



Press Release



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON ANNOUNCES THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF TWO CANADIAN VESSELS FOR THE 2022 PAN-PACIFIC WINTER HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION

Media Advisory to follow

**Official quotes available at bottom of page*

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) are excited to announce the launch of two Canadian vessels as part of the 2022 IYS Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition. The Canadian fishing vessel the *Raw Spirit* and the Canadian research vessel the *CCGS Sir John Franklin* will depart from their respective ports in British Columbia, Canada in mid-February to sample the Gulf of Alaska. These vessels will join the *NOAA Bell M. Shimada* from the United States and the *R/V TINRO* from Russia, which will each be sampling different zones of the North Pacific Ocean in a major international effort to study Pacific salmon and their ecosystems. The 2022 IYS Expedition builds off successful international expeditions into the Gulf of Alaska in 2019 and 2020, as well as the 2021 Western Pacific Winter Expedition.

The *CCGS Sir John Franklin*, led by Dr. Jackie King, will include a team of Canadian scientists from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the University of Victoria, and the University of British Columbia. They will be deploying a trawl net to sample the upper 50 meters of the ocean and will deploy oceanographic gear and plankton nets to sample environmental conditions and the food web that salmon depend on. There are nine postdoctoral fellows and graduate students that will be using data collected by the *CCGS Sir John Franklin*, and other vessels participating in the 2022 IYS Expedition, to understand salmon and their ecosystems. These positions are funded by the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund and are housed at either the University of British Columbia or the University of Victoria. The Canadian academics are partnering with Canadian government scientists to study topics ranging from environmental DNA to salmon migration patterns to salmon diets.

A second vessel, the *F/V Raw Spirit*, led by Chrys Neville, will include Canadian scientists from industry and NGOs as well as two Russian scientists from Moscow. They will conduct fishing operations in the same region as the *CCGS Sir John Franklin* but will deploy Japanese gillnets and longlines. Gillnets are fished at night and have the ability to catch a variety of species, including larger fish that may avoid trawls and salmon predators. Using two gear types, the *F/V Raw Spirit* will provide catch comparisons with the *CCGS Sir John Franklin* trawl catches. The use of longlines will also provide a comparison with Canadian research from the 1960s, which used longlines to tag salmon. Combined with information from the surveys in 2019 and 2020, these results are expected to help explain the reasons for the recent low returns of salmon to British Columbia.

This cooperative study led by Canadian scientists will provide the first comparison of ocean research gillnets with trawl nets in the deep-water ocean environment. Dr. Richard Beamish (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) and Dr. Brian Riddell (Pacific Salmon Foundation) have privately raised funds from government, NGOs and the private sector to charter the Canadian fishing vessel the *Raw Spirit*. While the vessels are at sea you can follow their progress on the [IYS Website](#) and on all IYS online media platforms ([Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)).

The overall findings from the two Canadian vessels will be combined with the findings from the *NOAA Bell M. Shimada* and the *R/V TINRO* to understand the current distribution, abundance, and health of Pacific salmon and their environmental conditions following the recent years of extreme climate variability in the North Pacific Ocean. The 2022 IYS Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition is made possible by in-kind ship time contributions from Canada and the United States, and additional financial and technical contributions from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Province of British Columbia), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the North Pacific Research Board, the Great Pacific Foundation, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Parkland Fuel Corporation, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Tula Foundation, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of British Columbia, Oregon State University, and the University of Washington.

About International Year of the Salmon

The IYS is a five-year initiative (2018–2022) to establish conditions for the resilience of salmon and people in a changing world. It is a hemispheric partnership led by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission in the North Pacific, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization in the North Atlantic, as well as by NGOs, the private sector, governments, and academic organizations.

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 beyond the 200-mile zones of coastal States. NPAFC member countries include Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

Information and Updates for the 2022 IYS Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition:

2022 Expedition Webpage:

<https://yearofthesalmon.org/2022expedition/>

IYS Twitter:

[@yearofthesalmon](https://twitter.com/yearofthesalmon)

IYS Instagram:

[@internationalyearofthesalmon](https://www.instagram.com/internationalyearofthesalmon)

IYS Facebook:

[International Year of the Salmon – North Pacific](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalYearoftheSalmon-NorthPacific)

For more information, please contact IYS Communications Coordinator **Camille Jasinski** at cjasinski@npafc.org.

Quotes:

“The B.C. government is once again proud to support the important scientific work that will be taking place onboard these ships during this latest international expedition. The teamwork and commitment that will be on

display in the North Pacific Ocean is being backed up by a dedicated support team on dry land and I want to thank all of the partners for working together and helping our wild salmon populations recover.”

Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Government of British Columbia

“Climate change and its impacts on the North Pacific Ocean are exposing Pacific salmon to conditions well outside their normal climate cycles. Through this expedition, we are building our knowledge of how salmon are impacted by these changes. Nothing short of an international effort, such as the one we’re undertaking with IYS, is needed to build this knowledge in the hopes of ensuring Pacific salmon for future generations.”

Dr. Jackie King, Chief Canadian Scientist for the 2022 Expedition, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

“I am excited to be part of an amazing team once again. The first two expeditions demonstrated how little we actually know about salmon during their residence in the high seas. Many of our expectations were not what we actually observed. Therefore in 2022 it is very exciting that the effort has been expanded with four vessels fishing across the Pacific and all in areas where Canadian salmon have been observed. This research is timely. Continued changes in the ocean climate and low returns of salmon to many regions around the Pacific demonstrates the need to understand the mechanism that regulates salmon survival in the ocean.”

Chrys Neville, Research Biologist and Chief Scientist of the F/V Raw Spirit, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

“NPAFC welcomes the *CCGS Sir John Franklin* and the *F/V Raw Spirit* as they join the IYS 2022 Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition. I am confident that these two vessels will be first to encounter a strong return for the famous dominant run of Fraser River sockeye in 2022”

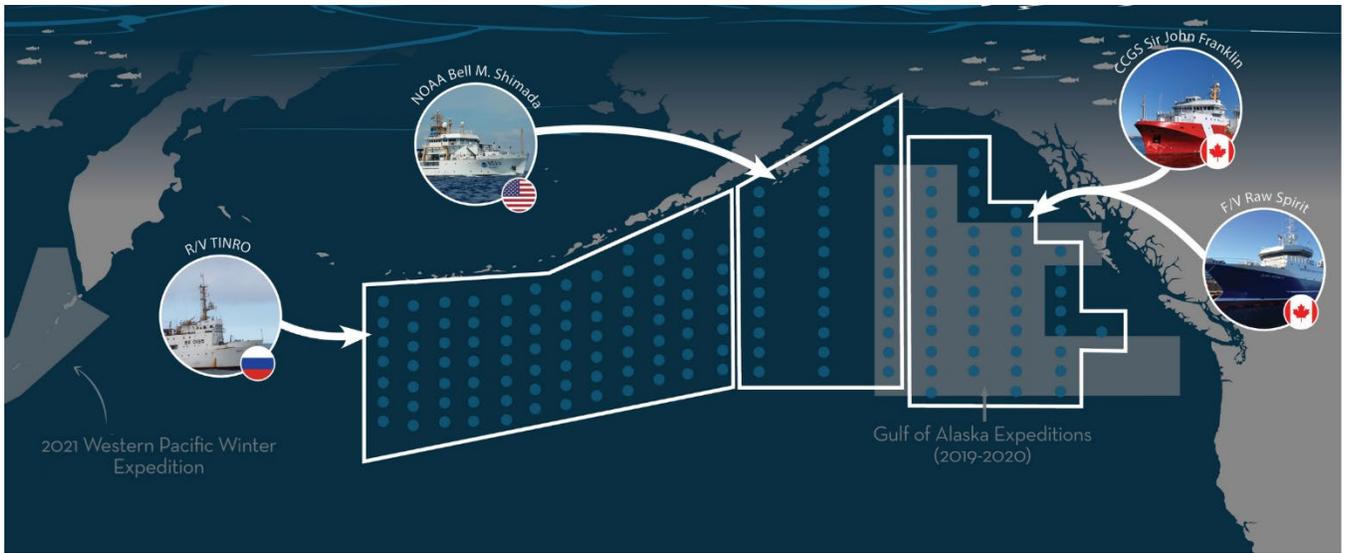
Vladimir Radchenko, Executive Director, North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

“Understanding the impact of climate variation on ocean productivity and salmon production is essential for the future conservation and use of Pacific salmon. Presently, our science is inadequate to provide this forward-looking advice, but this collaboration is an important beginning and provides a basis for future research.”

Dr. Brian Riddell, Science Advisor, Pacific Salmon Commission

“I am excited that two Canadian vessels are departing to join Russian and American vessels now at sea. Canada is to be commended for providing strong leadership and substantial resources to this expedition that will transform the way we study salmon and the North Pacific Ocean.”

Mark Saunders, Director, International Year of the Salmon



Zone map for the 2022 Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition