

The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) Activities

1. Related to para # 167 of the UN General Assembly resolution 69/245 of 29 December 2014

167. Recalls that in “The future we want”, States called for support for initiatives that address ocean acidification and the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems and resources and, in this regard, reiterated the need to work collectively to prevent further ocean acidification, as well as to enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on them, and to support marine scientific research, monitoring and observation of ocean acidification and particularly vulnerable ecosystems, including through enhanced international cooperation in this regard;

NPAFC held the International Symposium on *Pacific Salmon and Steelhead Production in a Changing Climate: Past, Present, and Future* from 17-19 May 2015. More than 120 participants attended, mostly from the NPAFC member countries. The Symposium’s goal was to utilize the best available information on marine ecology of salmonid populations to explain and forecast annual variation in their production. Participants reviewed research on ecological mechanisms regulating marine distribution and production of anadromous stocks, climate change impacts, retrospective analysis of key populations as indicators of conditions in marine ecosystems, and implications of stock identification and model development for management of salmon and steelhead. The symposium functioned as the review of accomplishments of the 2011-2015 NPAFC Science Plan.

2. Related to para # 283 of the UN General Assembly resolution 69/245 of 29 December 2014

283. Recognizes the results of the International Polar Year, 2007–2008, with particular emphasis on new knowledge about the linkages between environmental change in the polar regions and global climate systems, and encourages States and scientific communities to strengthen their cooperation in this respect;

The NPAFC is in the formative stages of promoting an “International Year of the Salmon” (IYS) program that was first proposed in 2012. At the 2014 Annual Meeting, the IYS Study Group proposed an initiative with regard to the program scope, identification of partners and funding sources, communications and outreach strategy, identification of field and analytical research, and a starting year and duration. The proposal was based on a Scoping Workshop held in February 2015 in Canada. The initial idea is to conduct a coordinated two-year field research program that studies salmon life cycle features that as yet remain unexplored.

At the 2015 Annual Meeting in May 2015, the Commission endorsed the proposal with emphasis on importance of engaging and securing the commitment of partners and associated external funding. Further consideration of geographic scope of the project and

the initiative's governing mechanisms are required. The Commission created the IYS Working Group to conduct a Second Scoping Workshop to further explore the initiative.

3. Brief highlight the main developments in the NPAFC in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea (September 2014 to June 2015)

The Commission held its 23rd Annual Meeting in Kobe, Japan, on 11-15 May 2015. Annual reports of the standing committees were adopted including recommendations. The Commission adopted the 2015 joint air and ship patrol schedule of the Convention Area to coordinate and maximize the member countries' enforcement efforts.

The NPAFC Parties reviewed their respective status and plans regarding the Port State Measures Agreement, noted a progress, and agreed to revisit the issue in 2016.

The Commission also tasked the Committee on Enforcement to revisit the issue of stricter treatment of non-contracting party vessels conducting IUU activities in the Convention Area by conducting intersessional email discussions to take place before the next annual meeting in May 2016.