
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

2020 E-mail Annual Meeting
2020 May 19–June 11

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Vancouver, BC, Canada (June 11, 2020)—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 e-mail communication, to review current information related to salmon abundance and biology during the NPAFC 28th 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. In addition, many partnerships were formed, maintained, and strengthened during this time, with considerable progress being made on IYS Signature Projects, particularly the High Seas Expeditions. The IYS Pan-Pacific High Seas Expedition 2021, which will employ multiple research vessels to survey the full breadth of the North Pacific Ocean in winter 2021, is currently being planned. A preliminary cruise plan for the IYS 2021 expedition was reviewed and additional research cruise plans for 2020 were also discussed. These could include salmon surveys in the Bering Sea, the northwestern North Pacific, and the southern Sea of Okhotsk. Research cruises may employ survey vessels from a variety of sources including government, university, and chartered fishing boats. Research survey objectives vary by season and location, and include data-gathering on topics such as, migration timing, abundance, distribution, survival, marine ecology, run size forecasting, stock identification, and salmon growth and body condition.

The current 2016–2020 NPAFC Science Plan was extended until 2022, which corresponds to the IYS timeline and the IYS wrap-up symposium in 2022. The 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, it was agreed that the third NPAFC-IYS Workshop on *Linkages between Pacific Salmon Production and Environmental Changes* will be held in Hakodate, Japan on May 22–24, 2021, following the 29th NPAFC Annual Meeting. The objectives of the workshop will be to: (1) improve current 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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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.
