Media Advisory

2022 Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition
Virtual Technical & Scientific Briefing
Thursday, February 17th at 11am PST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHIEF CANADIAN SCIENTISTS FOR THE 2022 PAN-PACIFIC WINTER HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION GIVE VIRTUAL TECHNICAL & SCIENTIFIC BRIEFING

February 17th, 2022 – In mid-February, Canadian research vessel the CCGS *Sir John Franklin* and Canadian fishing vessel the *Raw Spirit* will be departing from Victoria, BC and Port Alberni, BC, respectively. These vessels will join the NOAA *Bell M. Shimada* from the United States and the R/V *TINRO* from Russia to complete the research fleet for the 2022 International Year of the Salmon (IYS) Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition. The 2022 IYS Expedition builds off successful international expeditions into the Gulf of Alaska in 2019 and 2020, as well as the 2021 Western Pacific Winter Expedition.

The overall findings from the two Canadian vessels will be combined with the findings from the *NOAA Bell M. Shimada* and the *R/V TINRO* to understand the current distribution, abundance, and health of Pacific salmon and their environmental conditions following the recent years of extreme climate variability in the North Pacific Ocean. The *CCGS Sir John Franklin* and the *F/V Raw Spirit* will conduct fishing operations in the same region, with the *CCGS Sir John Franklin* deploying a trawl net to sample the upper 50 meters of the ocean and the *F/V Raw Spirit* deploying Japanese gillnets and longlines. This collaborative study led by Canadian scientists will provide the first comparison of ocean research gillnets with trawl nets in the deep-water ocean environment.

Please join us for a virtual technical and scientific briefing with chief scientists Dr. Jackie King and Chrys Neville, joined by one of the chief organizers of the F/V *Raw Spirit* Dr. Richard Beamish and IYS Director Mark Saunders. Our panel of scientists will answer your questions about Canada's role in this ground-breaking international scientific effort to understand salmon in a changing ocean.

LINK TO PRESS RELEASE

Date: February 17th, 2022

Time: 11am PST

Format: Zoom Webinar

Details: Virtual Technical Briefing for Official Launch of the CCGS *Sir John Franklin* and the F/V *Raw Spirit*

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87096569750?pwd=OEorN0ViYk5zSUVqNm1BbjBHNmF6QT09#success
Passcode: 179697

Or One tap mobile:
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Webinar ID: 870 9656 9750
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International numbers available: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd1aOc62G4

This virtual webinar is for credentialed reporters only.

Please contact **Camille Jasinski** (cjasinski@npafc.org) for more information and visit the 2022 Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition webpage for more details.

Photos for media use can be found **here.**

Panelists:

Dr. Jackie King, Research Scientist: Pacific Biological Station, Ecosystem Sciences Division, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dr. Jackie King is the Program Head of the Basin and Coastal-scale Interactions program with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Her research investigates linkages between basin-scale processes and coastal-scale ecosystems including climate forcing, large-scale oceanographic processes, and connectivity in large marine ecosystems. She collaborates in integrative pelagic field studies along the continental shelf, with her primary focus on understanding the factors controlling the abundance, distribution, and production of salmon and associated species in marine ecosystems. She is also the lead for the Canadian Pacific Shark Research Program and responsible for all Canadian Pacific elasmobranch research and conservation. Jackie will be the chief scientist on the *CCGS Sir John Franklin*.

Chrys Neville, Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Chrys Neville is a research biologist and the Head of the Salmon Marine Interactions Program in the Regional Ecosystem Effects on Fish & Fisheries Section, Ecosystem Science Division at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo. Chrys has over 25 experience leading field research programs studying the marine ecology of juvenile Pacific salmon. She has published and presented numerous papers on salmon ecology and the effects of climate on regional ecosystems and residency of juvenile salmon. Chrys became a biologist due to her love of the outdoors, nature and adventure. She joined the expedition for these reasons and the ability to learn something new about species that she has studied for many years. She comments that over the past 25 years there have been many changes and new approaches developed in fisheries research but the one thing that is unchanged is the necessity to actually go in the field and see firsthand what is happening. Chrys will be the chief scientist on the F/V *Raw Spirit.*

Dr. Richard Beamish, Scientist Emeritus, Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dr. Richard Beamish, C.M., O.B.C, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.C. is an Emeritus Scientist at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, B.C. where he served as Director from 1980-1993. He retired in 2011. Dr. Beamish has the Order of Canada, the Order of British Columbia, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 as a member of the International Panel on Climate Change. He received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Vancouver Island University and was recently designated as a Legend in Canadian Fisheries Science by the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of the American Fisheries Society. He received the American Fisheries Society Award of Excellence in 2017. His research interests have included the discovery of

acid rain in North America and recently focus on the factors affecting the abundance of Pacific salmon. He has authored or co-authored a number of papers on the effects of climate on fish populations and was one of the first scientists to write about global warming effects on fishes.

Mark Saunders, Director, International Year of the Salmon, North Pacific Region

Mark Saunders currently works for the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission as the Director for the north Pacific Region of the International Year of the Salmon initiative. He retired several years ago from the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans where he headed up a Salmon, Aquaculture and Freshwater Ecology Division at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, B.C. with staff working on salmon stock assessment, freshwater habitat, molecular genetics, fish health, and marine ecology. The early part of Mark's career focused on stock assessment of marine fish as well as research related to hydroacoustic surveys and fisheries oceanography of the California current system.