



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION

New Year's Message from the President

I would like to take this opportunity to deliver New Year Greetings and extend my best wishes for a productive New Year to all NPAFC colleagues and fellow officers. I was greatly honoured to assume the presidency at the close of the 19th Annual Meeting last October in Nanaimo, Canada, in a place that is famous among salmon scientists. I look forward to working with all of you over the next two years.

While attending the last Annual Meeting, I witnessed the Commission's balanced efforts in the areas of enforcement and scientific research, and the high level of cooperation existing among the member states. Over the last year, our Commission received several recommendations and proposals for improvement from the performance review. In our deliberations, we have reached a consensus on many important questions. I look forward to 2012 as an excellent opportunity for our organization to move forward on several important issues.

We see that our joint enforcement efforts have successfully deterred Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activity. The Committee on Enforcement (ENFO) had a planning meeting before the driftnet season, which assisted in timely exchange of information regarding patrol efforts and sightings of suspicious fishing activity. I wish the ENFO every success at their upcoming Enforcement Evaluation and Coordination Meeting (EECM) next spring in Jeju, Korea.

Recent catches of Pacific salmon remain at historic high levels. The total commercial catch in 2010 by all producing countries was nearly one million tons, mostly composed of pink

and chum salmon. Immediately after the last Annual Meeting, the Commission hosted a scientific workshop, "Explanations for the High Abundance of Pink and Chum Salmon and Future Trends", to provide a forum for salmon specialists to discuss the conditions enabling the increase in salmon biomass in the North Pacific (see article, this issue). Scientific evidence suggests that during the past several decades significant variations in marine production of Asian and North American salmon populations may be linked to climate change. I hope scientists will take the opportunity to participate in the upcoming international symposium, "Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans", next May in Yeosu, Korea, to discuss projected climate change impacts on marine ecosystems.

The Committee on Finance and Administration discussed current and projected financial budgets and recommended to initiate the call for applications for the next Executive Director and posting of the Commission's performance review and action plan on the NPAFC website (see <http://www.npafc.org>).

I thank Russia for the offer to host the 20th Annual Meeting and look forward to seeing you all in St. Petersburg, Russia, in October 2012. In closing, I warmly send my best wishes to you and your families for the New Year. I hope 2012 will be successful for salmon and for us. Happy New Year!

Vladimir Belyaev
NPAFC President

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