

Preface

This Bulletin is a compilation of papers presented at an International Symposium on Recent Changes in Ocean Production of Pacific Salmon, held in Juneau, Alaska, U.S.A., November 1-2, 1999, under the auspices of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission. The symposium was the second held by the Commission and was hosted by the government of the United States of America.

The symposium steering and editorial committee comprised of scientists from the Parties was appointed by the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics.

The Steering and Editorial Committee members were:

Jack Helle (Chairman)

Auke Bay Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center,
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Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada

Vladimir Radchenko

Pacific Scientific Research Fisheries Center
State Committee of Fisheries of the Russian Federation
Vladivostok, Russia.

Local arrangements for the symposium were facilitated by a local organizing committee led by Hal Geiger of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Steve Ignell of the Auke Bay Laboratory and assisted by Debbie Hart and Paula Johnson from these organizations. Symposium participants were taken on a tour of the spawning grounds of the fall chum salmon on the Chilkat River near Haines by ferry and bus. These spawning grounds are well-known as a gathering place for thousands of bald eagles and a wide area for the last salmon feast of the season.

The symposium *Recent Changes in Ocean Production of Pacific Salmon*, attracted an audience of approximately 80 people in addition to the presenters of the oral and poster presentations. Two Keynote addresses at the Symposium presented perspectives on climate change: 1) Dr. E.N. (Joe) Friday, Jr. (Director, Board on Atmospheric Sciences in Climate, National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A.) discussed the outlook for natural resources in the future in terms of climate variability and climate change, and 2) Dr. Bruce P. Finney (University of Alaska Fairbanks) presented a retrospective look at climate variability and salmon production in Alaska during the past 100 years.

The symposium presentations addressed four major Topics: 1) Physical and Biological Factors Affecting Ocean Production of Pacific Salmon, 2) Detection of Trends, Patterns, and Changes in Historical Salmon and Environmental Data, 3) Forecasts and Models of Pacific Salmon Dynamics, and 4) New Research Methods and Techniques in Ocean Salmon Research. Both oral and poster presentations summarized research results in these four Topics.

In summary the following key research issues have been identified at the 1999 NPAFC Symposium: ocean regime changes, hatchery and wild salmon interactions, archival tags, stock identification, bycatch, feeding behavior of salmon in coastal areas and offshore, coastal habitat degradation, and carrying capacity for juvenile and adult salmon in the marine environment. These key issues should be incorporated into the new NPAFC Science Plan to promote scientific activities within the NPAFC member nations.

Research papers were presented and submitted at the symposium by scientists of the Parties – Canada, Japan, Russia, and the United States of America. All papers were peer-reviewed and revised by the authors before final review and acceptance for publication by the Editorial Committee. A professional editor, Dr. Philip Symons, facilitated the review and revision process with the authors.

The staff of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission needs special recognition in all aspects of management of this symposium, from the planning to the production of the final publication of the proceedings. One of the things that make the staff of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission unique is their ability to organize and facilitate oral and written presentations at meetings and symposia in three different languages – English, Japanese, and Russian. In addition, they provide people at meetings that fluently translate scientific talks into clearly understood translations in your language. I know I speak for the Steering and Editorial Committee members and all the scientists and other participants in the symposium when I congratulate and thank all the staff members for their consistently superb work, done cheerfully under sometimes stressful time constraints: Vladimir Fedorenko, Hiroko Omori, Wakako Morris, and Denise McGrann-Pavlovic. We also thank our interpreters, Ms. Kondo-Blum and Ms. Safarova-Downey for their outstanding contributions to the Symposium.

Jack Helle
Chairman
Editorial Committee