
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

27th Annual Meeting
Portland, Oregon, USA
2019 May 13–17

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOCAL YEAR IN FULL FLIGHT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON (IYS)

Portland, Oregon, USA (May 17, 2019)—Agreement was reached at the 27th Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) to continue implementation of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative with full force. A commitment of resources has been made to support collaboration with partners across the Northern Hemisphere to implement coordinated outreach and research, including continued commitment to build a five-country research plan for a high seas expedition across the North Pacific in the winter of 2021. On the evening of May 14th, the NPAFC hosted a reception with active and potential partners from around the Pacific Rim to raise awareness of the IYS. The importance of international collaboration was brought to light with stories from scientists including Dr. Laurie Weitkamp from the National Marine Fisheries Service laboratory in Newport, Oregon, who participated in the recent Gulf of Alaska Expedition this past February.

Environmental changes 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 has established 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. They 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 of 2019 is the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon 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*.

On January 21–22, 2019, NPAFC hosted the third meeting of the North Pacific Steering Committee in Vancouver, with IYS partners from around the Pacific Rim. Participants discussed options to implement the plan to conduct outreach and research planning across the “salmosphere”, a strategy to generate funding support for IYS related activities, and the implementation of the IYS signature project.

On March 18, 2019, the International Gulf of Alaska Expedition 2019 was successfully completed with 21 scientific personnel from Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States aboard the chartered Russian Research Vessel *Professor Kaganovskiy*. Such international expedition is the first in decades to study salmon in the high seas and has already made many exciting discoveries. Stay tuned as this exciting initiative unfolds!



Members of the scientific team from Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States upon the successful completion of the International Gulf of Alaska Expedition in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, February 16–March 18, 2019.

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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.
