

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to deliver my New Year greetings to all NPAFC colleagues. I was greatly honored to assume the presidency at the 15th Annual Meeting last October in Vladivostok, Russia, and I look forward to working with all of you over the next two years.

While I was attending the 15th Annual Meeting, I witnessed the Commission's balanced efforts in enforcement, scientific research and cooperation among the member States. I think the strength of our Commission lies in the shared purpose and active efforts of the Contracting Parties to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of North Pacific salmon resources for the benefit of domestic fishermen in their respective waters. As a result, from my point of view, the Commission in its brief history has become a model of positive and successful international cooperation.

Based on the Commission's achievements, I would like to say that the Performance Review of the Commission, as recommended by the General Assembly of the United Nations and FAO and to what we agreed at the last Annual Meeting, will be smoothly progressed, producing valuable outputs. I believe that the Performance Review results will be the useful means to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission and the awareness of the international fisheries community of our Commission's efforts and achievements. Furthermore we can draw an international attention to the North Pacific salmon stocks and introduce our valuable research results and enforcement activities.

Our scientists told us that there are regional fluctuations in salmon production in the North Pacific. It was suspected that the

fluctuations result from ongoing impacts of climate changes in line with the dramatic changes of the oceanographic conditions in the Bering Sea. Those facts are illuminated by the ecosystem study of salmon and ecologically related species in the entire Bering Sea, being carried out by the NPAFC Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Survey (BASIS). Therefore, I am very pleased that the NPAFC will host the International BASIS Symposium in Seattle, USA on November 23-25, 2008. I expect the symposium will contribute to increasing our understanding on how climate change affects salmon growth and survival in the ocean. As far as I know, research on the impact of climate change on a specific species through the overall ecosystem research has been insufficient so far. In this regard, I also expect that our advanced research will be able to give a good guidance to scientists of other international organizations carrying out research on climate change.

I would like to take this opportunity again to pay my sincere respect to my enforcement colleagues for their arduous effort in eliminating IUU fishing activities despite the rough seas. To further enhance our enforcement activities through cooperation with other relevant organizations such as the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, I am particularly glad to note that we decided to invite those organizations to our Enforcement Evaluation and Coordination Meeting, which will be held in Vancouver, Canada next February.

Our 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in Seattle, USA. It would be my greatest honor to welcome all of you there. When the expertise and knowledge from the colleagues in each part of the NPAFC's activities bring us to the discussion, I am sure that we could be further equipped with the effective tools of protection and conservation of the North Pacific salmon resources.

In closing, I would like to warmly offer you and your families my best wishes for the New Year. I hope that 2008 will be another productive and fruitful year.



Dohyung Koo
NPAFC President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Year's Message from the President	1
NPAFC 15th Annual Meeting in Vladivostok, Russia	2-3
Working Group on Stock Assessment	4
30th Anniversary of Research Coordinating Group	5
Profiles of Newly Appointed NPAFC Representatives	6
Profiles of New Committee Chairs	6
Announcement of 2008 BASIS Symposium	7
News from the Secretariat	8

An electronic edition is available at <http://www.npafc.org>.

NPAFC 15th Annual Meeting

October 8-11, 2007, Vladivostok, Russia

CSRS SUMMARY FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING



The Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics (CSRS) met on October 8-11, 2007, in Vladivostok, Russia. Dr. V. Karpenko of Russia chaired the session.

A total of 47 scientific documents were submitted to the Commission, and each Party presented them for discussion. The documents are available on the NPAFC website (www.npafc.org).

The Working Group on Stock Assessment confirmed preliminary 2006 commercial catch remained at high levels. The estimated catch in 2006 (863,000 tonnes) was slightly higher than the mean annual catch since 1990 (854,000 tonnes). Chum and pink salmon constituted the majority of the catch (41 and 39% by weight, respectively), followed by sockeye (17%), coho (2%) and chinook salmon (1%).

The Science Sub-Committee (SSC) agreed to act as the Steering Committee for the “Long-Term Monitoring and Research Project” funded by the Moore Foundation. The project aims to establish a long-term, integrated research and monitoring plan that will synthesize past research and identify critical areas for new research to understand impacts of future climate and ocean changes on the population dynamics of Pacific salmon. Dr. R. Beamish is designated as the project leader, and designated scientists will be invited to two project meetings. The first meeting will be held in Korea on April 7-9, 2008, in conjunction with the next Research Planning and Coordinating Meeting (RPCM). The second meeting is scheduled for the fall of 2008 in Vancouver, Canada.

