
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

2021 Virtual Annual Meeting
2021 May 10-20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH SEAS PACIFIC SALMON RESEARCH REVIEWED AND PLANNED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Vancouver, BC, Canada (May 28, 2021)—International scientific experts of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) member countries (Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States) held a three-day virtual meeting using both e-mail communication and videoconferencing, to review current information related to salmon abundance and biology during the NPAFC 29th Annual Meeting.

In addition to presenting salmon catch and hatchery statistics, the scientists planned, reviewed, and coordinated exchanges of scientific data and samples, and assessed scientific studies of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout in international waters and the adjacent seas of the North Pacific.

At the Annual Meeting, all five NPAFC member countries unanimously agreed to continue support for the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) Initiative. Despite challenges posed by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the IYS has had a productive year with considerable progress made in three major areas—the 2022 Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition, the Likely Suspects Framework, and Data Mobilization. Planning for the 2022 IYS Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition by scientists from all five NPAFC member countries is progressing well. This is the third expedition, after the 2019 and 2020 expeditions, and will send multiple research vessels to survey the winter ecology of Pacific salmon across the entire North Pacific Ocean (NPO). There has been notional support for ship time contributions from Canada, Russia, and the United States, and has been partial financial support from the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB), the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF), and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) to charter a fourth vessel. The IYS continues to seek funding from multiple sources and potential partners in order to ensure comprehensive coverage of the North Pacific Ocean during the 2022 Expedition.

The current 2016–2022 NPAFC Science Plan supports the NPAFC’s primary objective of promoting the conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout within the Convention Area and is integrated with the IYS initiative. To review the research progress for the NPAFC Science Plan, and to promote IYS activities and outreach in member countries, the third NPAFC-IYS Online Workshop on *Linkages between Pacific Salmon Production and Environmental Changes* will be virtually held on May 25–27, 2021 (Canada and USA); May 26–28, 2021 (Japan, Korea, and Russia). There will be over 90 presentations along with discussion and summary over the three-day live sessions of the workshop: 13 invited keynote presentations, 15 live oral and 31 pre-recorded oral presentations, as well as 32 E-posters. The objectives of the workshop are to: (1) improve knowledge of the migration, growth, and survival of salmon and their environments; (2) increase understanding of the causes of variations in salmon production in changing environments; (3) anticipate future changes in salmon ecosystems and resulting changes in the distribution, survival, and abundance of salmon; (4) discuss application of new and developing technologies and analytical methods to research and manage salmon; (5) demonstrate integrated information/data management systems to support research, sustainable management, and understanding for the conservation of salmon; and (6) describe policies designed to ensure the resilience of salmon and people in changing environments.

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Contact: Vladimir Radchenko
NPAFC Executive Director
Phone: +1-604-775-5550
E-mail: secretariat@npafc.org
Website: <https://npafc.org>

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.
