Port State Measures Agreement. This international agreement is designed to harmonize and strengthen controls and deter illicit activity by preventing illegally caught fish from entering the global marketplace. The Agreement went into force on June 5, 2016. Currently, 60 members have formally deposited their instruments of adherence. The Republic of Korea acceded on January 14, 2016; the U.S. ratified on February 26, 2016; and Japan deposited its instrument of accession to the Agreement on May 19, 2017. Effective and consistent application of this Agreement by nations will add a new level of deterrent by

decreasing the profitability of illegal transshipping of fish at sea and in port.

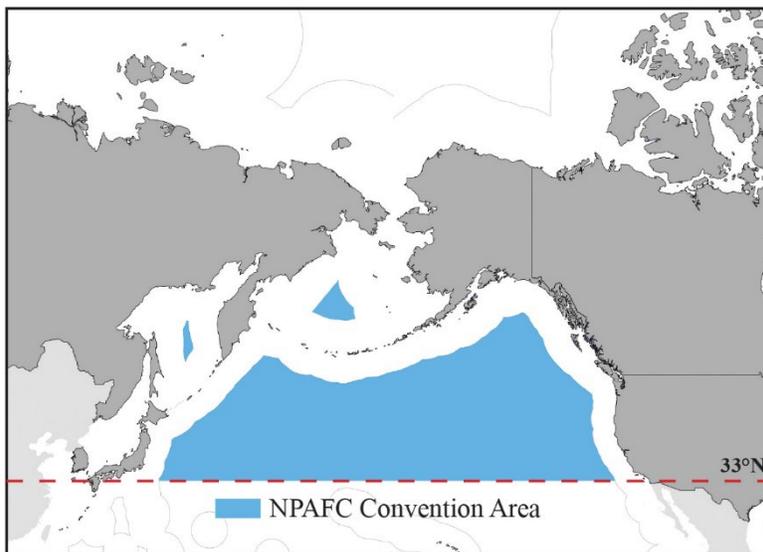
Ongoing efforts to curtail the large-scale HSDN threat by continuing a constant vigilance at sea and ports is crucial for sustainable fisheries management and the conservation of salmon in the North Pacific. Multilateral enforcement operations coordinated in the NPAFC arena, regular information exchanges between NPAFC-member enforcement agencies, and a consistent enforcement presence in the North Pacific, all act as effective deterrents against IUU fishing activities.

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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.



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Map credit: modified from © FAO 2016 Regional Fishery Bodies Map, www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/npafc. March 11, 2016.
