



CSRS Summary from the 2008 Annual Meeting

The **Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics (CSRS)** met on November 17-20, 2008, in Seattle, U.S.A. The group, including 58 participants from the five member countries was welcomed to the Seattle Convention Center by the host country, U.S.A. A total of 51 scientific documents were submitted to the Commission. The documents are available from the NPAFC website (www.npafc.org).

The Science Sub-Committee (SSC) summarized the progress on the development of the Long-Term Research and Monitoring Program funded by the Moore Foundation. The final reports are due in August 2009. There has been excellent cooperation and strong support for the project among all countries. Regarding proposed 2011 symposium to be held jointly with NASCO, it was agreed that a detailed budget and location should be proposed by NASCO for the discussion at the next RPCM in April 2009.

The Working Group on Stock Assessment confirmed that preliminary 2007 commercial catch from the North Pacific were at the highest level on record, exceeding one million tonnes. Pink and chum salmon constituted the majority of the catch (51 and 31% by weight respectively), sockeye salmon were 16%, while coho and chinook salmon were 2% and 1% respectively. Largest catches were reported by Alaska (430 thousand tonnes), Russia (349 thousand tonnes), and Japan (221 thousand tonnes).

The Working Group on Salmon Marking reported that the number of otolith marked salmon released from Pacific Rim hatcheries was 1.61 billion in 2007 and 1.55 billion in 2008. The otolith mark release information is available from the Working Group website (<http://npafc.taglab.org/>). All countries have submitted their mark plans in 2008. There were no mark duplications among countries for all species. It was noted that 83 unique marks are applied to chum salmon in 2008. The Working Group reviewed use of the otolith marks assigned to countries for pink, chum, and sockeye salmon. There has been good compliance with the intended country codes, and this document will be used for selection of otolith marks.

The *ad hoc* Working Group on Stock Identification evaluated current status of genetic baselines of Pacific salmon. Russia has been conducting scale pattern analyses on sockeye, chum, and Chinook salmon and is also working on genetic databases for sockeye salmon. Canada reported on its extensive baselines for

microsatellites with between 40,000 and 70,000 individuals for the five main species. The major efforts for Japan are focused on conducting genetic stock identification projects for chum salmon in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean. The United States is conducting multiple genetic stock identification projects on domestic fisheries for sockeye, chum, Chinook and coho salmon.

The BASIS Working Group discussed the review process of manuscripts for the proceedings of BASIS Symposium. The Working Group has decided to complete developing the final plan for BASIS Phase II at the 2009 RPCM.

The Salmon Tagging Working Group reviewed tagging activities in 2008. The new NPAFC tag and poster have been produced. A total of 1,598 salmonids were tagged and released in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in 2008. In 2007 and 2008, high seas tags were recovered from seven chum in Japan, seven sockeye in the US, and nine pink, one coho, and five chum salmon in Russia. A reward draw, future tagging activities, database management, and other items were discussed.

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) invited NPAFC to: 1) participate in the development of the second PICES North Pacific Ecosystem Status Report; 2) contribute to the salmon research component of the new PICES integrative scientific program, called FUTURE (Forecasting and Understanding Trends, Uncertainty and Responses of North Pacific Marine Ecosystems); and 3) co-sponsor the international symposium on "Forecasting Climate Change Impacts on Fish and Shellfish" to be held in spring 2010. It was agreed the co-sponsorship of symposium, and the chair of SSC, R. Beamish, would represent our Commission on the steering committee.

The spring RPCM will be held in April 2009 in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia.



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