

## Opening Remarks

The Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Survey "BASIS" program, which is the key element of the 2001–2005 NPAFC Science Plan, was started in 2002. The goal of the BASIS is to understand the mechanisms underlying the effects of environmental variation and density-dependence on the salmon-carrying-capacity of the Bering Sea for sustainable conservation of salmon stocks in the North Pacific.

In 2002–2004, many scientific surveys were carried out in the Bering Sea under this program. The meaningful international cooperation was achieved by the member countries in joint surveys, exchange of samples and data, and analyses of research results. This program has been very successful so far. However, in order to accomplish the final goal of the BASIS, we need to evaluate the progress of the BASIS to date. The major objectives of this workshop are: to review the results of recent researches in the Bering Sea, and to discuss the new problems discovered by the BASIS research. The discussions will be used for planning future BASIS research and cruises. I believe that results of this workshop will provide us with the new knowledge about salmon and the Bering Sea.

I would like to extend my thanks to the persons who did the planning for the BASIS program and who have been doing investigation in the Bering Sea. I also appreciate the NPAFC Secretariat's efforts for preparing the workshop and this Technical Report.

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