The Working Group on Salmon Marking reported that the number of otolith marked salmon released from Pacific Rim hatcheries was 1.49 billion in 2006 and 1.62 billion in 2007. The otolith mark release information is available from the Working Group website (<http://npafc.taglab.org/>). All Parties have submitted their mark plans for 2007 brood stocks. There were no mark duplications among countries for all species. It was noted that 85 unique marks are applied to chum salmon.

The Working Group reviewed the use of otolith marks assigned to countries for pink, chum, and sockeye salmon. There has been good compliance with the intended country codes, and this information will be used for selection of otolith marks.

The *ad hoc* Working Group on Stock Identification discussed current status of genetic baselines of Pacific salmon. Japan submitted a document on updated chum salmon DNA baselines. Other Parties were encouraged to provide the latest information to promote and review the development of chum salmon baselines. Canada suggested that developing a DNA database for pink salmon would be useful, because pink salmon are a dominant component of the salmonid community. A possibility of seeking external funding to support this research was also proposed.

The BASIS Working Group updated the working plan for BASIS Symposium, which is scheduled for November 23-25, 2008 in Seattle, USA. The symposium information is now available at the NPAFC website (http://www.npafc.org/new/basis_home.html). The group discussed the summary document titled “Review of the Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Survey (BASIS) 2002-2006”. A draft document will be prepared prior to the 2008 RPCM meeting. The draft plan of BASIS Phase II is also being compiled by the Parties.

The Salmon Tagging Group reviewed the Japanese proposal on coordination and management of high-seas salmon tagging. A consensus point of agreement was reached that the CSRS establish a new Working Group on Salmon Tagging. This Working Group will then consider the Japanese proposal in developing procedures for high-seas tagging database management. A new NPAFC-logo disc tag will be developed for the future international high-seas salmon tagging research to clarify stock-specific marine distribution and migration behavior of salmon. Access to high-seas tagging data will be managed via the NPAFC website with appropriate security measures.

In response to requests by the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) at the last NPAFC Annual Meeting, PICES scientists were invited on board the US research vessel *Oscar Dyson* for their micronekton inter-calibration experiment. The Working Group on Stock Assessment will contribute the updates on status of Pacific salmon in the PICES North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report. Regarding the proposed joint symposium with the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) in 2010, NPAFC scientists were invited to a special session “Salmon at Sea” during the NASCO Annual Meeting held in Bar Harbor, Maine, USA, and outlined the NPAFC science activities, the status of Pacific salmon, and the BASIS results.

Shigehiko Urawa
NPAFC Deputy Director



CSRS in session at the NPAFC 15th Annual Meeting
Photo by Vladimir M. Kobzar

ENFO SUMMARY FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

The NPAFC Committee on Enforcement (ENFO) met in conjunction with the NPAFC Annual Meeting hosted by Russia, in Vladivostok, from October 8 to 9, 2007. All the Parties were well represented, and Taiwan participated as a welcomed observer.

The major agenda item for the ENFO during the Annual Meeting is a report from each Party on enforcement actions and observed activities contrary to the provisions of the Convention. Noteworthy in 2007 was a near fifty percent reduction in observed suspicious IUU activity, coupled with the interdiction of seven vessels for illegal fishing activity. This was truly a team effort. Patrol ships from Russia and the United States interdicted these illegal vessels based on sighting information provided by Canadian, Japanese, and Russian surveillance flights. Although not a member, China assisted by sending a patrol vessel to take custody of and escort six of the seven vessels which were of Chinese registry. The seventh vessel, apprehended by Russia, was flying an Indonesian flag.

