

Coordination of Enforcement Activities among the NPAFC Parties¹⁾ and with other
International Organizations
for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean

The Convention Area of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) is the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, north of 33°N beyond 200 nautical miles.

The NPAFC through its Committee on Enforcement (ENFO) has significantly improved coordination of the Parties' enforcement operations during the last ten years, beginning from an Enforcement Standardization Symposium which was organized in Kodiak, Alaska, U.S.A. in 1999. The "List of Questions for Standardization of Enforcement Practices" was developed at the Symposium, assisting in planning and improving the effectiveness of High Seas Driftnet (HSDN) patrols. The first Enforcement Planning and Coordinating Meeting was held in Tokyo in 2000. During that meeting the organizational structure of the agencies primarily responsible for HSDN enforcement efforts was discussed and information on primary points of contact for HSDN cases was exchanged.

In 2001 the level of international cooperation was highlighted by the first ever enforcement patrol of the Convention Area by a US Coast Guard C-130 patrol aircraft staged out of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia, with representatives from each of the Parties. In 2002 the Concept of Operations on the Joint Operations Information Coordination Group was adopted and the Enforcement Procedures Working Group was created to review the existing and other possible enforcement activities.

In 2003-2006 the Integrated Information System (IIS) was developed and recommended for using. This web-based program was designed to share enforcement information and facilitate real time enforcement efforts throughout the year. In 2006 the first ever joint enforcement plan was created. A comprehensive plan resulting from the cooperative efforts of all the Parties included patrol vessel and aircraft surveillance of the Convention Area throughout the high threat season. An enforcement symposium, "Patrol tactics, planning and execution of enforcement in the NPAFC Convention Area", was also held in 2006. The purpose of the symposium was to bring together enforcement professionals from each of the Parties to share lessons learned and best practices from their respective agencies.

In 2007 the ENFO initiated a program of cooperation with the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Fisheries Working Group (FWG) of the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF).

In 2008 the first ever International North Pacific IUU Workshop was held in Vancouver, Canada. Represented were ENFO of the NPAFC, FWG of the NPCGF, TCC of the WCPFC and the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance Network. These organizations vary in membership and representation both by state and agency as well the convention provisions on monitoring control and surveillance, area and species of interest also vary. What the agencies have in common is the strong interest protecting the natural marine resources of the Pacific Ocean and in combating IUU fishing.

In 1993-2008, the cooperative enforcement efforts of the NPAFC Parties resulted in the detection of 41 vessels conducting directed driftnet fishing operations for salmon in the Convention Area. Of those vessels, 16 were apprehended.

The NPAFC has also contributed to the implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas", by prohibiting direct fishing for anadromous fish in high seas areas of the North Pacific Ocean, where salmon fishing had been mainly conducted by using driftnets.

Despite the decline in illegal fishing operations within the NPAFC Convention Area in recent years, the threat of illegal high seas fishing activities contrary to the provisions of the Convention continues,

requiring the international community to remain vigilant in improving monitoring and enforcement efforts in the North Pacific.

¹⁾ The Parties of the NPAFC are:

Canada

Japan

Republic of Korea

Russia

United States of America