

***NORTH  
PACIFIC  
ANADROMOUS  
FISH  
COMMISSION***

# **TECHNICAL REPORT**

## ***Workshop on Climate Change and Salmon Production***

***Vancouver, March 26-27, 1998***

**Technical Editor: Katherine Myers**

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## Foreword

The Workshop on Climate Change and Salmon Production was held in Vancouver, Canada, 26-27 March 1998. The Workshop was organized and sponsored by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). Each Party to the Commission designated one scientist to the Workshop Steering Committee. The Chairman for the NPAFC Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics chaired the Steering Committee. Each member of the Steering Committee chaired one half-day session of the Workshop. All necessary arrangements were made by the NPAFC Secretariat in cooperation with the Steering Committee and the Canadian Party to the Commission.

Over 70 scientists, industry representatives and fisheries officials attended the Workshop. There were 20 presentations of scientific papers followed by the discussion sessions. Extended abstracts are included in this Technical Report, which also contains opening address by the Chairman of the Steering Committee and short review of the Workshop by the Coordinator. The material presented in this Technical Report has not been peer reviewed and does not necessarily reflect the views of either the NPAFC or the Parties. The material has been edited by the technical editor for clarity and publication purposes only. Items in this Report should not be cited except as personal communication and with the author's permission.



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## Opening Remarks

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am happy to welcome you to this workshop in beautiful British Columbia, in the magnificent city of Vancouver. My gratitude goes to the government of Canada for the opportunity to meet here. On behalf of all the participants, I thank the Canadian Party for its warm hospitality and excellent organization of the workshop.

I thank members of the Steering Committee for their work. Also, I commend their spirit of mutual understanding and their desire to move closer to one another. My thanks - to the Secretariat of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, for the accuracy and responsibility in their work. I realize they may have had some difficult time, but one can only guess that. As for all of those present, we saw only the smiles of Secretariat members, and their readiness to be of assistance.

I express my deep appreciation to the Commission for its financial support, which provided an opportunity for scientists from member countries to attend this workshop. I also would like to thank Dr. Irina Shestakova, Executive Director of the Commission for all her efforts, which allowed to develop some reserve funds and turn the idea of a workshop into a reality.

Ladies and gentlemen, we were brought here because of the need to discuss a problem of paramount importance: the effect of climate on fish stocks. It may be fruitful to understand that the actual pattern of fisheries is to a great extent determined by large-scale restructuring in oceanographic conditions, entailing changes in the community of dominant species.

We have witnessed the eras of Japanese sardine, herring, and walleye pollock. These are examples that we have at hand. Each restructuring in the community of commercial fish species is a fraught with many-sided consequences. Every restructuring in communities brings about modifications in the pattern of fisheries, the outfit of vessels, and the system of catch processing. New products begin to be manufactured. The need arises to convince people to purchase these products. In other words, changes in the composition of commercial fish species communities have far-reaching socio-economic consequences. This causes lots of problems to various people, from heads of states to common fishermen. That is why it is quite important to study the effects of climatic change on fish communities.

Ultimately, as the final result of such studies, it is important to learn to forecast changes in the communities of commercial species.

This is an assembly of highly qualified experts from various countries. Most of them have contributed many years of their lives to the subject of this workshop.

I hope this workshop will be fruitful. The current situation regarding salmon stocks is becoming quite acute. Suffice it to mention that Canadian fisheries have just suffered an extremely low level of salmon catches. All of the reasons mentioned above explain the interest in our work by our governments, which imposes a special responsibility on ourselves. The holding this workshop within the framework of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission indicates recognition of the reputation of this organization.

Again, may I welcome all the participants, and I declare the Workshop open.

Oleg Gritsenko  
Chairman of the NPAFC Committee  
on Scientific Research and Statistics,  
Chairman of the Workshop Steering Committee

