

Answers to Chet's additional questions of 13 June 2008.

These answers are based upon consultations and reference materials received from the Director and the Deputy Director of SakhNIRO, Radchenko V.I. and Lapko V.V..

Question 5 "...are there annual reports on monitoring..."

Answers to question 5:

Heads of SakhNIRO:

There are such reports, and, moreover, they are one of the results of the scientific research work conducted by FGUP "SakhNIRO" and similar institutions in other regions of the Far East. Monitoring and forecasting of stocks of salmon species (and other species of hydrobionts) together with the collection and analysis of data on the use of these stocks (harvest), their reproduction and biological characteristics are most important tasks within the framework of the State Contract that the State Fisheries Agency of Russia, as client, concludes with SakhNIRO, acting as subcontractor.

In accordance with the terms of the State Contract, the Government of the Russian Federation (the State Fisheries Agency of Russia) finances the institution's scientific research activities, and all scientific data and operational results in the form of scientific reports are the property of the client. These reports are filed in the archives of the Institution, are not published in the open press and are inaccessible to third party individuals or organizations. The reports may be presented to outside persons only with the written permission of the client, i.e., the State Fisheries Agency of Russia.

For individuals and organizations interested in understanding the salmon fishery, there are scientific works available that are published in the open scientific and popular scientific press. Also, the institutions can prepare informational and analytical references, conclusions, etc., on a for-pay basis to address individual inquiries from individuals or organizations, but without including data/materials collected during the scientific research programs.

Our commentary to the answer:

We, being individuals interested in understanding the salmon fishery, have found a way to obtain information on predictions of the runs. Due to the fact that the data received are quite voluminous, and we are exceedingly occupied by preparation of the final report, I give my guarantee that data will be submitted on the run forecast for the year 2007 (as well as how accurate it was) and the year 2008 immediately after this work has been completed, i.e., before July 5 or earlier. Since you have read SakhNIRO's answer, I cannot promise to submit a full translation of the "Salmon Run Forecast" (this work is in fact federal property), but the portion of it that relates to Iturup Island will be submitted. (*In the future I expect to resort to the telephone yet again** - author's note*)

Question 7 "Indicator 3.2.1. ... Research plan..."

Answer to question 7:

"Yes, annual planning to determine the volumes of necessary and additional research of salmon species and other fisheries target species does take place, and the result of such planning is the industry-wide "Resource Research and State Monitoring Plan for Aquatic Biological Resources for the Current Year". In accordance with current law, the Plan has to be coordinated with all interested federal ministries and departments and be approved by the State Fisheries Agency of Russia. In this Plan, the volumes and content of scientific research work for all of the fisheries institutions of the Russian Federation are approved for all commercial target species, including salmon.

Scientific research programs are conducted year-round. During the period of the salmon run, research work extends through the full extent of the fisheries, both for commercial and non-commercial species.

The Plan, of course, takes the influence of fishing activity on the ecosystem into consideration, since it can be approved only after receiving a positive conclusion by the State Ecological Expert group of the materials that justify the TAC for aquatic biological resources for the up-coming year. These materials also include an evaluation of the impact of fisheries (harvesting) on the community and the ecosystem.

TINRO, as a scientific commercial fisheries research institution, conducts annual planning of the Scientific research programs in the above-described manner, and also is one of the parties responsible for executing that part of the Plan that falls within its zone of responsibility."

Question 9: "...reliability and adequacy of financing..."

Answer to question 9:

Naturally, financing is available. Annual budgetary financing of industry-wide scientific fisheries research institutions is provided within the framework of their State Contracts with the State Fisheries Agency of Russia. In addition, financing can be obtained from the orders the institution fills for third-party individuals or organizations, so long as such work does not contradict current law and has been stipulated in the charter of the research institution.

As far as the long-term potential, the amount of financing is determined by the client (the State Fisheries Agency of Russia), depending upon the amount of work planned for the future.

Question 10: "Indicator 3.5.4 is ... a mechanism for settling disputes..."

Answer to question 10:

On the whole, since salmon are a federal resource, all questions of management, study, reproduction and so on for their stocks are handled by the executive federal agency for fisheries, i.e., the State Fisheries Agency of Russia, which, among other things, hears complaints and disputes.

Following the State Ecological Expert Review and approval of the TAC for salmon species, disputes arising from the division of TAC by use (quota) type are also heard at the Far East Scientific Commercial Fisheries Council, the decisions of which, however, are of a recommendational nature and are subsequently considered during preparation of the State Fisheries Agency of Russia Orders approving the volumes for each type of quota.

Following approval of the volumes of quotas by the State Fisheries Agency of Russia, complaints and disputes on the management of salmon stocks are addressed by the Anadromous Fish Catch (Harvest) Commission (see Point 2) that functions in each Far Eastern Subject.

