
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

11th Annual Meeting – 2003
Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.
2003 October 26-31

NEWS RELEASE

Representatives of Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States, the primary states of origin for salmon stocks in the North Pacific, met in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. on October 26-31, 2003, for the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). Observers from the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) were also in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Anatoly Makoedov, 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.

On May 27, 2003 the Republic of Korea deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention and became the fifth member of the NPAFC.

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 Parties reviewed enforcement efforts and activities in the Convention Area in 2003. All of the agencies directly responsible for the planning and execution of enforcement activities within the Convention Area attended, including representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, the State Fisheries Committee of the Russian Federation and the Russian Federal Border Service, the United States National Marine Fisheries Service, and the United States Coast Guard. The cooperative enforcement efforts of the Parties have been successful in reducing illegal salmon fishing in the Convention Area. Due to the continued threat of high seas fishing for salmon in the Convention Area, all Parties agreed to maintain 2004 enforcement activities at high levels as a deterrent to the threat of potential unauthorized fishing activities. Japan invited all the participants to the Enforcement Evaluation and Coordination Meeting in 2004.

International cooperation in salmon research among the Parties was reviewed and discussed on a broad range of issues concerning Pacific salmonid stocks. This exchange is helping in the quest to seek answers to many perplexing questions concerning factors affecting changes in

abundance, the effects of ocean and atmospheric conditions, and other biological and ecological dynamics affecting salmonid production. The Parties will continue cooperative initiatives through the Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Survey Program (BASIS) and the associated NPAFC science workplan. BASIS will provide the first ever comprehensive seasonal information on distribution, abundance, and stock origins of all salmon species in the Bering Sea and adjacent areas. A BASIS workshop will be held following the 2004 NPAFC Annual Meeting. Russia invited the participants to the Research Planning and Coordinating Meeting to be held in spring 2004.

The NPAFC scientific initiatives will be integrated with other international organization's research and data needs to meet the common challenges facing salmon. An International Workshop on "Application of Stock Identification in Defining Marine Distribution and Migration Salmon" will be held following this meeting in Honolulu.

The North Pacific Research Board is funding two NPAFC research projects using tags and genetic identification methods to help define stock distribution and migration patterns.

The total 2002 commercial salmon catch was 726,852 metric tons. This is a decrease from the 2001 commercial catch of 818,205 metric tons. While commercial catches have been in a slow decline since reaching a peak in the mid 1990s, this decline is reflective of world markets and natural variations in stock abundance.

Mr. Koji Imamura, of Japan was elected as new President of the NPAFC.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the NPAFC is scheduled to be held in Sapporo, Japan in October 2004.

For Information

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