

**REPORT OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**16 October - 30 October 2014**

**1. Opening of the Conference**

Dr. Alexander Glubokov (Russian Federation) opened the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea on 16 October 2014. It is the Fifth Annual Conference to be conducted via electronic mail (e-mail).

**2. Opening Statements**

Poland and the European Union, Russian Federation, United States of America and Japan submitted opening statements (Appendix 1).

**3. Elections**

3.1. Dr. Alexander Glubokov, head of the Department of the International Fisheries Cooperation of the Russian Federal Research Institute for Fisheries and Oceanography, was elected as Chair of the Annual Conference and served as the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting. Dr. Mikhail Stepanenko (Russian Federation) served as Rapporteur for both meetings.

3.2. The following persons served during Conference as the “voice” from each Party during e-mail exchanges: China (no participant), Japan (Koji Oda), Republic of Korea (Jeongseok Park), Poland/the EU (Ms. Louise Head/Mr. Herbert Schuller), Russia (Alexander Glubokov), United States (Mr. Douglas Mecum/Mr. Paul Niemeier).

3.3. A list of the Annual Conference participants is provided in Appendix 2.

**4. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, as adopted, is provided in Appendix 3.

**5. Report of the Scientific and Technical Committee**

5.1. The Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Scientific and Technical (S&T) Committee Meeting is provided in Appendix 4. The final Report was distributed to the Parties on 15 September 2014.

5.2. Documents submitted for the S&T meeting were distributed to the Parties on 15 September 2014.

## **6. Action Items**

6.1. The review of scientific data and conservation measures of the Coastal States related to pollock fishing in the Bering Sea.

6.1.1. The United States and Russian Federation provided fisheries catch statistics and research cruise results. These were included in the S&T Committee Report.

6.2. Establishment of a Plan of Work for the Scientific and Technical Committee

6.2.1. There were no recommendations for a Plan of Work for the Scientific and Technical Committee.

6.3. Establishment of the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL).

6.3.1. There was no consensus among the Parties on how to set the AHL. Therefore, the process described in Article VII and Part 1 of the Annex to the Convention was followed. Consequently, the Parties agreed that the AHL for 2015 be set at zero.

However, Japan reminded all the Parties of its proposal at the 19<sup>th</sup> Scientific and Technical Committee to discuss about establishing a new rule for setting an AHL even though the Aleutian Basin Pollock biomass is less than 1.67 million metric tons.

Korea expressed its concern that there has been no progress in terms of setting an AHL and allocating pollock among Parties since the decision on the 1993 moratorium. In this respect, Korea concurred with the Japanese suggestion that all Parties should consider establishing a new rule for setting an AHL. It is important to consider allocating the pollock resources among Parties within the Convention Area even though it would be a small amount of fish as a symbolic meaning for fishermen. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to expect to see this organization continuing a normal operation among Parties in the near future.

6.4. Establishment of the Individual National Quotas.

6.4.1. Since AHL was set at zero, no individual national quotas could be established.

6.5. Adoption of appropriate conservation and management measures based upon the advice of the Scientific and Technical Committee

6.5.1. There was no action on this item. Conservation and management measures will remain at status quo at this time.

6.6. Establishment of the Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing in 2015

6.6.1. The Parties agreed to adopt the same terms and conditions for trial fishing in 2015 as agreed to at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

6.6.2. As in past Annual Conferences, the Parties recommended that countries planning to conduct trial fishing give at least one month lead time prior to fishing in order to facilitate enforcement efforts.

#### 6.7. Trial Fishing Plans in 2015

6.7.1. Korea expressed its interest in trial fishing and it will announce its plan in 2015 when it is available. In this case, Korea will notify all Parties of its plan at least one month prior to such fishing plan.

6.7.2. No other Party announced plans for trial fishing in 2015 in the Convention area.

#### 6.8. Measures taken to investigate and penalize violations of the Convention

The United States had neither reports nor detection of fishing activity taking place in the Convention Area in 2014 and thus has no new information to share.

