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# North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

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8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – 2000  
Tokyo, Japan  
2000 October 30-November 2

## NEWS RELEASE

Representatives of Canada, Japan, Russia, and the United States, the primary states of origin for salmon stocks in the North Pacific, met in Tokyo, Japan from October 30-November 2, 2000, for the Eighth Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). Observers from the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) and the Republic of Korea were also in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Fran Ulmer, Lieutenant Governor of Alaska and President of the NPAFC.

The NPAFC was established by the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean (the Convention) which became effective on February 16, 1993. The Convention prohibits directed fishing for salmonids on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean and includes provisions to minimize the number of salmonids taken in other fisheries. The NPAFC promotes the conservation of salmonids in the North Pacific and its adjacent seas and serves as a venue for cooperation in and coordination of enforcement activities and scientific research.

The NPAFC's Committees on Enforcement, Scientific Research and Statistics, and Finance and Administration met to consider activities of the Parties in support of the objectives of the Convention.

The Committee on Enforcement reviewed enforcement efforts and unauthorized salmon fishing activities in the Convention Area in 2000. The cooperative enforcement efforts were highlighted by the apprehension of the Honduran registered fishing vessel ARCTIC WIND. A second vessel was detected, but fled from the Convention Area before it could be apprehended.

The attendance of the agencies directly responsible for the planning and execution of enforcement activities within the Convention Area highlighted participation in the Enforcement meeting. This including representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, the State Fisheries Committee of the Russian Federation and the Russian Northeast Directorate of Federal Border Service, the United States National Marine Fisheries Service, and the United States Coast Guard. Due to the continued threat of high seas fishing for salmon in the Convention Area, all Parties agreed to maintain 2001 enforcement activities at high levels as a deterrent to the threat of potential unauthorized fishing activities. The Russian Federation invited all the participants to an enforcement coordination meeting in 2001, which will be held in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

The Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics reviewed and discussed scientific research on a broad range of issues concerning Pacific salmonid stocks including the relationship between changes in abundance and in ocean and atmospheric conditions and other biological

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and ecological dynamics of salmonid production. A new NPAFC Science Plan was adopted, in response to recent unanticipated declines in salmon abundance. This Plan will focus on three areas of cooperative research: Bering Sea salmon research, juvenile salmon research, and winter salmon research. It provides for increased levels of collaboration among the four nations. Workplans will be further defined at the Research Planning and Coordinating Meeting (RPCM) in Seattle in March 2001 which will be held in conjunction with the Northeast Pink and Chum Salmon Workshop. The Commission will also host a Workshop on Salmon Otolith Marking in Seattle following the RPCM.

The NPAFC discussed ways to increase cooperation with PICES, NASCO, IBSFC, and other relevant international organizations to examine research and data needed to meet the common challenges facing salmon.

A juvenile salmon workshop was held immediately before the Annual meeting in Tokyo, which analyzed factors affecting production of juvenile salmon. It was jointly sponsored by NPAFC and PICES and attended by over 50 persons from 8 nations.

Nearly 4.7 billion juvenile hatchery salmon were released in the North Pacific in 1999 and total commercial salmon catch was 834,730 metric tons.

The Committee on Finance and Administration considered and adopted the 2000/2001 budget. Administrative topics were discussed and approved.

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the NPAFC is scheduled to be held in Victoria, Canada in October 2001.

*For Information*

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