



# SALMON IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

*International Year of the Salmon  
Synthesis Symposium 2022  
Feedback Survey Results*



## Preface

On behalf of the IYS Symposium Steering Committee (SSC), we would like to thank everyone who filled out the IYS Symposium Feedback Survey. Your input is appreciated immensely.

The overall message from the survey responses is that the Symposium was valuable and similar events should continue into the future. This and other advice respondents provided will be used to guide the development of a Roadmap for the resilience of salmon and people through to 2030. The 'Roadmap to 2030' will identify critical knowledge or method gaps and potential solutions, based on the outcomes of the Symposium, and will be published in the peer-reviewed NPAFC Bulletin. Synthesis papers, live and recorded presentations, posters, and the summary report on the facilitated synthesis and discussion sessions will also be utilized in this.

We would also like to extend our thanks to all participants that attended and/or contributed to the symposium in any way. Lastly, this event would not have been made possible without all of our partners and sponsors, for whom we are very grateful.

November 24, 2022

## IYS Synthesis Symposium

### Feedback Survey Results Summary

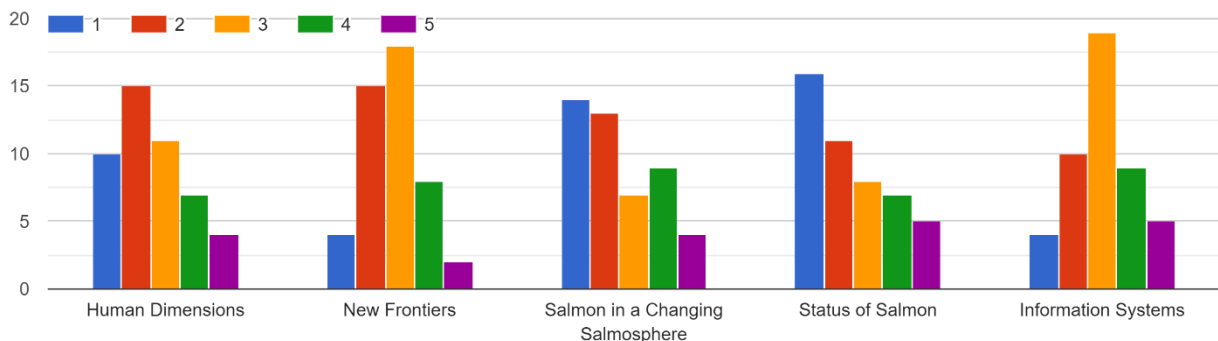
On October 4-6th, 2022, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) came together to hold the International Year of The Salmon (IYS) Synthesis Symposium in Vancouver, Canada. Following the symposium, a voluntary feedback survey was distributed to all 212 attendees. The aim of the survey was to understand whether there is value in including this type of event in the Roadmap to 2030 and any improvements that should come with it. Attendees were asked a series of questions related to the contents of the presentations, facilitated discussions, networking events, and overall experience.

**This document summarizes the results of 47 survey responses (22.2% response rate), all of which remain anonymous.**

#### CONTENT SATISFACTION

Out of the five symposium themes, *Status of Salmon* and *Salmon in a Changing Salmosphere* were most comprehensively covered by the live, pre-recorded, and poster presentations. Respondents felt that *Information Systems* and *New Frontiers* themes were most lacking in content. The *Human Dimensions* theme received evenly spread votes. Respondents identified the following common topics that they felt were not substantially covered in the symposium:

- Impact of salmon enhancement and aquaculture on salmon populations
- Climate change and habitat alteration
- Evolution/adaptation of salmon populations
- Adaptive management recommendations and actionable solutions rooted in research
- How to incorporate non-traditional knowledge on salmon
- Impact on Indigenous communities from commercial fisheries
- Ecosystem interactions of salmon and other species, and environmental consequences
- Collaboration from other industries, e.g., forestry, aquaculture, and mining



**Fig 1.** Frequency histogram of Synthesis Symposium themes ranked from 1-5, where 1 is a theme that was well-addressed, and 5 being a theme most lacking content.

## FACILITATED SYNTHESIS AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS

**Most respondents found the facilitated synthesis and Roadmap to 2030 discussion sessions useful and their facilitation to be executed very well.** Many expressed their interest in reading the Roadmap to 2030 in the future.

Although many appreciated the summary of the day's outcomes that these sessions provided, some suggestions for improvement were noted. A few attendees indicated that the scheduling of these sessions, held at the end of the day, were suboptimal to participants' engagement. Additionally, some indicated that the discussions were often too broad and lacked a more focused direction. A few also suggested the use of a visual to accompany the discussions to help with clarity, as well as more use of the Slido app for providing commentary. A collection of all responses can be found in Appendix B.

## OVERALL EXPERIENCE

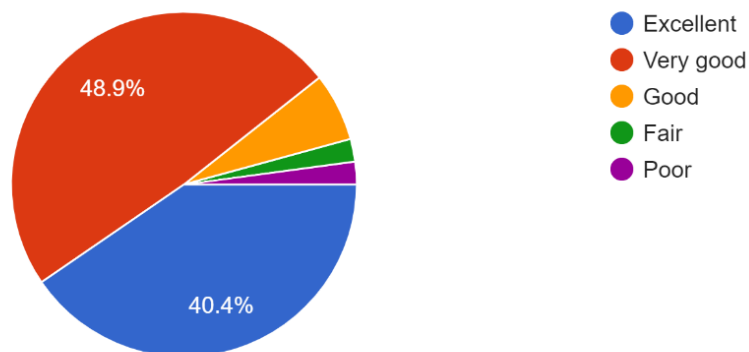
**Half (48.9%) of the respondents rated their overall experience as 'very good' and 40.4% as 'excellent'.** Only 4.2% gave a rating below 'good'. Over a dozen comments centred around indigenous involvement. **Many appreciated the inclusion of indigenous perspectives and urged for even wider representation of non-traditional knowledge systems.** Although overall responses had common messages, there was a notable divide on having two concurrent sessions. A few respondents showed support for this structure, but several others criticized having to choose between presentations of interest.

Things that worked well, according to the respondents:

- Overall facilitation
- Flow of the daily program, especially 30-minute coffee breaks
- Synthesis presentations and panels
- Collaboration and sense of bridging the Pacific and Atlantic basins
- Strong presence of Indigenous voices
- High number of talks, spread between two rooms and categorized under themes
- Venue, organization, audio-visual

Suggested improvements from the respondents:

- Have virtual attendance option
- Minimize concurrent sessions by extending the number of symposium days
- More use of Slido or other ways to provide commentary
- Mandatory masks or facial coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Lapel microphones for speakers to allow movement around the stage
- More integration between the virtual and in-person presentation material
- Longer Q&A sessions after each talk
- Wider ranging inclusion of indigenous communities

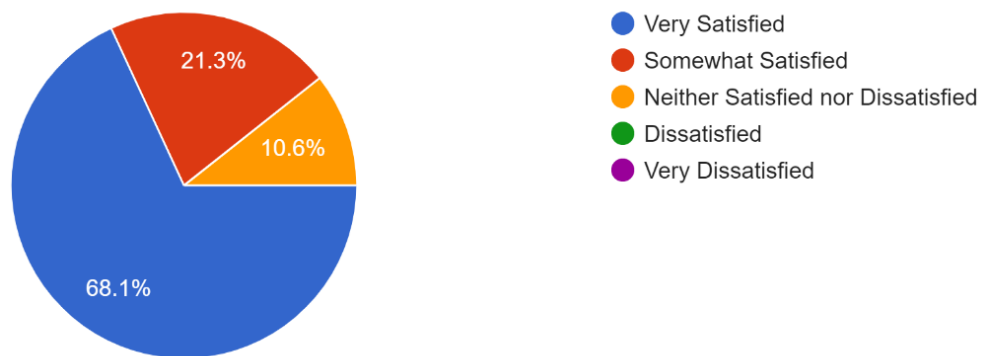


**Fig 2.** Rating of overall experience at the IYS Synthesis Symposium.

**A large majority were very satisfied (68.1%) with the networking sessions held during the symposium, 21.3% were somewhat satisfied, and only 10.6% gave a neutral response of neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. No respondents were dissatisfied.**

Improvement suggestions for the networking sessions, according to respondents' comments:

- Having the cruise earlier in the day to maximise daylight
- Having a quieter and less confined poster session
- Virtual options for networking
- Stricter COVID-19 preventative measures

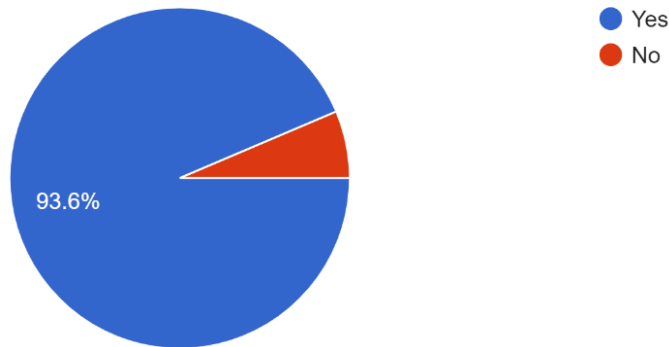


**Fig 3.** Satisfaction of respondents with the social and networking events, such as coffee breaks, poster session, and the harbour cruise dinner.

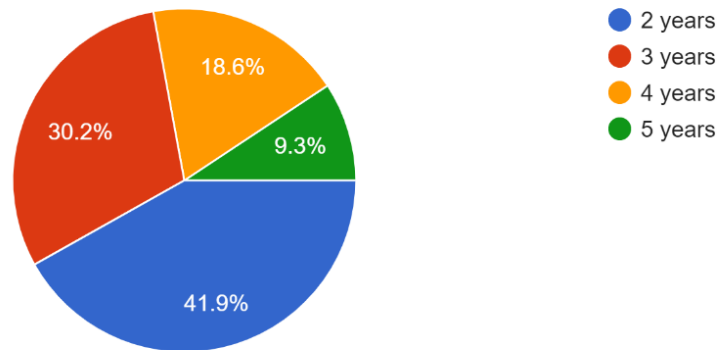
## FUTURE SYNTHESIS SYMPOISUM

**Respondents indicated a need for a similar synthesis symposium event in the future, preferably within 2-3 years.**

93.6% of respondents would attend a similar symposium event in the future. When asked when, the majority voted for 2 and 3 years in the future, 41.9% and 30.2%, respectively, while 5 years was the least common response. A list of respondents interested in participating and/or organizing the next symposium is included in Appendix A.



**Fig 4.** Participants' responses to being asked whether they would attend a similar synthesis symposium event in the future.



**Fig 5.** Participants' responses to being asked how far into the future would be ideal to hold a similar synthesis symposium event.