

カナダ・バンクーバー島の河 川に遡上した野生のペニザケ =ワイルド・サーモン・セン ター提供

や遡上河川も把握されていも進み、野生サケは遡上数れてきた。河川流域の開発

環境悪化などの影響が懸念 なくないとされるが、河川 必ずしも成功していない。 が脅威となることが指摘さ れている。またサクラマス シロザケには地

# 輸出戦略も左右

きた。

道漁連、

を指摘し、「北海道でも野永田支場長はこうした点

立場。

ケの現状把握から始めな頭。認証を得るには野生

は高まるとみられる。

を存続させるためにも、「野

魚」というのがMSC側の

の動きがカギ、と述べた。 C、本部・英国)の漁業認 漁獲した水産物に認証を与 した「持続可能な漁業」で

た。シロザケで初めて調査し 年、道内の河川で自然産卵 くてはならない

に動いたが、MSC側は野る。対抗して道漁連も取得 認証対象は基本的に野生 化場魚を排除はしないが 生サケの管理政策を求めて カ産サケは既に取得 中国市場で競合するアラス える。道産秋サケ輸出先の 道によると「艀 してい れた。 向けては、親魚の遡上数確 れ 環境変化に耐えてサケ資源 を得て漁業者の求める販売 なくない。だがMSC認証 認の費用負担など課題は少 河川で産卵親魚が確認さ も親魚の採捕もしていない 戦略を構築するためにも、 二百八河川の中でも六十五 本格的な野生サケ管理に 今回の会議でも発表さ シロザケでは稚魚放流

る。

# Hokkaido Shimbun Science Page

# **Global Wave of Wild Salmon Conservation – Essential to Biodiversity**

By Daisuke Nakagawa Published: Feb 24, 2009

The international State of the Salmon 2009 Conference was held in Vancouver, BC, Canada from February 2 to 5 to discuss Pacific Rim wild salmon conservation. Although 'wild salmon conservation' is not a priority in Japan due to the successful salmon hatchery-based management, it may be time to change. The conference and the challenge in Hokkaido is discussed:

Approximately 340 people attended the conference from the US, Canada, Russia, Japan, and South Korea and the methods and challenges of wild salmon conservation were presented.

An essential part of wild salmon management in Alaska is protecting and securing natural spawning of wild salmon. They count returning spawners and strictly conserve spawning habitat by regulating commercial, sport and tribal fishing based on escapement goals.

In 2005, Canada implemented a Wild Salmon Policy, assessing the status of spawning and other habitats, an example of 'ecosystem-based management. 'West coast states in the US have applied similar measures and additionally, are working to prevent cross-breeding between wild and hatchery salmon based on difference between their spawning timing and habitat.

### Invisible Status in Japan-

Salmon are an asset, both economically and culturally. Wild salmon are essential to maintaining natural healthy ecosystems by bringing marine-derived nutrients into rivers and the land surrounding them. On the basis of this understanding, regional conservation proposals were presented at the conference. It was reported that 'hatchery salmon have low genetic diversity and are poorly adapted to environmental changes' and 'cross-breeding [between wild and hatchery fish] lowers adaptability of wild salmon'. Wild salmon policies are important to maintain salmon stocks which can adapt to climate change.

On the other hand, a wild salmon policy has not been established in Japan. Dr. Nagata from the Hokkaido Fish Hatchery reported that, while wild stocks were formerly managed by protecting natural spawning habitat in the Tanegawa River during the Edo era, the approach changed to hatchery-based management during the Meiji period. Hatchery-based management may have negative effects on wild populations. While hatchery-based management has improved, land development along streams has expanded, and escapement and spawning habitat of wild salmon has decreased.

Rising seawater temperatures due to climate change is a threat to chum salmon. Further, masu salmon stocks have decreased in spite of increasing hatchery production. Nagata reported that, while wild masu populations remain relatively healthy, habitat degradation may pose a major threat to their sustainability.

## Key for Exportation Strategy -

Dr. Nagata pointed out that 'Hokkaido should focus on wild salmon conservation'. As well as taking preventive measures to protect masu salmon stocks, a key to wild salmon conservation is working with commercial fishermen to attain Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for the Hokkaido set-net fall chum fishery. The Alaskan salmon fishery, Japan's main competitor in the Chinese market, has already had MSC certification since 2000.

MSC requested that Hokkaido improve wild salmon stock management as the certification applies only to wild fish. The Hokkaido Fish Hatchery has qualitatively investigated spawning and other habitat conditions in streams around Hokkaido. Adult chum salmon were observed in 65 out of 208 rivers which have never been stocked with hatchery fish.

There are challenges for wild stock management such as funding escapement estimation. However, the need for a 'Wild Salmon Policy' will continue to increase in Japan in order to maintain salmon stocks as well as obtain MSC certification for developing a market strategy. This may be a turning point in Japan, shifting from dependence on hatchery enhancement, to protection of wild salmon stocks.

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