

Role of seafood in global food security

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) contribution to Part I of the UN Secretary-General report on “Oceans and law of the sea”.

i) Information regarding relevant NPAFC activities.

NPAFC was established in 1993 by the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks, which prohibits directed fishing for anadromous fish in the North Pacific Ocean and adjacent seas. NPAFC promotes conservation and sustainability of these stocks through fisheries enforcement and scientific research.

Each year more than four million square kilometres of the North Pacific are monitored by NPAFC member countries, using more than 100 days of ship time and 500 hours of aerial patrols aided by radar satellite surveillance. In 1993-2012, NPAFC-related cooperative enforcement efforts in the Convention Area detected 46 vessels conducting directed illegal driftnet fishing operations for salmon (IUU vessels) and apprehended 19 vessels.

The number of IUU vessels detected each year has recently decreased from 6-11 in the late 1990s to 0-2 because of expanded NPAFC-related enforcement efforts. The simultaneous gradual growth in total commercial Pacific salmon harvest in NPAFC countries demonstrates the success of international cooperation among the members. However, the continued threat of illegal high seas fishing requires the international community to remain vigilant and to improve monitoring and enforcement efforts in the North Pacific.

Another threat to the sustainability of Asian and North American salmon stocks is significant variation in marine production linked to climate change. NPAFC encourages international cooperative research to provide the best available scientific information on ecological mechanisms regulating production of anadromous populations, climate impact on salmon populations in North Pacific marine ecosystems, and the extent to which salmon populations, as demonstrated by their return migrations to coastal regions, can be used as indicators of conditions in marine ecosystems. Since 1993, NPAFC has organized five scientific symposia and nine workshops on major topics related to sustainability of salmon stocks. The next NPAFC symposium on *Pacific Salmon and Steelhead Production in a Changing Climate* is scheduled for May 2015.

ii) Relevant matters, which may require further consideration, with an emphasis on areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels could be enhanced.

In general, RFMOs and FAO Advisory Bodies need to evolve together to meet the needs of a world ocean-scale information and management network. Close cooperation will allow for a clearer understanding of the global issues and challenges that RFMOs currently face. A

combined database on IUU vessels (furthering development of Interpol efforts) will supply information at a global-scale, appropriate to the degree to which intelligence exchange is required to combat IUU fishing.

To some degree, activity by RFMOs lacks public feedback. Outreach and capacity-building initiatives become very important in this respect. A future world ocean-scale information and management network will need enabling mechanisms to support consultation with other organizations, ventures, and the public on issues related to conservation and management of marine biological resources for mutual benefit. Now is the time to begin discussions on the capabilities and design of a large-scale information network and to explore a system for cooperation and coordination that would operate within the network.