
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

2021 Virtual Annual Meeting
2021 May 10–20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NPAFC INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR SALMON AND STEELHEAD CONSERVATION PRESENTED TO DR. JAMES IRVINE AND DR. SHIGEHICO URAWA

Vancouver, BC, Canada (May 28, 2021)—Dr. James Irvine and Dr. Shigehiko Urawa received the 2021 North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Award at the Commission’s 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting. Dr. Irvine is a research scientist, Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Nanaimo, BC, Canada. Dr. Urawa has just retired from Salmon Research Department, Fisheries Resources Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, Sapporo, Japan, but continues to be involved in NPAFC as a guest scientist.

Both were selected for the 2021 Award in recognition of their sustained scientific contributions to the Commission’s mission to conserve and manage anadromous salmon and steelhead stocks in the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas. Dr. Irvine and Dr. Urawa chaired the Working Group on Stock Assessment (WGSA) from 2003–2018 and the Science Sub-Committee (SSC) from 2012–2020, respectively, and provided skillful guidance and leadership for encouraging international cooperation for scientific research.

Dr. Irvine and Dr. Urawa contributed to the memorial book for the 25th NPAFC Anniversary “The Ocean Ecology of Pacific Salmon and Trout” which was published by the American Fisheries Society in 2018: Dr. Irvine was an author of *Pacific Salmon Stock Assessment* and Dr. Urawa was a lead author of a chapter on *Ocean Ecology of Chum Salmon*.

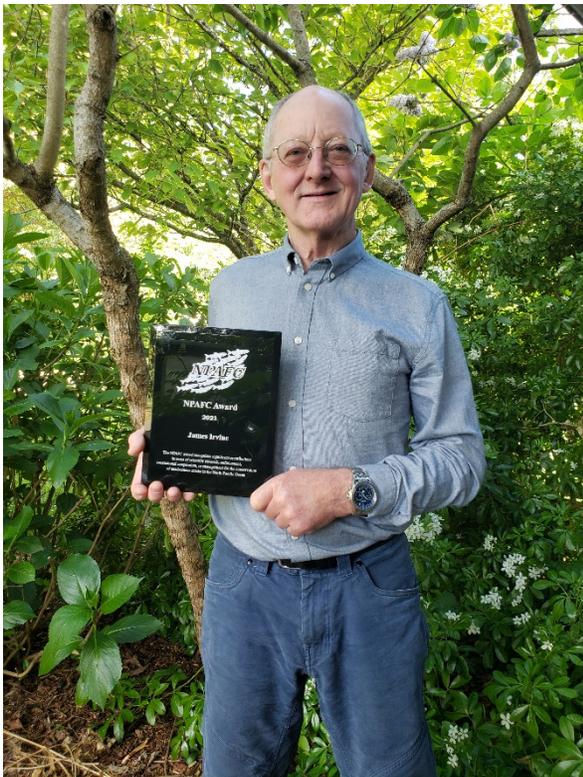
Dr. Irvine is well-known nationally and internationally as an authority on Pacific salmon and the factors controlling their production, both in Canada and throughout the North Pacific Ocean. For two decades, Dr. Irvine has provided extensive leadership to the NPAFC as Chair of the WGSA, where he oversaw activities of salmon scientists from Japan, Korea, Canada, Russia, and the United States in the assembly and interpretation of salmon marine catch and hatchery release data and he led the process to make these data publicly available through the NPAFC website. Dr. Irvine has authored or co-authored approximately 270 scientific publications, of which about 80 are peer-reviewed. His leadership also resulted in a joint NPAFC-North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) Study Group (2009–2014) where he was the driving force behind the drafting, completion, and ratification of the 2014 NPAFC-PICES Framework for Enhanced Scientific Cooperation. This framework formalized partnerships between these leading international research bodies resulting in collaborative research and activities.

Dr. Urawa has been a Japanese member of the CSRS SSC since 2000, including chairing the SSC from 2012–2020 to promote cooperative science activities by member countries and international organizations, and led the development of the 2011–2015 and 2016–2022 NPAFC Science Plans. He has organized dozens of workshops/symposia for reviewing the research progress under the NPAFC Science Plans. He was also involved in the creation and activities of CSRS Working Groups on Stock Identification, Salmon Tagging, and Salmon Marking. He succeeded in establishing the seasonal ocean migration model of Japanese chum salmon using stock identification techniques developed by the working group members. During a long career over 25 years with the NPAFC, including an NPAFC Deputy Director (2006–2010), he contributed 16 articles to the NPAFC Bulletins, 26 extended abstracts to the NPAFC Technical Reports, and 122 documents to the NPAFC Commission, in addition to over 60 peer-reviewed articles.

Dr. Irvine stated, “It is a real honor to be recognized with the 2021 North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Award. Thanks to my Canadian colleagues for nominating me, and the Award Selection Committee for choosing me for this prestigious award, along with my friend and colleague Hiko Urawa. My interactions with the international scientific community, and in particular those with NPAFC have been among the most gratifying aspects of my career. I know that we have had a positive impact on the conservation of salmon in the North Pacific Ocean. Although I retire this summer, I will be applying for an emeritus position with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and plan to remain involved with domestic and international fisheries research for some time to come.”

Dr. Urawa stated, “It is indeed a great privilege to have been a part of this prestigious Intergovernmental Organization and to be honored with this distinguished North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Award. I extend my appreciation to my fellow salmon scientists from Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America who assisted me to achieve scientific activities. I thank the Commission and the delegates who granted me this award. It is the highest honor for me. I am pleased to keep my research activities for the conservation of Pacific salmon facing uncertainties associated with environmental changes.”

Established in 2011, the NPAFC Award is given to recognize an individual or group whose sustained and significant contributions in scientific research, enforcement, international cooperation, or management have helped improve the conservation of anadromous salmon and steelhead stocks in the North Pacific Ocean.



Dr. James Irvine, the recipient of the 2021 NPAFC Award.



Dr. Shigehiko Urawa, the recipient of the 2021 NPAFC Award.

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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.