6.9. Consideration of matters related to the conservation and management of living marine resources other than pollock in the Convention Area

No Party has matters to propose for this agenda item.

#### 6.10. Meeting Observers

There were no observers.

### **7. Future Annual Conferences**

#### 7.1. Consideration of virtual meetings

7.1.1. The Parties agreed to continue the virtual meeting process for 2015.

#### 7.2. 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

7.2.1. The United States will host the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and the Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting in the virtual format in 2015.

#### 7.3. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

7.3.1. According to Rule 2 of the Annual Conference Rules of Procedure, the Chair of the next Annual Conference shall be from the host Party and the Parties shall elect a Vice-Chair, if necessary. The Parties shall also elect a Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Committee. A vacancy shall be filled by a nominee of the same Party, subject

to the approval of the other Parties. As reported in 7.2., United States will host the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and will inform the Parties of the names of the Chair of the S&T Committee Meeting and the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in advance of the meetings.

## **8. Other Issues**

8.1. The Parties have no other issues to raise.

## **9. Closing Statements**

United States and Russian Federation submitted closing statements (Appendix 5).

**Appendixes:**

1. Opening Statements.
2. Delegation List.
3. Plenary Agenda.
4. Report of the Scientific and Technical Committee.
5. Closing Statements.

**Opening Statement by the Russian Federation  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bering Sea Convention, virtual meeting,  
16-30 October 2014**

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour and a great pleasure for Russian Federation to participate in the Bering Sea Convention Annual Conference. The number of this meeting is 19, but the Donut hole Convention was done exactly 20 years ago. It gives us the possibility to say that this meeting is jubilee.

We hope that 19<sup>th</sup> Conference will be successful as others previous conferences and give us additional understanding of the status of the Bering Sea pollock stocks.

New scientific data shall be the basis for the developing appropriate conservation measures aimed long term sustainability of the Bering Sea pollock stocks.

We look forward that we will take well balanced decisions corresponding with current status of the Bering Sea ecosystem including it Central part.

Thank you

**Opening Statement by Poland and the European Union**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bering Sea Convention, virtual meeting,**  
**16-30 October 2014**

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour and a pleasure for Poland and the European Union to participate in the Bering Sea Convention Annual Conference. Following the positive experience of previous years, we are convinced that this virtual meeting will be successful and productive, while limiting unnecessary travel. We look forward to the active participation of all Contracting Parties.

Poland and the European Union are fully committed to sustainable fisheries management outside EU waters and recognise the key role RFMOs play in the long term conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks. We firmly believe in using the latest scientific advice on the status of stocks as a benchmark for responsible resource management and will continue to promote this approach.

As you are well aware, following the accession of Poland to the European Union in 2004, the competence for conservation and management of international fisheries resources has been transferred to the European Union. As we have informed you in the past years, the Union will be seeking to become a party to this Convention in due time to ensure that all EU Member States are bound by it.

We look forward to participating in this meeting and hope it will be a productive and successful one.

Thank you

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the  
Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea**

Virtual Meeting Hosted by the Russian Federation  
16-30 October 2014

**Opening Statement of the Delegation of the United States**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The United States is grateful to the Russian Federation for hosting the 19th Annual Conference of the Parties to the Central Bering Sea Pollock Convention, and to Dr. Alexander Glubokov and Dr. Mikhail Stepanenko for serving as Chair and Rapporteur, respectively, for this important meeting. We know, with Dr. Glubokov's wisdom and guidance, the meeting will be successful.

The United States believes that the Convention is an important international instrument in conserving and managing pollock resources in the high seas area of the Bering Sea. While it is disappointing to all Parties that the stocks have not yet recovered, the United States believes the provisions contained within the Convention are still the best and most appropriate for the management and conservation of these stocks.

The virtual meeting process has been beneficial in continuing to uphold the principles of the Convention while allowing for cost savings to the Parties. We are pleased to participate in this 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and will continue to maintain the current website for the Annual Conference to allow the Parties to submit and share documents and scientific information regarding the Convention and its resources.

