

III. Opening Remarks

Welcome to the first science symposium of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission -- an international symposium on salmon. There have been many similar salmon symposia before, but this one is special to the Commission because it brings together significant numbers of salmon experts from the four major salmon producing countries of the North Pacific Rim and experts from other countries to advance salmon science for the Commission. After all, salmon is still the most important fisheries resource in the North Pacific Ocean. It certainly has the richest legacy of all the fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean.

Hokkaido is certainly the ideal spot to hold such a symposium. Salmon is important to the Japanese

people and Hokkaido is where salmon are mostly produced in Japan. The organizing committee of the symposium and the local organizing committee of this event have done an excellent job of setting up the agenda and the venue for us to indulge in the intricacies of salmon issues.

Over the next few days, we'll be reviewing and learning of new research on the biology of Pacific salmon, their history, their wide geographical distribution, and their interacting dynamics with their ecosystems. We will learn about enhancement of salmon runs and become cognizant of their success and impacts on natural runs and the carrying capacity of the ecosystem. Let us begin.

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