Canada again staged surveillance flights out of a U.S. airbase in the Aleutian Islands and sighted nine vessels suspected of driftnet fishing in the Convention Area. Japan patrolled with both ships and aircraft, and for the second year in a row, embarked a U.S. Coast Guard representative on a flight. This flight resulted in the subsequent seizure of an illegal fishing vessel. Russia also patrolled with both ships and aircraft. Their efforts resulted in the seizure of the Indonesian flagged *Rong Sheng 828* with 90 tons of salmon on board. U.S. ships and aircraft, in close cooperation with the other Parties, apprehended six IUU fishing vessels. Taiwan reported patrolling for 240 days in the Convention Area and sighting



*ENFO in session at the NPAFC 15th Annual Meeting
Photo by Vladimir M. Kobzar*

seven driftnet vessels. All Parties pledged similar levels of enforcement efforts for 2008.

In addition to enforcement activities, the ENFO discussed the Integrated Information System (IIS) and cooperation with other North Pacific enforcement groups. IIS is the NPAFC's web based tool that enforcement agencies use to share information and coordinate enforcement activities. Captain Lukyanov of Russia was commended for his work on this system. All Parties were encouraged to expand the use of IIS for both coordinating at sea patrol efforts, as well as a tool for distributing information on vessels of interest down to the port enforcement agency level. Of particular note was a committee initiative to invite both the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and North Pacific Coast Guard Forum to a tripartite meeting to be held in conjunction with the next EECM. All three commissions have an interest in IUU fishing in the North Pacific.

Robert Martinolich of Canada was elected as a new Chair of ENFO. Canada agreed to host the 2008 Enforcement Evaluation Coordination Meeting (EECM) in Vancouver February 27–29 where the Parties will plan enforcement activities for 2008.

*Mike Cerne
Former Chairman of ENFO*



*15th Annual Meeting Participants
Photo by Vladimir M. Kobzar*

Working Group on Stock Assessment: Activities and Salmon Status Update



The Working Group on Stock Assessment is one of four working groups operating under the direction of the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics (CSRS). The Working Group was formed in 1995 to coordinate the development of catch and escapement databases for salmon, to produce accurate and timely estimates of hatchery production, and to study ways of developing methods for measuring the abundance of wild salmon (i.e. assessing stock status or health). It has representatives from each member country (i.e. Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States).

The Working Group assembles information on seven species: chinook, coho, pink, sockeye, chum, and cherry (masu) salmon plus steelhead. Check out the NPAFC website for a brief description of each species (http://www.npafc.org/new/science_species.html). A recently published NPAFC Bulletin (http://www.npafc.org/new/pub_bulletin4.html) summarises salmon stock status information.

Assessing the status of seven species of salmon is no simple task! Salmon are distributed over much of the North Pacific Ocean, and each species has multiple populations, many of which have distinct life history patterns. To complicate matters further, the status of salmon populations varies within species and over time.

Traditionally, the NPAFC (and its predecessor the the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC)) used commercial catch estimates as a surrogate for stock status. These data indicate that overall, salmon status is good. Catches increased between the 1970's and 1990's, and have remained high since then, although there is annual variability (Fig. 1). In most years, Alaska catches the greatest proportion of the catch by weight, followed usually by Russia and Japan. Much fewer salmon are caught in and south of British Columbia, and in recent years the proportion of salmon caught in these southern

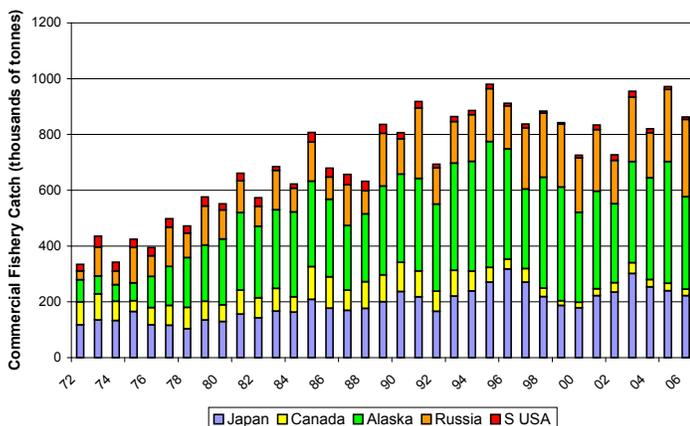


Fig. 1. Commercial marine catch of Pacific salmon by region.

waters has been decreasing, consistent with our understanding of declining status for salmon in the southern portion of their natural range.

Chum and pink salmon are the most important species (by weight) in commercial catches (Fig. 2). Pink salmon have a two year life cycle; usually there are higher catches in odd years than even years. Sockeye are the third most abundant species in the catch. Fewer chinook and coho catches are caught, and their relative contributions have decreased over time.