Complaints or descriptions of disputed situations, depending on the specifics of the case, are submitted in writing to the State Fisheries Agency of Russia, its territorial offices or those of the Administrative Subject of the Russian Federation within the territory of which the salmon stock is being utilized. If the situation cannot be resolved, then the applicant may turn to the prosecutor's office.

Question 12: "... sample collection procedure..."

Answer to question 12:

Sample collection of the migrating young salmon in the rivers is an integral component of annual scientific research programs and is included in the "Plan for Resource Research and State Monitoring of Aquatic Biological Resources" for the current year. Traps and other counting devices are used for such accounting, with data being collected on the migration time frame, the numbers of young, size composition, biological condition, etc..

Question 14: "... Annual conferences..."

Answer to question 14:

There are several such conferences held annually at various levels. However, **any** interested individual or group can take part in a number of them.

Annually, before materials for justifying salmon TAC have been sent to the State Ecological Expert Review in each region where salmon species are harvested, the representatives of the scientific commercial fisheries groups conduct public hearings at which the volumes of anticipated catch are presented and discussed. Any individual, group of individuals, representatives of social organizations, power structures, media, etc., may attend these public hearings. The public hearings are announced in the open press (newspapers). The results of the hearings are summarized in a protocol that is subsequently sent to the Expert Commission of State Ecological Expert Review.

Also annually, following approval of the TAC of salmon, questions of management of salmon stocks are discussed at the conferences of the Far East Scientific and Commercial Fisheries Council (FESC), which are also open to all interested persons. Announcements on up-coming FESC conferences and the agendas are published in the media. The results of the FESC are also compiled in a protocol that is then sent to the State Fisheries Agency of Russia.

Question 17: "are there international agreements..."

Answer to question 17:

There are dozens of such agreements.

There are two agreements that relate to pacific salmon.

The first is the multilateral Convention on the Conservation of Anadromous Fish Stocks in the North Pacific, under which the above-mentioned North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) operates and which became valid on 16 February 1993. Information on the activities of the Commission and the commission member nations may be obtained at the organization's website.

The second is the bilateral Russo-Japanese Fisheries Cooperation Agreement of 12 May 1985. The Russo-Japanese Joint Fisheries Commission, which holds annual sessions and conferences between scientists and specialists, operates under this agreement.

Both agreements are inter-governmental, and the Russian Federation scrupulously observes their requirements.

Question 19: "... outside expert review of the entire system..."

Answer to question 19 (It is also included in the text of the final report, which we are preparing):

There currently is no regular outside expert review over the system of fisheries management, except for the above-mentioned State Ecological Expert Review.

Such interested structures as, for example, the State Fisheries Agency of Russia or the Government of the Russian Federation, can order outside expert review of the fisheries management system on the whole, by other governmental departments/ministries, individual consultants or specialists. Such expert reviews may also be carried out at the behest of the Parliament of Russia (the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation) or the President. However, I am unaware of any such expert reviews having ever occurred.

Nevertheless, as an executive federal agency in the area of fisheries, the activities of the State Fisheries Agency of Russia are checked on a relatively regular basis. Within the framework of such checks, the fisheries management activities of the State Fisheries Agency are also analyzed to a certain extent. The checks are made by such structures as the office of the Prosecutor of Russia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, the Russian Presidential Department of Control and Audit, and so on. The last of these large-scale external checks and, accordingly, the expert review of the activities of the State Fisheries Agency of Russia, and among other things, the system of management of salmon fisheries, was undertaken by the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation two years ago.

14. The accuracy of salmon forecasts for the Sakhalin Oblast (not counting the Northern Kuril Islands) over the past year was 95.8%. At a total forecast for pink and chum of 177,600 MT, the harvest came to 170,100 MT.

Analysis of the accuracy of the forecasts is conducted regularly during preparation of the forecast for the next year. The results of such analysis are contained in scientific reports and forecasts of the Institute. Also, the results of analysis of how well the forecasts match reality for salmon runs are published in the open scientific press.

The TAC of salmon species and the volumes of each type of quota are approved annually by orders of the State Fisheries Agency of Russia and are accessible on its website, www.fishcom.ru, in the section "Orders and the Normative Base". In addition, Russia annually presents salmon catch data, numbers arriving at the spawning grounds, reproduction, biological characteristics, etc., to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), and this information is accessible on the website of this organization: www.npafc.org

In personal communication with V.M. Chupakhin, information was obtained on his direct contribution in determining TAC for the salmon species of Iturup Island. In particular, V.M. Chupakhin spoke about the following:

Iturup Island is divided into 5 commercial fishing sections:

- Northern
- Prostor Bay
- Kurilskiy Bay
- Kuibyshevskiy Bay
- The southern extremity of the island (share of salmon species – approximately 10%).

In accordance with this division, data are collected, then processed and evaluated, resulting in the very first forecast of anticipated age.

The subsequent movement and use of the information obtained as a result of V.M. Chupakhin's work can be schematically presented as follows:



