
Press Release



NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION AND NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION MEET TO SYNTHESIZE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON INITIATIVE AND TO BUILD A ROADMAP TO 2030 WITH A VISION FOR THE RESILIENCE OF SALMON AND PEOPLE

The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) are pleased to announce a symposium to synthesize the achievements of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative and build a Roadmap to 2030 to address the challenges and opportunities in salmon conservation. The IYS is a five-year (2018 – 2022) initiative which set out to establish the conditions necessary for the resilience of salmon and people in a rapidly changing world.

The IYS Synthesis Symposium ‘*Salmon in a Rapidly Changing World: Synthesis of the International Year of the Salmon and a Roadmap to 2030*’ will be held from October 4th – 6th at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver, British Columbia. Salmon scientists, managers, and knowledge holders from across the Northern Hemisphere will have an opportunity to connect and engage with over 50 live academic, management-focused, and Indigenous-led talks, plenary discussions, and synthesis presentations touching on a range of diverse topics around salmon research and management and organized under the five IYS research themes.

Up to this point, groups around the Northern Hemisphere who engage with salmon research and management have been relatively fragmented. The IYS is an example of the possibilities of international collaboration in salmon research, and the IYS Synthesis Symposium presents an opportunity to connect these groups under one roof to discuss challenges and opportunities in salmon research and management over the next decade. The IYS Synthesis Symposium is taking a collaborative approach to produce a Roadmap to 2030 which will be informed by the various synthesis presentations and discussions presented during the symposium.

Over the last five years, the IYS has gained a wealth of knowledge from work done throughout the North Pacific and North Atlantic which will help identify critical knowledge or method gaps and potential solutions in effective salmon management. Success is ultimately a hemisphere of connected people and organizations taking effective action to understand and sustain salmon, and the IYS initiative has been an exemplar of the possibilities of international collaboration around salmon.

The success of the IYS was driven by a partnership of over 30 partners from government, academia, NGOs, and private industry across the North Pacific and North Atlantic Basins.

Quotes:

“Increasingly severe and unpredictable climate events, such as marine heatwaves, are having disastrous effects on salmon and other marine fisheries. There is a critical need to continue to invest in initiatives such as the IYS to jointly develop and implement innovative adaptation strategies to support resilient management systems and provide more certainty to coastal communities and industry. The 2022 IYS Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition is a notable example of how we can leverage international cooperation to identify ecosystem mechanisms affecting salmon and associated fish in the North Pacific.

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (UNDOS) is an opportunity to fund more transformative work. BECI (Basin-Scale Events to Coastal Impacts) is an UNDOS endorsed project to develop and implement an international ocean intelligence system, with collaboration between leading international researchers. Ultimately, there are two key aspects to success – emphasizing the multidisciplinary nature of developing cooperative mechanisms, and ensuring resources are made available to conduct this type of work.”

Doug Mecum, President, North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

“Salmon are increasingly at risk from environmental change and human development across the northern hemisphere. The International Year of the Salmon brought countries together to share knowledge, raise public awareness and take action. As a result, networks have been created across the northern hemisphere that give salmon a better chance to survive and thrive. For NASCO, it led to extensive efforts to increase awareness across the North Atlantic about the plight of Atlantic salmon, providing a better understanding of the various factors impacting salmon populations. This will help NASCO to refocus its conservation priorities and initiatives. It also afforded NASCO the opportunity to publish its first ever State of North Atlantic Salmon report in 2019, and this led to agreement that NASCO will, in the near future, build a wild Atlantic salmon atlas to enable regular updates of salmon status in the North Atlantic, in order to continue raising its public profile and enabling the public to be educated about wild Atlantic salmon in an interactive, engaging format.”

Arnaud Peyronnet, President, North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)

“Climate change poses relentless challenges for marine life and there is so much we do not yet understand. The expedition this year has proven invaluable in helping us better understand its effect on Pacific salmon. I am proud of Canada's investments in this innovative research funded by the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative to help rebuild these keystone species back to abundance. I look forward to applying these findings.”

The Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard

“Wild Pacific salmon are an iconic species in British Columbia’s waters, but they know no international boundaries. It takes partnerships and the research, management and restoration efforts of scientists, managers and Indigenous knowledge holders from across the Northern Hemisphere to support the recovery of this vital species. In B.C., we’re putting our Wild Salmon Strategy into action through habitat protection, innovation in hatcheries, including through the federal–provincial BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund. I applaud the International Year of the Salmon initiative for its work to support wild salmon resiliency and its efforts to bring people together on such an important issue.”

Josie Osborne, Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship and Minister responsible for Fisheries

“As the International Year of the Salmon Initiative comes to a close, I want to recognize the significant achievements this work has realized over the past five years and celebrate the wild salmon conservation efforts yet to come through a Roadmap to 2030. The collaboration from around the world to protect and conserve wild salmon is a powerful testament to our resolve to see wild salmon thrive. Here in B.C., funding through the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund has enabled two Canadian ships to research salmon migration patterns, their diets, and the impact of climate variation on salmon productivity for future conservation. Our government is indebted to everyone who contributes to the conservation of Pacific wild salmon.”

Fin Donnelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture

“As we prepare to conclude the International Year of the Salmon, I am excited to bring collaborators together from across the globe to synthesize what we have learned and most importantly set a course for the next decade of salmon science, management, and outreach. While you could celebrate the end of the IYS as a milestone, I believe this symposium will be recognized as the beginning of a new era of international collaboration for salmon conservation.”

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