Aggregate catch data provide a reasonable proxy for overall species health, but may be misleading if effort is inconsistent,

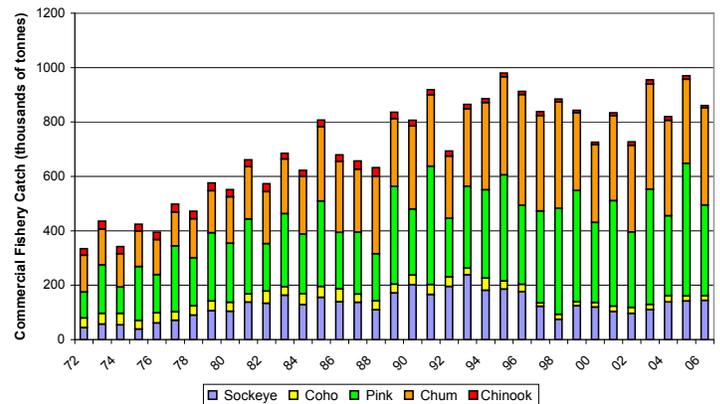


Fig. 2. Commercial marine catch of Pacific salmon by species.

and can mask regional/small population concerns. For these reasons, the Stock Assessment Working Group plans to break out their analyses into finer geographical units, and look at data other than catch.

A major new salmon status assessment is scheduled for the 2008 NPAFC Annual Meeting. We plan to characterise status for each species within approximately 16 geographic areas. Data types (in addition to catch) may include total return (i.e. catch + spawning escapement) estimates, spawning escapement estimates, hatchery release data, survival, and size at age.

Jim Irvine
NPAFC Stock Assessment Working Group Co-chair

30th Anniversary of Research Coordinating Group



NPAFC just completed its 15th Anniversary in 2007 — so might some readers be surprised that November 2007 marked the 30th Anniversary of the Research Planning and Coordinating Group (RPCG)? The NPAFC's RPCG meets annually each spring to plan and coordinate scientific activities of the Commission for the coming year. The Group's origin dates back to the old days of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC, 1955–1992). At the 1977 Annual Meeting of the INPFC in Anchorage, Alaska, a recommendation was adopted to establish an informal salmon research coordinating group consisting of the Salmon Sub-Committee's three-country (Canada, Japan, USA)

series, methods of tagging and data collection, and methods of obtaining average weights for conversion of numbers of fish to weight in the landbased driftnet fishery.” Provisional recommendations for salmon tagging experiments relative to preference for times and areas were made. Dr. Burgner presented a request to Japan for scale samples and associated data for scale pattern analyses. Mr. MacDonald discussed the possible use of parasites and X-ray spectrography for stock identification. Specifics of research plans, vessel scheduling and coordination were discussed at a subsequent meeting held in Shimizu, Japan, in January 1978. Although the U.S.S.R. was not a member of INPFC, Soviet scientists participated from the outset in this informal research coordination process via correspondence, e.g., approving the USA's use of salmon scale samples collected in Soviet Far East sea regions (letter from Dr. P.A. Moiseev, Deputy Director, VNIRO).



*1977 INPFC Annual Meeting
Photo by Frank Flavin*

This successful historical model for international research planning and coordinating continues to date in the form of NPAFC's annual spring meetings of the RPCG. But the ways and means of research planning and coordinating are rapidly changing. For example, many scientists now make widespread use of the internet for rapid and inexpensive communications about their research plans. While we cannot predict what the future holds, it's wise to remember history and to perpetuate original concept of our “forefathers”. That is—informal research planning and coordination leads to greater international cooperation and the best that science has to offer.

*Katherine Myers
University of Washington, U.S.A.*

spokesman members or their alternates (INPFC Doc. 2025, p. 4). The Sub-Committee's view was that “a greater level of cooperation in planning of research vessel operations, execution of research, exchange of data, and analyses” would result in “more reliable estimates of continent of origin of salmon species” in high seas catches.

