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# North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting—2019  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NPAFC INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR SALMON AND STEELHEAD CONSERVATION PRESENTED TO CAPT. JOHN V. O'SHEA, USCG (RET.)**

*Portland, Oregon, USA (May 17, 2019)*—Capt. John V. O'Shea, USCG (Ret.) received the 2019 North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Award at the Commission's 27th Annual Meeting. Capt. O'Shea is a retired U.S. Coast Guard Captain and Senior Executive with more than 25 years of experience managing marine fisheries policy issues at the regional, national, and international levels. His last assignment in the Coast Guard was Chief of Operations for the 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District, in Alaska.

Capt. O'Shea was selected for the award in recognition of his sustained contributions in the areas of compliance and enforcement to the Commission's mission to conserve and manage anadromous salmon and steelhead stocks in the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas. He contributed substantially to the functioning of the Commission's Committee on Enforcement (ENFO) for many years. From 1991–1996, he served at the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Law Enforcement as Program Manager for Fisheries Law Enforcement. In this position, he was responsible for Policy and Resources for all of the Coast Guard's fisheries law enforcement domestic and foreign activities. He coordinated Coast Guard participation in the NPAFC as part of the Coast Guard's on-going operations in the North Pacific against the use of large-scale high seas driftnets.

In 1991, Capt. O'Shea was the Senior U.S. Coast Guard member of the U.S. Delegation attending the final negotiating meeting in Ottawa, Canada, where an agreement was reached on the details of the structure of the NPAFC. This marked the beginning of what would become his 10-year involvement with the NPAFC ENFO. In 1993, Capt. O'Shea was a member of the U. S. State Department delegation that negotiated a bi-lateral boarding agreement with the People's Republic of China (PRC). Thanks to his involvement during the negotiation, the resulting agreement brought substantial benefits to both parties, reflected in the fact that it has remained in effect for more than 25 years. The US-PRC Boarding Agreement provisions facilitate fisheries boarding on the high seas and enable the deployment of PRC fisheries enforcement officers onboard U.S. Coast Guard vessels conducting High Sea Driftnet (HSDN) patrols. As a result, the Agreement has enhanced the efficacy and efficiency of the U. S. and other NPAFC member patrol efforts. From 1999–2001, Capt. O'Shea chaired the Committee on Enforcement working with ENFO members from all of the Parties to improve the visibility, efficiency and effectiveness of HSDN patrols. Thanks to the results of their efforts, HSDN cases are rare events now and, when they do occur, they are often the result of a multi-nation effort coordinated through the mechanisms of NPAFC.

Capt. O'Shea stated: "It is a great privilege to have been a part of this important and effective intergovernmental organization and to be honored with the distinguished North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Award. I am grateful to the United States for nominating me for this award and for the Commissioners who approved the award. It has been a great honor for me to be a member of the U.S. delegation to the NPAFC over the years. In accepting this award, I recognize the contributions, cooperation and great efforts of all my dedicated ENFO colleagues from Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the U.S., who supported me, and who continue to work tirelessly to

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support the goals of the Commission. It is indeed the highest honor for me. Thank you so much.”

Established in 2011, the NPAFC Award is given to recognize an individual or group whose sustained and significant contributions in scientific research, enforcement, international cooperation, or management have helped improve the conservation of anadromous salmon and steelhead stocks in the North Pacific Ocean.



Capt. John V. O'Shea is the recipient of the 2019 NPAFC Award.

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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, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and United States of America.