



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

CMM 2024-16

(Entered into force 24 July 2024)

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON ANADROMOUS FISH

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC),

Noting that anadromous stocks belong to the same ecosystem and intermingle and associate with NPFC fisheries resources throughout their marine migration within the NPFC Convention Area;

Noting the NPFC convention article 3 paragraph (d) which says certain actions shall be taken including conservation and management measures for stocks associated with the target stocks of the NPFC;

Understanding the ecological, cultural, and economic importance of anadromous species to States who have prioritized and invested in the conservation and production of these stocks;

Mindful of the importance of continued scientific research to more fully understand the threat NPFC fisheries pose to anadromous stocks and our shared responsibility to take a pre-cautionary approach when managing NPFC fisheries that could impact anadromous stocks; and,

Desiring to ensure effective collaboration and cooperation between all Members of NPFC and NPAFC by ensuring that NPFC policies respecting anadromous fish protection complement and support the work and objectives of the NPAFC further to the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two organizations signed by the NPFC in 2019.

Adopts the following:

DEFINITIONS

1. This measure shall be interpreted in accordance with the Convention.
2. For the purpose of this measure, the following definitions apply:
 - a. “anadromous fish” means the fish of anadromous species listed in Annex 1, which migrate into the Convention Area, and “anadromous stocks” means the stocks thereof;
 - b. “directed fishing” means fishing activity targeted at a particular species or stock of fish;
 - c. “incidental taking or capture” means catching, taking, or harvesting a species or stock of fish while conducting directed fishing for another species or stock of fish; and,
 - d. “released” means a fish that has been caught and is returned to the water.

SCOPE

3. This measure applies to all fishing vessels on the NPFC Vessel Registry operating in the Convention Area.

ANADROMOUS FISH CONSERVATION

Prohibition on Directed Fishing for Anadromous Fish

4. Members and CNCPs shall take necessary measures to ensure their fishing vessels do not engage in directed fishing for anadromous fish in the Convention Area.

Prohibition on the Retention of Anadromous Fish and Minimization of Incidental Capture

5. Members and CNCPs shall take necessary measures to ensure their fishing vessels do not retain on board or otherwise possess anadromous fish.
6. For clarity, the prohibitions in paragraphs 4 and 5 do not apply to vessels authorized to conduct research activities under the competence of the NPAFC.

7. Members and CNCPs shall take necessary measures to ensure that if a fishing vessel incidentally captures anadromous fish, those fish shall be returned to the water without delay, in a manner that causes the least harm.
8. Members and CNCPs shall encourage their fishing vessels to conduct activities in a manner that avoids or minimizes to the maximum extent practicable the incidental capture of anadromous fish.

On-Board Record of Incidentally Caught and Released Anadromous Fish

9. Members and CNCPs shall take necessary measures to ensure their fishing vessels maintain a record on board the vessel of incidentally caught and released anadromous fish in the Convention Area, to the extent possible by species. This record shall be made available to authorized inspectors. A species identification aid is in Annex 2.
10. Subject to review in 2026, paragraph 9 does not apply to stick-held dipnetter vessels targeting Pacific saury and hook and line jigger vessels targeting squid.






Annual Reporting and Data Sharing


11. Notwithstanding paragraph 10, a Commission Member or CNCP shall annually report all incidentally caught and released anadromous fish in the Convention Area to the Secretariat, to the extent possible by species.
12. Where incidental catch and release data is reported to the Secretariat, the Secretariat shall share the data in aggregated form with the Scientific Committee and further to the Memorandum of Cooperation between NPFC and NPAFC signed on May 13, 2019, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission in a manner consistent with NPFC's Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol.

Anadromous Stocks

Chum salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>
Coho salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>
Pink salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>
Sockeye salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>
Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>
Cherry salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus masou</i>
Steelhead trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>

Species Identification Aid for Anadromous Species found in the North Pacific

Common Name/ Latin Name	Identifying Features	
Chum salmon/ <i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mouth is white with a white gum line -Well developed teeth -no spots on tail or back -narrow caudal peduncle -white tip on anal fin 	
Coho salmon/ <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mouth is light with a white gum line -Medium size, sharp teeth -Spots only on upper lobe of tail -Spots on back -Wide caudal peduncle 	
Pink salmon/ <i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mouth is white with a black gum line -Almost no teeth -Large oval spots on back -Pointed lower jaw -Very small scales 	
Sockeye salmon/ <i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mouth is white with a white gum line -Almost toothless -No spots on tail or back -Large, bright gold, glassy eye 	
Chinook salmon/ <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mouth is dark with a black gum line -Large, sharp teeth -Spots on both lobes of tail -Large spots on back 	

<p>Cherry salmon/ <i>Oncorhynchus masou</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Small black spots on the back -Dark underlying hue under its silvery scales -Resembles coho salmon 	
<p>Steelhead trout/ <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Small black spots on back -Uniform spots on square Tail -No teeth in throat, at back of tongue -Slender lateral profile 	