

“Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic”

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NPAFC contribution to Part I of the UN Secretary General report on
“Oceans and law of the sea”

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Executive Summary:

The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) promotes conservation and sustainability of anadromous stocks (Pacific salmon and steelhead trout) in the North Pacific Ocean through fisheries enforcement and scientific research since 1993. The NPAFC member countries promote a high level of cooperation, which includes joint patrolling of the Convention Area and information exchange. One hundred and nine days of surface asset deployments, 493 hours of aerial patrols, and satellite surveillance efforts were coordinated by NPAFC member countries in 2013. In 2014, a suspected IUU-fishing vessel Yin Yuan, containing illegally caught Pacific salmon and allegedly using driftnets was apprehended in the Convention Area. In addition, 10 suspicious transshipment vessels were inspected at a Korean port.

The NPAFC encourages its member countries to become parties to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing. During the Commission's Annual Meeting in May 2014, all parties reported on their status and plans regarding PSMA. The United States ratified the PSMA in April 2014. In Canada, ratification of the signed PSMA is anticipated.

Examples of successful approaches for involvement of nonmember states in patrol and preventive activities to combat IUU fishing are presented in the challenges and opportunities section of this report.

i) Information regarding relevant NPAFC activities

Introduction

The portion of the world capture fishery harvest that is represented by Pacific salmon is gradually increasing and recently reached 1.6% (by weight) in 2013. Moreover, the importance of Pacific salmon is not limited by the bulk or monetary value of the catch. Their broad significance for

Pacific salmon on board. Offenses faced by the Yin Yuai included use of prohibited fishing gear (3.3

Fifteen recommendations for implementation of a comprehensive framework to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud was prepared by the Task Team and published on 18 December 2014

International Year of the Salmon

Beside internationally agreed instruments of law, general public awareness involving widespread understanding and acknowledgement of the issue should help to determine on the most critically endangered wild fishes. NPAFC is exploring approaches to implement an ambitious idea – the International Year of the Salmon (IYS). The IYS implementation will contribute to the environment through its scientific and social components, outreach activities, and public participation at planned events. From a program such as this NPAFC will gain an awareness of public attitudes and opinions, by which the Commission should adjust their course of future activity. A Study Group was established which will conduct an IYS Scoping Meeting in Vancouver on 17-18 February 2015. Through presentations and facilitated discussion the meeting participants will determine research directions for resolving key scientific questions, suitable period of activity, geographic scope, target species and identify potential projects or activities that will most likely lead to progress in understandings of the unexplained variability in salmon abundance, migration, growth and survival. The experience gained by other organizations that have taken on similar initiatives will be considered at the workshop. In general, the goal of implementing an IYS is to prepare advice to fisheries management, which will be required in a changing 21st century. Besides, NPAFC expects a multiplier effect in support of anadromous stock conservation in the North Pacific Ocean through wide advertisements of the IYS events on the web, with posts, and in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, etc.

- Species:

aboard USCG cutters Rush and Morgenthau played an important role in seizing HSR fishing vessels Da Cheng in 2012 and Yin Yuan in 2014.