



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was honored very much to assume the presidency of the NPAFC at the 16th Annual Meeting last November in Seattle (USA), as the successor to Dr. D. Koo of Republic of Korea, and it is my great pleasure to say "A Happy New Year" to all in our NPAFC family.

The NPAFC has conducted its role beautifully in the NPAFC Convention Area for the last 16 years. Our philosophy of "mutual respect and trust of the researchers from the member nations" stated by Fran Ulmer has been nicely maintained, and our ambition to keep healthy salmon population in the North Pacific was successfully achieved. For example, member nations completed a 5-year joint research program (BASIS-I) successfully in 2006, and the total catch of Pacific salmon was the highest on record in 2007 – more than 1 million metric tonnes.

As we all know, the earth system has been changing rapidly since the latter part of the last century. Climate change induced by enhanced greenhouse gases influences on the natural ecosystems as well as human social structure including the fisheries economy. Therefore a proper and efficient fisheries management requires knowledge-based policy with precautionary concept. Our Commission for salmon management, in this regard, has had a great success, and has become one of the model fisheries organizations in the world. I am sure that the NPAFC is a well-balanced organization in science, enforcement, and international collaboration. Since I was elected as the President in November, however, I frequently asked myself what efforts the NPAFC can pursue more for better management of Pacific salmon in the future.

Especially, our efforts to eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fisheries would be the basis for ensuring sustainable fishery in the North Pacific. Furthermore, newly developing technologies such as satellite tracking buoys and the Integrated Information System (IIS) will improve ghost fishing characteristics and enforcement activities. Science has also made great progress. Internal collaboration within the NPAFC nations

conducted the BASIS-I research to clarify the mechanisms of ecological responses by salmon since 2002, and, based on results from the first phase, scientists are now planning the second phase of the BASIS. A grant award from the Moore Foundation was given to our Commission last year, enabling our scientists to set-up long-term research and monitoring plan for Pacific salmon, especially focusing on climate change effects. Also, in order to draw ordinary people's and policy makers' attention, some people in our Commission are considering the establishment of "The International Year of Salmon" in the near future. Out-reach and education will be one of the most important activities of the NPAFC.

Pacific salmon are very precious animal. However, the most important resource would be the young generations who have affection for salmon. Capacity building might be the critical issue determining the NPAFC's destiny. The CSRS Chair, Dr. Yukimasa Ishida, summarized the age distribution of presenters during the BASIS Symposium held in Seattle last November. It shows an increased number of young scientists and an even distribution of age groups in the 30s, 40s and 50s. This is a very good sign for Commission's future. Furthermore, the Secretariat plans to hire an NPAFC intern from this year, which will foster experienced young people for NPAFC. I hope our endeavor to train/support young salmon experts will continue and be expanded in every business of the NPAFC.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to other international organizations such as PICES, ICES, NASCO, NPCGF and WCPFC. They are our regional or thematic partners, and the purposes of our and their Commissions would be achieved more easily and efficiently through the international collaboration. Again, I wish all of you a Happy New Year, and look forward to meeting you and representatives from other international organizations at the coming Annual Meeting in Niigata, Japan, next November.



Suam Kim
NPAFC President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE (JANUARY 2009)

New Year's Message from the President.....	1
NPAFC 16 th Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, U.S.A.	2-3
2008 BASIS Symposium	4-5
Ad Hoc Working Group on Stock Identification.....	6-7
Profile of NPAFC Representative.....	8
News from the Secretariat.....	8

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