



Press Release



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON ANNOUNCES A FIFTH VESSEL TO JOIN THE FLEET FOR THE 2022 PAN-PACIFIC WINTER HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION

**Official quotes available at bottom of page*

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) and North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) are excited to announce a fifth vessel which will join the fleet for the 2022 Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition. American fishing vessel the *Northwest Explorer* will depart Dutch Harbor, Alaska on April 2nd and will sample up to 30 stations from the western Gulf of Alaska (GoA) to the central North Pacific Ocean (NPO). The F/V *Northwest Explorer* has been preceded by Canadian research vessel the CCGS *Sir John Franklin*, Canadian fishing vessel the *Raw Spirit*, American research vessel the NOAA *Bell M. Shimada*, and Russian research vessel the *TINRO*.

The F/V *Northwest Explorer*, led by chief scientist Dr. Jim Murphy from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, will sample stations in the United State Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that were not covered by the R/V *TINRO*. Scientists from Canada and the United States will spend three weeks at sea sampling physical habitat, zooplankton, and salmon and associated species across a grid of stations.

The addition of the F/V *Northwest Explorer* will help paint a more complete picture of the lives of salmon during the marine phase of their life history during winter in the North Pacific Ocean. Data from all five vessels will be combined to better understand how an increasingly extreme climate and associated physical and environmental variability influence the abundance, distribution, growth, and survival of Pacific salmon during this critical life history phase.

Updates, photos, and videos from the F/V *Northwest Explorer* while she is at sea will be available on the [vessel webpage](#), and audiences will be able to track the vessel on the IYS live vessel tracking map available on the main 2022 Expedition webpage.

Funding for this leg of the expedition was made possible by contributions from the Northern Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Restoration and Enhancement Fund of the Pacific Salmon Commission, the North Pacific Research Board, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Province of British Columbia), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the North Pacific Research Board, the Great Pacific Foundation, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Tula Foundation, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of British Columbia, Oregon State University, and the University of Washington.

About International Year of the Salmon

The IYS is a five-year initiative (2018–2022) to establish conditions for the resilience of salmon and people in a changing world. It is a hemispheric partnership led by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission in the North Pacific, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization in the North Atlantic, as well as by NGOs, the private sector, governments, and academic organizations.

About NPAFC

The NPAFC is an international organization that promotes the conservation of salmon (chum, coho, pink, sockeye, Chinook, and cherry salmon) and steelhead trout in the North Pacific and its adjacent seas and serves as a venue for cooperation in and coordination of scientific research and enforcement activities. The NPAFC Convention Area is located in international waters north of 33°N latitude in the North Pacific, Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk beyond the 200-mile zones of coastal States. NPAFC member countries include Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

Information and Updates for the 2022 IYS Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition:

2022 Expedition Webpage:

<https://yearofthesalmon.org/2022expedition/>

IYS Twitter:

[@yearofthesalmon](https://twitter.com/yearofthesalmon)

IYS Instagram:

[@internationalyearofthesalmon](https://www.instagram.com/internationalyearofthesalmon)

IYS Facebook:

[International Year of the Salmon – North Pacific](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalYearoftheSalmon-NorthPacific)

For more information, please contact IYS Communications Coordinator **Camille Jasinski** at cjasinski@npafc.org.

Quotes

“The 2022 Pan-Pacific Expedition is a remarkable study that will help us better understand the complex interactions of salmon and their marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean. We could not ask for a more capable international team of scientists and leadership of the expedition through the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission and the International Year of the Salmon.”

Dr. Jim Murphy, Chief Scientist on the F/V *Northwest Explorer*, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

“The Winter High Seas Expedition is a truly unique opportunity to explore conditions in the open waters of the North Pacific and the physical and biological mechanisms that drive abundance and distribution for Pacific salmon throughout their range. This data is critical to understanding pelagic ocean habitat in winter and an important part of the life cycle for these fish. This effort has been driven by an inspired and talented group of individuals from across a wide range of institutions and nations throughout the Pacific

Rim. The launch of this vessel represents the resilience of this group and the dedication of those engaged in this effort to adapt and meet challenges. It is critical to maintain international collaboration in marine science in the North Pacific and this effort is an enduring example of a collective commitment to that philosophy.”

Matthew Baker, PhD, Science Director, North Pacific Research Board