

Opening Remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of five International Organizations, the Co-Chairs, Yukimasa Ishida and I would like to welcome you to this Symposium. This is something of a unique occasion. As far as I know, five International Fisheries Organizations have never before cooperated to arrange such a meeting. So the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) would like to warmly welcome you to what is, in fact, something of an experiment. We want to examine whether there are common factors driving salmon abundance in the Pacific, the Baltic and the Atlantic. We want to bring scientists and managers together to seek common factors, exchange ideas, think new thoughts and tell us where the gaps in research are and where there are new possibilities for international cooperation.

The situation facing some wild salmon populations in the Baltic, Atlantic and Pacific is severe indeed, and appears to be linked to poor survival at sea. There are real concerns that some salmon populations will be lost. This meeting is, therefore, timely, although we must realize that while some factors may be within our control and can be counteracted there may be little we can do about changes in ocean climate, other than adjust our management regimes to the new situation and hope that conditions improve.

We are all very pleased that there has been such a good response to this meeting and we are excited by the prospect of looking at this subject from new angles. Although we are all international in scope, this meeting extends our viewpoint wider to a Northern Hemisphere perspective.

We hope that the next two days will give new impetus, forge new relationships and deepen our understanding. We want this to be open-minded, informal and hard-hitting so we very much encourage everyone to participate.

We will now start immediately on the first session, to be chaired by Yukimasa Ishida and David Meerburg, which will cover the present status of salmon stocks and fisheries.

Malcolm Windsor
Co-chair of the Organizing Committee

