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# North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Portland, Oregon, USA  
2019 May 13–17

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

*Portland, Oregon, USA (May 17, 2019)*—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 Portland, Oregon, USA, to review current information related to salmon abundance and biology during the Commission’s 27<sup>th</sup> 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 the adjacent areas of the North Pacific.

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) Signature Project, The International Gulf of Alaska Expedition was the first large-scale, integrated, winter, pelagic ecosystem research survey, with a particular focus on Pacific salmon. This expedition covered an area of approximately 700,000 km<sup>2</sup> between February 16 and March 18, 2019. A summary of preliminary findings of this expedition onboard the R/V *Professor Kaganovskiy* was reviewed and additional research cruise plans for 2019 were also discussed. These could include salmon surveys in the Bering Sea, the northwestern North Pacific, and the southern Sea of Okhotsk. Research cruises may 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 activities and plans for the IYS, which has a focal year in 2019 with research and outreach projects and events continuing through 2022. In October 2018, the NPAFC officially announced the start of the IYS by holding an opening event in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. They released a call to action for an intense burst of outreach and research through 2022 that will fill knowledge gaps, develop tools to equip and train a new generation of scientists and managers, and raise awareness among decision-makers, which, in combination, will achieve the conditions necessary for the future *resilience of salmon and people in a rapidly changing world*.

The current 2016–2020 NPAFC Science Plan supports the NPAFC’s primary objective of promoting the conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout within the Convention Area, and is integrated with the 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 that the third NPAFC-IYS Workshop on “*Linkage between Pacific Salmon Production and Environmental Changes*” will be held in Hakodate, Japan on May 23–25, 2020, following the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 in a changing climate; (3) anticipate future changes in the distribution and abundance of salmon and their marine ecosystems; and (4) develop and apply new technologies and analytical methods

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to the research and management of salmon; and (5) invent integrated information/management systems to support research, sustainable management, and public understanding for the conservation of salmon.

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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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