

XI. Closing Remarks

Thank you, Dr. Wakabayashi:

I appreciate this opportunity to deliver a few concluding remarks to this symposium, which represents a milestone in the relatively short history of NPAFC.

Dr. Low has very ably summarized the scientific presentations given over the past two days. There is, therefore, clearly no need for me to do so. Instead, with your permission, I would like to reflect briefly on the past and make a few comments on the future.

When the former INPFC initiated its research program some forty years ago, we knew little about the ocean distribution of salmonids in general and individual stocks or stock groups in particular. After some 35 years of research under the INPFC banner, we had learned a great deal about salmonid distribution and migrations in the ocean, and something about the factors affecting these life history features. But there is still much more to be learned in the area of species and stock interactions, and on the influence of oceanographic and ocean climatic factors on the abundance and distribution of salmonids. This is especially important in the face of anticipated ocean climate changes.

In the present symposium, the status of knowledge of stock conditions and of some of the factors affecting stock abundance, growth, and other related aspects of salmonid biology have been addressed. It will be left to the younger generation of scientists to build on this knowledge and to further our understanding of salmonid production, biology, and ecology in the North Pacific. I am sure that this symposium will not be the last to be organized by the member countries of the NPAFC to bring scientists of North Pacific countries together to share new information as it accumulates.

Long before the establishment of the NPAFC, our four countries had already initiated a series of scientific symposia on Pacific salmonids, with meetings having been held in Sakhalin, Alaska, and British Columbia. The present symposium and those that are certain to follow may be looked upon as an extension of those events started close to 20 years ago.

When I spoke at the closing of the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics of the NPAFC, which was held in

Vladivostok in June 1993, I noted that the participating scientists would be proud to tell their grandchildren of their involvement in that historic event, which heralded a new era of scientific cooperation among our four nations. I believe I can echo those words with respect to your participation in the first symposium organized under the auspices of the NPAFC.

I would be remiss if I did not take this moment to thank the many people involved with organizing the symposium, starting with Dr. Akira Taniguchi, Chairman of the Steering Committee, and the other members of the Steering Committee including Dr. Douglas Eggers (USA), Dr. Osamu Hiroi (Japan), Dr. Donald Noakes (Canada), Dr. Sergei Sinyakov (Russia), and Dr. Kiyoshi Wakabayashi (Japan), who personally carried a tremendous load during the course of the symposium to ensure its success. Thanks are also extended to the members of the local organizing committee, which included Dr. Yukimasa Ishida, Dr. Masahide Kaeriyama, Mr. Kiyoshi Katsuyama, Dr. Hiroshi Ueda, and Dr. Kohei Yamauchi for their attention to the numerous details associated with planning the symposium. And of course the members of the NPAFC Secretariat, under the directorship of Dr. Irina Shestakova, deserve our thanks and appreciation for their excellent administrative support. Particular mention must be made of Deputy Director Hisashi Endo's role throughout the period of development and organization of the symposium.

Before leaving the podium, on behalf of all of the symposium participants, I would like to offer a special word of gratitude to our Japanese hosts for their kind and generous hospitality during our stay in Sapporo. It is always a welcome pleasure to experience the warmth and generosity of our Japanese colleagues.

Finally, for those of you who are travelling out of Sapporo to return to your homes, I wish you a safe and pleasant journey.

Thank you and bon voyage.

Leo Margolis
First Chairman
Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics
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