Thank you.

**Opening Statement by Japan**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bering Sea Convention, virtual meeting,**  
**16-30 October 2014**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

The Japanese Delegation would like to express our gratitude to the Russian Federation for hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (CBS) in virtual meeting.

We assure Mr. Mikhail Stepanenko, the Rapporteur of the Conference, of our cooperation with him throughout this year's virtual meeting in order to have a fruitful meeting.

On this occasion, we would like to make a few words on the issue of the conservation and management of pollock resources.

As every Party knows, over 20 years have passed since the moratorium on commercial fishing have come into effect as a measure for conservation of pollock resources in the CBS, and it is regrettable that the S&T committee meeting did not recommend any allowable biological catch (ABC) and allowable harvest level (AHL) to the Conference again this year, although some positive signs including increase of stock biomass in Bogoslof were provided.

We would like all of the Parties to recall the objectives of the Convention. Japan considers that all Parties should make every effort to try to adopt the AHL on a rational scientific basis, even if AHLs would be very low, also thinks that starting to discuss a new rule for setting AHLs would be one of the best ways for the rational utilization of Pollock stock.

We are looking forward to participating in this virtual meeting.

Thank you.

**19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**Virtual Meeting hosted by the Russian Federation  
2014**

**List of Participants**

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## Agenda for the Annual Conference

### **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea**

Virtual Meeting hosted by the Russian Federation  
16-30 October 2014

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Opening Statements of the Delegates
3. Elections (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Rapporteur)
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Report of the Scientific & Technical Committee
6. Action Items
  - 6.1 Review of scientific data and conservation measures of the Coastal States related to pollock fishing in the Bering Sea
  - 6.2 Establishment of a Plan of Work for the Scientific and Technical Committee
  - 6.3 Establishment of the Allowable Harvest Level
  - 6.4 Establishment of Individual National Quotas
  - 6.5 Adoption of appropriate conservation and management measures based upon the advice of the Scientific and Technical Committee
  - 6.6 Establishment of the Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing
  - 6.7 Trial Fishing Plans for the following year
  - 6.8 Measures taken to investigate and penalize violations of the Convention
  - 6.9 Consideration of matters related to the conservation and management of living marines resources other than Pollock in the Convention Area
  - 6.10 Meeting observers
7. Future Annual Conferences
  - 7.1 Consideration of virtual meetings.
  - 7.2 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (virtual meeting)
  - 7.3 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

8. Other Issues

9. Closing Statements

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the  
Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea**

Virtual Meeting Hosted by the Russian Federation  
16-30 October 2014

**Closing Statement of the Delegation of the United States**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The United States expresses its appreciation to the Russian Federation, especially Dr. Alexander Glubokov for serving as Chair for both the 19<sup>th</sup> Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting and the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties, and to Dr. Mikhail Stepanenko for serving as Rapporteur for both meetings. Their diligence, together with the cooperation of the Parties to the Convention, contributed to the successful completion of this 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

The United States is pleased to host the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Parties in the virtual format in 2015. We will communicate the details of the 20th Annual Conference to the Parties well in advance of the meeting. We urge all Parties to commit the time to participate in this important Conference to fulfil their commitments under the Convention. We appreciate the spirit of cooperation and the patience all Parties have shown in view of the fact that the Aleutian Basin pollock stocks have not recovered to the level that would trigger resumption of commercial fishing pursuant to the Convention. For that reason, it is important to continue to exchange information on the pollock stocks in order to understand what is occurring in the Convention Area.

Thank you.

**Closing Statement by the Russian Federation**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bering Sea Convention, virtual meeting,**  
**16-30 October 2014**

The Russian Federation expresses its appreciation to all participants of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for fruitful cooperation in the work of the Conference. I attach great significance to the fact that throughout twenty years all the participating nations could maintain the spirit of constructive cooperation and friendly atmosphere which were features of this jubilee session.

The Russian Federation remains committed to the virtual meeting process and looks forward to participating in the virtual 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be hosted by the United States in 2015.

Thank you.