The Group met for the first time in Seattle, Washington, on November 9, 1977. Participants in the meeting included Mr. Jack MacDonald (Pacific Biological Station, representing Canada), Mr. Kenji Takagi (Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory, representing Japan), and Dr. Robert Burgner (University of Washington, representing the USA), as well as Dr. Frank Fukuhara (University of Washington), who participated in the meeting and assisted as interpreter. At this meeting, the Group focused on discussing three principal methods for stock identification of salmon in mixed-stock high seas catches: (1) age composition and maturity data, (2) scale growth pattern analyses, and (3) tagging and recapture. Mr. Takagi provided information on Japanese research vessel operations, including “kinds of vessels used, pattern of deployment each year, normal times of the three seasonal survey



2007 RPCM in Honolulu

PROFILES OF NEWLY APPOINTED NPAFC REPRESENTATIVES

DOHYUNG KOO — REPRESENTATIVE OF KOREA



Dr. Dohyung Koo received his bachelor's degree in Oceanography and Master's degree in Physical Oceanography (2000–2001, Republic of Korea), and defended his Ph.D. in Satellite Oceanography (2006, United Kingdom). Dr. Koo has been working since as Deputy Director, Ocean Conservation Team and International Cooperation Team, at the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea.

SUMIO KUSAKA — REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN



Mr. Sumio Kusaka was appointed as the new Representative of Japan to the NPAFC in October, 2007. Mr. Kusaka is a career diplomat and has served for the Embassies of Japan in Australia, Canada, Tanzania and the United States. In addition, he has held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was also seconded to the Prime Minister's Office as Executive Secretary to the Chief Cabinet Secretary and to the Ministry of Finance as Deputy Director-

General, International Bureau. Currently, Mr. Kusaka plays a pivotal role in the negotiations for the Japan – Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Japan – India EPA.

KI BAIK SEONG — REPRESENTATIVE OF KOREA



Dr. Ki Baik Seong graduated from the Pukyung National University in Pusan where he attained a doctorate degree in 1999. As a salmon specialist, Dr. Seong has conducted research into his salmon resource reinforcement and continued conservation researches in the past 20 years. In addition to the salmon research, he has also done research on trout and sturgeon. His sturgeon seedling

production was the first successful project in Korea. Dr. Seong is the author of the "Return to chum salmon in Namdaechon Yangyang" which was the first publication of its kind in Korea. Currently Dr. Seong dedicates his time to coded wire tag (CWT) analysis, age determination, hatching and the breeding of salmon. His research has contributed greatly to the increase of salmon returns to Korea and has generated increased income to its coastal fishermen. Dr. Seong is known as the "Salmon Father of South Korea".



Sockeye salmon in Bear Creek

Photo by M. Kaeriyama

PROFILES OF THE NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

YUKIMASA ISHIDA (Japan) — CSRS CHAIRMAN



Dr. Yukimasa Ishida is the Director of Project Management Division, Tohoku National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency (FRA). He was born in Osaka in 1953. In 1976 he graduated from the Tokyo University of Fisheries, and studied at the Ocean Research Institute, the University of Tokyo, and received his Ph.D. in 1981. In 1982 he started salmon study at the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries. He was involved in the INPFC and NPAFC activities as salmon scientist and served as the Chairman of CSRS during 2000–2001. At the last NPAFC Annual Meeting, Dr. Ishida was elected as Chairman of CSRS again. Now he is looking forward to working with salmon scientists of member countries at the NPAFC as an active "teenager".

ROBERT MARTINOLICH (Canada) — ENFO CHAIRMAN



Mr. Robert Martinolich joined Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as a fishery officer in 1978. He worked in communities throughout British Columbia over the course of his 29-year career. He has held the position of Chief of Enforcement Operations at Pacific Regional Headquarters for the past 16 years. Enforcement Operations has a staff of 26 fishery officers and one program manager. Its programs include the regional Special Investigations Unit, Aerial Surveillance Program, and groundfish enforcement coordination. Since 1990 he has directed international enforcement activities against Illegal Unregulated Unreported fishing in the northern Pacific Ocean in partnership with member nations of the NPAFC. Mr. Martinolich serves as DFO's enforcement representative at international fora including the NPAFC, Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, North Pacific Heads of Coast Guard Forum, Canada/United States Tuna Treaty negotiations, and the Canada/United States Reciprocal Enforcement Agreement. He was born into a commercial fishing family in British Columbia. His father and two uncles are credited with developing the drum for setting and retrieving purse seines, and modifying the seine gear to improve its efficiency. Mr. Martinolich fished salmon and herring with his father for seven years prior to joining DFO. He holds a diploma in Renewable Resource Management from the British Columbia Institute of Technology and is a qualified firearms instructor. He was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2002 for his work in combating high-seas driftnet fishing in the northern Pacific Ocean.

