



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON

M. Young, August 8, 2018

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) is a five-year outreach and research initiative of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). Countries across the Northern Hemisphere are banding together in a new partnership of government, academia, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, and industry to drive an intense burst of outreach and research that will establish the conditions necessary for the resilience of salmon and people in a rapidly changing world. 2019 is the focal year of the IYS, but events and activities will begin in 2018 and continue through to 2022.

IYS VISION

To ensure salmon and people are resilient in a rapidly changing world

While salmon have a high degree of resilience built into their genetic make-up, increasingly extreme and highly uncertain climate conditions, coupled with unprecedented human activity, threaten their survival. The epic migrations of salmon through rivers and oceans take them across borders, languages, cultures and economies. Saving these beautiful and influential creatures requires a uniquely large-scale solution. To support the resilience of both salmon and the people who depend on them, we need to upgrade our collective ability to efficiently share and generate new knowledge, make timely and informed decisions and engage communities wherever salmon swim.

Resilience is the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.

CONNECTION

Right now, hundreds of organizations across the Northern Hemisphere are working on salmon-related issues. Yet, despite this broad and deep source of strength, we remain poorly connected and fail to take full advantage of our collective capacity to address shared goals. Collaboration is essential to learn how to best save this fantastic traveler of our waters. The IYS has established a governance structure to bring partners together across the Northern Hemisphere to plan and implement a series of outreach and research activities that by 2022, will establish the conditions necessary to build resilience for salmon and people. **Steering Committees** in both basins bring partners together to support planning, implementation and fund raising while a **Coordinating Committee** ensures that hemispheric scale activities are coordinated. Staff in the NPAFC and NASCO Secretariats are responsible for the management of the IYS using funding from the member countries of the lead Organizations.

KNOWLEDGE

The IYS will establish partnerships and investments to kick start research and public action in Europe, North America and Asia to give salmon a better chance to survive and thrive. Establishing the conditions necessary for resilience of salmon and people by the end of 2022 is a bold objective, requiring rigor to establish programs and projects to make it possible. Research projects and outreach activities will be undertaken under a suite of six objectives stated as **OUTCOMES** that when addressed collectively will allow us to achieve our **VISION**. Examples of signature projects under development include: a series of high seas cruises across the entire North Pacific to address gaps in knowledge of salmon in the open

ocean, a “Likely Suspects” program to link our understanding of salmon from freshwater to the high seas and back, the application of new technologies such as telemetry, genomics, and microchemistry to unlock the mysteries of salmon migration, and survival and high-tech solutions to efficiently bring salmon communities together and designing management systems for and uncertain future.

IYS OUTCOMES

Status of salmon	The present status of salmon and their environments is understood.
Salmon in a changing salmosphere	The effects of natural environmental variability and human factors affecting salmon distribution and abundance are understood and quantified.
New frontiers	New technologies and analytical methods are advanced and applied to salmon research. Research is carried out to fill gaps in poorly studied regions of the salmosphere.
Human dimensions	Communities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, harvesters, scientists and resource managers across the Northern Hemisphere share knowledge and collaborate in the development of new tools and approaches to restoring, managing and sustaining salmon.
Information systems	Freely available information systems contain historic and current data about salmon and their environment.
Salmon outreach and communication	People understand the value of healthy salmon populations and engage to ensure salmon and their varied habitats are conserved and restored against the backdrop of increasing environmental change.

ACTION

The impact that humans have on salmon are now at crucial levels—but it’s not too late. Anyone who cares about the survival of salmon can get involved in the IYS. Experts are needed—but it will take the passion and commitment of people from all walks of life to make the difference. Even the smallest contribution can help and everyone has a role to play. We’ll let you know what you can do to join like-minded people from across the Northern Hemisphere and help salmon.

Please stay tuned for the IYS website, where information on IYS projects and events can be found and uploaded (yearofthesalmon.org). Until the website is launched, more information can be found here:

Contacts in the North Pacific

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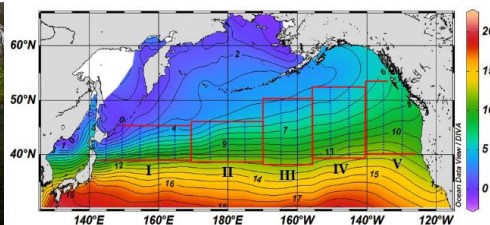
Region): myoung@yearofthesalmon.org

Websites

North Pacific (NPAFC):

www.npafc.org/new/science_IYS.html

North Atlantic (NASCO): www.nasco.int/iys.html



Images from left to right: Father and daughter observing sockeye (Jonny Armstrong); North Pacific High Seas Expedition Cruise Plan; Russian Vessel PROFESSOR KAGANOVSKY.