SERGEY MAKSIMOV (Russia) — F&A CHAIRMAN



Dr. Sergey Maksimov is the Head of Division in the Department of Science and Education of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, Russian Federation. He started his career as a working scientific employee at the Moscow State University with the Department of Ichthyology and received his Ph.D. in white-fish biodiversity in 2004. Now, his main task is a coordination of marine expedition projects and development of marine and freshwater scientific research for fisheries in the Russian Federation. Dr. Maksimov is a Representative of Russia to the NPAFC.

**NPAFC International Symposium on Bering-Aleutian Salmon
International Surveys (BASIS):**

Climate Change, Production Trends and Carrying Capacity of Pacific Salmon in the Bering Sea and Adjacent Waters

November 23-25, 2008

Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle, WA, USA

Call for Papers

Three-day symposium will include oral and poster presentations. Abstracts (less than 400 words) must be submitted to NPAFC Secretariat by **April 28, 2008**. All papers presented at the symposium will be considered for publication in a NPAFC Bulletin series following peer-review.

Registration

Please complete your registration no later than **October 6, 2008** via on-line, mail or fax.

For More Information

Please visit the NPAFC website (www.npafc.org) or contact NPAFC Secretariat.



NPAFC

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Enforcement Evaluation and Coordination Meeting (EECM)

Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada: February 27-29, 2008

First Workshop on Long Term Research and Monitoring Project

Hotel Maremons, Sokcho-Si, Gangwon-do, Korea: April 7-9, 2008

Research Planning and Coordinating Meeting (RPCM)

Hotel Maremons, Sokcho-Si, Gangwon-do, Korea: April 10-11, 2008



Sokcho-Si, Gangwon-do, Korea

NPAFC 16th Annual Meeting

Seattle Convention Center, Seattle WA, USA: November 17-21, 2008

NPAFC International Symposium on BASIS

Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle WA, USA: November 23-25, 2008



Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

PUBLICATION

NPAFC Bulletin No. 4, the proceedings of the NPAFC-PICES Joint Symposium "The Status of Pacific Salmon and Their Role in North Pacific Marine Ecosystems" held on Jeju Island, Korea, October 30-November 1, 2005, is available at the Secretariat or on our website (www.npafc.org). It consists of 31 peer-reviewed papers.

Now Available!!



RECIPE FROM OUR PEOPLE

JAPAN

When the weather turns wintry, the Japanese long for hot-pot dishes to warm their bodies and souls. By adding fish and vegetable to miso soup, hot pot dishes become very nutritious. I would like to introduce to you this well known Hokkaido hot pot.

*Kazutoshi Nara
National Salmon Resources Center*

Ishikari-nabe (Salmon miso hot pot)

Serves 4

Ingredients: 2 small fillets* salmon (We use chum, but any other species are fine)
4 medium potatoes
1 large carrot
1/2 daikon (Asian large white radish--sold in Asian produce stores)
4 large shiitake mushrooms (Fresh if possible. If dried, soak in water until mushrooms are soft)
1 Japanese green onion (Japanese green onions are large and long called Naga negi)
15 cm kelp (Dashi konbu: used for making stock)
5 tbsp. white miso (Not red miso)
1 litre cold water

Serve Hot!!

(*amount: optional)



Cut salmon into bite size portions; peel potatoes, carrot and daikon then cut into bite size portions; remove stem of shiitake mushrooms, make a cross shape incision on the cap as a decoration. Put 1 litre of cold water in a pot. Add kelp, potatoes, carrots and daikon and bring to a boil. Cook until ingredients are soft. Put salmon into the pot. Add miso into the soup soon after the salmon is cooked. Use a ladle to dissolve miso gradually. Cut green onions diagonally into about 1 cm size and add to the pot before turning off the heat.

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Visit the NPAFC website: <http://www.npafc.org> for more information on events, publications, scientific documents, and salmon catch statistics.

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